



# Parish News



Hello Everyone,

As I write, the war with Iran is still not resolved, although hopefully it may be by the time you read this. Recently, Donald Trump posted online a picture of himself appearing to look like Jesus. When he was criticised for it, he claimed he was only trying to portray himself as a doctor, but I have never seen any doctor look like that. I have friends in the States who tell me that there are many in their country who think of their president in *messianic* terms. We need to remember that there is only one Saviour and that is Jesus Christ. In Acts 4:12, the Apostle Peter declared, "*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*"

Trump has also been in dispute with Pope Leo who criticised him for the war with Iran. The Vice President, J.D. Vance, has also waded in, saying that the Pope ought to be careful when he speaks about matters of theology. The Pope has a good grasp of Jesus' teaching, but he is also an authority on St. Augustine who wrote in the early fifth century about the *Just War*. Augustine argued that while war is inherently evil, it can at times be necessary to restore peace, punish injustices, or defend the innocent. It is not clear that Trump's war fulfils these conditions.

There are some in the church who think it is wrong for ministers to bring politics into the pulpit or even a letter such as this. My own view is that it is wrong for a preacher to engage in party

politics, but I do think there is a place for criticising any government when it is morally wrong. The Old Testament prophets would confront the rulers of ancient Israel when they believed they were acting contrary to the will of God. The church needs to act as the conscience of the nation when there is social injustice, malpractice, dishonesty or some other form of wrong-doing.

As Christians, we want to see the advance of God's Kingdom of Peace and Justice and Love. Jesus initiated that Kingdom during his ministry and he has left us to play our part. We may feel that our contribution is small. But let's do what we can to make this world a better place, the kind of realm which God wants.

On a lighter note, the sun is streaming in my study window as I write this letter. The forecast looks good for the next week or so. I hope you are able to enjoy the good weather and all the signs of Spring around us. It is lovely to see the bulbs in bloom, the buds appearing on tree branches and lambs frolicking in the fields.

Spring *is* a time of renewal. Let us pray for the renewal of our whole world and the human race in particular.

With Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Rev. Alistair Shaw*

**Coffee Morning**

*Saturday, 30th May at 10am. in the Church Halls.*

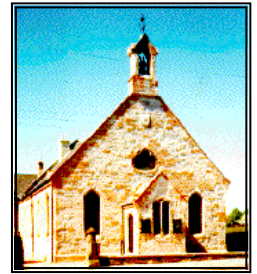
# **Cumbernauld : Condorrat Parish Church**

## **Interim Moderator**

**Rev. Jonathan Keefe**

## **Session Clerk**

**Kenneth Mackenzie**  
(Tel: 07771 884074)  
([kirksessionclerk@outlook.co](mailto: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](http://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**

**May 2026**



- 3rd. — Mrs. L McKeown & Team 2.  
10th. — Mrs. J. Bolling & Team 3.  
17th. — Mrs. E. Stewart and Team 4.  
24th. — Mr J. Newlands and Team 1.  
31st. — Mrs. L McKeown & Team 2.



## **CLERK to THE BOARD**

*Kenneth Mackenzie*

## **TREASURER**

*Mrs Ann Kenny Mob: 07778 023575*

## **ROLLKEEPER**

*Mr John Newlands Tel: 01236 732632*

## **FABRIC CONVENOR**

*Mr John Cochrane Mob: 07850 805599*

## **GIFT AID ADMINISTRATOR**

*Mrs Sandra Prested Tel: 01236 720107  
Mob: 07741 474467*



## **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](mailto:tayval@tiscali.co.uk)*

*Hello Everyone,*

I have a few things to update you on this month, including the kindness of an *anonymous donor* who gave us the £42 to cover the cost of the 'brown bin' for the year. The upkeep costs of the Manse were also discussed, as at the moment any costs should be split on a 50-50 with Abronhill. However, once a Minister is *living* in the Manse the costs will be split 60-40, with us paying the larger portion. This is offset by the fact that any increase in the value of the Manse will remain with our Congregation. I informed you last month that Mrs. Kenny had finally resolved the situation with Scottish Power. There is still however, a discrepancy between Texts and Bills received for the Manse. Mrs Kenny asked if we could perhaps consider changing the supplier, this was agreed on principal and will be pursued.

**Mrs. Sandra Prested** is looking after our Gift - Aid contributions and claiming back much needed extra money from His Majesties Revenue and Customs. If you are a Tax Payer, you can make your Offerings to the church even more valuable. For every pound you give, the church can reclaim 25p from HMRC. It may not sound like a lot, but multiply it up and it is a significant help to church income, because every £1000 pounds Gift-aided turns into £1250! If you would like to Gift-aid your donations (no matter whether it is through your Weekly Offering or by Direct Debit/Standing Order), please ask Mrs Prested for a form.

The accounts have been approved by the Board, and will be presented at the Annual Stated meeting scheduled for the *17<sup>th</sup> of May*.

As I said last month, we have a lot of work which needs to be carried out in the near future to protect and improve the Fabric of the Church and halls. I have approached Presbytery to ask if there grants available to help us carry out these works and I await a response from the Presbytery Property Committee. Mr Newlands, Mr Logie and myself have volunteered to assist Mr Cochrane on the proposed works.

The **Kirk Session** Meeting discussed the efforts being conducted in our quest to appoint a new Minister for our Linked Charge. We thought that we had cleared the final hurdle and that we could prepare an advert for Presbytery to put on the

Church of Scotland website. However, as always, things are not as easy as we could hope for. Glasgow Presbytery have introduced a new Congregational Action Plan to *replace* the existing 5-year plan. This plan will be a "*living*" document which will be updated regularly and submitted to Presbytery as part of the Inspection of Records each year. However, we are *now* required to complete this before we can advertise for a new minister. I thank the Parish Profile Team and especially Mrs. Cochrane for making sure that this is completed in short order, thus allowing me to submit it to Presbytery for approval. We are getting there slowly... but surely.

Finally I can bring you up-to-date with the work of our Nominating Committee who met in Abronhill Parish Church on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of April to discuss the next moves that we have to consider. We, of course, discussed the Congregational Action Plans, and Abronhill, like us, are submitting theirs for Presbytery approval.

We then discussed the 'job advert' which we will use to promote the vacancy, and after an amicable discussion the wording was approved. So, we now await a reply from Glasgow Presbytery on the action plans. Hopefully once they have approved these we can finally get on with the job of searching for our new Minister.

Please remember that the work of the Nominating Committee is confidential, and any future updates will focus on general progress and there will be no specifics given. Please do not approach members of the Nominating Committee for updates as they are unable to give any. If anyone divulges information regarding prospective candidates then we would be duty bound to dissolve the Committee and start again! I can tell you one thing about the last meeting. We used a whiteboard to write down and adjust the advert parameters as we went along. But in order to preserve this, Mr Cochrane took a photograph of the script, and to everyone's amazement two words were highlighted by the reflection of the lights..... "**Gods Guidance**" .... which indeed we must TRUST while we try to find the RIGHT person to lead us into the future.

*Grace and peace,*

**Kenny**

*(Kenneth Mackenzie)*

One little boy once wrote:

*'Most Grandparents are old on the outside....  
but young on the inside'.*

One father was heard saying that one of the wonderful things about a holiday abroad is that it makes you feel good enough to go back to work.....and poor enough that you have to!

## Treasurer's Report

May 2026

*Dear Everyone,*

What a difference it has made near the end of the month to open the curtains in the morning and see blue skies. Yes, outside, although it was not raining, there was a cold wind but looking out on a cheerful scene was a good start to the day.

Also, the bright colours of the Spring flowers lifted our spirits whether in our gardens or around communal areas. I hope you are able to enjoy these days after all the dull, wet days we have had earlier in the year.

Various invoices have been paid in the last few weeks - the main ones being **£336** to Christian Copyright Licencing International (CCLI) to allow us to have music in the Sanctuary and **£781** to Glasgow Presbytery for half our Annual Presbytery dues.

Condorrat hosted a Safeguarding Course for Trustees earlier in the year and Glasgow Presbytery have given us a donation of **£50** for doing so.

The Guild and BB accounts have been internally audited and found to be correct. The GB Accounts will be audited soon. Unfortunately and unknown to me, the email address I used to contact the GB in previous years was hacked so they were unaware of the date for submission.

Several very generous Donations have been received anonymously recently. My grateful 'Thanks' are expressed to these Donors. One of these donations was specifically to cover the cost of the permit for 26/27, starting on 1st June, for the Brown Bin at the Manse and this will be purchased by the middle of May.

With so much pressure on everyone's personal finances, it is encouraging that we received these donations.

How often have you heard someone say something along the lines of "*The Church is always looking for money*"? If we want our Church to be there when we need it! We have to pay to *maintain it*, not just at that particular time...but all the time! Thank you to everyone who contributes in any way to the cost of the upkeep.

Our Annual Accounts have been signed in the appropriate places and all the possible external processes completed. Their submission to the charity regulator, OSCR, depends on their approval by Presbytery which, hopefully, will happen soon. Our Annual Stated Meeting is on Sunday 17th May immediately following morning worship. I hope you will be able to attend.

*May God Bless YOU,*

*Ann Kenny*

## Social Group

May 2026

The recent Fish Supper and Beetle Drive Evening raised **£509**. This was a wonderful achievement and it was a great night with lots of fun. A big 'Thank You' goes to the Ladies of the Social Group who worked very hard to make this possible.

Our next Fundraising Event is  
a **Coffee Morning on 30th May.**

*Elizabeth Aitken*  
*Social Convenor*

## Wisdom

I'm sure we have all wondered at one time 'why is it that an owl is used to symbolise wisdom'?

One theory is that it is because of its nocturnal vigilance. It will sit still, watch, wait and listen; things associated with the diligence of a studious scholar or wise Elder!

One thing clearly missing in our society today is wisdom! This, according to the Dictionary is 'soundness of judgement; knowledge and understanding'.

*But how does one get wisdom?*

True wisdom comes from God. King Solomon was deemed a very wise man because he revered God and asked Him for wisdom. Wisdom is available to us all - we simply have to ask!

We have a lot of knowledge these days from television and 'social media', but because God has been pushed aside in our society, we lack wisdom - we leave it to society to tell us what to do! We must start by making sure that we, ourselves are right with GOD, because the fear of *Him* is the beginning of wisdom.

see **Proverbs 2: vs 6.**

*'Ben' Huddleston*

'When the One Great Scorer  
comes to write your name,  
He marks not that you won or lost  
but how you played the game

*Grantland Rice*

A true friend is one who knows all  
about you and loves you all the same.

*Thank You*



Many thanks for the beautiful flowers we received from the church on Easter Sunday as I welcomed my new wee grandson to the world. The baby's other Grandmother, from Brazil who visited the church with me on Easter Sunday, was also delighted to receive flowers from the church. It was such a kind gesture and appreciated by us both.  
*Elizabeth Aitken*

We appreciated the Church Flowers we were given on Easter Sunday. They were beautiful and brightened many days. Thank you for them and the kind thoughts behind them.

*Roger and Ann Kenny*

Many, many THANKS for the wonderful church flowers I received recently from the church. There were lots ....and I thank you for my constant visitors and the chats.

*Mary Innes.*

### **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 **Mrs Sandra Prested.**

### **Sunday Morning Tea/Coffee Teams**

**May 2026**



- 3rd.** Mrs Cummings, Mrs Hughes & Mrs Rooney.  
**10th.** Mrs. Semple, Mrs. B. Watt & Mrs Graham.  
**17th.** Mrs Lazzurri, Mrs McLellan & Ms Reid.  
**24th.** Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Freeland & Mrs. Semple.  
**31st.** Mrs Cummings, Mrs Hughes & Mrs Rooney.

### **Flowers for the Sanctuary**

**May 2026**

- 3rd.** Mrs. Shilliday  
**10th.** Mr. Harry Waite  
**17th.** Mrs. McAllister  
**24th.** Mrs. I. Robertson  
**31st.** Mrs. C. Mckenzie

*"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)

***No reports this month.***



**Prayer Corner**

**May 2026**



**ONE RUSSIAN,  
ONE UKRAINIAN,  
ONE LORD.**

After Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and the war that followed, a Russian man and a Ukrainian woman walked into a building. There was no argument or hatred ex-changed between the two. Instead, they sang together in unison.

**Why?** The building was a church, and the two were Christians worshipping together. **“In here we have one leader,” Nenad, the minister, explained; Jesus Christ, nobody else.”**

Over the centuries, across the world, people who should be sworn enemies have united in Christ and called each other family. It is really remarkable.

In the Apostle Paul’s day, the great divide was between Jews and Gentiles. Though Gentiles were always welcome to worship God in the Jewish temple, they were relegated to a separate, inferior area. When writing to the church in Ephesus, Paul pleaded for Christians to leave their two-tier system and work hard at unity in Christ

*‘When we despair over our divided world, it’s encouraging to remember that Jesus bridged the greatest divide of all—the gulf between sinful humanity and the holy God. Our unity as Christians is a beautiful reflection of this for the world to see. It’s worth every effort’!*

Why do you think unity was so important to Paul? With which people might God be calling you to *“make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit”*. (V. 3)?

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if Messrs Trump, Putin and Netanyahu could read this:

*Dear Jesus, YOU did the hardest work of uniting us with God. By Your Spirit, may we reflect that Unity and Love in the church.*

**A Gardener’s Prayer**

*The kiss of the sun for Pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer to God’s heart in a garden  
than anywhere else on earth.*

**Helpful hints for gardeners:**

- First:* Plant three rows of peas -  
Peace of mind, peace of heart  
and peace of soul.
- Next:* Plant three rows of squash -  
Squash gossip, squash grumbling  
and squash selfishness.
- Then:* Plant three rows of lettuce -  
Let us be faithful, let us be patient,  
and let us love one another.
- Last:* Plant three rows of Thyme -  
Time for each other,  
Time for the family and  
Time for friends.

**A Gardener’s Rewards**

Life is like a garden if we look around,  
Many fine examples of comparisons are found.  
Plant the seed of kindness  
and it’s bound to grow,  
If fertilised by friendship  
to bring a special glow.  
Call a spade a spade and learn to dig out misery;  
Transplant toleration  
where confusion used to be.  
Life is like a garden, of that there is little doubt,  
And even more so when  
the threat of worry’s weeded out.

*Amen*

***‘HAPPY GARDENING’***

***Gordon McInally***



**A**

*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    May 2026



Hi Folks,

The Girls are still hard at work on their Badge Work, but they have also been practising for the up and **coming Parents Evening/ Presentations on the 19th May.**

The Junior and Senior and Brigaders are all looking forward to the Camp at Dunkeld at the end of May, when they will once again join with the 1st Condorrat BB.

Let's hope the weather is good to them.

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

Email: [first.condorrat.gb@hotmail.com](mailto:first.condorrat.gb@hotmail.com).



**Nicola Gilmore** (Captain)  
Tel: 07557470195



## 1st Condorrat Company The Boys' Brigade

May 2026

Hi Everyone,

It has been a very quick month for the Boys with the Easter celebrations and School holidays.

Both Junior and Company Sections achieved a respectable Second Place in this year's Squad Drill/ Figure-marching Competitions!

The Junior Section have completed their entry for **International Team Games**, and similarly our Company Section for Top Team. We look forward to hearing how the Squads got on.

Preparations for the Parents Night & Annual Awards Ceremony are now underway and we are all looking forward to showing off our 'skills' and celebrating our achievements.

There is an upcoming **Battalion Trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park** for Anchor Boys and Junior Section. Information on this will have been shared with parent contacts.

It won't be long until we close this busy session and as always we "Thank You" for your continued support in all we try to achieve

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

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**

*Officer in Charge, Junior Section.*

## Our Food-bank

May 2026

A huge 'THANK YOU' to everyone from our Congregation who continue to support us with your 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" is also given to our willing volunteers who faithfully turn up week after week. We appreciate everyone who donates *their time* to help on a Friday.

We are again 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 at 10.30am**. Please come along for a cup of Tea or Coffee and Toast..... there is no charge. Come and have a blether and meet new friends, you **will be** made welcome.

"Thank You" to our local supporters: Little Hands Nursery, Spar, and I&E Wales as well as St Helen's.....we really appreciate your donations.

**Sheila Graham**  
(Food-bank Co-ordinator)  
(Tel :01236 611222)

## Tend Your Garden

Around the turn of the century there was a gardening handbook entitled '*Flowers That Do Not Disappoint*'.

It contained the warning that *every* flower would disappoint if planted carelessly and not tended regularly.

Good advice for gardeners, but *also* for those in new romantic relationships; folk striking up friendships; and even expectant parents. It's in fact advice for everyone who would like a relationship, of whatever kind, to blossom.

(PARISH NEWS)

## 'Give 'em the money Mabel!'

Who among us remembers this famous phrase from the old 'Radio Days'? It was the **Wilfrid Pickles** show called I think '*Have A Go!*'

The contestant didn't know the answer to the question but even so they got their ten bob (*that's ten shillings or fifty pence these days*).

They *had* tried to answer the question and that was the point!

It's always a pity to fail but good to try.

(7)

## Parma Violets

Do you remember *THEM* ?!

At school we would often carry a little packet of sweets in our bags call Parma Violets. They were tiny little mauve-coloured sweeties that had a lovely taste and always made our breath smell sweet like violets. After eating them we seemed to be surrounded by this pleasant fragrance.

In the Bible, Mary, one of Jesus' friends poured expensive perfumed oil to wash His feet. This was her token of devotion to Him. It's fragrance filled the house.

The presence of Jesus in our lives can be like a 'sweet fragrance' as we show His love to those around us who are earnestly looking for hope as well as encouragement and support in their lives.

see **John 12** : vs 3

*'Them Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and then wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.'*

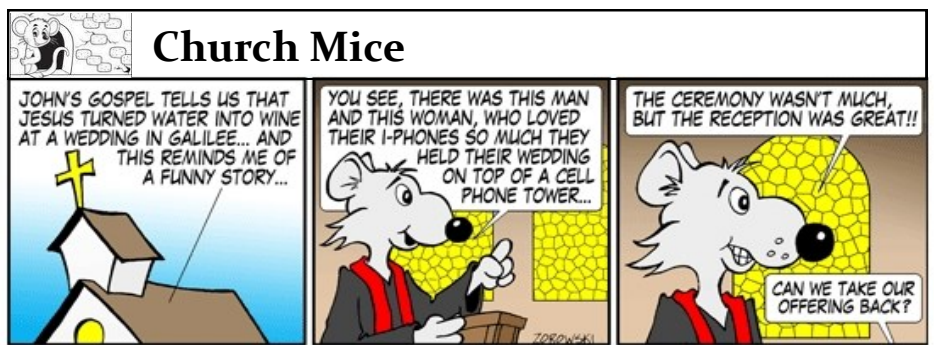
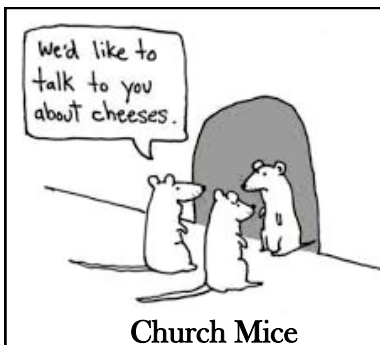
*'Ben 'Huddleston*

## Kindness - Share the things YOU LOVE

When you give someone a gift from your heart, you give them a little piece of yourself!

- ◆ Pass on a favourite book with personal recommendations. Most of us rarely read books, more than once anyway, so resist the urge to hang on to books as decoration, and spread the joy of reading.
- ◆ Donate any magazines you've finished with to others who may enjoy them.
- ◆ If you have a pet, offer to loan it out to an animal lover not in a position to have their own. Animals are a great therapy for loneliness.
- ◆ Lend someone your bicycle (*or let them keep it if you don't use it yourself*).

(Perhaps the greatest acts of Kindness are those which are done in secret and for which we will never be thanked).



## The Guild

May 2026

We ended our Guild Year with a visit from Karen Hamilton who was our Interim Moderator last year. Karen told us, using a Power-point, how she became a Deaconess and gave us some of the history behind the origins of both the Guild and Deacons. We had a very enjoyable afternoon, finishing as always with tea and cake.

Our Summer Outing will be on 13th May when we'll have a sail on SS Walter Scott on Loch Katrine followed by Dinner at Castlecary House.

Our 2026-2027 session begins on Wednesday 9th September at 1.30 in the church hall.

**Lesley Freeland**  
Tel: 01236 734930  
Mob: 0775771190

## Sunday Tea

Once more 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!

**Lesley Freeland**

## Kid's View?

A young minister was speaking to a group of children one day about coping with disappointments and irritations. He decided to use the analogy of the oyster (*Andrew*) who got a bit of grit inside him. He told the children how Andrew coped with this 'irritation' by covering it with one silky coat after another.

Having elaborated at some length on this the minister asked the children if any one of them could tell him what finally happened.

The answer the minister got wasn't quite what he expected as one boy piped up - *'They probable killed Andrew to get the pearl out!'*