

ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



October
2026



The Church of Scotland seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.



Dear Friends

It is now many years since, as a congregation, we ventured on a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi.

However, the inspiration and example of St Francis I'm sure still lives on in the hearts of many pilgrims.

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the Patron Saint of Italy's death on 4th October.

He left behind a wonderful spiritual heritage.

Through his service to others Francis was transformed from a carefree youth into a saint who became known for his radical love and embrace of poverty.

His spiritual journey included personal encounters with Jesus, leading to a life dedicated to serving the marginalised, especially lepers, and a commitment to peace.

St. Francis's teachings emphasise seeing God in creation, living out the faith through love and service, and bearing witness to peace amid conflict.

His spiritual teaching and insights are as contemporary and meaningful now as they were back then!

The late Pope chose Francis as his name. He declared to the world

"For me, Francis is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation".

Time to bring out the Franciscan in us all!

I close with the Franciscan greeting

Pax et Bonum
(Peace and goodwill)

Yours in Him
Neil McNaught



St. Francis, pray for us

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life"

Prayer of St Francis

Some notes from Rev. David...



SU Scotland

Over the past few weeks, the Scripture Union groups at Alloway and Doonfoot Primary Schools have been exploring the story of Joseph and his brothers. It has been great to see how engaged the children have been in this story. They have been promised a quiz (with prizes) on the main aspect of the story, and they are strangely excited about it. We will conclude this topic by getting the children to design a multicoloured cloak (using disposable lab coats) - I cannot wait to see their creations. Each week, we have around 40 children attending at Alloway Primary and 20 children attending at Doonfoot Primary. The children are looking forward to being presented with a prize for 10 weeks attendance.

The first meeting of the 'Men's Breakfast' for the new session took place on Saturday 26th September when we heard from guest speaker Chris Hunter on the principles, practice, and benefits of yoga. Around 25 gents attended this meeting and enjoyed the talk from Chris - we even tried some of the exercises and poses. Chris runs a class for women and another for men in our church halls on Mondays. From donations received at the breakfast, £94.00 was donated to 'Megan's Space', a charity selected by our guest speaker. Megan's Space aims to prevent the needless loss of young lives to suicide and reduce self-harm whilst promoting mental wellbeing. The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday 28th November, 10.00-11.15.



Just a reminder that at our Autumn Bible Study this year, we will be examining Christian themes found in the 1946 movie 'It's A Wonderful Life' starring James Stewart and Donna Reed. We will begin the series

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with a viewing of the movie (with choc-ices and popcorn) and follow this with a programme of 5 weekly studies. More information to follow - please check the weekly church service sheets, and our church Facebook page!!

The new session of Messy Church resumed on Saturday September 12th with our new theme 'The Parables of Jesus'. The parable for the September meeting was 'The Wise and Foolish Builders' (Matthew 7:24-27). It was great to welcome 40 children,



accompanied by parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. We enjoyed an amazing array of crafts, watched a video, sang a song, and played a game before enjoying chicken or vegetable enchiladas. A huge 'thank-you' to all the amazing volunteers who make it possible for us to run Messy Church. The next meeting of Messy Church will be on Saturday 10th October, 4.00-6.00pm when we will focus on the Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13:1-23. All children accompanied by an adult welcome.



PULSE resumed on Sunday 27th September when we had 40 young folks attending. All the youngsters were well behaved, but rather loud (perhaps I am getting too old?). After having the opportunity to play a range of games, and enjoying tuck shop, we then had a general knowledge team quiz. The excitement was palpable (and loud) with the winning team achieving a respectable score of 19 out of 25. The next meeting of PULSE will be on Sunday 25th October, 7.30-8.00pm.

Richest blessings, David.

2026 Golf Championship

Another great and almost dry day out was enjoyed at this year's Church Golf Championship on Sept 7th at Seafield.

Once again the presence of the ladies kept the conduct honourable.

Congratulations to 2026 Gentleman's Champion Mr Stevie Fury and the 2026 Lady Champion Mrs Fiona Borland.

We already look forward to next year's competition when some handicaps may well be cut!



Wednesday Worship

Why not join us for Wednesday Worship 10.30am - 11am in the Octagonal Hall.

(A short service followed by a long cup of tea!)

Remembrance Sunday 8th Nov Service 9.30am and 11.15am.



Mary's Meals Harvest Appeal

This year's harvest appeal is for Mary's Meals - a Scottish charity doing great work named after the mother of Jesus who in probable relative poverty provided food for her family.

"Mary's Meals provide children from some of the world's poorest communities with a nutritious meal at school. This encourages them into the classroom, giving them energy to learn in school and build a ladder out of poverty.

We serve more than three million children every school day, across 16 countries.

Our supporters and volunteers grow the global movement, working together to reach the next child. People from all walks of life, people of hope, people like you.

It costs just 10p a day to feed a hungry child with Mary's Meals in school, so just £4 will provide 40 meals. This means that even the smallest donation will have a big impact."

Please return your harvest envelope appeal to church by Sunday 25th Oct.





The Heritage of William Tyndale

It is 500 years since William Tyndale printed the very first English translation of the New Testament. Hundreds of millions of people today are still quoting him, though they don't know it. For in 1526 Tyndale invented what would become some of the most famous idioms in the English-speaking world.

For instance -

"The salt of the earth"; "Go the extra mile"; "The powers that be"; "Eat, drink and be merry"; "A city on a hill"; "The apple of his eye"; "In the twinkling of an eye"; "Signs of the times"; "My brother's keeper"; "Fight the good fight"; "Broken-hearted"; "Fallen flat on his face".

These phrases were all invented by Tyndale, during his translation from the original Greek of the New Testament.

As a young Catholic priest in England, Tyndale had been inspired by Martin Luther's groundbreaking translation of the Bible into German, and he went to work doing the same for English speakers. No wonder that the Bible Society describes Tyndale as a 'background radical' during Henry VIII's reign (he's mentioned in Wolf Hall but doesn't get involved in the action).

Tyndale invented words, too, when he couldn't find a direct English equivalent for a Greek or Hebrew concept. Here are just some:

Scapegoat: To describe the goat burdened with the sins of the people and sent into the wilderness.

Atonement: Literally "at-one-ment", created to describe being at one with God.

Passover: Coined to describe the Jewish holiday where the angel of death passed over the homes of the Israelites.

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Busybody: Invented to describe someone who meddles in other people's business.

Tyndale's work has survived multiple revisions of the Bible down the centuries. It is found in the Authorised Version of the Bible, the RSV, the ASV or the ESV, among others.

Church Opening 2026

This summer we welcomed some 1,067 visitors over the three months of June, July and August. We were open 5 days a week Mon-Fri except for 3 weddings, 3 funerals and the Festival of St John and 2 days when no volunteers were available.

That meant there were 249 "sittings" of 2 hours by volunteers over 62 days.

Twelve supervisors opened up and closed every day a week each, apart from Anne Law who gamely did 2 weeks. Many thanks to them all.

We received donations to Crossroads of £1,000 and a separate donation of £5 to Church funds.

Brian Kelsey, from Crossroads ,
receiving the cheque for £1000
from Martin Hinman



Future Plans

It is planned that we open the church to visitors around Christmas on Sunday 20 and Sunday 27 December This will fit in-between morning service and Christingle on 20 December and after the morning service on 27 December from 12.30 to 2.30pm.

Session Update

Here are a few details from our last session meeting held on 26th August 2026.

The evening started on a very positive note when Neil announced that after previous meetings when the court had agreed that we should seek new elders we were able to bring forward the names of fifteen of our members who had accepted the request to be nominated. The names were read and the court was happy to agree to the nomination of all. The Clerk would prepare an edict to be read in church and the ordination and admission service would hopefully go ahead at the Communion service on the 13th September.

Business then continued with our Property Convenor advising that it had been a busy time over the summer. Work included the completion of the double glazing in the halls, the sanding and varnishing of the hall floors and routine gardening maintenance. We are finally about to replace the Transept Cross on the church and while the scaffolding is in place, Donald thought we should take advantage and do some additional work which is required to the gable end wall and porch. This was agreed.

Our Treasurer had sent out her report beforehand to elders which included good news that we currently have a surplus of around £4,000 for the year to date. Confirmation had been received from 121 that after various expenses and deductions the sum of £128,015 had been credited to an investment account in their consolidated fabric fund, this being the proceeds of the sale of Fisherton Church. It was also noted with thanks that the congregation had raised £3,432 for Christian Aid, £353 for the DEC appeal and £505 from the Sundae Sunday morning.

We received more information regarding the letting of our halls from our Halls Administrator, Anne Law. She advised that we recorded 1,237 bookings between January and August, of which 64% were clubs

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and uniformed organisations, 27% related to children and young people and 11% to commercial. 53 organisations use the halls regularly including some new users. Hall income to date this year was £9,600 against £9,750 for the whole of 2025.

Neil then gave notice that it was the intention of Eric and Helen to retire as Session Clerks around June next year and sought permission to set up a small committee to consider replacements. Immediate thanks were given and it was agreed to set up the committee.

He also reminded Session that we are required to put in place a five year Mission Action plan and sought and received permission from the court to take part in a Pilot scheme.

The Mission report was brief, mainly confirming that Leisurely Lunches were starting again and the first would be a Harvest lunch on Sunday 11th October, but Helen then asked for Murray to bring us all up to date with our Malawi mission work. He advised that our joint venture to re-roof the church was going well at our side raising the £9,000 required but our partner church was struggling to match. Our school fee scheme allowed us to sponsor 15 students last year but with fees increasing by 33% this would be a problem going forward, so it has been decided to highlight this with some kind of promotion. Our Safeguarding Officer Bill Duncan reminded the court that all those undertaking a regulated role and registered under the PVG scheme are required to attend Safeguarding training every three to five years and a training session had been arranged for 18th October in the Octagonal Hall to facilitate this.

Bill continued, as our Presbytery Elder, to advise of some news from other local churches which also included a note that Interim Moderators had been confirmed as Rev Neil McNaught for Ayr, St Andrews, Rev David Hume for St Kentigern's, Kilmarnock and Mr Bill Duncan for the 5 churches forming South East Ayrshire Parish.

Rev David Hume then brought us up to date with his church and schools' work advising that 59 children had attended this year's Summer Club. He is already looking for volunteers for next year. Most of the activities he is involved with are restarting Pulse, Messy

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Church, Ceilidh and Mens' club and a new initiative "Animal Magic" is planned for 4th October. This will mark the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi and will include a petting Zoo for the children.

Again it was good to note towards the end of the meeting that two new members, Mr and Mrs Derek and Caroline McKinnell were joining us at Alloway and Fisherton.

Eric

Leisurely Lunch

The next Leisurely Lunch will be on Thursday 29th October at 12noon. Suggested donation is £7.50. Profits will go to Bandawe.



Autumn Lunch



Alloway Church Hall

Thursday 29th October 2026

12.00noon until 1.30pm

Menu

Tomato and Red Pepper

or

Leek and Potato



Plus

Bread and Butter Pudding

or

Apple Crumble

with ice cream or custard



**Minimum donation £7.50 per person includes tea/coffee and biscuits.
All proceeds to our Mission work in Bandawe**



thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

3rd Alloway Brownies have started back, and we welcomed two new Brownies into our Pack. We began with a Welcome Night and played a 'Getting To Know You' game asking each other questions, and coloured in some round spinning top toys.

This term we are starting a new Brownies theme badge called 'Express Myself', and we discussed that it means showing feelings and opinions. This will include hobbies, interests, views, talents, creative abilities etc. We will be doing games, crafts and activities to earn the badge. We started off by doing a dance routine to 'Did You Ever See A Penguin Come To Tea' with lots of funny actions and expressions!

Another week we continued with some badge activities and learned how to make and decorate origami paper boats; it's trickier than you'd think but the Brownies did really well - why don't you have a try too?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3N7EUi3-PG8> (or search 'How to make a paper boat'.)



We have also spent time talking about Dibora who is a little girl who lives in Ethiopia in Africa. 3rd Alloway Brownies sponsors her through the charity PLAN. The Brownies are asked to do small helpful jobs at home to earn a small donation, and we chatted about other ways we could raise money to help her. The money we raise each month goes to PLAN and is used to help pay for Dibora to go to school, have vaccinations, pay for training of local school

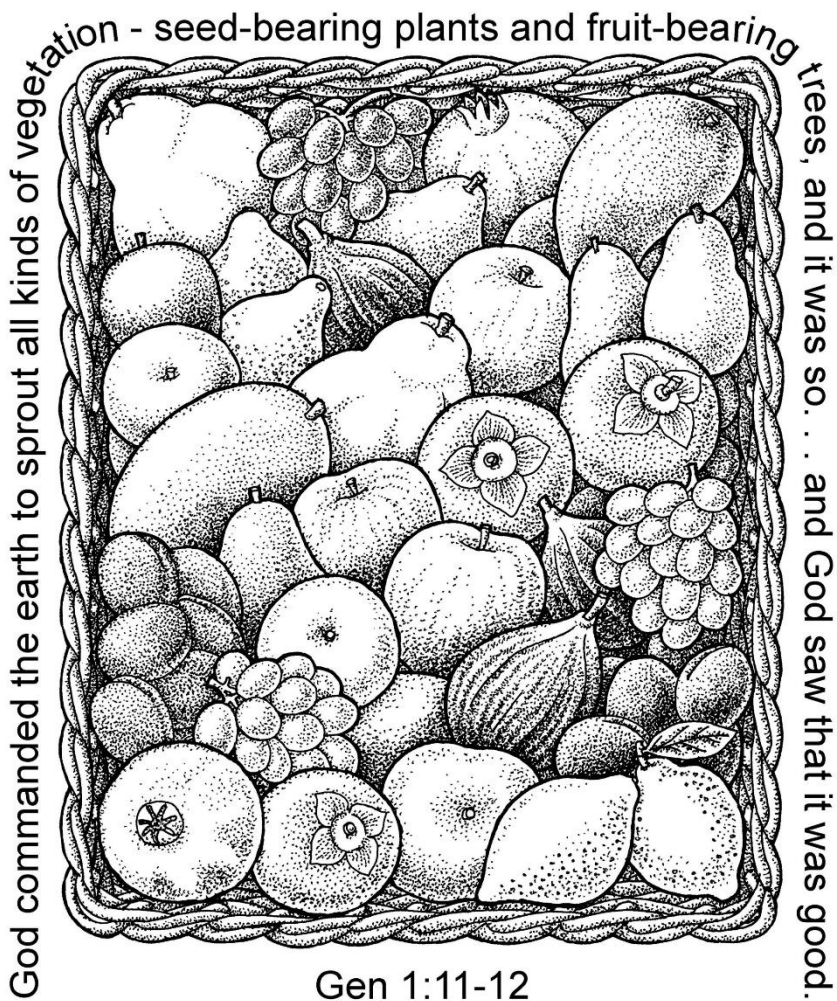
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teachers, school furniture, and to teach adults in her village to learn new skills, therefore helping everyone in her community. We discussed how our lives are different to Dibora's, and asked the Brownies questions - does Dibora's family have a car? TV? electricity? mobile phone? street lights? flushing toilet? toilet paper? sweets? drawing paper? felt-tip pens? The answer to most of these questions is 'No', so we asked the Brownies if they thought Dibora was happy. After some discussion they all agreed that so long as Dibora has family who love her, enough food to eat, friends to play games and laugh with, and can learn new skills at school, then yes, we think she will be happy. The Brownies then made and decorated a small clay pot to keep their donations for Dibora in. After that we played an Ethiopian game called 'Duki Duki Ziyi' which is the Ethiopian version of 'Duck Duck Goose', and everyone took home a brioche roll and a recipe for Himbasha which is an Ethiopian sweet bread.



A huge thank you for all the support and encouragement we receive from everyone at Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church. **3rd Alloway Brownies is still urgently needing another volunteer adult helper at our weekly meetings. If you are interested in volunteering, or know anyone else who is, please get in touch**

thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com





October Parish Record

New Members Welcomed

Derek and Caroline McKinnell, Carcluie Crescent
Jim and Dorothy Ross Tomlin, Woodend Road
Linda Prestly, Carseloch Road

New Elders Welcomed By Ordination

Vanessa Bateson, Lynn Cooke, Lynn Elliott, Stevie Glen, Margaret
Hebenton, Maggie Hinman, Margaret Mackie, Peter Mackie, Karin
Stewart and Eileen Williams

New Elders Welcomed By Admission

Douglas Elliott, Lorraine Gordon, Stewart Kerr, Colin Mutch and Gwyn
Williams



"Whom God Has Joined Together"

25.9.26

Rhagan Kerr and James McCreath



9.9.26

"Of Such Is The Kingdom Of God "

Matilda Alice Lusby daughter of Kimberly and James
(blessing)



"Blessed Are Those Who Mourn "

11.9.26

Mrs Sue Rodgers

Finnick Glen



The Church of Scotland

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