



# Parish News



*Dear Friends,*

I am able to share with you news, which some of you may already know. Your vacancy is now advertised on the Church of Scotland website, with a closing date for applications by 25<sup>th</sup> September. I have no crystal ball to enable me to predict what will happen after the closing date. However, I guess that some time between the closing date and the end of the year the Nominating Committee will propose a Sole Nominee who will come and preach before your own congregation and that of Abronhill. I further guess that if that person is elected, she or he will be inducted some time early in 2027.

The induction of a new minister is always an exciting time in the life of a congregation. In this letter I wish to offer some advice on what to expect from your new minister. That individual will not be able to do for you all that previous ministers did. She or he will have a double workload, looking after Abronhill as well as Condorrat.

The person you call to be your minister will have both strengths and weaknesses. I mention the weaknesses, not to be critical, but to be realistic. Ministers are human. There are some things that we are better at doing than others. Enjoy your new minister's strengths and allow them to enrich your congregational life. In areas where the individual is weaker, try not to be critical, but see if there are ways in which elders or members of the congregation can compensate for these weaknesses.

I would be very surprised if your new minister did not introduce change. Some members of the congregation may not like that. But members of a congregation are human, as I've already said ministers are. One of our human traits can be to resist change. That is particularly true as we get older. And in the church, if something has been done in a certain way for a long time, it is somehow regarded as sacred. But new ways can sometimes be better than old ways and even change for change's sake can knock us out of a rut.

There is now a new way of looking at ministry. In the past there was an expectation that the minister would do everything. Nowadays ministry is seen more in terms of teamwork. The minister may lead, but she or he works with elders and members of the congregation to achieve goals and realise visions. I once preached in a church where their pew leaflet had the heading "**Minister**" and against it was the name of the incumbent along with the phrase "*and the congregation of this parish*".

I pray that God may richly bless you as you anticipate the arrival of a new minister and work alongside her or him to advance the Kingdom of God in your community.

With best wishes to you all,

Yours sincerely,

*Rev. Alistair Shaw*

**Harvest Festival Service**  
*Sunday, 4th October*

## **Cumbernauld :Condorrat Parish Church**

### **Interim Moderator**

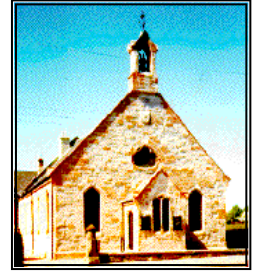
**Rev. Jonathon Keefe**

### **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.ccosfive.wordpress.com](http://www.ccosfive.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**



#### **September 2026**

6th. — Communion:

Mrs. E. Stewart & Team 4.

13th. — Mr J. Newlands and Team 1.

20th. — Mrs. L McKeown & Team 2.

27th. — Mrs. J. Bolling & Team 3.



### **CLERK to THE BOARD**

#### **TREASURER**

Mrs Ann Kenny Tel: 732377

#### **ROLLKEEPER**

Mr John Newlands Tel: 732632

#### **FABRIC CONVENOR**

Mr John Cochrane Mob: 07850 805599

#### **FWO & GIFT AID ADMINISTRATOR**

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### **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**

P Taylor Logan Tel: 07436 117346

e-mail: [tayvalxtra@outlook.com](mailto:tayvalxtra@outlook.com)



**From the Session Clerk**

**September 2026**

*Looking forward to the future...*

It doesn't seem like two months since our last newsletter, things have been unusually busy around the church due to the necessary works which have been carried out. Firstly, all four boilers on the property have been replaced, one for church house, one for the sanctuary and 2 for the church halls. We had hoped to stagger these replacements, but unfortunately this was not an option as they had reached the end of their working lives. Mr Cochrane got quotations from 3 companies for this work, and we settled on new equipment that comes with an 18-year warranty, so hopefully we will have no issues with these for a very long time.

On top of that, the electrical installation in the church halls failed inspection, and the only remedy was to completely rewire the church halls, installing new circuitry and replacing the older fluorescent lighting with energy efficient LED panels. A favourable price was also obtained for this work to be carried out. An urgent repair to the hall roof was also required due to water coming in during one of our heavy downpours this summer. This work has had to be covered by funds from the church accounts and in total we have spent over £21,000 in repairs and refurbishment. A very generous donation of £500 helped to offset the £1200 cost to make the hall watertight.

There is also some necessary work required in the manse to make it ready for our new

minister when they are appointed. If anyone has any fundraising ideas, please let the social committee know, as we really do need to raise some more funds.

On the subject of a new Minister, I can update you on the progress of the Joint Nominating Committees' efforts. After having the Parish Profile approved by Presbytery, we had to complete and submit *Congregational Action Plans* for both churches. Our first attempt at this was rejected by Presbytery, so we had to revise and resubmit these. Fortunately, these revisions were approved and a first draft of the job vacancy advert was sent for publication. Of course, this needed a little tweaking as well before it was finally sent for publication on the Church of Scotland website. The advert was published on the last day of August. We pray that the right candidate for both congregations will be applying for the post. In due course, if a suitable candidate is identified by the Nominating Committee, he/she will be invited to preach in both churches, after which you, the Congregation will be asked to vote yes or no for the nominee.

So, after a long period in vacancy, hopefully we are starting to see light at the end of the proverbial tunnel.

I ask that you keep the Nominating Committee in your Prayers, and also ask God to guide our new minister towards us.

*Grace and peace.*

*Kenneth Mackenzie*

**Foodbank**

**September 2026**

We continued to be busy over the summer months. The school holidays have an impact on families when their children are not at school and would normally be receiving school dinners. This means more food required for meals.

The Foodbank has become much busier with new clients requiring our help, it is a sad sign that more people are struggling with the cost of living. We can offer them help with day-to-day living, in supplying them with food and basic essentials.

The warm hub continues at Condorrat on a Monday, but we are delighted to announce that the warm hub has returned to Our Lady and St Helen's Church every Wednesday after 10 o' clock Mass in the hall. All are welcome. Come along, catch up and make friends. This means there are now two days

when folks can find a warm space to sit, chat and unwind and enjoy a cuppa. It is a wonderful example of the friendly relationship that exists between St Helen's and Condorrat Church, that we can cooperate in helping the wider community.

Thank you to all our volunteers who turn up every Friday, the foodbank could not operate without you.

Thank you to the congregation who continue to support the Foodbank with regular food and monetary donations. We are extremely grateful.

A huge thank you to our local supporters: Little Hands Nursery, Spar, and I&E Wales, St Helen's, we really appreciate your donations.

**'THANK YOU'** for your continued support

*Sheila Graham*  
**Foodbank Co-Ordinator**  
**Tel :01236 611222**

## Treasurer's Report

*September 2026*

Dear Everyone,

Here we are at the beginning of September. Here we are with our first "Parish News" since June. Can you believe all these weeks have gone since the last edition of the magazine? I hope you enjoyed that time and kept safe especially during the very hot days.

In my article in the June magazine, I mentioned that, regardless of the time of year, there is always something happening in the Church. That has certainly been the case this year. The Finance Committee would not normally meet in August but, due to the urgency of one particular item, it proved necessary this year.

You will read more, elsewhere, about the essential work which has been carried out in recent weeks. A considerable amount was spent on new boilers for the Sanctuary and Halls which has made a very large dent in our Church finances. Four new boilers were installed at a cost of £12,000. They were necessary as the ones they are replacing had come to the end of their useful life. The electrical work which was carried out in the halls was undoubtedly essential as, in a recent testing process to provide us with a new Electrical Installation Condition Report, various faults were identified. These were safety issues and it is a requirement of both Safety Regulations and Presbytery that such faults must be eliminated as soon as possible otherwise the building would have to be closed. The cost was £7,500.

As these necessary projects reduced our bank balance to a level considered unacceptable, money had to be transferred from our Church of Scotland deposit account, leaving less than £1,000 there.

Unfortunately, a group who used our halls on a regular basis found premises elsewhere. That has meant a considerable reduction in revenue. We must all make every effort to welcome those who wish to rent our premises.

Recently, an analysis of giving over the past few years was carried out. It shows a significant decrease in our monthly giving, made worse when inflation is taken into account. We all know how rising prices have impacted our household budgets and our Church is not immune from increases in costs. While every attempt is made to keep costs down, we have no control over some items. Energy bills, for example, continue to rise.

Many years ago, John Allan, our previous Treasurer, warned that we could not continue to have a deficit every year. As you will know from our annual accounts, there has been a deficit each year for many years. Therefore, the time has come when, if we wish to remain solvent and viable as a Church, every one of us should be looking at our monthly giving's and asking when we last increased them and deciding, if we possibly can, to increase our Offering. Anyone wishing to increase the giving they make through the bank, but is unsure how to do it, can speak to me in strict confidence for help or guidance.

*May God bless you.*

*Ann Kenny*

## The Guild

**September 2026**

We return to regular meetings on **Wed. 9th Sept.** and thereafter on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month in the halls, at 1.30pm.

Our first meeting will be an informal '**Social Afternoon**' and everyone is welcome to attend.

***Our Guild Dedication Service  
is on Sun. 27th Sept.***

Anyone looking to know more about the Guild can contact me (*see below*) or just speak to me on a Sunday.....or just come along to any of our meetings.

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

*e-mail: lesleyfreeland123@gmail.com*

## Remember

*SAVE your 'used' Postage Stamps  
and bring them to Church at the first  
opportunity.*



## giftaid it

### **Who can give through Gift Aid ?**

Anyone who pays Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax, which is annually and 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**.

***Friendship*** is a living thing that lasts only as long as it is nourished with kindness, sympathy and understanding.

***'There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.'***

*Martin Luther*



To ALL the Congregation  
at Condorrat  
"Thank You" so much for the Flowers  
we received on my Dad's passing.  
Your thoughtfulness and kindness  
was greatly appreciated.  
*From Iain and Linda*

*I would like to thank all  
the Congregation for lovely  
flowers John and I received  
after the passing of my mother.  
We have been very grateful  
for the support we have had  
from the church.*

*Liz Denney*

'Thank You' for the beautiful  
church Flowers I received when  
down in Condorrat for a wee  
holiday.  
Love to everyone at CPC.

*Mary MacKinnon*

### The Joy of Music

When the world seems sad and gloomy,  
And the sun forgets to shine  
Then music lifts the spirits  
And makes the day feel fine.  
A Scottish Reel, an Irish Jig  
Or an English Country Dance;  
Or maybe a gentle Old-time Waltz,  
recalling a romance.  
Perhaps a singer singing Opera  
can carry us away;  
Or maybe just some Rock'n'Roll  
will make a cheerful day.  
Whatever kind of music;  
Whatever suits you best;  
Just clap your hands and tap your feet  
Let MUSIC do the rest!

### Sunday Morning Tea/Coffee Teams



#### September 2026

- 6th. Mrs Freeland, Mrs Semple  
& Mrs Graha  
13th. Mrs Lazzurri, Mrs McLellan  
& Ms. Reid  
20th. Mrs Freeland, Mrs Semple  
& Mrs Graham  
27th. Mrs Cummings, Mrs Hughes  
& Mrs Rooney

*Come along and join us for a cup of Tea/Coffee  
in the Halls after Sunday Services.*

*Enjoy a bit of chat and Fellowship with others –  
you may find that YOU wish to help out.*

*Lesley Freeland.*

### Flowers for the Sanctuary

#### September 2026

- 6th. Ms. Main  
13th. Mrs. Hynd  
20th. Mrs. Grant  
27th. Mrs. Fleming

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

*Many, Many 'Thanks' to those who  
continue to contribute to beautify  
the Sanctuary with Flowers ;  
and also to those who deliver them  
to the deserving each week .*

### Church Flowers

*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 just a neighbour  
living in our community.*

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the  
flowers each Sunday to beautify the Sanctuary.

I would be grateful if you are aware of any-  
one in need of church flowers being delivered to  
them, please inform myself or any Office-bearer on  
duty on Sundays. I can assure you that the flowers  
do bring much joy and comfort to the people who  
receive them from the church.

I would also welcome anyone who is inter-  
ested in helping with the delivery of the flowers to  
recipients, to get in touch with me.

*Liz Cochrane*

*(Mob: 07702129882)*

## Prayer Corner

### **Friendship**

*'...then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. And she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her Gods; return after her'. But Ruth said, 'Entreat me not to leave you or to return from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God; where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more even if death parts me from you.' And when Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said no more.*

( Ruth 1: vs 14-18 )

### **Dear Lord,**

We thank you for our friends and for those who understand us better than we understand ourselves; for those who know us at our worst and still like us; for those who have forgiven me when we had no right to expect to be forgiven.

Help us to be as true to ur friends as we would wish them to be to us.

Help us to take that first step to get in touch again with friends from whom we've drifted apart.

And help us to have no bitterness but only forgiveness to any of our friends who may have failed or turned against us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**



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

**2 Tim. 3:16,17.**



Following our long hot summer I'd like to draw your attention again to the Charity which we, as a church, have been supporting for some time now - ***Smalls for All.***

This is are based in Livingston and provide underwear to other charities not only in Africa but also in the U.K. Providing this bit of dignity can make such a huge difference to a person as I'm sure you can imagine. They are always looking for brand new pants for men, women and children so any size and any colour are appreciated and also new or " gently worn" bras. Many of you regularly bring in donations and Mrs Cochrane kindly delivers them to the depot so no postage is incurred. Her last delivery was 4 large bin bags full, so ***Thank You*** on behalf of the charity. I regularly get newsletters from them which I put on the hall notice board but we also get a personal thank you just to show how much your donations are appreciated. You could perhaps mention this to your friends and family members and if they'd also like to donate, we would be very grateful.

Thank you again to everyone  
on behalf of ***Smalls For All.***

***Margaret McCallum  
Liz Cochrane***

## **The Social Group September 2026**

I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer break and you are now looking forward to new events on our 'Social Calendar'.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, 'Nanas and Papas' are unable to provide the entertainment for this even. In discussion with Kenny , the above event is being postponed until early **2027**. Looking on the bright side, early next year we may be joining together to celebrate our new minister.

Our next event by the Social Group will be a Concert in the Sanctuary by the **"Shine"** Theatre Group on Wed. 28th October at 7pm.  
Entry - £10 with Tickets on sale soon.

The **Christmas Fayre** will be on Saturday, 21st November.  
More details to follow soon.

I hope you can manage to come to our events as **WE** certainly look forward to seeing **YOU** & your Families and Friends.

**Elizabeth Aitken**  
(Convenor)



## **1st Condorrat Company The Boys' Brigade September 2026**

After a full and enjoyable program last Session we are ready to 'get going' in 2026/27!!

We begin our meetings on **Thursday, 10th Sept.** for the **Junior and Company Sections**, while the **Anchor Boys** start up on **Thurs. 18th Sept.**  
(*Enrolment Nights: 3rd and 10th Sept. respectively.*)

### ***Dedication Service on Sunday 20th Sept.***

Meeting Times for all Sections:

**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 an update on what's happening please check our **web-site.**

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

## ***Sweet Talk***

### **Sugar Almonds**

These sweets were often used as 'favours' given to guests at weddings. They are pretty, pale coloured and have a hard sugar shell - wait till you try to bite into one!

They are so hard that it takes some time to get through to the lovely almond nut in the middle...but well worth the effort!

Some folks are like that — they can be quite hard to know. however, once you get through to the heart of them, they can be found to be great people and good friends.

Patience is a great asset when trying to break down hardness. So just stick at it if you are trying to help someone.

***1 Corinthians 13: vs 4***

*'Love is patient, love is kind...'*

**Ben Huddleston**

## ***"Jewels"***

I am sure, nay certain, that most ladies reading this have a liking for jewellery. Probably even have a favourite, special item which may contain a precious stone.

Some people are fascinated by anything that sparkles and will even watch a Jeweller working on a 'precious stone'. From when he first selects the raw material and handles it; looks it over; studies it; thinking about what he will make of it. Then he gets to work. Chipping, cutting, filing, heating polishing, with his selection of craftsman tools. Hours of work, until finally he holds in his hand an exquisite gemstone, faceted and sparkling as it reflects the light.

When we come to God with our shortcomings, He like the Jeweller starts to work on *us*,

And bit by bit He will shape us into someone He can use, who will sparkle for Him

Will you be lie the facets on gemstone and reflect the light of the Lord to those around you?

*Check out..... Zechariah 9: vs 16  
'.....they will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown.'*

**Ben Huddleston**

## **The Girls' Brigade**

**September 2026**



***Hi Folks,***

We start our **2026-27** year on **Tuesday, 8th September from 7pm—8pm..**

Last year was exciting as our company is only one of two Companies in the whole of Scotland 'trialling' the Girls starting the Girls Brigade aged 4 years and not yet at school which could be so exciting. So, if everyone could 'spread the word' to all Pre-school Girls we would much appreciate it.

### **Explorers:**

**Pre-school (4years) - Primary 3: 6:30 -7:30pm**

**Juniors: Primary 4 - P7 : 7:30 - 9pm.**

**Brigaders: S1 - S6 : 7:30 - 9pm.**

### ***Our Dedication Service is on Sun. 20th Sept.***

A reminder that with the fire at St. Mungo's Church we lost a lot of our supplies which we shared with the Girl's Brigade at that church. We are planning to 'Fundraise' during the year to restock what we have lost and it would be much appreciated if the wider Church Community would support our fundraising events.

Thank you for your continued support for **1st Condorrat Girl's Brigade.**



**Nicola Gilmore**  
(Captain)

[First.condorrat.gb@outlook.com](mailto:First.condorrat.gb@outlook.com)

**Keep Praying — A lot of kneeling keeps one in good standing.**

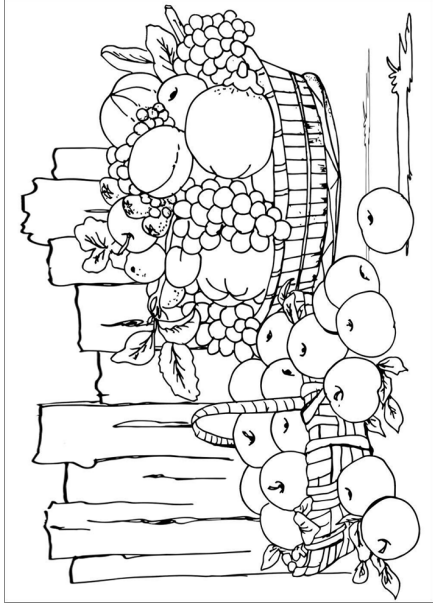
Sweetie Quiz:

1. Rainbow drops

2. Love hearts

3. Celebrations

4. Parma vio-lets



Join us for our

Harvest Festival!

OCTOBER

Images © Mori Bait & Pink Cat Studio

www.BibleStoryPrintables.com

Q.1. What goes up, but never comes down?

Q.2. Where does Friday come before Thursday?

Q.3. What has a bark, but no bite?

Q.4. How many letters are there in the alphabet?

Q.5. What can you catch but not throw?

Q.6. What game do cows play at parties?

Answers:

1. Your Age, 2. In Dictionary, 3. A Tree, 4. Eight A.L.P.H.A.B.E.T., 5. Cold, 6. Mooooseical Chair.

Creation Crossword

ACROSS

2. On the \_\_\_\_\_ day God made the sky.

4. God separated the \_\_\_\_\_ from the sky.

DOWN

1. He called the sky \_\_\_\_\_

3. He called the land \_\_\_\_\_

5. He called the waters \_\_\_\_\_

Child of God Word Search

I L L U M I N A T E K D U Y G

B M I L F D B D K D N I I G N

I E A S E E A O E B O V R Z I

C S G T K R W N A L W A Y S S

P R A I K D N P M H L D L K I

W I E N N A L U F R E W O P A

L Z E A L N V I Y I D S V Z R

I S L P T L I G H T G N H N P

S H C R A E S N X C E H V S H

V M B M R U S R G S D O W E W

ALWAYS

BEGINNING

CHILD

CREATE

DARKNESS

DAVID

DETAIL

ILLUMINATE

KNOWLEDGE

LIGHT

PLANNED

POWERFUL

PRaising

PSALM

SEARCH