



UDDINGSTON OLD PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Charity Number SC016893

MAGAZINE

February 2026



Pastoral Letter

The Apostle Paul writes: I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

Bishop Rob Hirschfeld a New Hampshire Episcopal Bishop gave a stark warning to his clergy who had gathered with many community and faith leaders for a vigil for Renee Macklin Good just days after she was fatally shot by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent in Minneapolis. Hirschfeld called out “*the cruelty, the injustice and the horror unleashed in Minneapolis,*” and warned his clergy to prepare for “*a new era of martyrdom.*” Asking them to get their affairs in order to make sure they have their wills written, because it may be that now is no longer the time for statements, but for us with our bodies to stand between the powers of this world and the most vulnerable. Powerful words, although not everyone agreed with his statement. However, the faith communities could no longer remain silent.

Whether we like it or not we live in a fractured world. We see the world in drastically different ways and at times wonder if faith can overcome this divide between countries and neighbours. With regards to America, people genuinely looked up to America. Not because it was perfect, but because it tried, because it anchored alliances. People admired it. Trusted it. Even loved it. But now we look and think what has happened? The world isn’t laughing at America. Where did it go wrong? The world is mourning the loss of what America used to represent. The question hanging in the air right now isn’t cruel, it’s tragic. Can the world ever trust the United States again to lead responsibly, or has this era permanently cracked something that took a century to build?

We, who are watching the ripple effects are having to live with the consequences and we are tired. Tired of the rhetoric, the slander about our armed forces, the uncertainty of the economy or the fragile peace process ... yet America is our neighbour and the question that is being asked of us “What does it mean to love our neighbour?” ... as people of faith our actions must be visible in a world that has lost sight, lost hope. We must fiercely hold onto hope because that is the only thing that will keep us from being irreparably torn apart by cynicism, despair and hate. So, I urge all of you to pray reverently to love our neighbours, to find our voices to speak out and be heard against the injustices of this world and hold those who have the power to be accountable for their actions. So that when the time comes when we can all sleep soundly knowing that the light of Jesus through our actions continues to shine brightly in this darkness?

Blessings
Rev Fiona

Reverend Fiona McKibbin

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Next Issue

Articles for the March Magazine to the editor no later than **Thursday 19th February 2026**
Available
Sunday 1st March 2026

We are always happy to receive articles for inclusion in your magazine by email
magazine@uddingstonold.org
or on paper

Church Roll Intimations Death

At this sad time our prayers and condolences
are with the families of

Mrs Jean Purchase

Date of Death: 25th December 2025
and

Mrs Margaret Clelland

Date of Death: 25th December 2025
and

Mrs Joy Hughes

Date of Death: 8th January 2026
and

Mrs Robina Robertson

Date of Death: 8th January 2026

Uddingston Old Parish Church



**Come and join us for a
Family Ceilidh
on**



Saturday 28th February

3.00 – 5.00pm

Refreshments & food available

Free entry

Donation box available

Voices

You decide you want to do something.

Then the voices start.

The voices in your head.

Maybe you shouldn't

Maybe you can't

What makes you think you can?

On and on and on they go

Double guessing

Doubting

Fighting to gain control

Pressure of self

Who wins

Nobody wins

Loser

Jean du Jardin - July 2019

Door Duty Rota

Morning Service at 11am
Front Door teams for the next months:

February

1st	Team 6	Walker Lyttle
8th	Team 7	Liz Lyttle
15th	Team 8	Mary Fox
22nd	Team 1	Louise Kerr

March

1st	Team 2	Colin Pettigrew (Communion)
8th	Team 3	Helen Cuthbert
15th	Team 4	Muriel McCandlish
22nd	Team 5	Andrew McCandlish
29th	Team 6	Walker Lyttle

If you are in one of the above teams, please bear
in mind that you should try to arrange
for a substitute if you can't make it.

**Stay connected with the
Uddingston Old Parish Church
and**

Rev Fiona McKibbin

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fmckibbin@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Website: www.uddingstonold.org

CRAFT CLUB

Do you want to learn a new craft?
Come along and share your skills or learn a new
one or even complete a project.
Sewing, knitting, crochet, paper craft etc.
From Tuesday 13th January between 2 and 4pm
we are continuing our club which will meet every
two weeks.

13th & 27th January & 10th & 24th February
10th & 24th March 2026

There will also be tea, & coffee available and time
to chat.

Grace McKirdy

Mens Fellowship Programme

Meetings are held in the Side Sanctuary 7.30 - 9pm

February

9th	Talk by Ian McKellar
23rd	River City Cars - Jim Agnew

March

9th	Captivity in Nigeria - Alanna Carson
23rd	Annual Business Meeting

Nature Notes February 2026

Gosh writing 2026 feels surreal but here we are in a brand new year and let's hope it's as fruitful as 2025.

The start to the year was the New Year Plant Hunt run by the BSBI. Lochwinnoch was one area which excelled by finding 22 flowering plants on the 3rd of January. I think previous years had been as low as 9. The mild winter could explain the increase.

The Northern Lights have also been spectacular showing all across the UK with one of the highest levels seen in the UK. Bright reds and greens visible to the naked eye not just cameras. So here goes for a season of fun auroras.

The birds have been busy, starting to show courtship behaviour already. Hopefully all of you that took part in the Big Garden Bird Watch enjoyed taking part in citizen science and saw lots of lovely birds and of course listened to their beautiful song. Anyone struggling with ID can download the Merlin app which is a great tool for ID. Its very user friendly although it can give you some strange suggestions.

Our winter migrants are still about, red wing, fieldfare, whoopers etc. We had two whooper families meet up and have a standoff. Wings spread wide and rearing out of the water chest to chest screeching at each other, quite dramatic to watch and listen. Two minutes later they were all pals and swimming off as if nothing had happened. Bird behaviour is interesting and can also give you a clue to ID if you are unsure along with silhouette, all useful tools.

Mother Nature never stops no matter what challenges she faces and we are privileged to observe this. So as I always say, "Slow down! Watch and listen!" You never know what you might see or miss.

Connie

GIFT SERVICE 2025

On Monday 8th January, Janice McDermott and I had the pleasure of delivering your gifts Firpark School. We were given a warm welcome by the pupils and staff on a very cold morning. I have since heard that the staff were delighted by the thought that had gone into these gifts and special toys which will help the children. The £830 will also allow the staff to shop for special equipment. The selection boxes will have certainly been enjoyed by the children.

My thanks to you all for yet again putting thought and giving time into buying these gifts. This Service would not happen without you.

THANK YOU
Grace McKirdy

FLOWERS / WINDOWS

A big thank you to everyone who donated to the Flower Fund and /or delivered flowers over the past year, you are all essential. I have the great pleasure of arranging the flowers and enjoying the compliments on Sunday mornings.

In December the church was decorated by the various organisations and their helpers and this would not have happened without everyone working together as a team. This continued into January when everything had to be dismantled and stored away.

Thank you to all who helped with this huge task.
Grace McKirdy

A Date for your Diary

The Guild is holding a
SPRING COFFEE MORNING
on **Saturday 7th March 10am - 12noon**
Tea Tickets £4 on sale from Guild Members

Citizen's Advice Older Persons Out Reach Clinic

The next Citizen's Advice Outreach Clinic will
take place in the side sanctuary on
Friday 20th February 11am to 2pm
Future dates:
Friday 20th March 11am to 2pm

Monday Club

All are welcome on
Mondays 2pm till approximately 3.30pm
Coming programme:

February

2nd Film



9th Games

16th Valentine Tea Dance



23rd Singalong

March

2nd Bite & Blether



9th Indoor Bowls



16th Easter Crafts



23rd Denise Sings

30th Holy Week - Songs of Praise

