



ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON
PARISH CHURCH



April
2025



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

We are so blessed in our part of the world to celebrate Easter during springtime. Around us we see pictures of creation renewed.

We see the buds of new beginnings and look forward in hope to brighter, warmer days ahead.

We can stand back and simply admire what is going on or we can seek to embrace the dynamic in our hearts and join in!

Easter can be and should be a time of renewal for us all.

After endings ...new beginnings. After despair ..hope. After death... new life! The message is embodied in the Easter story of cross and empty tomb.

Here is hope for a weary and worn world!

Hope which spreads out from ancient Jerusalem and reaches and renews our hearts today.

To you and yours Easter Blessings!

Rev Neil McNaught



Easter Celebrations 2025



13th April	9.30am	Palm Sunday (Fisherton)
	10.30am	Palm Sunday (Alloway)
16th April	10.30am	Wednesday Worship (Octagonal Hall)
17th April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion (Alloway)
18th April	10.00am	Parish Pilgrim Walk (meet in front of Alloway Church)
	7.30pm	Good Friday Service (Fisherton)
20th April	9.30am	Family Easter Service (Fisherton)
20th April	10.30am	Family Easter Service (Alloway)

(Followed by hot cross buns in the hall)



Some notes from Rev. David...

What a fantastic turnout we had at our Men's Breakfast on Saturday 29th March - 36 gents enjoyed hot breakfast rolls, tea and coffee before hearing from our guest speaker, Mr. Ian Watkins.



On leaving school, Ian joined the British Army where he became the youngest ever Sargeant in the Army and progressed to become a Tank Commander. On leaving the British Army, Ian joined the Police Service Special Branch where he was primarily involved in counter terrorism. In his 'retirement', Ian became a civilian in the Organised



Crime Agency and was called upon by the Foreign Office as a Counter Terrorism Trainer working with the MI5 and the MI6. What an amazing insight to counter terrorism across the world. Our next Men's Breakfast

will take place on Saturday 31st May - look out for further details.

At the March meeting of Messy Church, we continued our theme of 'things we do in church and focused on The Sacrament of Holy Communion. Once again, we had an amazing range of associated crafts (thanks Jenny!)



before watching a video and considering how we celebrate communion in Church. As usual we then enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by a wonderful kitchen team. Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 10th May when we will be thinking about Praying.



We had another great meeting of PULSE on Sunday 30th March 2025. It was a joy to have 32 young people with us to enjoy games, crafts - and of course tuck shop! In response to popular demand, we had another instalment of 'The 1% Club'. Once again, I was absolutely astounded at the ability of the young folk to solve even the most difficult of questions. It was a very close contest with 'Group 1' winning by 2 points - each member of the winning group receiving an Easter Egg as a prize. The next meeting of PULSE will be on Sunday 27th April, 7.00-8.30pm.

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The 'Family Ceilidh' held on Saturday 15th March was another great success. Music was supplied by the amazing 'Jiggered Ceilidh Band' and the dance floor was full, from start to finish. We also enjoyed a fantastic supper prepared by the Social Committee. In response to the very positive feedback, another Family Ceilidh has been booked for Saturday 14th March 2026. Look out for tickets early in 2026!



Our Lenten Bible study commenced on Wednesday 12th March. So far, 49 folks have attended, and sessions will continue on Wednesday evenings (7.00-8.45pm) until 9th April. Please join us! A further 3 sessions, to allow us to complete the study, will be arranged after Easter - look out for further details.

Encouraged by my daughter, I recently joined the choir for Praise Gathering. On the first evening, I was amazed to join 531 other choir members in Clincarthill Parish Church in Glasgow - what a wonderful sound! This is the 40th Year of Praise Gathering and rehearsals are in preparation for concerts at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Saturday 14th June (3.00pm) and Sunday 15th June (7.00pm), and at Edinburgh Usher Hall on Saturday 21st June at 7.00pm. Tickets are available for purchase now - details at praisegathering.org.uk



Richest blessings, David.

Kiltwalk 2025

The Kiltwalk Glasgow 2025 is scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 27th, 2025.

Neil, Stevie, Madge and Jill a.k.a. the Alloway Strollers are in training for their 14 mile stroll to raise funds for Christian Aid.

Given the reduction in direct governmental overseas support, there never has been a more important time to support some of the world's poorest.

Here is a little of what Christian Aid do

"With humanitarian crises like Ukraine and the Middle East filling the headlines of our newspapers and social media, there's no question that millions around the world wake up every day to the perils of living in an emergency. **Last year, with your support, we were able to help meet the immediate needs of 3.3 million people in crisis.**"

If you would like to support our venture please click on our team link - or speak to any of the team members .

[Neil McNaught is fundraising for Christian Aid](#)

Thanks in anticipation to the local worship teams who will conduct the service on the morning of 27th April 25



“Being Faithful Through Testing Times “

Standing up to tyrants, no matter what the cost. That kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin's oppression.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer did not have Putin to contend with, but Hitler. Bonhoeffer did not back down either, when the time came.

Bonhoeffer grew up with no thought of ever defying the leader of Germany. Nothing could have been further from his mind or background. Born at Breslau in Silesia (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) in 1906, Bonhoeffer was the son of an academic. In 1912, his father was appointed to be Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin University, and so the family moved to Berlin.

Bonhoeffer never even considered going into politics. Instead, he studied theology in Tübingen, Berlin and New York, before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in theology in 1931.

But though Bonhoeffer did not chase political trouble, it soon came to him. For on 30th January 1933 Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, had come to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for anyone in public life to disagree with him. Including anyone in the two major churches - Lutheran and Catholic.

But Bonhoeffer refused to be compliant, and joined the Confessing Church, which had formed in opposition to the takeover of the Lutheran Church. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler's attempts to force antisemitism on the church and society.

Bonhoeffer was in America when war broke out in 1939, but he returned to Germany.

He said: "I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Back in Germany, he joined the underground anti-Nazi opposition and worked hard to oppose Hitler.

In 1943 he was arrested and imprisoned at Tegel prison in Berlin. The involvement of many of his contacts in the July 1944 plot to kill Hitler

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may well have sealed his fate. He was finally moved on to Flossenberg concentration camp.

In April 1945, as American troops were approaching the camp, Bonhoeffer was hanged. The last words of this brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were:

"This is the end - for me, the beginning of life."

Bonhoeffer left a great legacy behind him. His writings, and especially his Letters and Papers from Prison, have inspired many trying to make sense of persecution and needless suffering. His 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.





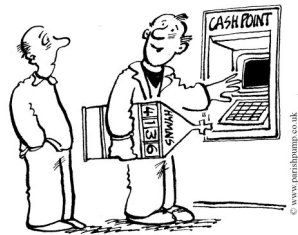
Wednesday Worship

Why not join us for Wednesday Worship 10.30am - 11am in the Octagonal Hall this month?

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

Wednesday Worship 9th /16th /23rd /30th April 2025

(Coffee and Chat 7th May 2025)



...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!

Easter Art Competition

Many thanks to the children from Doonfoot School who took part in our Easter Art competition.

The children were invited to draw the "Christian message of Easter".

Our prize winner is Grace from P4. Her picture is printed on the front of our Newsletter.

Radiant joy emerges from the cross and the tomb (yes with a little spring chick at the foot of the cross!).

Commended too Jasper P6 and Alana P7.

Some of the children's work will be on display in the main hall.



FISHERTON NEWS

Friendship Group - The March meeting took place on Friday 14 March in Fisherton Church. The audience welcomed Ronnie Steele of Ayr who gave a very interesting talk entitled **The Life of a Marathon Fundraiser**. He showed photos and spoke of the many marathons he has run and other challenges he has undertaken in various parts of the World raising a total amount of £250,000 for the Ayrshire Hospice and other charities. He also mentioned his involvement as a volunteer for the Hospice and how he hopes to continue his support of this charity.

The April meeting will take the form of a **Fundraising Afternoon Tea with Bring and Buy Stall** in aid of Seascaple in Fisherton Church on Friday 25 April from 2.00 to 4.00pm. There will be sandwiches, sausage rolls, scones and a variety of sweet treats from Clever Catering. Tickets are limited and priced at a very reasonable £10 - please contact Helen Malcolm on 07801 556 594 as soon as possible if you would like to attend. Donations of any unwanted and unused gifts for the Bring and Buy stall can be given in advance or on the day and will be much appreciated.

Gardening Club at Fisherton Church - This is held fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon from 2.00 to 3.30pm during the growing season. Dates planned are weather permitting. We have a gardener to carry out the more strenuous work, but we are a small group planting and hoeing to keep the garden looking at its best and to make it an enjoyable space to sit and enjoy the peace. A pleasant afternoon of chat, cuppa and cake guaranteed with a little bit of gardening.

Contact Elspeth on 07999 852 756 for details.

Fisherton Service - Each Sunday, coffee/tea and biscuits are served at the back of the church and all are welcome to stay for this.



Session Report

We have had two meetings since my last report, one in January and the other early March. In January our Treasurer advised of an anonymous donation of £2,000 to our community fund and a very generous legacy of £10,000 from Mrs Sandra Tumilty. Our Property Convenor brought us up to date with some works carried out relating to church lighting, painting of the vestry, Church Officer's room, Session Room and vestibule. Our Halls Convenor advised that he was receiving many requests for our already busy halls and these were from a diverse group of would be users. He felt it was time to clarify our user policy and update our letting agreement and his committee would be meeting soon to do this

The Worship and Development Convenor announced that there would be a new Lenten Study beginning in March with the theme "Discipleship Explored" and that after two and a half years of fund raising for "Trees for Life" which has enabled the planting of over 2,000 trees in the Scottish Highlands, it had been decided to change and support another environmental charity. The committee recommended the "Ayrshire River Trust" and this was agreed.

At our March meeting the Property Convenor had a longer report than usual bringing us up to date with work required after the damage caused by storm "Eowyn". Roof repairs had been carried out as a temporary measure with a return proposed when a "Cherry Picker" was available. A sum of £5,000 had been agreed with our insurers for this. The cross on the South Transept roof had fallen and was beyond repair. Other minor repairs had also been undertaken. It was also advised that we had a visit from Environmental Health regarding kitchen procedures and a number of new requirements have to be implemented, including recording of temperatures for cooked food and clear labelling of stored items with dates. Our Treasurer then presented the first annual report and accounts for the combined Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church. She highlighted a few points from the accounts including that although we had a projected deficit of £37,000 we did in fact have an £11,000 surplus. This was mainly due to donations and legacies. Although our income had increased from £302,000 in 2023 to £314,000 in 2024 our expenditure had increased from £285,000 in 2023 to £303,000 in

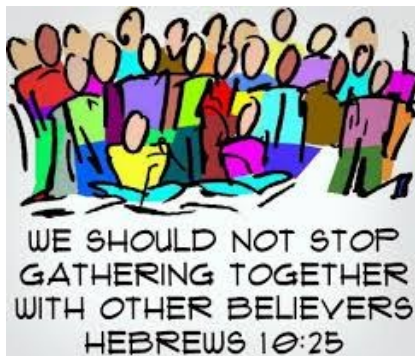
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2024. Expenditure had increased mainly because of a 62% increase in energy costs, an increased payment to our Giving to Grow contribution to the Church of Scotland and some salary increases. The accounts were formally proposed, seconded and approved. Our Treasurer received warm applause for all her skilled and excellent work on our behalf. After these figures were presented it was no surprise to hear that there would soon be a Stewardship meeting which would consider how we should respond to the challenges ahead.

Our technical team also reported some issues following the storm but fortunately these had been resolved. It may be however, that some of the equipment needs to be updated. The Mission Convenor encouraged all to continue their support for the lunches, the proceeds from which are required in Bandawe for essential roof repairs. Our Presbytery Elder advised that Rev David Donaldson (one of our previous trainees) had his induction service on 22nd February at Mauchline Parish Church with good support from our congregation. Finally, David Hume reported on some of his on-going work including Pulse, Stay and Play and advised that the next Men's Breakfast would be on March 29th featuring a speaker who had previously worked for the British Army, Special Branch and the Intelligence Service.

Eric Ness

Session Clerk



Easter Leisurely Lunch

Our final lunch for this season will be held on Thursday 24th April from 12.00noon to 1.30pm. The menu will have an Easter theme and this can be found in the poster within this newsletter.

Please come if you can to enjoy good food among your church family. As a bonus all profits will be used to repair the church roof in Bandawe.



Christian Aid Book Sale and Coffee Morning

Our Christian Aid book sale and coffee morning will be held on Saturday 17th May. Please make a note in your diary/Calendar. Bring any books you wish to donate on Sunday 11th May to the church hall between 10.00am and 12.00noon. We regret that we do not have space to store books before this date. The cost is only £1.00 per book or 6 for £5.00. You can then go from the Octagonal Hall to our tearoom in the Large Hall to have tea/coffee and delicious home baking for only £4.00. There will also be a Plant Stall. All profits will go to Christian Aid who do such wonderful work among some of those in greatest need in our world today.



Easter Lunch



Alloway Church Hall

Thursday 24th April 2025

12.00noon until 1.30pm

Lentil Soup

or

Butternut Squash Soup



to follow

or

Rhubarb Crumble

(with ice cream or custard)

Cheese Cake



Cost Minimum £6.00 donation per person includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

Riding for the Disabled - Volunteering Opportunity

Helping out at RDA must be one of the most enjoyable forms of volunteering. Working with the young people is so rewarding. Many of them are starting out in life with challenges most of us can only begin to imagine and it is a privilege to see the enjoyment they get from their time on horseback.

For some riding offers a freedom of movement not usually accessible to them, for others, the relationship with the horse is paramount. Either way it is a worthwhile activity for rider and helper alike.

The volunteer group, are a great bunch of people to work with, friendly and sociable - the session flies in. We could always do with a few more volunteers though, it takes three helpers to enable a child to ride safely, especially in the beginning stages.

Training is available, and you learn lots "on the job" and from the coaches and fellow volunteers.

You don't have to be experienced in handling horses, (although that's helpful) just to be comfortable around them is enough to start with.

The main thing is to have empathy for the young people, the rest will fall into place.

RDA offer sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings as well as Tuesday evenings.

If you think this is something you could help with please don't hesitate to get in touch with me for further information.

Carol George

c_george@btopenworld.com





thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle



3rd Alloway Brownies and 1st Dalmilling Brownies joined up for a Fairytales Brownies Sleepover in Alloway Church Halls.



Brown Owl; "I'm looking for a volunteer(lots of hands shoot up!)....to write a report.... (several hands hastily go down!) ...about the Sleepover for the Church newsletter" (several hands go back up!)

Here are their reports;

Grace and Robyn, 3rd Alloway Brownies:

"First we unpacked our stuff. Next we played games like 'Ladders' and 'Heads Shoulders Knees and Toes'. Finally we did crafts and had lots of snacks. We had hot-chocolate and marshmallows, and we had fun."

Skylar and Lucy, 1st Dalmilling Brownies:

"First we set up our bed time stuff/bed/sleeping bag and went to the hall and did some games and activities. We started to sign peoples diaries on the back, and then headed to the table and made some magic wands. My wand is purple with gems and a big white flower and little stars. Then we played ladders / beanstalk game but princess version so two were given a princess name of Cinderella, Rapunzel, Ariel, Belle, Tiana and Jasmine. We made fairytale lanterns. Gingerbread man biscuit challenge. Dragon breathing yoga, and campfire songs."

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At the end of the Sleepover we asked each Brownie what was their favourite part of the Sleepover (answers included 'Staying up till midnight', 'being with friends' 'games' and 'snacks'), and also someone that they'd like to thank. One very thoughtful Brownie said she'd like to thank "the people who let us use the Church Halls." So a huge thank you to the Church for letting us use the Halls for our Sleepover, it was a great success, despite some Brownies still being awake at 2.00am! Everyone had a good time, and it was a great trial run in advance for our Pack Holiday later in the year.

A huge thank you also to all the volunteers who help at Girlguiding, and for the support from everyone at the Church. Alloway Girlguiding is in great need of more volunteer Leaders for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch dcalloway@girlguidingayrshiresouth.org.uk



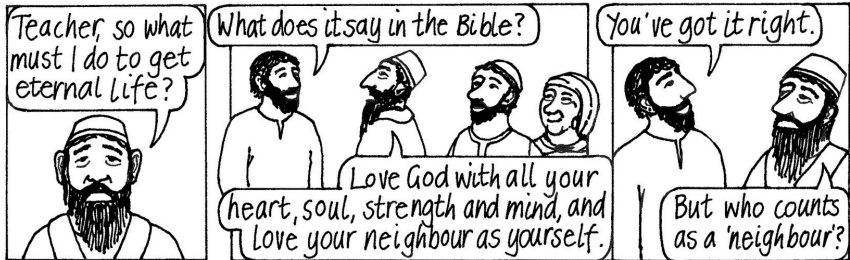
Fairytale Lanterns

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the Law of Moses wanted
to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in
the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.





Parish Record



New Members

Mrs Lynda Dunnett

Abbots Crescent



"Blessed are they who die in the Lord"

21.2.25

Mrs Rita Hill

Aucheninch Cottage Dunure

Deadline for May Newsletter—Tuesday 22 April—12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com

Please visit our website www.allowaychurch.org or our Facebook page



The Church of Scotland

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