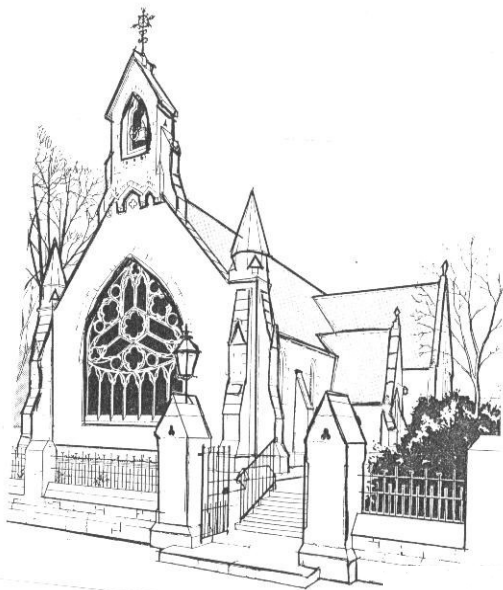




# ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



May  
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

Firstly a huge thanks for all the Kiltwalk Kindness received from so many in the congregation! The blisters are recovering.

A great day was had by all. Through your generosity over four thousand pounds were raised!

Should you still wish to contribute please click on the link below!

[https://www.justgiving.com/team/allowaystrollers2026?utm\\_medium=TE&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/team/allowaystrollers2026?utm_medium=TE&utm_source=CL)

Meanwhile our attention turns from a special day to a special week. Christian Aid Week is May 10th - 16th 2026.

Christian Aid Week is more than a date in the diary, it's a chance to step out in faith and stand alongside people facing injustice worldwide.

The gifts raised support Christian Aid and their local partners as they work with communities for long-term change, so families can grow food, build livelihoods and face the future with dignity.

In 2026 Christian Aid is looking at Nairobi, Kenya, where families in informal settlements face the daily fear of not having enough to eat. When money is tight and prices rise, hunger can be only one bad day away.

In crowded neighbourhoods, many parents must earn money each day or their children may not eat that evening.

Fridah Moraa, a widowed grandmother, knows that pressure first-hand.

*"When I wake up, I have a lot of worries. Sometimes I don't have food," she says.*

With tools, seeds and training from Christian Aid's local partner, Beacon of Hope, Fridah is growing vegetables in a small city space. Feeding her family and selling produce at her stall.

With support from Beacon of Hope, she's building a more secure future. *"When I harvest what I've planted, it makes me happy. Urban farming has changed my life."*

What your gift can do

- £5 could buy seeds to start a nutritious vegetable garden.
- £10 could provide a pair of chickens to produce fertiliser.
- £15 could provide hand tools to help an urban farmer tend crops.
- £30 could buy a trio of cone garden planters for hundreds of plants in a tiny space.

Yours in Him

Neil McNaught

## **Kiltwalk Kindness 2026**

The Alloway Strollers (a.k.a. Jean Taylor, Madge Irving, Jill McNaught, Stevie Glen, Bill Duncan and Neil McNaught) strode out and completed the Kiltwalk Big Stroll on Sunday 26th April (14 and a half miles) from Clydebank to Lomond Shores.

Over 1000 charities are represented at the event with some 20,000 people on the walk!

This year was blessed with sunshine throughout!

Rev Neil commented

*"Yet again we are indebted to so many church members for supporting us with their Kiltwalk Kindness. This year thus far we have raised approx. £4500.*

*With so many governments, including our own, reducing overseas aid - it becomes even more important that we remain generous in our giving to some of the world's poorest ."*

The message on the Christian Aid tee shirt reads.

"We stand together for dignity equality and justice"

3 good reasons to get behind all our Christian Aid Week Events!



## Some notes from Rev. David...

I have so missed being with you each week for Sunday Morning Worship - and some folks have been wondering where I have been! Well, I did have one week's holiday - overseas - on the beautiful Isle of Arran. On the



other Sundays, when I am not at Alloway and Fisherton, I can be found leading worship either at St. Andrew's Parish Church in Ayr (where Rev. Neil is Interim Moderator), or at St. Kentigern's Parish Church in Kilmarnock where I am Interim Moderator and Locum Minister (one day per week). I hope that it will not be too long until I will be back with you more regularly. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you when I am at Alloway and Fisherton!



Just a little reminder that the next meeting of our Men's Breakfast will be on the morning of Saturday 30th May at 10.00 - 11.15am. It would be great to see yet another big turnout for this breakfast. This will be the last Men's Breakfast for this session - we will return for a new session on Saturday 31st October 2026.



A little update on my article in last month's newsletter. The date has now been set for our next annual Church Family Ceilidh - so **SAVE THE DATE!**

The ceilidh will be held on Saturday the 6th of March 2027, 7.00-10.00 and once again, we will be dancing to the amazing 'Jiggered Ceilidh Band'. As always, we will dance and enjoy a supper - and the price will remain £10.00 for adults and £5.00 for children.

The next meeting of Messy Church will be on Saturday 9th May, 4.00-6.00pm. We continue with our theme for this session - 'Important Numbers In The Bible!' and in May we move on to the number '40'. 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.



One final 'plug' 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, Celtic Worship, 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 still available at <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/event/5/praise-gathering>

The next programme of Stepping Stones, our bereavement Support Programme began on Friday 1st May 2026. This is a 5-week programme, and the other dates are 8th May, 15th May, 22nd May and 29th May 2026 - we meet from 2.00-3.30pm. 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. Please speak to me if you would like further information, or pick up one of the information leaflets in the church/church halls.

## Stepping Stones



The final meeting of PULSE for this session took place on Sunday 26th April. Whilst the attendance was smaller than usual (16) - this was probably the results of the 'light nights'. As always the youngsters enjoyed our usual selection of games and activities (and tuck shop!), before joining in the Octagonal Hall for a fiercely competitive quiz. The theme of the quiz was split between movies and company logos. For the first half, the youngsters had to identify the movies from movie posters with the name of the movie removed. For the second half, they had to identify companies from their company logo - but I had covered up most of the logo. I am always amazed at how seriously they take these quizzes. The helpers and I now take a well-deserved rest before returning in September. My thanks once again to the amazing team of volunteers who make it possible to run PULSE.

Richest blessings, David.

## **Ascension Day 14th May**

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days.

Jesus was seen by many of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc.

He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah.

Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day.

Luke records the story with great poignancy:

*"When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them."*

He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: *'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...'* (John 20:17)

It was a poignant farewell. However we read that the disciples:

*'... worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.'* (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day!

*'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.'* (John 14:2,3)

In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.



## **8th May Julian Of Norwich (1342–1416)**

“Julian” was an anchoress - someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell'.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practice.

She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'.

This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is

'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.'

These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.



## **24th May Pentecost**

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival. Led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift and empowerer!



## Session Update

At our meeting on 8th April we started in our usual fashion with the first report coming from Property and so we heard early in the evening that the sale of Fisherton Church had been completed and as agreed the communion table and font had been moved to Alloway. Later in the evening it was confirmed that it had been sold to a local businessman for what he initially thought would be used as a coffee shop (subject to agreements). The convenor then confirmed that, as requested at our last meeting, a letter had been sent out to all our hall users alerting them to the problems we have had with toilet blockages and seeking their help. A deposit had now been paid for the double gazing units at the halls and work should start soon. Donald reported that all is well at the manse where an annual gas safety check had been carried out and the church gardens are still being very well looked after by the Jolly Gardeners. He also thanked all who had helped with the recent spring clean.

Our treasurer then spoke and drew attention to a few matters of finance. The annual report and accounts have now been signed off and will now be sent to OSCR. We have received a donation £5,000 in memoriam of Elizabeth McFadzean, £3,000 of which to be allocated to school fees at BAGSS.

Salary increases have been proposed for the secretary, cleaner and the church Family and Schools worker based on agreed formulas and these were approved by the court. The treasurer then noted some key points on this year's budget advising that we were anticipating a deficit of £15,604, comprising of an operational deficit of £1,004 and capital expenditure of £14,600. £8,000 has been budgeted for Technology covering items which will improve our system in the main hall and octagonal hall and although the team has under-spent in previous years it is likely that this year it will be fully utilised. Finally she reminded all that we still have very healthy reserves of £356,000.

Neil noted the enormous amount of detail required to produce our accounts, our budget and all other ongoing figures and how fortunate and blessed we were to have someone as capable as our treasurer. He thanked Lorna on behalf of all and asked that the budget be approved. The court approved and gave a healthy round of applause in appreciation for her valued work.

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

Mrs Anne Law advised there were no issues related to the halls but confirmed that the new group setting up a seated yoga class and a second for men only would be starting on Mondays.

The Mission convenor reported briefly reminding everyone that the date for the next Leisurely Lunch was Thursday 23rd April - a St George's Day lunch and advising that this year's Christian Aid Book and Plant Sale with coffee morning would be held on Saturday 16th May. Helen also advised that a small number of ladies have kindly agreed to volunteer as parish visitors. Elders were asked to approach people in their districts who might welcome an extra monthly visit, particularly though not exclusively, the housebound.

The Worship and Development convenor advised that there was no formal report but wished to highlight two forthcoming events. On Sunday 12th April there will be a church walk in the grounds of Dumfries House and on Sunday 19th April there will be another litter pick.

Steve Maw then gave a brief update on the implementation of "Claude", an artificial intelligence assistant, which is being used as a virtual volunteer to assist with administrative tasks. Examples given included: the automatic drafting of weekly Facebook and WhatsApp posts, the production of draft meeting minutes from transcripts; and future plans to build a searchable hymn and sermon history to assist the minister in service planning. The court was informed that the system costs £20 per month. Neil and members expressed appreciation for the initiative, noted its potential to assist with halls bookings and other administrative work, and gave their approval.

Our Presbytery Elder, Bill Duncan, highlighted a number of items from Presbytery. The Rev Val Ott has been appointed Moderator of Presbytery for 2026/27. The Interim Moderator for South East Ayrshire Parish Church will be Mr Bill Duncan. The annual attestation of records will take place on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at Ayr Castlehill Church and the Presbytery website is now up and running.

The Presbytery Mission Planning Committee, in conjunction with the Mission Committee, is developing a template for a congregational Mission Action Plan (MAP) to allow congregations to express and monitor ongoing mission. This replaces the former local church review process.

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

Permission was granted to sell a number of properties including Old Cumnock Old Manse, Ochiltree Church Manse, St Quivox Church, Auchincruive, North Ayr Parish Church Manse in Nursery Grove, and Prestwick South Church.

David Hume then gave a full report on his activities. Highlights included:

Messy Church numbers remain very high and encouraging. The Alloway Preschool recently joined for a "Stay and Play" session with around 44 young people attending. An attendance incentive scheme has been introduced at the SU club: young people receive a book token on reaching 10 sessions, a Bible at 20, and further recognition at 30 sessions.

David and Neil attended Ayr Academy to participate in Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, speaking to secondary pupils about the role of a minister.

The recent Men's Breakfast attracted 42 attendees, one of the busiest to date.

The Spring Ceilidh at the end of March was another great success. After deducting the cost of the band (£750) and social committee support, a surplus was still generated for the church. Session agreed to approve booking the band for the 2027 Ceilidh.

David has secured re-entry to Fisherton Primary School and will be returning there shortly.

For Easter, 450 children attended the Thursday morning Easter service in church, with a further 450 in the afternoon - a remarkable total. The Holiday Club is scheduled for 3rd-7th August 2026.

The Clerk then gave a footnote on the financial position regarding the sale of Fisherton Church., advising that although the Price agreed had been £160,000 after legal charges of £6,408 the net sum transferred to the Consolidated Fabric Fund was £153,592. However, it has been indicated that the General Trustees will apply a Levy charge (likely 10-15%) on the proceeds, which could result in the final sum received being in the region of £130,000. The situation is still being clarified, and the trustees' legal department will be in touch to confirm the exact figure.

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

In terms of the congregational union, Neil advised that two Fisherton elders are continuing with Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church: Mrs Helen Malcolm and Mrs Elizabeth Frette. It was acknowledged that some former Fisherton members continue to meet in the Kennedy Hall on Sunday mornings, and the court wished them well.

The Clerk reported on the following correspondence: LIFT (Love in Fellowship and Trust). A communication regarding LIFT, a Presbytery-related ecumenical group for those aged 18-40, had been received. A poster has been placed on the noticeboard. An invitation to a meeting at St Oswald's to explore the stories of biblical women, linked to a new book by Liz Crumlish, was noted and a poster placed on the noticeboard.

Mr Jim Colvin, Organist. A letter had been received from Mr Jim Colvin, formerly organist at Fisherton, expressing his heartfelt thanks to the Kirk Session for the additional payment made to him on the conclusion of his contract. He noted 30 years of pleasure in the role.

Our next meeting will be on 27th May.



## **Christian Aid Book Sale and Coffee Morning**

Our Christian Aid book sale, coffee morning and plant sale will be held on Saturday 16th May so please make a note in your diary/calendar.

Please bring any books you wish to donate on Sunday 10th May to the church hall between 10.00am and 12.00noon. We regret that we do not have space to store books before this date.

If this donation time is unsuitable the only alternative is between 6.00pm and 7.00pm on Friday 15th May. Any plants you wish to donate should also be brought at this time.

The cost is only £1.00 per book or 6 for £5.00. As well as buying books we would encourage you to visit our tearoom in the large hall for morning coffee or tea plus delicious home baking. The cost for this is only £4.00.

All profits will go to Christian Aid who do such wonderful work among some of those in greatest need in our world today.

Books can also be purchased between 11.15am and 12.00noon on Sunday 17th May.

Mission Committee

## **Christian Aid Envelopes**

Within this newsletter you should find a Christian Aid envelope. If you are able, I would encourage you to contribute to this very worthwhile charity.

You can then either return your donation envelope to the church on a Sunday morning or bring it to the Food Bank collection point on a Sunday between 10.00am and 12.00noon.

Thank you

Mission Committee



# Christian Aid

## Coffee Morning, Book and Plant Sale

Alloway Church Halls

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026

10.00am until 12.00noon



**Cost £4.00 - for home baking and tea/coffee.**

**Books - £1.00 each or 6 for £5.00**

**Books also for sale on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May  
after the church service until 12.30pm.**

## **Wednesday Worship**

Why not join us for Wednesday Worship 10.30am - 11am in the Octagonal Hall this month?

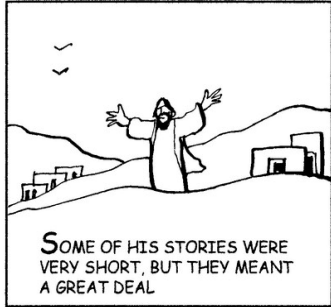
(A short service followed by a long cup of tea)

Wednesday Worship 6th/13th/20th/27th May 2026



The tale of  
the  
Mustard  
Seed  
& the tale of the  
Yeast

JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS

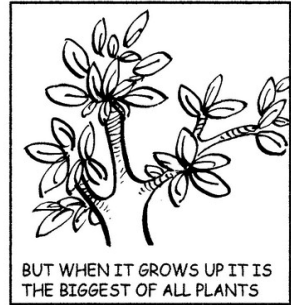


SOME OF HIS STORIES WERE  
VERY SHORT, BUT THEY MEANT  
A GREAT DEAL

ONCE JESUS EXPLAINED HOW  
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN  
WAS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

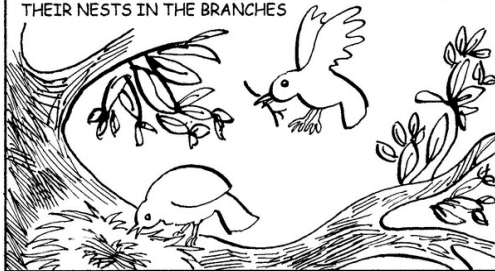


IT IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST  
OF SEEDS....



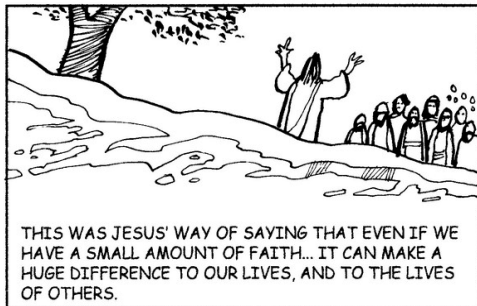
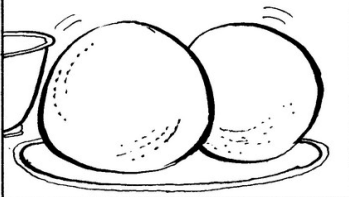
BUT WHEN IT GROWS UP IT IS  
THE BIGGEST OF ALL PLANTS

IT BECOMES A TREE, SO THAT BIRDS COME AND MAKE  
THEIR NESTS IN THE BRANCHES



JESUS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE  
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE YEAST.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S A TINY INGREDIENT,  
WHEN IT'S MIXED WITH THE FLOUR,  
THE WHOLE BATCH OF DOUGH RISES



THIS WAS JESUS' WAY OF SAYING THAT EVEN IF WE  
HAVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF FAITH... IT CAN MAKE A  
HUGE DIFFERENCE TO OUR LIVES, AND TO THE LIVES  
OF OTHERS.



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

by **Brown Owl Lise Whittle**

Everyone had lots of fun at 3rd Alloway Brownies Easter Party. It was a full-house turnout, and the Brownies were very EGGs-cited (- groan!) After welcoming everyone, we had a quick chat about why Easter is SHELL-ebrated and why we have Easter eggs (with some EGG-cellent answers!) Then we got EGG-CRACKING with some Easter crafts and the Brownies could choose to decorate either an egg or a little rabbit.

Then it was time to HOP next door for an Easter Egg hunt with EGG-citing challenges for the Brownies to complete before they were allowed to pick up their egg, such as 'Before you pick up your egg do 5 bunny jumps!' and 'Before you pick up your egg say 'I love carrots!' four times in a bunny voice!'

After that we played some Easter games including an Egg and Spoon race, and an Easter-jigsaw-bunny-hop-relay-race where the Brownies did bunny-hops to collect one piece of a jigsaw and brought it back to their team to assemble jigsaw rows. When all the teams had assembled their rows, they joined them together to make an Easter scene. After all that hopping, the Brownies were EGGs-hausted!

Next it was time for 'Pin the Fluffy Tail on the Bunny' which the Brownies did in their Sixes. Judging by the EGGs-pert accuracy of the placing of the tails, I think it fair to say there was a good deal of peaking under the blindfold going on!

We sang 'Betty the Bunny has 5 Ears', and then played a running-around-the-circle game called 'Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail'. The Brownies stood in a large circle in threes and each member of the trio was named 'Flopsy', 'Mopsy' or 'Cottontail'. When one of the names was called out, that Brownie had to run around the outside of the circle back to where they started, and run under an arch made by their two other group members. The first one to get to the middle won a point. It was a bit of a SCRAMBLE as I'm sure you can imagine!

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

Then it was home time, and the HOPPY rosy-cheeked Brownies all went home with a painting-craft Easter egg kit, an Easter activity pack, and a little bag of chocolate mini eggs and sweeties.

That's all YOLKS!

EARS hoping you all had a very HOPPY Easter too!

**A huge thank you for all the support and encouragement we receive from everyone at the Church. 3rd Alloway Brownies is urgently needing another volunteer adult helper at our weekly meetings. If you are interested in volunteering, or know anyone else who is, please get in touch [thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com](mailto:thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com)**



## Parish Record



### **"Whom God Has Joined Together"**

- 2.4.26 Caleb Rae and Maria Neves  
10.4.26 Andrew Neilson and Kirsten McMillan



### **"Blessed Are Those Who Mourn"**

- |         |                  |                            |
|---------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 24.3.26 | Mrs Gina Adrain  | Mount Charles Crescent     |
| 1.4.26  | Mr Michael Banks | Merkland Road              |
| 5.4.26  | Mrs May McIver   | Greenan Manor Nursing Home |
| 20.4.26 | Mr William Banks | Doonholm Road              |

Deadline for June Newsletter—Tuesday 26 May—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



COME  
HOLY SPIRIT