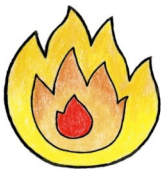
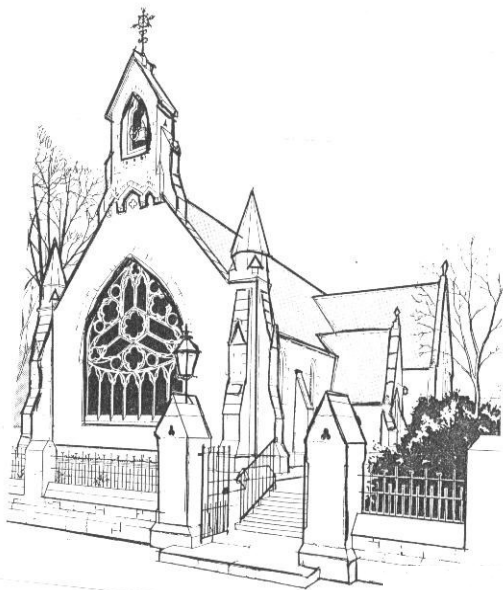




ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



May
2024



Dear Friends

"The kiss of the sun for pardon the song of the birds for mirth

You're nearer God's heart in the garden than anywhere else on earth".

May is the month for the garden!

People who know me know I am a most reluctant gardener. However, I fully understand the garden can be a place of solace and refreshment for many.

Indeed I will not forget the lovely old housebound lady in Alloway who once declared to me

"Mr McNaught I loved coming to your church!"

At first I found great encouragement until she went on to say

"That way I could see all the lovely gardens in the Loaning as I walked to the Kirk".

There is no denying a well-kept garden does inspire.

Here in Alloway Church we are indebted to our Jolly Gardeners who on a weekly and voluntary basis tend the grounds of the church.

At Fisherton too the gardens are carefully kept.

Although a most reluctant gardener, may I pass on some springtime gardening tips given to me?

When you plan your garden this spring

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind, Peace of heart, Peace of soul.

Strive for the peace which passes all understanding.

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip, Squash indifference, Squash grumbling,
Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful in worship, Lettuce be kind, Lettuce be
happy, Lettuce love one another.

No garden should be without turnips:

Turnip for worship,
Turnip for service when needed,
Turnip to help one another.

Finally in your garden you must have:

Thyme for God
Thyme for others
Thyme for ourselves

So as you reach for your spade and hoe this month. Watch
the back!!

Remember also the wise words of scripture

Often in life "you will reap what you sow".

Happy gardening

Yours in Him

Neil McNaught



Some notes from Rev. David...



As a result of the school holidays, there was no meeting of Messy Church in April. The next meeting will be on Saturday 11th May when we will be thinking about Jesus calling His Disciples to be 'Fishers of People'. Please spread the news about Messy Church at Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church.

The Men's Breakfast takes place bi-monthly and our next meeting will be on Saturday 25th May at 10.00am. Please come along and enjoy fellowship, hearty breakfast rolls, and listen to our guest speaker.



After a break for Easter, PULSE met again on Sunday 21st April, 7.00-8.30pm. This was a rearranged date as a result of the Kiltwalk - it was doubtful if I would make it along to PULSE after walking the 14 miles of the Kiltwalk. We enjoyed a fun-filled evening of games and crafts (and of course 'tuck shop') and then had a challenge to construct a 'survival shelter' - there were some great creations. Our final meeting for this session will be on Sunday 26th May.

Following the success of the Church Family Ceilidh in March, we have now set a date for a ceilidh next year - Saturday 15th March 2025; 7-10pm - SAVE THE DATE. Once again, we will be dancing to the amazing Jiggered Ceilidh Band. Whilst tickets will not be available until early 2025, it may be worthwhile putting the date in your diary.



The next programme of Stepping Stones will commence on Friday 3rd May at 2.00pm in the Fellowship Lounge. This will be a five-week programme and will conclude on Friday 31st May.

This bereavement support programme explores various aspects of loss and allows people to feel they are in the company of those who are dealing with common concerns and feelings. Please contact me for further information.

Our Scripture Union Groups continue to run at Alloway and Doonfoot Primary Schools and the attendance each week has been really encouraging. The P7 children enjoy the range of activities that we offer, and it is great to see how enthusiastic they are in learning information about the Bible and Christianity.



SCHOOLS

In the next few weeks, Neil and I will meet with the Headteacher of Fisherton Primary School to explore how we can be involved in the life of this small school.

Once again, I would like to express my thanks to everyone who helps out with all of the above activities - they can only run with your help!

Richest blessings, David.

A poster for the Praise Gathering 2024. The background is a photograph of a large choir performing on a stage with purple and red lighting. The text on the poster reads: 'THE 400 VOICE PRAISE GATHERING CHOIR, YOUTH CHOIR AND BAND PRESENT: PRAISE GATHERING 2024 GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL SATURDAY 22 JUNE 2PM SUNDAY 23 JUNE 7PM With Special Guest Alvin Slaughter'. At the bottom, it says 'TICKETS NOW ON SALE from venue box office or www.praisegathering.org.uk'. There are logos for 'praise gathering 2024' and 'pgivc' at the bottom corners.



The Church of Scotland

Alloway and Fisherton Church

On the evening of 18th April 2024 , Rev Alison McBrier, Moderator of the Presbytery of the South West of Scotland presided over the Service of Introduction and Union uniting the congregations of Alloway and Fisherton.

The Moderator chose as her reading I Cor 13, inviting the congregation to think and reflect on the passage. Although this scripture is often read at weddings, she drew our attention to the fact that Paul of course was writing to a church and reminding them of the most important things.:

Faith, Hope and Love.

Living in community can often be costly and is never easy! However, there has been much goodwill in our union. We trust and pray over the years it will bear good fruit of ministry and mission in Dunure and Alloway.

Just a reminder of our times of Sunday Worship

Fisherton Church	9.30am (early bird service)
Alloway Church	10.30am

Thank you in anticipation for your continued support of your church!



Kiltwalk 2024

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

David Neil Madge and Lynda, a.k.a. the Alloway Strollers took on the Big Stroll—14.4 miles from Clydebank to Loch Lomond.

Many thanks to all our generous supporters who have given to date over £3000 in sponsorship (including gift aid!).

We requested that Christian Aid use this money for their Middle East Appeal.

If you would like to support our venture further please click on

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

My thanks also to the local worship teams who conducted the services at Alloway and Fisherton.

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 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th May

(Coffee and Chat 1st May 10.30am in the Fellowship Lounge)





"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8

We all get tired and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and crucified, and then dead and buried. Then there had been the shock and awe of finding out that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father. By the time the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples would indeed have welcomed some fresh spiritual fire!

For us today, many of us have felt emotionally drained with the uncertainties caused by Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate, and now the pain and uncertainty of what will happen in the war in Ukraine.

So, what better day to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us? As we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church, let us thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning and Book Sale

Our annual coffee morning and book sale in aid of Christian Aid will take place on Saturday 18th May from 10.00am until 12.00noon.

Entry to the tea room in the Large Hall will cost £4.00 and £1.00 for children. Books in the Octagonal Hall will be priced at only £1.00 each or 7 books for £5.00.

We would appreciate donations of books which should be brought to the back door of the halls on Sunday 12th May between 10.00am and 12.00noon.

If this time is unsuitable we would accept on Friday 17th May between 6.30pm and 8.00pm.

If you would be willing to donate baking for the tea room please add you name to a list on the vestibule table which will be available from Sunday 5th May. Please bring baking to the hall on Friday 17th May between 6.30pm and 8.00pm or between 9.00am and 10.00am on Saturday 18th May.

There will also be a list in the vestibule, from 5th May, for volunteer duties on Friday evening and Saturday morning for both coffee morning and book sale. We would be grateful for your help.

Books will also be on sale on Sunday 19th May between 11.30am until 12.30pm.

Mission Committee



Notice from the Treasurer

Please note that any payments to the Church by cheque should now be made out to:

Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church



Christian Aid Coffee Morning, Book and Plant Sale

Alloway Church Halls

Saturday 19th May 2024

10.00am until 12.00noon



Cost £4.00 - for home baking and tea/coffee.
£1.00 for children

**Books also for sale on Sunday 20th May
after the church service until 12.30pm.**

Summer Outing - David Livingstone Centre

A trip is being organised on Sunday 23rd June 2024 to the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre. The intention is that those participating bring a picnic lunch to Church on that Sunday and have this in the Halls Complex following the morning Service. We would set off in shared cars from the Halls no later than 12.30pm with a view to arriving at Blantyre by 1.30pm. We have arranged a group guided tour at 1.45pm and it will last for just over an hour. The cost of the entry and the tour is £10 per head. There is a cafe on site, which can be used after our tour for tea/coffee etc. If you are interested in joining this outing, a participants sheet will be placed in the vestibule from early May. You can indicate on this sheet whether you require a lift, or indeed can take passengers in your car. The £10 per head will be collected before we go. For further information, please speak to Sheena or Donald Kemp 440700.



Friendship Group

This is a sociable club and takes the form of invited speakers on a range of subjects, demonstrations, events and outings. Friday 17 May there will be a presentation on the History of Dunure and the Local Fishing Industry in Fisherton Church from 2.00 to 3.30pm. Come along and enjoy the talk followed by baking and good chat.

There are still a few places left for the final meeting of the session, which is a Lunch at the Clocktower, Auchincruive on Friday 1 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.



ENCOURAGEMENT CORNER

FREEDOM

When we think about the subject of freedom our minds instinctively turn to thoughts of imprisonment and slavery. Imprisonment as associated with payment for a crime but slavery talking of injustice and "man's inhumanity to man".

"The biblical idea of liberty (freedom) has as its background the thought of imprisonment and slavery" Slavery was reportedly in existence as early as 3000 years BC.

Early examples of this practice were Israel's capture by the Egyptians and the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians which resulted in the capture and enslavement of Israel's elite young men.

Joseph is the outstanding example of one young man who was both enslaved and imprisoned. But triumphed because he put his trust in God.

Sadly these practices are still in existence today.

John Newton

Newton was an Anglican cleric and slavery abolitionist, who in early life had worked on and captained several slave ships. He is well known to us for writing many hymns especially *Amazing Grace* and *Glorious things of Thee are Spoken*.

Nelson Mandela.

Widely known today as being imprisoned for his actions against apartheid and in later life with his involvement in negotiation with F. W. de Klerk, President of South Africa to "fully dismantle apartheid and establish a transition to universal suffrage".

However, the idea of liberty (freedom) comes to its culmination in the Gospels and in Paul's Letters where it is shown clearly that it is Christ who sets us free from our true enemies, sin and Satan.

In John 8:31-32 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, "if you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—May

Satan in Scripture is described as the Prince of this world and as we look around us at the misery and the evil dominating life today we see the effects of his rule.

But (and I love Gods butts) Jesus offers us an alternative. He says:

Continue in My word.

If you do you will truly be My disciples.

And you will know the truth.

And the truth will set you free.

Are there things in your life which are imprisoning or enslaving you? Do you long to be free from them and are you ready to obey Jesus and be set free. Know this that you are not alone. All of us have things in our past that we are ashamed of and wish that they had never happened. The solution is simple. Follow Jesus instructions:

Get your bible out - immerse yourself in its truth - and begin to live your life by the principles you find in it.

Become a true disciple of Jesus by giving your life to Him, living for Him and serving others.

When you do you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.

You will know freedom.



thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

3rd Alloway Brownies 50th Anniversary Year 1974 - 2024



3rd Alloway Brownies was 50 years old on 12th April 2024! And of course we celebrated with a party! We invited several visitors who have had a past connection with our Brownies over the years, including two past Brown Owls - Shirley Scott (1977-1979) and Helen Duthie (1994-2007) - as well as some other former Owls - Snowy Owl Shelagh Johnston and Snowy Owl Alison Hillier, a former Brownie Judith Howal and her Mum Joyce, and Young Leader Katie Owl and our Bex Owl. We were also very pleased to have members of Girlguiding with us - our County President Ina Mackie, County Commissioner Fiona Robertson, and two District Commissioners - Janis Meredith and Sarah Codling, as well as Leader Hazel Hoyle - they all came along and joined in the fun. The room was decorated with balloons, banners and bunting made by the Brownies the previous week. We had an enormous colourful cake, and a fabulous display of Brownie related items dating back to 1974, as well as our old Brownie flag and pennant and other memorabilia. Hazel Hoyle lent us her old Brownie uniform dress, leather belt, badges and brown woolly hat, the little dress still had a mark on the pocket where her pen had once leaked! We also displayed the very precious framed original Girlguiding Registration Certificate from the opening of 3rd Alloway Brownies back in 1974.



Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—May

After giving a loud welcome to our visitors and introducing them, we started our party with singing our Brownie songs - 'We're Brownie Guides', Arches, and then we invited the visitors to join in our dancing song to 'Good Evening Friend Brownie, How are you this evening, Let's dance in a circle, and bow and move on', with one person from each pair moving on to greet a new person with each verse, until we had worked our way all around the circle - everyone was worn out after that!

But there was no rest for the Brownies - they had an 'Under and Over' relay race in their Sixes passing a ball along their line. After that everyone joined in for a craft, and made a special anniversary key ring.

Then it was time to get our green parachute out. The parachute is one of the most popular games we play, I had always been told it was a real military parachute and to take good care of it, but I had never known where it had actually come from. One of the visitors (Snowy Owl Shelagh1994-2007) casually said to me "Oh it's so good to see you are still using my



brother's parachute!" She explained that he had served in the SAS Parachute Regiment and she had asked him if they had a spare parachute for the Brownies - and he provided one! So now we know where it originated from, and I asked Shelagh to let her brother know it is still extremely popular with the Brownies. The parachute is so large it virtually fills the Octagonal Hall, and we held on to the edges while gently raising it up and down, and then the Leaders and visitors took turns calling out "Swap places if you have a brother/have a dog/are wearing yellow..." etc, and there were squeals of excitement as the Brownies ran underneath the parachute to reach the other side before it came down again. After that we raised the parachute up one last time and all dived underneath and sat on the inside edge to make a mushroom dome inside!

All good things come to an end, we sang our Brownie Bells goodbye song, the visitors and Leaders signed our toadstool and were presented with flowers, and everyone was given a goodie bag with some cake, sweeties, a special souvenir certificate, a copy of the original registration certificate, an old Brownie magazine from the

Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—May

1970s - and of course, a special badge to mark the event. Parents were invited in for tea, coffee and biscuits and to have a look at the display, and there was a lovely warm atmosphere as people chatted and reminisced. There was even enough cake left for the Guides who were meeting next door! Well done everyone!



Prayer for May 2024

Dear Lord,

May, the loveliest of months - and this year, as we welcome the blossom and the beauty of late Spring, we also welcome Your Holy Spirit afresh, as we celebrate Pentecost.

May we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit, as Your people did on that first Day of Pentecost. May we be filled and empowered and emboldened to witness to Your goodness and love.

May we be transformed by Him and reflect Your transforming grace to the broken world in which we live. May people who meet us ask, "What does this mean?" May they turn to You and hear You speaking in ways they can understand.

Without Your Holy Spirit we can do nothing. With Him living in us, we can do all things.

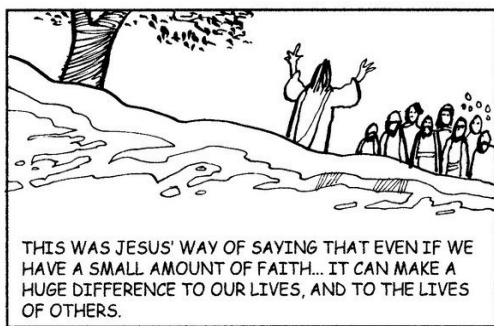
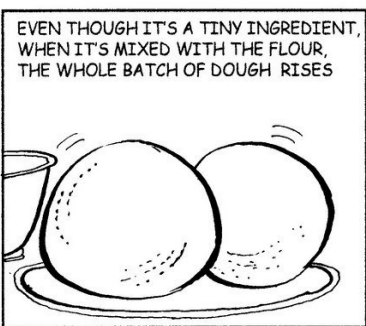
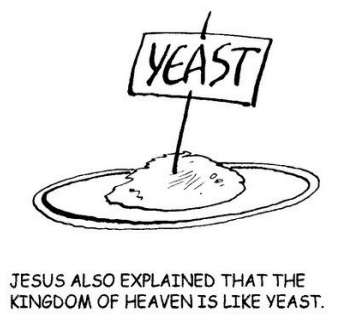
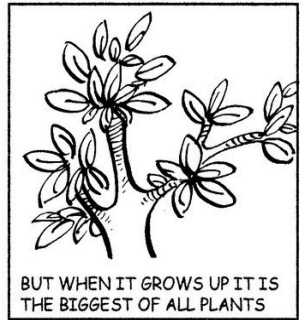
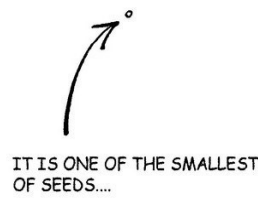
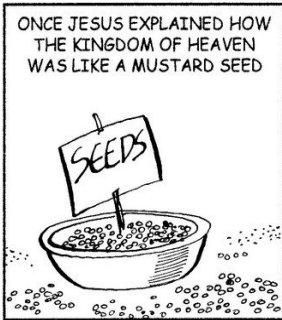
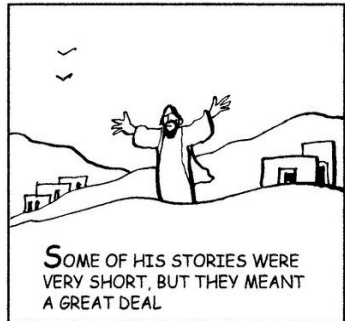
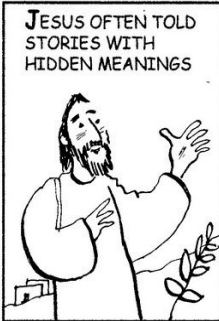
Come Holy Spirit, come to us, we pray,

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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





Parish Record

"Of such is the kingdom of God"

7th April

Finlay John Thomas Ballantyne son of Tom and Elspeth, Eskbank,
Ella Elizabeth Tosh son of Neale and Fiona Bonnyrigg,

"Blessed are those who mourn "

3.4.24	Mrs Faye McClymont	Homebriars
5.4.24	Mrs Ettie Archibald	Greenan Manor
11.4.24	Mr Andrew Hill	Glebe Nursing Home Dalmellington
11.4.24	Mr Kenneth Dickie	Longbank Road
12.4.24	Mr Bill Kerr	Greenan Manor
13.4.24	Mrs Margaret Simpson	Bathurst Drive
14.4.24	Mrs Jacqueline Kerr	Coylebank Prestwick

Deadline for June Newsletter—Tuesday 21 May—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