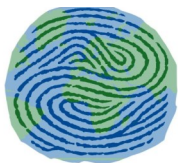
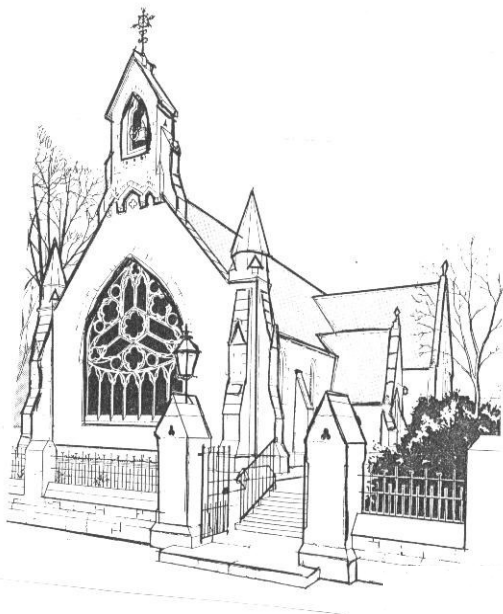




ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



June
2024



Dear Friends

This was the year that Donald Dewar became First Minister of Scotland! This was the year that the third Harry Potter book was published.

However, this year in the Presbytery of Ayr something else was afoot! On Thursday 24th June 1999 Rev Neil McNaught was inducted into Alloway Parish Church at the tender age of 37!

When people ask me when I came to Alloway I always remind them it was indeed last century!

At the time of induction two out of three boys had arms in slings. I feared we would receive a call from the social work department!

We did get a call early doors at the manse from a TV detector van. They had no note of a licence for the address. The reason was simple, the Congregational Board changed the address while we were still living there!

I remain one of the few ministers who changed address without moving house!

It is now over 25 years ago since I managed to convince the vacancy committee of 23 that I was the person for the job. Time has flown! It has been a joy and privilege to share both the joys and sorrows of the congregation and Parish.

When we came to Alloway we had three children. Now we have three grandchildren!

When I came, I couldn't play golf. Now I still can't play golf!

I do note a few physical changes. Most recently I've noted people mumble and I grumble! I'm putting it down to "old man syndrome".

Having served as your minister for 25 years I am truly indebted to so many office bearers and members who have encouraged and sustained me and the family along the way with their care and patience.

A special word of thanks to Jill and the family for their patience.

As someone rightly said, "Jill has a lot to put up with!"

On this silver anniversary I am reminded of Paul's words to the Philipians:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more".

Thus, in conclusion

While my get up and go may have got up and gone!

While that little old lady I help across the road is now my wife!

God willing if I am spared it will be a privilege to serve as your minister for a few more years!

Here is my mantra for the remaining years with you:

Dream Big! Stay Positive! Work hard! Enjoy the journey!

Have a wonderful sizzling summer!

Yours in Him

Rev Neil McNaught



Some notes from Rev. David...



We had another great turnout at Messy Church when we met on Saturday 11th of May. The theme was Jesus calling His Disciples to be 'Fishers of People' and the children (and adults) enjoyed a variety of amazing crafts - where does Jenny Andrews get all her ideas? We then talked about the story of Jesus calling his first disciples, watched a video, and then played a game - a fish race!! As always, we rounded-off the session with a delicious meal of bolognese pasta, or mac'n cheese prepared by a wonderful team in the kitchen - we even had garlic bread, salad, and home-made coleslaw. All finished-off by some tasty baking. Messy Church continues to be a really effective way of involving young children in the life of our church. A huge thanks from me to the welcome team, the refreshment team, the craft team, and of course the kitchen team.

Our final Men's Breakfast for this session took place on Saturday 25th May. We had an encouraging turnout of men who enjoyed a breakfast of hot-filled rolls and tea/coffee before listening to our invited speakers from Ayrshire Cancer Support. Michelle and Carol, who are volunteers with ACS, gave a very interesting, enlightening and engaging presentation that focused on the variety of services offered by ACS, the structure and funding of the organisation, and plans for the future. We were pleased to be able to inform the ladies that Ayrshire Cancer Support has been selected as one of the charities that will be supported by Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church activities in the year ahead. The next meeting of the Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday 28th September 2024 at 10.00am.



The dates of PULSE always seem to coincide with a school holiday, or some other activity - on 26th May, it was a school holiday weekend. Nevertheless, 12 young people attended and had a great time playing pool, table tennis, 'darts', table football, air hockey, corn-hole - and so much more! Many also got creative with 'air clay' and of course everyone enjoyed tuck shop. We concluded the evening with a quiz - 'The Price Is Right'. In addition to predicting the price of a range of items, we also considered the equivalent 'real' value of some grocery items in Sudan - there were a few gasps at the reality. The first meeting of PULSE for the 2024/25 session will be Sunday 29th September 2024, 7.00-8.30pm.



The recent 5-week programme of Stepping Stones, our bereavement support programme, concluded on Friday 31st May. The bereavement and grief experiences of those who attend are very different, and whilst we spend time discussing some common challenges of bereavement and grief, and some potential helpful suggestions for the journey of grief, we do stress that every person's experience of bereavement and grief is unique to them. The participants benefit greatly from coming together and sharing their own experiences, and listening to the experience of others - though there is no requirement to speak - some get a huge benefit from listening. The next programme of Stepping Stones will commence in the Autumn - if you feel that you could benefit, or know someone who might, please do let me know and we can have a chat beforehand.

Stepping Stones

Pastoral CARE Each week, I endeavour to undertake pastoral visits. Sometimes I visit because someone is finding life difficult, sometimes they are recovering from an illness or hospital stay. On other occasions, folks have experienced a bereavement, and sometimes I visit to help celebrate a special birthday, anniversary or other special occasion. Sometimes, folks just want to chat! I visit folks in their home, some in hospital, some in care homes - and sometimes in a coffee shop! If you feel that you would benefit from a visit, or know someone you think might benefit, please do let me know.

Our Summer Holiday Club for 2024 will take place from Monday 5th- Friday 9th August 10.00am-12.00 noon each day. The theme this year is 'Paul's Mediterranean Cruise' and each day, we will explore a part of the Apostle Paul's Journeys on the Mediterranean Sea. The Summer Holiday Club is open to children who have, or will attend primary school in 2024. The cost is £2.00 each day, and there will be games, crafts, quizzes, snacks - and so much more. Please pass on the details of this exciting venture to all who may be interested. Further information and registrations forms are available from me.



Richest blessings, David.

Alloway and Fisherton|Parish Church

Summer Holiday Club

PAUL'S MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

Alloway Church Halls

5th - 9th August 2024; 10.00am-12.00noon

Children at Primary School in 2024

£2.00 per day

For information and registration form:

Rev. David 07858 966367





9th June – Columba of Iona, Missionary to the UK

In 563 AD St Columba sailed from Ireland to Iona - a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. He brought Christianity with him.

Columba (c. 521-97) was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and he trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include going into voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland.

Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.

Here is a prayer of St Columba:

"Christ With Us
My dearest Lord,
Be Thou a bright flame before me,
Be Thou a guiding star above me,
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today and evermore."



Sundown Services Fisherton Shore

Once again, we look forward to holding our outdoor Sundown Services on Fisherton Shore down by the harbour!

A short service at 6.30pm followed by a long cup of tea and sing along! Remember to bring your suntan oil! (and bathing costumes where appropriate!)

Here are the dates for your diary!

Sunday 2nd June, Sunday 7th July, Sunday 4th Aug





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 June 12th, 19th, 26th
 July 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

Coffee and Chat 5th June, 3rd July, 7th Aug



Kiltwalk Kindness 2024

The Kiltwalk Glasgow 2024 took place on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

Unfortunately, your minister failed the medical that day!

However, our thanks are extended to:

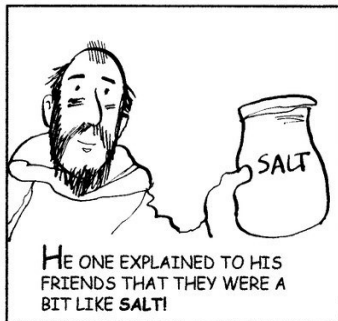
Rev David, Madge, Lynda and Jill a.k.a. the Alloway Strollers for their walking.

More importantly, we thank you for your very, very generous support.

£5333.75 has been raised for Christian Aid. In particular we acknowledge the kindness of the B.B. (£500 donation) and Wednesday Worship (£200 donation).

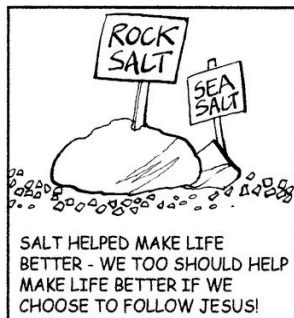
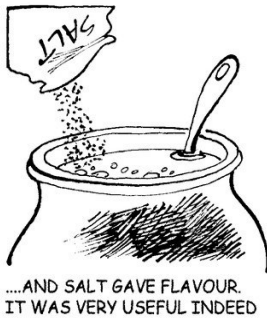
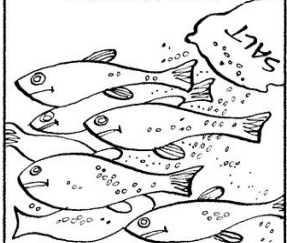


The tale of the Salt and Light

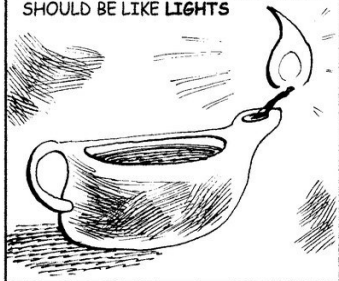


HE ONE EXPLAINED TO HIS FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE A BIT LIKE SALT!

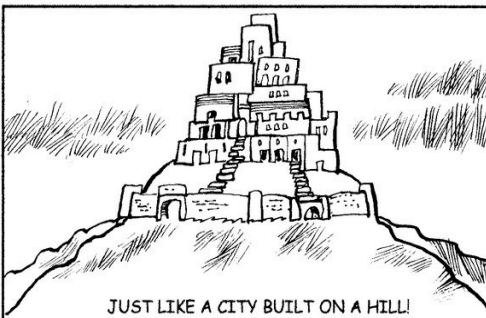
IN JESUS' DAY, SALT WAS VERY PRECIOUS. IT HELPED PRESERVE FOOD....



JESUS ALSO SAID HIS FOLLOWERS SHOULD BE LIKE LIGHTS



THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.



Church Summer Opening

Once again this summer we are planning to open the church to visitors. We start on Monday 3rd June and continue until the end of August. This is only possible if we have volunteers to welcome the visitors. The sessions are Monday to Friday 11am - 1pm and 1 pm - 3pm. A team of supervisors will open and close the church. Volunteers do not need in depth knowledge of the church as there are plenty of information leaflets in various languages. The charity we are supporting this year is Ayrshire Cancer Support.

Most people find this a very rewarding experience so if you feel you can help, please add your name to the book in the vestibule. If you need more information, please contact René Andrews 445280.



LITTER PICK

The next Litter Pick will be held on Sunday 21st July. All those who wish to take part should be at the Church Halls at 2.00pm. The Litter Pick will last one hour and will be followed by tea and coffee. For further information, contact Donald or Sheena Kemp 440700.



The Recent Formation of the Church Halls Committee

Church Organisations and several local community groups enjoy our extensive suite of Halls.

Their care and maintenance is an on-going task, and can prove challenging at times.

In recognition of this the Finance Committee and the Property Committee drafted a proposal that a Church Halls Committee be formed. This was tabled at the May '24 meeting of our Kirk Session and duly approved. Soon thereafter an open invitation to join the Committee was issued.

The Committee's remit includes the identification of any issues with the fabric, fixtures, maintenance, health & safety, and general housekeeping and to suggest how these might be addressed.

The Committee held its inaugural meeting on Friday 10th May '24.

The Committee members have extensive experience of working in, or alongside Church Organisations and the several Community groups.

The Committee members are:

Rev McNaught, Isabel Bryce, Jan Duncan [in interim, as Church Secretary] Jean Kerr [as an advisor to Committee] Mary Goodall, June Parker, Donald Ross [being Property Convener] Ian Stewart and Susan Williams.

Our Church Treasurer, Lorna, will also be involved as there will be budgetary issues.

Finally, on your behalf, the Committee wishes to recognise the many years of faithful service given by our former Halls Convener, Jean Kerr.

Ian Stewart

Convener of the Church Halls Committee.



Fisherton News

Friendship Group - The April meeting was held on 19th May and took the form of an annual Bring and Buy Plant Sale. Thank you once again to Bob and Carol George for running the plant stall and offering advice. The money raised was donated to the Fisherton Church garden for the purchase of plants.

On Friday 17 May, 38 attended 2 talks on the History of Dunure by Elspeth Carter and the Local Fishing Industry by fisherman Robin Gibson. The talks were very well researched and gave a fascinating insight into the history of Fisherton and Dunure.

There are still a few places left for the final meeting of the session, which is a Lunch at the Clocktower, Auchincruive on Friday 21st June at 12.30pm. To book your space for lunch or for further details contact Helen on 07801 556 594.

Gardening Club at Fisherton Church - This is held fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon from 2.00 to 3.30pm during the growing season. Although we have a gardener to do the harder work, we are a small group planting and hoeing to keep the garden looking good and to make it a place to sit and enjoy the peace. A pleasant afternoon of chat, cuppa and cake with a little bit of work.

Contact Elspeth on 07999 852 756 for details.

Fisherton Service - On the last Sunday of each month coffee/tea and baking is served at the back of the church and all are welcome to stay for this.



Mission Committee

Leisurely Lunch

We held our last Leisurely Lunch of the season on 25th April. The profit on that day brought our total money raised for our work in Bandawe in 2023/24 to £1,909.

We want to thank everyone who supported our work.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning, Plant and Book Sale

Our coffee morning, plant and book sale on 18th May raised £1,664 for Christian Aid. We have still to collect and count the money from the Christian Aid envelopes and this total will be given soon in an intimation.

Neil's 25th Anniversary Lunch

From the beginning of June, you will be able to place your name on a list on the vestibule table if you wish to attend an afternoon tea style lunch to celebrate Neil's 25 years of Ministry at Alloway.

This will take place on Saturday 29th June at 1.00pm.

If you are able to donate baking for this event there will be a second list, also in the vestibule, to which you can add your name.

A box will also be available on this table for those who would like to contribute to a presentation for Neil.



Summer Outing—David Livingstone Centre

Those who are interested in joining the David Livingstone outing on Sunday 23rd June, should add their names to the participants' sheet in the vestibule. The cost of the entry fee is £10, and this money should be given to Donald or Sheena Kemp before the outing date. Remember the plan is to have your 'packed lunch', (which you should provide yourself), in the Halls after the morning service as we plan to leave no later than 12.30pm in shared cars. For further information, speak to Donald or Sheena Kemp.

Helping With Church Work

Whether it's welcoming people to church, helping to serve teas or coffees, looking after our finances or property, or assisting with social events there are plenty of ways that you could be a valuable asset to our church. These are only some of the many opportunities available which would allow you to contribute to the life of the congregation.

Under our new constitution you don't have to be an elder or board member to join one of our committees just turn up at the occasional meeting.

If you think you would like to play a part in the running of the church in any way please have a word with me and I'm sure we can find a suitable place for you.

Eric Ness
Session Clerk



Encouragement Corner

Victory

The word victory brings to mind all sorts of things, a battle, a battlefield, an enemy and an outcome, success or defeat. History is crammed with examples of mighty battles and glorious victors. In school we learned of men like Lord Nelson and the Battle of Trafalgar,

the Duke of Wellington and the Battle of Waterloo and of General Allenby who liberated Israel then known as Palestine from Turkish rule.

However, Scripture tells us of a far more serious battle that we are faced with as we journey through life. The battle between good and evil. This battle "is not just against the strength of man, but against the stratagems of a spiritual enemy, the subtle plans of the enemy of souls..... What is most important is that the apostle would not have his readers underestimate the power of the forces against them. - Francis Foulkes.

The Apostle Paul describes the enemy, the battlefield and the armour that God has supplied to ensure victory. Eph.6:10-18. The equipment includes truth, integrity, righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit.

I realise that you are probably very familiar with these verses but the question I have to ask is do you put them into operation in your daily life? If not, why not? Paul wraps up these verses by encouraging us to pray. "Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit with all (manner of) prayer and entreaty." V18 Amp.

On Pentecost Sunday in church we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. We not only celebrate His coming, but we should celebrate and thank God for His presence in our lives.

God has throughout history been present in His creation. In Genesis, we find Him walking and talking with Adam in the garden, in the New Testament we find Him becoming a man and healing the breach with God caused by Adam's sin and with the birth of the church we find Him present in our lives to help, to comfort, to teach, to guide and to be our advocate before a Holy God.

Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church Newsletter—June

What kind of problem are you facing right now? Is it an aspect of your health? Is it financial? Is it personal? Is it associated with a family member?

Have you been praying about it and had the disturbing sensation that perhaps God doesn't hear or worse that He is not listening because nothing is happening and the problem just won't go away. That's happened to us all at some time.

In 1John5:4 The apostle gives us the answer. "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world our faith." There appears to be some simple steps to victory in this chapter.

When we believe that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) and put our trust in Him we become children of God - members of His family. V1

When we love God, we want to obey His commandments - we want to please Him and stay in line with His plan and purpose for our life. V2

When we bring our needs to God, we can be confident that He hears and will grant our requests - but please note that it's conditional. We must ask in accordance with His will. We find the will of God in relation to any matter in the Word of God. V 14,15

If your problem is a health one, get your bible and a good concordance and look for all the verses in Scripture that relate to health and use them to pray for your healing.

Similarly, if the problem is finance do the same. Whatever the problem use the same formula and you will find lots of help and encouragement.

I pray that these thoughts will help all of us to live the victorious life that God has planned for His children. Let our key words this month be love obedience and faith.



thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

3rd Alloway Brownies 50th Anniversary Year 1974 - 2024

3rd Alloway Brownies joined 1st Dalmling Brownies for a fabulous Brownie Pack Holiday at Nether Auchendrane Girlguiding Activity Centre in Alloway. Little Owl Lara Whittle was taking her 'Girlguiding Going Away Licence' and was Leader in Charge for the event. The theme for the weekend was 'Under The Sea'. The Brownies arrived on the Friday night and settled into their dorms. After a welcome and a Brownie pow-wow, everyone signed placemats and had a group photograph. Then we headed outside to the campfire for a good old 'Sea Shanty' singalong, including 'My Ship Sailed From China', 'Baby Shark', 'A Sailor Went To Sea Sea Sea', 'My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean', 'Doris The Dolphin Has Five Fins', 'There's A Hole At The Bottom Of The Sea', 'Crazy Moose' and of course 'Campfire's Burning'. There were marshmallows and hot chocolate, and then it was time to get into PJs and into bed for a bedtime story. After that everyone immediately fell fast asleep!!!! (that last part was definitely not true!!)

Everyone woke up bright eyed and smiling after a good night's sleep (that part's not true either!) and headed outside for Tai Chi exercises. We had a delicious breakfast including cereals, fruit and very popular freshly home-made pancakes with lots of delicious toppings, then everyone tidied up - the Brownies were in three rotating 'work parties' to clear the tables and do the washing up, or clean the windows, or clean the bathroom! Once everything was cleared up, they had a craft session decorating treasure chests, making a mermaid magnet, choosing sea creature charms for a charm brooch, and starting their diaries. We had fabulous sunny weather with lots of outdoor activities including an Ocean Treasure Hunt around the grounds with a treasure map, challenges and clues to complete. The Brownies also enjoyed playing on the playpark, fishy pavement chalking, Hook a Duck, and decorating pots

Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church Newsletter—June

to plant up some 'seaweed' (spider plants!). They bravely took part in an Ocean Challenge Seafood Tasting of edible seaweed, crab sticks and prawn crackers. Everyone enjoyed a delicious tea of chicken dippers, potato starfish, spaghetti hoops, peas and salad followed by jelly and ice-cream with lots of sprinkles and sauces to choose from, and birthday cake. After tea we enjoyed a game of Ocean Bingo, followed by watching the live-action film 'The Little Mermaid' with snacks and popcorn. And after that everyone really did have a good night's sleep - we were all tired out!

On Sunday morning after more Tai Chi outdoors, we enjoyed another delicious breakfast of French Toast, cereal, bread and a large selection of spreads (the Cook, Janis Meredith has already been invited back for next year!) Then it was time to start packing everything up and putting their bags on the veranda. They enjoyed a visit to the gift shop, and an outside game of jellyfish parachute. After that it was time for 'Leftovers Lunch' of wraps, sandwiches, hot dogs, salad, crisps, cakes and biscuits until everyone was completely full! We ended our holiday with 'Reflections' where everyone said something they especially liked about Pack Holiday, something they didn't like (many of them said they didn't like being kept awake by people talking - hmmm! And many girls couldn't think of anything they didn't like!), and someone they would like to thank - many of them thanked the Cook for the delicious food. Everyone received a certificate, photograph and several badges, and gifts were given to the Leaders.

After a farewell song, it was home time and big hugs with their families. It was a wonderful Pack Holiday with treasured memories for everyone. Thanks are due to all the Leaders for their effort and time. And yes, Little Owl passed her Licence with flying colours. Huge thanks are due to her, and all the Leaders (and parent helpers who came early to help clean the Centre) for all their effort and time in putting together such a fabulous Pack Holiday.





Parish Record



"Of such is the kingdom of God "

5.5.24 Levi Duncan Townson son of Rachael and Duncan



"Blessed are those who mourn "

| | | |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 20.4.24 | Mr Jack McGuiness | Templeton House Ayr |
| 21.4.24 | Mr Ian Gillingham | Merkland Road |
| 26.4.24 | Mrs Muriel McCallum | Baird Road |
| 22.4.24 | Mr Jack Parr | Templeton House Ayr |
| 30.4.24 | Mrs Irene Baird | Guiltreehill |
| 4.5.24 | Mr Jack Andrews | Beagle Crescent |
| 12.5.24 | Miss Sandra Hood | The Loaning |



"Whom God has joined together"

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 24.5.24 | Emma Daniels and Jay Field |
| 25.5.24 | Nicole Duffie and Michael Craig |
| 27.5.24 | Amber Aitken and Andrew Kelly |

Deadline for August Newsletter—Tuesday 23 July—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