



ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



March
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

At time of writing, it is not certain whether the church at Fisherton has finally been sold!

We can report that approximately fifty people came to view the church from Dec 2025 - Jan 2026!

A closing date for offers was appointed. Your local representatives of session have made their recommendation of final offers.

This is yet to be ratified by the General Trustees. To date it all remains commercially sensitive and confidential. The missives have not been concluded!

What has been agreed is that the last service to be held in Fisherton will be on Sunday 22nd March 2026 at 9.30am.

There never would be a good time to hold the last service!

However, with Easter being a time of new beginnings the comfort I have as minister is that the whole congregation can be together in the one building for Easter Sunday 5th April 2026.

The Basis of Union, which was agreed by both congregations in autumn 2024, stipulated that Alloway Church would be the place of worship for the united congregation of Alloway and Fisherton Parish.

It also stipulated that the Fisherton building should be sold or otherwise disposed of by September 2025. The Session has not unduly pursued this deadline.

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It is clear that with the volume of churches to be disposed of, the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland have been extremely busy.

Some of the furnishings of Fisherton have been returned to the original donors where requested.

The Fisherton baptismal font and communion table will find a new home in the Alloway building. These are precious signs of the ongoing worshipping community.

We will gift the organ which is at Fisherton Church to Kirkoswald Church. This is the church that Fisherton was formerly linked with.

The Church of Scotland does not deconsecrate buildings.

The service on 22nd March 2026 in Fisherton Church at 9.30am will be a service of thanksgiving for all that has been accomplished there.

We recognise that the church was originally dedicated for the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

We recognise too for generations it has provided refuge and comfort for God's people.

Such a moment of leaving must always be a time of sorrow.

However, it is also a time above all to give thanks, remembering that the witness of the faithful goes on wherever the faithful are to be found!

It is the end of a chapter; but it is also the beginning of a new chapter for the united congregation.

We remember too that God dwells ultimately not in temples made with human hands, but in the hearts of those who give him room.

So, our prayer this month

**"Come, fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may be
your temple and living church!"**

Yours in Him

Rev Neil McNaught



Some notes from Rev. David...

SCHOOLS

What a joy it was to welcome to church the Primary 7 pupils from Alloway Primary School and Doonfoot Primary School for their 'Scottish Celebration' on the afternoon on Friday 20th February 2026. The pupils collaborated to provide a programme of songs, a drama sketch of Tam O'Shanter, a Scottish Comedy Sketch and a summary of the lifetime of Robert Burns. In addition to a wonderful afternoon of entertainment, the pupils also raised funds for the partnership with Bandawe Primary School in Malawi. A huge congratulations and thanks to the pupils and staff of both schools.

The next meeting of the 'Men's Breakfast' will be on Saturday 28th March, 10.00-11.15am. Our speaker on this occasion will be Jim Redmond who will talk about the work of the RNLI in Ayr and Girvan. As usual, there will be a selection of hot-filled rolls, tea and coffee available before we hear from our speaker. We look forward to welcoming 'old' and new members at our breakfast - why not ask a friend to come along with you?



At our February meeting of PULSE, we welcomed 34 young folks to our church halls. In addition to our usual selection of games and activities (and tuck shop!), the youngsters also had the opportunity to make individual pizzas. In small groups, they gathered in the kitchen to prepare their pizza base and select their topping preferences - they actually looked amazing! As always, I am extremely grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers who make it possible to run PULSE. Our next meeting will be on Sunday 29th March, 7.00-8.30pm.

We are so excited as we look forward to our 3rd Annual Church Family Ceilidh. This year, the ceilidh will take place on Saturday 28th March 2026, 7.00-10.00pm. Once again, the music will be provided by the amazing 'Jiggered Ceilidh Band'. Tickets priced £10 for adults and £5 for children are available from Rev. David, and include the provision of a light supper prepared by our fantastic Social Committee. Why not come along - join in the dancing or just enjoy the music.



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FACING THE CANON  By the time you read this Newsletter, we will have commenced the Lent Study Series. We will meet on Tuesday evenings (19.00-20.45) for five weeks commencing on Tuesday 24th February, concluding on Tuesday 24th March 2026. Once again, the studies will focus on 'Facing The Canon' - a series of programmes where Canon J. John interviews guests on their faith journey. 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. For further information, please contact Rev. David.

Very soon, I, and a few other members of our congregation (Karin and Jackie) will start rehearsals for Praise Gathering 2026. Praise Gathering is a 450-voice choir drawn from more than 200 Scottish Christian Churches and in addition will feature performances by the PG Youth Choir, The Searchlight Theatre Company and a reflection from Kenny Borthwick. This year, the Praise Gathering concerts will be held in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Saturday 20th June (3.00pm) and Sunday 21st June (4.00pm). For further information, please speak with Rev. David. Tickets are available at <https://register.praisegathering.org.uk/choir/purchase-tickets>.



The next meeting of Messy Church will be on Saturday 21st March, 4.00-6.00pm. We continue with our theme for this session - 'Important Numbers In The Bible!' and in March we move on to the number '12'. As always, we will enjoy crafts, videos, songs, games, and finish with a meal together. All children accompanied by an adult will be welcome! Once again, a massive 'thank-you' to the amazing teams that join together to make Messy Church possible.

Richest blessings, David.

Mothering Sunday 15th March 2026

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods.

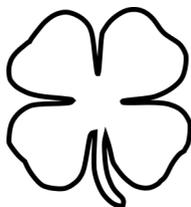
Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church. During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name.

This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and, in many ways, now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.



St Patrick's Day 17th March 2026



St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

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Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican Cathedral of Dublin.

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 - Mar 4th, Mar 11th, Mar 18th, Mar 25th, Apr 1st.



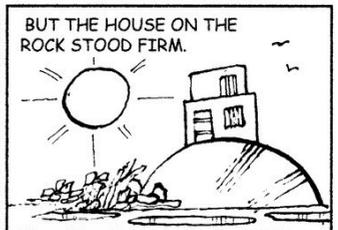
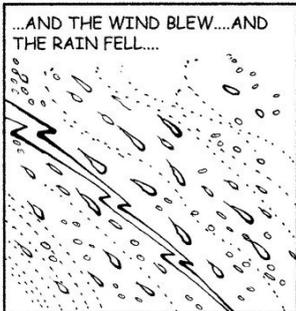
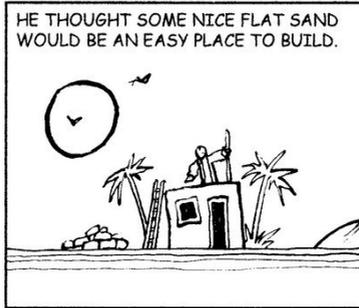
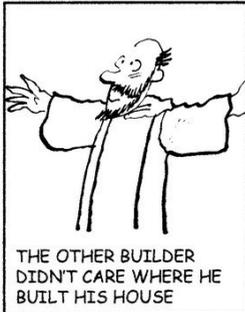
Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church Easter Arrangements

- 29th March Palm Sunday 10.30am
2nd April Maundy Thursday Communion 7.30pm
3rd April Good Friday Pilgrim Walk 10am (Meet
outside church)
Good Friday Service 7.30pm
5th April Easter Family Service 10.30am





AT LONG, LONG LAST HE
FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



**JESUS EXPLAINED -
IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE
A FIRM FOUNDATION.**

New Year Concert

A big thank you to everyone who supported our church concert on 6th February. We managed to raise £1,400 which means we can now send £700 to both Crossreach and to the Ayrshire Hospice.



Daffodil Lunch

Our next Leisurely Lunch will hopefully be held on a **sunny** daffodil day on Thursday 26th March from 12.00noon until 1.30pm.

The menu is shown on the poster within this Newsletter, and we look forward to meeting up with everyone again.



Daffodil Lunch

Alloway Church Hall

Thursday 26th March

12.00noon until 1.30pm



Quiche and salad

or

Curried Parsnip soup



Trifle

or

Lemon Posset



Minimum donation of £7.50 per person includes tea/coffee and biscuits.



thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by **Brown Owl Lise Whittle**

3rd Alloway Brownies have had a busy time working towards their 'Have Adventures' badge. We celebrated Burns Night by working out it was his 267th birthday, and we sang 'Happy Birthday' to him! After a chat about what we eat on Burns Night, we enjoyed dancing to Brown Owl's Haggis Dance, and a racing game of 'Flap the Haggis', which built up an appetite for munching on shortbread afterwards.

We talked about the Great Garden Bird Watch and some of the Brownies took part at home. We all coloured in Life Cycle of a Swallow moving discs -it was the first time a lime green and shocking pink swallow has ever been spotted in Alloway! We played another animal lifecycle game called 'Fox, Frog, Flea' which is similar to Rock Paper Scissors, and we also had fun making origami frogs and had a frog race with them.

The Brownies once again took part in the annual junior stamp competition organised by Stamp Active Network, and each Brownie sorted and mounted a page of stamps. We asked them to come up with a catchy, clever title, and some of their titles included 'Awesome Animals', 'Our Wonderful World', 'Dangerous Dinosaurs', 'Things That Go', 'Pretty Purple', 'Great Great Britain', 'Bravo Birds', 'Heads and Faces' and 'Curious Countries'. Over the coming year these entries will go in for three national and local junior stamp competitions, so we're keeping our fingers crossed. (We have plenty of stamps available for children, so if you know of any other youngsters who might like to enter a stamp competition please get in touch or have a look at the Stamp Active website for young collectors.)

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To celebrate Pancake Day the leaders set up a table with pancakes and a selection of toppings, and the Brownies played a game where they took turns to throw a dice in correct number order to make up a pancake to eat. If there was something they didn't like they could come up to the table and say, 'No thank you'. They had to throw a 1 to get a napkin, 2 = pancake, 3 = butter, 4 = jam or chocolate spread (or both!), 5 = mustard and sardines (surprisingly there were no takers!), and 6 = sprinkles and chocolate chips! When everyone completed their pancakes, they all tucked in! And to celebrate Chinese New Year everyone received a fortune cookie and Year of the Horse stamp.

As always, we'd like to give a huge thank you for all the support from everyone at Alloway Church, and to all the volunteers who help at Girlguiding. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering with Girlguiding, please get in touch at sarah.c@ggas.org.uk



The Burns Bairns' Burns Supper

The Company Burns Supper was held in Alloway School on Friday 23rd January 2026. Tables were arranged in square: 1st & 2nd Years, Third Juniors, Company & Staff. As a result, pals were all able to sit together and enjoy the comradeship and food! No uniform, but tartan to be worn! - yes as always 6% of chancers.

The Haggis was piped in by Mr Geo Dickie HO, Bourne by Lt Shaw and guarded by his henchman Lt Moore. After the Fergus Address to the Haggis and once quiet was restored. The Selkirk Grace by C/Sgt Nicol.

Our Lady Officers (officiating as the lovely serving Wenches), proceeded to the issue of the Suppers to the starving boys & staff - "Starving?" Boys had been warned no wastage and the parents advised in advance - no tea. At the end, not even a black bag was filled with boxes and morsels. Suppers supplied yet again by local chippy,

Tam O'Shanter by Candlelight, with guest appearance of the Cutty Stark & Auld Nick making their appearances to cheers and hoots.

Next the defaulters paraded - Nae tartan worn (3), no tacks in his breeks (1) With the piper playing and everyone laughing the 4 "Haw Jimmies" danced (after a fashion) a lowland fling. Then the 4 youngest lads took the floor to show how it should be done.

The Tug o War - intersquad competition, was highly contested - hilarious was an understatement Junior Section (23) versus the Company Section (15)

After the Burns flag lowered, Closing Prayers - it is humbling that half of the lads came over to make a private thank you.

The Company Section continued with the annual Welly Chucking competition. After that, the lads all fortified themselves with Ginger Wine from Captain's private cellar. Why? Mr & Mrs Shaw led them in Line and Country Dancing.

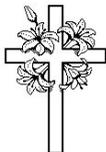
All good fun and no shortage of laughs. It was a blast, till next year....

Stewart Robertson

Captain, 1st Alloway Company



Parish Record



"Blessed are those who mourn"

| | | |
|---------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 3.1.26 | Miss Sonya Hill | Himleymill Care Home, Dudley |
| 9.1.26 | Miss Julia Smith | Turnberry Avenue |
| 27.1.26 | Mrs Una Hastings | Fairknowe Care Home Maybole |
| 29.1.26 | Mrs Isobel Smith | The Loaning |

Deadline for April Newsletter—Tuesday 24 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
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