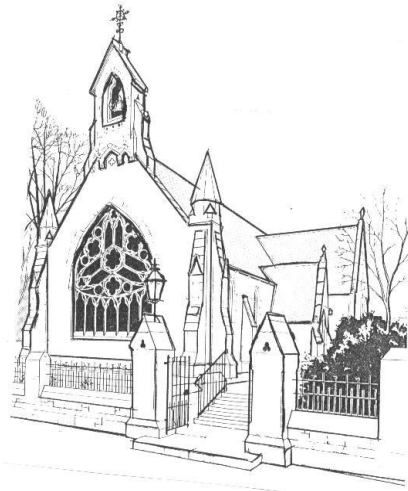


ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON

PARISH CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



August
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

"Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

I trust you have enjoyed and are still enjoying what is proving to be a rather glorious summer!

Hard to believe August is upon us! On looking up my almanac for August I discovered that on the 13th Aug 1961 East Germany sealed its border with West Germany. The Construction of a wall followed rapidly.

The Wall grew rapidly to become a 96-mile concrete barrier. It became the physical embodiment of the Iron Curtain for the next 28 years.

The East German border guards had the 'Order to Shoot' - the legal authority to kill anyone attempting to cross. Sadly approximately 140 people died this way...

Thankfully the Wall was unexpectedly opened on 9th November 1989. Berlin is now a united city. Following demolition, large chunks of the Wall were sold.

Today, original segments are exhibited in over 100 locations worldwide, including the Imperial War Museum in London.

However, I know of at least one home in Gourock and one home in Alloway who have a piece of the Berlin wall embedded in their boundaries.

Souvenirs of a divided past!

The Iron curtain may be long gone - yet we have still a great tendency to segregate and divide!

We have a tendency still to more readily build walls than bridges.

In my view there has not been a more impressive report from the General Assembly than the church without walls (2001).

It remains a call to the church to build relationships out with the church building with the community we serve and with our family and friends.

Bridge building is a skill! I for one am still learning!

Here are 5 tips I recently came across

In order to build bridges

- Listen with kindness and not judgement
- Respect each other's beliefs
- Find common ground
- Be willing to learn from others
- Embrace differences

As we enter our new session, we follow the lead of our Master.

Let me close with the words of St Paul who at one time built walls rather than bridges.

He began to understand that faith should unite people rather than divide them.

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28

Yours in Him

Rev Neil McNaught



Wednesday Worship

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

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



Where Are We All?

Almost half the world's population, 45% of us, live in cities of at least 50,000 people.

A third of us, 36%, live in towns of 5,000 to 50,000, and the remaining 19% of us live in rural areas.

The population in the UK has dropped -3.2% since 2020. The decline has happened in England and Wales (-3.1%), Scotland (-2.2%) and N Ireland (-10.4%).

Help Required

The Leisurely Lunch team require some additional staff. If you feel you could help just twice a year, please contact Rene Andrews either at church or on 07884969848.

Would you please say whether you would prefer to work in the kitchen, serving tables or dish washing. Your assistance would be much appreciated.



Youth Outreach

How can the church best reach the younger generation with the message of Jesus? It is a challenge faced daily by thousands of children's and youth workers in churches across the UK.

Now, a brand-new podcast has been launched to help them answer that question.

The Mission Sparks podcast is released every other week on all major podcast platforms. Each episode will offer:

- Fresh outreach ideas you can use immediately
- Real stories from practitioners seeing lives changed
- Practical tools for mission with children and young people
- Creative approaches to engaging the next generation

SU says: "This isn't theory. It's mission in practice. Every episode is created by a team of experts who are actively involved in pioneering, supporting and developing mission across communities. These are voices who live and breathe mission every day."

Dave Newton, National Director of Scripture Union, says: 'Breaking beyond the walls of church to reach the next generation takes courage and imagination. Our hope is that this podcast, full of practical tools and encouragement, will be the spark you need to get started.'

Go to: su.org.uk/missionsparks





Following the devastating earthquake in July the DEC launched an appeal

Our congregation's retiring offering raised £253.50 to which we have added £100 from Wed Worship.

Although the world moves on, we continue to remember the people of Venezuela in our prayers.

God of all compassion, we hold before you the people of
Venezuela.

The scale of the disaster is great and the pain is deep. We
turn to you as our refuge and our hope. Be close to those
who are in mourning.

Strengthen and safeguard rescuers, medical staff and
humanitarian aid workers.

Help those in our local area who have links to Venezuela.

Loving God, unite us in prayer and action.

Show us how to support affected communities,
Not just today but in the weeks and months to come.

We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen

John Bunyan Hall of Christian Fame



After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace,

justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31st August 1688.

His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best.

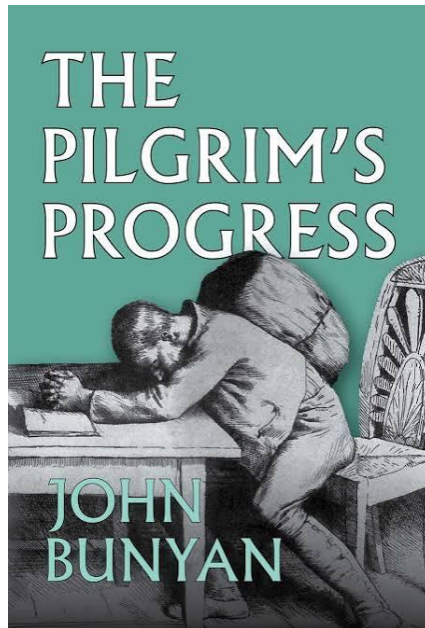
This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says,

'My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, who will now be my rewarder.' ... So, he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side...'

Bunyan's Hymn remains forever a great favourite

"There's no discouragement will make him once relent

His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim "



Session Update



Here are a few details from our last session meeting held on 27th May.

The first item of note came from our finance committee where it was suggested that in view of the amount of money we had received from recent legacies and our healthy reserves could some of this be used towards mission work. Although this proposal attracted much support, the Moderator drew attention to a forthcoming Presbytery plan requiring all congregations to develop a Mission Action Plan. This would be happening over the next few months and it was felt that once this plan had been considered and our priorities set, then any redeployment of funds could be directed to the most appropriate areas.

Our Mission Convenor took this opportunity to update members on the final sums of money raised for both our Christian Aid collections and for our Malawi Mission work from Leisurely Lunches. The total raised for Christian Aid including envelopes, book sales, plant sales, Kilt Walk and coffees etc was £8,644. Leisurely Lunches raised £2,426 for Bandawe.

Our Worship and Development Convenor advised the opening dates for the church summer openings and sought help for staffing the church during this period. He mentioned that the church walk around Dumfries House had been well supported and another walk was planned for July, along Ayr seafront.

Donald then advised that it was his intention to retire as convenor of this committee and reflected upon some of the initiatives and events which had taken place during his years in office. Neil thanked him for his service as convenor and for the many ways in which he had taken the committee's work forward. He also noted that there would be further opportunities to express appreciation in due course.

Our Safeguarding Officer advised that after our call for Pastoral visitors he was pleased to say that a number of volunteers had come forward and were now in different stages of training or registration. Those who are now part of the team are, Mrs Anne Fawbert, Mrs Sheila Erskine, Mrs Alison Dutthorn, Mrs Maureen McLeod and Mrs Jacqueline Martin. At this point The Moderator shared a short reflection on a recent Zoom conference he had attended on Safeguarding for the Clergy. It demonstrated how safeguarding was very much rooted in the gospel call to protect the vulnerable and not just a tick box exercise. This illustrated the important role of a safeguarding officer and one which should be appreciated. The court agreed and gave Bill warm applause.

It was also agreed at this meeting that we should try to recruit some new elders to our session and members were asked to let the Session Clerk know of any persons they thought may be suitable candidates. It was hoped to complete this action over the summer months.

Under correspondence the Clerk read a letter from the Church of Scotland encouraging congregations to support their Ministers in taking holidays and days of rest and generally giving support in any way to help with their wellbeing. The court agreed with this action. He also read a letter from one of our long serving elders Mrs Fiona Ross advising she would be stepping down from the eldership at Alloway and Fisherton since she was moving house to be closer to her family. The Moderator expressed sincere thanks on behalf of the elders for all her work and in particular for the quiet kindness and encouragement she demonstrated both to her fellow elders and to his own family.



thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

3rd Alloway Brownies held our 'End of Term and Leaver's Night' at Nether Auchendrane Activity Centre before the Summer holidays. The weather was not kind to us at all with heavy rain, so all our activities took place indoors. But no one seemed to mind too much as the indoor hall is airy and spacious. We put out a large selection of games for the Brownies to choose from including table tennis, beanbag target game, hoopla, giant Jenga, snakes and ladders, ludo, noughts and crosses, giant dominoes, hopscotch, skittles and a box of engineering construction parts. Everyone enjoyed the games, and the table tennis was especially popular!

Towards the end of the session, we put away the games and everyone gathered together in our Brownies circle to say goodbye to the three Brownies who are moving on to Guides after the Summer. It's always a sad time to say goodbye, and each leaver was given a bag which contained;

A MINIATURE TOADSTOOL - to remind you of your Brownie Promise and all your Brownie friends.

A RUBBER - we make mistakes in life, you can't rub them out completely, but you can correct them. If you've done something wrong, correct it as soon as you can.

A COMPASS - sometimes we get lost in life. Sometimes big events happen that make us feel lost. The compass is to remind you to remember your Brownie skills to make you feel stronger and braver, and friends you trust who will help you find your way again.

A NETHER AUCHENDRANE POSTCARD - to remind you of the happy times you had there with your friends.

After singing our Goodnight Brownies song, everyone went home with a bottle of bubbles and some marshmallows - and some of the parents and Owls wiped away a tear or two.

We look forward to our next Brownies session starting after the Summer.



Church Golf Competition

The Annual Golf Competition for Church Members will take place on the morning of Monday 7 September over the Seafeld Course with a lunch and prizegiving afterwards in the Clubhouse.

Ladies and Gents interested in playing can do so by adding their name to the Entry Sheet in the Church Vestibule. Members can also add their name by calling either Robbie Raeside or Kate McKinnon on the telephone numbers below.

Entries will close on 23 August.

Should anyone require further information they are asked to contact either Kate (01292 443792) or Robbie (01292 443304).



Alloway Active Coffee Club

The Alloway Active Coffee Club have raised £3,800 in the last year for the local charities "Crossroad" and "Spotty Zebras".

We have organised raffles, lunches, afternoon teas, speakers, and a "Fitness Dance-athon" to raise this money.

We are very grateful to all those people who have supported us throughout the year.

Brian Kelsey from Crossroads and Ciara McDonald from Spotty Zebras came to collect their cheques earlier in June.



On Monday 7 September at 11.15am Alloway Active Coffee club are hosting a talk on Scam Prevention. Jim McGarvie from South Ayrshire Trading Standards Department and a Police Officer will be giving the talk in the Church Halls in aid of Ayrshire Cancer Support.

Everyone welcome. Refreshments will be served. There will be no charge, but donations are welcome.

Drinking from my Saucer

By George McPhee - submitted by Margaret Graham

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.
For as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed:
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

I haven't got a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough,
But are caring folks around me, and that makes me rich enough.
I thank God for His blessings and the mercies He's bestowed:
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage when the going gets steep and rough,
I'll not ask for other blessings - I'm already blessed enough,
And may I never be too busy to help others with their loads;
With them I'll share my saucer 'cause my cup has overflowed.



Leisurely Lunches

These are the dates for our coming season of leisurely lunches; -

Sunday 11th October, Harvest Lunch - directly after church.

Thursday 29th October, Autumn Lunch - 12.00noon - 1.30pm

Thursday 26th November, St Andrews Lunch - 12.00noon - 1.30pm

Thursday 28th January, Burns Lunch - 12.00noon - 1.30pm

Thursday 25th February, Winter Lunch - 12.00noon - 1.30pm

Thursday 18th March, Daffodil Lunch - 12.00noon - 1.30pm

Please make a note of these dates in your diary or notebook.

This year we will place a list in the vestibule prior to each lunch for you to add your name if you intend to come.

As in previous years the proceeds from these lunches will be sent to Bandawe, Malawi, to help with the education of girls in the senior school, giving them opportunities in life which they would otherwise be denied.

The exception is the harvest lunch, profits of which normally go to work of the Vine Trust who operate health care boats in isolated areas along the Amazon River and Lake Victoria.

We trust that you will support our lunches and we look forward to having your company either for the first time or as one of our regulars.

Mission Committee



Toward Ministry – Finding your way

Are you sensing God's call to serve? Whether it's a gentle nudge or a growing conviction, Celebrating Calling 2026 is an opportunity to explore where that call might lead.

Hosted by the Church of Scotland's People and Training Team, this thought-provoking event will take place on Saturday 3 October 2026 at St George's Church, Paisley, and is designed for anyone interested in exploring ministry and service within the Church. Discover the Church's vision for ministry in the 21st century, learn about the new pathways into ministry, and explore the wide range of ministries now serving communities across Scotland. You'll also hear personal stories from people who have responded to God's call and are now serving in a variety of ministry roles.

Bring your questions, uncertainties, and aspirations. Attend presentations, speak one-to-one with experienced ministers and staff, and find out what support is available as you discern God's calling on your life. Why not reserve your place today by emailing: ministry@churchofscotland.org.uk

Celebrating Calling 2026 Saturday 3 October 2026, 10.30am - 3.00pm
St George's Church, Paisley

Come and explore, listen, learn, and discover what God may be calling you to next.



The Church of Scotland



1st Alloway Company The Boys' Brigade

Awards & Prize Giving on Friday 15th May in School Halls

Special Guest Mrs Mary Kilpatrick, Deputy Provost of Ayr

Junior Section Awards

John Houston Award

Top 1st year Boy - Robert Wilson

Maxi Cup

Top 2nd year Boy - Calum Buntain

Robert Black Cup

Top 3rd year Boy - Mark Wilson

Top collectors more than £100

Harry Cowie

Finlay McCrindle

Rory Menzies

Matthew Stafford

Luka Djordjevic

Jacob Otterly

Nathan Kay

Murray Farrell

Robert Wilson

Calum Buntain

Top collector - Calum Buntain

The James Stewart Cup

Best Drilled Boy - Euan Reid

The Eccles Trophy

Outstanding performance in drama - Luka Djordjevic

The Lang Cup

Presented for Individual effort and support - Nathan Kay

Best Squad - Mark Wilson & Squad 3

Top Squad Leader - Robert O'Relly

Top Boy Cup

Top Boy attendance & inspection - Calum Buntain

Company Section Awards

Best Drilled Recruit - Pte Glenn Cunningham

BCL Community Shield

non-BB Community service - Pte Lewis McLelland

The Physical Education Trophy

For the boy who has made most advance in physical education during the year - L/Cpl Kevin Mullen

The Alwa Rosebowl

For the boy who has made most progression in BB work during the year - Pte Jacob Kelly

Best Recruit

Points based on attendance, uniform and involvement - Pte Lewis Cameron

Dr Tom Morrall Trophy

High level of commitment - Pte Harry Thorne

The Jubilee Salver

For the most contribution 2/3-year boy - Pte Owen Shaw

The McLaren Cup

Personal development - L/Cpl Liam Clark

The Stuart Hatcher Trophy

To the boy who has given best company support - Pte Cameron Steele

Inter Squad Sport Trophy - L/Cpl Thomas McCall

24 sports over the year

The Henderson Drill Cup

For the best drilled boy

The Founders Cup

For the best boy at Christian Education

Squad Medal

Inspection & attendance - L/Cpl Innes Morton

The Captains Cup

Top boy since joined the company

Saltire Community Awards were presented to seven lads who received 50 hours, two received 100 hours & three received 200hour Certificates.

President Badge

L/Cpl Thomas McCall

L/Cpl Kevin Mullen

L/Cpl Innes Morton

L/Cpl Liam Clark

Mrs Kilpatrick was delighted to present the 1st Kings Badge gained in the Company to - C/Sgt Donald Nicol.

At the end, our Honorary Officer, presented the Company with a cheque for £1,000 for the Company Camp this year.

Afterwards, the Catering for the 90 spectators was thanks to our ladies.

Parish Record

"Whom God has joined together"

5.6.26 Jacqueline Kane and Scott Wotherspoon

10.6.26 Catherine Campbell and David Dickie

"Blessed are those who mourn "

27.5.26	Mrs Margaret Robinson	Greenan Way
27.5.26	Dr Marjory Munro	Dalblair Court
2.6.26	Mr Jim McCrindle	The Croft, Dunure
7.6.26	Mrs Ruby Cunningham	Creggnbahn Care Home
10.7.26	Mr David Hughes	Doonvale Place
17.7.26	Mrs Catherine Stewart	Carseloch Road
20.7.26	Mrs Helen Mckenzie	Cumnor Hall

Deadline for September Newsletter—Tuesday 25 August—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