



Parish News



Dear Friends,

Those of you who attend Church regularly or follow the service online will have heard me speak of my grandchildren who live locally. I speak less often of my Australian grandchildren because I see them less frequently. However, we do see them online in video calls, except for when my five-year old granddaughter Ivy seizes the phone and plays with the filters, making her mummy's hair purple or her face orange.

I mention the Australian family because they are currently staying with us for the next three weeks. Chaos reigns in our house, but it is a happy situation. When they were at Adelaide Airport, waiting to board their flight, my daughter sent us a video clip of Ivy who was so excited because she was coming to Scotland to visit us. I know what will happen at the other end of their visit. There will be tears when they depart. When my wife and I came home from a visit to Australia back in March, we were told that Ivy cried all the way home from seeing us off at the airport, a car journey of about 30 minutes.

Young Ivy is learning that life consists of highs and lows. We like the highs, but not the lows. I would suggest that we should enjoy the highs while they last and make the most of them. And we should express thanks to God for them. At the same time, we should cherish the memory of them, for such memories will help to sustain us in the more difficult times.

J. M. Barrie once said, "God gave us memory so that we might have roses in December." He used the line during a famous address called "Courage" at the University of St. Andrews in May, 1922, quoting someone anonymous. When you think about it, it is true. In the summer months we enjoy roses in gardens and parks. But in December it is too dark and cold for them to flourish, but we can still savour the memory of them, recalling their colours, their scent, the formation of their petals. So it is with all happy memories which are recalled in bleaker times – they are our roses in December.

We should bear in mind too that tougher times will pass and better times will come round again. Although happy times do pass too, but that is not a thought which we would wish to dwell on. But thinking of how the lows in life *do* pass is, I believe, worthwhile.

Our Christian faith should also uphold us amidst life's lows. The Apostle Paul knew dangers from robbers, foreigners and false friends, in towns, in the country and at sea, but he was still able to write: "*I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life ... nothing in all creation which can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

Let us live by that belief.

With warm good wishes to you all,

Rev. Alistair Shaw

'SHINE' Youth Theatre Group
Wed. 28th October at 7.30pm
in the Sanctuary

Cumbernauld :Condorrat Parish Church

Interim Moderator

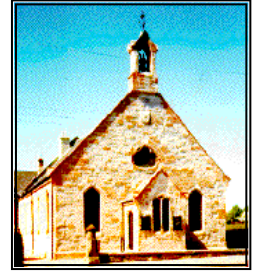
Rev. Jonathon Keefe

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.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



October 2026

- 4th. — Mrs. E. Stewart & Team 4.
11th. — Mr J. Newlands and Team 1.
18th. — Mrs. L McKeown & Team 2.
25th. — 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

-



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



From the Session Clerk

October 2026

Autumn is upon us once again, and the nights will start to get a bit shorter now, and although the thought of this sometimes gets you down, this year I look forward to the end of this year - surely the last which we will have to endure without our *own minister* in the pulpit. As I told you last month, the advert has been placed on the Church of Scotland website inviting interested parties to send us an application which the nominating committee will carefully consider. But, as you are all aware, things do not always go as quickly as we would wish, and we must all pray to the Lord and ask him to guide the right candidate to us.

I hope that you have noticed that the hedges are looking very tidy again. Our thanks go to our good friend Andrew from Craigend Nursery who has once again trimmed the hedges in preparation for winter. This is the second time that he has done this for us this year and he also treated all of the weeds around the church and halls to keep them under control. His kindness is very much appreciated and he does this without charging us a penny.

After the very large expenditures over the summer on Boiler replacement and rewiring of the halls, we will need to pause and take stock of the financial situation before embarking on any major projects, as our income has not kept pace with inflation over the last few years. Mr McColl conducted an exercise to ascertain how we were doing compared to 2022, and sad to say that comparing then to now leaves us with a deficit of

£900 per month. Even on the best-case scenario (taking out inflationary pressures that do not affect the church as much) we are still £450 to £500 per month worse off than when we exited Covid. This made me think of our own giving (which Celia and I do by standing order) and realised that this had not been increased in the last 3 years. It is easy to forget to review this, as it is paid automatically every month. I would ask you to look at your donations and (if possible) to increase these. Do not even consider this if you face any difficulties of your own financially. On the fundraising front, I intend to start a weekly IT clinic, where you can bring along troublesome technology for advice or for repairs (where this can be undertaken without specialist tools). Payment will be by donation to the church funds, no minimum charge or "call out fee". If you have a desktop computer these will be looked at in your own home to save carrying heavy equipment about. This will start when I return from my holiday at the beginning of November, place and time will be intimated before it begins.

I will not be in church for the month of October as I will be visiting family and friends in Canada and the United States....but, I am always contactable by email at

kirksessionclerk@outlook.com

if there is anything you wish to message me about.... and the Elders and Board members are always happy to help you if and when required.

Grace and peace.

Kenneth Mackenzie

Foodbank

October 2026

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 essentials.

As I write this article, we are close to celebrating Harvest within our church family. At a recent meeting The Kirk Session approved that our 'Harvest Donations' brought to the church, would be donated to our Foodbank at Condorrat. Alternatively monetary donations can be made in an envelope marked "Harvest."

The Foodbank Team are very grateful to be in receipt of foodstuffs from the Harvest Table. I will report back to you all about our Harvest Service.

The 'warm hub' continues at Condorrat on Mondays, 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. 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

Sheila Graham
Foodbank Co-Ordinator
Tel :01236 611222

Treasurer's Report

October 2026

Dear Everyone,

Last month I mentioned that, unusually, the Finance Committee met in August due to urgent matters requiring attention. In addition to the matter mentioned then, a second, related to Free Will Offering envelopes, required attention. In recent years, one hundred sets of FWO envelopes have been ordered and many of them were unnecessary. We have reduced the cost by ordering only a few more than the number needed. This meant rearranging some of the numbers. While a few people have been allocated a different number, most people will have the same number for 2027 as they had previously. Only Mrs Prested and I have access to the names.

The Finance Committee can only do so much in trying to keep costs down. You will recollect from my article last month how I stated that our Church is not immune to the effects of inflation on our outgoings and the serious consequences these increases are having on our financial results. This is compounded when not being matched by an inflationary increase in our Offerings. You will remember also that I mentioned that an analysis of Offerings had been carried out. A further analysis indicates that, when yearly annual inflation is taken into account, our Church is receiving approximately **£450** per month less in today's money, in Offerings, compared to that received per month four years ago. At the recent MacMillan Coffee Morning, about **£2000** was raised for that charity. It would be wonderful if a similar amount could be raised at a Coffee Morning for our own Church Funds. Many years ago, someone I worked with commented that people do not donate so much when it is for a Church. I have no idea why that is the situation and we must not let ourselves think like that as the money for meeting all our commitments has to come from somewhere.

During the summer, in addition to all the regular items e.g. meter readings for energy, photocopying etc, being taken and submitted, we received a survey from the National Lottery Fund.

You may remember we applied, over ten years ago, to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant to refurbish the organ. I am glad to say we were successful but the survey was sent to all the places which applied for a grant whether or not they were successful so that a range of experiences could be documented. The survey was completed. Our Presbytery dues are fully paid for 2026 with the second half, **£781**, being paid by the due date and confirmation received.

The energy supplier for gas and electricity at the Manse has been changed from Scottish Power to Octopus.

We received **£450** from North Lanarkshire Council for the hire of the halls for the election.

Abronnill gave us a cheque for half of the costs for the Manse.

The annual return from PPLPRS, the people we pay for the music licence, was received completed and returned.

The insurance for the Church, halls and Manse has been renewed and the broker has changed so a new direct debit had to be set up. All the necessary arrangements, including the follow up, have been made. A copy of the current certificate is displayed in Church House and also in the hall. It would be appreciated if they could be left in position.

You may remember that last month I reported that the cost of the essential work which was carried out - new boilers and electrical work - cost **£19500**. Essential work has now been carried out on the hall roof at a cost of **£1200**. However, a very generous donation of **£500** has been received with the specific request that it goes to offsetting some of that cost.

Thank you to everyone who donates to keep our Church viable particularly in these days when our resources are reducing at an alarming rate. And especially to everyone who took heed of what has been reported about the state of our finances and increased their Offerings.

May God bless you.

Ann Kenny
(Treasurer)

The Guild

October 2026

We started the new session with a social and quiz afternoon and last week we welcomed Hazel Paterson who entertained us with some topical tales and stories.

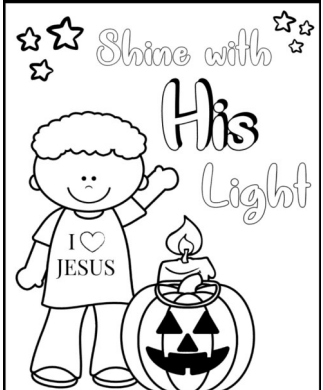
Our Guild's small in numbers but great in enthusiasm and loyalty, although we'd love to welcome new members.

At our meeting on 28th October John Kay will lead us in a Mindfulness Session.

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

Email: lesleyfreeland123@gmail.com





*I would like to thank everyone at the Church for the lovely flowers I received after my recent stay in hospital.
It cheered me up immensely.*

Christine Forrest

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

We would like to say a big 'Thank You' for the beautiful flowers we received from the Church. They were very much appreciated.

Jim. Sheila Jackson

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 for Gift Aid.

Smalls for All.

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 we are most grateful.

I regularly get newsletters from them which I put on the Hall notice board are appreciated.

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

**Margaret McCallum
Liz Cochrane**

Sunday Morning

Tea/Coffee Teams



October 2026

- 4th. Mrs Lazzurri, Mrs McLellan
& Ms. Reid
- 11th. Mrs. Freeland, Mrs. Graham
& Mrs. Semple
- 18th. Mrs. Cummings, Mrs. Hughes
& Mrs. Rooney
- 25th. Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Freeland
& Mrs. Semple

Come along and join us for a cup of Tea/Coffee in the Halls after Sunday Services. Enjoy a bit of chat and Fellowship — you may find that YOU wish to help out.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

October 2026

- 4th. Mrs. H. Moir
- 11th. Mrs. J. Lazzurri
- 18th. Mrs. E. Arthur
- 25th. Mrs. E. Stewart

*"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 anyone 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 interested in helping with the delivery of the flowers to recipients, to get in touch with me.

Liz Cochrane
(Mob: 07702129882)

Prayer Corner

HARVEST

The Summer may be over
And Winter drawing near,
But now it's time for meetings,
For friendship, warmth and cheer.
There's purple on the mountains
And beauty all around,
With here and there a Summer rose,
Still waiting to be found.

It's time for reminiscing,
Recalling summer days,
For sharing hope and happy thoughts
In many quiet ways.
A time for relaxation
Of fellowship and joy,
Creating Autumn memories
That Winter can't destroy;

We thank you for the Harvest, Lord,
The bounty of Your hand
For every Season of the year,
Which touches all the land.
For fruit and flowers, tree and plants,
The miracle of seeds,
For food and comfort through the months,
Providing all our needs.

We thank You for the love we share,
The Harvest of the heart,
For all the precious gifts of life
Your hope and joy impart.
We pray for those less fortunate,
Who suffer day by day,
Be with them on their journey, Lord,
And help them find the way.

And now once more we thank You, Lord,
For blessings great and small.
But most of all, Your endless LOVE,
- The greatest gift of all!

A PRAYER FOR EXPERIENCING GOD IN NATURE

Creator God, at the beginning of time your voice brought light into the darkness. Your hands shaped dry land. Your creativity exploded in colours and shapes and smells; and Your breath brought life to your people. As I step outside, may I discover the light of Your presence, hear your purpose-giving voice of direction, and be amazed and inspired by your creativity. And as I breathe in fresh air, may you fill me with the breath of your Spirit who brings me true peace, rest, and strength.

Amen.

from *Gordon McInally*

"In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land."

Psalms 95: vs 4-5



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.



The Social Group

October 2026

The next event by the Social Group will be a
Concert in the Sanctuary by the "**Shine**"
Youth Theatre Group on
Wed. 28th October at 7.30pm.
(Note: Doors open at 7.15pm)
Entry - **£10** with Tickets now on sale from
myself or Liz Cochrane.

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 *October 2026***

Before the current session even started our Company Section had their Summer Camp at an Outdoor Activity Centre near the Borders. Judging by the wet and mucky laundry they came home with, it certainly was an action-packed weekend!

Our regular Thursday Sessions have just commenced but we are already getting started on our Badge-work and Marching/Drill practice.

It was amazing to see so many familiar faces return with Company Section currently strongest in number. Most from boys who have been with us since Anchor Boys.

We also welcomed some recruits to all Sections which is absolutely wonderful. If you know of anyone who could join us please do not hesitate to share our details with them.

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**
/1condorrat.boys-brigade.org.uk

Anchor Section Leader: Kris Tromans
Junior Section Leader: Colin Mackay
Company Section Leader: Jamie Porrit

The Girls' Brigade

October 2026



Hi Folks,

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

Explorers/

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

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

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

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

Sweet Talk

Alphabet Sweets

These crunchy little sweets were made in the shape of letters of the Alphabet and were great fun for kids at Primary School. You could spell out names and make up messages for your friends—depending on what letters you got in the bag..

The problem was that they were so nice to eat that they didn't last long! It was fun just eating them—in alphabetical order of course!

In the Bible we read that God is the 'beginning' and the 'end'. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek Alphabet and Omega the last. God rules as sovereign over all human history. He has always been here, is here now and will be here forever. This is very reassuring!

Revelation 1: vs 8

'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, 'who is and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'

Ben Huddleston

"Forgiveness"

On many occasions we see on the TV news the bereaved parent, friend or relative announcing that they will 'never forgive' the person who has committed the dreadful act against their loved one.

Perhaps we don't quite grasp the gravity of such a statement. As impossible though it may seem, we *must* forgive. If not there can be dire consequences which will be far worse than the 'wrong' we feel we have suffered. That consequence is, that unless we can forgive others we ourselves cannot be forgiven by God!

We say 'Forgive us our sins (our debts) as we forgive our debtors (those who sin against us)'. We all need forgiveness and that is why Jesus died - so that we might be forgiven. If we ask forgiveness from God and forgive others then, when we stand before Him, our 'slate' will be clean.

Have you got some unforgiven issues? Get them sorted - you'll feel much better!

Check out..... Colossians 3: vs 16

Ben Huddleston

There is always hope in a man who actually and earnestly works. In idleness alone is there perpetual despair.
Thomas Carlyle

(PARISH NEWS) Keep Praying — A lot of kneeling keeps one in good standing.

(7)

Word List
See if you can find the Summer related words in our word search.

boating
bucket
camp
frisbee
heat
humid
journey
sandals
Spade
sun

t e n r l o f j o u r n e y n
p i c p u t r n o i o e t b m
b w h a i r i e i b r r d c r
r o s l h d s k i e r e e f p
o c a b r g b d r i t i u d
i n c t m w e p d i s i s h b t
m n y w i i e d s y c l u e e
g a o i e n b u c k e t m n i
l i m n o a e g o h e t n i q s
s e e s g s e n a p t t d i p
i g a c a m p s a n d a l s a
o n p d n i n c p n i c o f d
e e n e p p a r g e r k r a e
r q r s o b a h e a t o o c s
d m a k i a e e k e u e r t o i

Hidden Pictures: The Birth of John the Baptist

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: book, cake, fish, football, magnet, moon, needle and thread, snail, sock, spoon, sherrif's badge, star.



Just for KIDS

Bugs in the Bible

Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs!

Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.

*Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse.
Circle them in the puzzle below.*

Proverbs 6:6 _____ Exodus 16:20 _____

Psalms 78:45 _____ 1 Sam. 24:14 _____

Matt. 23:24 _____ Isaiah 50:9 _____

Judges 14:8 _____ Isaiah 59:5 _____

Acts 12:23 _____ Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____ Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Deuteronomy 7:20 _____

M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	S	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	I	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S

Answer: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket