# Ayr:St Quivox Parish Church

# Christmas 2022

**SUNDAY SERVICES**
**Alternate between Auchincruive and Dalmilling**

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www.ayrstquivox.com

MINISTER Tel: 01292 861641
Rev John McCutcheon

SESSION CLERK

# Minister's Letter

Here we are again, as we rapidly approach the end of another year. Summer has come and gone, the clocks have changed, the nights are darker, the winter woollies have perhaps been looked out, and for those of us who aren't great fans of this time of the year, all we can do is wait patiently for things to change, and to get through the next few months until spring has sprung and things become less dark and not quite so cold.

But in the meantime, we wait patiently for the change. For those of you who haven't been blessed with the gift of patience, it can be a very trying season in our lives. And for us as followers of Jesus, when we get to December the focus, on the whole, is on Christmas as we tend to skip past the 4 weeks of Advent. Yet Advent is a time that encourages us to be patient, to be focussed, to wait. To think of what Christmas means to us, but to also remind ourselves that with the birth of Jesus, there were plenty of people, a whole nation full to be precise, who had waited patiently for their Saviour and redeemer to come to them.

Perhaps more than ever as we reflect on the year that has past, we need to remind ourselves that Jesus came into the world to help us face the issues that are a struggle. Most importantly of all he came to show us the length, breadth, height and width of the love and care that God has for us.

Whether we wait patiently (or impatiently!!) for Christmas to come, or the seasons to change or for the Presbytery Plan to be carried out may we do so knowing that 'For unto us a Child has been born', through whom 'all humanity will see God's salvation', whose name is 'Immanuel which means God with us'.

As 2022 draws to a close and we celebrate communion, reflect

through Advent, and come to Christmas may our strength and faith be reinvigorated as we are reminded that we are loved and valued by God in ways that we never believed possible, the birth of Jesus being just one sign of this.

Happy Christmas and have a great 2023

John

If you need to get in touch for any reason at all please use the contact phone number that is in the magazine, or else email me at JMcCutcheon@churchofscotland.org.uk

John

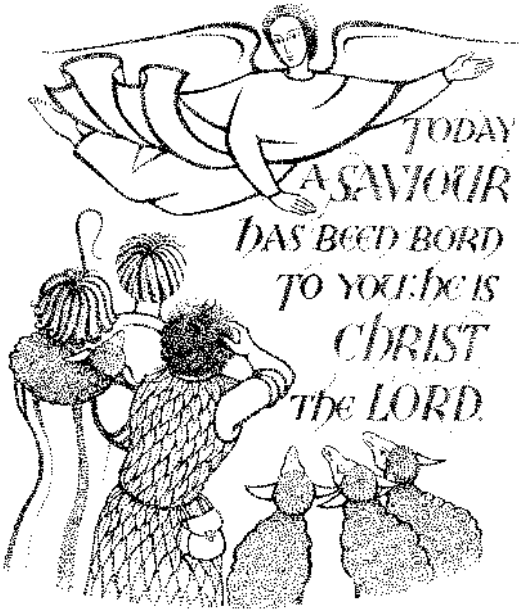



Image from QuickArt Select for church magazines.

# Communion Service

After over two years of communion services which have been a mixture of on-line and 'bring your own bottle' we are glad to announce that we will be reverting to a traditional communion service of sorts. There are still certain restrictions in place on what we are allowed to do and not do, such as drinking from the Common Cup, which I don't think many of us did anyway, and also passing the plate with the bread and wine on it from hand to hand along the pews.

To enable us to revert back to sharing bread and wine/juice we will be experimenting with the congregation being invited to come forward in their rows and receiving the bread and wine and going back to their seats and eating and drinking from there.

Just like many things now, every church is experimenting of doing the old things in new ways and we are no different. Whilst it might not be what we are used to, we are still obliged to follow the rules that are given to us from the Church nationally.

However we choose to celebrate communion, whether we like the rules or not, may we not lose sight of the most important reason of having communion; of drawing close to Jesus and reminding ourselves of what his sacrificial love and life means for us today.

**Communion**
**4th December at Auchincruive Church**

We are pleased to announce our partnership with 'Vics in the community' (Whitletts Vics. the junior football team) in providing a warm space for the community to meet on Wednesday afternoons until the end of March.

As you will all be aware, the cost of living crisis and the surge in heating costs will impact us all. But for the poorest and most vulnerable there will be a greater impact. As a Kirk Session we had already discussed the possibility of opening our hall once a week and providing tea, biscuits and a warm space so that people were not sitting in their houses all day worrying about whether to turn the heating on or not

We were then approached by Marna and Kirsty from the Vics to see if we would be interested in partnering with them in a similar project that they envisioned doing within the community.

The upshot of this is that every Wednesday between 12 o'clock and 2 o'clock until the end of March the Wilson Hall at the church will be opened for anyone and everyone to come in and have a cup of tea or coffee and get something to eat (sandwiches, not steak!!), and to have a couple of hours where you don't need to worry about heating your home. It could even just be a space to get out the house and meet other people for a short time.

If you would like to attend but have questions please feel free to get in touch.

# Shoebox Appeal

Many thanks to those who yet again this year gave so generously to the Christmas Shoebox Appeal either by filling a box or donating money. I'm sure your donations will be greatly appreciated by the children who receive a box.

Rosemary Alexander

As I am sure you will know by now the church building at Auchincruive is due to close as part of the Local Presbytery Mission Plan. Whilst a date has not been formalised it will be some in advance of our Union with St James, which should take place at some point in 2023. That means that this Christmas will be the last one for St Quivox parish Church as we know it, which also means it will be the last watchnight service in Auchincruive where we enter on Christmas Eve and exit on Christmas Day

With that in mind, as we prepare to mark the end of an era, we have asked three of our previous ministers to write a short Christmas message for us.

John McCutcheon

17 Winston Avenue
Prestwick
31st October 2022

Dear Friends,

It was a great privilege for me to have served as your minister for 20 years. When I cast my mind back over the period 1988 to 2008, I recall so many fascinating and interesting experiences. In 1988 the lights in Dalmilling were the same type as was used for street lighting - everything and everyone was turned yellow. Thankfully they were soon changed and the congregation began to look more normal again.

It would be wrong of me to single out individuals but my life was certainly enriched by contact with so many in the church. I loved the banter, the laughter, the friendliness of everyone - well, for most of the time. I was constantly slagged off about going on holiday. When I mentioned holidays, the congregation would groan, "not again". But I know it was in fun.

We had some wonderful social occasions - concerts given by all sorts of different groups, Burns Suppers and musical evenings. Talking about Burns Suppers, it was the tradition that all the tables should be groaning with bottles of whisky - well that is true, but the contents were usually ginger wine. I do remember one occasion, however, when the top table was provided with "special ginger wine" by one of our members. As I was the chairman in charge of introducing the various speakers and readers, I was able, along with others to partake of this special concoction, which was absolutely delightful, and as the evening progressed I began to be aware that this ginger wine had a certain potency to it. Just as well Moira, my

wife was driving that night!!

I loved Christmas time in our churches. All three churches were beautifully decorated. In Dalmilling, Jennifer, our organist would play her violin while her dad accompanied her on the organ. Auchincruive was where we held the Watchnight Service. It was candlelit and in that ancient church with only the candles and Christmas Tree lights, the effect was magical. I know that in Lochside, first of all Angus Mathieson, our Community Minister and then Roddy McNidder conducted very special, inspiring services at Christmas time, indeed throughout the year. I loved being able to conduct worship in all three churches and getting to know the congregations.

I was also privileged to be chaplain to all the schools in the area. I found the children to be a joy to be with and also a lot of fun, and the teachers truly inspirational, exhibiting a true love for the children and often going the extra mile. I was also for twenty years the chaplain at the Scottish Agricultural College at Auchincruive. I used to go once a week, usually at lunch time when I could go round the students and staff. It was great dealing with so many students and young people and taking part in the banter.

I would like to mention someone who assisted me greatly during my ministry. Ken Yorke was assigned to St Quivox for three years. He was brimful of ideas and innovation and we all greatly appreciated his immense contribution to our worship and the work of the church. We were sorry to lose him when he went to Dalmellington.

It is with great sadness that I learned in the latest Mission

statement from our Presbytery that Auchincruive will cease, at some time in the future, to be a centre of worship. When we think of it's history, of the thousands over the years who have worshipped within its walls, and have found peace and renewed faith there, it is a tragedy that it has to close. It is a lovely church and many will find its closure quite heart-rending.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry (but not too merry!) Christmas and a Happy New Year. Also for putting up with me for twenty years.

May God bless you all, now and in the years that lie ahead.

David

The photos on the next 2 pages were taken in 2002 during our Stewardship campaign 'Money Matters'.

Unfortunately the photos are a bit dark but hopefully you will be able to recognise a few faces. I must admit I am stuck with a couple of folk I don't know.

Elizabeth Brechany

# Back in 2002

# Rona's Christmas Message

One cold winter's night, long, long ago, a man trudging through the snow, passed a dark forest near the town where he lived in Germany.

He was thinking about the stars that shone above Bethlehem the night that Jesus was born. In his mind, he could see the brilliant new star, announcing the birth of a king, glowing brightly in the sky. He also imagined the angels brightening up the sky, with their glory, as they sang out the good news to the astonished shepherds below, announcing that Jesus had been born.

Suddenly he stopped. The rays of the setting sun were slanting across the snow, and making the forest sparkle. He saw a little fir tree, and it was as if it was holding out its snow-covered branches to the light.

The tree was transformed into a marvellous sight of glittering, colourful light, as the snow crystals reflected the sunset.

What a picture of Christmas this was! Wanting to share its beauty with his family, the man carefully cut down the small tree and took it home with him. He decorated its branches with tiny candles, to represent the stars, and his family added colourful ornaments.

I wonder if you have ever thought of a Christmas tree representing the glory and real meaning of Christmas?

In our secular, materialistic world of today, when the decorations are being put up in Garden Centres before the end of September, it is so easy to forget the glory and true meaning of Christmas illustrated so well in this story.

Despite all the problems in so many churches, and in our world

today, let us never forget the wonder that Jesus was born on that first Christmas Day. Jesus was born to be our Saviour, and when we know Jesus in our hearts, we can face anything that happens in churches, in our world and in our lives.

May God bless you richly this Christmas.

Rona

A few photos of Rona at presentations during her time with us.

Long service award for Alex Little.

Presentation to Sheena Stewart on stepping down as Session Clerk.

# Christmas message from Ken.

My dear friends

It has been a great privilege for me to share many happy times with you in Ayr St Quivox and I will always consider you to be amongst my list of friends.

I have had an association with Auchincruive Church since the days of Rev Lyle Wilson when I used to ride my bike up from the Manse in St Quivox Road in Prestwick right up to St Quivox.

Much has changed in these 70 years.

For generations Auchincruive Church has served its parish and people well but, rightly or wrongly, the Church of Scotland is proposing to discontinue its use.

In the midst of a very disappointing disregard of the important significance and value of historical buildings in the Church by many short-sighted people today, **God remains constant**.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

As we celebrate again this Christmas let us focus on that thought.

Amidst all the changes and upsets in our time He is faithful.

So let us all remain faithful to him and continue to worship him as His faithful people in a building that remains.

May you all have a very happy Christmas

Rev Ken Yorke.

Victorian Afternoon Tea at Auchincruive

Tea served with a smile

Ken with Community Worker Rosie

Celebrating 30 years of service to the church.
Ken with Elizabeth Brechany

# Our People

Ken hands over the baton at John's Induction

On 30th October 2022 we had a welcome return visit by Rev David Ness. It was lovely to see both David and Moira. They came on a special day as we were celebrating Margaret O'Hara's 98th birthday.

The service started with the congregation singing Happy Birthday and ended with tea and cake.

On 6th November 2022 we recognised those in the church who had given long service. Allan Leydon has served the church in one capacity or another for 40 years. He is currently the Safeguarding and Health and Safety Officer and also looks after Fabric matters. Rosemary Alexander has been an Elder for 30 years and served in several committees during that time. Currently she looks after the provision of tea after the services at Dalmilling, the flowers at Auchincruive and is part of the Finance Team.

Colin Mutch served as our Treasurer for 10 years and received a gift from the Congregation as he was standing down from this post. Such was the sterling work that Colin did, he has been replaced with a Finance Team.

Margaret O'Hara has been coming to St Quivox Church since she was 5 years old and became a member at sixteen. Her 82 years of service and dedication to the church was also recognised with a long service certificate.

# Parish Register

**Funerals**

| | |
|---|---|
| 30th August | Helena Blair, Claremont Care home |
| 2nd September | Peter McMahon, Darnley Care home, Glasgow |
| 5th September | Shirley Russell, Homestone Cottage, Skares Road, Cumnock |
| 14th September | Janet Oakley, 52 Glenmuir Road, Ayr |
| 21st October | Betty Thompson, Dundonald House |

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

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.

# Trust Him



TRUST Him when dark doubts attack you.

TRUST Him when your strength is small.

TRUST Him when to simply trust him is the hardest thing of all.

TRUST Him, he is ever faithful.

TRUST Him, for His will is best.

TRUST Him, for the heart of Jesus is the only place to rest.

TRUST Him, then, through doubts and sunshine.

All your cares upon Him cast

Till the storm of life is over

And your trusting days are past. anon.

*"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

*Revelations 21:3-4*

We are still looking for Leaders to restart the Rainbows, 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 leader, please get in touch. For more information, contact Brownie leader Lise Whittle at dalmillingbrownies@hotmail.com or District Commissioner Janis Meredith at dcjcentralayr@girlguidingayrshiresouth.org.uk

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle



dalmillingbrownies@hotmail.com

This term 1st Dalmilling Brownies have been working on Girlguiding's 'Take Action' theme badge; *"Empower yourself to make a difference, and use your voice to help your community and the wider world."* We have to admit it hasn't been our favourite theme so far, but we have still managed to have lots of fun.

We began by welcoming several new Brownies into our Unit by everyone showing our biggest smiles! We played a getting-to-know-you memory game, and 'Making Friends' bingo. We were saddened to hear about the passing of Queen Elizabeth, and held a 1 minute silence. Another night we played

'Mirror Me' which was all about listening and how to act and look engaged when talking to someone. We played a 'Simon Says' type game; *Listening* – (good eye contact and nodding) / *Mirror Me* – (stand up straight and smile) / *Sound interested* – (say 'Wow!' and "gasp!") We went outdoors and played a relay game called 'Spread the Word' which involved passing a ball in cups while acting out something written on the ball, and we played parachute games with a real military parachute!

Another week we had great fun playing a detective game called 'The Great Chocolate Heist' trying to work out who stole a bar of chocolate. The Brownies 'earned' clues by playing games - Hook-a-Duck, chocolate bar dice game, beanbag target game, and 'tell 2 truths and a lie' game. Everyone had fun and most of the girls worked the mystery out correctly!

We had some new Sixers and Seconds, and 5 new Brownies made their special Brownie Promise in front of some of the parents. The girls went around the Brownie circle and under the rosebud arch to make their Promise beside the toadstool. After that, they received their Brownie Promise badge, badge book, a goody bag, and they got to sign the toadstool. We all made origami Promise books to colour in.

On another week Snowy Owl Lisa led an animal themed night where the Brownies dressed up as their favourite pet animal, some of their costumes were amazing! The girls had lots of fun making animal puppets and magnets, and playing animal themed games.

We held a Pumpkin crafts night – we made decorative newspaper chains and drew a wall frieze to put up at the party. We had a carved pumpkin competition, and played 'Giants, Goblins and Wizards' which is an acting game similar to 'Rock, Paper, Scissors'; then we played 'Wrap the Mummy', followed by making pumpkin or bat wands. The girls were brave and put their hands in the Mystery Feely Box! After that we had some dancing and a game which involved acting out a character – if your character was called out by one of the Owls then you had to miss a turn!

Unfortunately there is no Guides unit in Dalmilling (if you or anyone you know would be interested in starting one up, please get in touch …..) and the nearest Guide unit is some distance away at Newton Wallacetown Church halls. One of our old Brownies, Leah, moved on to Newton Wallacetown Guides last Summer, and we are delighted that she has offered to come back and help us at Dalmilling Brownies as a Guide helper. Welcome back Leah!

# Christmas

The Christmas Season is upon us. In our family it begins with the arrival of the Smyths catalogue. Jem, age 8, goes through this with a fine toothcomb and earmarks pages where she has spotted something she likes. She then compiles 2 lists as her birthday is 3 days after Christmas.

Meanwhile in the commercial world all the big stores are filming their Christmas adverts. These started to appear on our TV's at the beginning of November. Most of these are more muted this year given the financial constraints many people are facing.

If we have children in our lives we start to hear Christmas songs being sung. Younger children might be singing Wriggly Nativity in preparation for their Christmas Show. Yesterday I was treated to Jem's rendition of 'Mary did you know'. I hope this will be sung at the Christmas Fayre as it's a lovely song. Very rarely do you hear any of the traditional carols but I'm sure we will be singing these in church throughout December.

The next indication of Christmas is the American tradition of Elf on the shelf. The Elf arrives from the North Pole on 1st December and informs Santa of who's been naughty or nice. Needless to stay the Elf is the one who gets up to the most mischief. Of course no two nights are the same and lots of imagination is required.

Here we had Elves pulling a Christmas Cracker and sliding down a zipline. How very enterprising of them.

As the big day approaches lots of preparations are underway. Most people will have decided by now where they will be celebrating Christmas. This may involve travel plans for some or arrangements made to enable family members to come together. Someone may have offered to cook Christmas dinner and have everything planned round their grocery order.

Last year my family decided to go out for dinner but the venue cancelled due to staff off with Covid. With a week to go my sisters rallied round and purchased everything needed. I made my traditional sherry trifle and bought some desserts. We spent the day at my sister Eileen's house and had a wonderful time.

This year Christmas day falls on a Sunday. For me this means attending church in the morning. A fitting day to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with the arrival into the world of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Jesus who doesn't just appear twice a year, at Christmas and Easter, but who is with us all the days of our lives if we but put our trust in him.

Elizabeth Brechany

*And so it's almost Xmas and what have we learned.*
*Another year older but still war in Ukraine.*
*No let up from Russia, who are causing so much pain*
*To the world's many hungry, by stopping the grain.*

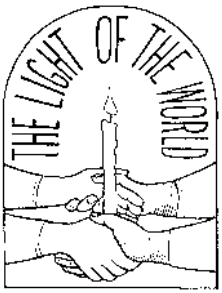
*Meanwhile our Government has another crisis to face,*
*with cost of living and fuel bills a disgrace.*
*So we must decide between food for sustenance*
*or spending money heating our homes.*

*The advice we are offered is to heat only one room,*
*to use draught excluders and wrap up to keep warm.*
*As we sit all together on the couch and watch TV*
*and hear of more tax rises to add to our misery.*

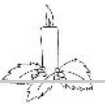
*It is cheaper to cook in a microwave we're told,*
*don't use your oven as the cost is almost four fold.*
*As for a bath you can cut that out as well,*
*It's cheaper to shower but you must time yourself.*

*As I said it's almost Christmas and what we must learn,*
*Is to put our faith in Jesus and the hope that he brings.*
*We must reach out to our neighbour without hope of gain*
*and offer aid if we can or even just smile and helping hand.*

Elizabeth Brechany



# Name that song



| | |
|---|---|
| Let nothing you dismay | |
| Had a very shiny nose | |
| On the dusty road | |
| All is calm, all is bright | |
| When they are both full grown | |
| So the holy bible says | |
| My true love sent to me | |
| In the lane snow is glist-'nin' | |
| Was a jolly happy soul | |
| On the feast of Stephen | |
| Was to certain poor shepherds | |
| Earth stood hard as iron | |
| And so this is Xmas | |
| He began to shout, you girls | |
| No crib for a bed | |
| Just like the ones I used to know | |
| Earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still | |
| In a one horse open sleigh | |

# Joy to the World

# WORDSEARCH

Can you find all these words from
The Twelve Days of Christmas.

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

BIRDS
CALLING
CHRISTMAS
DANCING
DAYS
DOVES
DRUMMERS
DRUMMING
FRENCH
GEESE
GOLD
HENS
LADIES
LAYING
LEAPING
LORDS
LOVE
MAIDS
MILKING
PARTRIDGE
PEAR
PIPERS
PIPING
RINGS
SWANS
SWIMMING
TREE
TRUE
TURTLE
TWELVE

Thank you Father,

For this loved and familiar season:

For tuneful carols

For reunions with families and friends.

For giving and receiving.

For a sense of celebration everywhere,

For all the ways of saying,

"Christ is Born".

# Dates for the diary

| | |
|---|---|
| Sun Dec 4th | Auchincruive Church at 10:30am<br>Communion service |
| Sun Dec 11th | **NO SERVICE AT ST QUIVOX** .<br>11 am Joint service with St James Church<br>for their gift service. |
| Sun Dec 18th | Auchincruive Church at 10:30am<br>Carols and Lessons plus Christening |
| Sat Dec 24th | 6.30pm Dalmilling Messy Christmas Eve<br>11.30 pm Auchincruive Watchnight Service |
| Sun Dec 25th | Dalmilling Church at 10:30am<br>Christmas Day service |
| Sun Jan 1st | Auchincruive Church at 10:30am<br>New Year's day service |

**Website:** www.ayrstquivox.com

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 by clicking on the link on the home page.

**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



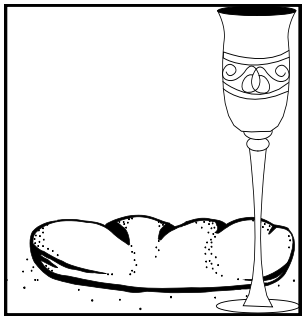
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Minister** | Rev John McCutcheon | 01292 861641 |
| **Church Office** | Dalmilling Church | 262177 |
| **Session Clerk** | | |
| **Treasurer** | Colin Mutch | 263678 |
| **Roll Keeper & Elders Districts** | Vickie Mutch | 263678 |
| **Family/ Community Worker** | Paul Algeo | 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 | 261248<br>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<br>Elizabeth Brechany | 262293<br>268363 |
| **Flowers Auchincruive** | Rosemary Alexander | |
| **Flowers Dalmilling** | Pat Smith | |
| **Hall Bookings Secretary** | Elizabeth Brechany | 07925 574925 |
| **Magazine Editor** | Elizabeth Brechany | 268363 |

We Invite You

To join us for COMMUNION

SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER 2022

At Dalmilling 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 5th February 2023

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