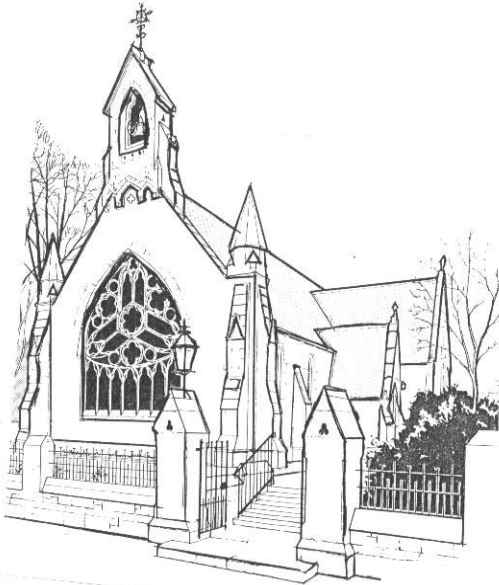




ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



April
2024



Dear Friends

It is with a sense of privilege that I pen the first letter in the first edition of the Alloway and Fisherton Parish Newsletter as the first minister of the united charge.

There has been a long journey to get us to this place.

A journey of union which most other charges in the Church of Scotland are still embarked upon.

How appropriate that our new united charge should start in the Easter season!

Easter is a time for new beginnings.

Hope and renewal are reflected in the miracle of springtime.

Around us we sense better, brighter days are coming!

We pray that Easter hope and renewal might be born in our hearts.

The Kirk Session of Alloway Church had declared the Year 2023-2024 to be the Year of fellowship.

Our union together signifies our wish to become an outgoing and welcoming worshipping community serving the parishioners of Alloway and Fisherton.

Please note the time of the services on a Sunday are:

Fisherton 9.30am

Alloway 10.30am

May I remind you also of the service which will mark the union which will take place in Fisherton Church on Thursday 18th April at 7pm?

There will be hospitality served at Alloway Church Halls on that evening at 8.15pm.

Looking forward to worshipping and serving together.

Yours in Him

Neil McNaught



Some notes from Rev. David...



At our March Messy Church, we thought about the triumphant entry of Jesus to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We had another great turnout and those who attended had the opportunity to get creative with some amazing crafts focusing on the donkey on which Jesus rode as he entered Jerusalem. There was also time for a story, a video and a game before we enjoyed a delicious meal. Messy Church is such an enjoyable time, so if you know children who would be interested in coming along, our next session is on Saturday 11th May 4-6pm. As a result of the school holidays, there is no meeting in April!

On Saturday 23rd March, we welcomed Rev. Thom Riddell as the guest speaker at our Men's Breakfast. In addition to being the Auxiliary Minister at St. Michael's Parish Church in Linlithgow, Thom is also the Convenor of the Church of Scotland's Social Care Council - and it was in this capacity that Thom presented to the group. The focus of Thom's talk was the role of 'Crossreach', the social care arm of the Church of Scotland - it was enlightening to hear about the breadth of services provided by Crossreach - as Thom highlighted, there is care from 'cradle to grave'. The next meeting of the Men's Club will be on Saturday 25th May at 10.00am.



The next meeting of PULSE will be on Sunday 21st April, 7.00-8.30pm (there was no meeting in March as a result of the Easter holiday). We are looking forward to another fun-filled evening and welcome children in the P7-S4 age group. We enjoy a range of games, quizzes, challenges and of course 'tuck shop'. The cost per night is £1 - this includes tuck shop!

Our Lenten Study where we considered some of the themes portrayed in the movie 'The Greatest Showman' concluded on Wednesday 20th March. Over the six weeks of the study, there was an average turnout of around 50, although a total of 62 participants attended the study. There is no doubt that some of the questions and topics were challenging and certainly got some people thinking - including me! It is great to develop our faith at such studies and I would encourage you to consider attending the next one - look out for further details in future newsletters.

FAMILY CEILIDH Our Church Family Ceilidh was an absolute blast! With 130 people attending (including 18 young people), the anticipation was palpable before the band started playing. As soon as the first tune was played, the dancefloor was full - and would remain full for the rest of the evening. The band was The Jiggered Ceilidh Band, and they were quite simply amazing. What a joy it was to see the children dancing along with the 'not so young' and the smiles around the hall showed that everyone was having a wonderful time. We also enjoyed a delicious light supper prepared by the church Social Committee. A huge thanks from me to everyone who helped to make this event such a success. Plans have already started for the 2025 Ceilidh - look out for the date being announced!

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.

**Stepping
Stones**



SU Scotland

What fun we have at Scripture Union! Groups run during Wednesday lunchtime at Alloway Primary and during Friday lunchtime at Doonfoot Primary. Attendance at Alloway remains fairly steady with around 40 children attending each week. Attendance at Doonfoot has increased over the last month or so with around 20 children attending each week. We have a range of activities and during March spent three weeks exploring the events of Holy Week. I took part in the Doonfoot Easter Service held in the school, and Neil and I welcomed Alloway Primary to church for their Easter Service. On 6th March, we welcomed 51 children from the Alloway Early Years Centre to the church halls for a 'Stay and Play' - it looks as though we might have to purchase even more tables and chairs! Such fun seeing the faces of the children who have such a great time.

A massive 'thank-you' to everyone who helps out with all of the above activities - they can only run with your amazing help!

Richest blessings, David



23rd April – St George's Day

English people have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all.

But that didn't stop St George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century.

At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline.

The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting.

The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause.

Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our admiration!

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 10th, 17th, 24th April

(Coffee and Chat 10.30am 3rd April in the Fellowship Lounge).



FISHERTON CHURCH ACTIVITIES



These are open to all members of the community of Fisherton, Dunure and South Ayr. The aim is to unite people and prevent social isolation.

Book Club - This is usually held on the 2nd Monday of each month from 2.00 to 3.30pm in Fisherton Church. It is a very informal meeting where a different book is chosen to be read and discussed each month. There is always plenty of chat on a variety of topics with a cuppa and baking.

Contact Elspeth on 07999 852 756 for further information.

Choir - This is a small group at the moment and new members would be made very welcome. Rehearsals are currently on a Tuesday afternoon.

Contact Elspeth on 07999 852 756 if you fancy giving it a try.

Friendship Group - This is a sociable club and takes the form of inviting speakers to speak on a range of subjects, demonstrations, events and outings. It is normally held on the 3rd Friday of the month from September to June. The venue varies from Fisherton Church to Alloway Church Hall. Some of the very successful meetings that have taken place this session are:

A Visit to Lagg House Garden, famed for its hydrangeas; Fashion Show in aid of British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal; Christmas Floral Decorations Demonstration; A Taste of Burns (mini-Burns Supper event). Among the items until the end of this session, we have a presentation on the History of Dunure and the Local Fishing Industry and the final meeting is a Lunch at the Clocktower, Auchincruive.

For further details contact Helen on 07801 556 594.

Gardening Club - 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.

We'd be delighted if you would like to join us for any or all of these.

Leisurely Lunch

Our Spring Lunch will be the last of the 2023/24 season and will take place on Thursday 25th April from 12.00noon until 1.30pm. The Menu is shown in the poster within this newsletter.

We have had several successful lunches recently and we hope that you will attend so that we can finish on a high and add to our total for our work in Malawi.



Spring Lunch



Alloway Church Hall

Thursday 25th April 2024

12.00noon until 1.30pm

Ham & Lentil Soup

or

Pea and Mint Soup



to follow

Spiced Apple Crumble

or

Mystery Cheesecake

(with ice cream or custard)



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



Kiltwalk 2024



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

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

We have requested that Christian Aid use this money for their Middle East Appeal given the acute need.

If you would like to support our venture please click on

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

Thanks in anticipation to the local worship teams who will conduct the service on the morning of 28th April.



thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

3rd Alloway Brownies 50th Anniversary Year 1974 - 2024

Many Brownie Units throughout Girlguiding Ayrshire South joined Renfrewshire Brownies in March for an amazing Brownies Sleepover at Glasgow Science Centre! Over 400 Brownies and their Leaders had exclusive use of the Science Centre after it had closed to the public on Friday evening, and we left before the Centre reopened to the public on Saturday morning. There was lots of fun (and not a lot of sleep) in between!

We arrived by coach on the Friday evening and were met by the wonderful Science Centre staff who had organised timed programmes for each Unit. After dropping off all our luggage and sleeping bags in an allocated storage area, we had use of all the amazing interactive science exhibits throughout 3 floors. We watched a very funny and noisy live theatre Science Show presentation called 'Fantastic Forces', and several Brownies were invited on stage to take part in science experiments - not all of which went to plan! We also had a lovely relaxing half hour in the dark Planetarium watching the sky at night projected on to the enormous planetarium domed ceiling, while a member of staff pointed out the different constellations and told stories about them. At times it really felt like we were moving through space!

We had time slots to visit the Girlguiding gift shop and a tuck shop. All the Brownies joined together for hot chocolate and snacks. After that, each Unit chose an area to put sleeping bags and mats on the floor - amongst the exhibits! We found a great spot near to the enormous glass windows overlooking the night lights of Glasgow and the River Clyde, and we even spotted the Waverley moored up

outside. But it still wasn't time for bed - we had another couple of hours of playing and exploring the games and optical illusions, such as the wonky shaped room where Leaders ended up looking much smaller than Brownies! There were challenges and puzzles, and the Brownies didn't tire at all! However, we had been warned that the lights would go out at midnight, so before then we all got ready for bed and settled into sleeping bags on mats on the floor. Once the lights were out, we could look out of the huge windows at the wonderful panoramic view of Glasgow's twinkling lights, it was magical. Some of the Brownies fell asleep almost instantly, others took time to settle in the unusual surroundings, but it was a wonderful experience.

The lights suddenly came on before 6.00am, and it was time to get up and pack up our belongings. Then everyone met together for breakfast of muffins, juice, fruit, yogurt and pancakes. We thanked all the Leaders, everyone received a badge and certificate, and then it was time to get on the coaches and head back. The Brownies were much quieter on the way back than they had been on the way there!

What a fabulous experience, and grateful thanks to all the volunteer leaders for taking the girls for such an amazing opportunity.



ENCOURAGEMENT CORNER

Choices

Day by day as we live this life we are faced with choices, some fairly large like choosing a profession, choosing where to live or choosing which house to buy.

Some small but at the moment of choosing no less important. What will I eat or what will I wear, will I walk to the shops or will I take the car. One thing is sure our choices are either good ones or bad ones. They are either right or wrong but inevitably they all have consequences.

The bible and history are full of illustrations of the choices that people have made and the outcomes of those choices.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Heb.12.1 reminds us that we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses" of whom men like Dietrich Bonhoeffer stand tall. He is one of my personal heroes of the faith and we can learn much from his experience with his God.

Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor, author, theologian and an anti-nazi dissident. In 1939 he went on a second visit to the United States at the invitation of a theological seminary in New York but quickly came to the conclusion that he had made a mistake and returned to Germany. It was at this juncture that he made what was to be for him a very costly but correct choice. "I must live through this difficult period in our national history along with the people of Germany. I will have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

This choice resulted on the 9th April 1945 in his death by hanging at the hands of the nazi regime.

Charles "Chuck" Colson

Colson was an American attorney and political advisor to Richard Nixon. He was described as Nixon's hard man and "valuable to the President because I was willing to be ruthless in getting things done." As an individual he chose the glories of this life which resulted in him being indicted for conspiring to cover up the Watergate burglaries. Not initially a very good choice but God can and does work all things to His glory.

While facing arrest a friend gave him a copy of *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis which resulted in his conversion. A very good choice to make. As already pointed out, actions have consequences and he had to pay the price for the mistakes made during his life in politics. He served seven months in prison during which time he became convinced that God wanted him to develop a ministry to prisoners.

After his release he founded the Prison Fellowship 1976 and Prison Fellowship International 1979.

Joshua

After bringing the people to the land, promised to them by God, he reminded them all what God had done for them and challenged them to put aside their idols and choose who they were going to serve. He then uttered the momentous words "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." No ambiguity there. Happily during his lifetime, and that of the elders who outlived him and who had known all that God had done for them Israel as a nation remained faithful to their promise to trust God. (Joshua 24.)

Ruth

We are all very familiar with the response of Ruth when invited by Na'omi to return to her own people and her own land, "Entreat me not to leave you.....your people shall be my people and your God shall be my God." A very good choice.

I am always a little surprised when people express the opinion that when you become a Christian you have to give up a lot! That is so untrue when you consider the life of Ruth. The opposite is in fact the truth. She went on to marry an extremely wealthy man, to become the great grandmother of King David and even more importantly she appears in the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ruth). God always blesses those who choose to trust and follow Him.

There are so many examples of people in Scripture who would not compromise their faith despite the threat of dire consequences.

The three Hebrew Slaves who refused to worship the golden statue of King Nebuchadnezzar. (Daniel 3).

Daniel himself, who despite the threat of the lion's den chose not to obey the edict of King Darius to cease praying to any other God save the king himself. (Daniel 6)

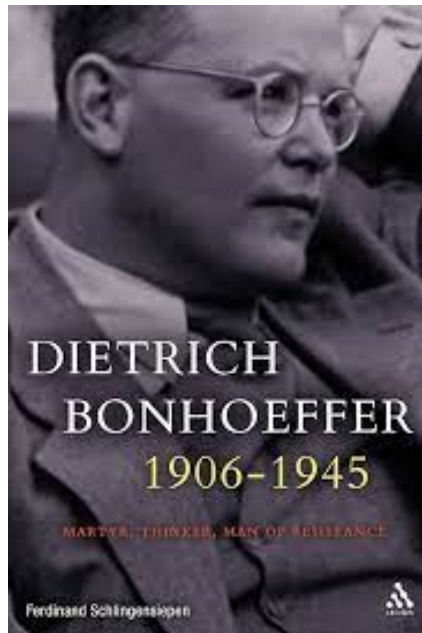
Thomas, who despite the consequences of his stubborn unbelief initially chose not to believe the report that Jesus had risen from the dead but who afterwards on seeing the nail prints on His hands and the wound on His side proclaimed, “my Lord and my God.” (John 20:26-29.)

The Lord Jesus Christ

I am not really convinced that we in the church fully understand the costly decision made by our Lord when He chose to go to the cross. His death was not caused by the envy and hatred of the religious leaders of Israel. Nor was it the result of the actions of the cruel and dominant Roman power of His day.

It was a sacrifice freely made for you and me.

I don't know what choices you are facing today or how you will respond? Will you like those we have considered and choose God despite the consequences? I hope so!





“A cheerful Heart is a Good Medicine”

Wages

Seen on a church notice board: 'Despite inflation, the wages of sin remain the same.'

Seen in a West Country church:

Whenever I see a little church,
I always pay a visit.
So when at last I'm carried in,
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'

Heaven

Seen in a parish magazine: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven - how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

What do you call a row of rabbits walking away from you? - A receding hare line

What did rabbit say to carrot? It's nice knowing you

The
Tale of the
**TWO
BUILDERS**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO
BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES



THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH
AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON
WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE
FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.

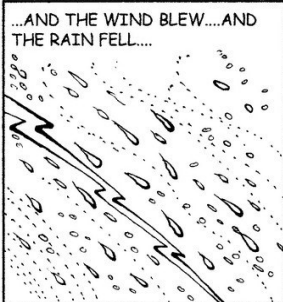


THE OTHER BUILDER
DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE
BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND
WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



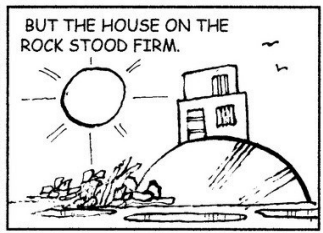
BUT ONE DAY THE
STORM CAME....



...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND
THE RAIN FELL....



...AND THE HOUSE ON
THE SAND COLLAPSED!



BUT THE HOUSE ON THE
ROCK STOOD FIRM.

JESUS EXPLAINED -
IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE
A FIRM FOUNDATION.

Prayer For the Weeks After Easter

Almighty Father,
In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive
afresh
the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.
Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of
our fears.
Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Send us onto our daily front lines to share your
resurrection
peace and hope and love with those who are lost
and lonely.
Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and
our God.
We are your Easter people. Hallelujah.
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching





Parish Record

"Of Such is the Kingdom of God "

24.3.24 Oliver Fraser Hamilton - son of Alison and Fraser
Hamilton Newton Mearns

"Blessed are Those who Mourn "

17.2.24	Mrs Sandra Munro	Garvine Road Coylton
27.2.24	Mr Jim Shepherd	Creggan Bahn Nursing Home
3.3.24	Mr Brian Taylor	Glenalla Cresc
15.3.24	Mr Gordon Smith	Doonview Gardens

Deadline for May Newsletter—Tuesday 23 April —12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com

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

Please note that our new website www.allowayandfishertonchurch.org is under construction.



The Church of Scotland

Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church of Scotland
No. 100538

Scottish Registered Charity
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