SteepleTalk

The Magazine
Of
Bourock Parish Church

Christmas 2001

Who's Who In Bourock

Minister	Maureen Leitch	881 1462
Session Clerk	Elizabeth McKenzie	880 5077
Clerk To The Board	Bruce Brown	571 6403
Treasurer	Ross Mitchell	881 4688
Roll Keeper	Billy Irvine	881 1638
Deeds Of Covenant	Jim Auchincloss	881 6143
WFO Envelopes	John McGarrie	571 6728
Junior Church	Linda Dye	876 1201
Guild	Margaret McKechnie	580 1322
Boys' Brigade (Company)	Graeme Manson	
Boys' Brigade (Junior)	Lawrence Webb	571 4330
Boys' Brigade (Anchor)	Mary Murray	881 1564
Guides (2nd)	Jennifer Stewart	881 7320
Guides (3rd)	Barbara Jones	881 0391
Brownies (2nd)	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Brownies (3rd)	Karen Auchincloss	881 6143
Tweenies	Elizabeth McKenzie	880 5077
Young Woman's Group	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Mother & Toddler	Debbie Mitchell	571 5536
Variety Club	Linda Dye	876 1201
Coffee Club	Jenny McLeod	881 3585
Craft Club	Dorothy Ramsay	571 5260
SteepleTalk	Ken Dye	876 1201
Life And Work	Angus Leitch	881 1462
Christian Aid	Marjory Brown	571 6403
Organist	Carolyn Suttie	881 7346

Kirk Session Committees

Care And Concern	Morag Brown	880 6466
Communication	Ken Dye	876 1201
Education	Linda Dye	876 1201
Mission	Ann McMillan	
Worship	Doug Swanney	

14, Maxton Avenue

November 2001

Dear Friends,

Christmas is just round the corner! Those who are really organised will be well on their way with preparations and others, like me, will be gearing up for the usual last minute rush. No matter which way you choose to approach Christmas, I hope it includes time for reflection on the real meaning of this joyful season.

I have been dismayed by many of the Christmas presentations by retailers - it would seem that the Christ child has no place in our world of celebration. Reindeer, robins, snowmen yes, but the baby Jesus, no. I wonder if your Christmas cards tell the world about the wonder of a baby come into the world to bring a message of love, joy and peace?

It is part of our witness that we signal to the world that these things are important to us. This Advent we will be celebrating the beginning of the Year of the Child. We want to recognise that our children are an important part of our Church family and we hope that you will join us in celebrating the gifts and contributions of our young people.

We are holding Children's Forums to hear their opinions on a range of matters and I think we might all learn from them. Children have a disarming way of getting to the very core of matters very quickly. Perhaps we should develop this idea and get the adults to share more of their opinions with us.

Your opinion does matter and next year we will be asking you to give it when we meet as a congregation to decide whether we go ahead with the idea of the Barrhead Church - one church, four worship centres. The decision will be yours but you must make yourself aware of what is being proposed. If you need any questions answered ask your elder or ask me. It is important that you know the facts.

These are challenging times and we must have a vision for the future. Nationally, the Church recognises the need for change and has brought out several Reports addressing this. Your session has been trying to grapple with these and see how they impact on Bourock. The session recognise that we need to be ready to adapt and be flexible enough to meet new challenges. We all need to give some thought as to what we need to give up/take on board so that we are a lively and relevant worshipping community.

Let's start the process by coming together for our Advent services as we prepare for the joyful celebration of the coming of the Christ child. We need to let the world know that this is an occasion of great significance that we are celebrating.

May you all know the joy and peace of the Christ child.

From The Editor .....

Here we are in the season of Advent already. It's hard to imagine where the year has gone with the countdown to Christmas getting earlier year after year.

When you reflect on how the year has progressed you appreciate just how much of a family the church is. There have been time of joy and times of sadness. Times when everything seemed to be coming together and others when plans which seemed so important never got off the ground. For the most part, I would like to think that we are a happy family and any problems we may have can be solved with the minimum of fuss. This also applies to decisions we may have to make ... and some of them may be hard ones which will affect not only our own church family but may impinge on the whole town.

At this time of the year everyone tends to be extremely busy, so I would especially like to thank the people who help to put the magazine together ... Karen for organising the copying and Nan and her team for collating and stapling the finished item. Without them the magazine would not happen.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone compliments of the season. May you all have a wonderful Christmas and joyous New Year.

Ken Dye (Editor)

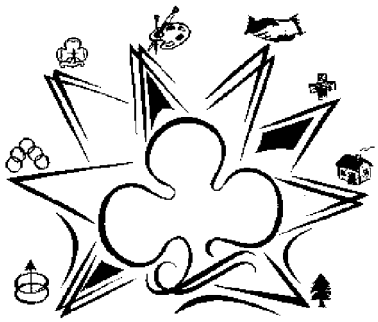
Disability Discrimination Act 1995

The above act was introduced as radical legislation which requires "service providers" (which includes Churches) in the making of services provided more readily accessible to disabled people. The definition used for a disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has an effect which is substantial, adverse and long-term, on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Physical or mental impairment includes a sensory impairment e.g. blindness or deafness.

The requirements of the act will come into force in October 2004. In order to establish the alterations that will have to be made to the buildings of Bourock the Congregational Board has commissioned an Access Audit. It is expected that the completed report will be available towards the end of January 2002.

What has this to with the Congregation? The Board decided to establish a sub group of no more than four people to analyse, prioritise and plan the implementations of the report. If you have a special need in this area or an interest in the subject and would be prepared to help the sub group please pass your name to the Clerk to the Congregational Board, Bruce Brown. His phone number is listed at the front of the magazine.

3rd Barrhead Guides



The parents evening which took place on Monday May 7 2001 was enjoyed and well attended by everyone.

Perfect Attendance: Amanda Frew

Good Attendance: Colette Gribben, Susan Bradley, Lauren Frew, Jillian Webb, Michaela Boklach, Jaclyn Bell, Stephanie Caldwell, Nicola Barton, Lauren Hall, Megan McLoughlin, Fiona Corrigan, Diane Hunter, Hazel Webb.

Best Patrol: Swallow- Susan Bradley, Hollie Smith, Amanda Frew, Michala Boklach,

Games,Stamps,Ring-pulls: Kingfisher- Jaclyn Bell, Jean Mackay, Ashley Barr, Stephanie Caldwell, Colette Gribben, Lucy Meechan

Best Guide: Susan Bradley.

Everyone received a keyring for taking part in the sponsored bowl for comic relief

From August 17-19 Gayle took 13 Guides to Auchengillan Outdoor Centre. Some took part in abseiling, para-drop, crate building, dry grass sledging and crafts. Apart from the midges everyone enjoyed themselves (except Gayle, only kidding)

October 8 saw the Guides visiting Mill Street Police Headquarters. We went with 28 girls and came back with 28 (luckily) an interesting time was had by all.

The Guides Hallowe'en Party this year took on a different meaning as the girls were working on the Party Planner Badge. The guests were mums, grans, aunts and the

programme consisted of Line Dancing, Country Dancing and a super buffet. The theme for the evening was Country and Western and the costumes were just great. Thanks to all the guests for participating and making it so enjoyable.

November 12 We went to Glenfield Country Park to take part in a Torchlight Trail. This is where the girls all walk in single file shining their torches along the path to a clearing in the park. Groups of girls are partnered up with a Ranger or an adult and

then each group is sent off at five minute intervals. The trees have luminous marks on them along with a letter which they have to pick out. The letters make a word relating to the visit. Pretty scary stuff and not for the scared of the dark!!! But we are hardy.

On Saturday, November 17 the Guides held a very successful Coffee Morning. All the girls took an active part in this. Thanks to all who contributed and helped in any way.

December 3 entertaining at Westlea Nursing Home with carols and gifts for the residents. All looking forward to this visit.

December 8 Matinee of Sleeping Beauty - all looking forward to this.

December 10th Guide Christmas party and last night until January 7, 2002.

Used postage stamps are still being collected. These stamps should have at least a I/2in border left round them. They are trimmed and sent to Ardgowan Hospice in

Greenock. (Boxes are at the church and hall doors for any stamps).

Used computer ink cartridges are now being collected for Guide Dogs for the Blind. If you have any please leave them beside the used stamps.

Thanks to all who have left stamps and ring-pulls.

Barbara Jones (Guider)

The Variety Club is pleased to report that this year's show - "The Sleeping Beauty" - is well into rehearsals and tickets are going fast. As usual, Tuesday night is our Gala Night with all ticket and programme monies this year being split between ACCORD and Adams House. The club has had a long association with both ACCORD and Adams House and we hope that both will profit considerably through this.

Just prior to the show itself, the club is going through to Edinburgh to see "Chicago" - not, as suggested, to glean some hints on routines but just to have some r&r before the "Big Week".

After the show and into next year, the concert parties will get into full swing. For those of you who don't know about these, the club goes round old persons/eventide homes to entertain those who cannot manage to the show themselves. It's always great to see everyone enjoying themselves - audience and club members alike. These evenings are every bit as enjoyable as the show nights themselves and it's great that the name of Bourock is taken further afield.

Once these have all been completed it will be into the new show in May .... Watch this space for further details.

Linda Dye

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 4 December (Gala Night)	-	7:30pm Show
Wednesday 5 December	-	7:30pm Show
Thursday 6 December	-	7:30pm Show
Friday 7 December	-	7:30pm Show
Saturday 8 December	-	2:00pm Show
Saturday 8 December	-	7:30pm Show

Costumes For Hire

The Variety Club has an extensive wardrobe now for hire.

Minimum donation
£2 per item
£5 per costume

Contact - Morag Brown
(880 6466)

Junior Church

Christmas is approaching and once again Junior Church is organising the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal. Last year, we built on the success of previous years and filled 238 shoe boxes - an absolutely tremendous effort on the part of everyone. This year we are hoping to equal, if not better that total.

You will no doubt have noticed that there have been a few changes in Junior Church since the start of the session. The newest in fact has been the children entering church towards the end of the service. This has been very positive for (and popular with) the children as it gives them more time in Junior Church. It also allows parents who don't attend Bourock the opportunity to have their children attend our Junior Church.

The past year itself has been a busy on as usual. Once again we have had new leaders as well as new children. We have also started our Children's Forum, in line with the forthcoming Year Of The Child. This national church event kicks off early in December and will touch every congregation in the Church. In fact, some of our own children will be attending the launch in Glasgow and we are all pleased to be involved with this fun event. The Year Of The Child service will be on Sunday 2 December and will be led solely by the children of Junior Church.

Talking about fun, you will all be aware that the Christmas party season will soon be upon us. This year our new section - 1st and 2nd year - will be going bowling with Crossroads in the afternoon and then joining the rest of Junior Church at 5:00pm for the Christmas party.

The Nativity Service will, as usual, take place on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm. If you have never been to this before, please come along and experience the real joy of Christmas as the children gather round the manger.

All that remains is for all of us at Junior Church to wish you all the joys of Christmas.

Linda Dye

ASAP

Ever wonder about the abbreviation A.S.A.P.?

Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe If we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way .....

There's work to do, deadlines to meet,
You've got no time to spare,
But as you hurry and scurry -
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

In the midst of family chaos
"Quality time" is rare.
Do your best; let God do the rest -
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

It may seem like your worries
Are more than you can bear.
Slow down and take a breather -
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

God knows how stressful life is,
He wants to ease our cares,
And He'll respond -
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

Today I'm saying a little prayer that GOD will smile on you and send you all the special blessings you need.

Pass it on ASAP

More On The Website

The website has been such a runaway success that during the summer it had to be shut down due to the volume of traffic. The web provider informed me that I should find alternative arrangements for the hosting of the site. This has now been done via Christian Aid. If you visit the site now, it will look pretty much as it did before, although some of the facilities offered by our previous host are no longer in operation. The best news is that all the profit from my telephone access to the internet now goes via BT to Christian Aid.

If you are interested yourself in helping others while you surf, visit www.fish.co.uk and you will find all the details you require. Happy surfing!!!

Ken

The Guide

ON THE TABLE - SIDE BY SIDE
THE HOLY BIBLE AND THE T.V. GUIDE
ONE IS WELL WORN, BUT CHERISHED WITH PRIDE,
(NOT THE BIBLE - BUT THE T.V. GUIDE).
ONE IS USED DAILY TO HELP FOLK DECIDE
NO, IT ISN'T THE BIBLE - IT'S THE T.V. GUIDE
AS PAGES ARE TURNED, WHAT SHALL WE SEE?
OH! WHAT DOES IT MATTER... TURN ON THE T.V.
SO THEY OPEN THE BOOK IN WHICH THEY CONFIDE...
NO, IT'S NOT THE BIBLE - IT'S THE T.V. GUIDE.
THE WORD OF GOD IS SELDOM READ
MAYBE A VERSE AS THEY FALL INTO BED
EXHAUSTED AND SLEEPY AND TIRED AS CAN BE
NOT FROM READING THE BIBLE.... FROM WATCHING T.V.
SO THEN BACK ON THE TABLE SIDE BY SIDE
IS THE HOLY BIBLE AND THE T.V. GUIDE
NO TIME FOR PRAYER, NO TIME FOR THE WORD
THE PLAN OF SALVATION IS SELDOM HEARD
FORGIVENESS FOR SIN SO FULL AND FREE
IS FOUND IN THE BIBLE... NOT ON T.V.

The Painter

There was a Scottish tradesman, a painter called Jock (of course) who was very interested in making a pound where he could, so he often would thin down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened he got away with this for some time but one day the Presbyterian Church decided to do a big restoration job on the roof of one of their biggest churches. Jock put in a bid and because his price was so competitive, he got the job. He set to, with a right good will, putting up the scaffolds and planks, buying the paint and .. .. yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine. Well, Jock was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly done, when suddenly there was horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened and the rain poured down, washing the thin paint from all over the church and knocking Jock off the scaffold to land on the lawn, among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint. Jock was no fool. He knew this was a judgement from the Almighty, so he fell on his knees and cried: "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?" And from the thunder a mighty Voice spoke:

"Repaint! Repaint! and thin no more!"

Hidden Books

Well done to those who spotted the (not so deliberate) mistake in the last issue. For those who have been scratching their heads since September, here is the solution.

I once made a re**mark** about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lu**lu; ke**pt people loo**king s**o hard for f**acts** ... and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam, es**pecially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But the t**ruth** finally struck home to **numbers** of our readers. To others it was a real **job**. We want it to be **a mos**t fascinating few moments for you. Y**es ther**e will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admi**t it us**ually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says s**he brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better.

See how well you can com**pete. R**elax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.

My Friend

Less than a whisper away
Hearing every silent sigh
Regrets for what was done
Even more for what was not
Absorbent shoulder
For sobs wet and dry
Inside encircling arms,
Comfort and security
Soothing hand
Smoothing brow furrows
Dependable adviser
Constant companion
Sent by Jesus,
Holy Spirit,
You're my best friend

Glenda Meikle

Understanding Parents

Wise children will want to please their parents. First, though, they must understand them. As any teenager knows, parents are tough to figure out. These seven tips may help:-

1. Don't shy away from speaking their language. Try some strange sounding words like "Let me help me with the dishes" or "Yes".
2. Try to understand their music. Play "When I survey the wondrous cross" on the stereo until you get accustomed to the sound.
3. Be patient with their weaknesses. If you catch your mother sneaking a chocolate bar, dont be critical. Quietly set a good example.
4. Encourage your parents to talk about their problems. Keep in mind that things like earning a living or paying off the mortgage seem important to them.
5. Be tolerant of their appearance. When your father gets a haircut, don't try to hide him from your friends. Remember, it's important to him to look like his peers.
6. If they do something you think is wrong, let them know that it's their behaviour you dislike, not them.
7. Above all, pray for them. They may seem confident on the outside but feel weak on the inside. They need God to get them through these difficult years.

On Second Thoughts

These seven tips can work just as well for parents.
Read them again with that in mind.
Then give them a try!

The Christingle Service went with a bang

2nd Barrhead Junior Section
The Boys' Brigade
Bourock Parish Church

We are now well in to our new session and are looking forward to another eventful year. Recently we entered a team for the first battalion competition the overseas extension, the boys did very well and won the competition. The team of boys were Kenneth Johnston, Charlie Bryan, Euan Johnston and Ross Barbour.

Our Halloween party was held on the 26th October, the boys enjoyed it very much and the prize winners were

1st Year - Ruari who was Harry Potter
2nd Year - Grant who was a Musketeer
3rd Year - Stewart who was Pinocchio

In the month of December we will be going ten pin bowling, having our Christmas party and going to see the panto a the Bourock Church.

This is a very busy period for the boys, (and the officers).

Finally if you know of any boy who maybe in primary 4 - 6, and is interested in joining the Junior Section, please contact myself.

The Junior Section staff team (BEAUTIES & THE BRAINS) won this years Womens Guild quiz night held at the Bourock Church.

Lawrence Webb
Officer In Charge

2nd Barrhead Company Section 75th Anniversary

A dinner is being planned to celebrate this anniversary. The dinner will be held at Fereneze Golf Club on Friday 8th February. More information will be given out soon.

Parish Register

BAPTISMS

OCTOBER 2001

LUCY VITTORIA SARAH CONNOR	5 KILLOCH DRIVE
LEWIS JAMES CONNOR	5 KILLOCH DIVE

MARRIAGES

September 15th 2001	CAROLINE DANNFALD TO FRASER McDOWALL
September 21st 2001	LINDA KILLEN TO SIMON PARTRIDGE
November 10th 2001	ILENE EASDON TO JOSEPH HYNDS

FUNERALS

OCTOBER 2001

*WALTER GROSSART	5 HEATHER AVENUE

NOVEMBER 2001

*GREGOR McGREGOR	BRAEMOUNT NURSING HOME, PAISLEY
LETITIA RENFREW	WESTBURN HALL, MAIN STREET

*denotes member

Barrhead Church - One Church - Four Worship Centres?

You will know that a group of people from four churches - Arthurlie, South and Levern, the United Reformed Church and ourselves, have been working together for some time now exploring the possibility of closer co-operation in the town. The suggestion is that we treat the whole town as one parish and the four churches join together to serve it. This means joining together in shared leadership and sharing resources. All four church buildings (worship centres) would be retained and each congregation would keep control of their own finance. So what are the benefits? Improved mission to the whole town, better use of resources, more flexibility in using our personnel for worship, shared pastoral role, a united image as we all work together in co-operation and not divided by competition..

Who will decide if this initiative goes ahead? You will!!!! There will be a special meeting called in the New Year - probably February - at which you will vote for or against the proposal. Your voice is important - make sure it is heard.

Maureen

Children@Bourock …..

On Saturday the 20th October we held the GROUNDBREAKERS Reunion for the children we had met in the summer.

Although the day dawned dark and gloomy we more than made up for it in the afternoon. We created our own sunshine and fun inside and over 125 children came along and joined in the fun. We sang, played games, ate hot dogs (thanks to Nancy and Jenny's work!) and learned all about the disciples.

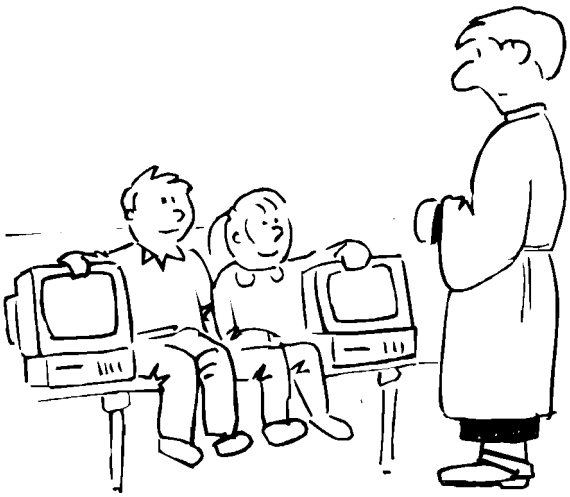
It was a great day and really testified to what church is all about. But apart from the fun it made me think of some real serious questions that we need to ask ourselves. Just how much do we care about Children in Bourock?

There is an ever increasing gap between what people say and what they do. Although we profess to care about children, we have to be honest about what the reality is. The hard truth is that there is still need for improvement. How do I know this? Because I heard what some of the children of our church had to say at the recent Children's Forum. The Forum discussed what the children liked and disliked about church, and about how they thought we should carry out mission. The evening was one of the best I have ever experienced in the church. There was honesty, care, love, and respect for all that was said, and there were many difficult subjects tackled. The children talked about how much they enjoyed worship, how much they liked the new songs we sing, and how the community of the church was a caring one. However they also mentioned that they felt shut out of communion, and that church could sometimes be too serious. Revelations for us all.

So how much do we care? Are we willing to be challenged on our traditions, to answer the call to live as a more inclusive community? I hope so.

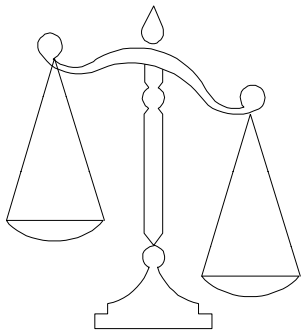
With the Year of the Child almost upon us we are looking at ways to engage with all the youth organisations of Bourock. To do this we have asked all the organisations to send reps to a meeting on the 13th of December to examine where we are with youth work and what our vision for the future might be. Contact me for further details.

Doug Swanney
Children's and Youth Elder



It wasn't quite what Revd Tim expected when he asked the children to bring a friend to Church

Finance Report

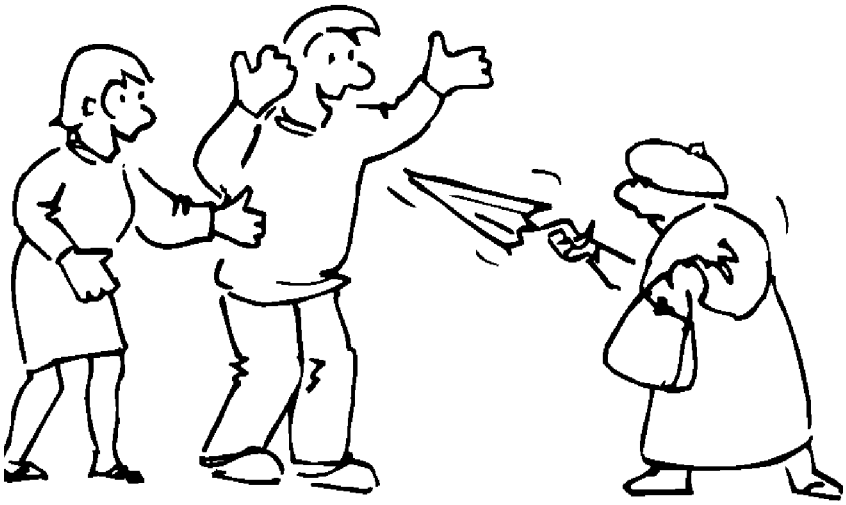


In my last report I stated that the work on the church roof was complete and I hoped to be able to give a summary of the costs in this issue of 'Steepletalk'. Unfortunately this will not be possible, as there are still some costs to be finalised before I can make this report. The Roof Fund currently stands at £62,831 and I anticipate that this, in conjunction with the grant aid of £38,500 will cover all budgeted expenses. However until all the bills are submitted and paid I cannot give a breakdown of the costs.

There has been a increase in requests for Standing Orders recently and I welcome this move towards an easier and more efficient way of giving. If anyone wishes a form or further information please contact myself, or any member of the Finance Committee.

There have been a few requests for Gift Aid Declarations over the last few weeks and again I must commend this simple method of increasing the value of your givings to the church. If you require a Declaration or more information, contact Heather Boklach, the Gift Aid Co-ordinator or any member of the Finance Committee.

Robert McKenzie
Finance Convenor



Nellie keeps the Church Welcome Committee at bay

Anchor Boys

Anchor Boys resumed on Wednesday September 5th after the Summer break. We had 26 boys on the first night which was a busier start than we anticipated. Our numbers have now settled at 30 boys on the register and a weekly attendance of 26 - 30 boys.

As well as new boys, we have new members of staff:- Lindsay Simpson who has returned to the Boys' Brigade after an absence of some years, and Jean Hepburn who was a Girls' Brigade officer in the past. Three boys from the company section who are working for the Queen's Badge will be with us until Christmas:- Scott McDonald and Ross and Gordon Murray. We also have Gillian Webb from the Girl Guides who is working for her Baden Powell Award. The young people are a great help with the night's activities and we would find it hard to cope with the boys without their help.

We have a full programme each night and the boys heartily enjoy all the activities. The boys are divided into teams - Gorillas, crocodiles, Giraffes, Wolves and Foxes. Team points are awarded each night and are hotly contested

Each night we have a craft session which all the boys enjoy. So far this session the boys have made Harvest mobiles, Indian head dresses, pumpkins and spiders. They have also done dot to dot and colouring in. Look out for their work on the notice board in the annexe.

The primary 3 boys in their third year at Anchor Boys have started on the achievement programme. This consists of 10 achievements from 5 different categories - Spiritual, Physical, Community, Adventure and Interest. When all 10 achievements are completed, the boys are awarded a badge and certificate. The badge will be worn on their arm band once they move up to Junior Section.

On October 31st we had our Hallowe'en party. All the boys (and officers) came in wonderful fancy dress. We had pass the parcel, musical chairs, dooking for apples and lots of other games - and a good time was had by all. Our next big event will be a Christmas party with special guest!

In the new year we are hoping to get the boys involved in Battalion events for Anchor Boys. These events are non-competitive and are designed to present the boys with a challenge and also to allow them to meet and have fun with other Anchor Boys in the area.

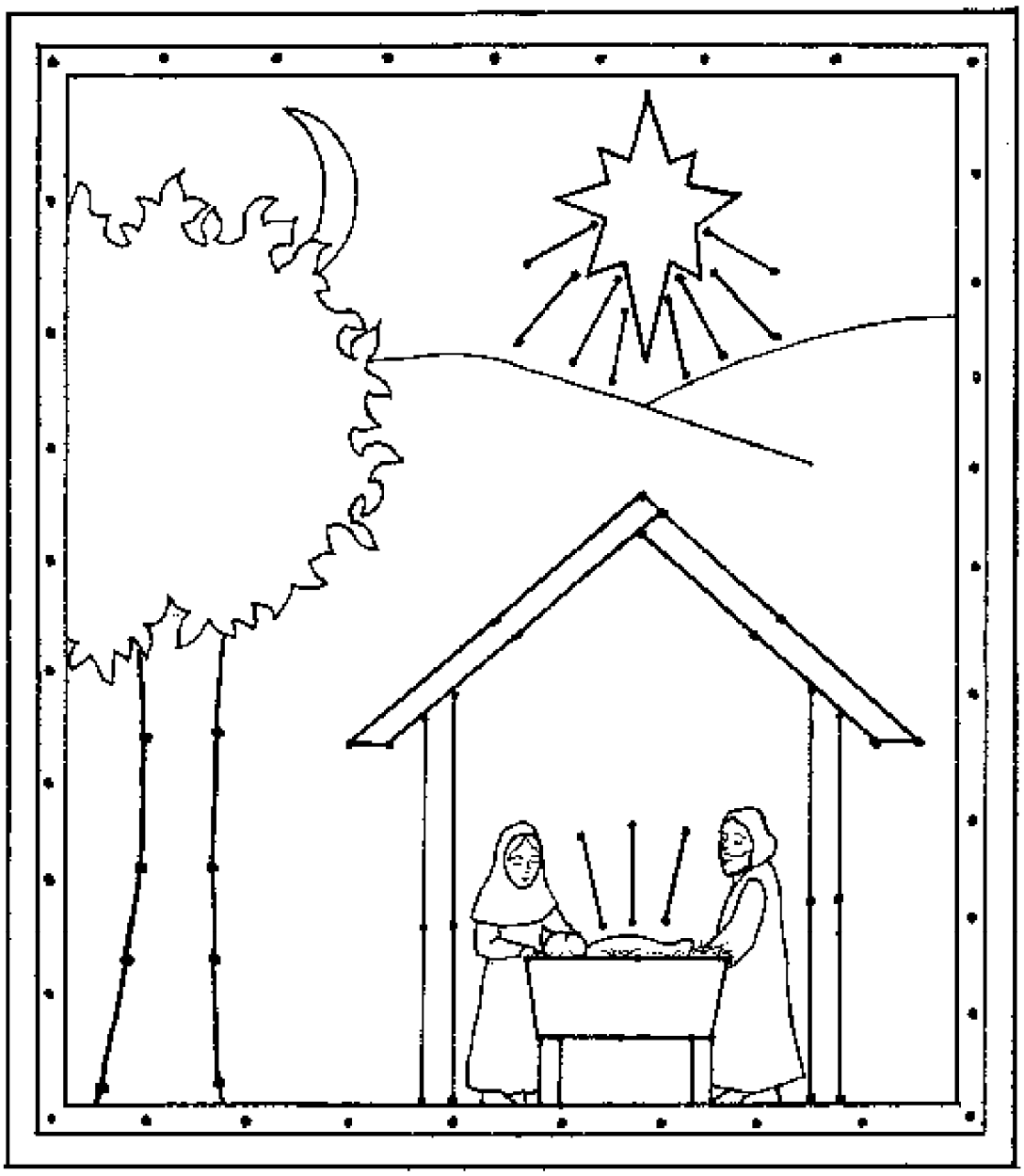
I would like to say a big thank you to Derek Palmer, Alec Leitch and Andy Trail who, for various reasons were unable to return to Anchor Boys this session. They were a great help to me when I took over as officer-in-charge in January. I would also like to thank present members of staff who are very supportive and willing to do anything.

We are all working together for the good of the boys and consider ourselves privileged to be able to do so.

Mary Murray

A SEWING PICTURE

'She laid him in a manger — there was no room for them to stay in the inn.' (Luke 2:7)



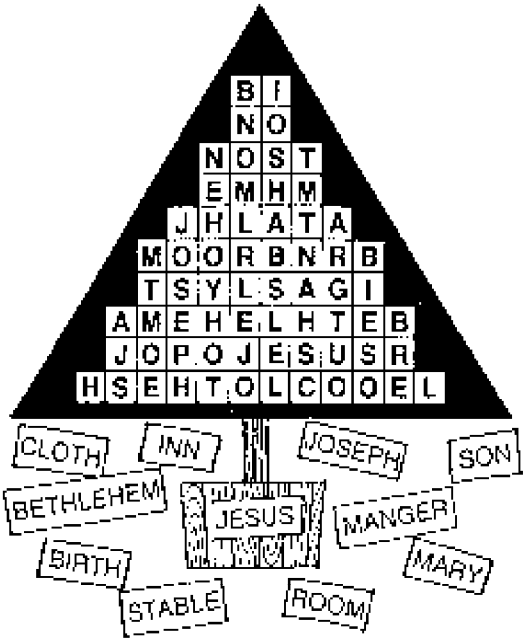
Instructions

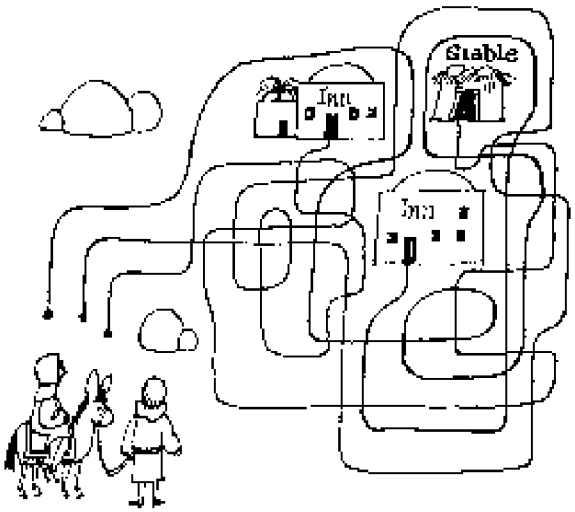
1. Mount the page on thin card.
2. Cut out the picture around the thin outside line.
3. Colour it in.
4. Using wool, sew appropriate colours in backstitch following the dots.
5. Punch two holes at the top and use thread to hang up the picture.

You could attach a calendar to the bottom!

Immanuel – God is with us (Matthew 1:23)

Find the words on the tree





Lead Mary and Joseph to the stable