



Ayr:St Quivox Parish Church

Christmas 2023



SUNDAY SERVICES

Alternate between Auchincruive and Dalmilling

Check Facebook page for updates

Ayr:St. Quivox Parish Church

MINISTER Rev John McCutcheon

Tel: 01292 861641

ACTING SESSION CLERK Pat Smith

Tel: 01292 283503



As we enter into the time of Advent and Christmas surely as we look at everything that is going on in the world today, and all of the various tragedies that have taken place over the last 12 months, and that's before we even begin to think about the things that we as individuals may be experiencing or have experienced, then the words of Charles Wesley's hymn 'Come thou long expected Jesus' are just as pertinent as when he wrote the hymn in 1744. This was his response to the way he saw society around him going.

For all of us we will have our own thoughts and memories of what this time of the year means. Some of us will love it, and thrive in the busyness and mayhem that usually results. For others we will be more reflective. Perhaps this will be the first Christmas when there will be an empty chair at the Christmas table; maybe one less friend to visit. We will all have our own particular stories to tell and share.

But as God's loved people may this also be the season when we remember that there is still Good News, because the story of Christmas isn't just another event on the Church calendar. Instead, along with Easter they are the main events, the main reasons why we do what we do as a church week in and week out—that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has been unable to overpower and overcome it.



And that's why Christmas and then Easter remain so important for us, because they remind us of the Hope that has been given to us. If we look at everything that's going on around us it could be too easy to wallow in despair, but because there is Hope we can still look into the uncertainty with a degree of calmness, we can look at the empty chair, the missing friend at the table and be assured that this is not all there is. And may the words that the angels said to stunned and frightened shepherds be words for us as well: "Peace be with you. A Saviour has been born. His name is Emmanuel, meaning God is with us".

Can I finish by thanking everyone for the hard work and support that has been given to us over the last year. It has all been greatly appreciated.

Have a merry and peaceful Christmas and hopefully to each and everyone of our church family, and it would be great to maybe see some of our members who haven't been at church for a while over the Christmas season.

As always if there is anything that you need please feel free to get in touch with me

John

Services in December/January



- 3rd December** Communion at Auchincruive 10.30am
- 10th December** Blue Christmas/service of remembrance
Dalmilling 10.30am (see page 5)
- 17th December** Nativity Service. Joint service with St. James
at St James Church 11am.
- Anyone requiring transport for this service or the one on the 31st
please speak to the minister or one of the elders.
- 24th December** Christmas Eve service—Dalmilling 10.30am
- 24th December** Messy Christmas—Dalmilling 6:30pm
- 24th December** Watchnight joint service with St James at
Auchincruive, 11.30pm
- 31st December** Joint service of 9 Carols and lessons
at St James Church 11am.
- 7th January** Dalmilling at 10.30am



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





Our service on the 10th December will be a bit different in substance and style from our usual services as we pause and take time to think about all those who are no longer with us. It's a service that I wanted to do last year but there didn't seem to be a place in the calendar where I thought it would fit in. Originally I didn't want to do it as one of our normal Sunday services but I don't think that there is any other time when we can do it.

Over the last year quite a few members of our church have died. In fact, since coming in 2019 just under one third of our congregation have died. I think now is the time where we take time and remember not just them but all of our nearest and dearest who are no longer with us.

The service will be slightly more reflective than normal: there will be singing, readings, silence, lighting of candles (maybe), and so on.

It will be a good service to maybe invite a friend or a family member who has lost someone to come along to.

Last year rumours were circulating that the building in Auchincruive would be closing after the Watchnight service.

This year I have heard rumours from 2 separate sources that Dalmilling is closing!!

For the record, and to avoid any doubt, the building in Dalmilling is not closing.

John McCutcheon



Whilst there is not yet a firm date for this to happen, the two churches have been working alongside one another to try and ensure that when the date comes, we will be ready for it.

For those of you who don't know St. James' minister, Rev. Barbara has said that she will be leaving in due course once she has found a new charge to go to. Whilst that is welcome and gives a bit of clarity as to how the future gets shaped, we should be patient as well as vacancies are still quite low.

There was a united Kirk Session meeting on the 5th October which with a few exceptions was deemed to be a 'positive experience'. The meeting passed off with both Sessions aware of the challenges that lie ahead but also keen to accept the responsibilities that this will entail and also to make the Union work. It was agreed that the next meeting will take place in February.



We have also had 2 joint services (Communion at St James on 1st Oct and Harvest at St Quivox on the 8th Oct) from my own viewpoint and from those that I have spoken to, both services went well, with an average of 50 at both services. A big difference from what we are used to on a Sunday.

As you may have noticed on the calendar of services for December, we have another 3 joint services with St James coming up, all with the intention of bringing the two congregations closer together.

After this our next joint service will be a joint Communion at St Quivox in March in the church at Dalmilling.



As a reminder to everyone, once Barbara leaves and the Kirk sessions have agreed on the Basis of Union a vote will take place in both churches to agree to the union and to me as the minister.

In St Quivox we will just have the one vote to agree to the Union; whilst in St James they will have two votes—one for the Union and one to agree to the new minister.

Whilst it is possible that one or both congregations may choose to vote against the union, or me as minister, I don't think it's in the long term interests of either church for this to happen. However, if this happens we will have to take stock and deal with it should this happen.

I would also like to point out that even when Barbara leaves there will be a period of a good few months before the Union takes place.

NAME THAT CHURCH

One of the obvious changes that will take place with the arrival of the Union is that the name of the church will need to change. It was agreed at the Joint Kirk Session that this should be passed over to the congregations to come up with suggestions and then the joint Session will choose one. For example you may think the combined names of St James and St Quivox will be sufficient or that a new church should have a new name such as Ayr North Parish Church. Whatever it may be if you have a suggested name for the church please let me or any one of the elders know.

John McCutcheon

THE RULES OF PLAY



Scene on Earth: Adam and Eve have been created and are living in the Garden of Eden, as yet unaware of sin, or its consequences:

Scene in Heaven: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, observing Adam and Eve, are in discussion concerning the possible future events that might, or could, unfold on Earth:

‘So, what would happen’, asked the Son ‘if they fail to do the things we say?’

‘Then they must die’ the Father said, ‘for that’s the Rules of Play.’

‘The life they have in Eden gives them everything they need, There’s no excuse for them to sin, whatever they may plead.’

‘So, if they choose to disobey and eat the fruit of sin, Each one that disobeys must die for the evil that’s within.’

‘But that would mean,’ the Spirit exclaimed, ‘that no-one would survive,

Of all the people born on Earth - not one man left alive?’

*The angels gasped in horror, for they’d been listening in,
The man and his companion - were they capable of sin?
Would they lead the whole intended race into eternal death?
Their creation was in purity - their life by God’s own breath.*

*Once again, the Father spoke: ‘There is one other way,’ He said,
‘A life for a life are the rules of play - one of us could die instead.
A righteous life for a sinner’s death is the only other way.
A substitute to die for them – for that’s the rules of play’.*



*The angels looked on, wondering just who would God commend?
Could one of them perform this work – which one would the Master
send?*

'No-one else. Just One of Us, is how it has to be'

'Then I shall go' the Son replied, 'I'll die for them - send me'.

*Four thousand years had passed since then, and much had come and
gone.*

*There was excitement in the heavens now, amongst stars that brightly
shone.*

*The angels sang in glorious praise as they joyfully amassed
To witness this amazing scene – God's Son to be born at last.*

A gift to mankind upon the Earth, according to the plan,

*Not born in a palace as the son of a king, but in a stable as the son of
man.*

Born in humble circumstance, no advantage could He plead,

The Son clothed with humanity, to serve, as once agreed.

In the hills beyond the little town the shepherds watched their sheep

A restlessness had seized them as they settled down to sleep.

They sensed a strangeness in the air, a hope, yet mixed with fear,

Then suddenly in the dark night sky, angelic hosts appear.

The shepherds looked with awe and dread at this astounding sight,

The angels filled the night-time sky with a brilliance of light.

'Fear not!' they said with joyful voice, 'the news we bring is good,

The Son of God has come this night, as the prophets said He would'.



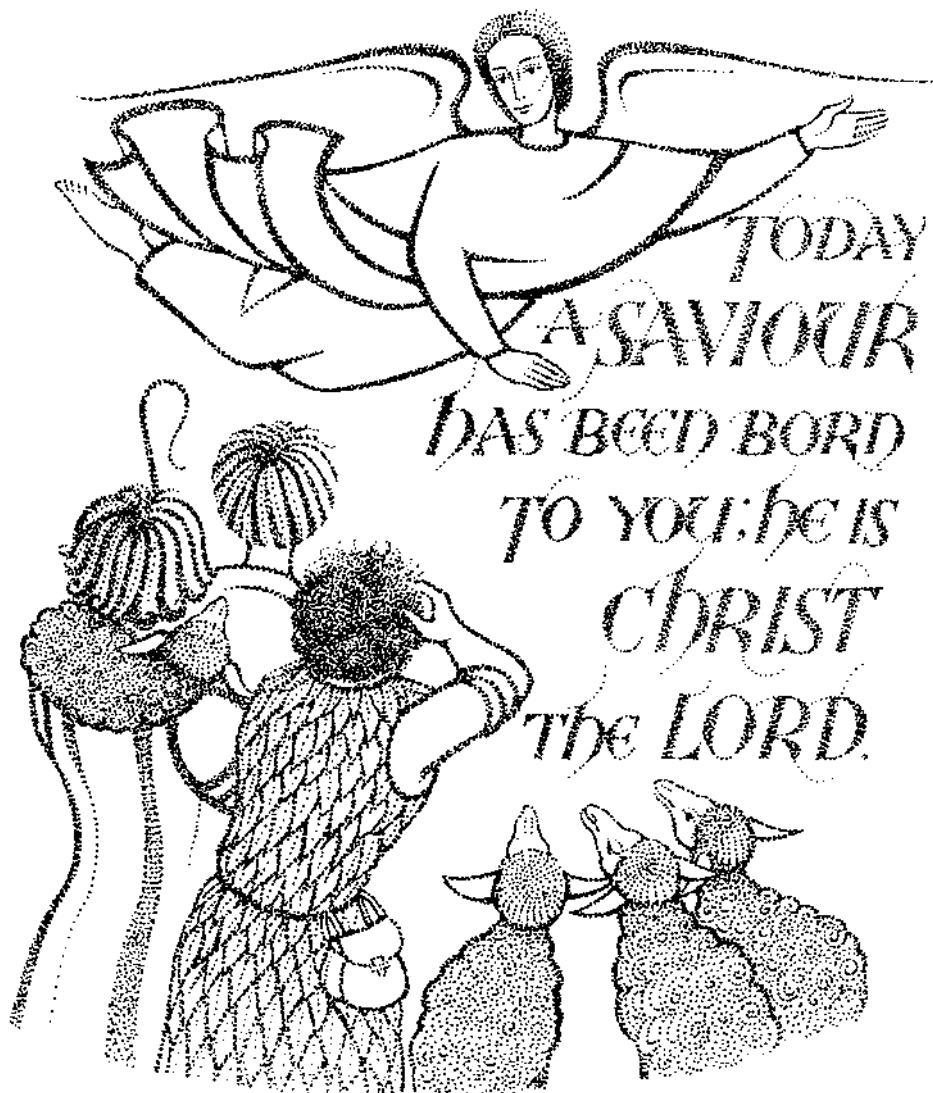
*Born to man a tiny babe to take away our sin
And bring to us new peace and joy, through the love of God again.
Within that tiny frame there lay the secret of God's might,
How could the shepherds understand as they gazed on Him that
night?*

*A few more years would still yet pass before it could be done,
The sacrificial lamb, replaced by God's own precious Son.
The years of sin and death are past, with the revealing of God's love,
The heart of God come down to us in the beauty of a dove.*

*A scented garden, a night of prayer, expectancy and dread,
An angel there to give him strength for the fearful task ahead,
One final miracle to perform, one selfless act of love
Death to be defeated – then to lead His flock above.*

*The babe was born for this one thing - to die upon the tree.
A crucifixion on a hill – tragic Calvary,
'A life for a life,' the rules of play to set our people free,
'I'll go,' the Son had softly said. 'I'll die for them - send me!'*

*By William Daniel
Printed with the author's permission.*



THE CHRISTMAS ROBIN



The little bobbing Robin
 Sat on my windowsill
 And looked at me with sadness
 As I lay in bed unwell.

And as it flapped its little wings
 To welcome Christmas Day
 It hopped upon my table
 To hear what I might say.

‘Hello my friend, good cheer to
 you

The snow has come at last
 And much as I would like to play
 My days of fun have past.

For my leg it is now broken
 Said the doctor with concern
 So rest I must for many weeks
 What a lesson to be learned.’

Then Robin gave a wink to me
 And flew around the room
 And everywhere he went, he
 chirped
 ‘Don’t move, I’ll be back soon.’

Then in a moment he was gone
 Through the window at great
 haste
 And way beyond the curtain
 He had picked up quite a pace.

But in the distant echoes
 The smell of embers burned
 As Winter’s chill descended
 Robin suddenly returned.

And in his beak were tiny twigs
 Too small for me to see
 But back and forth he came and
 went
 To build a Christmas tree.

And bit by bit it slowly grew
 Taking shape where I did lay
 As I looked on in fondness
 At Robin’s caring ways.

And as a tear fell on my cheek
 His present now emerged
 With moss and fern to decorate
 The sound of music could be
 heard.

And with the ringing of the bells
 A distance cry was made
 As Robin flapped his wings once
 more
 To start his big parade.

For birds and animals
 countrywide
 Stood in the snow below
 To wish me a Merry Christmas
 And good tidings on the go.



The sparrows and the magpies
The pigeons and the crows
The foxes and the rabbits
Deers leaping high and low.

The badgers and the drumming moles
The squirrels marching bold
As hawks kept watch across the ground
The mice hid from the cold.

For Robin's friends had joined him
On this very special day
To put a smile upon my face
And blow the sorrows away.

The gift of friendship they did make
In the garden of my home
Stirred up feelings of great happiness
That I was loved and not alone.

And with this scene of wonderment
And Robin's endearing ways
A stocking full of magic
Arrived for me on Christmas Day.

*By Maura Kelly
Printed with the author's permission*



Halloween party - over 50 people enjoyed a night of fun, games and dress up in the Wilson Hall. The sum of £279 was raised for the community and church groups.

Tots - Teddy Bear Tots had their annual photograph day lots of lovely smiles on show.

Tots Halloween - our tots enjoyed party food, games and dooking for apples.





Community corner - has been enjoying arts and crafts at the Community corner this month, with the colder weather coming in the church has provided a warm safe space once again for those who need it.



Reports, Photos and Flyers on next page supplied by Kirsty McArdle. A big thank you to Kirsty for all the work she puts in with the various groups she is involved in.



Dalmilling Church
CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Dalmilling Church

December 2nd
11am - 3pm

Tombola, hook a duck,
craft stalls, home baking,
food, hot drinks
and lots more.....

Donations are being sought for the Tombola Stall. These can be brought along to any of our groups and handed in at Church on Sundays.

AFTERNOON TEA
WITH
SANTA

DALMILLING CHURCH, AYR

Sunday 3rd December
12pm - 2pm
£5 per child

Tickets can be purchased every
Wednesday at Teddy Bear Tots
or through their Facebook
page.

TICKETED EVENT ONLY, STRICTLY NO PAYING ON THE DOOR



ALL AGES WELCOME

Christmas Party

MONDAY DEC 11 2023 5.30PM - 7.30PM

DALMILLING CHURCH HALL
MUSIC, GAMES, TUCK SHOP.

£3 ENTRY ON THE DOOR PRICE INCLUDES A VISIT WITH SANTA AND GIFT.



Brownies



by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

dalmillingbrownies@hotmail.com



We are desperately looking for adult Leaders to restart the Rainbows (age 5-7) and also Guides (age 10-14), and we have girls waiting to join. A programme is already available, and full training and support will be given. If you or anyone you know might be interested in becoming a volunteer Rainbow or Guide leader, please get in touch. For more information, contact Brownie leader Lise Whittle at dalmillingbrownies@hotmail.com or District Commissioner Janis Meredith at dccentralayr@girlguidingayrshiresouth.org.uk

1st Dalmilling Brownies started back after the Summer, and we welcomed four new Brownies into our Pack.



We started a new Brownies theme badge called 'Express Myself' and we discussed that it means showing feelings or opinions. This will include hobbies, interests, views, talents, creative abilities etc. We will be doing games, crafts and activities to earn the badge. So we started off by doing a dance routine to 'Singing In The Rain' with lots of funny actions as part of the badge; after that we rolled a ball to each other to say a sentence making up an hilarious story about Brownie aliens!



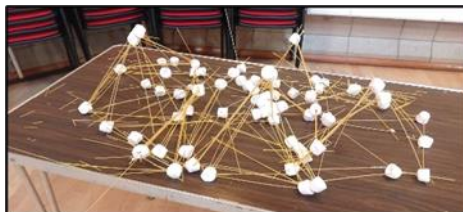
We played another game called 'Bring Me A'. In their Sixes groups, the Brownies were asked to take turns to bring a certain item to the Owls, such as "bring me a hairband /Brownie jacket /badge /shoe (not smelly!) /water bottle /something green /a Brownie /an Owl....". There was lots of frantic searching and squeals of laughter as they raced to be first to bring the item to Little Owl.



The Brownies showed everyone a fabulous variety of talents in our Talent Show, including several different jazz, tap and modern dance routines, singing, a talk and display of gemstones and a toy collection, and a recited poem. What clever Brownies - everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and they all earned an extra 'performing' badge. We also played a game of Charades which was very funny.



When two of the Owls were ill with Covid we had to cancel Brownies, and some of the Brownies did extra badge work at home, and earned their Baking badge. Another week the Brownies made edible architecture out of spaghetti and marshmallows! The girls worked together in teams and built some amazing, sticky, and decidedly wobbly structures! The Brownies enjoyed themselves and they all had some marshmallows to eat on the way home.





The Trefoil Guild is a section of Girlguiding for adult members. They are celebrating their 80th Anniversary, and have set a choice of challenges for girls to earn a badge based on the theme 'From Small Acorns to Giant Oaks'. We have started towards the badge by planting acorns, and another challenge was to think of countries beginning with each letter from the words 'TREFOIL, EIGHTY, ACORNS' – you could try that too, some of the letters are surprisingly hard!



Several Brownies made their Brownie Promise under our rosebud arch, and received their metal Promise badge, a Badge book and a goodie bag – and got to sign our toadstool. We played a Promise relay game collecting lines from the Promise and putting it back together again, and we looked at saying and signing the Promise in Makaton.

Another night Snowy Owl Lisa taught us all some Line Dancing steps which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Little Owl Lara taught us some ballet positions and moves, and showed everyone her ballet clothes and point shoes from when she was younger.





At our Pumpkin Party we made some ghostly monster puppets by decorating recycled yogurt drink bottles, using pens, eyes, wool, pipe cleaners, fabric, and tissue paper. We played lots of games including 'Wrap The Mummy' and 'Pumpkins, Cats and Skeletons' (which is an acting out version of Rock Paper Scissors). We had carved pumpkin awards, and everyone went home with a prize and a goodie bag.





We are looking forward to completing our theme badge, Remembrance, Christmas crafts and our Christmas party. We wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who help at Girlguiding, and for the support from everyone at the Church. The District is in great need of more volunteer Leaders for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch dalmillingbrownies@hotmail.com



Mrs Whittle with Sophie (Flag Bearer) , Erin (Wreath Bearer) and Skylar, who attended the Remembrance Day Service in Dalmilling Church.

1st Dalmilling Brownies Book of Remembrance. Leading up to Remembrance the Brownies each remember one serviceman from those named on the War Memorial or listed in Commonwealth Cemeteries.





Joy to the World



*Let Heaven
and Earth Rejoice*



Our joint Harvest Service with St James yielded the crop of groceries above along with the sum of £92.03. These were donated to the Christ in Action Foodbank.

Website: www.ayrstquivox.com

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.





On Sunday 12th November we gathered in Dalmilling Church for our Remembrance Service. The service started with the Brownies bringing in their flag. Rev John McCutcheon then led us in the Act of Remembrance. Wreaths were laid by Councillor Ian Cavana, John Black on behalf of the church and Erin on behalf of the Brownies.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

A two minute silence was observed then morning service continued. After the service we crossed to the Whitlets War Memorial along with members of the community who had come to join us as we once again paid our respects in the Act of Remembrance at 11am.





Christmas Wordsearch

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

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6301060/>



BRIGHTLY	WORTH	ANGEL	VOICES
ERROR	NEW	STARS	SIN
HOPE	FALL	MORN	BORN
APPEARED	PINING	REJOICES	DEAR
WEARY	BIRTH	GLORIOUS	KNEES
HOLY	SHINING	THRILL	DIVINE





If you have been attending church, you will notice that flowers are once more decorating both the sanctuaries. After the service, these flowers are given to people who are ill, been in hospital, are housebound, or have been bereaved. They are sometimes given to celebrate good news or birthdays.



If you would like to commemorate a special date by donating flowers, speak to Rosemary if the date falls on a day we worship at Auchincruive, or Pat if it is Dalmilling.

SPRING WILL COME AGAIN.

*Mourn not with broken heart, when dear ones go,
 For you the night of loneliness, for them the morning glow.
 For you the daily burden of the years which are yet to be,
 For them, a new adventure in a world you cannot see.
 For sorrow has its season, nothing lasts, not even grief.
 Every winter has its ending, and then the greening leaf.
 One day you will awake and find that time has eased the pain.
 That is how God's mercy works - spring will come again.*



Wedding

14th June Tazmin and Christopher McCutcheon
at Roodlea Barn, Coylton

Christening

15th October Luke James Kane
James Road Tarbolton



Funerals

August

24th Janet McCubbin, 22 Lochhead Court, Stewarton

29th Drew Henderson, Ayr

September

28th Christopher Gillen, 57 Galloway Avenue

October

16th Margo Neil, 76 Whitletts Road

November

15th Kirsty Kindness, 12c Low Road



Church Services	21 JAN 2024, SUN
From December 2023	10:30 – 11:30
To March 2024	Dalmilling Church Service
3 DEC 2023, SUN	28 JAN 2024, SUN
10:30 – 11:30	10:30 – 11:30
Auchincruive Church Service	Auchincruive Church Service
10 DEC 2023, SUN	4 FEB 2024, SUN
10:30 – 11:30	10:30 – 11:30
Dalmilling Church Service	Dalmilling Church Service
17 Dec 2023, Sun	11 FEB 2024, SUN
11 - 12noon	10:30 – 11:30
Nativity Joint Service	Auchincruive Church Service
St James Church	
	18 FEB 2024, SUN
24 DEC 2023, SUN	10:30 – 11:30
10:30 – 11:30	Dalmilling Church Service
Dalmilling Church Service	
	25 FEB 2024, SUN
24 DEC 2023, SUN	10:30 – 11:30
18:30 - 19:30	Auchincruive Church Service
Dalmilling Church Service	
	3 MAR 2024, SUN
24 DEC 2023, SUN	10:30 – 11:30 Communion
23:30 - 00:15	Dalmilling Church Service
Watchnight Service	
Auchincruive Church	10 MAR 2024, SUN
	10:30 – 11:30
31 DEC 2023, SUN	Auchincruive Church Service
11 - 12noon	
Nine Carols and Lessons	17 MAR 2024, SUN
St James Church Joint Service	10:30 – 11:30
	Dalmilling Church Service
7 JAN 2024, SUN	
10:30 – 11:30	24 MAR 2024, SUN
Dalmilling Church Service	10:30 – 11:30
	Auchincruive Church Service
14 JAN 2024, SUN	
10:30 – 11:30	31 MAR 2024, SUN
Auchincruive Church Service	10:30 – 11:30
	Dalmilling Church Service



CONTACTS

Minister	Rev John McCutcheon	01292 861641
Church Office	Dalmilling Church	262177
Acting Session Clerk	Pat Smith	01292 283503
Treasurer		
Roll Keeper & Elders Districts	Vickie Mutch	263678
Family/ Community Worker	Paul Algeo	262177
Data Protection Officer	To be elected.	
Health and Safety Officer	Allan Leydon	262293
Safeguarding Team	A Leydon, R Alexander, Rev John McCutcheon	
Audio/Visual Programmer		
Order of Service & Intimations Secretary	Vickie Mutch	263678
Organist	Jennifer McCutcheon	261248
Auchincruive Church Officer	Katharine Black	478242
Dalmilling Sunday Church Officer	Allan Leydon	262293
Dalmilling Premises co-ordinator	Allan Leydon	262293
Auchincruive Communion	Katharine & John Black.	478242
Dalmilling Communion	Allan Leydon Elizabeth Brechany	262293 268363
Flowers Auchincruive	Rosemary Alexander	
Flowers Dalmilling	Pat Smith	
Hall Bookings Secretary	Elizabeth Brechany	268363
Magazine Editor	Elizabeth Brechany	268363

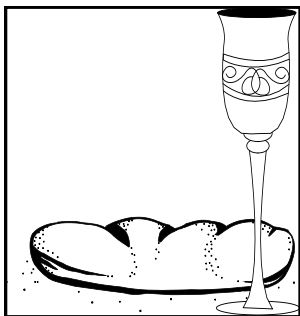


We Invite You

To join us for COMMUNION

SUNDAY 3rd December 2023

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 4th February 2024

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).