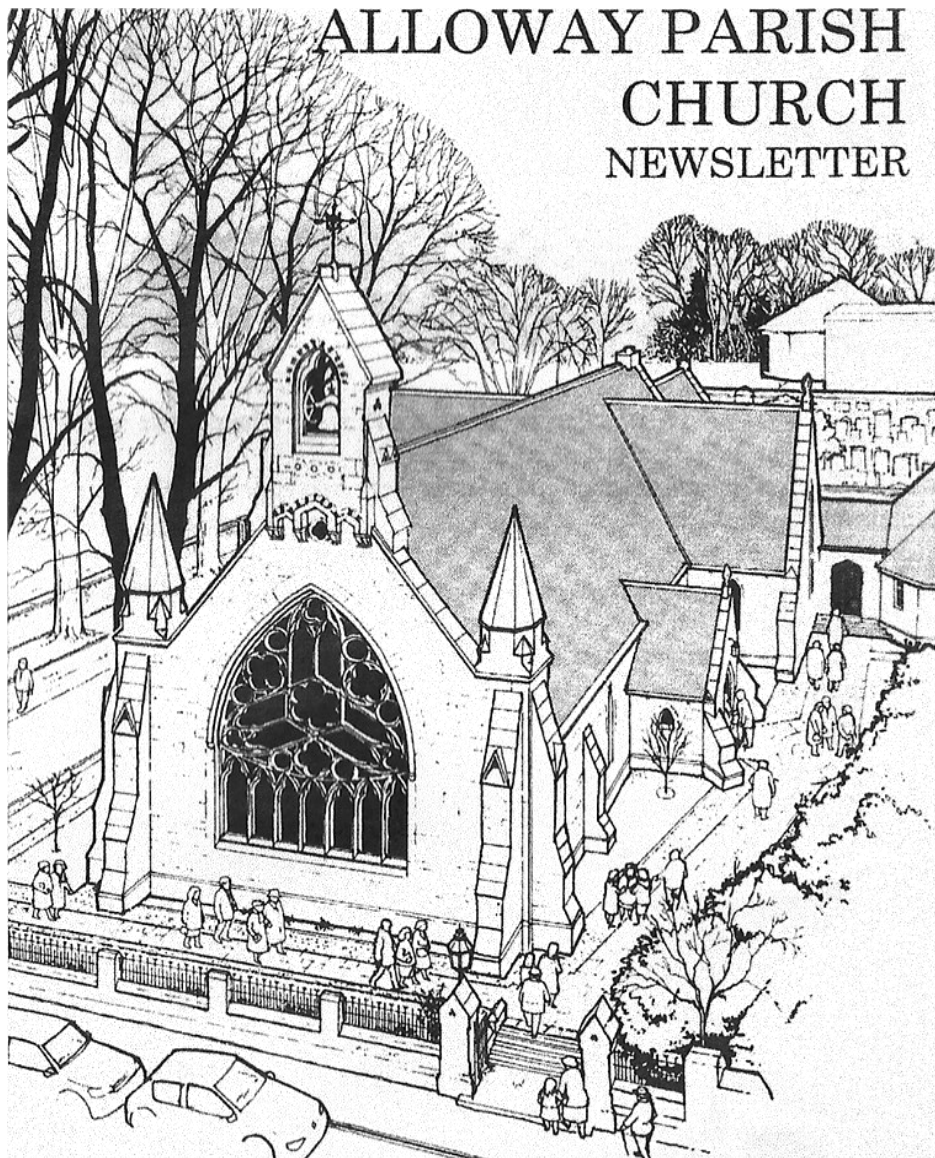


ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



AUGUST

2021

Dear Friends

It has been a great summer of sport! So many varied competitions!

Do you know the derivation of the word "to compete"?

Compete comes from the verb "competere" to seek together, from Latin com + petere to come together.

I find that revealing since as a society we often interpret competition and success in terms of individual excellence and individual medals.

Indeed, on 20th July 2021, the session of the International Olympic Committee approved a change to the Olympic motto that it recognises the unifying power of sport and the importance of solidarity.

The new revised Olympic motto now reads

"Citius, Altius, Fortius - Communiter" ("Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together").

Church life is anchored in community.

Indeed we worship a God who lives in a community of Father Son and Holy Spirit!

It is important to belong to and care for something and someone beyond ourselves.

As physical athletes can encourage each other so can spiritual people.

We fully respect and understand people's reticence to return to Sunday morning worship.

However, it is wonderful also to be able to make a joyful noise together (behind masks) in our beautiful sanctuary.

We are grateful to over 300 people who tune into our digital service on a weekly basis. (and the technical team working hard in the background). This too is a "digital community" which reaches near and far.

Members of Alloway Church continue to generously support the work of the National Church and our own partnership with Bandawe.

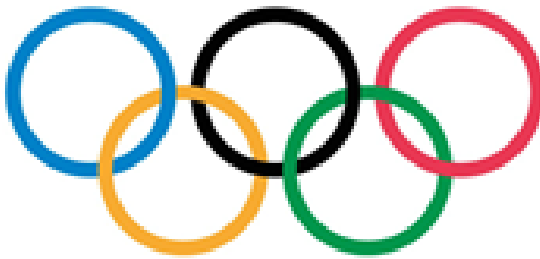
"Faster higher stronger - together"

Let us seek to be the best we can be for God and for others - together.

Keep safe

Every blessing

Neil McNaught



A note from Rev. David...

Karlyn and I were very fortunate to get away for a few days in July, and our last minute arrangements took us to the general area of the Cotswolds. The weather throughout our little break was amazing, with sunshine each day - although with temperatures of 30/31°C it was rather warm, especially for sleeping!



We visited Stratford-up-Avon - a town steeped of course in the history of William Shakespeare and we travelled through many of the picturesque villages of the Cotswolds - even making an appearance on Broadway! A day was spent in the beautiful city of Oxford where I was able to collect my 'first class' at the University of Oxford - a first class stamp of course!

Whilst it is good to get a break, it is also great to be able to serve God at Alloway Parish Church. At the beginning of July, I conducted my first wedding when Haley and John were married in church - I was rather nervous, but it was a joy and a privilege to officiate on their big day. As some of the lockdown restrictions were lifted, I was once again able to make hospital visits and I hope that it will not be too long before I am able to visit folks in care homes. It will also be great if, after a delay of more than 16 months, I am able to start a programme of activities at Alloway and Doonfoot Primary Schools.



Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—August

I look forward to conducting my first baptisms in August, at Patna and Dalmellington Parish Churches and I have 3 further weddings later in the summer. It is a real joy to work alongside you at Alloway Parish Church, and also to help out as Interim Moderator and Locum at Fisherton linked with Kirkoswald. If you would like a visit from me, or know of anyone who would value a visit, please let me know.

God bless, David.

07858 966367

Christian Aid Week

I now have the final figures for our Christian Aid Week collection, and I wish to thank everyone who contributed in any way.

Firstly, my thanks to Isabel Bryce and Sue Williams who made preserves, Carol and Bob George who sold a record number of plants and all those who donated baking.

Secondly, my thanks to those who donated via the collection box or CA envelopes - many of which were gift aided.

The total was £1,883 which with the added gift aid will be £2,090. This sum will of course be added to the money raised from Neil and David's kilt walk.

At this difficult time when we could not collect via door-to-door or have our usual coffee morning/book sale, we are delighted with this effort for such a worthwhile cause.

Thank you all.

Helen Ness



News from July's Board and Session



Congregational Board

At our July meeting the Treasurer reported that finances were doing well and we are in a healthy position within our budget.

The property convenor also reported that the work has started on our re-roofing plan and it too was on course and going to plan so far.

Our other committee convenors still had little to report but with the easing of Covid restrictions this month and the possible further easing in the near future it is hoped that we will be able to make more use of our halls and the committees may get back to some kind of normality soon.

Our Covid Officer, Philip Gay, then brought us up to date with the following recently announced changes and since these are significant changes I have included his report:-

All of Scotland moved to Level zero with effect from 19 July meaning physical distancing is halved from 2 metres to 1 metre.

The Church of Scotland's Guidance has been updated and the following 6 areas of church life are the most significant changes::

- Max numbers allowed in the Church and Halls (PDBC or Physical Distance Based Capacity) increases significantly.
- The Sanctuary increases from 73 to 145; the Octagonal Hall from 24 to 47; the Small Hall from 12 to 22; the Fellowship Lounge from 6 to 24; figures for the Large Hall and Middle Lounge to be calculated when electrical repairs completed.
- Congregational singing now permitted subject to the wearing of face coverings.
- Solo and Group Singing from the chancel now permitted subject to 1 metre distancing, without face coverings and without plexiglass screens.
- Congregational Responses such as the Lord's Prayer now permitted with face coverings.

Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—August

- Weddings and Funerals - max no attending increased from 50 (Level 2) to 200. This, however, is subject to PDBC which for our church is a max of 145.
- Hospitality - refreshments after Sunday Service and Coffee Mornings were already allowed under Level 2 but numbers now allowed have increased to a max of 10 people from 4 households sitting at a table with 1 metre distancing between tables and 1 metre distancing between each household. Table service only and face coverings must be worn when not seated.
- The Covid Committee had also given further consideration to the return of pew cushions and new arrangements will see our cleaners spray the cushions with a fabric sanitiser and wipe down/sanitise the wooden backs and fronts of the pews following each Sunday service. If the sanctuary is to be used for say a Wedding or Funeral later in the week the same cleaning arrangements will apply and the Church Officer has kindly agreed to do this. These arrangements will meet the cleaning requirements set out in the CoS Guidance.

Kirk Session

The Moderator paid tribute to one of our longest serving elders, Mr Bill Donnelly, who died on 6 July. Bill was ordained as an elder in December 1966, joining Alloway in December 1979 and giving service for over 55 years. He was a devoted family man and had a full life which included sports such as tennis and cycling. He also enjoyed walking, music and travelling. Much of his service was given for the youth, particularly with the Boys Brigade where he was a founding officer. He was a thoughtful, compassionate man who bore his illness with great dignity and will be much missed.

The elders then had a short break-out session to discuss the Covid changes, advised earlier, in order to decide how to work with them in Alloway. Any changes will be announced as soon as we agree the details.

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Mr Bill Duncan circulated a report giving details of matters arising throughout the Presbytery, one of which was approval for Alloway to proceed with our roof repairs.

Another was the agreement of allocation of Parish Ministry posts and confirmation of a further meeting to discuss the new Presbytery Mission Plan (as agreed at the General Assembly 2021) in August.

Both office bearers and members were encouraged to read the letter received from the Presbytery Mission Committee addressed to the congregation which is now available on our website.

Next meeting is planned for 18 August.

Summer Book Club

Summertime is the time for a good read! This summer's nominated books are:

A lighter read:

"The Next Person You Meet In Heaven" by Mitch Albom.—A short reflective read.

The suggested date for the book club meeting is Monday 9 August at 7pm — Zoom codes will be available from the secretary.

Going deeper:

"The Universal Christ "by Richard Rohr.—Thought provoking.

The suggested date for the book club meeting is Monday 16 August at 7pm - Zoom codes from the secretary.

Secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com.





Science and Religion

Professor John Polkinghorne

At the age of 48 the Cambridge Professor John Polkinghorne decided he'd done his bit for physics and that it was time for a different sort of adventure.

Resigning his academic position, he trained for ordination in the Church of England. In an interview 40 years later he said,

"It's one thing to go to church on Sundays but to give up a professorship and train for something else - that was a bit more than a gesture...I think a lot of people realised I was a religious person but they didn't expect me to take it quite that seriously...People were saying to me, 'Oh John what are you up to?' They mostly weren't thinking so much about my becoming a clergyman but just the fact that I was a Christian." (From *Test of Faith*, Paternoster, 2009)

John saw his work in science as a Christian vocation, and felt a responsibility to use his talents in that area.

Once ordained he found himself thoroughly engaged in the conversation about science and religion.

One of his main messages was that "I'm not a vegetarian butcher. There is a cousinly relationship between thinking about theology and thinking about science."

When asked for a Bible passage to appear at the end of his 2009 interview John chose:

'He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through

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him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. *Colossians 1:15-20*

John's explanation for his choice speaks volumes to anyone interested in the science-faith dialogue.

"I value this passage because it speaks of the cosmic significance of Christ, the One in whom all things hold together and who redeems all things (notice, not just all people) by the blood of his cross. Here meet my deepest religious beliefs and my strongest scientific concerns."



FOODBANK

Thank you to everyone who continues to generously support the foodbank each Sunday and to the volunteers who man it.

From 1st August the opening hours will be 10am to 1pm.



Wednesday Break

Every Wednesday at 10.30am. Uplifting worship, a thought for the day, a quiz and yes some cheery banter! A chance also to catch up with friends!

Neil and David warmly invite you to join them for a mid week faith lift online. Codes available from the secretary.

Mrs Jan Duncan—secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com.



The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

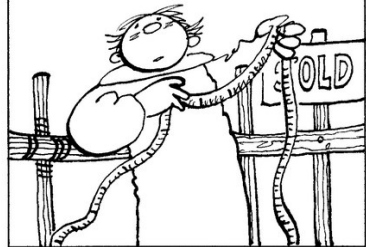


OH!
NO!!



BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN COME TO YOUR PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
2 Samuel 11: 1-12: 25

Kings normally led their armies to battles but David had sent his army with his commander, Joab, to fight the Ammonites.

David was strolling on his palace roof when he saw a beautiful woman.



She is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah.



Later, Bathsheba sent a message to King David.

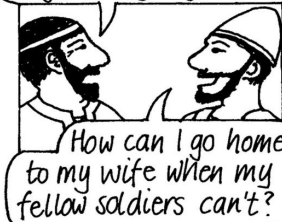
I'm pregnant!
B x

David tried to cover up what he had done. He sent a note to Joab.

Send Uriah to me now.
D

When Uriah came, David sent him to his home, but he didn't go.

Why didn't you go home?



David had Uriah stay to dinner and got him drunk.



So David wrote a letter to Joab

Put Uriah at the front of the fighting where he will be killed. D

He gave it to Uriah to give to Joab.



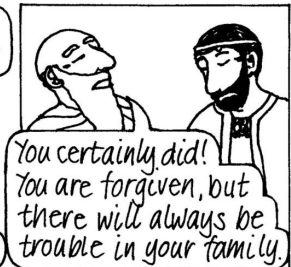
Bathsheba was now a widow and David married her.



But God was angry and He sent Nathan the prophet to David.



You took Uriah's wife and then you murdered him by having him killed.





'OLYMPIC STARS' QUIZ

1. Athlete who won Decathlon gold medal at the 1960 and 1964 Olympic Games, and broke the world record for the event 4 times.
2. Gold medal winner in the Pentathlon at the 1972 Olympic Games - now a Dame.
3. Cyclist who won 6 Olympic gold medals between 2004 and 2012.
4. Gold medal winner for the 5000 m and 10000 m at both the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games.
5. The first member of the Royal Family ever to compete at the Olympic Games.
6. Scottish runner who won Olympic silver medal for the 10000 m in 1988.]
7. Winner of 5 Olympic gold medals for rowing in successive games - from 1984-2000.
8. Gold medallist for the 400 m hurdles in 1968.
9. Female cyclist who won 5 Olympic gold medals between 2012 and 2016.
10. Olympic gold medallist for the 800 m in 1980.
11. Silver medallist for the 400 m medley swimming event at the 1980 Olympics.
12. Scottish gold medallist for the 200 m breaststroke at the 1976 Olympic Games.
13. Gold medallist for the heptathlon at the 2012 Olympic Games.
14. Cyclist who won gold medal for the time trial at the 2012 Olympics.
15. Gold medallist in sailing events at 4 successive Olympic Games between 2000 and 2012.



Answers: 1. Daley Thompson; 2. Mary Peters; 3. Chris Hoy; 4. Mo Farah; 5. Princess Anne; 6. Liz McColgan; 7. Steve Redgrave; 8. David Hemery; 9. Laura Trott; 10. Steve Ovett; 11. Sharon Davis; 12. David Wilde; 13. Jessica Ennis-Hill; 14. Bradley Wiggins; 15. Ben Ainslie

Parish Record



"Of such is the kingdom of God "

- 11.7.21 Lachlan Lennox James Ballantyne (son of Thomas and Elspeth)
Clara Catherine Tosh (daughter of Fiona and Neale)



"Blessed are they who die in the Lord"

- 5.7.21 Robert Neill formerly of Alloway
- 6.7.21 Bill Donnelly Strathdoon Place

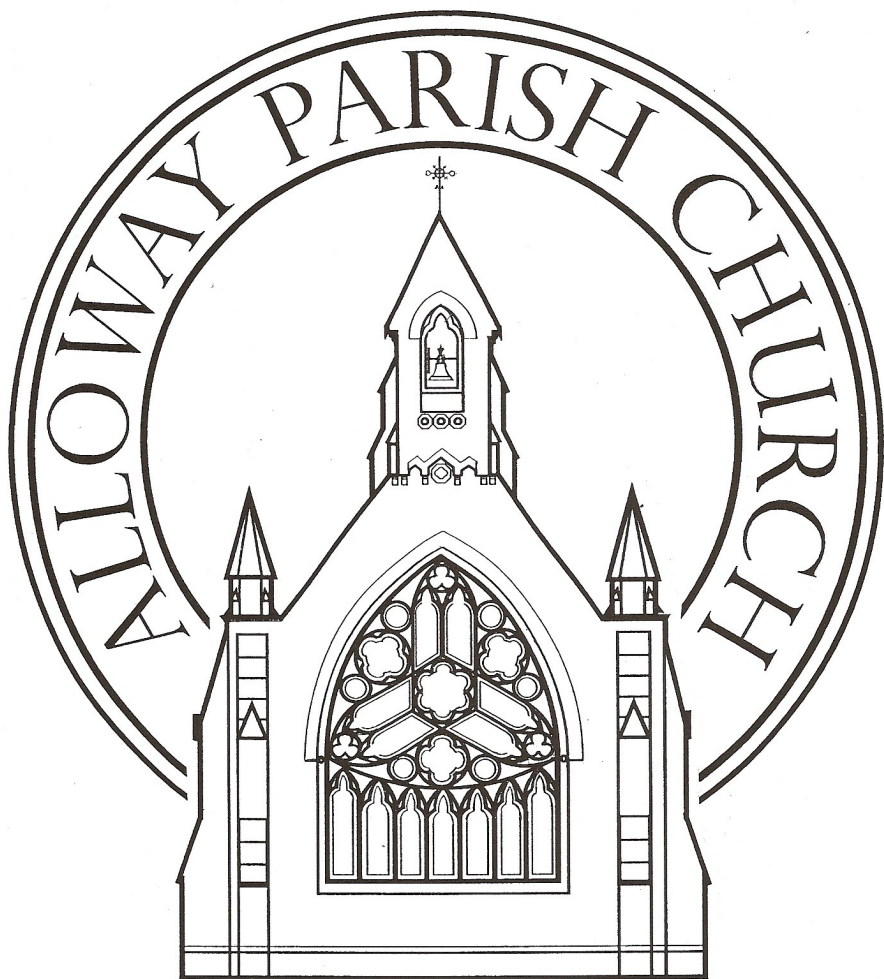
Deadline for September Newsletter—Tuesday 24 August—12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com

Please visit our website www.allowaychurch.org or our Facebook page.

We hope to restart the delivery of Newsletters in September.



Alloway Parish Church of Scotland
No. 100538

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