



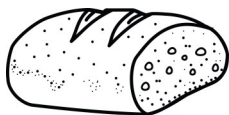
# ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



October  
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.



## **Being a Bread Provider!**

Dear Friends

For generations the physical provision of daily bread has been important. Wandering through the desert our Jewish ancestors were fed by manna from heaven!

In the Jewish calendar there are several Harvest festivals. In many countries in the West, we only have one. In the UK one of our celebrations dates back to an earlier festival, which is now generally forgotten, called Lammas or Loaf Mass.

Lammas Day is primarily an English feast in origin, held each year on 1st August. It is a thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest.

Traditionally, a newly baked loaf from the wheat harvest was presented before God within the mass of that day.

On our harvest table in church at our Harvest Thanksgiving service on Oct 5th we will place a loaf of bread.

This loaf represents God's providence and the daily supply of our food.

Harvest is a great time to take stock of the those who not just physically but spiritually have given us "bread for the journey."

When younger I remember visiting my next-door neighbour.

Nana was an old lady who occasionally would give me "a piece in jam." Back then it was always a welcome treat! Would such a treat be quite so welcomed by young people today??

In my Christian pilgrimage I daily find people who provide

"spiritual bread for the journey. "

By that I mean those who offer Christian encouragement, kindness and inspiration on my way. People who make it easier for you to believe in God and his goodness!

Physical bread is important. In a world where many go hungry, we must never take it for granted. Nor do we forget the hard and sacrificial work of those who labour on the land to ensure we are fed.

May we all play our part in being "spiritual bread providers for others."

In a world which can seem like a wilderness, many hunger after faith hope and love.

Praise God indeed for the Harvest!

Yours in Him

Neil McNaught



## **THANK YOU**


In recent months at the Sunday Fellowship, we all enjoy a very tasty piece of fruit loaf with our hot drink. This fruit loaf is supplied by a very kind lady called Caroline Kerr. Each week Caroline donates the ingredients and bakes the fruit loaves for us. This is a very thoughtful and generous contribution Caroline makes to the Church Family each and every week. Thank you, Caroline.

Sheena Kemp

## Some notes from Rev. David...

The first meeting of the 'Men's Breakfast' for the new session took place on Saturday 27th September. Following a breakfast of hot filled rolls, tea and coffee, we heard from Chris Donaldson who is an Ambassador for Cash for Kids (Ayrshire). Chris explained that Cash for Kids seeks to provide practical and financial assistance to help children in need. Chris emphasised that the key issue at the moment is food poverty. Cash for Kids help tackle this issue through the provision of breakfast clubs and a range of activities during the school holidays where children are provided with a healthy meal. Twenty-five gents enjoyed their breakfast, and hearing about the work of Cash for Kids (Ayrshire). Donations amounting to £130 were given to Chris to pass on to the charity. The next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday 29th November.



 **FACING THE CANON** A reminder that our Autum Bible Study will meet on Tuesday evenings (19.00-20.45) for five weeks commencing on Tuesday 7th October 2025. The studies will focus on 'Facing The Canon' - a series of programmes where Canon J. John interviews guests, from theologians to politicians, activists and entrepreneurs to eccentrics. All share one common connection - the transforming presence of Christ in their lives. We will watch one episode each week and then discuss some of key points of the fascinating stories. We will be inspired and challenged by the journeys these individuals have travelled, in their personal lives, careers, and walk with God.

In the September Newsletter, I outlined our intention to introduce a group where youngsters in the age range P7-S4 can meet on a Sunday Morning. The plan is that 'Youth Church' will meet on a Sunday morning at 10.30 - firstly meeting in Church for the first part of the service, then heading for the Fellowship Lounge to enjoy Hot Chocolate (the works!!), discuss the theme for the day and enjoy crafts, games, puzzles and competitions. Whilst this group will be coordinated by my wife Karlyn, we require a rota of volunteers to assist two Sundays every two months. Unfortunately, only a few volunteers have come forward. If you feel that you can help out with this venture, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. We can then assess whether or not we can start this group - now probably in the New Year.





PULSE met for the first time this session on Sunday 28th September. It was great to welcome 36 youngsters to our halls where they enjoyed a range of games, crafts, tuck shop and a team general knowledge quiz - I am always amazed at how the youngsters cope with even the most challenging questions. The next meeting of PULSE is on Sunday 26th October, 19.00-20.30.

For many years, our congregation has, through various projects, supported Bandawe Primary School in Malawi. We have helped with building projects (including the installation of toilets), the provision of water, and assisting with the purchase of food supplies. Bandawe Primary School provides education for more than 800 pupils. We have recently been contacted by the Leadership Team at Bandawe Primary School who are facing a crisis regarding the feeding of pupils - and this may often be the only 'decent' meal that they get. With the rate of inflation in Malawi at almost 30%, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the school to purchase maize, and their stocks are depleting. Earlier in the year, on behalf of the congregation, we sent some funds to Bandawe for the purchase of maize. To provide further assistance, and with the agreement of their Head Teachers, we have invited the families of children at Alloway, Doonfoot and Fisherton Primary Schools to be involved in purchasing maize for the children of Bandawe Primary School. The current cost of 1kg of maize in Malawi is approximately 2000 kwacha which equates to almost £1. We have invited families to donate £1 to enable the purchase of 1kg of maize. I look forward to providing further news of this initiative.

Bandawe Primary School



MALAWI

## **Stepping Stones**

A little reminder of the dates of the next programme of Stepping Stones, our bereavement support group. As mentioned in the August Newsletter, the Autumn programme will meet from 2.00-3.30pm on the following dates: Fridays 7th November; 14th November; 21st November; 28th November and 5th December 2025. If you know someone who would benefit from bereavement support, please encourage them to come along - you can accompany them! Previous participants have found the sessions extremely beneficial.

Richest blessings, David.



## **31st October - All Hallow's Eve**

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun.

Yet there was a very dark side to all this:

Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief.

So, the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions.

1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'.

The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve',

The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'. For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong.

During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween.

Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches rode about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future using nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us.



## **18th October St Luke's Day**

Luke was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a 'physician' - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew.

In modern terms, he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, 'only Luke is with me'.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church.

Mark's Gospel may have more drama, Matthew's more prophetic background and John's a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real.

This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly storyteller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of storytelling: subtle repetitions ('your son, this brother of yours'), believable characters, drama and profound emotion.

There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling's alleged reformation, the 'prodigal' himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father's mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son's return.

## ***Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church Newsletter—October***

There are more women in Luke's Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners' and tax-collectors, more 'outsiders' who are shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ.

This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion.

Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us.

Thank you, Dr Luke!

David Winter

P. S.

St. Luke is sometimes represented by an ox or calf, a sacrificial animal in ancient Judaism.

One reason for this representation is that St. Luke's Gospel emphasises the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.



Many thanks to those who supported Christian Aid Sundae on 7th Sept! £300 was raised and donated to Christian Aid. Our yew tree commemorating 80 years of Christian Aid service was planted by our jolly gardeners.

## **Family Beetle Drive**

The Social Committee are holding a family beetle drive on Saturday 25th October at 6.45pm to include a light supper.

Cost is £3.00 for adults and children are free.



## **Harvest Prayer**

Let us pray

For the work of farmers and food producers, fishermen and all those who bring food to our tables; for those who work in all weathers to pick the crops, tend animals and manage our agricultural countryside

For those farmers struggling to make a living and for those whose work on the land and at sea is hard, dangerous or unrewarding; for those who suffer mental ill-health as a result of the pressures of farming or life at sea

For those for whom food is an expensive luxury; those living on a dollar a day or reliant on food aid to sustain them and their families; for those unsure where their next meal will come from; for all those for whom hunger is the reality of life

For our environment and wisdom to be able to balance the need for food with the impact of our food demands; that we may all be good stewards of God's creation

For ourselves that we may be wise in the decisions we make about food and its impact on our world; that we may be able to help to feed the hungry; that we may always see our food as a gift from God brought to us by the hard work of so many others



## **Alloway and Fisherton Church Harvest Appeal 2025**

The Amazon Hope Medical Programme plays a supporting role in its provision of primary health and dental care to rural and isolated communities in Peru.

Since 2001, our in-country partners have worked closely with the Peruvian Ministry of Health to provide a regular primary medical service to over 160 communities along the Amazon and its tributaries.

At the end of 2022, the Amazon Hope Medical Programme (also known as PMEAP) celebrated the milestone of reaching 2,000,000 free consultations with vulnerable community members in this part of the world!

Vine Trust's Amazon Hope Medical Expeditions also enable health care professionals and student volunteers to work under the guidance of our in-country team engage with the work that they are doing to support vulnerable and rural communities in the Peruvian Amazon.

The ship leaves from the city of Iquitos in the north-east of the country and the in-country team delivers sustainable itinerant health care to local communities, leading consultations and workshops to promote good health practices whilst also providing primary care services in these places.

Appeal Envelopes can be returned to church by Sunday 26th Oct 2025.



## **Stewardship Review 2025**

Many thanks to all those who responded so positively to our Stewardship program. Such an exercise had not been conducted in the congregation for many years. Given the National Church of Scotland deficit of £8 million, it is no surprise that more is asked of the local congregations.

Promotional Leaflets can still be uplifted in the church and deposited in the Stewardship Box which will remain in the church until the end of October. If you would like materials digitally sent to you, please be in touch with the secretary! {[secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com)}

As a footnote did you know in the Temple in Jesus day there were two different kinds of boxes?

There were boxes of obligation to which every eligible Israelite was expected to contribute.

However, there were "Freewill boxes "which were strictly for the voluntary gifts and donations given out of devotion gratitude and generosity. Thus, the system acknowledged duty and devotion.

Freewill reflected the hearts overflow - the kind of giving Jesus highlighted when he praised the widow who gave so generously (Mk 12 41-44)

We too are very grateful to all who support the work of the church.



## **Alloway and Fisherton Golfing Champions 2025**

Battling through monsoon weather at Seafield on Sept 8th, 2025, it soon became clear who Alloway and Fisherton's worthy golfing champions were! Congratulations go to Mrs Kate McKinnon and Mr Robbie Raeside. Both carded excellent scores! Both should have been presented with a Jeroboam of champagne and a holiday for two to Florida. Unfortunately, this year's sponsors pulled out!

The champion oldest swingers in town were joined by twenty-two other hopefuls back at the nineteenth hole at Seafield. A good time was had by all!

Already we look forward in anticipation to Kate and Robbie's organisation of the Alloway and Seafield 2026 Open.



## **Italian Lunch**

Our next Leisurely Lunch will take place on Thursday 30th October from 12.00noon until 1.30pm.

It will have an Italian theme and the delicious menu can be seen on the poster within this newsletter.

We look forward to welcoming our existing "leisurely lunchers" and also those attending for the first time.

We have had to increase the price to £7.50 because of increased food prices but since we are sending our proceeds to buy maize to feed the children in the Bandawe primary school I hope you will feel that your money is being well spent.

# Italian Lunch

Alloway Church Hall

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025

12.00noon until 1.30pm

## Menu

Chicken Arrabbiata Pasta

or

Minestrone Soup



Plus

Tiramisu

or

Neapolitan Ice Cream and Pears



**Cost £7.50 per person includes tea/coffee and biscuits.**

## ALLOWAY'S ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

It is proposed to once again create a temporary Garden of Remembrance on the patch of grass behind the wayside pulpit, between the Church and the benches dedicated to Mr Howie and Mr Lamont.



Although traditionally a time to reflect upon and remember military personnel we would like to open this up to all who feel they would like to record the name of someone dear to them. Pens will be available to add your own message to the crosses.

Donations would be welcome to cover costs but are not necessary.

Thank you.



## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

Please note there is a selection of wrapped shoeboxes available for uplift from the Fellowship Lounge for anyone who would like to take one away to fill for this year's Blythwood Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Information leaflets are enclosed in the shoeboxes for ideas of suitable items to include.

Please return your filled shoebox to the Fellowship Lounge by Sunday 26th October.

Many thanks for your support once again.

Lynda Mary



## **CHURCH SUMMER OPENING**

Another successful summer. This was the 40th year opening our doors and we had over 1000 visitors from all over the world. We also collected £750 for The Salvation Army.

Thanks to the 13 Supervisors, 62 volunteers and the Jolly Gardeners who all made it possible.

After 10 years as Coordinator I am very pleased to be handing over to Martin Hinman next year. I hope he will receive the same support that I have had.

René Andrews

## **PRAISE EVENING**

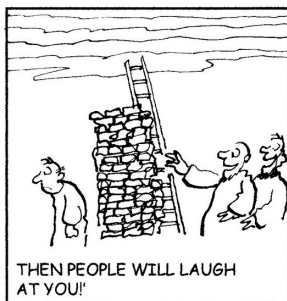
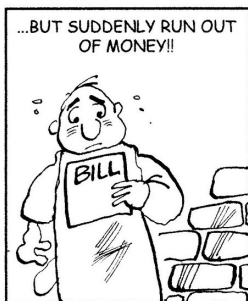
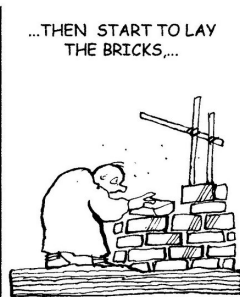
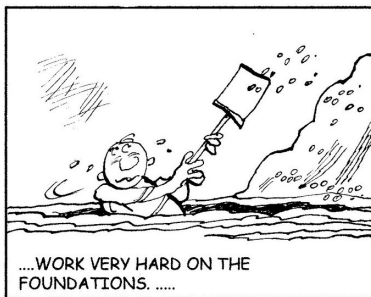
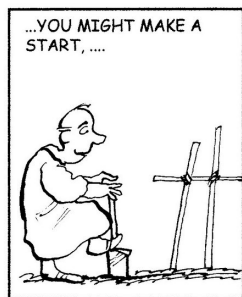
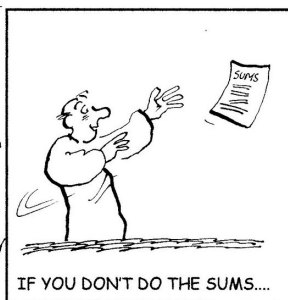
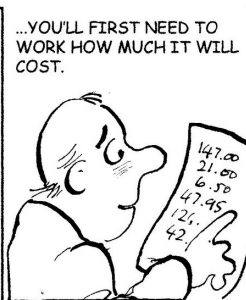
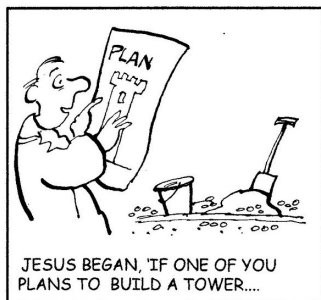
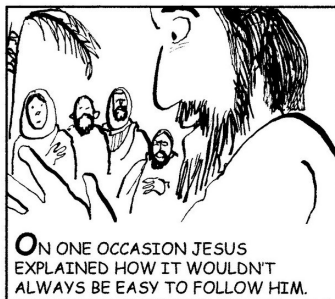
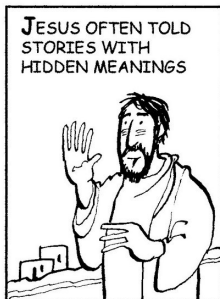
Following the success of the Praise Evening in August, the Worship and Development Committee is planning another evening on Sunday 2nd November at 7pm. This will be a short service with hymns old and new followed by the necessary cup of tea and chat. Please come along and join us. Everyone welcome.

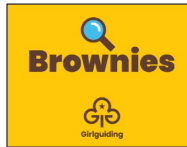
## **STAINED GLASS WINDOWS**

I have found a full box of Stained-Glass Windows books. Many of you will already have a copy but if any new members would like one, please speak to me.

René Andrews







**[thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com](mailto:thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com)**

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

The Brownies have been busy with lots of fun and games which count towards their new badge which is called 'Take Action'. We had a Welcome Back night and played a memory game of what they did in the holidays, and they had to remember what everyone else did too! And we played a Getting To Know You quiz game.

The following week we talked about spreading kindness, and how if you are kind, others will copy you. We played Mirror Me which counted towards our badge work and included acting out how to show you are NOT listening and interested when someone is talking to you - and then how to show you ARE listening! The Brownies worked in pairs and acted out things like good eye contact, nodding their head in agreement, body language, and gasping or saying 'wow!' when their partner said something impressive. We then played a copying game of Simon Says, and a relay game where a Brownie had to pass a message along the team, the Brownie at the end of the line opened and read the message and everyone had to copy the action.

Continuing with our badge theme, we found out about characters in well known stories and listened to Little Owl Lara reading a fun poem about 'Little Red'. Every time Little Owl said the word 'red' or anything that rhymed with 'red' (such as 'bed' 'head' bread' said' etc), the Brownies had to quickly jump up, turn around and sit back down. Then we made cardboard puppet theatres and paper puppets on sticks to make up a story of their own. They were asked to go home and put on a puppet show for their families, and to maybe make a programme and tickets, arrange some chairs for their audience, put seat numbers on the seats and on the tickets, have refreshments for the interval, and ask someone to be the 'lighting technician' using a torch to light their stage!

## ***Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church Newsletter—October***

As well as the above, we usually play a game or two which the Brownies can choose, such as Duck Duck Goose, Copycat, Wink Detective, Golden River, Timebomb or Zap etc We are looking forward to Promise Night for our new Brownies and announcing our new Sixer groups.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who help at Girlguiding, and also for the support from everyone at Alloway Church. If you or anyone you know are interested in volunteering with Girlguiding, please get in touch [dcalloway@girlguidingayrshiresouth.org.uk](mailto:dcalloway@girlguidingayrshiresouth.org.uk)



## **Lochranza Camp 2025**



A fantastic, combined Junior & Company Section Adventure Camp was held 14-18 August.

The weather was glorious adding to the great time had by all boys and staff.

Due to many juniors attending, baseball caps were worn by all as well as T-shirts.

Our convoy set off at 9.15am for Troon (new!) Ferry to Brodick for 12.15pm.

Arrived at Lochranza just after 12.30pm - it took an hour to unload kit and catering etc.

By 2pm the first swim in the Loch was on.

Various sports, even a water gun fight - which never actually left the carpark.

Evening was 2 nights of highly competitive Board Games (Risk for beginners, Ayr Monopoly UNO, Jenga, Dominoes, Chess, Cluedo and Risk for the Experts).

Recreational Activities—Live Wire, Horseshoe, Target BB gel, Blind Line, Reef Knot & Archery kept them busy for 7 hours solid - then into the Loch to cool off.

The annual Gorge Walk never fails to impress; one lady even did the 10foot drop into a pool despite admitting being scared of heights beforehand.

The six boys' teams were all competing best organised and best sports. The Wooden Spoon award for the Worst Kit - was a shocker (he even asked for a recount after I'd double checked).

The 3 senior NCOs acted as junior staff, looking after Sports, Tuck and Assistant Quartermasters (Referred to as: - Dozy, Friar & Trolleyboy - their contribution was greatly appreciated.

**Session 2025-26**

All three sections enrolled on Friday 29th August

Normal times from 5 September

Anchors 6.00pm - 7.15pm

Juniors 6.45pm - 8.15pm

Company 7.30pm - 10pm

**Welcome to Our New Staff**

Five of our new staff have all accepted an Officer role in the Company. Acting Lieutenant - Fergus Shaw, Warrant Officers Junior Section Craig Buntain, Alistair Kay and Mairi Stafford. Anchor boy Warrant Officer Laura Cameron.

All 5 will commence training in November, completing in March 2026.





## **Parish Record**



### **New Members**

Mr Alistair Hunter

Lochfergus Crescent, Coylton



### **Baptism**

**"Of such is the kingdom of God "**

21st September - Magnus Auld Barclay. Son of Kirsten and Mark,  
Maybole

Deadline for November Newsletter—Tuesday 21 October —12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

[secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com)

Please visit our website [www.allowaychurch.org](http://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