

# Ayr:St Quivox Parish Church

## *Christmas 2021*



### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

**Alternate between Auchincruive and Dalmilling**

GO TO WEBPAGE FOR UPDATES

[www.ayrstquivox.com](http://www.ayrstquivox.com)

MINISTER      Tel: 01292 861641  
Rev John McCutcheon

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David McMahon



Once again we approach the end of the year and just like last year I can't help but wonder where the year has gone; at points it seems to have dragged and then before you know it we have moved through the summer months, the clocks change, "the nights are fair drawing in", Jack Frost is nipping at your nose or toes or some other part of your body and we prepare once again for getting through this time of the year until warmer weather and lighter nights reappear.

The last couple of years haven't been easy for us as individuals or as a church community. We have said good bye to friends and loved ones perhaps more often than we should have; we have also said goodbye over the last couple of years to our regular acts of Sunday morning worship, where we were able to join together and not only praise God but we could also share in one another's joys and pains.

On the upside we have at least been able to worship on a restricted basis since Easter, and hopefully it won't be too long until we go back to services that last an hour, we don't have to wear masks and our Communion services won't be 'bring your own bread and bottle' affairs.

With that in mind I would like to invite everyone that is a member of the Church to come and share in our Communion service on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Communion is a great opportunity to remind ourselves of our need for one another but more importantly it reminds us of the communion that we have with Jesus: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in the middle".

Perhaps there are those out there that need that promise and assurance once again; perhaps we just need to remind ourselves that we do what we do so that we can enable the light of Christ to shine in our lives and shine in our parish/communities.

Whatever the reason it would be great to see you at Communion

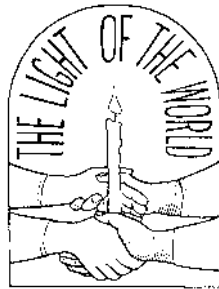


and perhaps even some of the services leading up to Christmas.

As always if you need to get in touch, please either phone me at the Manse or email me.

Peace and blessings

John



## **Communion 5th December at Auchincruive**

For those of our members who are unable to get to church a home communion is available if you feel you want it or if it would be helpful.

Please feel free to get in touch if I can help you with this.

John Tel: 01292 861641





As you will have no doubt noticed, instead of bringing round the Brown fabric envelopes this time, the Kirk Session decided that the needs of others were just as important as our own needs. We were unable to support Christian Aid week in 2020 and 2021 for obvious reasons, but we still wanted to be able to support them at an opportune moment and we believe the run up to Christmas is as good a time as any. If you are able to, please support us by filling in the envelopes so that we can then support Christian Aid's work around the world.

The brown fabric envelopes will be back again with the magazine in March.

Finally, just for clarity, the fabric envelopes are for the maintenance of the church buildings, nothing else.

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December is usually a busy time in the life of the church, but with the current restrictions still in place things will be a bit more limited this year.

Services will still alternate between the buildings on Sunday mornings at 10.30am.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> will be a restricted Carols and lessons service (restricted as in the number of Carols and lessons that will be sung/read).

24<sup>th</sup> Dec at 11.30pm the Watchnight Service will take place at Auchincruive Church.

26<sup>th</sup> Dec the service will be at Dalmilling at 10.30am. Given that it is Boxing Day and everyone might have other commitments, it will be great to see anyone who is at a loose end!!! There might be cake, chocolate and lots of singing 😊



At the time of writing, we are waiting to see the results of the allocation of ministry posts for the Presbytery Mission Plan.

As previously stated, the preferred option of the Kirk Session was for a union to take place between ourselves, Newton Wallacetown and St James, with Lochside becoming a local Mission Church.

From the meetings between ourselves and the other churches it seems unlikely that this will happen. But once we know for sure how things are going to be we will be in touch with you.

John

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL**

Many thanks to those who contributed to this appeal either by filling their own shoebox gift and bringing it to church or by an online donation. These gifts go to vulnerable children who otherwise would receive nothing or very little.

Rosemary Alexander





This poem was written by Glasgow Poet, W.D. Cocker (1882-1970) and tells of how the young men in the glens of Scotland were 'attracted' – many fatally - to join the Highland Regiments in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War by the Pipers playing ahead of the Recruiting Sergeants as they entered their Villages or past their Farms.



### The Mad Music

There was mad music came through the glen,  
 And it cast a spell on our strong young men,  
 And they left the croft, and they left the mill,  
 And the sheep at the shearing out on the hill,  
 And, without a sigh or a backward look,  
 They took the road that the pipers took.

When the mad music came through the glen,  
 There was never a lad for a sweetheart then.  
 What is the tune that the pipers played  
 With the stronger charm than the smile of a maid?  
 And what is the dream that the young men dream  
 That lights their eyes with that strange glad gleam?

Oh ! the same tune rang through the glen of yore;  
 'Tis the pibroch's call to war, red war.  
 And the dream is as old as the world's story,  
 For the dream is the old, old dream of glory,  
 Oh ! the mad music came through the glen  
 And carried away our strong young men.

1914.

*W.D. Cocker.*



## CHURCH MAGAZINE, DECEMBER 2021

Things are still proving difficult for us financially. We are still not seeing increased numbers attending church with the resulting drop in our free will offering envelopes. We have however managed to exceed our Income Budget by 48% and even allowing for the Legacies received of £6,000, we are still 25% over Budget. It should be remembered tho.' that the budget was set during lockdown and we didn't know how things might progress.

However we are also over Budget on our Expenditure by 1% this year. The total effect of this is that we are slightly down this year compared to last year but it would have been down £6,287 if not for the Legacies. Unless things were to change dramatically, we will find it difficult to keep things going looking ahead. Our Bank balance has however remained pretty constant but would have reduced by 22% if not for the aforementioned legacies.

We can only hope and pray that somehow things will get better over the next year or so.

Colin Mutch, Treasurer





These are short excerpts from a book called 'Revelations of Divine Love' written by a nun, Sister Julian of Norwich in the 1300s.

You might already know a quotation from this book "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well"

Here she compares God's love for us, to that of a mother for her child.

" God, the supreme wisdom of all, made himself ready in this humble place and dressed himself in our poor flesh, himself to perform the service and office of motherhood in everything. The mother's service is closest, most willing and most sure; closest because it is most natural, most willing because it is most loving, and most sure because it is true."

"And when he had finished, and so given birth to us into bliss, not even this could satisfy his marvellous love; and he revealed that in these exaltedly surpassing words of love: 'If I could suffer more, I would suffer more.' "

"The kind loving mother who knows and recognizes the needs of her child protects it very tenderly as the nature and condition of motherhood requires. And as the child grows older she changes her method but not her love. And when it is grown up more, she allows it to be chastised to break down vices so as to make the child gain in virtues and grace."

"But often when our failing and our wretchedness are shown to us, we are so afraid and so greatly ashamed of ourselves that we hardly know where to put ourselves. But then, our courteous mother does







not want us to flee away" "But he wants us to behave like a child; for when it is upset or frightened it runs quickly to its mother for help as fast as it can." " And if we do not feel ourselves helped straightaway, let us be sure he is behaving like a wise mother; for if he sees that it would be more to our advantage for us to mourn and to weep, he allows that with pity and compassion until the right moment, out of love."

"It is his role to save us, it is his glory to do this, and it is his wish that we know it; for he wants us to love him kindly and trust in him humbly and strongly. And he revealed this (*to Julian*) in these gracious words: 'I am keeping you very safe,' "

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(I was talking to John about this book today, and it turned out he knows it well and wrote about it during his training! I read it recently and am now reading it again. It's an amazingly inspiring book and, as John thought too, sometimes you read something in it and the light suddenly comes on!! I think she was a bit ahead of her time and quite a woman!)

Eileen Williams





In my last wee article, I wrote about my early interest in cycling and the sense of freedom and independence it gave me and stayed with me all through my life right up to the present day.



I am fortunate to live by the coast here in Barassie, which is a popular seaside destination with day-trippers, easily reached by car or train from Glasgow, it is also a Mecca for Wind and Kite Surfers and more recently, the latest sport of Paddle Boarding, as the North Shore is clean, safe, and quite shallow for a long way out. There is also no shortage of wind!.



The Route 7 cycle path which runs from Carlisle to Inverness passes along the Seafront, is flat and popular with folks exercising, especially during lockdown. This path carries on over the border into North Ayrshire and makes its way through the Woodland Trust Shewalton Nature Reserve, home to three powerful Clydesdales –Tommy, April, and her daughter Chrystal - who always enjoy a carrot or two from my bag.

On the way there I pass over a level crossing on a siding from the Ayr – Kilmarnock railway line which was one of the first commercial railway tracks in Britain – laid by the Duke of Portland to transport coal in horse drawn wagons from Kilmarnock to Troon Harbour and then shipped to Ireland.

Behind the track is a busy Sawmill with a yard stacked full of giant hardwood tree trunks about to be stripped of their bark and processed through the Sawmill into hard to-get timber products for the Building Trade. The Bark and Sawdust are collected into large containers and sent for MDF Board production. On the siding there



are 15 Tanker Wagons containing a white chemical used in Paper production in the Giant Paper Mill 250 yards along the road. It is a colossal white, windowless building, which more resembles a giant cargo ship with steam pouring from its chimneys. This is from their own Power Station which supplies the Mill utilizing waste from the timber used in Paper production.



I turn right into the wooded area passing another huge factory complex with its two ginormous Windmills which can be seen for miles around supplying power to the Beecham's Pharmaceutical Products Factory. I recross the railway and passing the stacks of the giant tree trunks in the Sawmill yard it makes me wonder where they come from, what kind of trees they were, how long did it take to get to that size? At home, the current COP 26 conference in Glasgow and the associated Climate Change discussions on the vital role Trees play in Carbon Capture to help prevent Global Warming, made me think on our local situation.



I realized that most people think of Troon as a quiet seaside town and not as a major Timber processing center which contributes to our local economy. But in addition to the Sawmill and Giant Paper Mill mentioned above, we also have on the Harbour site, originally used to export coal to Ireland, a home to a bustling Marina, and a small Fishing Fleet, which is now overshadowed by a large and ever-expanding Timber processing operation. This utilizes timber from forests in the West of Scotland and beyond, brought in

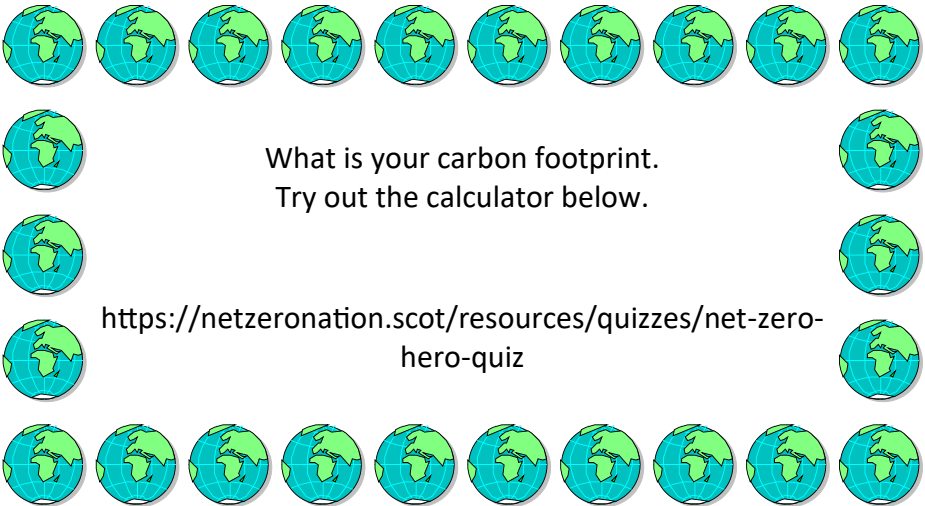




by lorry for the manufacture of House frames, Pallets and all types and sizes of cut Timber for the Building and Joinery Trades. Further supplies arrive in the harbour by Cargo Boats and by Barge towed direct from the island of Arran. Business seems to be booming as Timber products are in short supply in the wake of the pandemic. Prices have never been higher.

I was aware that growing trees store Carbon and are essential for our planet, but only recently learned that any Carbon stored is released into the atmosphere when the tree is cut down! I know that through the ages Timber has been, and is a useful and valuable resource, but with the advent of bigger and more modern machinery, it is disappearing fast, and it is essential that it is managed properly Worldwide. What price an even bigger hole in the Ozone Layer???

David McMahon



What is your carbon footprint.  
Try out the calculator below.

<https://netzeronation.scot/resources/quizzes/net-zero-hero-quiz>



## GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION

Colin and Vickie Mutch would like to thank all our church family for all the good wishes for our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

We have had a most enjoyable time with family and friends to celebrate this special occasion.

Everyone has been so kind and we feel extremely blessed.





# Brownies\*



by 1<sup>st</sup> Dalmling Brownies Brown Owl Lise Whittle



It is WONDERFUL to be able to meet the Brownies back in the Church Halls, it's been such a very long time, and it felt quite emotional to be back! Huge thanks to everyone involved in getting the Church Halls reopened.

We kept in touch with all the Brownies throughout Lockdown with weekly emails of activities, games, keep fit, recipes, quizzes, stories, badge work and crafts for them to do at home with their families. We also held several Zoom sessions which were great fun, and a good way to feel we'd all 'seen' each other. We had Virtual Sleepovers and parties on Zoom, and Girlguiding Scotland held online events for all Units to watch such as a 'Christmas Panto' and 'Spring Social'.



I admit I felt rather nervous the first time we met back in the Halls after such a long time, and there was a lot of paperwork and preparation to put in place beforehand. But as soon as we saw the Brownies' smiling faces and heard their chatter and chuckles, it seemed worthwhile. It's been a learning curve for all the leaders, and things are a little different, such as the girls sitting further apart than usual, and we're choosing games that minimise close contact or touching. But so far it seems to be going well.



Here is a game we played this week, it's called WHO AM I?

All the girls stand up. One Brownie is chosen and she thinks about another Brownie but doesn't tell anyone who it is. She then starts to describe the Brownie, and if the description doesn't match anyone they have to sit down eg "The Brownie I'm thinking of has dark hair" – if any Brownies *don't* have dark hair, they sit down; "The Brownie I'm thinking of is wearing trainers ..." and so on, until only one girl is left standing – the girl the Brownie was originally thinking of!



This term 1<sup>st</sup> Dalmilling Brownies are working towards their 'Be Well' theme badge. They have been busy finding out about their muscles in their bodies, and why it is important to exercise. Little Owl Lara taught them some boxing moves – Cross, Right Hook, and Upper Cut - and they played a game rather like 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' but using the boxing moves instead!



Another week we found out about asking others for help. Barn Owl Karen from Asda read out this 21-digit number, and the Brownies had to repeat it!

0 8 2 4 7 8 3 1 4 5 9 5 4 1 3 8 7 4 2 8 0

Of course it was far too long for one person to remember all of it, but gradually the Brownies came up with the idea that if they each remembered one *part* of



the number, they would be able to repeat it as a team. Well done Brownies – problem solved by helping each other!

Another week we found out about how important it is to drink enough fluids during the day, and the Brownies used pens and stickers to decorate their own individual water bottle to take home.



We had our Pumpkin Party with games and activities, and turned the lights off for a spooky story about The Flying Dutchman ship!



The Brownies were invited to watch the *'International Observe The Moon Night'* with their families at home one Saturday. This was a live online event put on by the Royal Astronomical Society and UK Space Agency. They had set up a live telescope view of the

moon from Cyprus. Invited guests spoke about moon landings, the moon in history and art, and an artist demonstrated how to creatively draw the moon surface – such as using black paper and white chalks. The Brownies who were able to watch this event earned themselves an extra badge.



We are looking for a new Rainbow Leader, please ask around. If you know of any young girls aged between 5-10 who might like





to join Rainbows or Brownies, please ask their families to get in touch on the Girlguiding website or at [dalmillingbrownies@hotmail.com](mailto:dalmillingbrownies@hotmail.com)

Things are a little different at Brownies at the moment, and the planning and preparations take a little longer, but everyone is very grateful that we are able to use the Church Halls again, and we are looking forward to having lots more fun and activities this term. Thank you to everyone for your support.



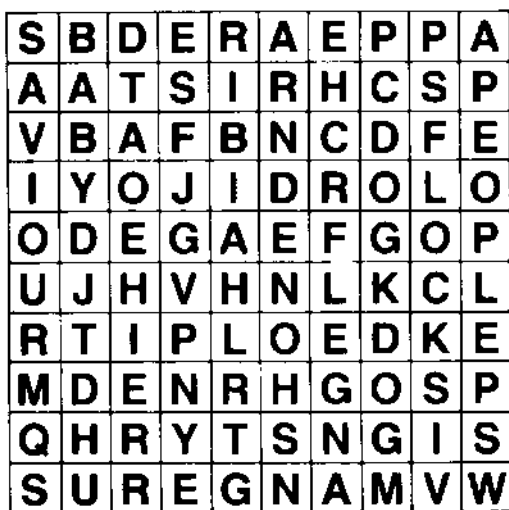


Find the underlined words:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born for you: he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

## WORD SEARCH

*Luke 2:8-12*





# Wordsearch



B H U R F I D X O B A N G E L S E T  
 M Y A D P N X C A Y A S O F E L L H  
 J T J P S K N M R W R U R B J E B R  
 S E C K B S W D Q J L A B E J I A E  
 O P S Q R D T H W M N A S L Z G T E  
 M F I U I R V V A K F C H L E H S W  
 Q A W O S A C N I M F G Y S I S K I  
 D Q D U E C G N C F A B L X Y S C S  
 P V I V K E C X J J M B U T Q R L E  
 U A I N R E L Y Y Z I D J B B O M M  
 M R R S N H O E T T L D E Y R A M E  
 B U Q S E V T T I F Y T Y A V W N N  
 K P E K N L T A E R H H C A K N F N  
 I P E V A C D E E L B E B U E E F D  
 J C H I L D S N E R T A A H O L L Y  
 O S T U Q F T H A C W S G S K U A T  
 S N H W C D E M V C A F I R T I I S  
 E K A E F M S D N E I R F M T N N T  
 P Q Z M P S A N T A E E R T S Z V F  
 H H N D W H D H H Q P N E E U E F I  
 J N L J H O E L Q R I S L N R O B G  
 W O F R H V N R R A N R Y I L J J H  
 G Y I G R I E S D I H X W K Q P I D  
 O R T U Y M K N O S N A L K A E P Q  
 V Q D L M J B P S E K A L F W O N S



ANGELS	EAST	JOSEPH	SNOWFLAKES
BAUBLES	FAMILY	MANGER	SNOWMAN
BELLS	FRANKINCENSE	MARY	STABLE
BETHLEHEM	FRIENDS	MISTLETOE	STAR
BORN	GABRIEL	MYRHH	THREE WISE MEN
CANDLES	GIFTS	POINSETTIA	TINSEL
CARDS	GOLD	SANTA	TREE
CAROLS	HOLLY	SHEPHERDS	WREATH
CHILD	JESUS	SLEIGH	



The tradition of bringing evergreens into the home in winter began in the 16th Century. When Christmas wreaths were introduced they were formed into a circular pattern. The shape and evergreen material made the wreath a representation of eternal life.

A German Lutheran pastor named Johann Hinrich Wichern is thought to be the one who introduced the wreath combined with candles as a symbol of Advent .



In the first week of September the world watched on as World Leaders flew in to take part in COP 26. On day 1 we had Boris Johnson, David Attenborough, Prince Charles and many other leaders detailing their thoughts and asking for commitments to see change happen. Some pledges were made.

- ⇒ To halt and reverse deforestation by 2030.
- ⇒ To cut methane emissions.
- ⇒ To commit to helping poorer countries to decarbonise coal energy systems.
- ⇒ To phase out and stop investing in coal power systems.
- ⇒ Many countries have already signed up to being net zero by 2050 but some are now saying this will not be possible till 2060 or 2070.

More emotive were speeches of Activists. One Samoan activist told how low lying Pacific islands such as Samoa and Tuvalu are in danger due to rising oceans. They have a low carbon footprint and are amongst the lowest contributors to global pollution however they are the ones paying the price of climate change.

Another told of the effect climate change is having on those of indigenous people of the Amazon forests whose way of life is being destroyed due to deforestation. For these people 2030 is too late.

It is not just Pacific Islands that are in danger. Only today (8th November) there was a report on the morning news from an area of Wales at risk of coastal flooding and population displacement. However we have the resources both financially and materially to build flood defences which will delay but possibly not stop the inevitable loss of land with rising sea levels

Over the weekend there were demonstrations and marches by Activists both young and old. Greta Thunberg has given speeches



and interviews calling the youth of today to action with her war cry of ‘blah,blah,blah.’ She has already stated that COP 26 will be regarded as a failure.

In the second week Environment, Climate and Energy ministers will start negotiations to see how all of this can be achieved and financed. Contributions are being promised to help vulnerable communities to respond to climate change.

On Wednesday the theme is transport and the switch to electric vehicles. One of the goals of COP 26 is to try and accelerate this switch.

- ⇒ As one of the Glasgow Breakthroughs at the World Leader Summit, 30 countries have agreed to work together to make zero emission vehicles the new normal by making them accessible, affordable, and sustainable in all regions by 2030 or sooner.
- ⇒ Nineteen governments have also stated their intent to support the establishment of ‘green shipping corridors’ – zero-emission shipping routes between two ports. This will involve deploying zero-emission vessel technologies and putting alternative fuel and charging infrastructure in place in ports to allow for zero emission shipping on key routes across the globe.
- ⇒ The UK has pledged to shift to clean trucks by committing to end the sale of most new diesel trucks between 2035 and 2040.

However it remains to be seen as some manufacturers have not committed to this. There is also a large workforce training scheme still required to train mechanics in servicing and maintaining electric vehicles.

Elizabeth Brechany, material sourced from [COP President daily media statement and latest announcements - 10 November - UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021 \(ukcop26.org\)](https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/11/211110-climate-statement-sec-2021-11-10.shtml)



### Christening

24<sup>th</sup> October Arran Hugh Gwyn Williams



### Wedding

Sep 11<sup>th</sup> Laura Trainer & Alan Main,  
Busby Hotel



*IT IS A LOVELY DAY TOMORROW,  
TOMORROW IS A LOVELY DAY;  
COME AND FEAST YOUR TEAR DIMMED EYES  
ON TOMORROWS CLEAR BLUE SKIES.*

*IF TODAY YOUR HEART IS WEARY,  
IF EVERY LITTLE THING LOOKS GREY,  
JUST FORGET YOUR SORROWS AND LEARN TO SAY,  
TOMORROW IS A LOVELY DAY. Anon.*





## Funerals

### September

8<sup>th</sup> Jane Goetz, Westwood Ave.,

23<sup>rd</sup> Jean Dunlop, South Lodge Care Home

### October

13<sup>th</sup> Arthur Oakley, Glenmuir Drive

29<sup>th</sup> Elinda Allan, St Quivox Road

### November

11<sup>th</sup> James Johnstone, 82B Ferguson Street

11<sup>th</sup> Billy White, Townend Care home

*Hymn: 268 in CH4*

*O God of Bethel! By whose hand  
O spread thy covering wings around,  
till all our wanderings cease,  
and at our Father's loved abode  
our souls arrive in peace.*



Are you ready for Christmas? Hopefully it will be different from last year although I still don't think I'll be heading to Glasgow with my sisters for our annual shopping trip.

Have you written your list and checked it twice. I've written a list of names but no inspiration yet as to gifts. Everyone might end up getting a Family Calendar again. I have bought my Christmas pudding and mince pies but these will probably be eaten before we even get to December.

In the meantime Channel Five are already showing Christmas films most described as Romances! I daresay I'll be watching Angela's Christmas again with Jem.

All being well this year we will be able to gather in church to celebrate the reason for the season, the arrival on earth of God's own son Jesus. We will still be wearing face masks but it won't matter because we will be together and singing and praising our Lord.

Elizabeth Brechany

**Website:** [www.ayrstquivox.com](http://www.ayrstquivox.com)

Whether it's up to date News or Historical Information you can find it all on our webpage. If you are unable to get to church then visit our 'Thoughts and Help' pages. Or if you just have some time to spare then dive in and browse to your hearts content. There are pages for our photo albums or read the Church Magazine in the 'News & All Info' tab.

**Facebook:** Search for Ayr St Quivox Parish Church

Here you can find updates on our services and signposts to what's going on in our church.





## CONTACTS

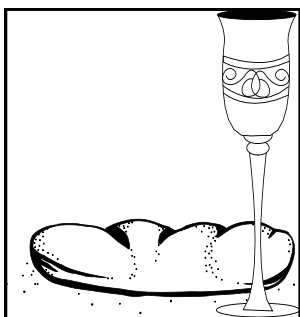
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<b>Session Clerk</b>	David McMahan	315529
<b>Treasurer</b>	Colin Mutch	263678
<b>Roll Keeper &amp; Elders Districts</b>	Vickie Mutch	263678
<b>Family/ Community Worker</b>	Paul Algeo	262177
<b>Data Protection Officer</b>	To be elected.	
<b>Health and Safety Officer</b>	Allan Leydon	262293
<b>Safeguarding Team</b>	A Leydon, R Alexander, Rev John McCutcheon	
<b>Audio/Visual Programmer</b>		
<b>Order of Service &amp; Intimations Secretary</b>	Vickie Mutch	263678
<b>Organists</b>	Jennifer McCutcheon Anne Houston	261248 521763
<b>Auchincruive Church Officer</b>	Katharine Black	478242
<b>Dalmilling Sunday Church Officer</b>	Allan Leydon	262293
<b>Dalmilling Premises co-ordinator</b>	Allan Leydon	262293
<b>Auchincruive Communion</b>	Katharine & John Black.	478242
<b>Dalmilling Communion</b>	Allan Leydon Elizabeth Brechany	262293 268363
<b>Flowers Auchincruive</b>	Rosemary Alexander	
<b>Flowers Dalmilling</b>	Pat Smith	
<b>Hall Bookings Secretary</b>	Elizabeth Brechany	07925 574925
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Elizabeth Brechany	268363



We Invite You

To join us for COMMUNION  
SUNDAY 5th December 2021  
At Auchincruive Church



*Do this in remembrance of me.  
Luke 22:19*

Next issue of Church Magazine

All items should be submitted to Elizabeth Brechany

by Sunday 6th February 2022

St Quivox Parish Church: Ayr (Church of Scotland) (known as Ayr:St Quivox Parish Church) is a Scottish Charity, SC004906, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)