Joy to the World

Ayr:St Quivox Parish Church

Christmas 2024

SUNDAY SERVICES
Alternate between Auchincruive and Dalmilling

Check Facebook page for updates
Ayr:St. Quivox Parish Church

MINISTER Rev John McCutcheon
Tel: 01292 861641

As another year sprints quickly to its conclusion, we will all have our own thoughts on how 2024 has been. When we look at everything that is going on in the world, then 2024 looks as if it is going to end in exactly the same way as it began—with war, death, destruction, the sense of hopelessness in so many different parts of the world and the words of Burns reminding us of "man's inhumanity to man". With all that in mind it can seem as if we are heading into a perilous future of which there is no guarantee that all will end well.

On a more personal nature we will all have our own stories to tell as to how the year has transpired —for many of us there have been good news stories that have helped to encourage us and one another as we continue walking the path that has been set before us; as a church we have witnessed members returning from ill health which has brought great joy to our time together on Sunday mornings.

Unfortunately, we have also lost a few members as well, those whose presence brought so much vitality to our services throughout the years. Although our loss is great, it is as nothing to the loss felt by their families.

As a church we have had to deal with our own particular issues as well, and although the main ones have not been resolved, such as our union with St James and the issue with the lack of office bearers, I honestly think we have turned a corner, and the future isn't as gloomy as it appeared at the beginning of the year when I sent out the letter to all members advising that we might have to close down.

As we head into Advent and Christmas we are once again met with the assurance that things haven't changed so much throughout the years, but the promise of Christmas is the all year round message that promises us: "the light has come into the world, and the darkness has

not overcome it". And that "the people waiting in darkness have seen a great light".

No matter how the last year has been for us, may we end the year knowing all about the heavenly love that has come into our lives, of the peace that God wants us to embrace and of the hope that is offered to us through the one born as "Christ the Lord".

As is always the case can I finish this message by wishing everyone a merry and peaceful Christmas when it comes? Although it has been a year with its many challenges, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else, as it is still a great pleasure and privilege to serve you as the minister of St Quivox Parish Church.

If you need to get in touch with me for any reason, please feel free to do so by:

Phoning 01292 861641 or emailing
JMcCutcheon@churchofscotland.org.uk

COMMUNION SERVICE
SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2024

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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 10th November we met in Dalmilling Church to honour those who had given the ultimate sacrifice in wars and conflicts both in the past and more recently. As the years go on there are fewer left to tell the stories of what happened in the dark days of the two World Wars.

We however must not forget and so we mark this day in our Service of Remembrance by the laying of wreaths both in church and at Whitletts Cross.

Wreaths shown in the photo were laid by Councillor Ian Cavanagh, by Elizabeth Brechany on behalf of the church and by the Brownies.

If you look closely you will see some stones also laid at the foot of the cross. These were placed there by the Brownies as a token of Remembrance.

After the Act of Remembrance at the Cross we returned to the church for sandwiches, cakes and tea.

As those of you who have been at the services throughout September/ October will be aware, we were nominated for an award for the community work we have been carrying out at Dalmilling Church. Not only were we nominated, we were then short-listed, before being selected for the final, where we beat competition from St Mary the Virgin in Hamilton and Musselburgh Congregational Church.

Our success has been the subject of much interest—with the story being told by The Church of Scotland, Ayrshire Live, Ayr Advertiser and was recognised in the Scottish Parliament in a motion submitted by Sharon Dowie. I thought it would be good to share with everyone the report written on and for the Church of Scotland website, which was then shared on social media. Hopefully it will give all our members and their friends and family a flavour of what life is like in the church outwith our Sunday morning services.

"St Quivox Parish Church was presented with the coveted Church and Volunteer Award for Scotland at the 2024 National Church Awards."

The honour centres around the "brilliant contribution" that volunteers make to both caring for and making best use of churches to reach out to the local community they serve, using the building as a hub for activity.

Parish minister Rev John McCutcheon recently attended a ceremony at Lincoln Cathedral in England to accept the award. He described the accolade as a "great achievement for the church and the fantastic team of volunteers who give up so much of their time to run groups, initiatives and events."

St Quivox refers to the name of the entire parish, which has two churches: Auchincruive Church in St Quivox village, and Dalmilling Church on Dalmilling Road in Ayr.

Auchincruive Church is a T-plan church with a medieval core, remodelled and extended in 1595, 1767 and 1825.

The grade A listed building is a superb example of a post-Reformation Scottish country kirk with a largely unaltered late 18th century interior.

The vast majority of mission outreach work is held in Dalmilling Church hall and hundreds of people pass through the doors every week to take part in events run by volunteers, who range in age from their 20s to 70s.

A mother and toddlers group called Teddy Bear Tots meets every Wednesday and there is no charge to take part.

Established 10 years ago, volunteers strive to make the group a safe place for all and a place that parents can get a wee break and speak with people with similar experiences.

Volunteers raise money to run the group and all parents are provided with a breakfast roll on arrival and children always receive a healthy snack.

The group provides nappies, wipes and baby food to ensure no one has to struggle with essential items.

On Wednesday afternoons, a project called the Community Corner is held and is run in partnership with a local charity called Vics in the Community.

People who might otherwise experience loneliness are provided with a warm space to gather and a delicious lunch, followed by some games, music, crafts or just a good conversation.

The Man's Cave group also meets on Wednesday afternoons and participants enjoy lunch with community corner project users and then head off to their own space to play pool, cards and dominoes.

A disability music group, Wild Rhythm meets on Thursdays and is one of the only groups of its kind that runs in South Ayrshire.

Established seven years ago, around 40 people with seen and unseen disabilities and their carers gather and a local musician performs a live music set.

Participants are encouraged to join in by singing, dancing and playing instruments.

The group is the highlight of the week for participants and some travel over 25 miles to attend.

The parish church also hosts a woman's fitness group, runs quarterly discos, Christmas events, church fayres, fundays and community trips. Rev McCutcheon said: "We were thrilled when we originally heard that we had been nominated for this award and shortlisted for the final.

It's an award not just for the church but it is also an acknowledgement of all the hard work that our volunteers are doing within the community.

Most of them aren't members of the church but they give of themselves tirelessly for the good of the church and the well-being of the community and we couldn't do most of the things we do without them.

Ultimately the church is just a building but when God works and his people get involved with what he is doing, things change, lives are transformed and the church is able to be the living heart of God's kingdom within the community".

"That is what we have tried to do within our parish."

The awards are organised by the National Churches Trust.

In August, St Quivox Parish Church took 144 people, aged three months old to 75, to enjoy a free day out at Blair Drummond Safari Park.

The day was organised by a team of volunteers and financed by parish fundraising as well as a grant from a local housing association.

St Quivox Parish Church is a Priority Areas parish – a place that sits within the 5% most deprived rankings in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

Supporting the most marginalised people in society is the "gospel imperative of the whole Church, not just the Church in the poorest places".

A report on Priority Areas to the General Assembly stated: "Mission weaves through these good places, offering an inviting and welcoming church model and often doors are open seven-days-a-week".

"Typically, there will be community meals and other food poverty initiatives, outreach into the streets around the church, worship not just on Sunday but in other spaces in the week, work with older people, children and youth work, employment initiatives and more".

"The best places have a continually outward focus, joining up with local people and organisations to support the community."

Volunteers Allannah Jones, Caroline Vance, April Barrie and Kaya Hope.

Thursday Afternoons at Wild Rhythm

St Quivox Parish Church has won a top award for its “life changing” mission outreach work.

Thank you to Sharon Dowey MSP for visiting us last week to present us with a Parliamentary motion for winning the Church and Volunteer Award at the 2024 National Church Awards.

The team received this for the outstanding contribution they have made to the local community through their countless projects which include everything from mother and toddler groups to an anti-loneliness project.

As you can see from the picture opposite the team are hard at work preparing material for the kids to work on during the crafting sessions at the Church Messy Christmas Eve Service.

A lot of work is done by the group in the background and we owe them our grateful thanks for supporting the church and running lots of regular and one off events.

Elizabeth Brechany

All the usual events have continued to run smoothly since their restart after the summer holidays. Brownies meet on a Monday afternoon withTeddy Bear Tots and Community Corner on a Wednesday morning and afternoon respectively and Wild Rhythm on a Thursday afternoon.

In October there was a Halloween Disco on the 28th. It was a busy evening with kids dressed in a variety of costumes. There were games and lots to eat and drink. Having watched some of the videos posted it looked as though the mums and dads joined in the dancing and were having a great time.

The Teddy Bear Tots had a great time at their Halloween Celebration 2024. They enjoyed dancing, games and yummy food.

The work carried out by our volunteers goes on and they have already been planning a series of events to take place throughout December.

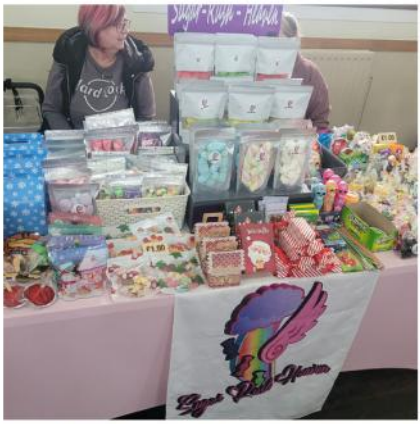
Sunday 1st	11am—3pm	Christmas Fayre
Saturday 7th	12 noon—2pm	Community Lunch
Sunday 15th	12 noon—2pm	Afternoon Tea with Santa
Monday 23rd	5:30—7:30pm	Christmas Party

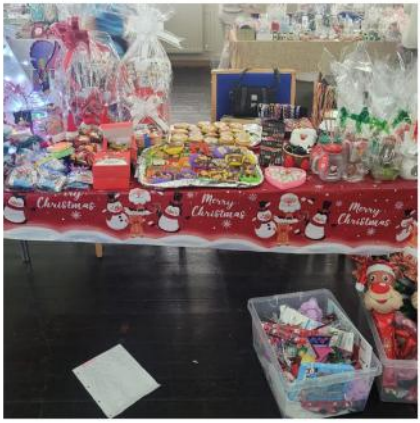
There are also plans to host a film night but confirmation has still to be received about this.

The group have also received a donation from ASDA which will be used to make up Christmas Hampers for those who are in need. If you know of someone elderly, on their own or who would benefit from a Hamper then please let Kirsty know. You can do this by dropping in to the Community Corner which runs every Wednesday from 12 noon till 2pm or by email.

Email: kirstymcardle@yahoo.com

Lots of stalls to choose from whether buying a gift or a sweet treat for yourself. Teas and coffees were also being served.


Grid Iron


Merry Christmas
Merry Christmas
Merry Christmas

YOU ARE INVITED TO A
Community
Festive Lunch
MUSIC FROM SCOTT NICOL
& A SHORT CHRISTMAS
MESSAGE
Free family friendly event
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2024 | AT 12 PM |
DALMILLING CHURCH
For catering purposes please confirm your intention to attend by contacting Kirsty
kirsty@vicsinthecommunity.com/07587246007
North Ayr TheGither Project
Community. Together
IN THE
VICS
COMMUNITY

We had a great afternoon at our Festive Lunch with about 80 people of all ages in attendance.

Our families enjoyed music from the wonderful Scott Nicol who led us all in a Christmas Favourites sing-a-long.

A delicious 3 course lunch prepared and served by our amazing volunteers was then served.

We then had a visit from Santa and a Christmas quiz.

Blue Christmas

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE

Blue Christmas is a reflective worship service that acknowledges the difficulties of life and offers hope and healing to those dealing with loss, loneliness, or despair.

You are not alone.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and look forward to times of coming together, going to church and singing well loved carols and giving gifts let us not forget that others are not so fortunate.

Let us remember those who may have lost a loved one this year, those who are alone, the old and the young who may face difficult times ahead.

Let us look with eyes that see and offer comfort where we can. Whether it's a quick hello, a smile, or an offer of help to a neighbour, family or friend it may be just the thing to let them know they are not invisible and not forgotten.

Wishing one and all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Elizabeth

Tickets £5

Welcome to Whoville

AFTERNOON TEA

With the Grinch

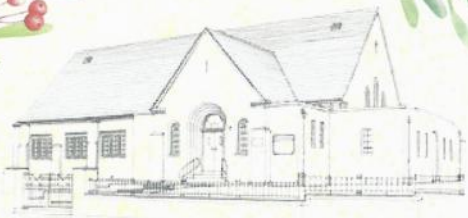
Sunday 15th December

Dalmilling Church

12pm - 2pm

Tickets available from Teddy Bear Tots or by

DALMILLING CHURCH INVITES YOU TO



MESSY CHRISTMAS EVE

TUESDAY 6.30 PM | 24 | DECEMBER 2024

CRAFTS, CHRISTINGLES,
REFRESHMENTS & A SHORT
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle
dalmillingbrownies@hotmail.com

The Brownies have made a good start towards their new 'Be Well' theme badge, which is about knowing how to stay healthy in both body and mind, ways to make ourselves feel good, and looking after ourselves and those around us. We are learning to stop, breathe, stretch, and take a moment to relax, as well as how to stay safe, healthy and happy, and think about how to be kind to others around us too. We're doing this through lots of fun activities, games, crafts, dances, songs and group chats.

We learned about where our muscles are and what they do. We experimented using certain muscles to hold a ball (no hands allowed!) such as 'Use your thigh and stomach muscles to hold the ball and count to 5'. It's much harder than it sounds, have a try! Then we played a fun team game of 'Over and Under' passing the ball along the line.

Another night we played a game called 'Brownie Bus' where the girls climbed aboard an imaginary bus, and then acted out a local 'stop' and everyone had to guess where it was, such as the Library, the playpark, the doctors, the Church, school etc. Then everyone climbed back on the bus and when the bell rang another Brownie would think of a 'stop' for everyone to guess. We played another game called Cluck Cluck Goal where the Brownies acted out

either an egg, chicken, flamingo or eagle and if their group name was called out, they missed a go.

We also worked towards our Dancing interest badge, and found out about music, rhythm and beat, and how important numbers are in a beat – (and we discovered that the beats in our two Brownie songs are different!) We all did a fun *Cha Cha Slide* dance routine with Snowy Owl, and then the Brownies had a scavenger hunt to find instructions for 8 different dances to try, and tick them off on their sheet. These included Waka Waka African dance, Jazz dance, Hip Hop Streetdance, Rock n' Roll, and Flamenco. After that, we had a relaxing sitting down game of 'Legs 9'!

We found out about how to have 'Good Nights' and why it's important to get a good sleep. We discussed things that we should and shouldn't do just before going to bed, such as 'Should you eat a big meal just before getting into bed?'. For some questions we found that there could be more than one answer, such as 'Should you exercise just before going to bed?' What do you think? Everyone came up with ideas to help us get to sleep, such as 'Do your times tables in your head' and 'Recite the alphabet backwards'! The Brownies made themselves an Evening Plan by gluing down sentences into an order that suited their routine to help them gradually slow down after an active day.

We also discovered about how important fluids are to our bodies (FACT; our bodies are 2/3rds fluids – when we told the Brownies this they looked down at their bodies and asked how far up is 2/3rds!! Some explaining was needed!) We decorated water bottles to take home.

We had lots of fun at our games night where the Brownies got to choose which games to play. They chose the very popular 'Golden River' and

Blink Detective, followed by a diddy car relay, and Hoop Circle where they hold hands in a circle and use their body and muscles to move hula hoops around the circle without letting go of their hands – every now and then an Owl added another hoop and told them to change direction! The night finished with a parachute game, which is another all-time favourite.

So we are getting on well towards completing our 'Be Well' theme badge, and still have a few more activities to do. We are looking forward to our Pumpkin Party, Remembrance, and Christmas party.

A big thank you to all our volunteer Owls. Dalmilling is in great need of more volunteer Leaders, and we are especially looking for a couple of adult Leaders to restart the Rainbows (age 5-7) and also Guides (age 10-14) as we have girls enquiring and 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, 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

Christmas

Presents underneath the tree
Hot chocolate for you and me
Children hoping it will snow
Maybe it will you never know.

Find a candy cane
And take it down a lane
In the bible they follow a star
Over fields afar.

Go to bed
And wait for a man in red
In the morning as you wake
As the cold sets in you shiver and shake.

Sitting by the fire
writing a list of desires
Elfs making a mess
Giving parents stress.

New year
Do not fear
as soon as Halloweens done
its time for Christmas fun.

By Jem Wilson Age 10

Printed with the Author's permission.

As the wild winds blow, And there's the threat of snow,
And the Sun hardly shines at all.
Put a smile on your face, As we march apace,
To accept the greatest gift, that we can ever recall.

By the prophets of old, His birth had long been foretold,
A virgin will give birth to a son.
Born on Christmas day, He lay in a manger of hay,
Watched over by mother Mary, Immanuel, the Prince of Peace.

A star shining bright, In the East that night,
Was a sign that He was near.
It led shepherds and Kings, to the wondrous sight,
And they knelt and worshipped Him,
Our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Elizabeth Brechany

Image sourced at Freepik.com

Christmas Wordsearch

U A S S G S S T N E S E R P

E H E R O D R E J E S U S S

C E N S U S S P H P E S O J

E N G T R L H A A G O L D G

A M S A A D E C A A N N I P

U A R B S A P S C D Y A R A

G R E L M E H E L H T E B N

U Y G E P A E P H W G A E G

S P E E H S R O R N A P S E

T O X E N T D C A P E N I L

U H L H H O S M Y E K N O D

S Z S E N A Z A R E T H D E

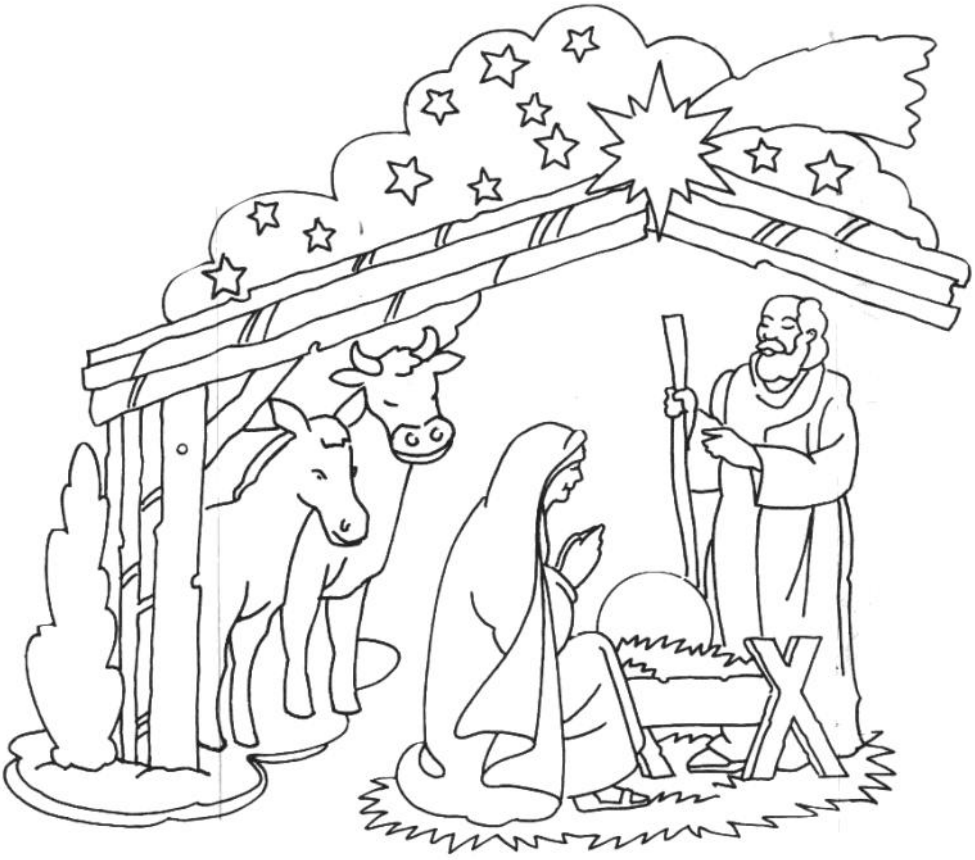
S T A R E W I S E M E N N R

A D C R R C H R I S T M A S

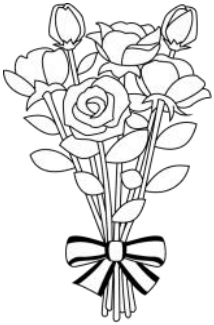
Angel
Ass
Augustus
Bethlehem
Census
Christmas
Donkey
East
Escape
Gold
Herod
Inn
Jesus
Joseph
Manger
Mary
Nazareth
Oxen
Presents
Sheep
Shepherds
Stable
Star
Wisemen

Play this puzzle online at : https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7677420/

Christmas
Greetings



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.

ST JOHN 14 : 1 – 6, 27

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 when I go and prepare a place for you, I will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
And you know the way where I am going:
For I am the way, and the truth and the life;
no one comes to the Father, but by me.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you;
not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

DEATHS

Sep
8th Agnes 'Nancy' Cumming, Claremont Care Home

17th Masie McClymont, Temple House Care Home

18th Alex Little, Berelands Care Home

October
11th Ena Skilling, Whitletts Court

18th Jessie Jackson, Braehead Ave

WEDDINGS

October
19th Liz Brown & John McCrorie

November
1st Cara Neil and Oliver Fairley

ORDINATION OF ELDER

October
13th Kirsty Mcardle

There are many services taking place over the next few months. Some have yet to be confirmed, but the following is a 'rough schedule' as to what will be happening and where.

You will note that I have included a Christmas Day service which I am leading and a proposed joint Communion service with Newton Wallacetown on January 5th.

This is not because of any change to the Presbytery Plan, it is simply because I am currently the Interim Moderator and locum at NWT and because NWT have their Communion services at the same day and month as us, on the first Sunday of March, June, September and December, they rescheduled their communion services to take place a month later, thus why there is a service in January.

Also, because the first Sunday in January is called "low Sunday" for a reason, (the turn out is nearly always low), it has been suggested that the 2 congregations meet and have the service together, which also helps overcome the problem of trying to find cover for this particular Sunday.

The Communion service has still to be ratified by both Kirk Sessions and agreed by Presbytery. Therefore, we will confirm this via the usual channels. The Christmas Day service is definitely taking place.

Within our own church, I am mulling over the possibility of having a songs of praise and thanksgiving service which will be solely based on the 8 or 9 hymns that the congregation pass on to me either at the end of January or February. The good news being that there will be no preaching on that Sunday!!!! If you have a favourite hymn please feel free to let me know and we will endeavour to put together a service of your choosing, based on your favourite hymns .

December

1st Communion at Auchincruive church

8th Blue Christmas/Service of Remembrance at Dalmilling

15th Service at Auchincruive

22nd Service at Dalmilling

24th Messy Christmas 6.30pm at Dalmilling

24th Watchnight service 1130 pm at Auchincruive

25th Christmas day Service at Newton Wallacetown Church

29th Lessons and carols service at Auchincruive

January

5th Communion service at Newton Wallacetown 11 am

Advent Wreath

During Advent we light the candles on the Wreath. They symbolise:

Week 1 Hope

Week 2 Faith

Week 3 Joy

Week 4 Peace

1 Dec 2024, Sun	29 Dec 2024, Sun	16 Feb 2025, Sun
10:30 – 11:30 Communion	10:30 – 11:30	10:30 – 11:30
Auchincruive Church Service	Auchincruive Church Service	Dalmilling Church Service
8 Dec 2024, Sun	5 Jan 2025, Sun	23 Feb 2025, Sun
10:30 – 11:30	11:00 - 12:00 Communion	10:30 – 11:30
Blue Christmas	Newton Wallacetown tbc	Auchincruive Church Service
Service of Remembrance		
Dalmilling Church Service	12 Jan 2025, Sun	2 Mar 2025, Sun
	10:30 – 11:30	10:30 – 11:30 Communion
15 Dec 2024, Sun	Auchincruive Church Service	Dalmilling Church Service
10:30 – 11:30		
Auchincruive Church Service	19 Jan 2025, Sun	9 Mar 2025, Sun
	10:30 – 11:30	10:30 – 11:30
22 Dec 2024, Sun	Dalmilling Church Service	Auchincruive Church Service
10:30 – 11:30		
Dalmilling Church Service	26 Jan 2025, Sun	16 Mar 2025, Sun
	10:30 – 11:30	10:30 – 11:30
24 Dec 2024, Tue	Auchincruive Church Service	Dalmilling Church Service
18:30 – 19:30		
Messy Christmas tbc	2 Feb 2025, Sun	23 Mar 2025, Sun
Dalmilling Church	10:30 – 11:30	10:30 – 11:30
	Dalmilling Church Service	Auchincruive Church Service
23:30 – 00:30		
Watchnight Service	9 Feb 2025, Sun	30 Mar 2025, Sun
Auchincruive Church	10:30 – 11:30	10:30 – 11:30
	Auchincruive Church Service	Dalmilling Church Service
25 Dec 2024, Wed		
Christmas Day Service		
Newton Wallacetown Church		

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.

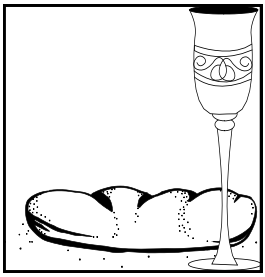
Minister	Rev John McCutcheon	01292 861641
Church Office	Dalmilling Church	262177
Acting Session Clerk		
Treasurer		
Roll Keeper & Elders Districts	Vickie Mutch	263678
Family/ Community Worker		
Data Protection Officer	To be elected.	
Health and Safety Officer	Allan Leydon	262293
Safeguarding Team	A Leydon, 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	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

Communion Service

Sunday 1st December 2024

At Auchincruive Church at 10:30am



Do this in remembrance of me.

Luke 22:19

Next issue of Church Magazine

All items should be submitted to Elizabeth Brechany

by Sunday 2nd February 2025

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).