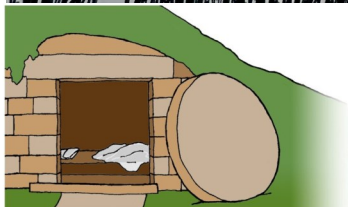


ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



March
2024

Front Cover Designed by Heather P6W
Alloway Primary School



Dear Friends

We are a nation of animal lovers. Many of us own a dog, a cat or a budgie.

Few of us own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life.

They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting belongings.

Despite their small frame, donkeys were surprisingly tough. They could survive on poor fodder, and could travel an average of 20 miles a day!

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. He deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why?

In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. However, the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. So, Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the king of peace.

His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work chosen for them. Remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

Mahatma Gandhi is often accredited with the following sentiment "you must be the change you wish to see"

This Easter as we celebrate new life and new hope we too can seek to embody the lessons of Palm Sunday and the donkey.

May we too help promote a world peace in a restless world?

May we serve humbly?

May we wait on and follow the leading of our Master?

May the marks of God's grace and kindness be apparent in what we see and say and do?

Wishing you and yours a very Happy Easter

Neil McNaught



Some notes from Rev. David...

At a recent meeting of the Youth Committee, it was noted that help is urgently required in some of our youth organisations. Perhaps the most concerning thing to note is that some of our organisations may need to stop meeting because of the lack of volunteers. The Brownies and Rainbows, Beavers and Cubs are in particular need of volunteers. It was also noted that there is a waiting list (can you believe it!) for some of the organisations - more could join if there were more volunteers. If you, or someone you know would be interested in helping out at any of our youth organisations, please feel free to chat with me, or alternatively contact the organisation leaders directly.



We have not had a Crèche during Sunday worship since before the Covid Pandemic and I would like to explore whether or not there is currently a demand for such provision. If you would make use of a Crèche for your children or grandchildren, or know parents/grandparents who would make use of such provision, can you please let me know. We do not want to be in a position where parents, or grandparents, cannot attend Sunday worship because of the lack of Crèche provision. Of course, if we are to offer a Crèche, we need a team of volunteers. So..... if you would be willing to go on a rota for Crèche, please do let me know - the more volunteers we have, the less often your name would appear on the rota.

The February Messy Church was another busy event where we thought about Jesus the Shepherd. To make it easier for the children to participate in all the amazing craft activities (thanks Jenny and Lynda!) we now have two groups - one doing crafts and one learning about the story and playing games - they then switch to ensure that all get the same experience. We of course conclude with a meal together - and given the topic of this session, the main dish was 'Shepherd's Pie' (but with beef!). A vegetarian offer of tomato, lentil and mushroom pie was also on offer. Huge thanks to my amazing teams of volunteers. Our next meeting is on 9th March when we will consider the entry of Jesus to Jerusalem - on a donkey (keeping on our theme this year - animals).





The January meeting of the Men's Breakfast took place on Saturday 27th January. Following some tea, coffee and delicious hot filled rolls, we heard from our guest speaker Linda Hopper. Linda, who lives in Doonfoot, supports a charity in Uganda called 'Kitega Community'. The aim of the charity is to integrate those with physical and/or mental disabilities into the community, and society, and to offer vocational training, counselling, legal aid medical services and group activities. Linda's passion for the charity was evident and we were grateful to hear about Kitega Community, and about her involvement with the charity.

What a fantastic turnout for our Lenten Study which is based on themes that arise in the movie 'The Greatest Showman'. Week 1 was a viewing of the movie and the 50 participants enjoyed popcorn, drinks, and of course a choc-ice. In Week 2 we thought about 'A Million Dreams' and explored what 'dreams' we have had/do have for our lives; what prevents us from realising our 'dreams'?; what 'dreams' does God have for us?; and, what prevents us from being part of this dream? The small groups discussions were so interesting and certainly raised some probing questions. We look forward to future weeks when we will explore: Come Alive; Rewrite The Stars; Never Enough; and, The Greatest Show. Please feel free to join us - Wednesdays 7.00-8.45pm. Final session on 20th March.



FAMILY CEILIDH Our Church Family Ceilidh is fast approaching! The Ceilidh takes place on Saturday 16th March, 7.00-10.00pm. If you do not have tickets, I am afraid they are all sold - though I can put you on a waiting list should anyone be unable to attend. Music (and dance instruction) will be provided by the amazing 'Jiggered Ceilidh Band'. Look out for a report and photos in the next Newsletter.

Richest blessings, David.



Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church

In accordance with the approved Presbytery Plan, Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church will come into being on the 6th April 2024.

It is anticipated at time of print, that the united charge will have two services on a Sunday Morning:

9.30am at Fisherton

10.30am at Alloway

Thus if people would prefer an earlier or later service from Sunday 7th April 2024 there will be a choice!! (In most cases you will have to endure the same minister - me!!)

A service of union will take place on Thurs 18th April at 7pm attended by the Moderator of Presbytery.

Following the service, hospitality will be served in Alloway Halls with a closing devotion expected there at 9.30pm.

Please note that the attendance number is restricted at Fisherton Church on the 18th April 2024.

If it is your intention to attend please be in touch with the secretary Mrs Jan Duncan (tel 442083 or secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com) who will advise you of seat availability.

Please note also there will be restricted onsite parking at Fisherton Church. If you are travelling on 18th April by car please do not travel alone!

What is the future for our new congregation?

According to the basis of union, Fisherton building should be closed/let/sold or otherwise disposed of no later than September 2025. It is not in our gift to change that.

However, it is hoped that Fisherton building will remain open and used for the foreseeable future.

Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—March

As it has been a huge privilege to be the last minister of Alloway Parish Church, it will be a huge privilege to be the first minister of Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church.

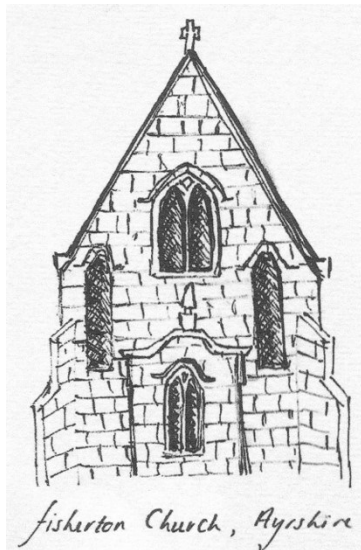
My growing sense is that there will be many opportunities for mission in the beautiful village of Dunure.

I know both congregations will make every effort to warmly welcome new members and visitors into their midst.

Thank you for your continued prayerful support at this time of change.

Yours in Him

Neil McNaught



Kiltwalk 2024

The Kiltwalk Glasgow 2024 is scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

David, Neil and Madge, aka the Alloway Strollers are in training for the 14 mile stroll to raise funds for Christian Aid.

If you would like to support our venture please click on

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/teamallowaystrollers24>

Let's hope it will not be a windy day!!



Tent for Lent Appeal

Right now, over 100 million people around the world have been made homeless by disaster and conflict. ShelterBox works to change this.

By providing emergency shelter and tools for families robbed of their homes by disaster, they seek to transform despair into hope.

"We want to see a world where no family is left without shelter after disaster"

The Wednesday Worship Group has donated £600 to donate a shelter box this Lent to this excellent cause.

We are mindful of the 100 million people throughout the world who do not enjoy the blessings we do!



Easter Celebrations at Alloway Church

24th March	10.30am	Palm Sunday (baptism)
27th March	10.30am	Wednesday Worship (Octagonal Hall)
28th March	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion
29th March	10.00am	Parish Pilgrim Walk (meet in front of church)
	7.30pm	Good Friday Service
31st March	10.30am	Family Easter Service (Followed by hot cross buns in the hall)
3rd April	10.30am	Coffee and Chat (Fellowship Lounge)

Daffodil Lunch

Our next Leisurely Lunch will take place on Thursday 21st March from 12.00noon until 1.30pm. Please note this is one week earlier than normal because of the Easter calendar this year.

The lunch will have a spring like flavour and the menu can be seen on the poster in this Newsletter.

As always we look forward to your company and will welcome anyone coming for the first time.



A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The ladies of Ayr Inner Wheel would like to thank the members of the congregation who attended our annual coffee morning that was held in the church halls last month.

We were overwhelmed by the number of people who attended the event and supported our two chosen charities 'The national British Heart Foundation' and the local Night Before Christmas Appeal.

We raised over £2,600 at the coffee morning and this, together with two very generous donations, has helped us reach the amazing total of £3,000. This will be shared between the charities.

We thank you all for helping us reach this remarkable sum and we very much appreciated your support.

Sue Williams

Treasurer Inner Wheel Club of Ayr



Daffodil Lunch

Alloway Church Hall

Thursday 21st March

12.00noon until 1.30pm



Carrot and Orange soup

or

Pea and Ham Soup



Chocolate Gateaux

or

Pear and Peach Crumble with
Ice Cream/Custard



Cost £5.00 per person includes tea/coffee and biscuits.



Easter School Competition

A big thank you to Alloway Primary Children for taking part in our Christian Message of Easter 2024 Newsletter art competition. Our winner this year is Heather from P6W. Her picture decorates the cover of our March Newsletter.

You will note in her design she captures the cross and the tomb and the angels. Essential parts of the Easter story! However, eye catching for me was the way she presented Jesus stretching out his arms in peace.

The picture is joyous! There is much mystery in the resurrection story which neither big nor small people can ever fully understand!

However, I am mindful that one of the first recorded messages of Jesus to his fearful followers after his resurrection was "Peace be with you"

In this restless world Heather, your picture reminds me of that message!

If we could all share a little more peace with each other, this world would indeed be a better place!

Congratulations Heather and thanks to all participants for your work!

Rev Neil McNaught

ENCOURAGEMENT CORNER

Deviations

The dictionary defines to deviate as, to turn aside from or to depart from a specific course or a prescribed mode of behaviour.

I have been looking at the things which cause us to turn away from following after God and the plan He has for our lives. In particular, we can perhaps learn something from the lives of two men, chosen to be leaders in the nation of Israel - Saul and Solomon. You will notice that I have refrained from calling them kings at this point because although the people asked for and demanded a king, what God gave them was a prince (RSV) or a captain (AV). We are immediately reminded that there is no King but God and that our guidance should come from Him.

Saul

As we read the story of Saul in 1Sam: 5 we see a man changed by God, chosen and anointed to serve. However, due to his pride, impatience, disobedience and rebellion he loses the favour of and the presence of God in his life. His actions resulted in "God turning away from him" and "tearing the kingdom out of his hand" and giving it to another. Our actions always have consequences and sadly we have to live with them.

Solomon

Solomon became Israel's third king. His request for "an understanding heart to govern thy people and discernment between good and evil" so pleased God that He granted his request plus riches and honour. However, conditions were applied, he must "walk in my (Gods) ways and keep my (Gods) statutes and commandments" as his father David did."

Solomon's weakness was that he, in disobedience to God, married many foreign women causing him to turn from God, worship their gods and idols, thereby breaking the commandments of God.

Paid in Full

As we reflect on the failures in the lives of these men which caused them to turn from God and to deviate from the plan of God for their lives. Things like disobedience, rebellion, pride, false gods and idols can any of us claim innocence? The apostle Paul reminds us "that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Rms 3:23. All includes you and me.

Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—March

We have talked previously of being in a right relationship with God. As we approach Easter, can there be a better time to put that relationship right? If you are in any doubt about where you stand then come to Jesus in repentance and faith and He will put it right for you. He Paid the Price in Full.

If you are unsure about your relationship with God, please talk to either of the ministers and they will I am sure be pleased to help.



King Saul



thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

3rd Alloway Brownies 50th Anniversary Year 1974 - 2024



The Brownies celebrated Burns Night and sang 'Happy Birthday To Rabbie Burns - 268 years ago'. We had a look at a very old Victorian wooden box with a picture of Tam o'Shanter and his friend Souter Johnnie from one of Burns' poems. The Brownies then acted out the Tam o'Shanter story; the characters were Tam, Meg (Tam's horse), Souter Johnnie (drinking hot chocolate!), Kate (looking cross and grumpy), Church window arch (two Brownies making an arch), Chief Warlock, Cutty Sark. Everyone else were the dancing witches and warlocks. The Brownies enjoyed acting it out so much that they asked to do it twice! This also counted towards the local Myths and Legends part of our Biosphere badge. Then the Brownies made toy haggis out of pairs of tights stuffed with sheep's wool, and raced them across the floor. We finished with singing Auld Lang Syne, and everyone went home with a card and shortbread and pink wafers!

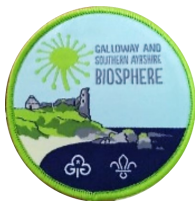
As another part of our local Biosphere badge, the Brownies found out about the Great Garden Bird Watch and took a bird spotting sheet home to tick off the birds they saw. We also played a 'Bird Table' relay game where each Brownie was given the name of a bird and a type of bird food, and each time it was mentioned in a story being read out, they had to run across the room and around a 'bird table' (chair) and back - and if the word 'bird' was mentioned, they all had to run. The word 'bird' just happened to be mentioned a good number of times! There were a lot of rosy cheeks and puffed out Brownies at the end of the game!

Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—March

The Brownies took part in the annual junior stamp competition organised by Stamp Active Network, each Brownie sorted and mounted a page of stamps. We told them to come up with a catchy, clever title, and some of their titles included 'African Animals', 'Terrific Transport', 'Beautiful Birds', 'Fantastic Flowers', 'Our Planet', 'Magic creatures and Where To Find Them', 'Cute and Not Cute', 'The Colour of Nature', 'The Full Field Of Animals', 'Flower The Dreamer', 'Weird and Cute Animals', and 'Funky Colours'! These competition entries will go on to two national competitions later in the year, and will also be on display at the Cutty Sark Exhibition space in Ayr as part of the local Ayrshire Philatelic stamp exhibition from 11th - 17th May 2024 - please do go along and have a look and admire their work!

We celebrated Chinese New Year by roaring like dragons (!) and then quietened things down by playing Chinese Whispers. We had a games night and played 'Legs 9' counting around the circle and when we reached '9' that Brownie had to bend her leg up, until there was only one Brownie left with a leg still stretched out. After that we had lots of noisy fun playing 'Fruit Salad' with the parachute where Brownies chose a fruit name and they had to swap places by running under the parachute when their fruit name was called out.

3rd Alloway Brownies are looking forward to celebrating a very special event in April this year when we will be 50 years old! We have heard a couple of lovely stories from people connected to the Unit who read about our anniversary in this magazine last month; if you (or anyone you know) was in 3rd Alloway Brownies or has photographs, memories, stories or any connections, please get in touch (email address above). We'd love to invite some of the former leaders - we're very pleased to have managed to contact former leaders Helen Duthie, Shelagh Johnston and Una, but we'd also love to contact Elizabeth Stevenson, Susan Searle, Catherine Nelson, Patricia Henderson, Annette Mitchell, Lena Lawrence(?), E. Bruce (Elizabeth?), Shirley Scott, and Joan Rome.





Parish Record

"Blessed are those who mourn"

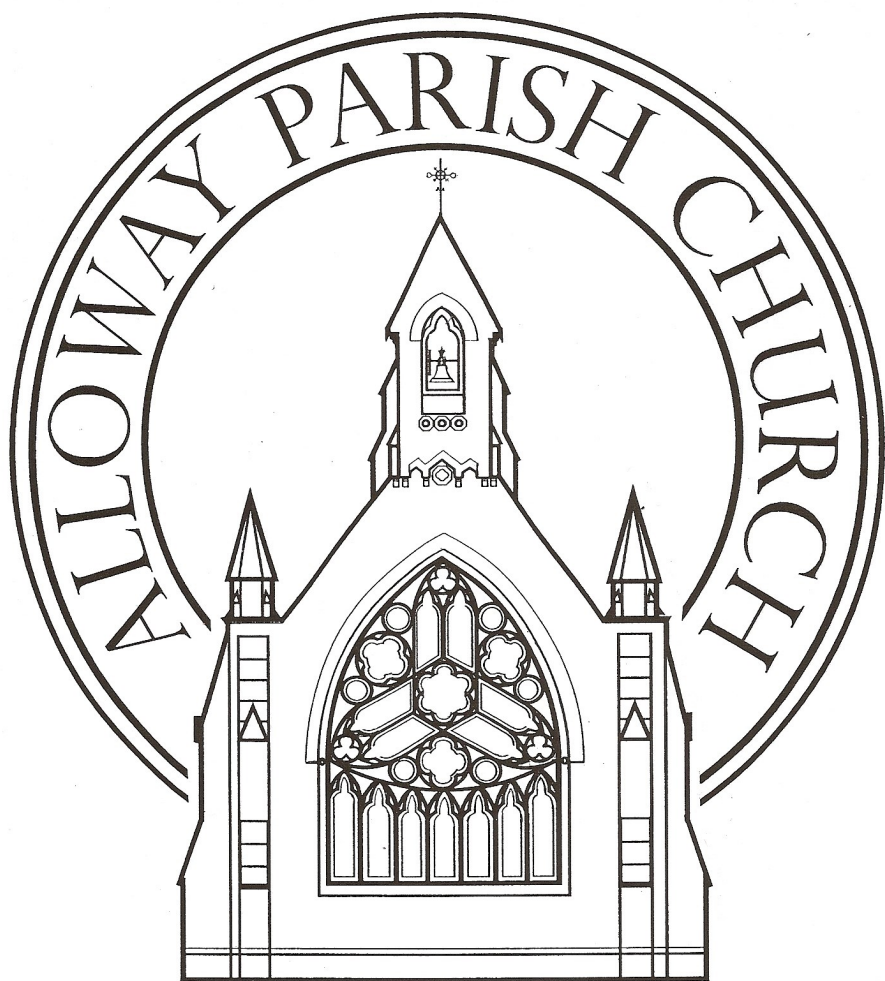
14.1.24	Mrs Janet Helm	Windyhall Care Home
14.1.24	Mr Michael Dunlop	Invergowrie
16.1.24	Mr Marshall Cunningham	Earl's Way
27.1.24	Mr Robert Reid	Pemberton Valley
28.1.24	Mrs Jean McGee	Cairn Crescent

Deadline for April Newsletter—Tuesday 19 March—12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com

Please visit our website www.allowaychurch.org or our Facebook page



Alloway Parish Church of Scotland
No. 100538

Scottish Registered Charity
No. SC012456