

SteepleTalk



The Magazine
Of
Bourock Parish
Church

Easter 2003

Who's Who In Bourock

Minister	Maureen Leitch	881 1462
Session Clerk	Elizabeth McKenzie	880 5077
Deputy Session Clerk	Karen Johnston	881 5115
Clerk To The Board	Bruce Brown	571 6403
Treasurer	Ross Mitchell	881 4688
Roll Keeper	John Whyte	
Halls Convener	Hazel McCarthy	880 7607
Deeds Of Covenant	Jim Auchincloss	881 6143
WFO Envelopes	John McGarrie	571 6728
Junior Church	Linda Dye	876 1201
Guild	Marjory Brown	571 6403
Boys' Brigade (Company)	Graham Manson	580 0871
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	Helen Grant	639 2602
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	Moira McCartney
Communication	Nancy Darroch
Education	Linda Dye
Mission	Ann McMillan
Worship	Doug Swanney

March 2003

Dear Friends,

This has been a really strange month. On one hand it is heading to be the sunniest March since records were first kept but on the other hand, our lives have been darkened by the conflict in Iraq. Perhaps that is only a reflection of life itself where good and bad intermingle. At least, we have Easter to look forward to and can be reassured by its message of hope.

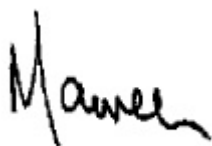
Easter and spring bring thoughts of rebirth and renewal to mind. In Bourock we too are thinking of renewal. We want to renew the lower level of our sanctuary space so that we have a flexible worship space and more room for a welcome area. Plans are well in hand and now we need your help. In order to complete the work we are looking for volunteers during the period of 3rd - 22nd August to give a helping hand in order to remove pews and do some varnishing. You don't need to come every night but when you can. There is a list on the noticeboard in the bottom corridor. Please help if you can - the more volunteers, the easier it will be.

We are also planning to improve our kitchen and toilet facilities - this takes more detailed planning and permission from the authorities but again, the Board have this well in hand. We want to move our building forward so that it complies with all the regulations now in place. I want you to know that the Board has been working hard on these projects and I hope that everyone appreciates the hard work which is offered by those on this body.

However, our concern is not just with our own building or with our own congregation. As a church of Jesus Christ we are called to care for others in the world. This Lent we are asked by our national church to participate in a special appeal for those suffering from HIV/AIDS. You can read more about this in the special leaflet included in this magazine. I would urge you to support this appeal as we can make a difference in helping to eradicate this terrible epidemic. Many churches have already responded generously to this appeal - I know that Bourock will do likewise.

Finally, I would wish everyone a joyous Easter. I hope that it is indeed a time of renewal for all. Take time to remind yourself of what God did for the world because he loved it so much. Through Jesus' death and resurrection we have forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life. Surely that calls for us to be faithful in His worship and in His service.

Every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mamee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

WORD SEARCH

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

**GOOD FRIDAY EASTER RISEN
ASCENSION HEAVEN BREAD
CRUCIFIED CROSS RECOGNISED
HOLY SPIRIT SAVED**

Parish Register

Baptisms

November 2002

Chloe Droy 10 Muir Street, Renfrew

December 2002

Hannah Craig 10 Brownside Crescent

February 2003

Hannah McAlpine 36 Deanston Avenue
Callum Taylor 43 Drumby Crescent, Clarkston
Jack Taylor 43 Drumby Crescent, Clarkston

March 2003

Taylor McKinstrey Victoria Road
Lewis Hely 9a Stewart Street

Marriages

1 March 2003 Stuart Harvey and Gail Jones

Funerals

November

Irene Russell Parkhouse Manor Home
Daniel Gray 64 Braeside Drive
*Marion McDiarmid Moredun House

December 2002

Jessie Dalziel Norwood House

January 2003

James Miller 80 Colwood Avenue
Florence Andrews 7 Firbank Terrace
Reid Scott Norwood House

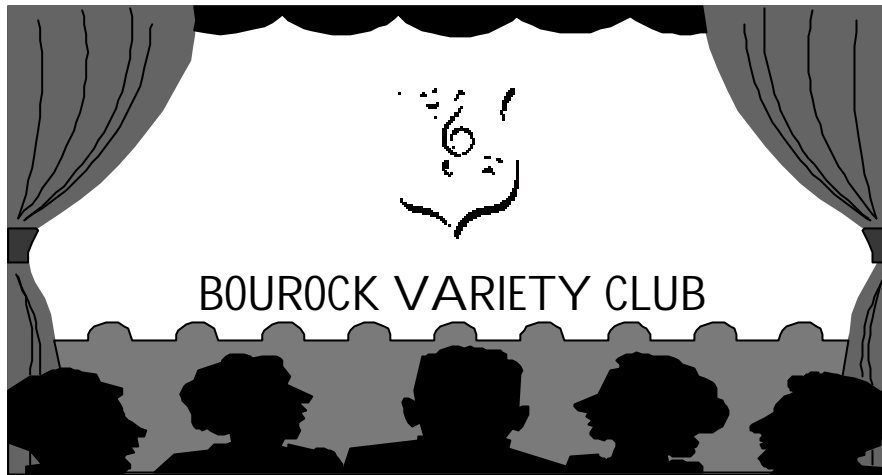
February 2003

George Gibb 43 Crebar Drive

March 2003

*Jessie Thompson Norwood House
Donald McDonald 2d Manse Court
Cedric Mansfield 10 Eildon Drive

* denotes member



Another year another show. As you will all probably know by now the Variety Club is once again staging “Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat”. After the success of our previous performance in aid of the roof fund, the club felt that it would be good to do it again - this time for charity. We are now all working hard to raise as much money as possible for CHAS (Children’s Hospice Association Scotland). We hope to raise around £1,000 through ticket and programme sales as well as our usual Thursday night coffee money. If you don’t have a ticket already, you will have to move quickly as advance interest is very high. Tickets are £3 for the matinee and £5 for the evening. This production allows non members of the club a chance to join with us and I’m glad to say that many new faces have appeared.

Our Christmas pantomime was once again a great success, with full houses every night. We had our biggest cast ever which meant that we had to hire a stage extension to accommodate the production. This also meant that we had to have an enhanced sound system and many people commented on the difference this made.

The concert party has been busy in and around Barrhead. We have visited several sheltered houses and residential homes and as usual have been very well received.

Linda Dye

<u>Dates F or Y our D iary</u>		<u>Costumes For Hire</u>
SATURDAY 17 MAY	-	3:00PM JOSEPH
SATURDAY 17 MAY	-	8:00PM JOSEPH
TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW
WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW
THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW
FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW
SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER	-	2:00PM SHOW
SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW
		<p>The Variety Club has an extensive wardrobe for hire to <u>church members</u></p> <p>Minimum Donation £2 per item £5 per costume</p> <p>Contact Morag Brown Thursday evenings 8:00 - 10:00</p>



Junior Church



It is almost Easter and Junior Church is almost finished the first year of the our new learning material - "Seasons Of The Spirit". This has proved to be a wonderful resource, enjoyed by teachers and children alike.

Since the last edition of SteepleTalk, we have been very busy. Christmas was, as usual, an exciting time. The children were anxious to get involved again with the shoe box appeal and as in previous years involved the congregation. Once again you rose to the challenge and a total of 250 boxes were packed for uplift. Our collection is now so good that Samaritan's Purse come to the church with one of their lorries for our boxes. It is great to talk to the drivers who are involved in delivering our gifts to children who have nothing. Later in this issue is a letter we have just received from Samarita's Purse thanking us all for our efforts.

The Christmas party was also a great success and everyone had a great time - especially when Santa arrived.

Looking forward, our annual trip will take place on 28th June when we will be once again visiting Kelburn Country Park in Largs.

Linda Dye

The S1 – S3 age group of Junior Church meet in the annexe and the Lower Hall on a Sunday morning. There are fifteen of us in total, with an average attendance of twelve on a Sunday. We have three leaders, Jim, Jim and Gayle. This year, like the rest of Junior Church, we are studying "Seasons of the Spirit", which is material we have not used before. The new material is split into different sections; the first is GATHER where all the age groups in Junior Church come together for a short time. This part of our morning is led by Linda, with contributions from other leaders and children depending on the theme. After this we split into our different age groups. The next part of the program is ENGAGE. This usually takes the form of a bible study, or a topic from that week's news. This is always interesting as we can debate up to the minute events from around the world. The information for the debates can be found on the Seasons of the Spirit web site and changes constantly so is always up to date.

The next and most varied part of the programme is RESPOND. This can be anything from a drama to a game and is always different. We have written poems, plays, dramas and even a song! (Composed by Alison and Catriona, which Ken was good enough to copy onto a CD.) We have also made posters, decorated cakes and drawn the Nativity scene outside the front doors of the Church (with chalk!)

At the beginning of October, Graeme McMeekin came along for six weeks to help out, and the time he spent with us was great.

At Christmas we went to the Glasgow Climbing School for our party. This was great fun and certainly different! We got to wear special boots, harnesses and helmets. Some of the walls were very steep and high, but that did not stop Catriona, Emma and Nicola from reaching the top. After this we came back to the Church to share a meal together and spend time with the rest of Junior Church.

We are working our way through the Church season of Lent and Easter at the moment and looking forward to the spring and the good weather! We all enjoy coming to Junior Church and being part of the Bouroch family, and we would like to wish everybody a very happy Easter.

Jim Mitchell

2nd Barrhead Boys Brigade

Anchor Boys

The Anchor Boys resumed after the Summer holidays on Wednesday 4th September 2002.

On the first night we had 24 boys, all except one being "old boys". There are now 39 boys on the register who attend on a regular basis. Six other boys registered at the beginning of the session but have now stopped coming.



Every Wednesday seems to see the arrival of another new boy. We have only 2 primary 1 boys - the remainder are divided almost equally between primary 2 and primary 3.

The staff remains more or less the same as last year - Jean Hepburn, Lindsay Simpson, Gavin Cooke, Scott McDonald, Ross and Gordon Murray and myself.

We have a varied programme every week. The boys are split into teams - 6 teams of approximately 6 boys each. Because of the numbers, 3 teams are in the main hall and 3 teams are in the annexe at any one time. Half way through the session we change over so that all the boys get a chance to take part in all the activities. In the main hall all the "big" games take place and in the annexe are all the table games and craft.

The team point system is working well and each team is keen to be the winning team at the end of the night.

Since Christmas, the primary 3 boys have been working on the 3rd year achievement programme. This is supervised by Lindsay and one of the Company Section boys. The achievements are simple but give the boys an idea of what to expect in Junior Section. When the achievement programme is completed, the boys get the Anchor Boy badge which they take into Junior Section and wear on the arm band.

We have 18 boys who will be eligible for promotion to the Junior Section in September. It would be good if all the boys went forward - time will tell.

At the end of the evening, all the boys gather together to hear a Bible story. They have heard about Jonah, Joseph, Noah and the Ten Commandments so far. They are currently finding out about Moses. The boys listen intently and seem to enjoy the stories. We then light the candle (given out at the youth service) for prayers. The boys soon remind us if we forget the candle and all want to blow it out!!

We had our usual parties at Halloween and Christmas.

The next event is Anchor Boy day at Linwood High School. This takes place on March 15th and most of the boys have expressed a desire to attend. It's an enjoyable outing for them and gives them a chance to meet with other Anchor Boys from the Battalion.

This session is due to end just before Easter. On the last night we intend to have an open evening when the parents will be invited to come and see what their sons get up to on a Wednesday evening. We did this last year and it proved very popular with everyone.

The boys are all enthusiastic and lively and enjoy coming to Anchor Boys. They keep us all on our toes but we enjoy the experience as well.

Mary Murray
Officer in Charge

Flower Rota

MAY

4 Mrs A McMillan
11 Mrs E. Thomson
18 Mrs I Alexander
25 Mrs J. Simpson

JUNE

1 Miss F. Rankin
8 Mrs N. Downie
15 Mrs M Buchanan
22 Mrs B Hamilton
29 Mrs J. Watson

JULY

6 Mrs M Stewart
13 Mrs N Nutini
20 Mrs J McGarrie
27 Mrs L Simpson

AUGUST

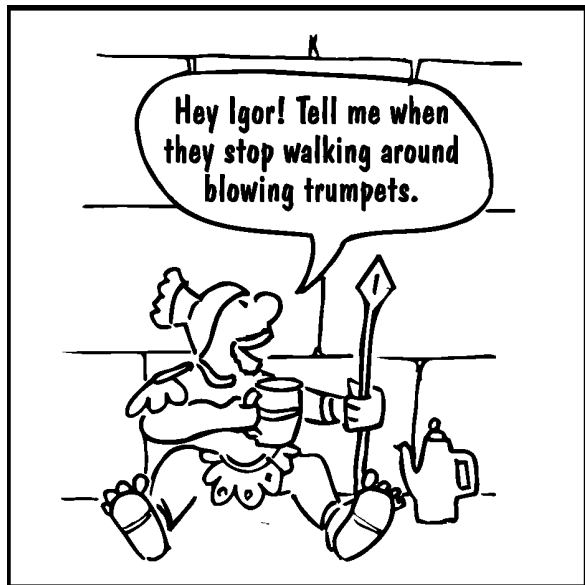
3 Mrs I Blair
10 Mrs M Hunter
17 Mrs E McKenzie
24 Miss S Tinto
31 Mr J. McK Allan

SEPTEMBER

7 Mrs D Ramsay
14 Mrs S Miller
21 Mrs J. McLeod
28 Variety Club

OCTOBER

5 Mrs J Brown
12 Mrs B Brown
19 Mrs M McKechnie
26 YWG



The Christmas Nail

Years ago, in a Colorado town, snow began to fall on a young couple contemplating the approaching Christmas season. As their thoughts meandered from the stable manger to the shopping mall, they knew that their meagre wages would prevent them from purchasing costly Christmas gifts. Therefore, they set out to make their own that year.

Later that month, while the young man was in a local hardware store, he spotted a very large nail. It was nearly ten inches long and very heavy. Seeing such a nail, his thoughts were drawn to the crucifixion of Christ. How large those nails must have been – how wicked their purpose. As he wandered around the store, he could not keep the sobering thoughts of that nail from his mind. He decided to buy one of the nails and show it to his wife. When she saw it her response was exactly the same.

Together they wondered if perhaps this massive nail would cause other people to remember Christ's death at the time of his birth. "Wasn't he born to die?" they asked each other. What better time than as his birth, to recall His reason for coming and the gift He would give.

Those thoughts stayed with them the rest of the evening. Without Christ's death and resurrection, there would be no celebration of Christmas, as we know it today. No one would recall the intricate details accompanying the birth of just one more good person. No starry night in Bethlehem would mean anything today if it were not for the end of the story.

And so, without plan or preparation, the young couple sat in their tiny attic apartment and began to scribble out a poem that would communicate the truth of Christmas. They considered the Christmas tree to be one of the most central symbols of the season and wondered whether their nail might become part of the time-honoured tradition of decorating one's Christmas tree.

Then it struck them – without question or hesitation, this nail would be an ornament – hung on the tree itself. It was weighty and would pull down any normal branch. Therefore it had to be hung deep inside the tree near the trunk. They worried that such placement would not allow it to be seen as all ornaments are intended.

Slowly, a powerful realization washed over both of them. This ornament, like the Saviour himself, would not be like any other. It would be obscured, just as Jesus had been obscured among the trappings of the stable and its animals.

This ornament would become a private devotion for those who hung it. It would serve as a silent reminder each time they looked at their tree, that it was a tree upon which Christ redeemed the world.

And so, with their poetry typed on an index card and fishing line attached to the nail, they wrapped their new gift in folds of white tissue paper to present to their family. It was ungainly and ugly for an ornament – but its message was simple and moving.

That Christmas eve, as their family sat around the warm glow of Christmas tree lights, the couple extended their odd-ornament, as an early gift to the family members gathered. It will suffice to say that their response was visibly moving. Few said anything at all. Most sat with their thoughts and allowed the significance of this symbol to settle in their hearts and minds.

Then reaching deep within the branches of their Christmas tree, they hung the very first Christmas Nail.

This is the Poem which comes with the Nail.

This is the Christmas Nail.

It is to be hung on a sturdy branch, a branch near the trunk,
A branch that will hold such a spike without being noticed by well-wishers dropping by to admire one's tinsel tree.

The nail is known only to the home that hangs it.

Understood only by the heart that knows its significance.

It is hung with the thought

The Christmas tree but foreshadows the Christ-tree which only He could decorate for us,
ornamented with nails as this.

WOODLAND WHISPER

[from the grounds of Carberry]

The golden glory
Of daffodil trumpets
Proclaiming Jesus' triumph
Has withered out of sight
Been superceded by
A massed intensity of blue
Against the vibrant green
Of fresh new grass
Under the shade of
Emerging leaves
On towering trees

Draw near in awe
Bend low to gaze
Into a single, tiny face
Of rosy tinted, heavenly blue
Look and listen closely
Hear it echo softly
Christ's, "Forget me not"

Glenda Meikle



**'Hello Bill You've phoned
me in Church - but its OK
I seem to be leaving now.**

El Grandisimo

In the UK, four in ten people will be affected by cancer at some point in their lives. Indeed it is hard to find anybody these days who has not been touched by the tragedy of cancer in some way, either directly or indirectly. It was for this reason that I decided to undertake some fund raising for one of the leading cancer charities.

For the last couple of years, Macmillan Cancer Relief have been organising, among other things, a cycling challenge in Mexico which has come to be referred to as “el grandisimo”. This involves cycling some 600 km from Veracruz on the Gulf Coast to Puerto Escondido on the Pacific Coast. The route follows the track linking the two coasts and passes through tropical farmlands, cloud forest, mountain ranges and desert areas.

I signed up to the challenge in September last year. Apparently, the Mexico cycling challenge is one of the toughest charity challenges on offer. Of course, nobody bothered to mention that little detail until it was too late for me to make excuses.

As part of the deal, participants were required to raise a minimum of £2,700 for the charity. This meant that I had six months to raise the money, get in shape and learn to go my bike without stabilizers. This was definitely a challenge with a capital “c”.

The fundraising proved to be as time consuming and, ultimately, as rewarding as the cycle itself. We had some very successful events including a coffee morning at the church, a car boot sale, a race night in Barrhead Police Club and a party night in Bearsden (my home turf). All of these events were very well attended and I was really quite taken aback with how supportive people were. It’s amazing how friends and family rally round you when you put your head above the parapet for something like this. With extra bonuses like the Susan Palmer home baking sensation, the donations poured in and I my final total was just over £3,500. I am delighted that all of these efforts will help Macmillan continue their great work.

The trip took place from 1st - 13th March and there were sixty cyclists in our group. My fears that the group would comprise of 59 Lance Armstrongs and me proved unfounded and there was a broad range of ages and abilities amongst us. The riding proved to be tougher than most expected, largely due to the fact that temperatures were in the mid to high thirties every day. Cycling in intense heat, uphill and at altitudes of 3000 metres is certainly isn’t the way I would normally choose to spend my time!

The third day involved a constant climb over a distance of 60 kilometres. The gradient ranged from 1:10 to 1:12 for those of you who know about these things. It was a killer. There were points during that day where I almost succumbed and took a lift in one of the support vans, but I’m pleased to report that I persevered and managed to complete the day and the rest of the route in the saddle. It really was the toughest experience I have ever had both mentally and physically.

While it was hard going, we were rewarded with stunning views and amazing scenery throughout. This was especially true in the area known as the Valle Nacional and in the Sierra Madre Mountains. At night, we camped in two man tents. Some of our campsites were fairly unusual; a farmyard, a lay-by on a stretch of road and a basketball court in a village square. Washing facilities normally took the form of the nearest river, although we were treated to the

luxury of a garden hose when we camped in the village square. The sites up in the mountains were the best. Watching the sun go down and then stars come out was a great way to finish off the days.

On the last day, we cycled down to the Ocean together as a group. It was a great feeling. The view of the Pacific was revealed to us suddenly and it was amazing - white sands stretching as far as the eye could see and deep crystal blue waters. Sixty weary and sweaty cyclists dumped their bikes and rang headlong into the ocean, shedding helmets, shoes and t-shirts on the way. It must have been quite a sight for those trying to enjoy a relaxing day on the beach.

It is hard to believe that it is all over. The group as a whole is on track to raise a total of £200,000 which is a fantastic achievement. Of course, this was made possible only by the support and generosity of all those who contributed to the cause.

This time last year I weighed 15 stones, sat at a desk for 12 hours a day and did very little exercise. If you had suggested to me then that I would cycle 600 kilometres across Mexico's toughest landscapes, I would have suggested that you consult your doctor. And yet, here I am writing this piece having done just that. In fact, one of the key things that I learned from this adventure was that the mind gives in before the body does. If you keep a positive attitude and stay focused, I really believe that you can do just about anything that you put your mind to.

I have left this challenge on a high and with a really satisfying sense of achievement. This was definitely a once in a lifetime experience. At least, that is what I told my wife. Mind you, I quite fancy a trek in the Andes

Craig Harvie
March 2003

Social Steering Committee

Once more it is time to say thank you to all the organisations who take part in making the "Sunday Tea". It is only twice in the year but it is very much appreciated and is a great part of the fellowship of our church. Also thanks to the families who come along to our Scottish nights, coffee mornings etc. Which helps us to make money for our fireworks and bonfire - we are hoping to manage one this year!

Thanks again.

Jenny McLeod (Convenor)

In Her Own Write?

Did you know that Maureen will be published shortly? Look out for the next Inside Verdict book.

2nd Barrhead Boys Brigade

Junior Section

B Is for the boys. We meet every Friday from half past six till eight o'clock. There are 25 boys in the junior section and is for boys in p4 to p6.

O Is for our object. The advancement of Christ's kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.

Y Is for years. We split into 1st, 2nd, and 3rd years for our achievements. In 1st year we learn about the weather, helping in the home and model making. In 2nd year we play board games, study national flags and learn to use a compass. In the 3rd year we learn basic first aid with a qualified first aider, Cycle safety and Company section activities.

S Is for service. We start every Friday night with an opening service. This is led by one of the officers and includes a bible reading and a story about Jesus. After the opening service we have inspection, where we can gain points for our team by wearing full uniform and by coming to Church.

B Is for boring We don't like the marching too much.

R Is for ready. We are always ready to help and support each other, in whatever we do.

I Is for interesting. All the interesting things we do throughout the year. In October we have our Halloween party and we are very busy in December when we go to the Variety Club pantomime and the ten pin bowling. We also have our Christmas party before we stop for our holidays. Throughout the year we take part in Battalion competitions Including Swimming, ten pin bowling and potted sports.

G Is for games. We love playing games on a Friday night, some of our favourites are dodgy ball, hockey, and the over under and round game, but our favourite has to be football.

A Is for Achievements. Our achievements fall into 5 sections. Spiritual, physical, interest, adventure and community. When we complete a set number of achievements, we will get a badge. This goes from the white Badge in 1st year to the gold badge at the end of 3rd year. The badges in-between are green, purple, blue and red.

D Is for our display, which we hold every year. This is our chance to show our parents and friends what we have done all year. We have an opening service, then our inspecting officer meets the boys. This is followed by marching and then we do some of our achievements. This is followed by playing some of our favourite games. We finish off the night with our prize giving. We have a prize for the best group, the best new recruit

E Is for effort. The effort put in by the officers to make sure we enjoy ourselves on a Friday night. The effort we put into our achievements and encouraging each other to be closer to God. We all love coming along to the B.B. on a Friday night and being part of a great Christian organisation.



A Reflection For Easter Sunday

What does Easter mean to you? It is usually seen as a time to celebrate. Families often gather together to enjoy a meal and each other's company. But what are they celebrating? These days the celebration seems to be about a holiday and chocolate eggs. But it really is a time to celebrate God's love. It is a time for us to receive God's love - a wonderful gift of grace.

Along with God's love we are presented with the life of Christ and the freedom of the holy spirit. Can you imagine what it was like for these first disciples who endured the sight of the crucifixion, the depression of Jesus' death, the perplexity of the empty tomb before the exaltation of meeting the risen Christ in various different encounters. Can you be with them as they learn that the risen Christ meets them where they are:- on a journey, behind closed doors, by a lake as they fish. the lesson we must take from these experiences is that they contain a truth for us too - Jesus is with us in our lives. Jesus walks with us and understands us and wants to help us.

Each year during Lent we journey with Christ and arrive at the foot of the cross. We keep vigil with him on the cross, then in the tomb until on Easter day we can rise with him in glorious triumph. We can then live 'resurrection life' - we can live with our risen Saviour who is alongside us.

On Easter day, why not take time to reflect on God's great love and give thanks for his never-ending care. Here is a short prayer which you might like to use.

Stand by us, Lord
give us peace,
courage and bright hopes,
this day and all our days

(BBC prayers, Angela Tilbey)

Thursday Coffee Club

The "Coffee Club" is still thriving well and has 40-50 people attending every Thursday. All go to the service and then downstairs for coffee and a blether. It is a real time of fellowship in Bourock. I would like to thank all the people who help me run it every week. Thanks once more.

Jenny McLeod

3rd Barrhead Guide Company

Session July 2001 - June 2002

Thirteen Guides went to Auchengillan Outdoor Centre between August 17-19, 2001. Plenty to do and see ie para drop, abseiling, dry grass sledging, crate building, crafts etc. Good reports from all who attended. Plenty of midges as well!!

Visit to Police Headquarters, Mill Street, Paisley where some younger Guides made their Promise.

Hallowee'en Party with a difference. Guides invited grannies, aunts, mums, sisters etc to a Country and Western evening. Everyone dressed up. This was for the Party Planner Badge.

Over 90 people came and enjoyed line dancing, country dancing, and a super buffet. Girls worked extremely hard for this badge.



Girlguiding UK

The District Cooking Competition heats were held in the hail with one

patrol being selected to go forward to the semi-finals in January.

Torchlight Trail took place in November in Glenfield Country Park, Paisley.

Coffee Morning was held in November and the Guides visited Westlea Residential Home in December to sing Carols and chat to the residents. Gifts were taken for all the ladies.

The Matinee of Sleeping Beauty by the Variety Club was held in Bourock Church Hall and on Dec 10 the 2nd and 3rd Guides held a joint Christmas Party.

In January Jillian Webb was presented in Church with her Baden-Powell Trefoil Award. The visit to the Police Stables in Glasgow was very interesting.

The District Cooking Competition semi-final was held and Arthurlie Guides were the winners.

Thinking Day Service was held in Bourock and all Guides and Brownies from Barrhead attended. Thinking Day was celebrated in the Company with food, dress, music etc from various countries.

In March Jean Mackay and Susan Bradley went on the first Baden-Powell Challenge Weekend held in Elmbank Street. Both girls enjoyed this and were delighted to be told they had passed this award.

Chit Chat Café was also held in March and we had a good turnout. Jillian Webb sat and passed the Commonwealth Award.

Parents Evening in May and the Guides took part in various games and activities with prizes being awarded for attendance etc. Jean and Susan had asked for their BPs to be presented on this evening, so it was really a very busy time enjoyed by all.

Guides are still collecting used postage stamps for Ardgowan Hospice, Greenock and used empty ink cartridges which are sent to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

These are just some of the things the 3rd Company have taken part in.

Barbara Jones (Guider)

March 2003



Dear friends

Operation Christmas Child 2002

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the Shoe boxes that you contributed to last year's Operation Christmas Child Appeal and in recognition enclose a Certificate of Thanks from the Samaritan's Purse.

This has been a terrific year for us again with the UK sending nearly 1.2 million boxes to needy children throughout Eastern Europe and with our partners in America, Canada, Germany, Holland and Australia we have been able to send over 6 million boxes to countries in Africa, South America and Asia.

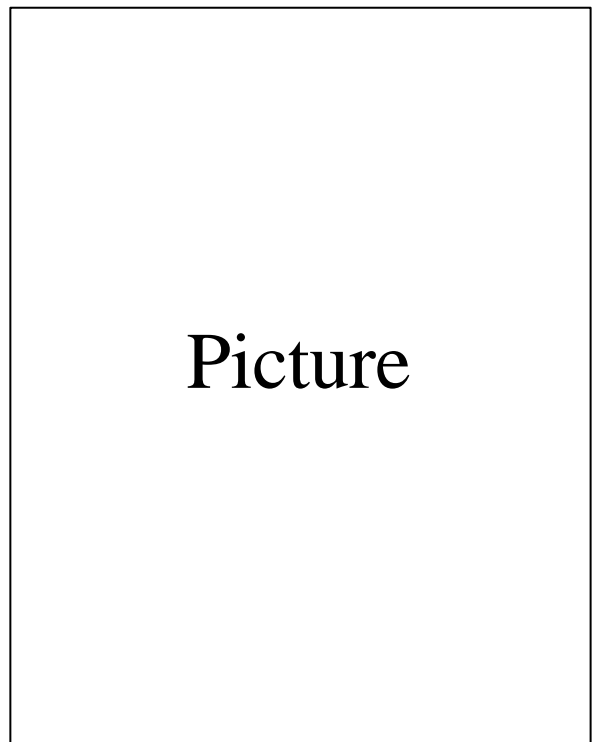
I visited Serbia just before Christmas and I wish there were appropriate words to express the joy that these boxes bring to Children. Every box has an individual story and some are life changing for the children and their families. In many situations these people have never had someone give them a gift without any strings attached and with the personal touch contained in every box the feeling of deep gratitude is often seen in tears of joy and wonderful big smiles.

So a big "Thank you" once again and we look forward to this year's appeal and your on-going support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Thomson".

Chris Thomson
Scottish Coordinator



2nd Barrhead Guide Company

This year, our numbers have remained fairly constant at around 20, with 8 new girls joining us since September. The girls have completed several badges and Go For Its as well as taking part in many other activities. Amongst others the girls have completed the First Aid, Confectioner, and Cooks badges and the Parties, Chocolate, Healthy Eating, Teamwork and Fitness Go For Its. Four of our older guides are currently working towards their Baden Powell awards.



Girlguiding UK

In September we held a communication night in which the guides took part in various games and activities such as semaphore and sign language that helped to highlight the different types of communication. In October we held our annual pancake morning and raised over £233. Five of our guides also helped out at the senior citizens night in the church. We also held our Halloween party where the girls all came in fancy dress. In November the girls attended the Remembrance Day parade at the church. As part of their Baden Powell award the older guides organised a cooking night in the style of the TV programme Ready Steady Cook which proved a big success with the rest of the guides who got to do the tasting! At the end of November some of the guides held a Pyjama party as part of the Parties Go For It and everyone turned up in their PJ's with their teddies as well!

In December we had our annual trip to XS Superbowl in Paisley and attended the Variety Club pantomime, before ending the year with our joint Christmas party with the 3rd Guides.

In January we started back with a challenge night where the girls spent the night working their way round a series of different challenges. In February we attended the Youth Service at the church with several of the girls taking part. The girls made biscuits for Valentines Day. For Thinking Day on the 22nd of February we attended a service for the whole of Barrhead district at South and Levern church as well as holding an international evening where the girls brought souvenirs and food from different countries. On the 10th March we held our very own "Big Hair Do" pampering evening in aid of Comic Relief, each girl brought a friend along and everyone paid £1 to join in. Some of the mums offered their services and the girls were able to get their nails done, have their hair put up, make their own face packs or get a hand and shoulder massage as well as munching on lots of sweets from the tuck shop. The night was a great success and we were delighted to send a cheque for £100 to Comic Relief.

This year for our parents evening the girls are completing the new ShowTime Go For It as a company and will be putting on their very own production, organising everything from props to casting. We have had a really fun year and hope to see all the girls return for the new session in September.

Finally our congratulations go to our Guide leader Jennifer Stewart on the birth of baby Eilidh on the 23rd March.

Children's Solve Search

Pick what you think is the correct answer to each question, then find it in the letter grid. Words may read either vertically or horizontally.



- 1 Who loved her mother-in-law?
RUTH/RACHEL/RAHAB
- 2 A preacher who made tents
PETER/THOMAS/PAUL
- 3 Who nursed the baby Moses?
HIS MOTHER/AUNT/COUSIN
- 4 Which one was Joseph's brother?
BENJAMIN/AARON/CAIN
- 5 Who was Joseph's father?
ABRAHAM/ISAAC/JACOB
- 6 The lame son of Jonathan
MAHALI/MEPHIBOSHETH/
MALACHI
- 7 The boy Samuel's mother
HANNAH/LOIS/ELIZABETH
- 8 Joseph became ruler in which land?
EGYPT/ASSYRIA/PALESTINE
- 9 Who was the first Christian martyr?
BARNABUS/SILAS/STEPHEN
- 10 Ten were given to Moses on Mt. Sinai
COMMANDMENTS/WARNINGS/
MESSAGES
- 11 Where is the Via Dolorosa?
NAZARETH/JERUSALEM/BETHLEHEM
- 12 David's work as a boy
FARMER/FISHERMAN/SHEPHERD
- 13 Which birds fed Elijah during a famine?
VULTURES/HAWKS/RAVENS
- 14 Who became king when 8 years old
JOSIAH/JOASH/JEHU
- 15 Aaron made one of gold
CALF/SHEEP/GOAT
- 16 Who was visited by the angel Gabriel?
SARAH/MARY/HAGAR
- 17 Jesus ascended to heaven from this
mountain
OLIVES/MORIA/HERMON
- 18 Which of these was a river?
ELIM/NILE/GILEAD

Finance Report

The following is a report on the Church's Accounts presented at the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 9 March 2003 and should be read in conjunction with these Accounts. In line with the General Assembly's guidelines, a summary statement of accounts is included in this issue of 'SteepleTalk'.



Finance in 2002 started off with a small surplus of £1373 and as our budgeted weekly income figure of £1124 was not consistently attained, the year ended with a deficit against budget of £3602. This deficit figure included a transfer to reserves of £2000, a contribution that we are not usually able to make.

Looking at the summary of accounts it can be seen that our income showed a small increase from £69,267 to £69,568 but our expenditure increased from £67,894 to £73,170 resulting in the deficit of £3602.

As all final remedial work has been carried out on the roof after the repairs, full payment has now been made and the majority of the Roof Fund balance transferred into the Building Fund to cover the cost of alterations to the church interior.

As can be seen from the accounts the Gift Aid scheme is giving a good return. We currently have 139 Declarations on file and from these we recovered £10,796 in tax last year from the Inland Revenue. This shows how efficient this means of increasing your contributions is but I feel that this total can be increased to a considerable extent. If you are a taxpayer and have not yet completed a Gift Aid Declaration or if you are not sure if you have completed one or if you require further information, please contact myself or any member of the Finance Committee.

There has also been an increase in the use of Bank Standing Orders over the last year. This method of giving to the church is becoming more popular and if any member wishes to change over to this easy and efficient method of giving, please contact myself.

As regards the WFO Scheme, there were 218 envelopes used last year with an average of £586 per week being contributed per week by this method. This represents an average of £2.74 per person, per week. It is however disappointing to note that a small number of members of the WFO scheme are failing to contribute anything to the church.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Finance Committee for their work over the last year.

Robert McKenzie
Finance Convenor

BOUROCK PARISH CHURCH
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2002

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2002</u> (£)	<u>2001</u> (£)
Offerings	67,187	66,854
Other General Income	2,381	2,413
Total	69,568	69,267

EXPENDITURE		
Local Ministry	34,896	34,112
Mission and Wider Work	15,068	14,702
Local Congregational Purposes	23,206	19,080
Total	73,170	67,894
(Deficit)/Surplus	(3,602)	1,373

FUNDS AS AT 31 DECEMBER:

	<u>2002</u> (£)	<u>2001</u> (£)
Fabric Fund	891	2,707
Roof Fund	2,660	20,598
Flower Fund	352	252
Reserve Fund	58,986	53,881
Kitchen Refurbishment Fund	1,000	1,000
Youth Fund	350	465
Building Fund	19,000	-

BUDGET FOR 2003:-

EXPENDITURE	
	£
Local Ministry	36,466
Mission and Wider Work	16,320
Local Congregational Purposes	26,922
Total	79,708

INCOME

Donations/Tax recovery	12,550
<u>NET EXPENDITURE</u>	67,158

REQUIRED FROM OFFERINGS £1,292 per week

These accounts are a summary of the full Congregational Accounts which have received an unqualified audit report. Both the full accounts and the summary accounts have been approved by the Congregational Board.

The Guild

The theme this year is “Strength Through God’s Empowerment”.

We have had a good attendance all through the year, with an average of forty five to fifty members every meeting on a Tuesday night. Our afternoons were also well attended and very much appreciated.

Our first afternoon meeting was “Happiest Days Of Our Life” when we had a retired school teacher who was very funny and everyone had a good laugh about school days. The other afternoon meeting was a lady who played guitar and sang. She was a beautiful singer and we were all moved by her songs.

We had a great night when our speaker came to give us talk and some slides concerning “Glasgow Tramcars”. There was a good attendance that night and everyone was happy.

Our outing in December was a bus tour of the Glasgow lights around George Square and round about Glasgow. We had a lovely meal afterwards in Harry Ramsden’s. The evening was a great success.

In January our minister gave us a very informal evening about our theme for the year - “Strength Through God’s Empowerment” which we all enjoyed.

Our next meeting was about “Old Barrhead”. Mr. Johnston brought slides and pictures and we were entertained by the old scenes. It was like All Our Yesterdays. People remembered Barrhead the way it was before it all vanished. The Main Street was especially highlighted. What a lot has changed forever.



British Forces Overseas

Although I personally am very much against the war in Iraq, I was touched when watching GMTV. Soldiers, who just happened to be Scottish, were asking for our support by sending them “Nice Things” parcels. Each one asked for items that are not too expensive and would give them much joy. With Maureen’s permission I would ask you to help me send these “NT Parcels” - any of the following would be appreciated.

Baby Wipes	Jelly Babies
Toothpaste	Wine Gums
Shampoo	Licquorice Allsorts
Shower Gel	Toffees
Shaving Gel	Crisps/Peanuts
Disposable Razors	Biscuits
Socks	Pot Noodles/Cuppa Soups
	Tea Bags/Coffee Bags
	No Chocolate (They get lots in their rations)

Shoe boxes, if you don’t have any at home, will be at all 3 doors for any of the above items. I would also ask for brown paper and string for wrapping the boxes.

If you can help in any way, please get in touch with me in church or at 881 4668.

Norma Duncan

Summer Club 2003

Usually at this time of year I would be writing about the activities that are about to take place under the auspices of the Summer Club in the months to come. Although I will do that later, it is very exciting to be able to tell you about work that the team has undertaken so far in 2003! In the cold and dark nights of January, our first Summer Club activity of the year took place. For one week the halls were transformed into an exciting world of snow and ice as we became part of the Xpedition Force - a group travelling on the journey of the Passion with Christ.

This Summer Club is one that we have never seen the like of before - mainly because it was the very first trial of the programme that Scripture Union will publish in 2004. The team committed themselves to running this trial and checking out the programme before it went to the SU editorial team at the end of March.

The work that was put into this January 'summer' club was as much, if not more, than is done to put the week in July on. The team had to work out much of the material themselves and did not have the usual back up of video, hints, and ideas that the final product of the SU material contains. Luckily for SU, we have one of the most gifted and talented teams working with children in this area!

The week was a great success and was enjoyed by all who took part. The children loved being part of the Xpedition and really enjoyed the drama. It will be very exciting for the Summer Club team to see this material published in early 2004 knowing that they were instrumental in bringing it into being.

Looking ahead to the summer, we will be taking part in a Seaside Rock from the 30th June to 4th July in the halls. And what could be better than a trip to the seaside to relax and enjoy the summer?

In preparation for this week there are a number of events already in the diary -

Training Meetings will take place on Sunday 11th May, Sunday 8th June, and Sunday 29th June.

We will also be entering a float in Barrhead Gala on the 7th June to publicise the event.

As ever we need volunteers to make this Summer Club happen. With a record number of children attending last year we are braced for another busy year, and that means more people are needed.

This year we are especially looking for people to make up the Administration and Kitchen Teams, as well as all those who work directly in teaching the children.

If you want to take part then sign up on the noticeboard or contact the Summer Club Co-ordinator, Angus, right now! We have asked our friends in the other churches to take part as well, so please encourage folks to come along.

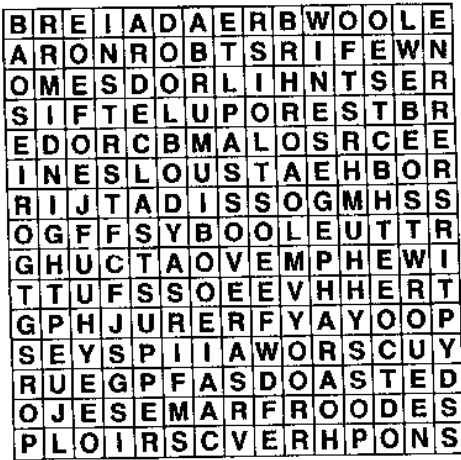
Please keep all those involved in this crucial mission work in your prayers.

Doug Swanney
Summer Club Team Leader



Picture

Word search



BITTER
BLOOD
BODY
BREAD
CUP
DOORFRAME
EGYPT

FIRE
FIRSTBORN
HERBS
HYSSOP
JESUS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER

MIDNIGHT
PASSOVER
PHARAOH
PLAGUE
REMEMBER
ROASTED
WINE



Break the code to read the message!

The story is in Exodus 11 and 12

Y _ _ m _ s _ r _ m _ v _ _ h _ _ d
2 5 5 4 3 2 3 4 3 2 6

y _ a s _ _ f sin s _ _ h a _ y _ w i _ b _
3 4 2 2 4 4 2 5 6 6 3

_ n _ i r _ _ y p _ r _
3 4 3 6 5 3

o=2, e=3, t=4,
u=5, l=6

Christ, our Passover Lamb
has been sacrificed (1 Corinthians 5:7)