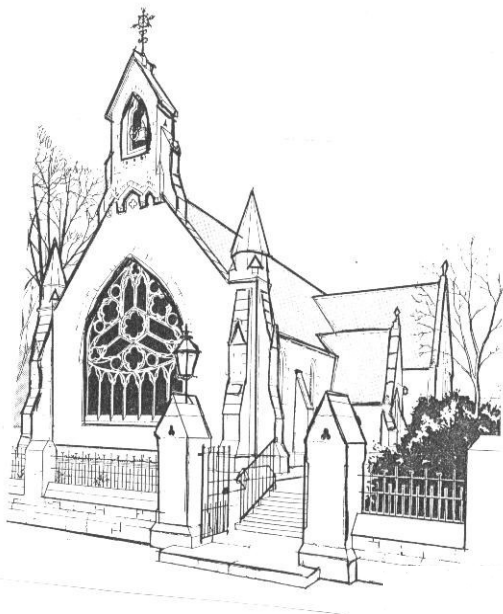




# ALLOWAY AND FISHERTON PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



January  
2025





Dear Friends

On 6th January we celebrate Epiphany and the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. Who were these Wise Men?

No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi'.

That was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian.

Another church father, Origen, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given.

Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming.

Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things.

Since the 8th century, the Magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

Central to the story of the Magi is their determination to worship the King. They travelled many miles from afar so to do. For sure there would have been rough terrain and desert to be crossed. However, there was a star to guide them!

So too amidst a year which will have its dark moments - the light of the world will shine for us!

Significant also in the magi story is their willingness to change their journey after their encounter and worship of the infant King.

The Magi knew that to return to King Herod would be unwise! Having worshipped the child -things couldn't be the same!

There is a proverb "Better to travel hopefully than to arrive"

Though this seems a dark time in our world, as we journey through 2025 I pray that Jesus' promises and presence will direct our journeys - particularly through the rough terrain and desert we must expect to encounter.

For this King would declare

"I am the way the truth and the life"

So through the mountains and valleys of life - may we follow His star.

Wishing you and yours a very happy and blessed New Year!

Neil McNaught



## Some notes from Rev. David...



**SU Scotland** During our December sessions of Scripture Union at Alloway and Doonfoot Primaries, the boys and girls made super Christmas cards for the residents of Greenan Manor Care Home. Neil and I took these cards along to our monthly service and the residents were delighted to receive the cards and best wishes from the pupils. I also encouraged some of the pupils to make a special birthday card for Margaret Wood who celebrated her 100th birthday on 23rd December 2024. Margaret just loved receiving these cards.

December is always a busy time working with our local schools - among the highlights were: 3 Nativity rehearsals and 3 performances by Alloway Primary School; a Nativity performance by Fisherton Primary School; Christmas assemblies at Maidens Primary and Fisherton Primary; two Christmas services at Doonfoot Primary School and a Church Christmas Service for Alloway Primary School. A HUGE thanks to the 'technical team' for their help with these events. I am looking forward to what 2025 has in store!



For the first three weeks of Advent, I had the privilege of leading worship at Castlehill Parish Church. During these three weeks, worship focused on Hope, Peace and Joy. I received a warm welcome at Castlehill and enjoyed my time there - though I did miss being at Alloway on the lead-up to Christmas.

Our Men's Breakfast on Saturday 30th November has been our busiest meeting yet with 32 men in attendance. Some may attribute the large attendance to the excellent hot-filled breakfast rolls on offer (?), but more likely it was the presence of our guest speaker - Frank Whitecross. Frank gave an informative and entertaining talk on dogs, and his experience working with Police dogs. There were so many questions for Frank at the end of his talk - evidence of how interesting his presentation was. Whilst the Men's Breakfast is 'free-of-charge', donations received amounted to £210 and this was forwarded to the Guide Dogs For The Blind Association. Our next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday 25th January 2025, 10.00-11.15.





Our Christingle Service took place on Sunday 22nd December 2024. It was great to see so many children, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends in Alloway Church for this lively and joyful service. We sang many of the favourite Christmas Carols for children and the children (and adults!) also decorated a large 'Star of Bethlehem' - this being raised toward the rafters in church - did you manage to see it? And as always, we had great fun making 'Christingles' using an orange to represent the world, a red ribbon representing the blood of Christ, four cocktail sticks representing the four seasons, sweets representing our blessings from God, and a glow stick representing Jesus as Light of the World. We then enjoyed refreshments in the church halls (thank you ladies).

A wee reminder that our 'Family Ceilidh' will be held on Saturday 15th March 2025: 7.00-10.00pm. Once again, music will be provided by the fantastic 'Jiggered Ceilidh Band'. Tickets will be available at the start of February!!



Richest blessings, David.



## Vine Trust Letter



Dear Alloway and Fisherton Church

Thank you for generous Harvest gift of £3593.50. Your kindness sustains our work in the Amazon.

Over the next five years we aim to

- Expand the range of healthcare consultations
- Broaden the program's geographic reach
- Train health champions and provide First Aid Kits to communities
- Launch two initiatives to improve access to safe water.

Your generous gift will play a vital role in achieving these goals.

God's Blessings

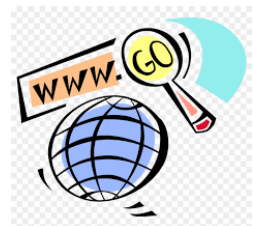
Vivian Onyeneke

Administrator

## Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church Website

We are looking for volunteers to help to update and maintain our website.

If you think you can help, please contact the Church Secretary in the first instance at [secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com).



## **January 25th Feast Day of St Paul**

January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of introductions.

He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the Rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then, on his way to Damascus, Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed.

Saul changed overnight. He was given a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the *Gentiles*. He wrote epistles to the young churches that he founded and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: Paul was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in 64 AD and buried where the Basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.







## **Alloway and Fisherton**

At the November meeting of the Kirk Session the clerk was instructed by a majority of elders to write the required letter to Presbytery to give effect to the Basis of Union concerning the sale of the Fisherton building before September 2025.

The timing of the sale of the building had already been agreed and voted on by the two Kirk sessions and two congregations.

This was an integral part of the basis of union and part of the Presbytery Mission Plan voted on last year.

The guidelines for buildings categorised B in Presbytery Mission plans indicate Kirk Sessions should allow 6-9 months for the disposal of the property.

The guidelines also encourage that until the point of sale, services within a B listed church should continue.

Thus, with September 25 being nine months away, the Kirk Session with a heavy heart, agreed to send the letter.

In the interim, fabric repairs required keeping the Fisherton building wind and watertight and safe are ongoing.

The General Trustees, given the volume of church sales are indicating caution in meeting the closure timetables of all presbyteries.

In truth, as the year begins we cannot therefore predict exactly when the Fisherton building will close.

Until further notice we warmly encourage those who so wish to join us at Sunday Service at Fisherton at 9.30pm.

At the session too, the difficulties of re-siting worship into Dunure village were fully discussed.

In talks it transpired the presbytery committee had not necessarily expected that a weekly Sunday service take place in the village.

Given the condition of some local premises, the Kirk Session committee set up to explore the matter agreed unanimously that at this moment there are no suitable local venues available.

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

We did note with interest the talk of a future village heritage centre. Plans for this presently are at the very earliest of stages.

Nevertheless, the session seeks to remain fully apprised of the changing circumstances of the village.

Over the past summers we have already engaged in innovative worship with our "Sundown Services".

Regardless of when the Fisherton building closes, as a session we will continually seek to develop and deliver new ways of mission and service in the Alloway and Fisherton Parish which we are privileged to serve.

Every blessing

Neil McNaught

### **Wednesday Worship 2025**

All are welcome for our short service and long cup of tea on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am in the Octagonal Hall.

It is a great chance to meet and catch up with new friends. The quiz and joke for the day lightens the week ahead!

Last year through our long cups of tea we managed to raise £1500.

It was dispersed in the follow way:

Crossreach (Church of Scotland)	£500
DEC Appeal Sudan	£500
Blythswood Care	£500

Our future dates

Jan 8th/15th/22nd/29th



## **Session Report**

The Session has had three meetings since my last update.

In August we started with a tribute from our Minister to a long serving elder, Ronnie Breingan who died in June. He would be remembered in many ways including as a diligent and faithful elder and as the founder of the 1st Alloway BB Company.

Our treasurer, Lorna, confirmed that our yearly accounts had been agreed by Presbytery and she was pleased to report that our deficit for the year was, currently, less than budgeted. The Property Convenor advised that lots of jobs had been completed including the removal of wasps' nests, water heaters serviced and the bi-folding doors in the Fellowship Lounge repaired. A new boiler had also been fitted in the manse.

Under Stewardship it was agreed that we would have as our theme this year "the year of sharing" and under halls we heard that flowers had been delivered to Jean Kerr as a thank you for all her long service given as our halls convenor. Helen as our Mission Convenor, advised that we would have two Malawi visitors, one from the Guild movement who would speak at our Sunday service and the other a Missionary partner who would speak at Wednesday Worship. The Worship and Development Convenor, Donald, confirmed that 25 people had attended our visit to The David Livingstone Centre and the church opening had again been very successful receiving over 1,000 visitors and raising over £1,000 for our chosen charity, Ayrshire Cancer Care.

From Presbytery we heard that The Moderator of the General Assembly was present at their last meeting and gave an interesting speech. Bill also advised that extra work had been allocated to both himself, now on the Presbytery Review committee, and to David Hume now on the Vacancy committee and also the new Presbytery Representative to North Ayrshire Council.

David then reported on the successful summer holiday club when 37 children joined the fun and he was looking forward to events in September - the Men's club, Pulse and Messy Church.

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

In October, we again heard our finances were in good order and another legacy of £2,000 had been received. From Property we heard that there were a number of bulbs needing replaced in the Sanctuary and scaffolding was being purchased which would help us to carry out this work. Under Mission we heard that over 120 people attended the harvest supper and £617 was added to the contributions collected from the envelopes for the Vine Trust. Worship and Development told us that we were re-introducing elders' visits to our clubs and organisations. David reported on his school work, where the SU meetings were being well supported and mentioned the success of the toddlers where the attendance was now 50 plus.

We had a very full agenda at our November meeting, the main topic for consideration being the future of the Fisherton church. Firstly, we heard from our various committee representatives on the day to day life within the congregation. Lorna advised that the deficit now showing in the accounts had risen but was still within our budgeted figure. Funds from the Wednesday worship had grown and it was felt that they should be distributed. The court was asked to approve donations of £500 to Blythswood Trust, £500 to the DEC appeal for Sudan and £500 to Crossreach. This was agreed. Agreement was also given to divide the Watchnight service offerings plus the Christmas Day offerings between the DEC appeal for Ukraine and the Middle East and Crosshouse Hospital Maternity care support group.

Donald's property report included the addition of a new smart meter at Fisherton, some roof repair work there with some further work on mortar joints still to be undertaken early next year.

Other items included additional hospitality over the Christmas period, a possible revamp to our halls kitchen, improved audio-visual equipment and an intimation that all the church records had been attested and found to be in order. Dates for the Christmas Fair and New-Year concert were confirmed and the proceeds for the concert agreed as a split between Crossreach and Whiteleys Retreat.

I then advised the court that, in accordance with the will of the Church of Scotland, we would be giving out long service certificates to 18 elders who had given a significant amount of time to the eldership. These would be presented at the morning service on 8th December. We then recorded a number of new members to our roll and it was particularly pleasing to note that 7 of the 11 were by profession of faith.

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

One of the last items on the agenda was Fisherton and after confirming dates of Christmas services and a review of the roll there, we then discussed the options open to us on the next stage of the Presbytery Mission Plan.

The small review group which was set up to consider this matter reported back confirming that there was little opportunity in Fisherton and Dunure to support a long term place of worship. There was a possible case for a community centre at the church if various alterations were made but no costings were available for this. This led on to a vote where one motion put forward was to continue with the timetable previously given and agreed by both churches and proceed with the sale of Fisherton building. The counter motion asked Presbytery to review their original decision and maintain the Fisherton building as a place of worship.

There was a majority vote in favour of continuing with the Presbytery Mission Plan as agreed.



Deadline for February Newsletter—Tuesday 21 January—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

## **INNER WHEEL CLUB OF AYR ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING**

The Inner Wheel Club of Ayr will be holding their annual coffee morning in the Church Halls on Saturday 8th February from 10am to 12 noon. Monies raised this year will be shared between Headway Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Women's Aid. Tickets may be purchased before the event or payment of £4 may be made at the door.



## **Christmas Fair**

We would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the Christmas Fair on Saturday 7th December. Whether you made donations to the stalls, helped with sales, served in the tearoom, or came to purchase and visit the tearoom, you all helped us to raise £3,475 for the Church's work in the Bandawe schools. Among other things we help to buy food when their harvest is poor and prices rise.

## **Burns Lunch**

We will celebrate Burns birthday by having a lunch in the Large Hall from 12.00noon until 1.30pm on Thursday 23rd January 2025. The menu is shown on the poster in this newsletter. Cost is now £6.00 due to the increased cost of food. We look forward to welcoming back our regular diners as well as those coming for the first time.

# **New Year Concert**

## **Alloway Church Hall**



**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
**7.30pm**

Music provided by

“Dalrymple Ukulele Orchestra”- and “The Last Resort”

**Supper - sausage rolls, sandwiches and home baking**  
**- included in Ticket price - £7.50**

Proceeds to “Whiteleys Retreat” and

“Crossreach” – (Social care branch of the Church of Scotland)

# Burns Lunch



Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

12.00noon until 1.30pm

Alloway Church Hall

Scotch Broth

or

Cock-a-leekie Soup



Followed by

Clottie Dumpling  
with custard.

or

Cranachan



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



## **GREETINGS FROM THE JOLLY GARDENERS**

Hello friends, another year has just closed in the gardens.

The team have worked extremely hard all year, sometimes through difficult conditions in order to produce the magnificent array of colours and blooms we have come to expect.

Our main objective last year was to complete the upgrading of the pathways, replacing the red chips. Pleased to report after many back breaking barrow loads , task is now completed. Our annual leaf problem continues to be a nightmare, gladly over for this season. Colours are lovely but, oh what a pain!!

The marvellous comments still continue to flood in from yourselves and the many visitors who pass through our grounds.

The team participated again at the Christmas Fair. Their plant stall was a roaring success, raising approx. £300. The amazing assortment of plants and success of the stall, was due to the huge donations from Dobbies of Ayr, and the management staff of B&Q Ayr. A massive thank you to both.

I would like to thank the team for their time and hard efforts. It makes my task so much easier when they are all so dependable and determined to produce quality results.

Finally, on behalf of the team please have a very happy New Year.

Best Wishes,

The Jolly Gaffer (David)



## FISHERTON NEWS

**Friendship Group** - The November meeting was well attended and the audience enjoyed an excellent and very entertaining demonstration of Christmas floral arrangements by Christine Logan of Alloway. The talented speaker also passed on interesting tips on the materials used, and the preparation involved. She also shared amusing winter stories of her experiences in this country and abroad on holiday. We were delighted to have Shona Mitchell play festive music and accompany us for community carol singing.

The January meeting will again be a Taste of Burns afternoon. This will consist of short talks on Burns, fiddle music and singing with David Hume as our MC. There will also be traditional Scottish food and drink.

For further information contact Helen on 07801 556 594 or [helenmalcolm@gmail.com](mailto:helenmalcolm@gmail.com).

**Book Club** - This meeting usually takes place on the first Monday of each month from 2.00 to 3.30 in the vestry of Fisherton Church or in one of the member's houses. Come along and enjoy the chat followed by refreshments.

Contact Elspeth on 07999 852 756 for details.

**Choir** - The Choir rehearsals are mainly on the last Saturday of each month from 10.30 to 11.30am in Fisherton Church. All welcome.

Contact Elspeth on 07999 852 756 for details.

**Fisherton Service** - Each Sunday, coffee/tea and biscuits are served at the back of the church and all are welcome to stay for this.



## Elders' Long Service Awards



As already mentioned in the session report 18 of our elders received long service certificates signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly in recognition of service given.

We had 7 elders now joining those who have served for 30 years;- Rene Andrews, Jim Borland, Sheena Kemp, George Laing, Helen Ness, Jim Rosenburgh and Ian Stewart.

We had 8 elders now joining those who have served for 40 years;- Glenda Goudie, Jack Graham, Ian Jenkins, Jim Kerr, Sandy McKenzie, Maureen Leitch, Alan Richmond, and Stewart Robertson.

We had 2 elders now joining those who have served for 50 years;- Malcolm Fraser and John Skilling.

We had 1 elder who has now served for 60 years;- Robert Leitch.

Congratulations to all and thanks for the years of dedicated service given.





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

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

### **3rd Alloway Brownies 50th Anniversary Year 1974 - 2024**

3rd Alloway Brownies have been keeping busy. We had a 'Remembrance Night' and discussed who we remember on Remembrance Sunday. We talked about past and current wars, and shared thoughts about why wars start. Each Brownie has the name of a serviceman from Alloway War Memorial to remember each year, and we went outside to look at the Remembrance display in the Fellowship Lounge window to find their serviceman's Certificate of Remembrance. Then we came back inside and they painted a poppy pebble with their serviceman's name on it. After that we played a Memory Game where they looked at lots of different items in hoops which were then covered up, and in their Sixes they had to remember as many as possible. I have to say, young girls have excellent memories and did much better than the Owls!

Another night we had a Quiz Night with questions such as;

What colour is the tongue of a giraffe? A= Red B= Grey C= Purple D= Black.

How many eyes do caterpillars have? A= 2 B= 12 C= 4 D= 1

Some of our Brownies joined many other girls from across Girlguiding Ayrshire South at a Taylor Swift Tribute Party in Troon, and had lots of fun dancing and singing along to their favourite songs, and swapping friendship bracelets.

We had an Awards Night where several Brownies received their Brownie Bronze Award (2 theme badges completed) and Brownie Gold Award (six theme badges completed) which is the highest award a Brownie can achieve. We aim to complete 2 theme badges a year, and have just completed the 'Be Well' theme, so everyone received badges. Some of the Brownies were also awarded with prizes and certificates for their Stamp Competition entries that they had put together earlier in the year. We had 5 winners across the different age categories, and everyone who entered received a certificate and prizes, with some colourful postcards for everyone else.

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

Continuing with stamps, for our Christmas Crafts night two of the kind Church Elders ('Malcolm Owl' and 'Beth Owl') joined us getting very sticky and messy soaking and gluing stamps onto Christmas baubles, and painting a varnish on top. We left the baubles drying until the following week which was our Christmas Party. The party started with a Christmas Mexican Wave, and then we had a chat about why we have Christmas, and why we give presents. We sang 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', followed by a game of 'Santa Says'. After that there was an energetic game of Musical Chairs, followed by a pass-the-parcel type game while listening to a story about Frosty the left-handed Snowman. They had to listen carefully and switch direction passing the parcel every time the words 'Left' or 'Right' were mentioned in the story, which happened a lot!

Then it was time for the very popular newspaper Snowball Fight with each team winning points for the least snowballs left on their side of the room, it ended in a draw for both teams which meant prizes for everyone!

Five of our Brownies are now old enough to join Guides in January, and each one received a little Brownies memory bag. We all sang 'We'll Meet Again' and asked the leavers to come back and tell us what Guides is like. The party ended with another song - 'Jingle Bells', and then everyone went home with some sweeties and cake, a present to put under the tree, a puzzle page, and a carol sheet to sing along to on the way home!

But that wasn't quite the last time we met together - most of the Brownies were able to come along to a cinema trip at Ayr Astoria cinema to see Moana 2, and everyone enjoyed the film and popcorn.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who help at Girlguiding, and for the support from everyone at the Church. Alloway Girlguiding is in great need of more volunteer Leaders for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch [dcalloway@girlguidingayrshiresouth.org.uk](mailto:dcalloway@girlguidingayrshiresouth.org.uk)

Quiz answers: C (giraffes have purple tongues), and B (caterpillars have 12 eyes - two groups of six eyes on each side)

## Parish Record



A warm welcome is extended to the following people who joined the church by **Profession of Faith**:

Miss Fiona Breingan

Mr and Mrs Andrew and Amber Kelly

Mrs Tracy Jackson

Mrs Tracy McCrindle

Mrs Jackie Martin

Mr Jeff Whittle

**By Resolution of the Kirk Session—** Mr Jim Guthrie

### **Certificates of Transference**

Mrs Fiona Harkness (Troon Church)

Mr and Mrs Gwyn and Eileen Williams (St Quivox)

We trust they will all find joy in worship and service.



### **"Blessed are they who die in the Lord"**

20.11.24	Mrs Irene Paxton	Templeton House
21.11.24	Mrs Irene Connell	Glenfairn Nursing Home
2.12.24	Mrs Victoria Williamson	Racecourse Road
2.12.24	Mrs Lynn McKiernan	Mount Charles Crescent





# The Church of Scotland

Alloway and Fisherton Parish Church of Scotland  
No. 070440

Scottish Registered Charity  
No. SC012456