



ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



May
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

It was with great sadness that the world greeted the passing of Pope Francis, on Monday April 21, at the age of 88, a day after surprising the faithful in St. Peter's Square on Easter Sunday.

A Vatican statement read

"He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage and universal love, especially toward the poorest and most marginalized,"

With his pastoral style of leadership and his emphasis on mercy, I do believe that Pope Francis helped restore the credibility of the church.

Pope Francis was known for his commitment to welcoming migrants and refugees, the protection of the environment and support for the poor and marginalized.

Turning his back on the grander Apostolic Palace, as a pope he chose to live in the hotel-like room of Domus Sanctae Marthae and eat with other Curial members.

He opted for simple clothing and jewellery, distancing himself from the pomp and regalia of his predecessors. He was in essence as a pope less pomp and more piety!

Apparently one of his colleagues whispered to him when he was elected as pope to "remember the poor"

Thus the Argentinean cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio chose to be known as Pope Francis.

I feel sure we all mourn the Pope's passing.

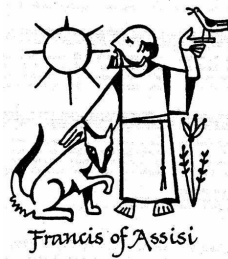
His humble service and devotion to the poor and poor in spirit remain an inspiration to so many who seek to follow the Master.

Neil McNaught

Prayer of St Francis

Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Oh master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul



Some notes from Rev. David...

The next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday 31st May, 10.00-11.15am. Our guest speakers will be two serving Paramedics. This is certain to be a very interesting presentation as we learn more about the unpredictable life of a Paramedic. All gents are invited to join with us for our last meeting this session.



Our next Messy Church will take place on Saturday 10th May, 4.00-6.00pm. We will continue thinking about our theme 'things we do in church' and this month we will be focusing on 'Prayer'. This is sure to be another amazing Messy Church and children (and their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles) are welcome to join us!

PULSE met again on Sunday 27th of April. There was lots of competition evident on the pool tables, the table tennis tables, air hockey, table football, darts (safety darts!) and corn-hole. Some of the youngsters also enjoyed table games - and of course tuck shop is always a favourite. The young people love a quiz, and this month we had a logo quiz - where 20 companies had to be identified by their logo. I never cease to be amazed at the intelligence of our young folks, and one group managed to identify 18 companies correctly. The prize for the winning team members was a cream egg! I am hugely grateful to the volunteers who come along to help at PULSE - to set up, interact with the youngsters - and then put everything away - thank you!!



Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones is a bereavement support programme run by Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church. During the five-weeks of the programme, there is an opportunity to think about the bereavement journey; health issues; looking after yourself; money and legal matters; cooking for one; and thinking ahead. The next programme commences on Tuesday 6th May, 7.00-8.30pm in Alloway Church Halls. Full details are available from Rev. David on 07858 966367 or at dhume@churchofscotland.org.uk.



This year, our Summer Holiday Club will take place from Monday 14th - Friday 18th July 2025. The Summer Holiday Club is open to all children who have attended, or will attend, Primary School in 2025. We will meet each day from 10.00am-12 noon, and the theme of this year's Summer Holiday Club is 'Bible Animals'. During the week, we will have crafts, songs, games, videos and story-telling. Registration forms, and further information are available from Rev. David. If you would like to volunteer to help at the Summer Holiday Club, please let Rev. David know as soon as possible. A planning meeting will be arranged soon.

Richest blessings, David.

Women of Faith

The next Women of Faith event is on Saturday 24 May at 10am

Come and join us for coffee and a scone and hear from our Speakers Elaine Hough and Stacey Morrison.

Elaine and Stacey will talk to us about Hope Wellbeing Centre and Hope Rising Church.

We will hear about the work of Hope Wellbeing and the growth of Hope Rising Church.

To help with catering there are sign up sheets at both doors of the Church or you can email secretary.allowaypc@gmail.co.uk.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there.



Dear Friends



We are surrounded these days by challenging news. Everyone is speaking of the cost-of-living crisis!

Everything seems to be going up in price.

Needless to say, the church is not immune from rising costs!

Last year nationally the Church of Scotland had a deficit of six million pounds.

The April Kirk Session meeting passed a budget which showed that Alloway and Fisherton Church in 2025-26 may face an operational deficit of £57,000 and a capital deficit of £40,000.

One driver of the projected deficit is the rise in our national "giving to grow figure" which has risen to £135,000.

This is the sum of money we pay centrally to the Church of Scotland before expending locally. (Please note this is not the stipend!)

In the past, thanks to the generosity of many, such a level of deficit at a local level has not come to pass.

The first thing as moderator I want to say is that Alloway and Fisherton Church is not pleading poverty.

We do indeed have significant reserves which we have drawn from and may continue to draw from.

However, this cannot go on indefinitely. It is the projected operational deficit which is of particular concern. The trustees would be failing if we did not draw the attention of the congregation to the challenge ahead.

Accordingly, in session 25-26, the church will need to look to increasing our streams of income. This will include encouraging all members to review their giving.

Our Membership Financial Review will take place in September 2025.

Meantime given the challenging financial position; the Session has decided to increase our Hall Lets from September 2025. Community groups and charity lets will rise by 25%. Commercial lets will rise by 50%.

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We will continue to provide premises provision for our uniformed youth organisations at no cost.

Given there has been no significant rise in letting rates since 2019, given that heating alone has gone up by 50% in the last few years, such rises are not unreasonable.

I include the rates for your information and perusal.

The new rates will come into effect in September 2025 and will be reviewed by the Finance Committee in March 2026.

The session also noted the resignation of Mr Ian Stewart as our Halls Convener. We are grateful to Ian for his work.

The session appointed Mrs Anne Law as Halls Administrator. Anne will deal with the Halls booking and invoicing.

Should you wish to enquire about a Hall booking Anne may be contacted at hallbookingsallowayfishterton@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Every blessing

Rev Neil McNaught



Hall Rates Alloway and Fisherton Church from Sept 2025

Hourly Rates - Clubs and Charities

	Floor Area sqm	Existing Rate/hour (2019?)	Existing Rate/sqm	Proposed Rate/hour 09/25	% Increase	Proposed Rate/sqm 09/25
Small Hall	40	£12	£0.30	£15	+25%	£0.37
F'ship	38	£15	£0.39	£20	+27%	£0.50
Oct. Hall	110	£18	£0.16	£25	+39%	£0.23
Large Hall	150	£26	£0.17	£35	+35%	£0.23

Hourly Rates - Commercial

	Proposed Rate/hour 09/25
Small Hall	£23
F'ship	£28
Oct. Hall	£38
Large Hall	£53

Christian Aid Book and Plant Sale/Coffee Morning

Our Christian Aid Book Sale and Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 17th May.

Please 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 and we would welcome donations of plants and also home baking for our tea room. These should be brought to the hall between 7.00pm and 8.00pm on the Friday evening (16th May).

All profits will go to Christian Aid who do such wonderful work among some of those in greatest need in our world today.



Christian Aid Coffee Morning, Book and Plant Sale

Alloway Church Halls

Saturday 17th May 2025

10.00am until 12.00noon



Cost £4.00 - for home baking and tea/coffee.

**Books also for sale on Sunday 18th May
after the church service until 12.30pm.**



Kiltwalk Kindness 2025

The Kiltwalk Glasgow 2025 took place on Sunday, April 27th, 2025.

Neil, Stevie, Madge and Jill a.k.a. the Alloway Strollers in blazing drizzle managed (just) a 14 mile stroll to raise funds for Christian Aid.

A huge thanks is due to all generous donors who so far have helped raise over £6,000.

Once again our flabber has been gasted by your kindness.

2025 is the first time Christian Aid has volunteer walking representation in all four Kiltwalks (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh).

Christian Aid asked that we carry a baton of hope to mark this moment!

The Baton will be on display at our Booksale before being sent to Aberdeen.

As we rub ointment on our bunions and blisters and get into shape for next year's event, here is a final word on Kiltwalk Kindness from Christian Aid .

A special thank you from Christian Aid

"Thank you for your generous donation! Every pound donated and every fundraising event, helps us to eradicate poverty and injustice worldwide. Led by our core values of equality, justice, love and dignity, Christian Aid works with people of all faiths and none. Together with our local partners and communities we seek to tackle the root causes of poverty, to transform lives. Thank you once again for your life changing gift."

P.S Not too late support us - just click on the link below

[https://www.justgiving.com/team/allowaystrollers?
utm_medium=TE&utm_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/team/allowaystrollers?utm_medium=TE&utm_source=CL)

or google Alloway Strollers 2025 just giving



Alloway Strollers 2025



FISHERTON NEWS

Friendship Group - We again welcome Bob and Carol George to run our Bring and Buy Plant Sale on Friday 16 May at 2.00 to 3.30pm in Fisherton Church. We would appreciate as many donations of indoor or outdoor plants as possible as Bob and Carol are unable to supply any this year. Money received will go towards Seascope - our chosen charity this year. There will be the usual cuppa and baking after the plant sale. We are hoping for a good day when the event can be held in the church garden.

Our last meeting of the session on Friday 20 June will be lunch at Souters Inn, Kirkoswald at 12.30pm. Please pass names on to Helen Malcolm, helenrmalcolm@gmail.com or 07801 556 594 if you'd like to attend.

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.



Newsletter News



I am very grateful for all the many kind deliverers of the monthly newsletter.

On **Wednesday 21st May at 2.30pm** in the Fellowship Lounge there will be a get together of all deliverers who would like to come, and anyone else who may be interested in helping out occasionally or regularly with the deliveries. I look forward to seeing you there if you are free.

There is always the option for anyone to have a digital copy by email. Please let Jan the church secretary know if you would like this.
secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com

If you have any questions, you can contact me on 07751 637583

Or patpalmer1@hotmail.co.uk

Pat Palmer

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 14th /21st /28th /May 2025

(Coffee and Chat 7th May 2025)



VE 80

8th May 2025 - 80th Anniversary of VE Day

80 years ago, on 8th May 1945, VE Day took place - marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War 2. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler. In reality, Hitler had committed suicide on 30th April.

His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, quickly negotiated an end to the war with the Allies - at the same time trying with some success to prevent as many Germans as possible from falling into Soviet hands.

Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in the Netherlands, north-west Germany and Denmark at a ceremony near Hamburg on 4th May.

All German forces then surrendered to Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower on 7th May at Reims, France. Soviet leader Josef Stalin had his own ceremony, in Berlin.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7th May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations.

Prime Minister Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells. The Royal Family played a central role, appearing eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace while huge numbers of people flocked down The Mall. In the United States, VE Day coincided with President Harry S Truman's 61st birthday: he dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D Roosevelt, who had died of a stroke less than a month earlier.

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But both Truman and Churchill pointed out that the war against Japan had not yet been won. That final victory was still more than three months away.

I understand Ayr will host one of the biggest VE80 celebrations.

130 soldier silhouettes will be displayed in 'The Field of Heroes' at Wellington Square. Over 900 poppies have been painted and the display in Wellington Square will be truly amazing.

There will be a VE80 Service of Celebration & Thanksgiving at Ayr Auld Kirk 3pm on the 4th May to which all are warmly invited.

In Alloway and Fisherton during the VE80 week we will again display our poppies at the front of the church.

Our Musical Memories on Thursday 8th May will have VE theme.

We will again offer prayers of thanksgiving for those who helped win this victory - and remember the many in Europe who still do not know peace.





thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle



This term, five Brownies made their Brownie Promise by going around the Brownie circle, under the Rosebud Arch (long ago, Brownies were called 'Rosebuds'), and making their Promise beside the toadstool. Then they received their special yellow Promise badge, as well as a goody bag. We dedicated our Promise Night to Rita Owl who had recently sadly passed away. Rita Owl had been a much valued Owl with 3rd Alloway Brownies from 2016 - 2020, and her kindness will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her.

For pancake night everyone had lots of fun. We played a game where the Brownies took turns throwing a dice in correct number order to be offered a pancake and different toppings - throw a 1 or 2 for a pancake; 3 for butter; 4 for jam or chocolate spread (some had both!); 5 for olives or sardines (surprisingly there were no takers!); and 6 for sprinkles and chocolate chips. At the end everyone enjoyed eating their pancakes, thankfully without olives or sardines!

As part of our 'Know Myself' badge work, the Brownies performed in a Talent Show which included displays of dances, paintings, a talk about horse riding and showing prize rosettes, reading a poem, gymnastic moves, and even a loom-band demonstration! Well done talented Brownies!

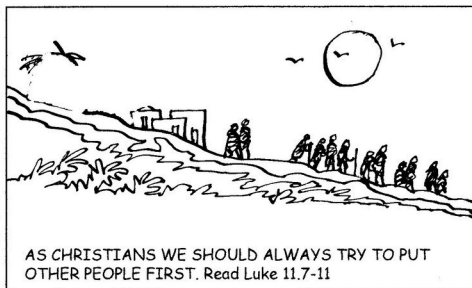
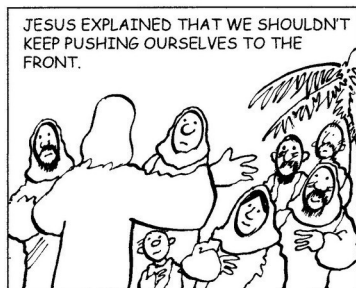
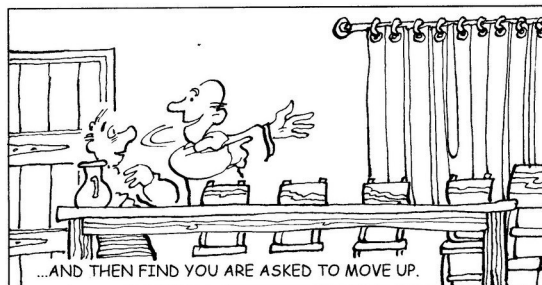
For Special Lady Day the Brownies made a felt heart picture and learnt to sew a button onto the heart to give to their special lady. They mounted the button heart onto a board with the wording beneath 'Thank you - you hold everything together.' For many of the girls it was the first time they had ever sewn something, and despite a few challenging knots and interesting over-the-side stitches, they all did an excellent job! So if a button on your clothes becomes undone, you can find a Brownie to sew it back on!

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As another part of their badge work, the Brownies planned their own Easter party for the end of term. At the party we discussed why we have Easter. Then they made an Easter bauble craft with a little chick inside. We had an Easter egg hunt with challenges to complete before the Brownie was allowed to pick up her chocolate egg, such as 'Before you pick up your egg, jump like a lamb 5 times!' and 'Flap your wings 10 times saying Cheep'. This was followed by some Easter games including an Egg and Spoon race, and an Easter-jigsaw-bunny-hop-relay-race. We sang 'Betty the Bunny has 5 Ears', and then a running-around-the-circle game called 'Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail'. Everyone went home with an Easter egg, sweeties, and a puzzle sheet.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who help at Girlguiding, and also 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





Parish Record



New Members

Mrs Catherine Skelton	Alloway
Mrs Alison McLean	Greenan Way
Mr George and Mrs Lynn Elliott	Tunnoch Drive Maybole
Mrs Anne Thomson	Dalblair Court Ayr



"Blessed are they who die in the Lord"

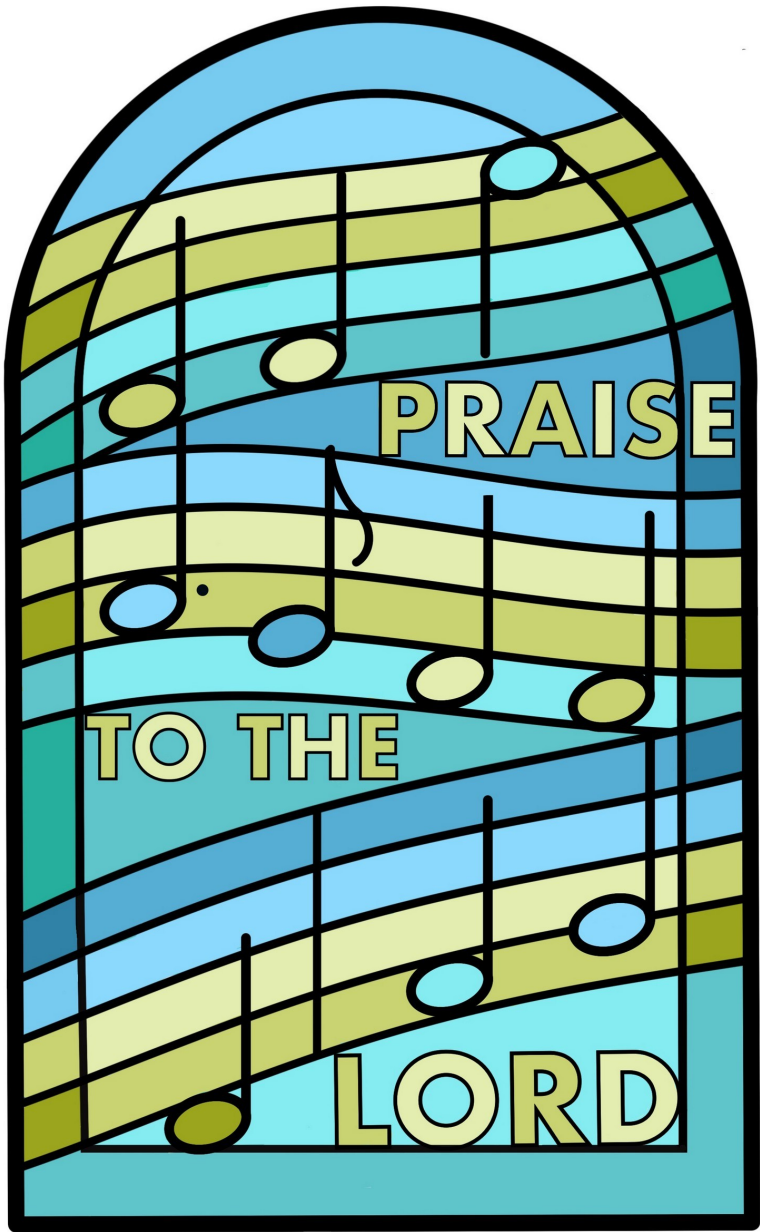
6.4.25	Mr Peter McEvoy	Longfield Avenue
10.4.25	Mr Scott Owens	Craig Drive
13.4.25	Mr William Fulton	The Pines
14.4.25	Mrs Doreen Smith	The Pines
14.4.25	Mr Thomas Dunlop	St Brides Way Coylton

Deadline for June Newsletter—Tuesday 20 May—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

Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church of Scotland
No. 070440

Scottish Registered Charity
No. SC012456