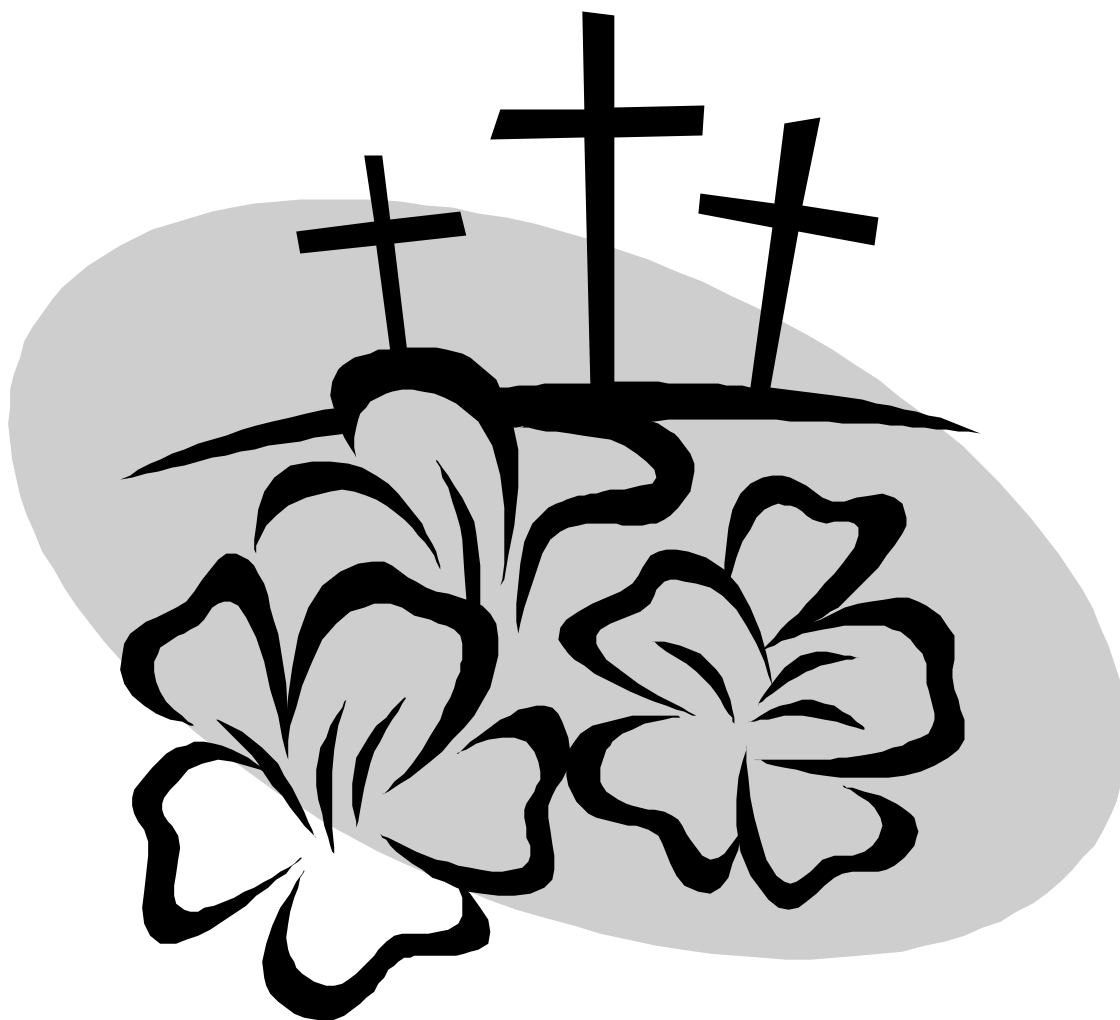


SteepleTalk



THE MAGAZINE
OF
BOUROCK PARISH
CHURCH

EASTER 2004

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		
Treasurer	Ross Mitchell	881 4688
Roll Keeper	John Whyte	
Halls Convener	Hazel McCarthy	880 7607
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 Stevenson	881 6519
Tweenies	Morag 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
Adult Education	Angus Leitch
Mission	Dorothy Ramsay
Children & Youth	Susan Palmer
Congregational Support	Debbie Mitchell

March 2004

Dear Friends,

The daffodils are starting to poke their heads through the earth; the crocuses are already brightening our days. It must be Spring even if the weather still feels distinctly wintry. There is no doubt that signs of growth and new life are all around us.

That, of course, is appropriate at this time of year as we journey towards Easter to celebrate that joyful day of Resurrection. I hope that as we travel through the Lenten period you are taking 'time out' of your busy life to spend it with God. This is a period of reflection and study so that our understanding of just what Christ did for us grows deeper and deeper.

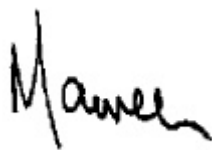
The week that leads up to Easter is called "Holy Week" - literally a week set apart - and during this week there will be a variety of worship experiences open to you to help you come to Easter prepared to rejoice. This kind of preparation is vital. Please try to come to as many services as you can. Our Easter leaflet will have all the details.

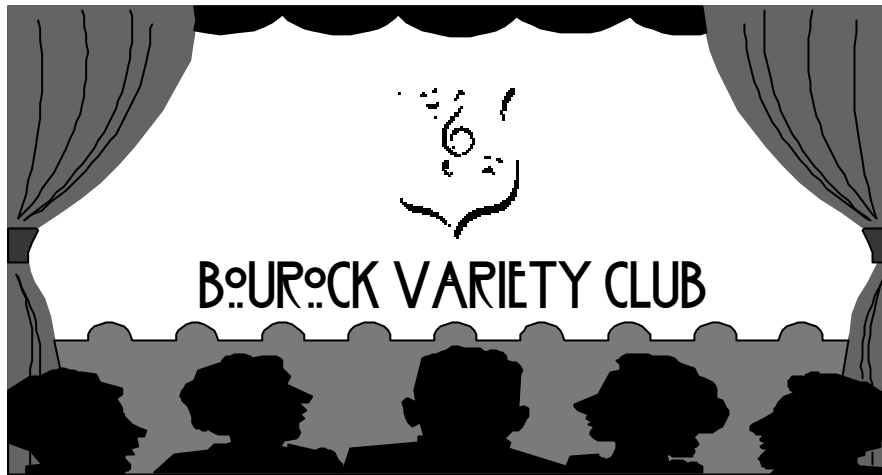
On Easter Saturday in the evening, the Variety Club will present some excerpts from "Jesus Christ, Superstar" and that will be followed by a time of fellowship over tea, coffee and food. Then we will have worship which will include communion as we keep vigil over midnight into Easter Sunday. This is an exciting new venture and I hope you will come along and hear the story of Christ before his glorious resurrection.

Resurrection is not just some abstract concept which we talk about in the Church. Resurrection is a fact of life for us. We see signs of resurrection whenever we see new life about us. That might be in the natural world, or it might be in the sphere of our organisations or it might be in our worship or our communal life. I would like to see some signs of resurrection in our commitment. Too many of our members are sitting back and letting a few carry the responsibilities of our church. The church belongs to each and every one of us. We all share the responsibility. So, come on, **offer your talent** for the building up of this particular body of Christ.

The Presbytery Visit which was paid to us resulted in a very good report but we must not be complacent - we have a great work to do for Christ - we can only do it to the full when we are all doing our best!

I wish you all a joyful and blessed Easter.

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



Another year past and yet another very successful one. Our production of “Pinocchio” played to full houses every evening and was well received by everyone who attended. The matinee was also a sell out, and in fact we could have sold the tickets for the afternoon performance almost twice over. The success of the show has allowed us to make donations to various charities and projects - including our own Summer Club.

After the show, we only had a couple of weeks to prepare for the Christmas Carol singing prior to the Watchnight Service which once again we were invited to lead. It is really great to see that the numbers attending this service are increasing each year. A great time is had by all as we sing songs old and new. After a short break, we have been working towards Easter. This year, Maureen asked us if we could participate in a service on Easter Saturday, prior to the Easter Vigil, by performing some songs from “Jesus Christ Superstar”. It has meant some very hard work for everyone involved but I’m sure it will all be worth it when Easter comes. The music is difficult and very challenging. Although some members of the club will be away at Easter, we have been delighted with the numbers attending rehearsals.

The show for this year has yet to be decided (for obvious reasons) but the dates have been set as you will see below. The club is excited at being so involved throughout the year and we would welcome any new members who would like to come along on a Thursday evening. You would be joining a group of young and not so young alike for a time of fellowship and enjoyment - and perhaps discovering some hidden talents.

Linda Dye

<i>Dates for Your Diary</i>		<u>Costumes For Hire</u>	
SATURDAY 10 APRIL	-	SUPERSTAR	<p>The Variety Club has an extensive wardrobe for hire to church members</p> <p>Minimum Donation £2 per item £5 per costume</p> <p>Contact Morag Brown Thursday evenings 8:00 - 10:00</p>
TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW	
WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW	
THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW	
FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW	
SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER	-	2:00PM SHOW	
SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW	



JUNIOR CHURCH



It is almost Easter and Junior Church is still enjoying working on the "Seasons Of The Sprit" programme. This is a wonderful resource, enjoyed by teachers and children alike. Working on the same passages as "Senior Church" has proved to be beneficial to all.

Christmas was, as expected, a very exciting time. The children decided again to support the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal and, as now has become customary, you all rose to the challenge. The variety and quantity of goods donated by the congregation was incredible. A total of 218 boxes were packed for uplift, and as in previous years one of the Samaritan's Purse lorries came to the church for our boxes. You will see that again we were presented with a certificate in appreciation of the hard work and effort everyone put in to this appeal. Children and teachers alike would like to thank everyone who has made this possible over the past few years - it really is much appreciated by so many.

What can I say about the Christmas party? As usual everyone had a great time with games, food, singing and of course a visit from Santa!

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

Linda Dye



HouseGroup

The Housegroup which formerly met at David and Sandra Miller's house has recently restarted but is temporarily suspended to allow attendance at Lent bible studies.

It will restart on 26th April at 8.00 p.m. in 1 Lomond Drive (John and Fiona's).The group which is currently studying Genesis is made up of people who do not know a lot about the bible but wish to find out more. This position of shared relative ignorance ensures lively and entertaining discussion is the order of the day with no one person able to provide all the answers although we are always surprised how much we have learnt from the passage and each other.Each member of the group recognises that we are all Learners when it comes to the study of God's word.

If you would like to learn more about the bible in an informal setting please accept our invitation to join us at John and Fiona's or if you want more information speak to me or any member of the group. My phone number is 580 6460.

Other members of the group include Agnes Brown, Jim Mitchell, Moira McCartney, Neil McClune ,Sandra Miller and Elizabeth Mac Kenzie.They will be happy to give you their personal view of the group and an enthusiastic invitation to our next meeting.

David Miller

Womens Group

As I write this article, we are sitting in Irene Glover's kitchen making pancakes. The room is full of chatter; loads of conversations all going on at the same time and we are learning how to make proper pancakes on Pancake Tuesday. A bit of sabotage occurs as Karen Johnston tries to ruin a perfect pancake made by our very own Delia, Debbie Mitchell. Foul play Karen but a bit of a laugh nevertheless.

This is a typical event for the Womens Group. Since the last Steepletalk, we have had Christmas dinner specially prepared by Karen (glad it was not pancakes!), a demonstration of Feng-Shui, a video night and a talk from a representative from Rachel House, Kinross. This was a very moving and informative talk which has spurred us on to organise a Ceilidh to support their fundraising drive to build another hospice at Balloch – every little bit helps. 4 of our members provided lunch for their colleagues at work and raised £344 for Rachel House, which was wonderful.

Once again, we invite you to come and join us. The activities are very varied and the company is great! You do not have to feel pressured to come to every meeting - come along when you can. If you are interested, contact Susan Palmer on 571-6730 or Debbie Mitchell on 571-5536. If you feel like trying the pancakes, here is the recipe.

Ingredients

2 cups of SR Flour
½ cup caster sugar
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp cream of tartar
1 egg, beaten
1 oz melted butter
milk

Method

1. mix egg and add to a bowl and mix with the other ingredients
2. add milk until a smooth consistency is achieved; smooth but not too runny
3. add melted butter at the end
4. heat on a griddle pan or electric frying pan and turn over the pancakes when one side begins to produce bubbles
5. cook until golden brown on both sides. Very tasty when served hot.

ENJOY!

Nancy Darroch

Bourock Stravaigers

Since the beginning of the year we have had two Stravaigs, one to Rouken Glen and the other to Loch Lomond. On both occasions we had a good turn out of members and good walking weather.

It takes a lot to beat walking which is supposed to be the best exercise and when you walk in such beautiful places and enjoy such good fellowship it makes a very pleasant way to pass the afternoon. Why don't you come along and join us on our outings?

A note of the dates of our walks is posted at the kitchen door and details are also published in the intimations sheet before each outing. These give details of the area and the difficulty of the walk. If you don't have transport you should be able to get a lift from someone who will have a space in their car.

Parish Register

BAPTISMS

November 2003

Ellie McKenna 22 Waulkmill Avenue
Aaron McGonigle 59 Balgray Crescent

December 2003

Remy Dye 83 Clos Le Champs. Cissy, France
Kirsty Harvie 70 Lanfine Road, Paisley

February 2004

Emma Delaney 3 Balgray Crescent
Nathan Hayward The Clubhouse, Fereneze Golf Club
Aidan Junner 208 Gateside Road
Olivia Meiklejohn 27 Strathcarron Drive, Paisley
Thomas Craig 10 Brownside Crescent
Emma Craig 52 Gleniffer Drive
Jamie Hepburn 48 Aursbridge Crescent

FUNERALS

November 2003

Grant MacDonald 61 Arthurlie Street
William Brown 10 Bourock Square

December 2003

Robert Glen 15 Rufflees Avenue

February 2004

Beth Mansfield 10 Eildon Drive
Stuart Barr 41 Rufflees Avenue
Thomas Craig 10 Brownside Crescent
Ronald Ballantyne San Francisco
Janet Love 29 Lavern Crescent
Ann Mc Keachan Norwood House
Margaret Burns 18 Waulkmill Avenue

Have Lunch With God

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with sandwiches and a few cans of Cola and started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his Cola when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him a sandwich.

He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a Cola. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his Mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

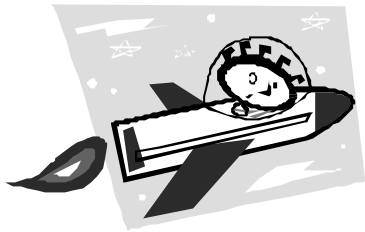
He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

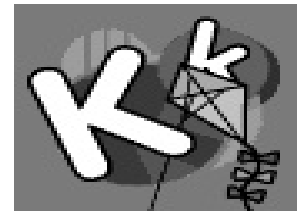
He replied, "I ate sandwiches in the park with God." Before his son could respond, he added, "You know, He's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

Have lunch with God!



Bourock Toddler Group



It is hard to believe that another year has passed and we are now well into 2004.

Since starting back after the festive break our numbers have risen to a staggering 30 to 35 children almost every week. I even had one mum and her son who come all the way from Clydebank as they have heard that the Group is great and so much better than any in her own area.

In November I organised a Sponsored Obstacle Course for the children in aid of Children in Need. There was about 15 children who took part and they had to climb through hoops, crawl through tunnels, slide down the slide and into a paddling pool with little balls in it and throw a ball into a bucket. Each child

went round the course at least 7 or 8 times, some even went round 10 times.

All the children received a Children in Need Lolly and a certificate. In total we raised a whopping £174.62. Good fun was had by everyone and I would like to thank all the people who helped me set up the course and who helped on the day.

Some new toys have been bought for the Group with some funds where were left over and because of rising numbers new cups have also been purchased.

We meet every Friday in the Upper Hall of the Church during term time between 1.15pm and 2.45pm and the Group is open to all children from birth to 5 years old. So why not drop in and have a tea or coffee and some chat and a laugh while the children play. All will be made most welcome.

Helen Grant

Having A Job With Job?

The Springhill House Group is involved with a study of the book of Job.

We're using an excellent study guide called Eye of the Storm. The book of Job deals with suffering - not so much about why bad things happen to good people, more about how we should react when they do. It's led to some lively discussion because we don't always share the same view. Nevertheless, it's a very friendly group, pleased to welcome new comers. It meets at 7.45 pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month in Springhill House, on the left at the top of Springhill Road. Transport can be arranged if required. Contact Glenda on 881 4269.

Does It Matter?

Do you honestly believe that prayer can make a difference? If so, is there something or someone for whom you'd appreciate prayer? At the 10 am Thursday services, there is now an opportunity for prayer requests. These are jotted down in a notebook prior to the start and included in the "prayers for others" during the service. The prayer pad is also accessible on Tuesday mornings, when the church is open between 10 and 12 for individual prayer and meditation.

Alternatively, if those days aren't suitable for you, you could give your written item for prayer to someone who does attend then and they could copy it

into the book. It is entitled Matters for Prayer because Prayer Matters. Do you agree?

Glenda
Meikle

ABC - Action Of Barrhead Churches

As you may know the ABC brings together the churches in Barrhead , Neilston and Uplawmoor. This includes the Church of Scotland, Methodist, Roman Catholic, United Reformed and Salvation Army churches. The group organise various ecumenical events throughout the year and I hope to give you a flavour of our past events in the last few months and those coming up in the near future.

The Christingle service was held in St John's and all who attended felt it was an excellent service.

The joint ABC Christmas Carol service was held in Bourock this year and was a great success. This was followed by a very noisy time of fellowship in the church hall over tea and baking. It was great to see a good turnout of all denominations. The retiral offering totalled £283. This was split between Christian Aid and Sciaf.

The World Aids day talk given by Father Stephen, was very interesting, unfortunately the number attending was very small. It was accepted that the ABC could improve the advertising of such events.

Similarly the planning for people to visit other member churches during the Week for Christian Unity had been left rather late. Hopefully this will be better organised next year with more advance warning.

Events coming up include the Lenten bible study groups. They will meet in URC from Monday 1st March and Bourock from Wednesday 3rd March for 5 weeks at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Last year's Walk of Witness through the town, on Good Friday was a great success and the ABC will be organising this again. Watch out for details!

On Good Friday evening, ABC will again be joining with St John's for the Stations of the Cross service. All who attended this service last year, found it a very moving experience.

Other events which are still in the planning/discussion stages include a day's outing to Lindisfarne – probably a Saturday in May , a Songs of Praise service during Gala Week , a cycle pilgrimage to the other churches within the ABC. It would be useful to know if people were interested in these events as it may sway our discussions at the next ABC meeting.

There are also places left for the visit to Iona at the end of June.

If you have any questions about these events or the ABC in general, please feel free to ask me.

Agnes Brown

3rd Barrhead Brownies

The new session has got off to a tentative start with a whole new curriculum for Brownies. We are in fact still struggling through the new material especially with a changed format but slowly we are getting there. Everything has changed, from the books, to the badges, to their challenges, to the ethos and the uniform has had another revamp too.

The girls have enjoyed a space themed night where they planned and made items such as a "space passport" and designed a uniform for space and a shuttle. This challenge culminated in a space party which the girls planned (with a little help from ourselves). The girls enjoyed "space invaders", "flying saucers", jelly and juice. The following week the girls were given quizzes and puzzles testing their knowledge on "space". I have to say that some Brownies knew more than some of the Guiders!!

We are now underway in badge work with girls working on badges such as collector, hostess, cook, friend to animals and book lover. We are in the midst of planning an activity night to celebrate Guiding and raise some money for the Guide Association, and we hope to have a sponsored event around Easter time. Brownies is for girls aged 7-10 years, and we always welcome new members.

Social Committee

The “new look” Social Committee has been formed from the merging of the former Social Steering and the Fund Raising Committees where both these Committees had different members but shared the same objective.

It is hoped that with the combined members, then “more hands make light work” principle we will see a more effective team working for the Church and Community.

The Committee under the Convenorship of Norma Duncan would like to express their gratitude and say a big “Thank You” to Jenny McLeod who has stepped down after many years of hard work as the former Convenor of the Social Steering Committee.

Of course, Jenny is not retiring but although taking a less active involvement in the organising of events, will be on hand with her experience and advice for the new Committee Members.

The new Committee Members are:

Convenor – Norma Duncan

Deputy Convenor – Lawrence Webb

Secretary – Sandy Darroch

Treasurer – Hazel McCarthy

Committee Members:

Jenny McLeod, Nancy Downie, Karen Johnstone, Marilyn Carse, Marilyn Honan, Andrew Ramsay, Matt Hepburn, Irene McClure and Frances Mitchell

Of course we can always do with more help, so why not join us for some fun, lots of laughter and fellowship while helping to raise funds to support your Church!

Speak to any of the Committee!!

Next Saturday – March 6th 2004, there is a Ceilidh in the Upper Hall from 7.00pm – 10.00pm.

Tickets are available from any of the Committee member.

Coming soon, a “Cabaret Night” in the Fereneze Golf Club - keep your eye on the Church Notice Boards for details.

Sandy Darroch

2nd Barrhead Brownies

The 2nd Brownie Pack are having a wonderful, eventful year so far. We started in September with a fun evening for our new Brownies. We have continued with games evenings, cooking evenings and more recently, some of our girls planned a Hostess Tea Party – tea and cakes, yum yum – it is a tough job!

On Monday 23rd Feb, our newest Brownies celebrated their Promise in front of their Mums and Dads. They were all very nervous but spoke beautifully and with great enthusiasm. Well done girls.

Brownies are great fun. We encourage the girls to try different activities and mix with other girls outwith their usual circle of friends, increasing their confidence. If you are a girl aged between 7 – 10 years, come along on Monday evenings from 18.30 – 20.00 hours and join us.

Susan Morrison

Brownie Guider

2nd Brownie Pack

3rd Barrhead Guide Company

On Monday, September 22, the Guides held their Monday meeting at Lapwing Lodge where they took part in outdoor games (treasure hunt), indoor games, barbecue and a campfire. A super night enjoyed by all.



Girlguiding UK

The Halloween Party, theme - witches and wizards. Everyone took part and the costumes were great. Plenty to eat and drink.

Remembrance Sunday Parade was well attended. The Coffee Morning was held on November 15 and was well supported. All Guides worked extremely hard and all their hard work paid off. Also, on November 15, Nicola Barton and Fiona Corrigan went to Guide Headquarters in Elmbank Street, Glasgow, to take part with other BP Guides on the final part of the BP Challenge (this was an overnight stay). The girls were put into patrols and given a question/answer sheet. They had to answer as many questions as possible and collect as many items relating to the sheet. They both passed with flying colours and were presented at the AGM in Mearns Parish Church on Thursday, November 20 with their BP Certificate. Everyone was so pleased for them as they had worked so hard.

The Guides entertained the residents at the Sheltered Housing Complex in Main Street with songs and Christmas carols on December 1 and on Saturday, December 6 we attended the matinee of Pinocchio in the church hall. The Christmas Ceilidh on December 8 was enjoyed by all and this was a good end to the session.

The proposed visit to the Police Stables in January was cancelled two days before the event. This was a disappointment to all the Guides.

At the youth service on February 1, Nicola Barton and Fiona Corrigan were presented with their BP Badge. A buffet supper and presentation cake had been arranged for the following night to allow all the Guides and their parents to be present and to celebrate with Nicola and Fiona. The Torchlight Trail was cancelled at the last minute due to flooding and dangerous terrain. The Patrols chose different countries - China, America, India, Italy, for their Thinking Day tables on February 23. Memorabilia, food etc from the various tables was prepared and then eaten!! Good night!! The Guiders prepared a Pancake Table with maple syrup as Shrove Tuesday was the following day. Must have this more often!!

Finally, the bulbs are all coming up on the grass at Lochlibo Road/Levernside Avenue (next to Dalmeny Hotel), that were planted by the Guides for Make A Difference Day (October 25, 2003). Should be a nice display.

Used Ink Cartridges are still collected by the Guides for Guide Dogs for the Blind, Please leave any used cartridges at the church/hall doors, Thank you.

Also, used postage stamps (with at least one inch border) are collected for Ardgowan Hospice in Greenock. Thank you to all who collect and leave these stamps for uplift at the church/hall doors. We really appreciate all the donations.

Barbara (3rd Company Guider)

Guides

Being a guide in the 2nd Barrhead Company

Before we go to Guides on a Monday night, we all check our G-file's in case we need to bring anything to Guides that night.

When we arrive, we chat and catch up with our friends including those in the 3rd Barrhead Company – we share the hall with them until 8pm until the Brownies are finished. Jennifer calls us all into our patrols. A Guider comes over, ticks off our name on the register and gathers our collection. We stay with the 3rd company in the upper hall until 8pm and then the Companies take turns each week to go downstairs to the lower hall.

Our patrol boxes are kept in the cellar and we go to collect them. This can be quite scary and we often make up creepy stories when we are there. Our patrol boxes contain everything we will need for the night e.g. stationary, first aid kit and sewing kit.

We then do our “Go for it challenge” or badge work. Over the weeks, this has included :-

- Make, eat and have quizzes about chocolate (sheer bliss)
- Thinking of the environment and peace over the world
- We held a show for parents
- healthy eating challenge
- finding out facts via quizzes on water
- we plan and have parties (they are great fun)
- arts and crafts.

The best part is next; tuck shop! Every second week we have a tuck shop. It contains sweets, fizzy juice, crisps and cakes, delicious!!!!

We then play some games such as ladders, cat and mouse, dodge ball and man in the moon. We sing our guide song called Taps, say goodnight to everyone and then go home after a great night at Guides. Please join us if you feel like it.

By Rebecca Trail and Rachel Darroch



A Discussion About God At The Barber's Shop

A man went into a barbershop to have his hair and his beard cut as he always did. He began to have a good conversation with the barber who attended him.

The two men talked about so many things and various subjects. Suddenly, they touched on the subject of God. The barber said, "Look man, I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, it's so easy, you just have to go out in the street to realise that God does not exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? I can't think of a loving God who permits all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment but he didn't respond because he did not want to start an argument. The barber finished his job, and the customer left the shop.

Just after he left the barbershop, the customer saw a man in the street with long hair and a long beard. The man's hair was very long, and it had obviously been a long time since this man had had his haircut, as he looked dirty and unkempt.

The customer quickly entered the barbershop again and said to the barber, "You know what? Barbers don't exist!"

"How can you say they don't exist?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here and I am a barber, why I just worked on you."

"No" exclaimed the customer. "Barbers don't exist because if they did there would be no people with long hair and beards like that man outside."

"Ah, barbers do exist, what happens is that people do not come to me." Said the barber.

"Exactly!" Affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God does exist too. It is just that people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there is so much pain and suffering in the world."

The Craft Club

The members of the Craft Club would like to thank everyone who helped to make their Christmas events so successful. The money raised between the Craft Sale and other sales over the Christmas period amounted to just over £1300. The members of the club worked hard to make the goods which went on sale but we are very grateful for the support which we have been shown throughout the year.

We continue to meet on Monday afternoons from 2pm-4pm in the Lower Hall and we would be delighted to welcome any new members. Although we work hard we always have time for a wee bit of a blether and of course we couldn't function properly without a cup of tea. If you would like to join us just come along and find out what a friendly group we are for yourself.

As usual we are on the lookout for new ideas so if you happen to see anything on your travels which you think we would be able to try, please bring it back for us.

An Appeal For Songbirds

It is that time again in the year.

Just when you start to be aware of the ever increasing songs of the birds as Spring unfolds, and the first burst of the bulbs appear in the garden, you start to think of the longed for summer days ahead and the warm sun. Pleasant dreams of days to come!

Then the cold realisation that this is a plea for more of those other singers we see all year.

Yes its time to appeal again for anyone who can spare the time and has the inclination to come and join the Choir.

If you think you could come and suffer us, then we will be delighted to have you join us any time. You will be made most welcome.

Gordon

President to the Choir, Don of my Mob and a spent warbler!

Bourock Youth Choir

The Bourock Youth Choir will have been running 3 years in September. We now have 13 members in the choir and enjoy rehearsals on a Sunday evening between 7.30pm and 8.30pm.

On reading this we will just have had a Spring Concert, celebrating our time together so far, and how the choir has developed. Our repertoire at the concert included "Lord You Have My Heart", "The Lord's my Shepherd" and "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" and ranged to songs like "California Dreamin'" and "Top Of The World".

The choir is singing very well together and they are very enthusiastic about learning new songs both the selection I suggest and a selection of very modern hymns and popular songs.

We had a very busy time over Christmas with a performance at the senior citizens evening and then on the run up to Christmas. We performed at the Guild Christmas party, where they premiered our first mini musical, which went down very well, called, "Do You Believe In Father Christmas?".

Since starting the new session we have also had a pizza and video night which is always a highlight of the session, and even a Christmas party this year, where there was a huge amount of hilarity and required many black bags when they had left.

Our Christmas songs this year included old favourites such as "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and "In The Bleak Mid Winter" including a violin soloist. We also had the opportunity to perform a special composition of "Starry Night" which was arranged for us by Alison Brown. Regular singing in the church and at such events encourage the choir and build their confidence.

Our abilities and repertoire are currently growing and on reading this we will be getting our Easter songs ready and starting a new selection of music. The youth choir is made up of anyone in primary 5 and upwards and we welcome any new members.

Lorna Simpson





Summer Club News



Bourock's own Summer Club was launched nationally by Scripture Union in early January and early indications show that it is selling well. There have been a few clubs run already and many are planning to use this material over the Easter period.

Thanks go to all those who came to the Launch event in Glasgow, and those who were so central to ensuring this program worked!

As this is the year of the Xpedition, there are a number of exciting volunteering opportunities ahead.

The Church of Scotland, in partnership with Scripture Union Scotland, are running the first National Children's event in the SECC on Sunday 23rd May 2004. This event will look very much like our Holiday Club in Bourrock!

All members of the Holiday Club team are asked to consider joining the volunteer team for the afternoon to ensure this day goes with a bang!

A sign up sheet is on the Holiday Club noticeboard or you can pass your name to Doug by e-mailing doug.swanney@parished.org.uk

This event will not be possible without the skills and talents of the team here and so I really hope people feel motivated to give up some of your valuable time!

A training night for this event is scheduled for Monday 19th April, venue to be confirmed.

Our own Summer Club is planned, as usual, for Monday 28th June to Friday 2nd July.

Based on last year, and the fact that we have already done Xpedition Force, we have not held training meetings this year for the event. But time is creeping up on us!

Lists will be going up shortly for all those who are willing to lead and participate in the Summer Club in any way.

Last year we found ourselves shorter of volunteers than we would have liked for this extremely important mission work. This year we hope to recruit new members to our team and so would ask that you give consideration to volunteering.

We will be holding one planning meeting during May, and another on Sunday 27th June 2004.

Please think about getting involved in what is always a week of great fellowship, fun and mission.

Colouring Competition

A big thank you to all who entered our Christmas Colouring competition. The number of entries meant that we had to split into two age categories. The lucky winners were:-

Under 9's	Sarah Allan
9 - 12	Karen Palmer

Christian Aid

The Erskine Bridge Cross Sponsored Walk takes place on Saturday 24th April 2004 (only eight weeks away) for projects in Afghanistan. Sponsor Forms will be available shortly. Last year, just over £27,000 was raised which helped a rural development programme in Mali, central Africa.

There will also be a sponsored Cumbrae Challenge on Saturday 19th June – walk, run, cycle, skate (to name a few options) round the Isle of Cumbrae or part of the way - run by Christian Aid. This is open to all and our own Stravaigers are looking into the possibility of taking part in this challenge and will probably be looking for sponsorship. More details on this to follow.

Marjory Brown.

Drivers Licence

A young boy had just gotten his driver's permit and inquired of his father, an evangelist, if they could discuss his use of the car.

His father took him into his study and said to the boy, "I'll make a deal with you, son. You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, get your hair cut and we'll talk about the car."

Well, the boy thought about that for a moment, and decided that he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks, the boy came back and again asked his father about using the car. Again, they went to the study, where his father said,

"Son, I've been real proud of you. You've brought your grades up, and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, and participating a lot more in the Bible study class on Sunday morning. But, I'm real disappointed, since you haven't gotten your hair cut."

The young man paused a moment, and then said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Sampson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair and there's even a strong argument that Jesus had long hair."

His father replied, "You're right, son. Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"

A Word Of Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who prayed, thought, telephoned, visited or sent flowers during my recent illness.

I really did feel the power of your prayers and know my recovery was aided by those prayers.

I am feeling much better now and slowly getting back to my usual self.

Thanks again.

Norma

God Bless

Going To Church

It's not a chore to go to Church
It really should be fun
Not just for kids but adults too
Yes, good for everyone

To go there on a Sunday
To worship and to pray
To practise what we all should do
Each and every day

A gathering of family
Like Granny's Sunday lunch
Young and old and in between
All gathered in a bunch

But things aren't always easy
Things in life get rough
Things that once seemed easy
Can then get rather tough

It's easy to stroll on out to Church
When all is good with life
But it takes a lot of strength of will
When all you have is strife

So when you're sitting in your seat
Health, wealth and happiness too
Don't take it all for granted
That all are fortunate – like you

Someone very close at hand
Could be feeling very low
Just take the time to chat to them
And their happiness may grow

No matter what you think they've done
Don't judge or criticise
As Christians that is not our job
We're ALL EQUAL – in Gods' eyes.

Heather Boklach

World Of Mystery

Walk with me my Lord through this inner self
This secret entity that is my soul
Yet remains so poorly known to heart or mind.

This world of darkness that only you can fathom
Through which I stagger into shadows
Which fill my mind and spirit with a suspect vision.

Let me glimpse reality at the corner of my sight
Help me spot an outline of your truth
Even my frail humanity cannot then suspect.

One tiny spark of glory within my tunnel vision
A speck of your most perfect love
That takes me out of time into sweet eternity.

How well do we really know ourselves? - How often do we catch ourselves thinking thoughts we dare not mention?

When we pray for a forgiveness of our failures and our indiscretions, do we remember how long the list really is?

I don't know about you but my fist seems to grow by the minute.

That's why I keep asking God for a lot of help in understanding myself - so that I have a clearer vision of His perfect love - and an honest awareness of my inclination towards self-love.

J.B.A.

The Guild

Looking back on this session, we have had a wide variety of speakers and entertainment, from Hugh Nisbet speaking on Barrhead as he remembered it, to a night with the Compass Band. We learned more about the Sunflower Garden Project when Maggie Chalmers gave us a detailed insight into the work of helping children and babies, of all ages, affected by drug abuse in their families. She also brought with her, the cute Sunflower Bear which is being sold in aid of the projecL.

Rev. Ian Alexander spoke to us about the Board of World Mission – Walking with the displaced. This project works with refugees in Egypt.

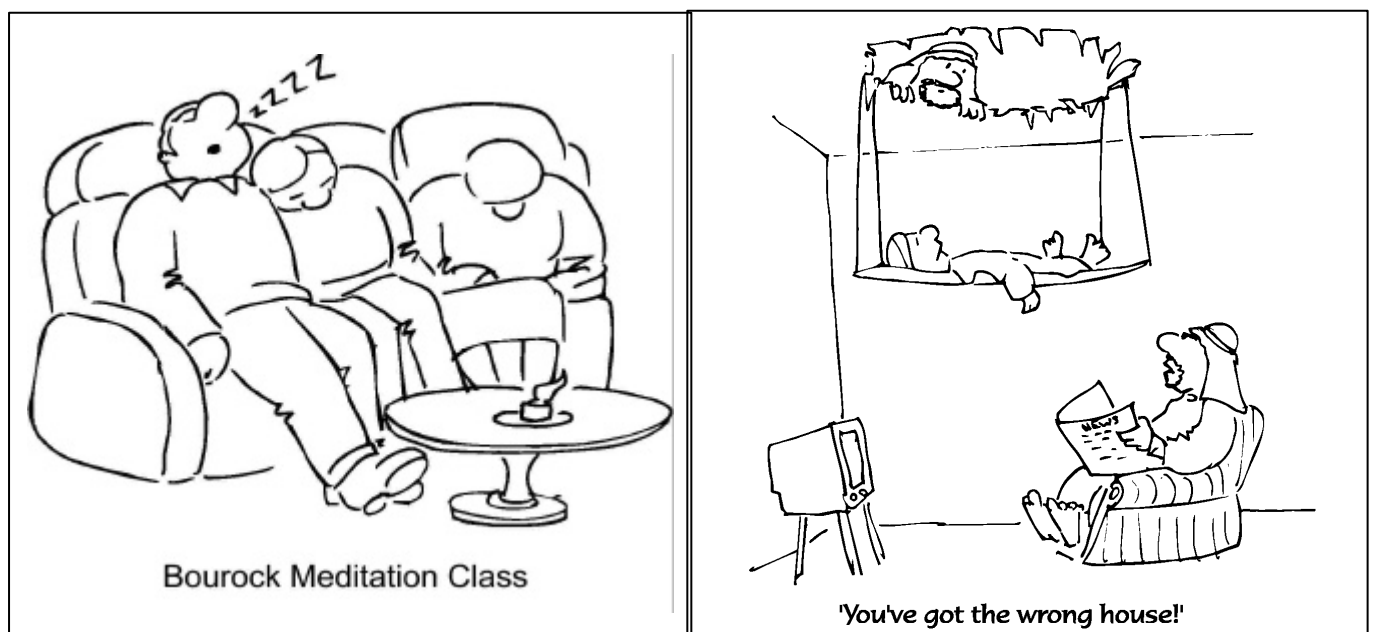
In spite of the current peace talks in Kenya, asylum seekers continue to seek refuge in Egypt at a rate of 556 individuals per month. Even if the peace talks prove successful, it would take several years before significant numbers of refugees would be willing to go back to their homes. 20 years of war has demolished the infrastructure of their county.

There are also many Sudanese people fleeing to Cairo to escape victimisation and torture.

The Joint Relief Ministry continues to be major health care provider in Egypt and are accepting referrals of refugees who are pregnant, tuberculosis patients or are victims of torture. The domestic training course and employment programme is being expanded and currently the possibility of working in partnership with an organisation which runs a number of vocational training courses we would give more refugees training opportunities. The children's education classes have also been expanded to include separate teen classes. Lunch is provided and while not the sole purpose of the day, these meals are often the only food the children can count on in a day.

Our Fundraising Concert, this year, takes place on Tuesday 30th March when the Paisley Operatic & Musical Society will be entertaining us. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

Marjory Brown



Property Report For 2003

It is some time since I last burdened you with the details of what has been happening to our Sanctuary and halls but I am sure that you will want to know just exactly what the Property Committee have been doing on your behalf to maintain this beautiful old building, for that is what it is. It often surprises me that I, and I'm sure others too, don't regard it in this way, and it is only when visitors remark with envy on its charm, warmth and friendliness that we realise what we have. It is truly one of the few remaining Old Barrhead pieces of architecture which we are duty bound to maintain and preserve and yet it must also be functional and serve both us and most importantly the Community. I am quite certain that we are doing just that and reaching more and more people as we develop its uses to their full potential. And yet we must do more.

With this in mind we have carried out the usual annual extensive round of maintenance in the Church, in the Halls and at the Manse. There is always a seemingly endless list of pointing of walls, re-plastering holes, fixing handrails etc. Fixing locks on doors, unblocking sinks, replacing floodlights in the Car Park, changing light bulbs, washing fittings, screwing cabinets to walls to avoid someone getting injured, and so the list goes on and on and on...! All this is done just to keep the place up to scratch and make it pleasant for us all to use and enjoy.

In trying to ever increase our facilities and out-reach to others, we have over the last year embarked on several major projects.

Firstly it was decided to re-model the Sanctuary so that the lower area was made much more inclusive for worship by extending and re-shaping the Chancel while at the same time, individual seats were added, to create great flexibility in the way that the space could be used.

Secondly we had to address the problems that we had with accessibility to the various levels of buildings within the grounds, for those who may be disabled in whatever way. This had to be planned, together with the provision of as many aids as practically possible, as laid down in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Yes unfortunately we cannot avoid the law, but I am happy to say that we had already made a good start by providing an amplification system for those with hearing difficulties, a loop system for those who with hearing aids, large print hymn books etc recorded services and more informative Orders of Service etc., together with many other smaller resources. However due to the inflexibility of the design of the buildings, we cannot interconnect all the levels for access to toilet facilities for example for wheelchair users. The only way round this is to provide access to these facilities at each level, where reasonably practical, and with this in mind we have drawn up plans and had building approval to carry out these proposals.

Now I am sure that you will agree that this was a tall order to achieve, coming so soon after the extensive structural repairs carried out to the roof and sanctuary ceiling in 2001/02. That repair was completed well below budget thanks to your generosity in funding the work and with the surplus we were able to commence the re-modelling of the sanctuary. After some considerable planning a programme of work was drawn up to complete the job within 6 weeks, that being the only window of time available between Weddings and holidays etc. I am delighted to say that we not only made the dates but also were finished early! This was due entirely to the quite staggering efforts of all those who gave of their time and effort, (blood, sweat and tears too). You have never seen such grafting at work and it was fortunate that we were not paying them! Incidentally, by using our own effort we saved almost £18,000 of labour costs. To all who contributed in any way at all, I extend my grateful thanks. I hope that you are delighted with the finished result and if not sure then I hope it will grow on you in time. Many visitors have remarked on how pleasing they found it, but them its not only about buildings but more about people.

We are busy planning the next phase of the alterations and I will come back with more details in a next issue. Basically, we are going to:-

1. Create a new Upper Kitchen,
2. Turn the old Upper kitchen into a new gents toilet.
3. Turn the old Gents toilet into a unisex Disabled Access toilet.
4. Partition and re-model the Ladies toilet.
5. Create a new unisex Disabled Access toilet with part of the Ladies toilet
6. Create a new Lower Hall kitchen at rear of Lower Hall
7. Turn existing Lower Kitchen into a Chair Store.

You can see that this is a big job that needs to be done in sequence and with as little disruption as possible. We must do this work to comply with the regulations and make the building as people friendly as possible but we will only start when we know the cost, can identify the funding and get commitment to assist in carrying it out.

I hope that this brings you up to date with what is happening in your Church. May the Committee and I thank you for your continued support and if you wish to help in some way please contact me.

Gordon W Simpson

Property Convener

From The Pages Of SteepleTalk

March 1974

Hugh Nisbet who nursed this production through its early years has now handed over the lusty infant to the expert care of Margaret Ferguson, who also now falls heir to the mantle of editorial worries which Hugh has borne so manfully for the past 4½ years.

April 1979

During the recent “lock out” at Cross Arthurlie School, “Bourock School” opened up once more: a very mixed blessing!

The week we spent at Bourock Church
 Was actually fun.
 At least we had some schooling
 When the Primary ones had none.

Half past ten was interval
 And we went out to play.
 At twelve o'clock we set off home
 The end of another school day.

And now we're back at our own school
 And happy once again.
 If I'm alone in enjoying that week
 Everyone else is insane. (Sarah)

Finance Report

The following is a report on the Church's Accounts presented at the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 14th March 2004 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 2003 started off having incurred a fairly large deficit of £ 3,602 in 2002 and whilst the budgeted expenditure, for 2003, was fairly accurate our budgeted weekly income figure of £ 1,292 was not attained; subsequently we ended the year with another similar deficit, namely £ 3,458. This however, has been offset by a transfer of £1,598 from the Ferguson Bequest meaning at the year end the General Fund stood at £10,827. Consequently, the General Fund has fallen by virtually one third in the previous 2 years.

Looking at the summary of the accounts, total offerings increased by £3,086 which is positive news. Income from other sources, which is derived mainly from weddings, hall rents and contributions from congregational organizations, showed a rise of £2,477. Whilst this is welcome it must be remembered that this income is not guaranteed and should it reduce in the future, the probability is that, we may eat further into our reserves.

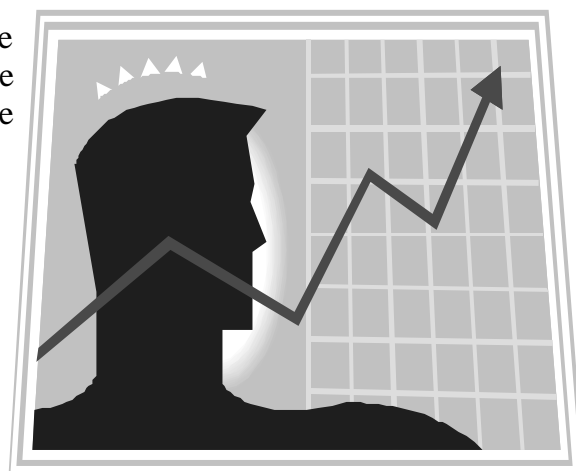
Offerings received through WFO and by Standing Order combined last year totalled £50,097, up from £49,283 the previous year. Last year 189 members donated using envelopes, fewer than in 2002, as more members moved to standing order – the likelihood is that these numbers will fall even further next year, as there has been a further uptake of standing orders in recent months. By the end of 2003 there were 78 separate standing orders in place, which is extremely positive news. This figure has increased further since the year end and again should anyone else wish to take up this option please contact either myself or any member of the Finance Committee

As can be seen from the accounts we recovered £10,386 in tax last year, through the Gift Aid scheme, from the Inland Revenue. This shows the value of the scheme and again if you are a taxpayer and have not yet completed a Gift Aid Declaration, please contact either myself or any member of the Finance Committee.

Included in this years accounts is the cost of purchasing a Risograph – we previously had most of our high volume printing done externally. The Communications committee, of the Kirk Session, prepared a business case for a Risograph and after considering it the Finance Committee recommended to the board that one be purchased outright – this being the preferred option. This was done with the proviso that donations will be requested from the congregation and organisations to offset the costs.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Finance Committee for their work over the last year and also to the previous convenor Robert McKenzie for his assistance since I took over as Finance Convenor.

Derek Palmer
Finance Convenor



BOUROCK PARISH CHURCH
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2003

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
	(£)	(£)
Offerings	70,273	67,187
Other General Income	6,330	3,853
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	76,603	71,040
	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE		
Local Ministry	38,405	34,896
Mission and Wider Work	16,319	15,068
Local Congregational Purposes	25,337	24,678
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	80,061	74,642
	<hr/>	<hr/>
(Deficit)/Surplus	(3,458)	(3,602)

FUNDS AS AT 31 DECEMBER:

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
	(£)	(£)
Fabric Fund	1,936	891
Roof Fund	0	2,660
Flower Fund	352	352
Reserve Fund	55,986	58,986
Kitchen Refurbishment Fund	1,000	1,000
Youth Fund	554	350
Building Fund	1,276	19,000

BUDGET FOR 2004:

EXPENDITURE	£
Local Ministry	37,007
Mission and Wider Work	14,678
Local Congregational Purposes	28,336
	<hr/>
Total	80,021

INCOME

Donations/Tax recovery	18,450
	<hr/>
<u>NET EXPENDITURE</u>	61,571

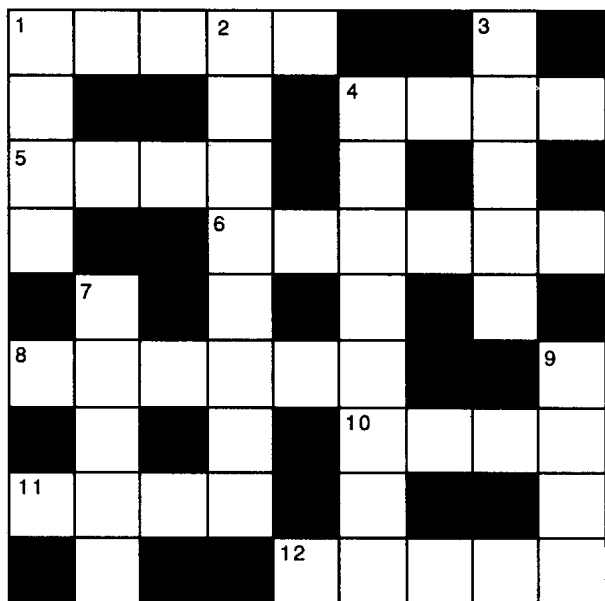
REQUIRED FROM OFFERINGS £1,184 per week

These accounts are a summary of the full Congregational Accounts which have received an unqualified audit report.

Children's Crossword

Read this story in Kings Chapter 17. Then try to find the missing words and put them in the right squares in the puzzle.

Their position is given by the reference number in brackets. All words used are in the list below.



- AFAR BIRDS ELIJAH DERELICT
- BAAL BREAD KERITH FRIGHTEN
- FIRE UNTIL
- FRET YEARS
- TELL
- TIME

One day, Gold told Elijah the prophet that no rain would fall on the land in the next few (7D). It meant that without rain nothing would grow, the land would become almost (2D) and people would have no food.

The prophet went first to (9D) King Ahab the news and to warn him of the coming drought. And as he returned home God spoke to him a second (10A).

God did not want to (4D) Elijah, so he told him to leave this place and go east (12A) he came to the brook (8A). He was to stay and drink from the brook. And

each morning and evening the ravens would feed him. It may have surprised (6A) to be told that (1A) would bring him food every day. But he knew not to (11A) over such things, once God had said they would take place.

Elijah stayed by the brook Kerith and ravens brought him (3D) and meat each day. And when next he visited Ahab, he saw God destroy by (4A) the altar of the false God (1D), and (5A) off a small cloud grow and bring rain once again, which made the people happy.