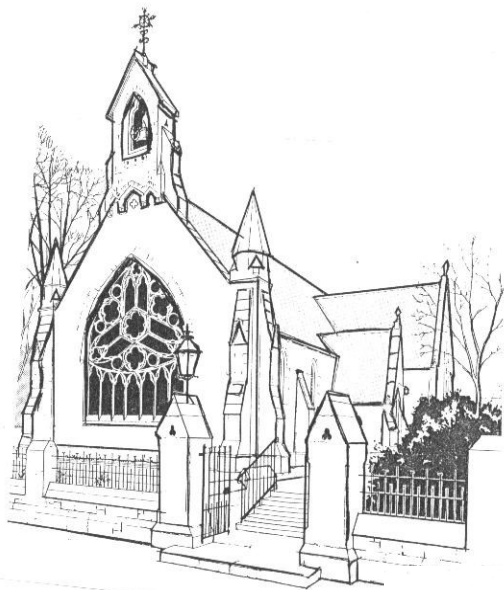




ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



March
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

Last month I quoted from the well-loved Robert Frost poem "The Road Less Travelled "

It is a poem which outlines the need for choices in our life. A searching question for us all might be what (or who) informs the choices we make?

This month the season of Lent begins. In this period of 40 days the church journeys in spirit with Jesus on the difficult and thorny road that leads Him all the way to the cross on Good Friday - and beyond, to the transformation of Easter Day.

It is a time too when we recall Jesus' "wilderness testing"

A time when Jesus reminded his tempter that "man does not live by bread alone ".

In our materialistic age such a reminder is always contemporary.

For us all life is a journey with tough choices to be made.

It is seldom easy!

Sometimes we know daily setbacks and the pain of deeper hurts.

Sometimes we make wrong choices and take wrong turns!

Sometimes we can all encounter the wilderness feeling!

Lent is a time to realign our lives pathway to one of love and service.

I trust you might consider joining us as through this season as we begin the "Discipleship Explored course".

The word "disciple" simply means learner. My experience of faith is that every day is a school day!

My personal prayer is that this season of Lent might help us all to make better choices and walk a little closer to our Master's path.

Every blessing
Neil McNaught



Thanks gratefully sent from Crosshouse Children's Fund which received £404.50 from our Christmas 2024 Appeal.

"This will go a long way in helping the brave young patients and their families we support across Ayrshire's hospitals".

Some notes from Rev. David...

The next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday 29th March, 10.00-11.15am. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Ian Watkins. Ian was a Troop Leader for 15 years in the Armoured Tank Division of the British Army. Ian then joined the Police service where he served for more than 30 years, mostly in counter terrorism. In 'retirement', Ian became a civilian in the Organised Crime Agency and was also called upon by the Foreign Office as a Counter Terrorism Trainer. This is another Men's Breakfast not to be missed!



At the February Messy Church, our theme of 'things we do in church' continued and we focused on 'Reading The Bible'. As you can see below, the children enjoyed a fantastic range of crafts based on the theme. We looked at different versions of the Bible and we sang 'The Best Book To Read Is The Bible'. We finished by joining together for a delicious meal of Bolognese Pasta or Cheesy Pasta. Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 8th March when we will be thinking about the Sacrament of Communion.



We had another great meeting of PULSE on Sunday 23rd of February. We welcomed 41 young people to our halls and in addition to the usual activities of table tennis, pool, air hockey, table football, darts, corn hole, crafts, table games and tuck-shop, we also made pizza! Groups of 8 headed for the kitchen to prepare their individual pizzas. We used tortilla wraps for the base, chose a tomato or BBQ sauce and then added toppings of cheese, chicken, ham, sweetcorn, pineapple, tomato, red pepper, pepperoni, mushroom, and onion - though not all on one pizza. Six minutes later, the pizzas were ready - and quickly eaten. The next meeting of PULSE will be on Sunday 30th March.



Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church Newsletter—March



Another wee reminder that our 'Family Ceilidh' will be held on Saturday 15th March 2025: 7.00-10.00pm. Once again, music will be provided by the fantastic 'Jiggered Ceilidh Band'. There are only a few tickets left (£10 adults/£5 children) - contact Rev. David if you are interested!!

Our Lenten Bible study will commence on Wednesday 12th March 2025. This year, we will be using 'Discipleship Explored'. The study is based on the book of Philippians and is full of human stories from every continent about the reality of being a Christian, and developing as a disciple of Christ, in today's world. Discipleship Explored invites participants on a journey to discover a new way of living, centred on incredible love.



The study will initially run for 5 sessions - 7.00-8.45pm on 12th, 19th & 26th March, and 2nd & 9th of April. Each session will begin with tea/coffee before we come together for a brief time of worship. Either Rev. David or Rev. Neil will then 'set the scene' before we watch a short video. We will then split into small groups to discuss some of the main points covered in the video and consider questions in the course handbook (available on 12th March, or from Rev. David beforehand). There is no charge for the study, and it would be great to have you join us. There will be an option to extend the study by an additional 3 sessions after Easter, and we will explore this option in the sessions during Lent. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Rev. David.



We continue to have great fun at Scripture Union - Wednesday lunchtime at Alloway Primary and Friday lunchtime at Doonfoot Primary. Each week around 40 young people attend Scripture Union, and it is fantastic to see so many of the young people now also attending PULSE. Whilst the focus of Scripture Union is to use the Bible to inspire children and young people to know God, we always aim to do this in a fun and exciting way. Please pray for the impact of Scripture Union in our local schools.

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.

If you would like to support our venture, please click on our team link -

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

Thanks, in anticipation to the local worship teams who will conduct the services on the morning of 27th April.



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 12th 19th 26th March.

(Coffee and Chat 5th March in the Fellowship Lounge)



"God couldn't be everywhere, so he invented mothers" (Jewish Proverb)

Mothering Sunday falls on different dates in different countries annually, unlike Christmas, Valentine's Day and Halloween.

This year, the UK will celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, March 30.

The UK date of this celebration is rooted in the Christian observance of Lent, with Mothering Sunday taking place on the fourth Sunday, exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday.

This observance originated in the Middle Ages when children who had left home to work in domestic service were allowed to return to their family's church, known as the "mother church".

The journey home morphed into a spring occasion for families to reunite, which eventually adopted the custom of children picking flowers on the way home as a gift to their mothers.

The date also became a day to celebrate, as Lent's fasting rules were relaxed.

It earned various names, including Refreshment Sunday, Simnel Sunday — after the traditional Simnel cakes baked for the occasion — and Pudding Pie Sunday.

“To a Forgotten Flower “

Our local poet's name is Rabbie
His verses, they were far from shabby
He wrote about the rose and daisy
And other things that may seem crazy
The mouse the louse and Holy Willie
And subjects that are really silly
Like witches dancing in the mirk
At Alloway's auld haunted Kirk
But there's a flower he didn't mention
And I think it deserves attention
Its little fragile leaves of green
In January can be seen
Around Rozelle they're popping up
And no it's not the buttercup
It is a sign that spring is near
Even when days are cold and drear
This tiny little flower of white
Shines brightly in the morning light
I hope you've guessed which flower I mean
The snowdrop white with tips of green (Anon)



FISHERTON NEWS

Friendship Group - On Friday 31st January the Friendship Group welcomed an audience of 42 people to a very successful Taste of Burns afternoon. Excellent entertainment was provided by some very talented local artists - Rev David Ness on bagpipes, Burns' songs and piano by Stephen Bradley, Karen Henderson played the fiddle, Alison Wilson wore and discussed the dress of a woman of Burns' time, poems recited by Catherine McKinlay and the Immortal Memory given by Elspeth Carter. The audience sang the Star O' Rabbie Burns and toasted him with our 'other national drink' before enjoying tasty Scottish treats.

On Monday 17 February 21 people attended a very interesting visit to **MYB Textiles Lace Mill in Newmilns**, the last remaining lace mill in Ayrshire, where their world renowned Madras and Nottingham lace is produced. The group met at Alloway Church Halls' car park and car shared to Newmilns. The visit began with a talk in the factory shop informing the group of the history of the firm, which was established in 1900, the manufacturing of the lace and viewing of the type of items produced nowadays. There followed a fascinating tour of the factory where the looms were in production then ended with a visit to the factory shop where items could be purchased. This was followed by an enjoyable lunch at the nearby Humble Table Café.

The next meeting of the Friendship Group will be on Friday 14 March at 2.00pm in Fisherton Church. It is entitled The Life of a Marathon Fundraiser and will be a talk by Ronnie Steel on his Fundraising and Travels.

Book Club - This meeting usually takes place on the first Monday of each month from 2.00 to 3.30pm in the vestry of Fisherton Church or in one of the member's houses. Come along and enjoy the chat followed by refreshments.

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.



New Year Concert

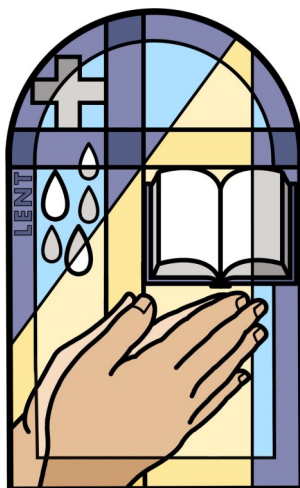
The Mission Committee would like to express their thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our New-Year concert. We raised £1,254 which has been divided equally between Crossreach and Whitleys Retreat. We are already looking forward to next year's concert.



Leisurely Lunch

Our Daffodil Lunch will take place on Thursday 27th March from 12.00noon until 1.30pm. The menu can be found on the poster within this newsletter.

We look forward to your continued support for our work in Malawi where we wish to contribute towards the repair of the Thimpula Church roof in Bandawe.



Daffodil Lunch

Alloway Church Hall

Thursday 27th March

12.00noon until 1.30pm



Quiche and salad

or

Curried Parsnip soup



Trifle

or

Lemon Posset



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

Flower Fellowship

We are a small team who coordinate the flower fellowship members in order to provide flowers for the church each Sunday.

Members supply flowers on a weekly basis and are requested if able to deliver them following the Sunday service. (The flower team can deliver where necessary).

These flowers are delivered to members of the congregation who are celebrating something special, have been unwell or who are perhaps having a difficult time. It is a real privilege to share a few minutes with the recipient and to share in their delight as they receive the gift of beautiful flowers. People really appreciate that they are being thought of especially at a difficult time.

We are also responsible for providing around 100 Harvest posies each year and for decorating the church for Advent. (We promise to replace the flashing lights next year)!

We are extremely fortunate to have many willing members of the congregation who band together to carry out this work which is done in a cheery, supportive and encouraging fashion. However new helpers are always welcome.

Unfortunately, this year we have a number of vacant weeks in our weekly rota to try to cover and are thus appealing for some new members.

This can be done in several ways.

You could provide an arrangement done by yourself or by your favourite florist.

Or simply provide a vase of flowers or even just give a donation to the flower fellowship team who would then arrange to have flowers in the church.

To help please contact any of the following:-

Oonagh Allison 07813692772

Isobel Allison 07931 702848 or 01292 864292

Moira Douglas. 01292 442951

Anne Fawbert. 07715 883541 or 01292 441373

MALAWI

Bandawe Girls Secondary School have achieved a 93.5% pass rate in examinations, an increase from 87% in 2023.

Over 30 Girls are expected to be selected for university.

This is a testament to the hard work of the staff & pupils in challenging circumstances.

The cost of food and fuel have soared. The price of Maize has increased by approx. 75%. rice and bean costs too. Both the primary and secondary schools were considering closing before end of term. However, Alloway & Fisherton Mission Committee agreed to send £3000 (collected through Lunches & Christmas Fete) to alleviate the shortfall.

Headmaster's Response "I am speechless to your kind and unconditional love you always express to us in times of need. The support will surely help us so much. I was greatly worried that I will end up closing school earlier. I am grateful. May God continue to bless you and the entire Christian Family"

Alloway & Fisherton Church has also been sponsoring some girls for many years due to the generosity of some members. This year we are sponsoring 25 girls by paying their School Fees. Otherwise, they would have left school as their parents can no longer afford the fees.

School Fees are £450 per year/girl. If anyone would like to donate any amount towards this cost either as a one off or on a monthly basis, please contact myself through the Church Office. All donations would be gratefully received by the school.

Thank you

Lorraine McEwan

Maize Delivery



Pupils at Bandawe Girls Secondary School





thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

Alloway District Girlguiding had lots of fun at their Coffee Morning recently, in support of district funds for the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. This was the first fundraiser since Covid. Everyone enjoyed cups of tea and coffee and delicious home baking served by the very efficient Guides and Rangers, and there were many stalls run by the Units as well as some external stalls including flowers and plants, nostalgia decorations, artworks and handbags, and jewellery. Brownies and Rainbows helped run a home baking stall and a children's toys and book stall, the Guides had made candles, there was face painting, bead threading, colouring, crafts and fun activities on offer to keep everyone happy.



3rd Alloway Brownies had lots of Brownie helpers to run their Teddy Bear and Plants stall. The previous week the Brownies had carefully planted up daffodil bulbs and baby spider plants and decorated the pots. They also went around the visitors asking them if they would like to guess Teddy's birthday. He was a rather special teddy from the FAO Schwarz Toy Store in America. The teddy store features in the piano scene in the film 'Big' (you can see the piano scene clip on YouTube). The teddy was finally won by the Gran of one of our Brownies - lucky Gran! The correct birthday date was 29th March.

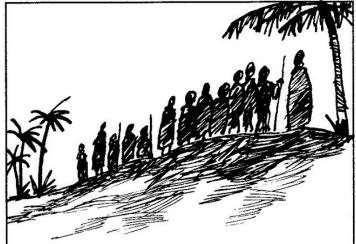
Everyone enjoyed themselves at the Coffee Morning, and went home with lots of special goodies, full tummies and smiling faces, and much needed funds raised for the District.

A huge thank you 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@girlguidingayshiresouth.org.uk

The Doctor and the Patient



JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS



BUT SOME WERE EXTRA SPECIAL. THESE WERE HIS 'DISCIPLES'.

JESUS ONCE ASKED A TAX-COLLECTOR CALLED 'MATTHEW' TO BE ONE OF HIS TEAM



YES!

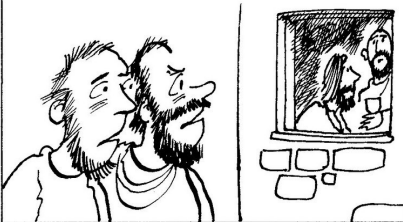


MATTHEW AGREED TO FOLLOW JESUS

JESUS WENT TO HAVE A MEAL AT MATTHEW'S HOUSE

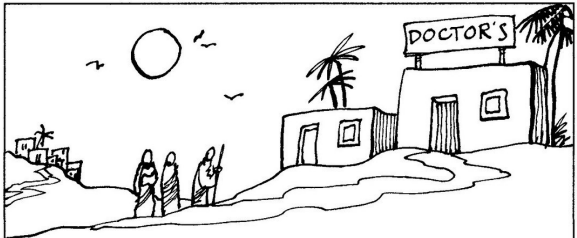


BUT MANY PEOPLE COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS. THEY THOUGHT MATTHEW WAS A BAD MAN - AND JESUS SHOULD IGNORE HIM.



JESUS' REPLY WAS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD.

HE EXPLAINED THAT MATTHEW NEEDED HELP, NOT CRITICISM,



"IT'S NOT THE WELL THAT NEED A DOCTOR - BUT THE SICK!"
see Luke 5:27-32

Parish Record

Baptism

16th Feb Rowan Joy Kennedy daughter of Ewan and Emma



"Blessed are they who die in the Lord"

31.1.25	Mr Roy Storie	Station Road, Fisherton
1.2.25	Mr Robert Marlow	Redford Nursing Home
3.2.25	Mrs Dorothy Crichton	Coranbrae Place
21.2.25	Mrs Rita Hill	Aucheninch Cottages, Dunure

Deadline for April Newsletter—Tuesday 25 March—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