



Parish News



Hello Everyone,

I have now been absent from Condorrat for the best part of two months. Much of that time was spent “*Down Under*”, as they say. My wife and I were visiting our Daughter and Family who live about half an hour’s drive from Adelaide. It was particularly good to see our Australian Grandchildren. Ivy who is four years old wanted us to play with her, but she did not follow the official rules of the games. She had her own set of rules which only she knew and which somehow enabled her to win every time! We had not met Joey since his birth in early November, but we felt that he began to recognise us, as he would give us a lovely smile first thing each morning.

Apart from family time, my daughter and her husband took us to various places of interest in the vicinity. They took us to Hahndorf, a beautiful village, founded about 1830 by German immigrants and still has a very German feel about it. The highlight of our visit there was eating *Spaghetti Ice Cream*. It was just normal ice cream but made to look like spaghetti. We went to Barossa, an area famed for its production of wine, most notably Shiraz. We also went to *Stirling*, in the Adelaide hills which has a very Scottish feel about it..... including the weather which was cloudy and cool. We were taken to Port Elliott where we saw dolphins, and to Victor Harbor where there is a causeway out to a small island just off the coast.

We did have a lovely time in South Australia, but our journey home was a bit of a nightmare! We were booked to return with Emirates through

Dubai, but due to the Iran war, we had to re-book with Cathay Pacific and fly through Hong Kong. It took 33 hours from leaving Adelaide till we arrived in Glasgow.... although that included a six hour ‘stop-over’ in Hong Kong airport!

Our experience was tiring and frustrating, but it was nothing compared to what others have suffered through the Iran war. Residents of the Gulf States live in constant fear of bombs, shells and drones. Many, especially in Iran and Lebanon, have been injured or killed.

Life is often a mixture of good and bad experiences. We wish we could avoid the latter, but our Christian faith does not make us immune. Even Jesus himself knew bad times and at Easter we are reminded of how he was betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, and deserted by the rest of his Disciples; he was interrogated by the Jewish Leaders and by Pilate and mocked by Roman soldiers; he was scourged and nailed to a cross where he endured pain that we cannot begin to imagine. Towards the end he cried, “It is finished.” That does not simply mean it was the end. It is more like “Mission accomplished.” It was a shout of triumph, something which was to be seen more clearly when he came back to life on Easter Day.

When we have to face trying situations, we need to follow the example of Jesus’ courage and patience. We need to overcome them in his triumphant spirit!

Happy Easter!

Rev. Alistair Shaw

Fish Supper and Beetle Drive Night
Thursday, 16th April at 6.45pm. In Church Halls.

Cumbernauld : Condorrat Parish Church

Interim Moderator

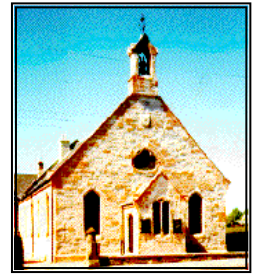
Rev. Jonathan Keefe

Session Clerk

Kenneth Mackenzie

(Tel: 07771 884074)

(kirksessionclerk@outlook.co)



SUNDAY SERVICES:

Morning Worship in the Sanctuary at 10am.

Communion Services (1st Sun. – March; June; September; December.).....10am.

Check the *Condorrat Parish Church* blog on our website or at www.cosfive.wordpress.com

Prayer for Condorrat

Circle Condorrat Lord
Keep protection near and danger far,
Keep hope within and despair without.

Circle Condorrat Lord,
Keep light near and darkness far,
Keep peace within and anxiety without.

Eternal Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Shield Condorrat on every side.

Amen.

Sunday Welcome Teams

April 2026



- 5th. — Mrs. L McKeown & Team 2.
12th. — Mrs. J. Bolling & Team 3.
19th. — Mrs. E. Stewart and Team 4.
26th. — Mr J. Newlands and Team 1.



CLERK to THE BOARD

Kenneth Mackenzie

TREASURER

Mrs Ann Kenny Mob: 07778 023575

ROLLKEEPER

Mr John Newlands Tel: 732632

FABRIC CONVENOR

Mr John Cochrane Mob: 07850 805599

FWO & GIFT AID ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs Sandra Prested



HALLS LETTING

Mrs Elizabeth Hutton Tel: 07502 457198

Mrs Elizabeth McLean Tel: 07840 958133

SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATORS

Mr Alistair Robertson Tel: 01236 734905

Mrs Elizabeth Aitken Tel: 07533 763697

CHURCH OFFICER

Mark Bulloch Tel: 07928 451602

Intimations & Parish News Editor

P Taylor Logan Tel: 07436 117346

e-mail: tayval@tiscali.co.uk

Hello Everyone,

I don't have much to report on this month as we have not had a board or Kirk Session meeting since last month's newsletter.

There was however, a meeting of the Joint Nominating Committee with the Reverend Bruce Sinclair and Mr Graeme Barrie, where the business of the Nominating Committee was set out.

The Reverend Sinclair advised that commitment to the task was necessary and that all committee members should try to attend all future meetings - congregations can play their part by keeping the nominating committee in their prayers.

There is an expectation of confidentiality and no information should be shared outwith the committee's membership. Updates will be given on a regular basis, but this will not include any details of prospective candidates.

We were encouraged to make sure that we were using the latest guidance from the Church of Scotland website regarding our Parish Profile, as this changes on a regular basis. He suggested that we also look at current job adverts on the Church of Scotland website to use as guidance to what we should be putting in ours.

Once the Parish Profiles are complete, they will be submitted to the Reverend Hilary McDougall at Glasgow Presbytery, with copies going to Bruce and Graeme.

A level playing field should be available to ALL candidates, and differences in gender, age, disabilities etc. should not come into our delibera-

tions. What *should* be considered is how the Committee sees candidates fitting in to our two flocks. Is there chemistry between the candidates and the committee members? Do they have the competency and skills that we feel are necessary in a new minister for the Linked Charge?

That being said, the final decision will rest with all of YOU - our Congregations.

The Nominating Committee will recommend who they think is the best and most suitable candidate, and invite them to lead worship in both churches. Thereafter a vote will be conducted. All voting papers from both Condorrat and Abronhill will then be collected by Presbytery and counted. If the vote is 'Yes' then the candidate will be invited to become our next Joint Minister. However, if the candidate is rejected then the Nominating Committee will be dissolved and a *new committee* will need to be appointed, and the process will start again.

On a different subject, the Audio/Visual Team, who are responsible for the broadcasting of Sunday Services and special occasions have recently asked (*again*) for Volunteers. This time we have been successful and two new members will be joining the team as soon as we can arrange training for them. This should minimise the chance of the service *not* being broadcast, as 5 members will give us reasonable cover. If however, *you* would like to join the AV team, please let me know, there can never be too many people involved.

Grace and peace,

Kenny

(Kenneth Mackenzie)

These are Our Mountains

As I chatted with my English cousin one day he was recalling a recent Highland Tour he had made.

"I made a bad mistake at the foot of the Grampians' he said. 'I was out early one morning for a wee stroll and met a rather ragged laddie with a bundle of firewood. We got talking and he was able to point out and name to me all the surrounding peaks and the glens between. Well, I was amazed and when he finished and as he went was on his way I offered him a couple of pounds for his trouble. *'That was good of you to tell me a bit about what you know so well.'*

Well, the boy just looked at me surprised, and point blank refused the money saying *'Na, na. I didna put the mountains there maesel, so you can tak a look at them for nothin!'*

Those Romantic Years....

In Spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of Love.....and in Summer..... and in Autumn....and in Winter.

When John and Mary started seeing each other regularly, both sets of parents became alarmed. Mary's parents informed her that she could not marry John unless he became a Roman Catholic.

So she went to work on him, talking to him on every date about her church; giving him literature to read; and at last she even got him to agree to go to instruction classes.

All seemed to be going well until one night when Mary's parents arrived home they found her crying unconsolably. When they got her to calm down and inquired what was wrong, she said through her sobbing, ***'We have overdone it! Now Johnny wants to become a priest!'***

When a courting couple kiss, they get so close they cannot see anything wrong with each other.

Treasurer's Report

April 2026

Dear Everyone,

Are you enjoying the longer days - even if there is only a slight difference at the moment? Flowers seem to like the slightly warmer weather as is evidenced by the number of them flowering. March saw the start of meteorological Spring (as we were told numerous times during weather forecasts) on the first of the month and the Spring Equinox on the twenty first. Palm Sunday falling on the twenty nine is earlier than last year but occurs then because of how Easter is calculated. I hope you remembered to put your clock forward.

The Finance Committee met to progress the annual accounts and to consider what could be included under "Finance" in our Congregation Action Plan which has to be completed for Presbytery. No doubt there will be more information regarding this plan elsewhere in this magazine.

You were probably wondering if there was ever going to be a resolution to our ongoing communication with Scottish Power, so you would have been pleased to read, last month, that the matter had reached a conclusion. We were refunded **£1036.77** by Scottish Power and their cheque for this amount has been paid into the Church account!

What a wonderful surprise it was when I opened the Church Bank Statement for February; the HMRC had credited the account with....

£16,073.66 following our Gift Aid claim! There are several steps in the process beginning with the Sunday Offerings being counted and recorded by number, so anonymously, each week then the totals being collated. Sincere thanks to the Sunday teams and their leaders and especially to Mrs Bolling who did the collation. The collation, with all other eligible donations, was then submitted to HMRC, by Mrs Prested, our Gift Aid administrator, to whom we give a huge "thank you" for her work and perseverance. Probably neither of these two ladies will thank me for singling them out as they both say their work is to the Glory of God and for the good of our Church. Anyone who pays tax can opt into Gift Aiding their Offering. Only Mrs Prested and I have access to names.

Gift Aid can be claimed on DONATIONS where the donor is not receiving any benefit - such as the use of the Hall for a party - from their donation so Gift Aid cannot be claimed on, for example, tickets for events. If you pay tax and do not currently use this method of increasing your Offering, at no cost to yourself, but would like to Gift Aid to help our Church benefit financially, please see me.

Thank you to everyone who helps to keep our Church financially viable. Every contribution is very much appreciated.

Wishing everyone reading this,

Easter Blessings.
Ann Kenny
(Treasurer)

Social Group

April 2026

The Craft Fair/Coffee Morning went very well when **£1035** was raised.

The **Fish Supper Night** will take place on Thursday, 16th April. More details will follow shortly but there will be a list in the hall for names and orders. Tickets priced at £10.

There will also be a Coffee Morning on 30th May in church halls. More information to follow next month.

Elizabeth Aitken
Social Convenor

Promises

While driving in town one day I saw a slogan on the back of the car in front which said
'A promise means nothing until it's delivered'.

As a youngster from a relatively poor home, I seldom got new things unless it was a Birthday or Christmas. One Christmas I was promised a new night-dress by a relative and on Christmas morning I excitedly tore open the packages I was given looking for my promised gift -but...no nightdress! I was bitterly disappointed, and never really trusted their word again.

It really is important in life too be true to our word—even in the little things. Wouldn't it be great if we knew that whatever anyone said to us they were telling the truth and always kept their promises?!

Thankfully, God never breaks His promises. To this very day we are reminded of a promise He made to mankind, way back in the days of Noah.

We have the rainbow as His seal on that promise!

see **Genesis 9:** vs 12 & 13

'Ben' Huddleston

'I expect to pass through this life but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do for any fellow being, let me do it now for I shall not pass this way again.'

William Penn

Thank You



Thank you for the beautiful flowers I received from the Church. March is a very difficult month for me and they were much appreciated. "Thanks" again,
Jean Bolling

"Thank You" for the lovely flowers I received from the Church recently. They were very much appreciated.
Janette Watson

"Thank You" for the church flowers I received recently following my recent fall. I appreciate this gesture very much.
Jim Jackson

Thank you for the beautiful flowers that we received from the church. The kind thoughts were very much appreciated.
Liz and John Cochrane

White Donation Boxes

Many thanks to all who continue to give a little extra through the white boxes this is very much appreciated.

Please remember to put your name on the label on the box.

giftaid it

Who can give through Gift Aid ?

Anyone who pays Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax, which is annually at least equal to the Tax which the Congregation, and other Charities to which you make Gift Aid Donations, will reclaim on the financial value of your 'gifts' for that year.

Gift Aid Declaration Forms or further information is available from our **Gift Aid Convener**.

Sunday Morning Tea/Coffee Teams

April 2026



- 5th. Mrs Cummings, Mrs Hughes & Mrs Rooney.
12th. Mrs. Semple, Mrs. B. Watt & Mrs Graham.
19th. Mrs Lazzurri, Mrs McLellan & Ms Reid.
26th. Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Freeland & Mrs. Semple.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

April 2026

- 5th. Mrs. Muirhead
12th. Mrs M. Gemmell
19th. Ms . R. Forrest
26th. Mrs. S. Graham

"Love is the fairest flower that blooms in God's Garden."
Barbara Johnson

Flower Calendar

The gift of flowers brings happiness, and a sense of being remembered for many different reasons, as a church member or as a friend or a neighbour living in our community.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to the flowers each Sunday to beautify the Sanctuary. I can assure you that they bring so much joy and comfort to the people who receive the flowers from the church.

The Flower Calendar for 2026 is on display in the Church vestibule which will enable folks to check their dates, I do endeavour to contact everyone each month to remind them of the date for their flowers.

I would also be grateful if you are aware of anyone deserving of church flowers being delivered to them.

Please inform myself or any office-bearer on duty on Sundays.

Liz Cochrane
(Mob: 07702129882)

Parish News

If you wish to receive your issue by **Email** please send a request to the Editor by email and you will be added to the list.



Deaths:

“Blessed are they who die in the Lord.”

(*member)

March 2026.

16th Gordon Macdonald * of *Abercorn Nursing Home*
(late of 27 Lilac Place, Abrohill)



Prayer Corner

April 2026

Loneliness. It's a sense of emptiness, like something important is missing. Despite technology increasing our connectivity, people seem to be lonelier than ever. Most of us are feeling it more of the time. It is the ache of feeling disconnected, invisible, somehow different to everyone else. Maybe we've simply changed, become sick, moved location or lost someone dear. Whatever the reason, we are left with no one to share our mind. Perhaps that's even what keeps us isolated; a reluctance to let people in for fear of what they would think if they saw who we really are.

Loneliness. Once we find ourselves in its grip, it can become a self-perpetuating cycle from which it is difficult to escape.

But what if, at its heart, Easter is a story for the lonely?

Not just a story about loneliness, but a promise of hope for those who suffer in this way. In the dead of night, in an olive grove 2,000 years ago, a solitary figure kneels to pray. The following hours would be filled with betrayal, pain and a cold, gnawing loneliness unlike anything he'd ever known. Jesus was separated from everyone else right from his birth. There was a job he had come to earth to do. And only he could do it. As God's Son - perfect and blameless in every way - he was going to die a sacrificial death for everyone across all the ages of the earth. His death was going to pay for all the selfishness, violence, brokenness, regrets and pain this world has ever known. Including yours. He would be rejected and forsaken, falsely accused and condemned. And he would be utterly alone. As he headed towards his death on a cruel Roman cross, many followers drifted away, finding this turn of events impossible to accept. Even as he prayed during his last night, his friends fell asleep, failing to support him. After being betrayed by one of his closest friends, he was arrested—and the last of his companions fled.

He was dragged away, falsely accused, beaten, mocked and condemned. As he was nailed to the cross, he implored, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Despised by the people he had come to rescue, and cut off from God the Father, Jesus surrendered to death.

Rejected. Alone. But this was God's plan from the beginning. It was the way to reconcile us back to a perfect God. First, the price for our every wrong thought and action must be paid. And only Jesus could do it. Having settled this astronomical debt, Jesus rose t life three days later, never to die again. He now gives promise to all who put their trust in him: **“I am with you to the end of the age.”** With us, not against us; with us, not distant from us.

The world may turn its back on us. But Jesus never will. Our family and friends may forsake us, but God will always be with us. Our dearest loved ones may pass a but Jesus is always living within us.

He knows what it is to feel lonely. Jesus was the most truly alone person as he hung on the cross. He understands the pain. So we can ask him to help and comfort in our loneliness. And we can do so without fear of rejection. He already knows what's inside our heads—our worst moments and darkest thoughts. And he still loves us. He sticks with us. He went to the cross to pay for it all, knowing full well what we are like. He is the one who is never going to walk away.

Trusting Jesus isn't the end of all loneliness; it's not a 'quick fix'. But God has said, “Never will I leave you never will I forsake you.” With him, we will truly never be alone. He will be with us through our most devastating heartaches, betrayals and losses. There is now someone with us who loves us, knows us and has the power and ability to bring real change in our lives.

Mighty Lord Jesus, You have authority over all of creation, and even over the laws of nature. You allowed the raging storm that must have brought fear and misery to the disciples that night. But they were not alone. You came to them, and that made all the difference. I pray that in the midst of my raging storms You would come to me as well. Bring me the peace and joy that only comes from Your presence Mighty God, You have put in my hands the wonderful privilege of prayer. Inspire me again to see how praying in line with Your will can cause things to shake and change dramatically. May I see Your Spirit directing my prayers and be ready to be part of the answer when You call.

AMEN

Gordon McInally



*All scripture is inspired by **God**; and is useful for teaching the truth; rebuking error; faults; and for giving instruction for right living.*

2 Tim. 3:16,17.



The Girls' Brigade



April 2026

Hi Folks,

The Girls are now back and hard at work on their Badge Work.

If you know any girl/young lady that would like to join please let us know.

Email :

first.condorrat.gb@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support.



Nicola Gilmore

(Captain)

Tel: 07557470195

Foodbank

A huge Thank You to everyone from our Congregation who continue to support us with food donations on a regular basis, every item is very much appreciated.

The Foodbank *is* getting busier and we are seeing more clients. Everyone enjoys their tea and biscuits and having a chat.

Thank You also once again to our willing Volunteers who faithfully turn up week after week. We appreciate everyone who donates their time to help on Fridays. The Foodbank *will be* open as normal on Good Friday.

We are pleased to support our friends from St Helen's while they organise a roof repair on their hall. The warm hub from St Helen's is presently meeting in Condorrat Church Hall every Monday @ 10.30am Please come along for a cup of tea/coffee and toast, there is no charge. Come and have a blether and meet new friends, you will be made very welcome.

Once again, a huge 'THANK YOU' to our local supporters: **Little Hands Nursery, Spar, I&E Wales & St Helen's**, we really appreciate your donations.

"Easter Blessings" from the **Team!**

Sheila Graham

Food-bank Co-ordinator
(Tel: 01236 611222)

Every day is a gift from God; there are so many potential joys that lie ahead. The Psalmist says,
'This is the day that the Lord has made.....'

(PARISH NEWS)



1st Condorrat Company

The Boys' Brigade

April 2026

Hi Everyone,

As we approach Holy Week some quiet time it's good to look back on what had been a very busy and exciting time for the boys.

The Anchor Boys have been thoroughly enjoying themselves each week with a wide variety of topics and activities. Some recent highlights being fun with the big parachute and animal crafts.

The Junior Section were placed 2nd in the Battalion Figure Marching Competition. It was great to see the Boys continue their recent trend of a "podium finish". International Games are imminent and we are aiming for a top '100' finish. It's a great opportunity to reflect on the 'Global' BB family and think about Boys all over the world participating in the same games and challenges. The Junior Section also took part in the Battalion 5-a-side which saw several Companies come together for some friendly competition. Our boys were the very model of resilience and perseverance and competed with a spirit of friendship and togetherness.

The Company and Senior Sections also have been working extremely hard preparing for *their* Drill and 'Global' Games competitions. The Company Section also took part in a 'Laser Tag' event - catching up with friends from across the Battalion

A '*Special Mention*' goes to Jamie from our Senior Section who has successfully completed his work for his King's Badge - the highest award a boy can attain! This includes a variety of challenges and activities including community volunteering. Jamie has put a great deal of work and effort into this and we are all very proud of him.

You can catch regular snapshots of our activities on Facebook. Find us under 1st Condorrat Boys' Brigade.

Thank You as always for your continued support for all we try to achieve.

We meet in the Church Hall on

Anchor Section: Thursdays, **6.30/7.30pm.**

Junior Section: Thursdays, **7.15/9.00pm.**

Company Section: Thursdays, **7.15/9.30pm.**

Senior Section: Thursdays, **7.15/9.30pm.**

For further information or any problems please feel free to contact any of our leaders.

Company Captain: **Gareth Ramsay**

Anchor Section Leader: **Jamie Porrit**

Junior Section Leader: **Colin Mackay**

Company Section Leader: **Kris Tromans**

Remember that for information on BB Activities, Uniforms or just an update on what's happening please check our **web-site**.

[/1condorrat.boys-brigade.org.uk](http://1condorrat.boys-brigade.org.uk)

Colin Mackay

Sherbet Crystals

In our local school 'sweet shop' there was always a large jar on the shelf with layers of multi-coloured sherbet sweets. We could buy at lunch-time a little cone-shaped bag full of these sweets. We could dip a finger into the bag and suck the loose crystals off.

However, our parents didn't really approve of these sweets as they said they were very bad for our teeth and that we shouldn't buy them.

The trouble was that we really liked them....so we got them anyway - but we always got caught out because the crystal colouring stained our fingers!

Sadly, our lives which we lead have been 'stained' by sin.....*BUT*..... God has made provision for those 'stains' to be removed and for us to be clean and acceptable to Him.

see **Isaiah 1** : vs 18 &19

'Now, let's settle the matter', says the Lord. 'You are stained red with sin, but I will wash you clean as snow. Although your stains are deep red, you will be as white as wool. If you only obey me, you will eat the good things the land produces.'

Ben 'Huddleston

Faith

Faith is a gift of God. It is not a material that can be seen, heard, smelled, tasted or touched; but it is as real as anything that can be perceived with these senses. One can be aware of

Faith as easily as one can be aware of earth.

Faith is as certain as is the existence of water.

Faith is as sure as the taste of an apple, the fragrance of a rose, the sound of thunder, the sight of the sun, the feel of a loving touch.

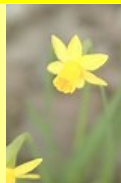
Hope is a wish, a longing for something not now possessed, but with the expectation of getting it.

Faith adds surety to the expectation of hope.

It's definitely this time of the year.....

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.....*

*... And then my heart with pleasure fills
And dances with the daffodils.*



The Guild

April 2026

Recently we enjoyed a visit from John Kay who gave a power point about Scotland's 'Witches'. We found this very interesting, especially since one of the last known lived in Callander - a place which some of us know well.

We have a full programme including Line Dancing and a visit from "Shoogaly Road", taking us up to our 'summer break' and we welcome visitors to any meeting

Lesley Freeland
Tel: 01236 734930.
Mob: 0775771190

e-mail: lesleyfreeland@hotmail.co.uk

Sunday Tea

I'd like thank all the Ladies who come faithfully every Sunday.

Arranging things and serving takes a lot of time and energy but they rarely miss their turn.

We now have all the people needed and are grateful to our new members.

I'd also like to thank Isobel Diamond for her help over several years and wish her continuing good health.

Lesley Freeland

Teach children To Be KIND

Kind children become kind adults, paving the way for a kind future. What's more, children learn by example, so the best way is to be modest kindness yourself.

It doesn't matter if their your own children, nieces, nephews, friends or neighbour's children. You don't have to be a parent to be a good influence - the way you act in front of children will help shape the way they act towards others.

Model politeness and good manners such as 'please' and 'thankyou'. Giving equal respect to everyone you come in contact with, whether they be cleaners or doctors.

Avoid speaking badly about folk.

Avoid chiding children for mistakes but encourage them to do better and try again.

Give children your undiluted attention, so they feel valued and learn to value others.

Play - children learn best through play. It also helps them to develop qualities of turn-taking, fairness, teamwork and just being a 'good sport'.

'What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?' Jean Jaques Rousseau