

UDDINGSTON OLD PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Charity Number SC016893



MAGAZINE

October 2026



Pastoral Letter

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live. Built of hopes and dreams and visions rock of faith and vault of grace. All are welcome in this place.

Dear friends, A traveller arrived one day at the gates of the city. He asked the watchman, "What's the name of this city, and what are the people like here?" The watchman replied: "Where are you from?" The traveller names his own town. "And what are the people like in your hometown?" "Well," said the traveller, "they are not very friendly, they are rude and selfish and unwelcoming." In that case, said the watchman, "I think you will find people here are very much like they are where you live." So the traveller went on his way, not wanting to stay in that town. A second traveller arrived at the gate and asked the watchman. "What town is this, and what are the people like here?" And again, the watchman asked "Where are you from?" The visitor named the same town as the first traveller. The watchman asked, "What are the people like where you come from?" The traveller replied: "They are very kind, always willing to help and ready with a friendly word for a stranger." The watchman smiled back and said, "I think you will find people here are very much like the folk in your own hometown." And the traveller went into the city and stayed there.

Same city, different eyes, Same church, different eyes.

I wonder what we see when we describe our church community to strangers or those who are looking for a place to belong and worship. I wonder what impression we give with our reply for it is important how we describe our church.

We, the people are the Church. That is why first impressions of our church depends on your response and reaction.

Let's not forget Life is like a hall of mirrors, and it will often reflect the expression and attitude of what we bring to it and how we are feeling in that moment.

How we see our church is determined by what it means to us. If we see it as unfriendly and boring it will become so. If we see it in a positive light, it will be a completely different picture.

To be perceived as a supportive faith community, we first need to make our church trustworthy in the eyes of the local community. That means openness, acceptance, a caring presence, and willingness to listen and learn before acting. Openness to the needs of the surrounding community. The church needs to look back as well as forward, to look inside itself as well as outside, into the community around the church, to develop an identity.

But I do hope and pray that you will always catch glimpses of the divine light shining through our worship, our hospitality; our community and that you will always find a warm welcome.

Blessings, Rev Fiona

Reverend Fiona McKibbin

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Next Issue

Articles for the
November Magazine
to the editor no later
than
Thursday 22nd Oct.
2026
Available
Sunday 1st Nov. 2026

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

Church Roll Intimations

Deaths

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

Mrs Anne Ritchie (Mary)

Date of Death: 3rd September 2026
and

Mr Robert Graham Rutherford Penman

Date of Death: 15th September 2026

Stay connected with the
Uddingston Old Parish Church
and

Rev Fiona McKibbin

01698 814757

fmckibbin@churchofscotland.org.uk

Parish Funeral

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

Mr David Buchanan Scott

Date of Death: 29th August 2026

Community Cafe

During October the Cafe Volunteers will be
wearing PINK to show support for
Breast Cancer Awareness.

Do please drop in and support this cause.
Fridays 12noon - 2pm

Fund Raising Events

As part of the fundraising for the new tables and
chairs the Church will be open on the
1st Saturday of the coming months
for hot filled rolls, tea coffee and company.

10am to 12noon

All welcome.

*Please use Main Door at front of church for
entry.*

Also as part of the fundraising for the new tables
and chairs we are having a **Ladies Night** on
Saturday 7th November 6 - 9.30pm.
Christeen McMurdie will entertain and there will
be dancing, food and a Raffle.

Cost will be £6 per person.

Tickets from Molly Lindsay, Liz Vasey

Door Duty Rota

Morning Service at 11am

Front Door teams for the next 2 months

October

4th	Team 1	Jillian Ballantyne (Communion)
11th	Team 2	Colin Pettigrew
18th	Team 3	Helen Cuthbert
25th	Team 4	Muriel McCandlish

November

1st	Team 5	Andrew McCandlish
8th	Team 6	Walker Lyttle
15th	Team 7	Liz Lyttle
22nd	Team 8	Mary Fox
29th	Team 1	Jillian Ballantyne

December

6th	Team 2	Colin Pettigrew (Communion)
13th	Team 3	Helen Cuthbert
20th	Team 4	Muriel McCandlish
27th	Team 5	Andrew McCandlish

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.

Come and find the quiet centre

in the crowded life we have.

Are there times when life is so noisy, stressful
and hectic that you wish you could stop for 5
mins, rest and still your mind?

Well there is!

The Church Sanctuary

The sanctuary will be opened Wednesdays from
10-12noon

We will have a prayer meeting in the side
sanctuary from 10:15-11am if you wish to join us



All are welcome.

Rev Fiona



The month of October is an exciting month, as it is when the first **CAP Money Coaching** Sessions take place in the church. These sessions are for everyone, whether you are great with money or it keeps you awake at night, on a low income, or on a good wage, single, a family, retired or a student. No judgement and no pressure to share personal figures. This free course looks at how to build and balance a budget, using **CAP's** tried and tested methods. Launched in 2008, **CAP's** money management courses have helped thousands of people to budget, spend and save better. By the end of the course, it is hoped that participants will be able to:



Build a successful budget and stick to it

Keep track of money in an easy and accessible way

Avoid overspending and problem debt



CAP is an award- winning charity backed by Martin Lewis and has four main strands to it:

Money Coaching, Job Clubs, Life Skills and Debt Counselling.

Since 1996, **Christians Against Poverty** – usually known as **CAP** – has been fighting debt and poverty across the UK. In partnership with local churches, they work to see lives transformed and an end to UK poverty. Delivering expert financial education is a crucial part of this. When people feel confident and equipped to manage their money well, they have greater financial resilience, healthier relationships and more opportunities to thrive.

The course will run for 3 weeks in the church, from Monday 19th October 2026, from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. If this is something you, or someone you know, might be interested in, please speak to Billy Watson directly or by calling 07885782984 in confidence, or go directly to the website to book a place.

Places are limited, so please book in as soon as possible.

It is easy to book in. Search 'capuk.org/trymoneycoaching', Click on '**Find Money Coaching workshops**', enter your postcode, then click on **Uddingston Old Parish Church** to JOIN.

NATURE NOTES OCT '26

Another busy month behind us and lots happening. Our bat walk with the RNIB in Queens Park was an amazing night. Each visually impaired person comes with a buddy. We issue everyone with a bat detector and head through the park just after sunset.

The park is like an oasis in a busy city but is full of nature. I find this walk one of the most rewarding and privileged. To see their faces light up when they hear the first sounds come from the detectors. Losing one sense accentuates another and they appreciate being able to hear communication from these tiny flying mammals.

There are always lots of questions which I hope I can answer. Early on in the walk we came across about 6 bats feeding just above us. For those that can see it's a treat but it's the noises that excite everyone.

One of the false facts about bats is that they can't see when they can. They don't have the best eyesight but can still see. They feed at night as that is when their food appears. So in a way, they are sight impaired, feeding in the dark, but overcome that due to echo location.

I think that's why it's such a popular night as the group can appreciate that the bats have similar struggles to them.

Finishing at the ponds is the grand finale and finishes the walk on a high. They have already booked us for next year!

Now an update on Ripple Effect that our church eco/ wildlife garden is twinned with.

They are celebrating young people shaping rural futures.

In Uganda alone the youth - focused dairy work has reached more than 63000 young people; supporting them to earn an income and take a more active role in their communities.

Their approach to equality and inclusion creates lasting change which means making sure everyone has the opportunity to participate, contribute and shape their own future.

If you wish to learn more the website is <https://rippleeffect.org>

Connie.

UOPC Finance 2026 - Update 2

Annual Stated Meeting

The ASM was held on Sunday 28th June at which there was a short presentation of the **2025** accounts. Thanks to all those who attended.

Charity Giving

Since the last update in the May magazine UOPC has made two donations to charity.

The £211 gathered as our June Communion retiring offering went to Kilbryde Hospice and then following receipt of a request from the DRF (Disaster Relief Fund) a further £635.50 was raised in a special collection for the Venezuelan Earthquake appeal.

Letters of thanks have been received from these charities and are displayed on the noticeboard in the hall corridor. Thanks to all who donated in support of these worthy charities over the last few months.

Fundraising for tables and chairs

Over the summer the church spent almost £6000 getting the floor in the main hall professionally sanded, treated and sealed/varnished - I'm sure that by now, most of you will have been able to see the huge improvement this had made both to the appearance and the condition of the floor. As a follow up, we are now in the process of fundraising to enable us to replace the tables and chairs which we currently use. It is hoped that this will help, not just to keep the floor surface in good condition for a longer time, but also will make it much easier for volunteers to set the hall up for each of the various activities, and provide a more attractive and welcoming space for all our hall users.

Our fundraising is going well, and once again we offer our thanks to those who are organising, running and attending various fundraising events and to all those who have already donated as well as those who plan to do so in the coming weeks. Donations can be made by cash, cheque, bank transfer or by using the church QR code printed in this magazine. Please remember to mark clearly any such donation as being for the 'Tables and Chairs'.

UOPC General Fund Income and Expenditure

The information below gives a summary of the main financial transactions on the General Fund from January to end of August 2026.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to speak to me. (Louise Kerr)

INCOME

	£
Open Plate, Standing Orders and WFO	74232
Tax Recovered	10549
Other Income	8340
Total Income	<u>93121</u>

EXPENDITURE

Giving to Grow (Allocation to COS)	60943
Presbytery Dues	2780
Utilities (Gas, Elec., Water)	16011
Local Expenditure*	38600
Total Expenditure	<u>118334</u>

Local Expenditure includes items such as stationery, photocopying, maintenance costs (church, manse and grounds), salaries (excluding minister), Council Tax and Insurance.



QRCode

We now have an Uddingston Old QR Code for electronic donations.

Many people no longer carry cash and it is hoped that the QR Code will be useful for visitors to both the Church and our website. This is in addition to the established forms of giving by Standing Order, WFO and cash.

Monday Club

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

October

5th Bite & Blether

12th Linda Smith CAB

19th Singalong

26th Mask Decorating, Dooking for Apples

**November**

2nd Keep fit with Alice

9th Talk - 'Right Up My Street'

16th Scott D Rat Pack

23rd Christmas Crafts

30th Concert Party

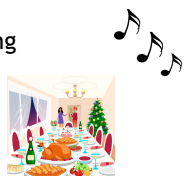
**December**

7th Christmas Party & Singalong

14th Christmas Lunch

21st Holiday

28th Twixmas

**Citizen's Advice Older Persons
Out Reach Clinic**

The next Citizen's Advice Outreach Clinic will take place in the side sanctuary on

Friday 9th October 11am - 2pm

Future dates:

Friday 13th November 11am - 2pm

Friday 11th December 11am - 2pm

The clinic will be run by Linda Smith
CAB Out Reach Community Adviser.

Linda's focus as a community adviser is the over 65's group but she will see anyone who is looking for help.

Citizens Advice Hamilton has several teams that she can signpost folk to including:

HWA - Health and Wellbeing team

Layrep - Representation at Hamilton Sheriff Court and predominantly housing issues.

Older Persons Project - Income maximisation and other enquiries for over 65's

PASS - Patient Advice and Support Service

Energy Service - all matters electricity/gas

General service - all enquiries including emergency fuel & food vouchers.

Community Links - local NHS and community group referrals

Money Advice - Financial Services

The Guild

The Guild resumes meeting for the new session on Tuesday 6th October at 2pm in the church hall.



We would be delighted to welcome new folks as well as faithful attendees from previous years to any or all of our meetings
2pm - 3.30pm
Our Theme for the coming Session -

'Let Us Build A House - Beyond The Walls'

A warm welcome awaits you and as always a nice cup of tea and biscuit to round of the meeting.
Our upcoming programme is:

October

6th 'Jeely Piece Tea'

- Welcome Back & Chat - 'Bring your favourite Mug'

20th On the Guild Theme

'Beyond the Walls'

- Rev. Fiona McKibbin

November3rd Armchair Exercises
- Alice Martin17th Ticket Fundraiser at 7.30pm
- Brian Taylor Fashions**December**1st Christmas Crafts
- Grace McKirdy**Mens Fellowship Programme**

Meetings are held in the Side Sanctuary 7.30 - 9pm
on 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month.

October

5th A Visit to St Kilda

- Craig Mains

19th The Women of Bothwell Castle

- D McLaughlan

November

2nd To be decided

16th Blood Bikes

- Phil Dodsworth

30th The Story of Pantomime

- Valerie Reilly

December

14th Christmas Dinner (date to be finalised)