



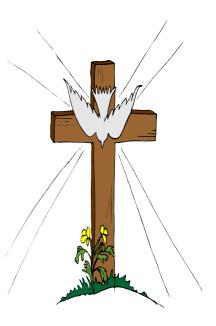
# SUNDAY SERVICES Alternate between Auchincruive and Dalmilling

GO TO WEBPAGE FOR UPDATES

www.ayrstquivox.com

MINISTER Rev John McCutcheon Tel: 01292 861641

SESSION CLERK David McMahon Tel: 01292 315 529



#### **Minister's Letter**



A number of notable things have happened since the last church magazine was printed and circulated. Perhaps amongst the most noticeable has been that the shortest day has come and gone. We can see signs of that as the days begin to stretch, and that on a good day it is still light till after 5 pm. Further signs that the seasons are moving on can be seen in the snowdrops that have popped through the ground at Auchincruive.

If I am being honest January and February are my least favourite months and it is a case of grinding through them and looking forward to things changing when March and Spring comes. I suspect I am not alone in this.

However, when we lead our lives in this way, of moving from one thing to the next, of living from one cycle of events to another, it means that we never really stop and live in the moment, in the things that are happening in the here and now. We fail to embrace the present moment, and all those precious people and situations that God has brought into our lives.

How many things and opportunities pass us by because we are unable to live in the sacredness of the present moment?

We miss out on the innocence of the question posed to us by children. We can fail to see and receive the love of our friends and family. We miss out on the beauty that surrounds us; quite basically we miss out on life.

As God's people we have a rich tradition of history behind us but our mission and lives is in the here and now. It isn't for the past and can only ever mean something in the future if we accept life in the present moment. To quote John Lennon, "life is what happens while we're busy making other plans".

Whilst we might be focussing on things that lie ahead, let's remember the promise God has given to all His people "I know the



plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11).

Therefore, as we move into 2022 and beyond, may we do so by acknowledging the future, admitting that God already knows about it and we are thus free to be the people and Church that God has called us to be for and in this present moment.

As always it is a joy to be your minister and if there is anything I can be doing to help and support you please feel free to get in touch

John





Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January was a sad day for us as we heard the news of the death of our long time friend and church stalwart Lena Hollywood. Lena had been taken into Ayr hospital earlier that week, and unfortunately, she never returned home.

Lena was a regular attender at church until recently, when mobility problems prevented her from getting out and about in a way that she had been able to do previously.

Lena never changed, and we could use many different words to describe her, but one word that springs to mind immediately is 'generous'. Every time there was a need Lena responded immediately, and on many occasions she would support something or make a donation and she wouldn't want anyone to know.

For example, when the Teddy Bear Tots group started at first, they made an appeal to the congregation for a second hand toaster. Lena, in her own way approached Pat Smith and gave her money and told her to go and buy a brand new one instead.

Her involvement with the carpet bowls has taken on 'legendary' status in the church. David recalls that Lena would keep the scores in a closely guarded jotter, that nobody got to see. She refused to divulge who was winning and who wasn't, in the games that were played. This resulted in raised eyebrows as to who eventually became champion and who received the wooden spoon. But no matter what, Lena ensured that everyone got a prize and she had a thoughtful gift for everyone.

She was generous in hospitality and a friend to all.

We will all have our own memories of Lena, but may the sadness we feel in her loss be tempered with the happiness that she brought to all those who knew her.

John McCutcheon



#### And from our Facebook page

Lena offered comfort and support to many of us when going through difficult times. She was always there in the background lending a helping hand. She will be sorely missed by friends and family.

> We were saddened to hear the news of Lena's passing. We will miss her greatly in our church family. A lovely kind lady.



- So sorry to hear this she was a lovely lady and always had a smile x
- \* So sad to hear about Lena's passing.
- \* So sorry to read that news, Rona
- \* So sad to hear about Mrs Hollywood knew her when we lived in Thornwood avenue
- \* She'll be missed by all who knew her.
- \* She was lovely. Always got a good blether with her 😌

Photo of Lena receiving flowers from the members of the Bowling Group in recognition of all the work she put into this group over a great many years.

**Elizabeth Brechany** 

# In Times of Trouble



Do not dwell upon your worries in a martyred mood But greet each morning with a prayer of gratitude, Weigh your blessings with your troubles and I'm sure you'll find the good things will out weigh the bad.

Gratitude will open windows on a wider view enabling us to see a flash of light and bit of blue, Though the skies are stormy and the outlook bleak and cold Gratitude will cast a beam and tinge the clouds with gold.

There is always something to be grateful for each day, hearth and home, love and friendship, health and strength with each fresh day renewed. Happy is the heart that knows the joy of gratitude!

I found this in my Mum's Autograph book from the 1940's which was written by her friend. Vickie



Sunday 27 March 2022



# Memorable Mothers in the Bible

Mary mother of Jesus. She was visited by an angel and told she would give birth to the Messiah. Her life would be filled with joy and sorrow.

Elizabeth who lived a godly life but was unable to conceive. God answered her prayers and she gave birth to John the Baptist and offered support to Mary.

Hannah was also unable to have a child. She was so filled with thanks to God when she did have a child that she dedicated her son Samuel's life in His service.

Naomi mother in law of Ruth who inspired her to say 'Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.'

Rebekah wife of Isaac and mother of Esau and Jacob.

Sarah the wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac.

Eve mother of Cain and Abel.



Roy Mitchell, Palm Tree cartoons and Clipart for Church Magazines

### HOME AND AWAY



The Presbytery Mission Plan (PMP), which I am sure many of you will have heard of, especially if you have read the letter I have sent out, has at its core 'the 5 Marks of Mission' which are:

'The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

3. To respond to human need by loving service.

4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.

This Plan is something that every church has to base its future plans against.

You'll be glad to know that I don't intend to elaborate much further on the Plan at the moment.

In addressing the 5 Marks of Mission, in particular Marks 3 and 4, the Kirk Session agreed to support the work of Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), Christian Aid and ShelterBox, amongst other things.

In each edition of the Church magazine, we will highlight an issue from one of these particular groups. The reason behind this is to help us all see the work of the world wide church and the things that are being done, and the persecution that many Christian's may be facing. Hopefully this allows us to appreciate everything that is going on outwith the doors of our own church and the parish of St Quivox.

As well as sharing elsewhere in the magazine the article of "answered prayer for Christians in Iran", below is a brief description of who Christian Solidarity Worldwide are and what they stand for. CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE (https://www.csw.org.uk)



"CSW seeks to challenge and change the laws, behaviours and policies which lead to abuses of the right to freedom of religion and belief. We have over three decades of experience advocating for freedom of religion or belief around the world.

We have Christian values at our heart.

As an organisation we are proud of our Christian heritage, identity and values: They are the foundations in all we do. This means that we believe in the power of prayer to transform situations, and we encourage our supporters to join us in praying for the cases and issues we work on.

The right to freedom of religion or belief is also known as the 'first freedom' given to humanity by God. It's a touchstone human right, often serving as a 'litmus test' for whether other rights are at risk of being abused. It's a right we must protect, defend and restore".

#### From the CSW website

#### Answers to prayer in Iran

#### 10 Jan 2022

Imagine you and your close friends are worshipping at a gathering in your home when you hear a bang on the front door and muffled voices. You look around the room hoping to find a hiding place, but you hear footsteps coming down the hallway. It's already too late... This is what happened at a church meeting in Rasht, northern Iran, when secret police raided the house at which it was being held.

#### Church leaders released from prison

Two of three church leaders at this meeting were arrested, then released two weeks later on bail of around £69,000. Morteza Mashhoudkari and Ahmad Sarparast were held at a secret location before their release. The third Christian, Ayoub Pourrezade, was



released on bail 12 days later. He was placed in solitary confinement at Lakan prison for cross examination about church finances.

Although CSW is celebrating their releases, unfounded charges against the men are yet to be dropped.

Christians in the northern city of Rasht have faced intense harassment by the Iranian authorities for several years, and these arrests are emblematic of the regime's effective criminalisation of Christianity and other minority religious faiths.

# Supreme Court orders the review of sentences of imprisoned Christians

In November 2021, the Supreme Court ordered a review of the fiveyear sentences that were previously handed down to Pastor Matthias Haghnejad and eight other Christian converts.

#### 'CSW welcomes the judges' affirmation that proselytising and establishing home churches are not illegal activities, and the prospect that the case against these Christians will be reviewed.'

Mervyn Thomas, CSW Founder President

The Supreme Court judges stated that they did not consider proselytising and establishing house churches to be illegal activities. The converts had been convicted of 'endangering state security' and 'promoting Zionism', but it appears the real reason for their imprisonment was their conversion to Christianity. The Supreme Court also stated that establishing home churches and proselytising are not illegal activities.

# A CSW source said: 'Some judges refuse to take orders from the secret police. This new development does not necessarily mean that they will be released but probably there will be a new trial.'

We give thanks for this encouraging development, and continue to pray for the release and acquittal of all nine men.



#### Breakthrough with UN ruling over Pastor Nadarkhani

A ray of hope shines for imprisoned church leader Yousef Nadarkhani, thanks to a UN finding. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention is asking the Iranian Government for the urgent release of the pastor, who it describes as 'a target of religious discrimination'. Pastor Nadarkhani was sentenced to ten years in prison for 'acting against national security' by promoting Zionist Christianity.

The pastor was arrested with four other Christians in 2016 during raids on homes in Rasht. Although they were released on bail pending their appeal, they were re-arrested in 2018. After appealing, Pastor Nadarkhani's term was reduced to six years.

CSW has regularly raised Pastor Nadarkhani's case with UN experts, and we continue to campaign for his release and for all charges against him to be dropped.

'This is an answered prayer, and we are grateful to CSW, Freedom Now and all those working on Pastor Nadarkhani's case for so long.'

Iranian church leader

#### Your prayers make a difference!

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and campaigning for Pastor Nadarkhani, Matthias Haghnejad and all others imprisoned in Iran. Although we are yet to see the final victory in all of these cases, we give thanks for the answers to



prayer that we have witnessed during 2021, which have fuelled our faith for even greater victories.

# **Calling All Volunteers**

I think I have said on many occasions previously, if I wasn't here the Church would still run. However, if we didn't have members volunteering to do things on Sunday's in particular, then we couldn't function effectively.

There are always opportunities for volunteers, whether it be in serving tea and coffee, welcoming, counting the offering, doing IT for the hymns etc. You don't even need to commit to doing it on a weekly basis, we would just be thrilled to have you helping us.

If there are any areas of church life that you would like to help us with please feel free to get in touch with either myself or one of the elders.

John



I had a phone call from Samaritans Purse to say how much they appreciated the support of St. Quivox Parish Church to the appeal and to thank everyone who contributed in any way. Also to inform us that Christmas 2021 shoeboxes from Scotland were sent to needy families in Bosnia.

Rosemary









# **Holy Week Services**

Although it may seem a while away yet, the Holy Week services will return on an in-person basis i.e. it will take place in church with a 'live' congregation.

However, it won't be a week of services, instead they will take place in St James on

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Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April
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All services will start at 7pm. There will be a retiral offering on all 3 nights as well for the Foodbank, and there will be tea and coffee after the services.

Further updates will be posted on the Church web page and on our Facebook page

# Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord

Ayr: St Quivox Parish Church Easter Services

Sunday 17th April, 2022

In Dalmilling Church

Early Reflection at 9am

# Breakfast

Morning Service will be held at 10:30am.



# North Ayr TheGither Update February 2022





#### Happy New Year to you all

It was a busy time in and around the church in December. It was great to have our first **Faith Food Fun** event since before lockdown. We enjoyed soup and sandwiches together, as well as lovely cakes from Kenny's Bakers. Our friend Scott Nicol played music for us, while Jim Wade shared a message. It was lovely to see some familiar faces as well as new ones.

Our **Scripture Union** group in Dalmilling Primary restarted too. We facilitated three sessions utilising a resource called 'Light Up Christmas' which explained the prophecies of Jesus, his birth and why he had to come. The kids enjoyed themselves and participated well. We've had 27 kids signed up so far and more children have requested consent forms. We meet on a Thursday afternoon, but due to demand I'm considering a second group to accommodate all those who are interested.

We were able to give out **Christmas Hampers** to 26 households. I managed to secure funding of £1000 from the Arnold Clark Community Fund which was used to purchase hamper kits and contents. Each hamper had grocery items, sweet 'treats' and a £15 gift voucher for Pickens the Butchers. We took referrals from Dalmilling Primary, whilst others were donated to people with various health conditions. We also ran a social media campaign which encouraged people to nominate someone for a chance to win a hamper. This was a successful strategy and it widened the profile of the North Ayr TheGither project, while rewarding someone from the community.

We continue to facilitate the '**Thrive**' group in Ayr Academy. This is a self-management group for 6/7 boys in S2. **Wild Rhythm** continues to



go ahead each Thursday afternoon in the church. I continue to support men on a **1-1** basis and run a men's **gym group** every Wednesday.

Your prayers for myself and those I work with are valued and much appreciated.

Paul







# TREASURER'S REPORT CHURCH MAGAZINE, MARCH 2022



The 2021 Annual Accounts and 2022 Budget were presented to the Kirk Session on 08th February. The Accounts were accepted and approved and will now be sent to the Independent Examiner for approval. 2021 was another difficult year for us due to the global pandemic crisis. In

view of the COVID-19 restrictions, Sunday worship was suspended and buildings closed for some months. In addition, various planned fundraising and social events were cancelled and the rental of church premises was significantly reduced. As a result, the financial performance for the year has been greatly impacted.

The principal source of income was from weekly donations which increased by 13% when compared with the previous year. There was a 21% decrease in the number of people giving under the Freewill Offering (FWO) Scheme and a decrease of 13% in the number of people donating under the Gift Aid Scheme. The openplate giving increased by 106% despite the attendance at Sunday worship decreasing slightly during the year. The net effect was an increase of 2%. However, if we had not received Legacies totalling £6,000, we would have suffered a sizeable deficit.

Our Payments reduced by 15% mainly due to the reduction in our Ministries and Mission contribution and little Fabric and Repair work required. The overall net effect was that we showed a surplus of £3,089.

The 2022 Budget was also approved. However, we are budgeting for a substantial loss of £11,620! We won't have the Legacies this year to help and the organ at Auchincruive will need to be replaced.



We also know that there will be a number of Fabric and Repair work to be done in both of the Church buildings. If this came to pass, our Bank Balance would reduce by over 35% to just under £21,000 which would not be sustainable for much longer. We are however currently reviewing one aspect of this which might change the proposed deficit slightly.

The Elders are very aware of the support that members and congregants have given to the church over the years both in practical terms and in their financial support of the life and work of the church in this parish.

They will continue as far as they can their work in the parish community through pastoral care, on-line church services and the church services in our buildings, as well as through the church's website and Facebook page.

Colin Mutch, Treasurer

#### Website: 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 heart's 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.



# **A Prayer for Spring**



Creator, if it wasn't for your love where would we be now? If it wasn't for your love where would the world be now?

All around us there are signs of your love, but we can so often be guilty of overlooking them.

From the dawn chorus of nature, to the gurgles of a baby.

From the heat of the sun to the downpour of a shower.

The daily provision of food to a roof over our heads

All of this and more being signs of love from your Divine hand.

From the moment we were born Your love has filled us, created us and called us by our names

From the moment of You coming to us in Jesus You have given us names that call us 'loved', 'precious', 'known'.

Words which are beautifully written, heartfelt and sent from a loving Heavenly Father,

so that all His people can know how much they matter to Him.

And so, when our eyes look downwards, when the weight of the burdens we carry hold us back,

when the past can act as chains that hinder the freedom we have in Christ,

may we still find the strength to lift our heads heavenwards, for our eyes to be focussed upon You

and for us to be filled with the amazing Grace that is there for all Your people

So be it Amen

# **Spring Challenge**



Hello, I'm a Hedgehog Champion with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society/Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species.

How long is it since you last saw a hedgehog? They are now officially classed as vulnerable to extinction in the UK. There are many reasons and it's sad to think of such a fate for this prickly little God's creature. Here are ways to help:

- 1. Link your garden with Hedgehog Highways
- 2. Create a wild corner
- 3. Make your pond safe with a ramp
- 4. Clear away netting and litter
- 5. Put out food and water
- 6. Stop using chemicals
- 7. Check before strimming
- 8. Be careful with bonfires
- 9. Make a home for hedgehogs
- 10. Become a Hedgehog Champion



What's a Hedgehog Highway? Since they travel between1-2 km a night searching for food and a mate, a small gap in your fence the size of a CD case will let them pass through. Ask your neighbours to do the same!

If you spot a hedgehog when driving at night, & can't stop in time, try to steer so it will pass under the middle of the car where least likely to be harmed.

You can become a Hedgehog Champion by registering on https:// www.hedgehogstreet.org/website, which has resources to make your garden, neighbourhood and Parish hedgehog-friendly zones.

Moira Grant, Falkirk



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



Last term the Brownies were working towards their 'Be Well' theme badge. The last part of the badge was an activity called 'Supergirl'; the Brownies made a little booklet about what confidence is, and ways to feel more confidence. To bind

the book together, the Brownies learned to plait wool to make a strong braid – some girls found it easy as they had done plaiting before, and some girls found it tricky as it was new to them – but they felt more confident at the end.

For Remembrance, we went outside and saw where Whitletts War Memorial is, and we listened to true stories about servicemen and women in WW1 and WW2. Each Brownie made a keyring with the name of one of the soldiers from Whitletts War Memorial on it, and took

home a Certificate and information about their soldier. We sang 'The White Cliffs of Dover' and 'We Will Remember The Soldiers Once More'. Barn Owl Karen provided a wreath donated by Asda for the Brownies, which we asked to be put on the Memorial during the Remembrance Service.









Another week the new Brownies made their Brownie Promise, they received their very special metal Promise badge and got to sign our Brownie toadstool. They all

planted a daffodil bulb in a pot to take home to remind them of their yellow Promise badge – and everyone received a goodie bag!

I Promise that I will do my best, To be true to myself and develop my beliefs, To serve the Queen and my community, To help other people, and To keep the Brownie Guide Law. A Brownie Guide thinks of others before herself, and does a good turn every day.



For our last two meeting of term we concentrated on CHRISTMAS! One week we had a Christmas Crafts night where the Brownies had a wooden elf decoration to decorate with felt tip pens. There was a cut-out space in the elf's face, and each Brownie had a photograph of herself taped in. After that we made Christmas crackers from a kit, which turned out to be very fiddly and complicated - and not our best idea!



On the last meeting of term we had our Christmas Party. We began by singing 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. We then played 'Santa Says' which is similar to 'Simon Says', which got everyone warmed up! After that we played an adapted version of Christmas Corners; the Brownies had to stand up and act out on the spot either a Penguin,



Reindeer, Santa or a Christmas tree. The next game was 'Pass The Person' – an adapted non-passing version of 'Pass the Parcel'. The Brownies sat in the circle and were each given a wrapped up present with their name on it. Snowy Owl Lisa walked around the outside of the circle, and when the music stopped whoever Snowy Owl was standing behind could open one layer of paper from their parcel (with jokes on each layer!). Finally we played 'Christmas Memory Game' which is similar to 'The Generation Game' – I can tell you that the Brownies all have VERY good memories, far better than the Leaders! At the end of the party everyone received their filled-in Brownie Badge Books and their 'Be Well' theme badges. Then instead of singing our usual 'Brownie Bells' we sang 'Jingle Bells', and everyone went home with a present and goodie bag.



This term we are meeting on Zoom while the boiler is being fixed. We are starting a new badge called 'Know Myself – Reflect'. It's



all about getting to know who we are, our role in Girlguiding, and the wider world. To earn the badge we will be;

- finding out about ourselves and the area we live in,
- what we like (we get to plan our very own party!),
- how we feel about things around us (our emotions) and if we all feel the same way;
- we'll get to ask questions (like 'Why, why, why?');
- and each Brownie will make their very own personal flag.
- We'll also be playing lots of other games and fun activities



to do with the badge – oh I forgot, Brownies don't like playing games do they?!!! – tee hee, only kidding!

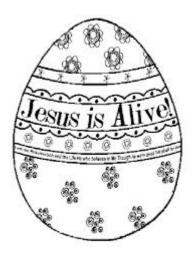


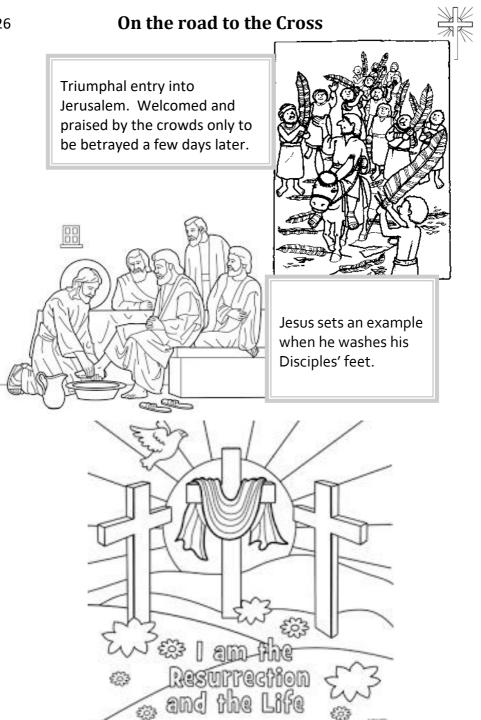
The Brownies will earn at least 3 badges, and they can earn more at home if they want.

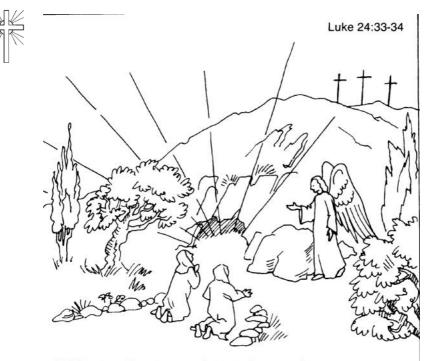


Unfortunately at the moment we don't have any Leaders to run Rainbows, although we have girls wanting to join. If you or anyone you know might be interested in becoming a volunteer Rainbow

leader, please get in touch for further information. A programme is already available, and full training and support will be given. Rainbows usually runs at the same times as Brownies - Mondays 4.15-5.30pm.







EARLY on SUNDAY MORNING the WOMEN went to the TOMB. They found the STONE had been ROLLED AWAY. An ANGEL told them that JESUS was ALIVE again, just as he had PROMISED! Mark 16:1-8

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Images from QuickArt Select for church magazines

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#### Our online calendar can be found on www.ayrstquivox.com

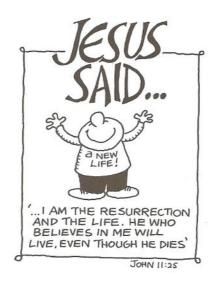
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#### FUNERALS

31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2021	Derrick 'Del' Davies	Claremont Care Home
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022	Lena Hollywood, 23	Thornwood Avenue

John 14:1-4 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."



Looking Back—Match the dates

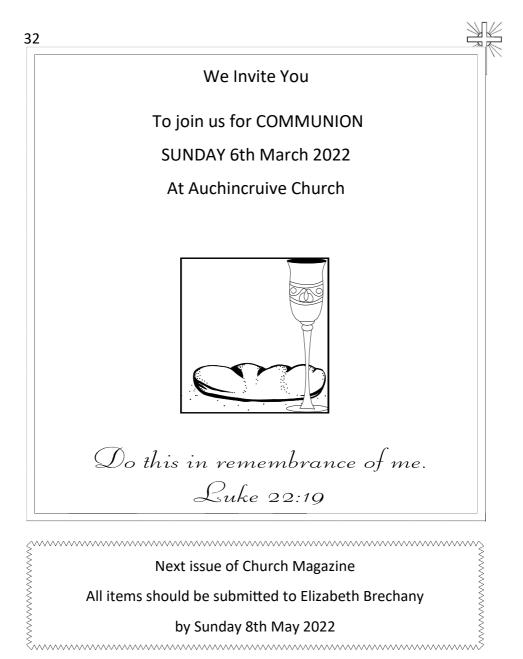


Rev John McCutcheon	2019
Rev Ken Yorke	2012-2015
Rev Douglas Moore	2009-2015
Rev Rona Young	2015-2019
Rev David Ness	1988-2008
Rev Gordon McRae	1981-1987
Rev Alastair Osborne	1988
Rev Angus Mathieson	1985-1987
Rev Robert Brown	1978-1984
Rev Lyle B Wilson	1906-1941
Rev James Peter Wilson	1942-1978
Rev James Wilson	1859-1906
Rev Archibald Charteris	1857-1858
Rev Henry Duncan	1858-1859
Rev Stair Park McQuhae	1764-1823
Rev William McQuhae	1820-1859
Rev George Reid	1711-1732
Rev Robert Miller	1700-1710
Rev Alexander Orr	1732-1763

See website for information on all our ministers since 1560 MINISTERS - Ayr: St Quivox Parish Church (www.ayrstquivox.com/ministers)

# CONTACTS

Minister	Rev John McCutcheon	01292 861641
Church Office	Dalmilling Church	262177
Session Clerk	David McMahon	315529
Treasurer	Colin Mutch	263678
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
Organists	Jennifer McCutcheon Anne Houston	261248 521763
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	07925 574925
Magazine Editor	Elizabeth Brechany	268363



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