



# Parish News



*Dear Friends,*

As the Bible says, there is a time for everything, and it is time for me to retire from my post as Minister of Condorrat. This will not be news to many of you reading this as I have already announced this to the Board and Session and the Congregation, however, not everyone will have heard and this is why I am telling you now. I have written to Presbytery and all the appropriate channels have been informed. The die is cast and the date is set for the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

You might think that this is a long time away but it gives everyone time to start working on the next step in the life of the Church here in Condorrat. I want to confirm that this decision has not been made lightly and has included a great deal of prayer and thought but I am sure that you will understand that when the time comes to move, you just know when it is right.

Having said that life still goes on in the church and we have much to do as the year rolls on. This Sunday is not only a Celebration of Holy Communion but the first Sunday of Lent. This means that we embark on the journey of Faith, Prayer and Reflection on our Spiritual Life as we consider what to give up, or what spiritual exercise we choose to take up. This is a time of sacrifice and prayer which reflecting the forty days and nights that Jesus spent in the wilderness where He prayed and lived through the difficulties of living in the desert.

We are fortunate that life is starting to return to normal ....but not quite in the church yet. I have copied the information which the Scottish Government has issued, and it is quoted in the Church of Scotland Web-Site's latest update from the 28<sup>th</sup> January. There is little change at the moment with a cautious approach because Covid levels are still quite high, therefore the advice is as follows:

*“Face coverings remain mandatory in most indoor public places – including places of worship - subject to exemptions. They continue to be an important part of stopping the spread of coronavirus and should be worn correctly. Those responsible for places of worship should encourage worshippers and members of the public to wear face coverings in line with the requirements on individuals.*

*Physical distancing is recommended during worship wherever possible, unless it interferes with a fundamental aspect of faith specific practice.*

*We strongly encourage people to take a lateral flow test before attending services or gatherings. Places of worship may wish to continue to collect visitor details for the purposes of supporting NHS Scotland's Test and Protect System. Ensuring adequate ventilation in buildings also remains an important precautionary measure.”*

[Scottish Government : Covid 19 – safe use of places of worship]

So we keep the masks and social distancing of one metre and track and trace, and it makes sense to get tested before coming to a Sunday Service. We shall one day return to the way we were, but not yet, so that we can keep each other safe; and that is the most important thing, to care for each other.

*May the Lord ...*

*Bless you and Keep you ,*

*Rev. Grace Saunders*



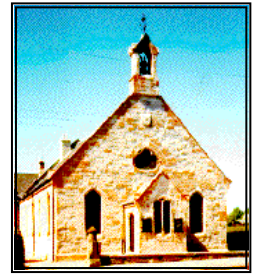
# Cumbernauld :Condorrat Parish Church



**Minister**  
**Rev. Grace Saunders**  
B.Th; B.Sc.  
(Tel. 01236 452090)

**Session Clerk**

**Family Development Worker**  
**Mrs Susan Boland**  
(SBoland@churchofscotland.org.uk)



## **SUNDAY SERVICES:**



***Morning Worship in the Sanctuary at 11am.***

**Communion Services** (1st Sun. – March; June; September; December.).....**11 am**

Check the *Condorrat Parish Church* blog on our website or at [www.ccosfive.wordpress.com](http://www.ccosfive.wordpress.com)

### **Cumbernauld Churches Together**

#### **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**



#### **March 2022**

6th. — Mr. J Newlands & Team 1.  
13th. — Mrs. L McKeown & Team 2.  
20th. — Mrs. J Bolling & Team 3.  
27th. — Mr. J Moir & Team 4.

\*\*\*\*\*

Church open but with wearing of masks and social distancing.

#### **CLERK to THE BOARD**

Mrs Christine Macphail Tel: 728990

#### **TREASURER**

Mrs Ann Kenny Tel: 732377

#### **ROLLKEEPER**

Mr John Newlands Tel: 732632

#### **FABRIC CONVENOR**

Mr Gordon Bennie Tel: 734637

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

Mrs Doreen Ross Mob. No. 07769 203648



#### **HALLS LETTING**

Mrs Elizabeth Hutton Tel: 07502 457198

Mrs Elizabeth McLean Tel: 07840 958133

#### **SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATORS**

Mr Alistair Robertson Tel: 734905

Mrs Elizabeth Masterton Tel: 723492

#### **CHURCH OFFICER**

Mr David Logie Tel: 724532

#### **Intimations & Parish News**

P Taylor Logan Tel: 07436 117346

e-mail: [tayval@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tayval@tiscali.co.uk)

## Intimation

The position of **Session Clerk** has now been vacant for some time, yet this position is an important one in church life. It is mainly organisational and the person would need to work with a computer, be able to take minutes of the **Kirk Session** and carry out secretarial duties. The **Session Clerk** also has forms to fill in different times of the year to send to Presbytery or Church of Scotland Office. He or she would also set out and organise Communion.

The **Session Clerk** does *not* have to be a member of the **Kirk Session**; I am again therefore, appealing to anyone who has organising skills to get in touch with me or a member of the Kirk Session. It would also be great if **two** people could come forward to share this role and so support each other.

I pray that someone soon will be moved to help the church in this way.

*Rev. Grace Saunders*

*Hello Everyone,*

March 2022

As February is such a short month it seems no time since I wrote my last report of church matters.

The Session and Congregational Board met this month, but before the meetings Grace informed us, as a Congregation, that she plans to retire at the end of August. I'm sure you will hear more about the procedure this will involve, but she let us know in Session that she has informed Glasgow Presbytery and has received a response from the Presbytery Clerk to say that an Interim Moderator will be appointed shortly to help with aspects of the Vacancy.

The Minister is meeting with the Head-teachers of Baird Memorial and Westfield Primary Schools to arrange Assembly talks, so things are beginning to regain some normality.

Mrs Boland has been preparing materials for Condorrat Primary to tell the story of Easter.

Mrs. Kenny has been preparing our Annual Accounts and a Date for our Annual Stated Meeting will be announced shortly. It is a requirement of every congregation that they be presented with accounts so that everything is open for all to see and question if they are unsure of anything. It is also our opportunity to elect new Members to the Congregational Board. If you would like to be

involved in the running of our Church and feel you may have a contribution to make, or even suggest someone you think has the qualities required, we would love to hear from you. We can explain what is involved so you can decide if it's for you.

There is little else to report but as you will read elsewhere the 'Technical Team' are still working to improve the sound quality and "drop out" on our online services. I know they have had many meetings, and much frustration. Good things come to those who wait! (or so we are told)

After-church Tea/Coffee has now resumed with Covid restrictions still in place. However, as the Westminster and Scottish governments are planning to 'ease' restrictions (at the time of writing) we await further advice from the Church of Scotland. The advice is only that, and as a congregation we can decide whether or not to adhere to it. I'm sure we will make decisions with our own safety and that of others in mind.

Please keep our Church and our Community in your Prayers as we anticipate the changes likely to take place in the Cumbernauld Group of Church of Scotland Parishes.

*Please remember our Church and  
Congregation in your prayers.*

*Christine MacPhail  
(Clerk to the Board)*

### **Coronavirus in Scotland**

- \* Stay at home as much as possible
- \* Keep away from crowds of other people
- \* Wash your hands often and always as soon as you return home

### **Stay safe, Protect others, Save lives.**

- \* *Always wear a face covering on public transport, shops and enclosed public spaces*
- \* Self-isolate if you have any symptoms and book a test

## From the Treasurer

March 2022

*Dear Everyone,*

The Accounts of the Guild and the Sunday School have been internally audited and found to be correct. I thank those responsible for submitting these Accounts by the due date and the Internal Auditors for carrying out this very necessary duty, promptly. The Church Accounts are almost complete and will be ready to be independently examined within the next few days.

Where did February go? There are fewer days in that month but, to me, the first half seemed to disappear in no time in a mixture of rain, hail, sleet and snow – sometimes within minutes of each other - and the last two weeks in a storm. What is amazing is that snowdrops and crocuses, which look so fragile, are blooming in spite of the battering they have had from the wind. Isn't nature marvellous? Let us rejoice in the positives we see around us.

The Schedule of Financial Statistics was completed and returned to the Church of Scotland along with confirmation that the form for our Ministries and Mission contributions had been handed in to RBS. An email was sent requesting confirmation that these forms had been received.

The music licence dispute has not been resolved and is still being pursued. Why we should pay for a music licence when we were closed, is the question they seem unable/unwilling to answer. In my most recent telephone call to PPLPRS, I was informed that the required form had not been received by them. When this form was described, I was able to tell them that we had never been asked to fill in a form like that.

A form is now, apparently, in the post and when it arrives, it will be completed and returned to them with yet *another note* of when the Sanctuary and Halls were closed. They have been informed on numerous occasions of these closure dates but the problem seems to be their lack of co-ordination as I speak to someone different every time I phone.

Our Presbytery dues for 2022 (£1793) have been paid to Glasgow Presbytery. This amount is more than double what we paid when we were in Falkirk Presbytery but, from what I have been told by someone who is a member in a Church which has been in Glasgow Presbytery for years, the Presbytery staff are very supportive and more than willing to help with any problems.

Having received an email from the Church of Scotland regarding Webinar Meetings for Treasurers, I did the course. Unfortunately, it was more theoretical than the practical help I would have appreciated and, also, it turned out to be for the whole country and all charities, so it was very wide ranging. However, several pieces of information *did apply* to us and, I am pleased to say that we were already doing most of them. The others have been addressed.

Not long after you read this edition of "Parish News" the clocks will be going *forward*. Let us all look forward to more light in the evenings and, hopefully, less severe weather conditions and we give thanks to God that we have not been as badly affected by the Storms as some people whose lives have been devastated.

*May God bless you,*

**Ann Kenny**

## The Guild

March 2022

*Hi Everyone,*

The Guild Ladies enjoyed our last meeting when Hazel Paterson from Abronhill Church entertained us with her amusing Scottish Tales and Memories from days past. We followed this with our long awaited *Pudding Party* with a wonderful selection of favourite puddings, trifle, apple pie, meringues and suchlike.

Our Centenary Celebration Meal is on 2nd March when we visit the *Beefeater* in Cumbernauld. This is a simply day out due to continuing Covid restrictions but the Ladies intend to have a great time nevertheless!

We hope to have our *Annual Daffodil Tea* on Friday, 25th March in the Church Hall.

Please note the change of day.

**Lesley Freeland**

**Tel: 01236 734930.**

**Mob: 0775771190**

## **An Audience with Siobhan Argyle**

at

***The National Piping Centre, Glasgow.***

*(Yes, it's our substitute organist.)!!*

Anam Alba invites you to join us for a night of song and laughter as **Siobhan** (with the help of a few special guests) takes us on a musical tour of the ups and downs of lockdown. From toilet roll shortages to the dangers of Dettol and bleach and waving 'Goodbye' at the end of zoom meetings, Siobhan has a song for it all.

**Fri, 11 March 2022 7.30 – 9.30pm**

**Ticket £12**

Come and join us for a fun-filled, music-filled, laughter-filled festive night out in aid of **Diabetes UK**

The National Piping Centre  
30-34 McPhater Street, Glasgow G4 0HW



Thank You



A big "Thank You" from my husband and I for the lovely flowers received following his surgery. He is now home, on the mend and gradually looking more like his old self.

MAY PROCTOR

Jim and Helen Moir and Family wish to 'Thank Everyone' for their kind thoughts, prayers and flowers following the passing of a much loved Mother, Grandmother and Great Gran.

**Quotes from the 'gentler' sex:**

'I'm furious about the women's Liberationists. They keep getting up on soapboxes and proclaiming that women are brighter than men. That's true but it should be kept very quiet or it ruins the whole racket.'

Anita Loos.

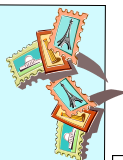
'The one important thing I have learned over the years is the difference between taking one's work seriously and taking one's self seriously.

The first is imperative and the second disastrous.'

Dame Margot Fonteyn.

One of life's ironies is that by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere — or if you do reach those greener pastures, you're too old and unfit to climb the fence.

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



(PARISH NEWS)

Make your plans BIG enough.... for God to fit in.

(5)

1st Condorrat Company The Boys' Brigade | 1st Condorrat Company The Girls' Brigade | We give 'Thanks' to EVERYONE for your continued support and hope you are keeping safe at this difficult and trying time. Check us out on 'facebook' ! | Andrew Eadie (Company Captain) Tel: 07748 537621 | Nicola Gilmore (Captain) Tel: 07557470195

Sunday Morning Tea/Coffee Teams | March 2022 | 6th. Mrs. S. Graham, Mrs. M Semple & Mrs. L. Freeland. | 13th. Mrs. I Diamond, Mrs. J. Lazzuri & 1 other. | 20th. Mrs. N. Hynd plus 2 others. | 27th. Mrs, A. Cummings, Mrs. D. Hughes & Mrs. M. Eadie. | It's lovely to be back serving Teas/Coffee and being able to have Fellowship after the Service. (Hopefully, no more "lockdowns".) | Remember, if anyone would like to assist they would be made most welcome and I am very grateful to the Ladies who have coped with all the 'chopping and changing' of duties. Thank You! | 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. | Thank you, Mrs Doreen Ross

Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to post a letter, he asked a young boy where the Post Office was.

When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said "If you come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven."

The boy replied, "I don't think so..... you don't even know your way to the Post Office."

J.D.



<b>Funerals:</b>	<i>"Blessed are they who die in the Lord."</i>		( *member)
<b>February</b>			
<b>2nd.</b>	-	<b>Alexandrina (Sandra) Conner</b>	of Condorrat
<b>4th.</b>	-	<b>James Peters</b>	of Condorrat
<b>1 6th.</b>	-	<b>Hector Smith</b>	of Blackwood
<b>17th.</b>	-	<b>Dorothy Watson</b>	of Balloch

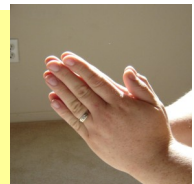
As the present conditions have prevented Funerals to be conducted with those who *would have* attended to pay their respects. There will be **Memorial Services in the Sanctuary** once we are fully allowed to come together again.

**Visitations: Due to the present crisis there will be no visits in person by the Minister.**

**The Prayer Corner**

**March 2022**

*" At once the Spirit made him go into the desert, where he stayed forty days, being tempted by Satan. Wild animals were there also, but angels came and helped him. "*



Mark 1 : 12-13

This very succinct rendering by Mark of the Temptation of Jesus in the Desert describes a time of preparation of Jesus for His Ministry to the world. Behind these words is a wealth of information about temptation; about leaving the past behind and setting out to a new venture.

The loneliness and sparse vista of the desert lends itself to contemplation and self – examination, in which the person is made to find themselves as they really are. It truly was the best way of preparing for the times ahead. Times that would be difficult and dangerous, yet Jesus held out against the temptations of the Devil and showed in His demeanour and in His answers the perfect way to deal with these things.

He quoted the Bible at all times and countered the evil suggestions with good and true thoughts. He overcame the temptations through His trust and in Relationship with God. There is something else we should always remember about Jesus in the desert. He was led there by the Spirit, and this gave Jesus the proper opportunity to Pray and to Be with the Father.

His demeanour and His answers are such a lesson for us who also journey through Lent, we are encouraged take time to be with the Lord, to overcome evil with good. To give up something as a sacrifice during Lent to reflect Jesus' journey in the desert, or take up something which brings us spiritual insight. May our journey this year help us to come closer to God and to find what needs to be changed within ourselves.

I leave you with a *Prayer for Lent* found in the Book of Common Order.

***Let us Pray...***

*God of all seasons, in Your pattern of things,  
There is a time for keeping, and a time for losing.  
A time for building up and a time for pulling down.  
In this Holy Season of Lent, as we journey with the  
Lord to the Cross,  
Help us to discern in our lives,  
What we must lay down and what we must take up,  
What we must end and what we must begin  
Give us the Grace to live a disciplined life  
In glad obedience, and with the joy  
Which comes from a closer walk with Christ.*

**AMEN**



*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.*



*People sensible enough to give advice are also sensible enough not to.*

*Wise is the person who fortifies their life with friendships.*



## 1st Condorrat Company The Boys' Brigade

March. 2022

Hi Everyone!

Six Company Section and One Junior Section Boys together with three members of Staff had an enjoyable day out at Murryfield, Edinburgh where I am told there was an important Rugby Match taking place. The weather could have been better but it did not dampen the enthusiasm and excitement on the day. My thanks to the Staff for organising this event, it could be one of many excursions? All sections have kept their attendance records up to date which is very encouraging, all credit to the staff for their input regarding the program, varied and using high tech equipment makes for a more enjoyable evening.



Our Week-end Camp is back in the programme after a long break. This is always a great talking point when meeting up with past members. I feel sorry that the Boys that have missed

out on this over the past few years, but I'm now looking forward to again taking part with the Boys in those exciting (but safe) Outdoor Activities. More details next month.

For further information regarding BB activities, uniforms or an update on what's happening please contact any of the Staff or myself.....

Anchor Boys: Kris Tomas- 07554018417.  
Junior Section: Derek Russell- 07845768966.  
Company Section: Jamie Porritt,- 07860742720.

*Take care Everyone..... and Stay Safe,*

*Andrew Eadie*  
*(Company Captain)*

*Tel: 611 317 or 07748 537621*  
*e-mail: weandy222@gmail.com*



## The Girls' Brigade

*Jan/Feb. 2022*

Hi Folks

Due to the Covid restrictions we have been unable to meet up on a Tuesday evening. However we shall start again on 25th January.

We are currently organising our camp to Lockerbie Manor which all the girls attending are extremely excited about.

We would like to say BIG '*Congratulations*' to newly married Samantha and Scott Doran. In true Girls' Brigade fashion, the Girls turned out with a Guard of Honour and witnessed Samantha finally saying "*I do*", as due to the restrictions they were unable to get married on their original date.

Hope to share more goings-on with the Girls in the coming months

We still have spaces for any Young Ladies age between Primary 1 to Year 6 in Secondary School who would like to come and join us.

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

*Explorers:* P1-3 - 6.15pm till 7.15.

*Juniors:* P4-7 - 7.30pm till 9.00.

*Brigaders:* S1-6 - 7.30pm till 9.00.

All the Covid restrictions still apply as explained to both the parents and Girls.

*Thank you for your continuing support,*

*Nicola Gilmore*  
*(Captain)*

## FABRIC DONATION ENVELOPES

On Communion months '*Fabric Envelopes*' will be delivered to members of the Congregation along with 'Parish News'. *Envelopes* can also be collected at the church on Sundays by those members who get Parish News 'on-line'.

*Please take time and prayerfully consider donating money to the church in this way.*

## *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**.....

*Mrs Doreen Ross*  
*Mob. No. 07769203648*

By the time the youngest children have learned to keep the house tidy, the grandchildren are on hand to mess it up again!

**A star is best....**

**.....seen at night!**

"You have a minute Lord?"  
by David Kossoff

Must a person suffer fools Lord. I've been thinking about stupidity,  
Lord. You have a minute?  
Not my own. I avoid thinking too much about my own.....I get depressed.  
No, the kinds of stupidity I meet that make me go tetchy and acid. Or worse, tense with unspoken insult. Must a person suffer fools, Lord? Must he? Is it so written in the Book?  
I'll be honest, Lord, I can't do it.

You made us all. Of infinite variety. You gave us the vast *magics* of heredity and resemblance and blood groups and genetic patterns and 'just like his father'. A sort of 'I'll make Adam and Eve and they can make the rest'.  
So it follows that in the infinite variety there must be a fair number of people who will drive a fair number of other people round the bend.  
Part of thy glorious plan, Lord?  
The Inscrutable Blueprint?

Alright, Let me grow not lippy, Let me wax not disrespectful. If the suffering of fools is part of the teaching of tolerance, good. If the patience with idiots make the a person better, also good.

But let me tell you, Lord, the tolerance and patience is most of the time wasted on the fools and idiots! I'm not joking - indeed not, it's a serious matter- honest!...A person could spit.  
Who needs 'em? Who seeks 'em out?

You gave to me (and indeed I thank you) a certain sympathy of nature. So people talk to me....too much and often for too long. Most of the time I don't mind, it is a gentle cross to bear.  
(I ought to put that differently perhaps, forgive me, but you know me well enough to know what I'm on about) My father used to say, 'Have time for people.' He had time for people, my father, bless his sweet memory. Does he keep well, Lord? Give him my love.

A person should have time for people. My father said so and so do you. But all people, Lord? All? The bigoted, the ignorant, the intolerant, the small-minded, the envious, the self-centred, the vain, the patronising, the phoney, the wicked? Must I, Lord?  
If I must, perhaps not so gentle a cross..... I must tell you, dear Friend, that the 'must I?' is rhetorical; an academic question.  
For frankly, already admitted, I can't.

No. Wait. You've shown me often enough that can't is the talk of children.  
The words of no faith. I have faith; I believe.  
Help me, Lord, to suffer fools - and all those included in the foregoing list.  
Help me keep my temper and not use my ice-voice and to avoid bad language. (Can I punch the occasional eye?)  
Help me be patient and bite back insult and avoid argument with the stupid people.  
I'll try. Help me, I'll try.

(from Gordon Ross)

### **80+ years on....and still surviving!**

We were born before Television; before Penicillin, Polio Jags, computers, dishwashers, tumble-driers, central heating, electric blankets, drip dry clothes, fleeces, trainers, frozen foods, plastic bags, ballpoint pens, Frisbees, credit cards and the Pill. We were born before radar, lasers, split atoms, gene-pools, satellites, spaceships ....AND before men walked on the moon!

We got married first and then lived together and had our children ...(how quaint?). We thought that Fast Food was what you got during Lent and a Big Mac was an oversized raincoat. We existed before computer dating, house-husbands, dual careers, and when a meaningful relationship was getting along with your family; and *sheltered housing* was where you waited for a tram or bus.

There was no FM, VHF and Digital whatever and no personal tape recorders, cassette recorders, CD players, Vinyl Records, Video Tapes and Games, DVD's and Mobile Phones.. We were born before Day Centres, Play Groups, Care Homes.... and disposable nappies. For us *time sharing* meant togetherness; a '*chip*' was a piece of wood or went with fish; *hardware* meant tools or nuts 'n' bolts; *software*(?) - wasn't even a word!

Before 1942, '*Made in China*' meant Junk! 'Making out' referred to how you did in your exams. A '*Stud*' was a fastener for a shirt or collar and '*going all the way*' meant staying on the tram or bus to the terminus. Piazzas, McDonalds, BurgerKing, Subway and instant coffee were all unknown. In our day smoking was pretty normal, however, '*grass*' was mown; '*coke*' was drunk or found in the coal bunker; a '*joint*' was a piece of meat you ate for Sunday Dinner, and '*pot*' was only the thing you cooked in.

Rock Music was granny's lullaby; El Dorado was an Ice-cream Van; a Gay Person was the life and soul of the party and Aids just meant part of some beauty treatment... or just helping someone.

We must be a right hardy bunch when you think of all the ways in which the world has changed and the adjustments we've had to make. No wonder we are confused ...and there are a few generation gaps today....BUT.

....by the grace of God...

.....**WE HAVE SURVIVED!!!!**

**ALLELUIA!**

(Dedicated to all born before 1942)



**FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WORK/**  
**OUTREACH**

**March 2022**

Hi Folks,

Our *user group* of Messrs Reynolds and MacKenzie, Mrs Doran and myself have now had several training sessions in use of the 'digital equipment'. We have encountered some *gremlins* in the system which, if one were to watch it on livestream, would present themselves as 'drop-outs' or *buffering of the signal*. This is due to our mobile phone's Wi-Fi unit's signal not being strong enough to carry the upload speed from the laptop and camera. While the mobile Wi-Fi was fine when using our smart-phones to livestream, the camera and laptop are more sophisticated. In order for us to retain a signal for the length of a worship service or similar we need to consider installing broadband.

I have applied for funding from NLC from the Flexible CVS Digital Fund. This is a fund which can give up to a £1000 for any charity asking for digital software or hardware which would help further their work. I'm still waiting on a reply to our application, but hope it will be successful.

I hope however that folk have had a chance to view our new equipment on the livestream. If you have, I'm sure you've enjoyed the better angle that the new camera offers of the full chancel, the Choir and Congregation singing, and the ability to zoom in and out allowing people to see the full extent of our Sanctuary.

As you may have read elsewhere, Cumbernauld Churches are now part of Glasgow Presbytery. Recently, there was a zoom meeting held for all MDS Ministry Development Staff (MDS) and their Line-managers to assure them that the Presbytery Plan Creation Group had their best interests at heart. But hard decisions had to be taken with regard to lack of Word and Sacrament Ministers covering all Congregations within the Presbytery. Now that our minister, Grace, has announced her retirement at the end of August, this will leave one Full Time Word and

Sacrament Minister, Rev Joyce Keyes at Abronhill, one Deacon, and myself as MDS, split between two congregations in the town, with St. Mungo's/ Kildrum, Condorrat and Cumbernauld Old vacant charges.

At this point, there is very little being discussed in regard to specifics, although various meetings are taking place throughout the Presbytery to ascertain the way forward. With the Presbytery now being so large, it is being split into 'Zones' - each zone meeting individually before meeting as a whole Presbytery. At this juncture, I'm uncertain of my deployment in Cumbernauld (although I believe the work I have done and will continue to do in Abronhill and Condorrat Congregations will be looked upon favourably) and it will depend on what the Presbytery Plan requires for the town Ministry.

The *New Horizons* group met on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February on zoom to discuss the digital equipment as well as ideas for Easter. We are hoping to hold a Toddlers Praise on *Low Sunday*, 24<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm - an event recently postponed by the pandemic - and an indoor informal Easter Sunday Evening Worship at 6.30pm (although I'm keen to hold informal evening worship services outside as soon as the weather changes for the better.) We are also considering the printing of Easter Cards with an 'Insert' informing the Parish of our Easter Services. These again, will be 'adorned' by hand-drawn children's images of Easter and we Thank both uniformed organisations for taking part in this. Obviously, the Easter Cards need to be delivered and hopefully volunteers will come forward to deliver them, together with Church Members posting them through their neighbours' doors.

As the restrictions begin to ease and our Church widens its availability to everybody.....

*.....Please pray for the folk of our Parish to see that the Church is 'open to all' and that we, as a Church, are able to move out towards them.*

**Susan Boland**

***For Better or Worse.....***

*It's often been said that marriage can be an alliance of two people:*

One who never remembers birthdays, and one who never forgets them.

One who cannot sleep with the window shut, and one who likes it open.

One who is scrupulously tidy, and one who just untidy.

One who squeezes the toothpaste in the middle, and one who works it from the end.

One who doesn't think there's a gas or water leak, and one thinks they will asphyxiate or drown.

One who wants to leave a party early, and one who wants to be last to leave.



*Strike a bell?*

**Tall Trees**

**When thinking of my house of dreams**

**I see high trees in the sky;  
And hear the whisper of the leaves  
that rustle in the wind going by.**

**I'd love to live where tall trees  
lift their massive arms in prayer;  
Bright in summer's golden glow  
or dark in winter, stark and bare.**

**For tall trees always raise my thoughts  
above the petty and mundane.  
Unmoved they stand and point to God.  
and from their strength new strength I gain.**

