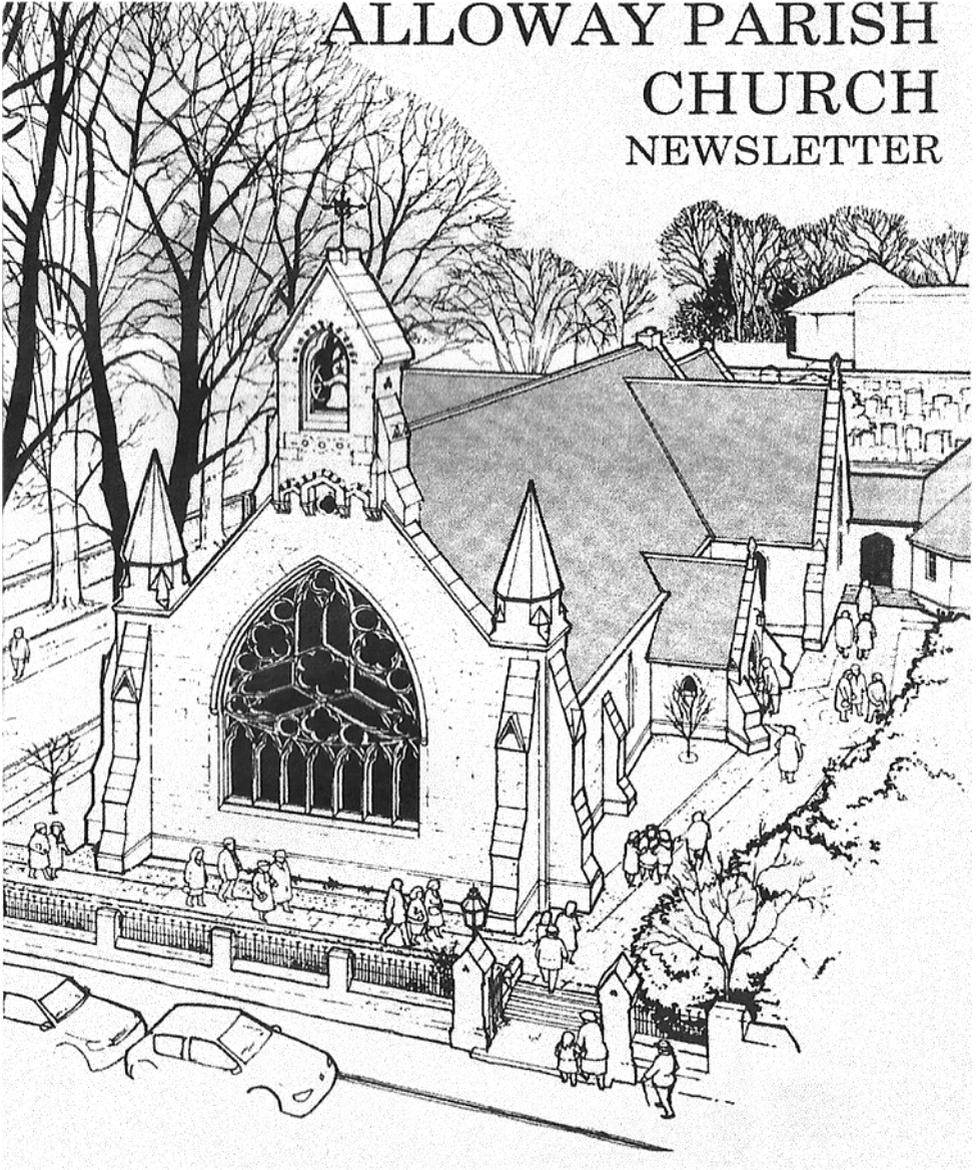


ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



July 2020



Dear Friends

“Be kind to one another.” Ephesians 4:32

There lies ahead of us all a “new normal!”

As we enter phase two of the easing of lockdown we are pleased to announce, God willing, we will open the sanctuary for personal prayer from Sunday 5th July 2020.

The Kirk Session endorsed the recommendation of the Covid Committee that the sanctuary be opened on a Sunday 10am - 2pm (which matches the foodbank hours) and on a Wednesday (10am - 2pm).

People are invited to make a visit of no more than ten minutes to the sanctuary. This absolutely minimises the risk of Covid infection.

Seating will be marked.

As the situation eases we hope to explore the possibility of outdoor services in the car park.

The community and congregational support of the foodbank collection point meantime, has been inspirational. At a dark time, it has been heartening to meet with so many kindly people.

The response to the Newton Primary School appeal from the whole community has been quite overwhelming!

I was unaware that February 17th was Random Act of Kindness Day.

According to the website people are invited to become Raktivists!!!

The inspirational grounding of Christian kindness is a little different to the secular.

Christian people seek to be kind because we have known God's kindness!

Indeed what is it that God wants from His followers?

The prophet answered the question many years ago
"Do justice, love, kindness, walk humbly with God
"Micah 6 v8

Doubtless there are many challenging days ahead for us all.

However I suspect by dispensing a generous intentional dollop of kindness on what we do, we may make the darkest future a little brighter.

Keep safe

God bless

Neil

A note from David...



I wonder if you know the song – “Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same”. This chorus reminds me of my time at St. Kentigern's Young People's Group. We occasionally went to various churches singing different songs, and this was one of the most requested songs.

That, however, was 37 years ago and much has changed over the years. I married my beautiful wife Karlyn, we have three wonderful children and three amazing grandchildren. I have had several jobs over those years, we have stayed in seven different houses and we have enjoyed time in church in a variety of roles.

Over the years however, I have also lost some dear members of my family and friends and some friends and family have had to cope with ill-health. There have been challenges in relationships, I have sometimes strayed from God. Now, I am in the final stage of training to become a minister – and who would have thought that thirty seven years ago? So things have changed.

I remember speaking to one of my first bosses and saying to him – “Won't it be great when things stop changing?” His response was – “David, things will never stop changing.” How right he was. Life continually changes. Whilst some of those changes are really good and we embrace them, others are really, really difficult and painful. Over the past couple of weeks, I've conducted a number of funerals and it has been difficult to see how life has changed for these people, not in a way that they would have liked – but life does continue to change.

In Hebrews 13 we find the message – “Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same”. So whilst lots of things change around us as we go through life – some good, and others really difficult, the one thing that we can hold dear to us is that Jesus never changes. He is always there for us. He promises to be with us at all times. He has given us the promise of forgiveness and he has given us the promise of salvation – that one day we will join our God in heaven.

At times in our lives we may think – ‘this change is not what I want.’ There will be difficult times to cope with, but we need to remember that we are assured that Jesus is still the same – yesterday, today and forever. So although some days might be more difficult than others, be assured that God is always with you, and that Jesus never changes.

God bless,

David.

Church Family and Schools Worker

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dhume@churchofscotland.org.uk

A Message from Morag

Just a quick email to say that I had my probation sustained yesterday and I can apply for charges. It’s been a long journey and I have had some great experiences along the way. My time at Alloway with you being a huge part of that journey.



Rev Morag Crossan

Probationary Minister

Monkton and Prestwick North Parish Church



Most of you will probably remember that late last year we were chosen to represent Belmont Academy and become part of this fantastic project in Malawi. At the moment we should be in full fund-raising mode for our trip in 2021. Unfortunately Covid-19 had other ideas!

As there will not be enough time to raise the needed funds once we are back to normal our 2021 trip has been cancelled. However, fear not, we will be going in 2022 instead! All the money we have raised so far will be put towards the new revised date - but we still have a long way to go to reach our total. So please look out for our fund-raising activities coming, (hopefully), soon to a venue near you!

Thank you for your support.

Zoe Andrews and Amy Hoyle.



(Sorry about the Christmas picture – it's the only one we had of both of us!)

What effect will coronavirus have on society?

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has found that, following an initial period of great anxiety and confusion, now almost half the population understands that life will not return to normal within the next six months.

Other findings include:

75 per cent of us are “very worried” or “somewhat worried” about the effect that coronavirus is having on our lives now.

Many parents have struggled with home schooling, with 33 per cent saying it has put a strain on family relationships.

41 per cent of us expect our financial situation to get worse over the next 12 months.

41 per cent of us think that the wellbeing of our child or children is being negatively affected.

But it is not all bleak – a huge 57 per cent of us think that Britain will be more united in the future, and 67 per cent of us say that Britain will be kinder after coronavirus. Could this be the silver lining?



Treasurer's Report

Finance

We welcome Lorna Howes first treasurer's report.

Lorna has been a part of Alloway Parish Church for almost 40 years, coming through Sunday School, Bible Class, Brownies and Guides.

Lorna decided to become a member of the church around 1996 and joined the Congregational Board in 2018. Little did she know what lay before her!

She has a BA in Accounting and has been a Chartered Accountant for over 20 years, working in external audit for 10 years (specialising in social housing) before moving in to financial services.

Her hobbies include various arts and crafts, going for walks with her husband (Darren) and black Labrador (Luna) and spending time with her family, particularly her 3 nieces and 3 nephews.

Finance Report May 2020

Mrs L. McEwan produced a revised budget based on income and expenditure assumptions in light of the current COVID-19 restrictions.

This saw our original projected deficit of £12,500 for 2020 potentially increasing to £20,950.

Given our healthy reserves, this is not cause for undue alarm at this stage.

The financial situation will continue to be closely monitored by the Finance Committee and updated as plans for lifting lockdown are implemented.

Malawi funding

The first instalment of £10,700 has been made to enable materials to be purchased and work to start on the full refurbishment of the Mamie Martin Hostel at BAGSS.

A further £7,500 has been allocated by Presbytery towards funding projects in Malawi by way of reduction in our annual Church of Scotland Ministries and Mission contributions.

Offerings

Offering boxes are being provided during the Sunday foodbank drop off times, for anyone utilising the weekly freewill offering envelopes wishing to deposit them at this time. In the two weeks this has been in place, offerings totalling £1,645 were uplifted.

Links will be published on our website to direct anyone wishing to pay by bank transfer and/or leverage Gift Aid to the appropriate contacts. Options to enable individuals to give electronically via a link on the church website will be explored.

Church Finance

A few people have been asking how they can continue to contribute their weekly offerings while the Church is closed. There will now be an opportunity each Sunday during the foodbank collection to donate. Boxes will be available at the foodbank table to deposit offerings (envelopes, cash or cheques) between 10 am - 2 pm.

Your continued support to the Church during this difficult time is much appreciated.

The Finance Committee

Easy Fundraising

If you shop online there's now an easy and free way for you to support Alloway Parish Church.

We've teamed up with easyfundraising which provides a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores. Many big-name retailers are participating including Amazon, M&S, Vodafone, eBay, John Lewis, Tesco, Viking and over 3000 others.

All you need to do is use the links provided on the easyfundraising site whenever you shop online. The retailer will then give Alloway Parish Church up to 15% of every purchase you make - it's that simple!

It doesn't cost a penny extra to shop and raise funds in this way, and you can even save money as many retailers give exclusive discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to easyfundraising.

If you already shop online why not help raise extra funds for us by using this completely free service? Follow the instructions below to find out how.



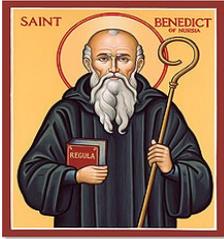
Instructions



It's as easy as 1-2-3:-

- 1 Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allowaychurch/> and register for FREE!
- 2 Once you are registered, use the links on the easyfundraising site to go to your favourite online shops and shop in the usual way.
- 3 Every time you shop online, log on to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allowaychurch/> and use their links to visit your favourite shops.

Please encourage your friends and family to sign up too and raise even more money for Alloway Parish Church.



11th July St Benedict Day

Benedict (c.480 – c.550) was an abbot and author of the famous Rule that bears his name. Because of his Rule, Benedict is also the Patriarch of Western Monasticism, and Patron Saint of Europe.

Surprisingly little is known about his life. Born at Nursia, Benedict studied at Rome, which he then left before completing his studies to become a hermit at Subiaco. After a time disciples joined him, whom he organised into twelve deaneries of ten. After an attempt on his life, Benedict moved on to Monte Cassino, near Naples, where he wrote the final version of his Rule.

Benedict's Rule is justly famous and respected: not only did it incorporate much traditional monastic teaching from revered monks like Basil, but Benedict went on to modify this in a way characterised by prudence and moderation within a framework of authority, obedience, stability and community life.

Benedict's great achievement was to produce a monastic way of life that was complete, orderly, and *workable*. The monks' primary occupation was liturgical prayer, which was complemented by sacred reading and manual work of various kinds.

Benedict's own personality shines through this Rule: wise, discreet, flexible, learned in the law of God, but also a spiritual father to his community. Benedict's Rule came to be recognised as the fundamental monastic code of Western Europe in the early Middle Ages. Because of his Rule, monasteries became centres of learning,

agriculture, hospitality, and medicine. Thus, Benedict came to influence the lives of millions of people.

Prayer Written by St Benedict

“Father, in Your goodness,
grant me the intellect to comprehend You,
the perception to discern You,
the reason to appreciate You.

In Your kindness,
endow me with the diligence to look for You,
the wisdom to discover You,
and the spirit to apprehend You.

In Your graciousness,
bestow on me a heart to contemplate You,
ears to hear You,
eyes to see You,
a tongue to speak of You.

In Your mercy confer on me
a conversation pleasing to You,
the patience to wait for You,
the perseverance to long for You.
Grant me a perfect end,
and Your holy presence.”

Amen.

A cheerful heart is good medicine

Pancakes

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, five, and Ryan, three. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the chance for a moral lesson. “If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.’”

Quick as a wink, Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, “Ryan, you be Jesus!”

Warning

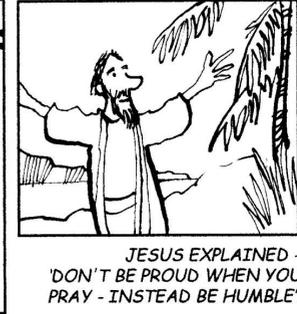
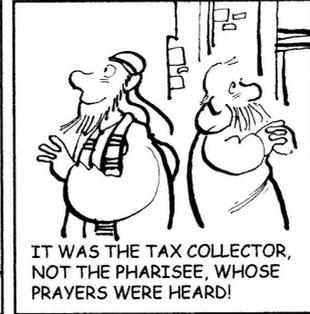
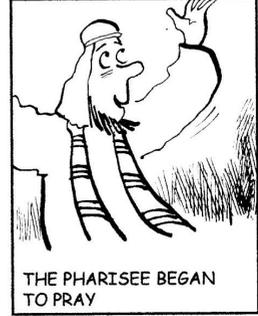
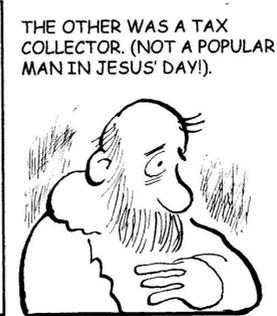
A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her father donning his dinner jacket, she objected. “Oh Daddy, you shouldn’t wear that suit.”

Bemused, her father asked why not. The little girl explained: “Because you know that it always gives you a headache the next morning.”



Today's hymns are based on last week's trend in petrol prices...

The
Tale of the
**TWO MEN
SAYING
THEIR
PRAYERS**



PARISH RECORD



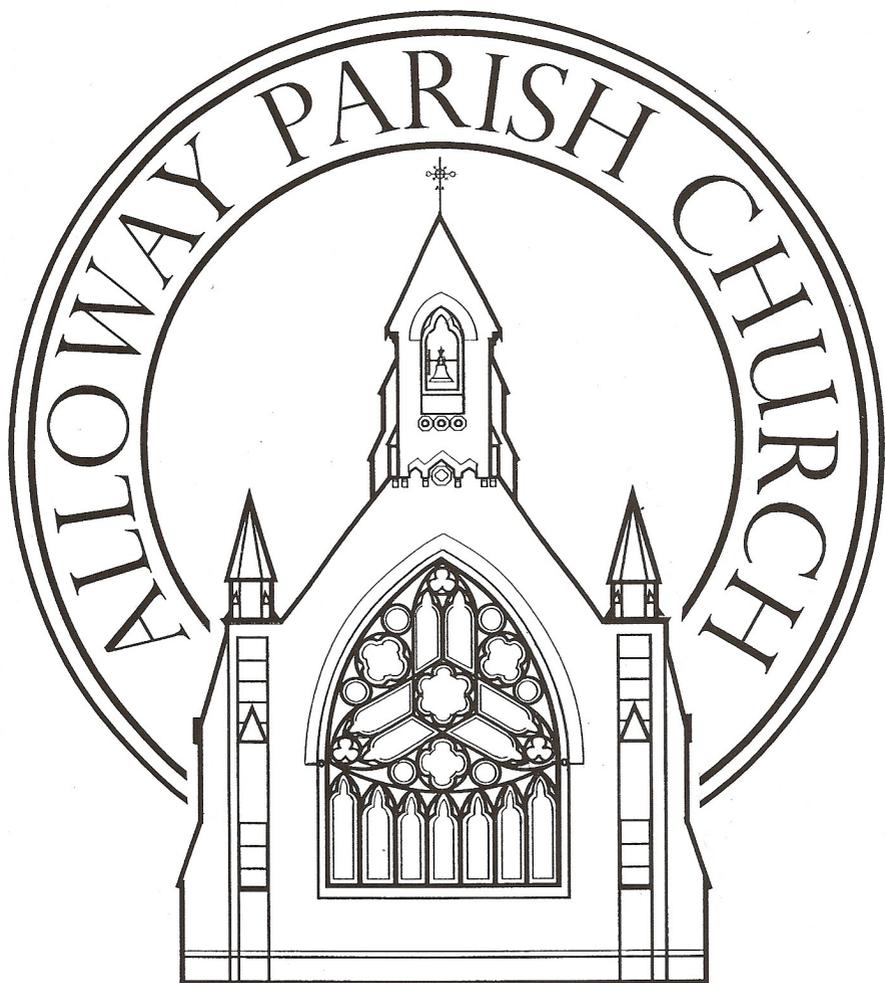
“Blessed are those who die in the Lord”

23.05.20	Robert Munro	Briar Grove
25.05.20	Elsbeth Bruce	Corserine Road
06.06.20	Alexander Louden	Seafield Crescent
09.06.20	Alexander Garven	Rozelle Nursing Home
26.06.20	Jim Skinner	Mount Charles Crescent

Editor this month was Lynda Mary.
August newsletter deadline: 24/07/2020 12noon.

Contributions should be sent to:
allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com

Do visit allowaychurch.org and facebook.com/allowayparishchurch45/



Alloway Parish Church of Scotland
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No. SC012456