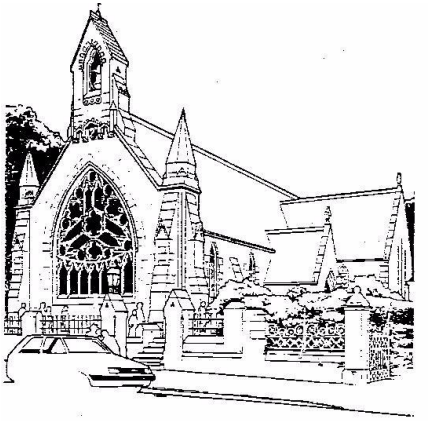
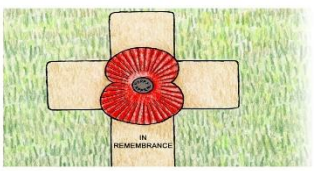
ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



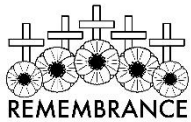




November
2026



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 seems to me that November is a time to look back but also a time to look forwards. It most certainly is a time to remember!

On All Saints Day and All Souls Day, we remember the Christian saints who shared our past who now rest in a greater peace on the other side of eternity. In a place where we shall all be at home.

Remembrance Day itself is a time to recall with gratitude the supreme sacrifices that our armed forces made during World War 1, World War 2 and other more recent conflicts. A time to pray for peace for this often-weary war-torn world.

I'm sure I was not the only person who was alarmed to read last month a published Ipsos Poll which suggested 48% of people interviewed said there were no circumstances in which they would be willing to take up arms and fight for their country!

Remembrance for me is a timely reminder that the only reason we enjoy our freedom is because a previous generation was willing to take up arms and fight for it!

It was a past American president Thomas Jefferson who declared

"The cost of freedom is eternal vigilance."

A reminder indeed that freedom must be defended continually and never taken for granted.
November also brings us The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP), A reminder also that professing and practising the Christian faith in our world can be costly. It is estimated that some 380 million Christians worldwide are living under persecution today.
Freedom, Faith and Love, all these precious things have a cost. Let us seek to be worthy of those who paid the ultimate price.

'When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say,
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today"

(Memorial of the 2nd British Division in the cemetery of Kohima)

Yours in Him
Neil McNaught



Some notes from Rev. David…

It has been so encouraging to have a good number of P7 pupils at Alloway Primary and Doonfoot Primary attend Scripture Union. We have now completed our examination of the story of Joseph and his brothers, and are moving on to thinking about the story of Daniel. I am sure that the children will also enjoy learning about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! We are also looking forward to a visit from Julie Bain, The Scripture Union Schools Ministry Co-ordinator for Ayrshire.



The next meeting of the 'Men's Breakfast' will take place on Saturday the 28th of November when we will meet from 10.00-11.15. I am still awaiting final confirmation from out guest speaker, but I would encourage 'old' and new members to attend for what will be a very insightful presentation.

The next meeting of Messy Church will be on Saturday 14th of November, 4.00-6.00pm when we will continue to follow our theme of 'The Parables of Jesus'. The parable for the November meeting will be 'The Parable Of The Prodigal Son' (Luke 15:11-32). All children accompanied by an adult welcome.

Unfortunately, as a result of the extreme weather experienced during Storm Boelo it was decided to cancel the October meeting of PULSE. Our next meeting will be on Sunday 29th November, 7.00-8.30 when in addition to a range of games, and tuck shop, we will have the return of 'The 1% Club' – which the youngsters always enjoy.

Stepping Stones

The next programme of Stepping Stones, our bereavement support group will take place in the early Spring of 2027. In the meantime, if you, or someone you know, would like support with bereavement and grief, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Richest blessings, David.

Autumn Bible Study

As previously highlighted, 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. Supported by reference to scripture, we will consider how some of the themes raised in the movie remain hugely relevant in 2026. The series will begin with a viewing of the movie (with choc-ices and popcorn) on Tuesday 10th November, 7.00-8.45, and this will be followed with 4 weekly studies on November 17th and 24th and December 1st and 8th. It would be great if you could join us



CROSSREACH
Care you can put your faith in

Crossreach Sunday 1st Nov 2026

Crossreach Purpose

"To demonstrate Christ's love in action by offering high-quality care and support which will empower people, across Scotland, to live a full and fulfilling life."

Crossreach Vision A compassionate society where the worth of every individual is recognised and celebrated, and where loving relationships support all to live well in line with their needs, choices and aspirations.

- Employing 500 people and caring for 28,000 vulnerable people.
- We pray for those working with children, young people and families. Give them patience, wisdom and compassion as they support people whose lives can be difficult and complicated. Help them to be a source of safety, encouragement and hope.
- We pray for those caring for older people and those living with dementia. Give them patience for the difficult days and joy in the good ones. Help them to see the person behind the illness and to show, through their care, that every person is precious and loved.
- We pray for those working in mental health and counselling. They hear stories which can be difficult to carry. Give them strength, wisdom and compassion, and help them to bring a little light into places where life can feel very dark.

- We pray for those supporting people affected by addiction. Give them patience when progress is slow and courage when there are setbacks. Help them never to lose sight of the person and the possibility of a new beginning. We pray for those supporting people with learning disabilities and additional needs. Help them to see and encourage the gifts in every person, and to create places where people know that they belong.
- We pray for those working with people experiencing homelessness, poverty and disadvantage. Give them compassion and wisdom as they walk alongside people whose circumstances may have become overwhelming. Help them to bring dignity, welcome and hope.
- And we pray for everyone who works or volunteers through CrossReach. Give them strength when the work is demanding. Give them encouragement when they wonder whether what they do really makes a difference. Remind them that they are not simply providing a service. They are the Church at work. They are bringing the love of Christ into the lives of people who need it.

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. 12.30pm at War Memorial



Animal Magic

Many thanks to all those who supported our 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi.
Four horses, a chicken, eleven dogs and approximately 50 people attended the outdoor blessing of animals.
No one was injured and we all shared in the blessing with over £100 raised for the RSPB.

"*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; and where there is sadness, joy*"

Prayer of St Francis





The Apostle Andrew (d. c.60) is patron saint of Scotland. According to the gospel of Matthew, Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first two disciples whom Jesus called. 'Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' (Matt 4:18,19).

Without more ado, they obeyed. 'At once they left their nets and followed him.' The story is touching for the simple but total faith that they had in Jesus.

Whenever the gospels mention the disciples, Andrew's name is always in the first four. Rather than a boisterous leader of men (like Peter), he seems to have been an approachable person who wanted to help people.

It was Andrew who helped introduce a group of Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-2) and Andrew who offered Jesus the five small barley loaves and two small fishes when Jesus challenged them to feed the five thousand. (John 6:8) His faith in Jesus over small things was richly rewarded, and this faithful, kindly Galilean fisherman turned disciple went on to become one of the 12 apostles of the Christian Church.

Andrew never settled back in Capernaum by Galilee. Instead, his 'fishing for men' seems to have taken him far. One ancient tradition links him with Greece, where both Scythia and Epirus claimed him as their apostle. Another place in Greece, Patras in Achaia, claimed to be the place where Andrew was eventually martyred.

Like Jesus, he was crucified, but the story goes that during the two days it took him to die, he preached earnestly to the people about Jesus. Andrew was not afraid of death on a cross – he had seen it before, and knew one thing for certain: because of Jesus, there was nothing but eternal life ahead of him.

In the West, Andrew's feast-day was universal from the 6th century, and hundreds of churches were named after him in Italy, France and England. But how did he end up as patron saint of Scotland?
Well, according to one ancient legend, his relics were taken from Patras to Scotland in the 8th century, and ended up in Fife, where a church dedicated to him was built and became a centre for evangelisation and later pilgrimage. As Andrew was the only apostle to make it as far as Scotland, he was chosen as patron saint.
But Andrew did not stay in Scotland. After the fall of Constantinople in 1204, it is said that the Crusaders took his relics to Amalfi. From there the despot Thomas Palaeologus sent his head to the pope in Rome in 1461 – where it became one of the most treasured possessions of St Peters – until it was sent to the church in Constantinople by Paul VI.
In art Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross in the most ancient examples. The saltire cross 'X', commonly called St Andrew's Cross, and which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with him from the 10th century.

Concert

Local singing group, Cantanti, are staging a concert on Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm in the main church hall. All proceeds will be donated to the Ayrshire Hospice. Please contact Isabel Bryce on 07895344584 for tickets which cost £10 including refreshments. Isabel will also be available on a Sunday morning at coffee.



November Lunch

Our next Leisurely Lunch will on Thursday 26 November from 12 - 1.30pm. There is a minimum donation £7.50. Proceeds to Bandawe. A warm welcome awaits regular attenders and those attending for the first time. There is a poster in this Newsletter which will give more details.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 5th December from 10.00am until 12.00noon.

In the Large Hall, we will have our tearoom where you can enjoy tea or coffee with home baking for only £4.00 - £1.00 for children. The Octagonal Hall will have various stalls and in the Small Hall there will be children's crafts, games and fun.

We would welcome donations of baking and items for all of our stalls which can be brought to the church hall on Friday 4 December between 6.30pm and 8.00pm or between 9.00am and 10.00am on Saturday before the fair begins.
Lists for baking contributions will be at both church doors and a separate list for helpers at the Fair will be at the vestibule door.

All money raised will be for our continuing work in Malawi.

The Mission Committee

November Lunch



Alloway Church Hall

Thursday 26th November 2026

12.00noon until 1.30pm

Menu

Carrot/Orange & Ginger Soup or Lentil Soup





Plus

Cheese Cake or Plum Crumble





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

Christmas Fair







Alloway & Fisherton Church Halls

Saturday 5th December 2026

10.00am until 12.00noon







Lots of stalls – including:-

Art, Baking, Preserves, Children's Books and Toys, Crafts, Greetings Cards, Plants, Toiletries, Unused Gifts

We will also have crafts, games and face painting for the children and this year there will be some magic tricks with Rev. David assisted by his puppet friend Granny Goggins.

Tea room with home baking - Cost £4.00 per adult - £1.00 for children

Proceeds to our continuing work in Malawi







thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

3rd Alloway Brownies have been finding out about hedgehogs, and the Brownies helped put together a hedgehog house to be left at Nether Auchendrane. All the Brownies signed the wooden structure with their name or a message written in pencil.

Two Brownies bravely made their Brownie Promise in front of their families and the other Brownies, and afterwards they signed our Brownie toadstool. Several older Brownies have been promoted to Sixers and Seconds. We spent some time looking through our Brownie Badge books and ticking off parts we had completed and looking at new badge challenges.

We completed one part of our 'Express Myself' theme badge by building structures using only marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti! The Brownies worked together in their Sixes and needed to think about how to use their building materials and how they would make their structure strong enough to stand up. The adult Leaders had visions of tall strong models of the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids, Big Ben maybe ..... but the Brownies had other ideas! Unfortunately, none of their structures stood up long enough for a photograph, so one group made a long flat caterpillar instead! Everyone had lots of very sticky fun, and there was a tray of fresh marshmallows for everyone on their way home!

Another night we had a Brownies Talent Show – and my goodness, what a lot of wonderful talents we were shown. Magic tricks were performed, 3 Brownies played cello together, another Brownie played

the clarinet, and another two played the flute together. One Brownie sang a solo, and we were shown a dance routine and a ballet display. We also saw collections of Pokemon cards and soft toys, a handmade Sellotape teddy (!), artwork, and a medal from a fun run. It was a wonderful assortment of talents from the Brownies, and everyone received a massive round of applause.

A huge thank you for all the support and encouragement we receive from everyone at Alloway 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



Parish Record



"**Blessed Are Those Who Mourn** "

11.9.26	Mrs Marjory McPherson	Glenalla Crescent
12.9.26	Mrs Margaret Smith	Bathurst Drive
13.9.26	Mrs Fiona Calder	Templeton House
16.9.26	Mr Alex Boyd	Abbots Way
23.9.26	Mrs Anne Murray	Taybank Drive
2.10.26	Mrs Irene Storrie	Templeton House
2.10.26	Mr Bob Leitch	Newark Crescent
10.10.26	Mr Jim Fyfe	Greenan Manor
16.10.26	Mrs Joan Barclay	Irvine
16.10.26	Mrs Dorothy Mackin	Castle Road, Dunure
20.10.26	Mrs Catherine Marr	Templeton House

Deadline for December Newsletter – Tuesday 24 November - 12.00noon

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