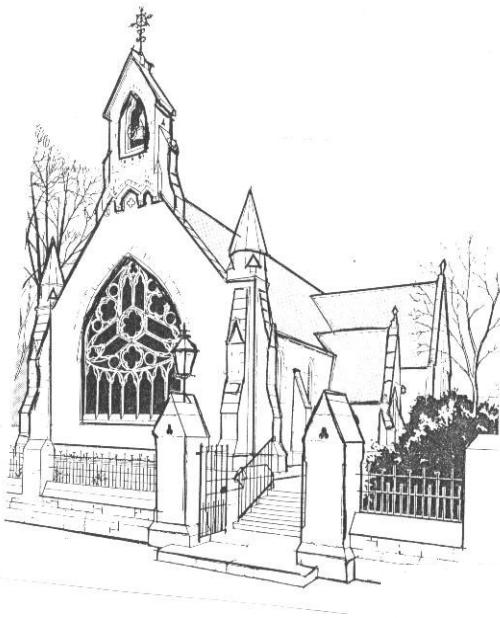




ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



2026

January
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

A happy New Year!

Doubtless by now you are recovered and the Christmas decorations boxed and back up the loft. In the church the season moves to Epiphany.

In January we have the arrival of the Magi from the East following a star! Such a mysterious story but with inspiring and challenging themes for our time:

'They bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.' (Matthew 2:11).

The gift of gold reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all.

Amidst the busyness of life, it's easy to forget our call is to further His kingdom here on earth.

The gift of frankincense reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh.

Thus, for many theologians the gift of incense symbolises the prayers of God's people.

As we face uncertainties and rough pathways in 2026 let us not forget to pray. It is the oxygen of our faith!

The gift of myrrh reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all.

At a time when it is easy to be despondent, we remind ourselves we are loved with a love stronger than death.

Finally, we know the wisemen were not unchanged by their encounter with Jesus. Their return journey home was by a different route - having no more to do with King Herod!

So too in 2026, our lives' journeys cannot continue unchanged once we have been in the presence of our Master.

He calls us to new paths of service and to work for his justice and peace in the world.

May God guide and guard us all.

May we find grace and courage to follow His star in 2026.

Every blessing

Rev Neil McNaught



Some notes from Rev. David...

The next meeting of the Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday 31st January 2026, 10.00-11.15am. At our first meeting of 2026, we will hear from Mr. Jon Herd who will speak on "Ailsa Craig, Fact and Folklore". We will begin as usual with a selection of hot filled rolls and then we will hear from Jon. A warm invitation is extended to all men.



Just a very brief reminder that the next meeting of PULSE will be on Sunday 25th of January 2026. We look forward to welcoming old and new members who are in P7-S4. As advertised previously, the plan is to have a 'Burn's Themed Quiz'.

The next meeting of Messy Church meeting will be on Saturday 10th of January 2026, 4-6pm. We will continue our theme for this year - 'Important Numbers In The Bible' when we will focus on the Number 3.



December is always a busy time working with our primary schools. In the first half of the month, we welcomed P1-P3 of Alloway Primary School for their nativity rehearsals - this year the title was 'Don't Be Afraid'. The children did amazingly well with three full performances - one afternoon performance to the whole school (plus supporters) and then two evening performances to a packed church both nights. We then welcomed the Early Years Centre from Alloway Primary for a 'Stay and Play' on the morning of Wednesday 17th December. Unfortunately, this was also the date and time of the Nativity at Fisherton Primary School, so I was unable to attend (the Stay and Play was booked first!). On Thursday 18th December, we welcomed Doonfoot Primary School for their Church Christmas Service - I have never seen the church so busy - there wasn't even standing room available! On Friday 19th December, we welcomed Alloway Primary School for their Church Christmas Service. Both services were fantastic and it is amazing to see the church full of children. I would like to thank the Technical Team for their amazing support that made all of these events possible.

Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church Newsletter—January

What a 'blast' we had at the Christingle Service on Sunday 21st December 2025. It was fantastic to welcome around 150 children, mums and dads, grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles, and friends! It was a true celebration of Christmas with a relaxed, fun-filled atmosphere. In addition to singing some favourite Christmas songs including Little Donkey, It Was On A Starry Night, Away In A Manger and Come And Join The Celebration, we also sang the Christingle Song 'Hope of Heaven'. The children (and quite a few grown-ups!) made a light-up Christmas tree decoration in the shape of a 'star'; and we reflected on the wise men following the star to find Jesus - and thought about who we follow in our lives. And of course, we made 'Christingles' - the orange representing the Earth, a red ribbon around the orange representing the blood of Jesus shed for the whole world, four cocktail sticks representing north/south/east/west and also summer/autumn/winter/spring. Sweets fixed on the cocktail sticks represented God's gifts to us and the fruit of the Spirit. And finally, a glow-stick (instead of a candle!) represented Jesus as the light of the world. It certainly seemed as though everyone had a great time and almost £200 was collected as an offering and will be donated to the Children's Society. I better start planning for Christmas 2026!



Richest blessings, David.





25th January – the Conversion of St Paul

January is a month of the beginning of great things in the church calendar!

As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith

Many books have been written on Paul.

Briefly, he was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee.

A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen.

Then, on his way to Damascus, Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed.

Saul changed overnight. He was given a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ.

He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote epistles to the young churches that he founded - and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: Paul was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred.

Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in 64AD and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands.

In his letters he leaves us much wisdom.

Perhaps one of my favourite exhortations Paul gives is to his beloved church in Philippi.

Long before the power of positive thinking was thought of, Paul was doing it.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Good advice indeed for what lies in the year ahead.

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 fellowship!)

Wednesday Worship - Jan 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, Feb 4th

In December Wednesday Worship managed to donate the following from contributions gathered over the year:

£600 to Church Funds

£600 to Student Funds Bandawe (where fees have substantially gone up)

£300 to Blytheswood Trust

£300 to Crosshouse Children's Fund



ALLOWAY TODDLER NEWS

Another successful Toddler Term came to a close on Friday 19 Dec with a visit from Father Christmas. We were very lucky as he managed to take time out of his busy schedule to visit us on both the Tuesday and Friday sessions much to the excitement of everyone, young and old.

It had previously been decided that all the takings from December were to be divided equally between the Night Before Christmas campaign and Cash for Kids - Mission Christmas. Our grand total for the month was a fantastic £488.70 meaning £244.35 will be winging its way to each charity. Thank you to all who contributed.

Thanks too to all who have worked so hard giving up their time to make these sessions so enjoyable.

The new session starts on the 06 Jan 26. See you there!



Christmas Fair

The Mission Committee wish to thank all those who supported this year's Christmas Fair on Saturday 6th December. It was very well attended and was a very enjoyable day as well as enabling us to send over £3,000 to Malawi for our work in the school in Bandawe. The sum was made up as follows

Christmas Fair.	£2,798.55
Extra donations Sunday.	£42.00
Sunday Coffee.	£130.00
Total.	£2,970.55

A very generous member of the Men's golf group gave £30 which takes our total to £3,000.55.

Save the Children

Donations for Save the Children Christmas Jumper Sunday amounted to £350.



THANK
YOU

New Year Concert

Here is a date for your new diary - our annual new year concert will be held on Friday 6th February 2026.

As last year, our performers will be the Dalrymple Ukulele Orchestra and The Last Resort. The cost remains at £7.50 per person and includes a sandwiches and home baking supper.

Tickets will be on sale from Sunday 4th January and the proceeds this year will be divided between the Ayrshire Hospice and The Church of Scotland's Crossreach.

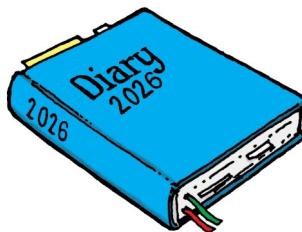
The tickets normally sell very quickly so if you are keen to attend don't delay your purchase.



INNER WHEEL CLUB OF AYR COFFEE MORNING

The Inner Wheel Club of Ayr will be holding its annual coffee morning in the Church Halls on Saturday 7th February 2026 from 10 am to 12 noon.

Monies raised this year will be split between South Ayrshire Parkinson's Support Group and the International Charity - WaterAid. Tickets priced £4 are available from club members or at the door on the morning of the event.



New Year Concert

Alloway Church Hall



Friday 6th February 2026
7.30 pm

Music provided by

“Dalrymple Ukulele Orchestra”- and “The Last Resort”

Supper - sausage rolls, sandwiches and home baking
- included in Ticket price - £7.50

Proceeds to “The Ayrshire Hospice” and
“Crossreach” – (Social care branch of the Church of Scotland)

Festive Greetings from the Jolly Gardeners

Hello friends

Another year has just ended, and oh what a busy one it has been. The team have worked extremely hard in some of the harshest conditions. For most of the year, we seem to have been collecting and blowing leaves. Not sure what happened to the seasons but leaf blowing began at the end of July!!

This year's work programme consisted of tree pruning, both church and car park. This is quite a time-consuming exercise, so all hands on deck. Shrubs and bushes were also given a haircut. Usual chores of grass cutting, weeding, dead heading and planting.

We were extremely fortunate to receive a lovely donation from Mrs Christine Bryson. Two Silver Birch trees accompanied with 4 shrubs have been planted in the driveway against the wall entering from the main road. Also donated were 2 wooden benches by Mrs Ann Lamont, these are now positioned in the Manse garden.

During summer, we were approached by Alloway Community Council and asked to undertake looking after the roundels outside our church, situated between the church and the Brig O' Doon Hotel. On your behalf, we decided to accept this request. So far, so good. Everyone is impressed by our arrangements.

The team participated again at the Christmas Fair with a marvellous display of household plants. The main sponsor being Dobbies of Ayr. Huge thanks to all who donated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team for their hard efforts. It makes my task so much easier knowing I can depend on their determination to produce quality results.

Finally, the marvellous comments continuing to flood in from the many visitors from all over the world, makes our job so worthwhile.

Wishing you all a great 2026.

The Jolly Gaffer



Alloway Railway Tunnel (ART)

Have you visited the mural in the tunnel recently and viewed the latest additions like the Waverley paddle steamer, the Ayrshire Coastal path and the many creatures appearing in the shadows on the ceiling?

There's an opportunity for a short, guided walk of the mural on the 25th of January, with entertainment provided by the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra and a chance to meet the artist! Book via the website <https://www.allowaytunnel.org.uk>

This tunnel, which was once a scary place to visit is now a wonderful sight to behold and is set to be one of the largest murals in Scotland and we are so lucky it's on our own doorstep.

ART hasn't just happened; it is all due to the hard work of the Trustees and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to obtain funding grants and engage with a wide variety of community groups to make the whole project viable.

Visit the website to read more about the artist Chris Rutherford and the many stories of the tunnel through blogs, and short films or even better go down and see it for yourself scanning the QR codes as you visit to listen to the stories.

The next section will see the final scene of Tam O' Shanter completed and by summer next year the last train to Butlins will be emerging out of the tunnel.

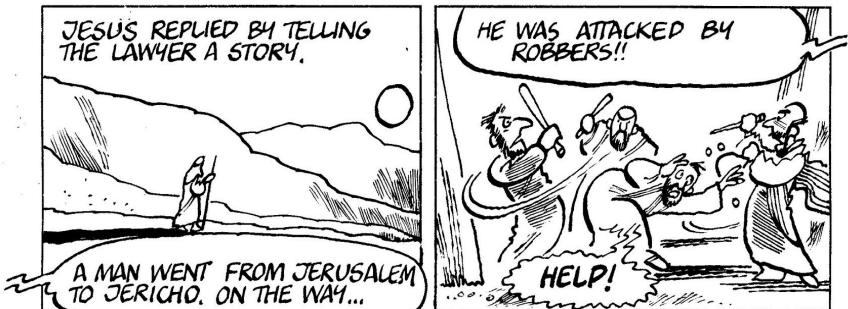
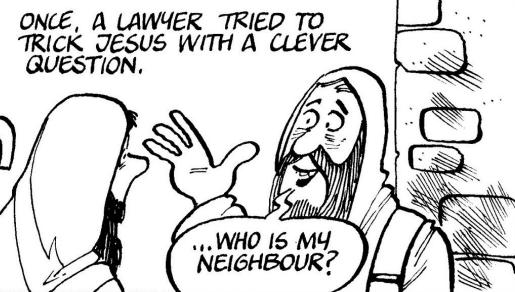
However, once the paint brushes are packed away the project is not finished.

This is where the trustees need more support from the wider community to establish an ART friends' group. They hope this will come from people who live nearby, walk regularly through the tunnel and are willing to give a few hours occasionally for ongoing tasks to keep the mural looking its best.

This could be sweeping, checking for damage or vandalism or litter picking within the tunnel. Outside the entrance to the tunnel some landscaping work and planting has been undertaken by local horticultural students and there is scope for green fingered individuals to enjoy developing this area further.

Anyone interested in setting up or joining this group should contact the ART board at info@allowaytunnel.org.uk

The Good Samaritan





thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

3rd Alloway Brownies had fun in the run up to the end of term. The Brownies designed, made and coloured in flags, showing what they like about Brownies.



Another week we had an Awards Night where the Brownies' families were invited to come and watch. Some of the Brownies were awarded prizes and certificates for their Stamp Competition entries that they had put together earlier in the year. We were very proud to have 6 winners across the different age categories, and they received very generous Amazon gift vouchers and books from Stamp Active (a voluntary organisation promoting stamp collecting for young people in the UK), and also from the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS). Everyone who entered received certificates and a bag of colourful stamps. Several Brownies also received their Brownie Silver Award (four theme badges completed) and Brownie Bronze Award (2 theme badges completed). We aim to complete 2 theme badges a year and have just completed the 'Take Action' theme, and everyone received badges.

For our Christmas Crafts night we discovered that we had a lot of left over craft kits from previous years, so the Brownies were able to choose something from the box - decorating a garland or a wreath with a selection of cut out old Christmas cards, drawings, coloured paper and stickers, or colouring a large wooden Christmas plaque. They then wound lights around their craft which sparkled and twinkled and looked very festive.

The following week was our Christmas Party. We started as usual with a Christmas Mexican Wave, and then we had a chat about why we have Christmas, and why we give presents. We sang 'Away in a Manger', followed by a game of Christmas Corners where the Brownies had to choose a corner and act out being a Christmas Pudding, a Christmas Card, a Christmas Angel or a Reindeer! One corner would be called out and everyone in that corner was out but got to choose the next corner to call out. After that there was an energetic game of Musical Chairs, and then it was time to have a quieter pass-the-parcel type game while listening to a story about Frosty the left-handed Snowman. They had to listen carefully and switch direction passing the parcel every time the words 'Left' or 'Right' were mentioned in the story - which happened a lot! Then it was time for our very popular newspaper Snowball Fight with each team winning points for the least snowballs left on their side of the room; it ended in a draw for both teams which meant prizes for everyone!

The party ended with another song - 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas', and then everyone went home with a chocolate Santa and goody bag, a present to put under the tree, and a carol sheet to sing along to on the way home!

But that wasn't quite the last time we met together - many of the Brownies were able to come to a cinema trip along with 1st Dalmilling Brownies at Ayr Astoria cinema to see the very entertaining 'Zootopia 2'; everyone enjoyed the film and popcorn - and of course, everyone received another badge!

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 at sarah.c@ggas.org.uk

Parish Record



"Of such is the kingdom of God "

7.12.25 Imogen Judith Clark daughter of Graeme & Joanna
Greenfield Avenue



"Blessed are those who mourn "

29.11.25 Mr Mervyn Walker Cunningpark Drive
1.12.25 Mr Bill Clare Greenan Road
7.12.24 Mrs Leonora Baas The Pines

Deadline for February Newsletter—Tuesday 20 January—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