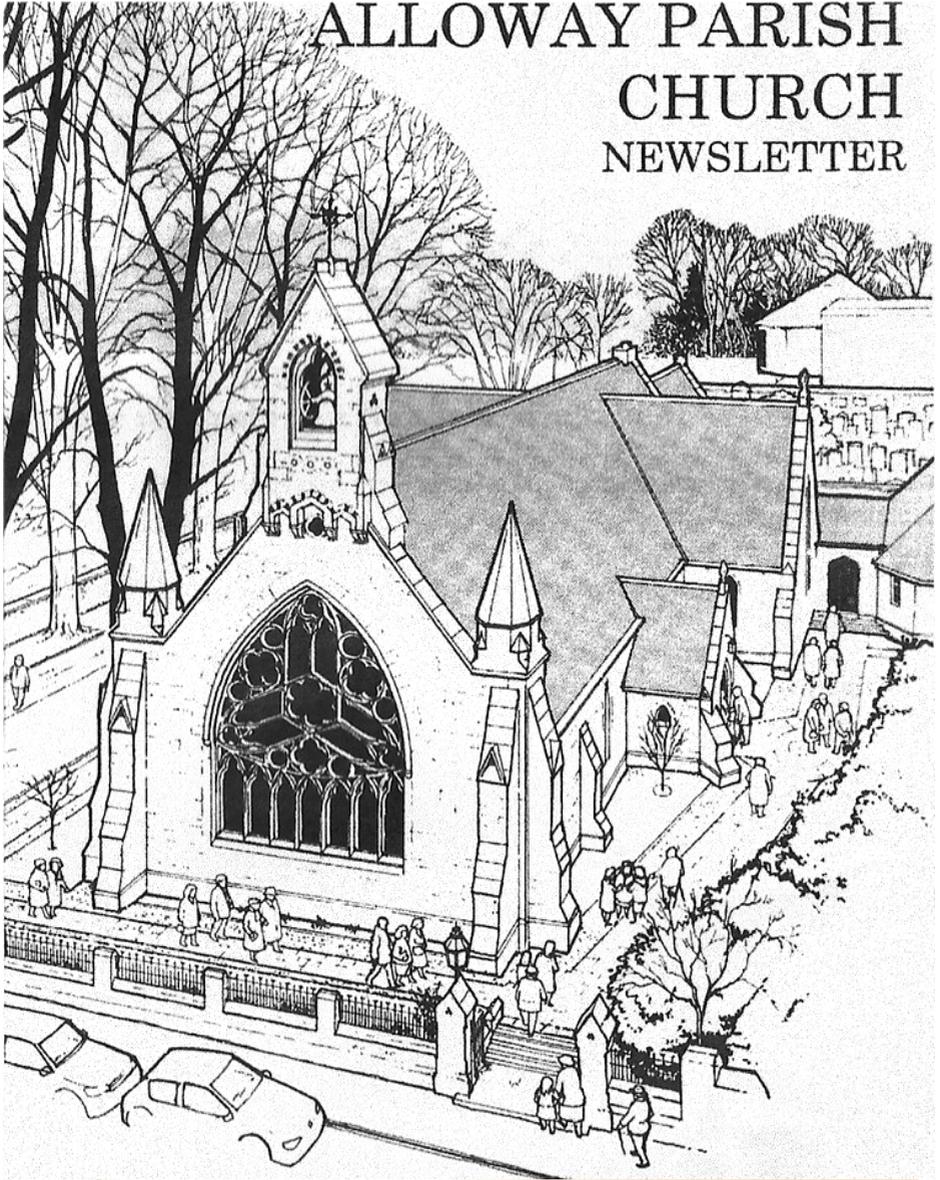


# ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



**OCTOBER**

**2020**

Dear Friends



Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word *hærfest*, "Autumn".

It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products.

The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon.

So in ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon.

An early Harvest Festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the Harvest season on 1 August and was called *Lammas*, meaning 'loaf Mass'.

Farmers made loaves of bread from the fresh wheat crop. These were given to the local church as the Communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest.

Nowadays the festival is held at the end of harvest, which varies in different parts of Britain.

Farmers celebrated the end of the harvest with a big meal called a harvest supper.

A tradition which we in Alloway were pleased to continue for some years.

Some point to the more modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches as beginning in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited

parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall.

Around this time many of our favourite Harvest Hymns emerged.

Hymns such as:

"We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful!"

Rooted in the celebration was a spirit of thanksgiving to God for his provision.

At a time of global pandemic it is perhaps more difficult for thanksgiving to come from our lips, or the lips of millions for whom this time will be very challenging.

Yet in truth we are still surrounded by daily miracles and compared to others we remain so blessed.

So to close I've chosen a little penitent prayer which certainly, in my darker moments challenges me, amidst this season of mellow fruitfulness.

"Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,  
the spiritual blindness that prevents us  
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,  
the endless cycle of nature,  
of life and death and rebirth.

Forgive us for taking without giving  
reaping without sowing.

Open our eyes to see  
our lips to praise  
our hands to share

May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread  
and our footsteps be worthy of following  
for they lead to you."

*Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—October*

In closing a special word of thanks to all the ladies who prepared the flowers which were distributed and so well received in the congregation.

Thanks too for all the delicious fruit handed in at the manse.

(P.S. This is not an appeal for any more!)

"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
for all his love."

Keep safe

Every blessing

Neil McNaught



## **A letter from David...**

Dear Friends

Well, by the time you read this article I will have been ordained as an 'Ordained Local Minister' (OLM) - praise be to God!!

My ordination took place on 1st October in Alloway Parish Church. Unfortunately as a result of the restrictions associated with COVID-19, strict limits were placed on the number of people permitted to attend my ordination, though it was 'broadcast' live - I hope that some of you were able to watch.

I had always envisaged that my ordination would be a busy event with my family, friends and folks from my home and placement churches attending. Sadly this was not to be, but as with many things during these strange times we need to make the best of it. If you did not get the opportunity to watch my service of ordination, a recording is available by clicking on the link on the church Facebook page. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Ordained Local Ministers are fairly new within the Church of Scotland - being first introduced in 2011. Through my training it became apparent that many people did not fully understand the role of an OLM - so here is a brief overview that may be of interest.

**Local:** As the name suggests, an OLM is local - we work within a given presbytery (in my case it is Ayr Presbytery) and generally get deployed to a particular role, or a particular church (in my case I have been deployed to Alloway Parish Church). The key role of an OLM is to provide assistance to the National Ordained Ministry.

**Part-time:** Where 'Full-time Ministers of Word and

Sacrament' FTMWS (like Rev. Neil) work on a full-time basis (and often more than full-time!), OLM's work on a part-time basis, with a minimum expectation of 10 hours per week.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament can, therefore, administer the sacraments (Baptism, Communion), conduct weddings and funerals, and can lead all formats of worship.

Non-Stipendiary: Unless OLM's are acting as a Locum within a vacant charge, the role is unpaid and performed on a voluntary basis (though I do get paid for my role as Church Family and Schools Worker!).

What we cannot do: OLM's cannot apply for vacant charges - we are deployed by the local Presbytery and ordained into a particular role.

This is only a brief overview of the role of an OLM but if you have any queries, please let me know and I will seek to provide clarification.

In the meantime, as always, if there is any way that I can help you please do not hesitate to get in touch.

God bless!

David Hume

Church Family and Schools Worker

07858 966367

[dhume@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:dhume@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## The Wednesday Break



Due to Covid I miss seeing so many of you! We fully understand it is difficult for many of us to meet at church Sunday by Sunday as we used to!

So why don't we meet each other on line for coffee?

(It sounds like a phrase from an on line dating agency - but it's not!)

The Wednesday Break began on Wed 30th September. The October meetings will take place on Wed 14 October and Wed 28 October. The zoom meeting lasts from 10.30am - 11.15am.

(If people have to leave early - they just press a button)  
Initially these meetings will be fortnightly .

A very short act of worship will be followed by sharing digital tea/ coffee and most importantly fellowship together.

Anyone interested should register for the zoom codes by emailing [Secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com](mailto:Secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com) before 6pm the day before. Jan will then send you the code for the Wednesday Break.

The meeting is open to anyone who enjoys Christian fellowship. The seating capacity in our virtual coffee lounge is 100 and the lounge will open 15 minutes before coffee is served.

Can't wait to meet you all! (I'll go and get my pancakes ready)

Neil McNaught



This year we are naming the toilet twinning organisation (Tear Fund) as our harvest charity.

Here are some of the challenges this Tear Fund based organisation seeks to address:

- 2 billion people do not have a safe hygienic loo.
- For every £1 on sanitation a community gains £5.50 through better health and productivity.
- A child dies every 2 minutes from a sanitation related illness.

As we ourselves are inspired by He who is the Living water, may we at our Harvest time from our blessing and abundance do a little to ensure that more people have access to the vital life giving force we so often take for granted.

To donate please visit:

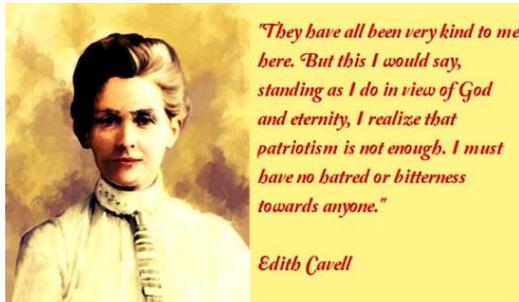
[www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org) or donate at the Foodbank on Sunday or in church throughout October.

### **Corrected email address**

In the **Don't Trash Ayr** article in September's Newsletter the email address for Sue Williams was incorrect. This should have read:

[williamssusan59@gmail.com](mailto:williamssusan59@gmail.com)

## 12th October Edith Cavell



Edith Cavell is a good saint for NHS workers this year: she cared for the sick despite the danger to her own safety.

Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardeston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was for nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.

When Edith was 42, she decided to go abroad, and was appointed matron of a large training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was still there seven years later, when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium on their way to Paris and the Channel Ports.

Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies.

Sadly, in 1915, when the Germans began their occupation of Brussels, they took a dim view of Edith's work. But they would have been even more unhappy had they known she was helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands!

Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. But Edith refused to show either regret at what she had done, or any fear or bitterness towards her captors.

On 11th October 1915, the night before her execution, Edith was visited by the Anglican chaplain to Brussels, the Revd Stirling Gahan. Together they said the words of *Abide with Me*, and Edith received her last Holy Communion.

She told Gahan: "I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone."

Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12th October 1915.

After the war her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.

## **Christmas Fair**

Because of the present Covid restrictions imposed by Scottish Government and Church of Scotland, the Mission Committee feel unable to make plans for our annual Christmas Fair. I know a number of people have worked hard in previous years to make gifts and crafts for sale at the Fair, to raise money for our work in Malawi. I would like to encourage those people to begin or continue to produce their goods.

We anticipate having a stall during Foodbank time on Sundays (10.00 am until 2.00 pm.) during November to sell the crafts etc.

Christine Hughes, who produces beautiful silk flower arrangements for our Malawi funds has quite a number ready for sale and she would be pleased if you wish to go to her house to choose one. Please contact her first on either 445572 or at [dhughes.sk@hotmail.com](mailto:dhughes.sk@hotmail.com), alternatively e-mail myself at [ness716@btinternet.com](mailto:ness716@btinternet.com)

Further details of arrangements will be in the November newsletter.

Helen Ness.



## The Story of Saint Francis



Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Church-goers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a Channel of your Peace', which was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana.

However, Italy's patron saint whose feast day is this month (the 4th) was a more complex, and some would say controversial character. His life spanned the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix, he renounced all his possessions.

In fact, he stripped himself of his wealthy garments in a public square in his home-town, Assisi.

For the rest of his life he, and his followers, including his feminine counterpart St Claire longed, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity - a lifestyle without luxury or privileges.

For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires this meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich.

He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.

Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise.

For too many it is a matter of poor diet, over-crowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment.

The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'.

Christians follow a Master who said that he came with 'good news for the poor'. They believe that many of us today can be that good news.

## **A Helping Hand**

*There is much we can do just to brighten  
This world of all take and no give,  
There's a great deal that we can contribute  
Through the everyday lives that we live.  
By supporting one's elderly neighbours  
Or through lending a hand in some way  
It's by taking a bunch of autumn flowers  
To someone to brighten their day.  
It's by sparing a few precious hours  
In the service of those most in need  
It's all about setting a standard  
And trying to give others a lead  
It's the way that we tend to treat others  
And help and aid folks in distress  
In the care and assistance we offer  
That will set us apart from the rest.  
The choice that we face is quite simple  
The rewards plain for all men to see  
As you did all of this to my brother  
Then said Jesus, you did it to me.*

*By Colin Hammacott*



### **Alloway Girlguiding in the year of Covid**

In a year like no other in our experience, following Lockdown in March, Girlguiding leaders in Alloway and further afield, feared we would not get back to Guiding in 2020. That we would lose a whole generation of girls from our membership in the process and that Guiding itself was in real danger.

However, as we approach October and the 2nd wave of Covid is approaching rapidly, the Guiding landscape, at least locally, is not quite so desperate. Humans are a species who adapt and change with surprising rapidity when the occasion calls for it, and so it has been this year.

In Alloway District we owe a huge debt of gratitude to unit leaders, who over summer have engaged girls regularly on Zoom meetings, creating amazing and fun experiences for girls cut off otherwise from their friends for many weeks.

Now that Girlguiding have agreed to meetings outdoors, following all distancing rules of course, we also have several units meeting in the great Outdoors around Alloway. We are indeed fortunate in this area to have the campsite at Nether Auchendrane; parks; beaches and an historic village to explore and use in inventive ways. We have so far been very fortunate with the Autumn weather and great fun has been had by all. This has brought many of our girls back and it is very encouraging.

As we approach winter though, we fear that regular outdoor meetings will not be possible. Fortunately, following advice from both UK and Scottish governments, Girlguiding have now agreed to our meetings indoors, subject to very strict protocols and risk assessments being completed. Rainbows and Brownies are under age 12 and therefore do not need to socially distance from one another. Guides and rangers can be managed in other ways.

Of course indoor meetings hinge very much on the availability of suitable premises and Alloway Church Halls are a facility which are perfectly suited to distancing.

We are hopeful indeed that the church halls will be available for youth groups to use as winter deepens, to allow us to continue to give girls the amazing opportunities which Girlguiding has to offer.

Linda Bamford -Alloway District Commissioner.



**Autumn preserves for sale**

Sue Williams and Isabel Bryce have been busy selling homemade marmalade, raspberry and blackcurrant jam with all proceeds going to the Foodbank. The response has been amazing and already £200 has been raised. This support is very much appreciated and it is hoped everyone is thoroughly enjoying the preserves.



Orders may be placed by email for collection the following Sunday.

bryce.i@btinternet.com

williamssusan59@gmail.com

On Sundays, there will be a small number of jars for sale at the Church Hall Foodbank collection area. Payment for purchases may be placed in the adjacent honesty box. If you have any empty jam jars, please bring them along.

**Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal**

Please note we will once again be supporting the shoebox appeal and would be grateful for any empty shoeboxes with separate lids. We are going to run the collection from our church halls so if you have any to drop off, Sundays between 10 and 2 during the Foodbank collection would be ideal. We hope to have empty wrapped shoeboxes ready to uplift for filling from October but you can of course wrap your own and bring them along in October. Thanking you all in anticipation of another great response for this initiative.



Lynda Mary

**Parish Scrubbers**

We are looking for volunteers to do a litter pick up for an hour around the parish on Sunday 11th October 12 noon to 1pm

Tools will be provided and a socially distanced coffee available following exertions in the Burns Centre

If you are willing please advise

secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com

by 7th October 2020.



## Becoming a Digital Community



Church is beginning to look quite different!

We remain indebted to all those who continue to support the work of the church in a variety of ways.

We fully understand why many people cannot physically attend church given the challenging covid circumstances.

However we are very keen to keep you in touch with the on going work.

Good communication is so important!

To that end we are now soliciting the e mail addresses of our members in the congregation and friends too who would like to be kept informed.

If you would like to be kept in touch with church news etc, please forward your email address to the secretary at [secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com).

We assure you that your data will be kept safe and we will not share your data with any other organisation. You are free to opt out at any time by emailing the secretary.

## **BAGSS Project Update October 2020**

Friends,

I write to you finally to update you on the successful conclusion of the recent project. It was completed in the final week of September 2020. Chumugogo Building Company have done a sound job on time and on budget. On your behalf I wrote to them directly thanking them for their work and commitment. I did this in my best Chichewa (probably flawed) as none of them speak or write in English as Denis Kamata advised, me. Equally I got a great letter of thanks from the owner saying it has been an eye opener for him and had changed his life!!

The two headmasters during this time Ernest Chirwa ( now promoted to be District Education Director in charge of 120 primary schools and 30 secondary schools, a measure of his success at BAGSS) and now the new head Denis Kamata have been totally diligent and committed to this project and have been in daily communication with me by WhatsApp etc in seeking advice and accepting several variations I have sought to the contract specification as issues were uncovered mid project.

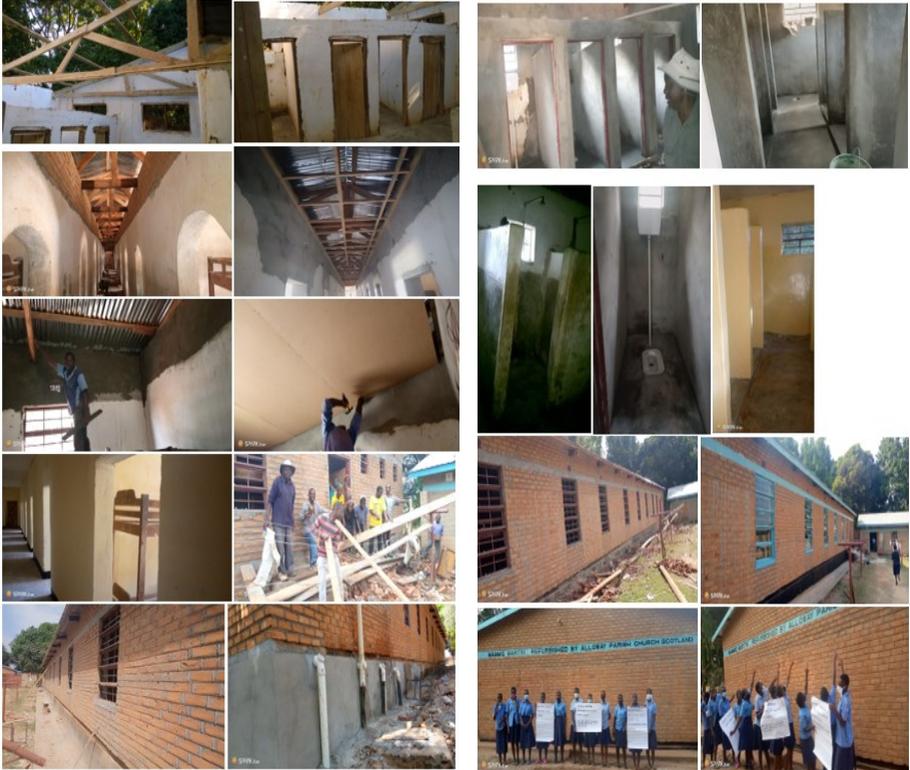
There is no doubt that the 102 girls living in this large hostel have had their lives changed for the better: water no longer pours in through holes in the roof and the toilets and showers ( while not what we enjoy) have been totally replaced and replumbed and refurbished. The walls had to be taken down further than expected and their height extended to improve ventilation (see pic). Windows and doors have been replaced, a new roof constructed, repairs to foundations and rendering and a total replacement of all electrics. Below are various pictures of the project progress from existing to completion.



## Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—October

The fun begins. Ernest Chirwa and his wife, Rev Andrews Chulu and Denis Kamata with the building team including ladies!

Following pics are before and after in many cases:-



It is entirely down to your generosity that we have been able to improve the lives of 102 girls now resident at BAGSS. Your continuing generosity is enabling the sponsorship of 16 girls through their secondary education. Zikomo kwambiri Mulungu akudalitseni mowilikiza /. Thank you so much and God Bless you abundantly.

**Murray Hutchison - Project Co-ordinator**  
**October 2020**

# Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—October



Ref. BGH/01/2020

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The Parish Minister, Alloway Parish Church

SCOTLAND

Re: VOTE OF THANKS FOR FUNDING THE REFURBISHMENT OF MAMMIE MARTIN GIRLS HOSTELS

I wish, on behalf of the entire student community, staff, chiefs and the Board of Governors of Bandawe Girls Secondary School, to express our profuse vote of thanks to The Alloway Parish Church and all the people who took part in one way or the other for funding the refurbishment of Mammie Martin girls' hostel at this school in this year 2020.

Let me in a special way thank God because 2020 has been one of the most difficult years this generation is going to remember but besides these tough and unpredictable moments (Covid-19 pandemic) we had have you managed to remember Bandawe Girls Secondary School, quite unbelievable.

The sum of 23,000 British Pounds (MK22,218,367.75) that you humbly gave to our school enabled us to re-construct the hostel with a new outlook altogether. This hostel has a total of 102 bed spaces.

This means that your grant has helped provide access to education for 102 girls per year. This is a huge contribution especially when we take into account the fact that this will be happening annually. For example, the hostel will be able to accommodate 1,020 girls in the next ten years. The hostel project has not just provided accommodation to the girls, but it has also:

1. Improved the health of our learners who will be not contracting skin and respiratory diseases that were the order of the day in the past due to the state of the hostel in which it was.
2. Contributed to the enhancement of unity amongst our girls as the feelings of being discriminated against amongst those that were using the other good hostels will no longer be there.
3. Enhanced the security of our girls and their property because of the nature of the windows with burglar bars and well fitted windowpanes and all doors fixed.
4. Added significantly to the infrastructure development programme of the school.
5. Helped our girls to understand that they are not alone in this global village but that there are people far away from Malawi that care and wish them well.

I wish to thank you for the guidance rendered to my office during the implementation process for it is that kind of support that saw us produce quality infrastructure within a short space of two and half months, manage the funds well and we are just waiting for the Auditors to come and verify our records and the work that we have done. I really appreciate for this expression of love.

I also wish to assure you that we will do everything to sustain the existence of the hostels through preventive maintenance as and whenever necessary using our local resources.

Once again, thank you very much for coming to our rescue when we needed help most.

Yours faithfully,

M. DENIS KAMATA - HEADMASTER

## Parish Record



*"Blessed are those who die in the Lord "*

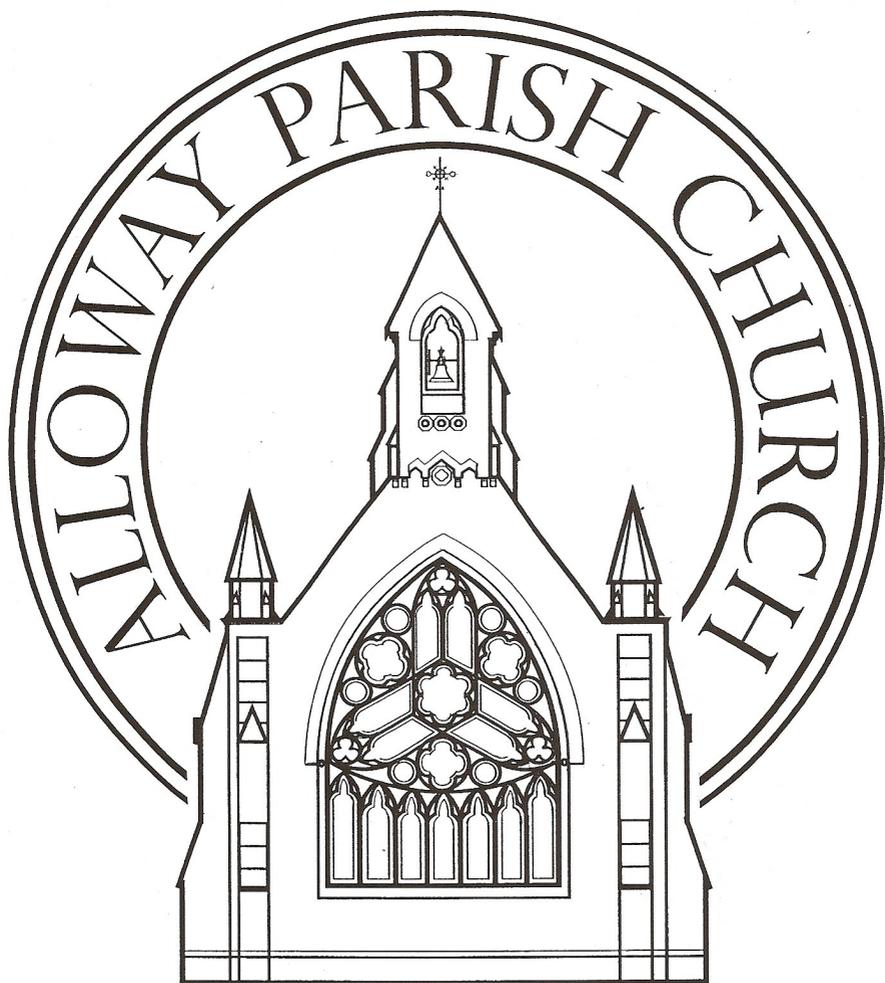
28.8.20	Evelyn Good	St Phillans Avenue
28.8.20	Robin Paterson	Craigstewart Crescent
22.9.20	Peter Smith	Cambusdoon Drive
23.9.20	Dora Brown	Rozelle Nursing Home
24.9.20	Victor Wylie	Maple Drive
24.9.20	James Bruce	Maybole Road

Deadline for November Newsletter—Thursday 22 October—12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

[allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com)

Please visit our website [www.allowaychurch.org](http://www.allowaychurch.org) or our Facebook page



Alloway Parish Church of Scotland  
No. 100538

Scottish Registered Charity  
No. SC012456