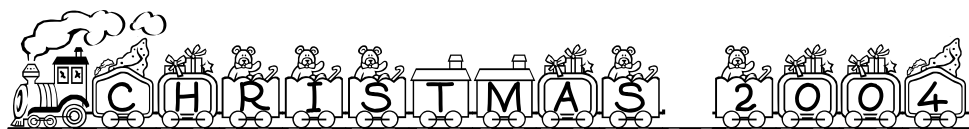


SteepleTalk



THE MAGAZINE
OF
BOUROCK PARISH
CHURCH



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	Ann Craig	
Treasurer	Ross Mitchell	881 4688
Roll Keeper	John Whyte	
Halls Convener	Hazel McCarthy	880 7607
WFO Envelopes	Robert McKenzie	880 5077
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	Willie Robertson
Mission	David Miller
Children & Youth	Susan Palmer
Congregational Support	Debbie Mitchell
Stewardship	Angus Leitch

Internet Addresses

Web Site	www.bourock.co.uk
Minister	minister@bourock.co.uk
Session Clerk	elizabeth@bourock.co.uk
SteepleTalk	editor@bourock.co.uk

14 Maxton Avenue
November 2004

Dear Friends,

I have only been back from my 'summer holidays' for a few weeks now and already I am writing for the Christmas edition of SteepleTalk! Life just seems to pass by quicker and quicker!

Perhaps that is one very important reason to take the period of Advent seriously. The four weeks leading up to Christmas are celebrated in the church as a time of waiting - a time of expectation. With the whole world seeming to go crazy at this time of year, we have the perfect antidote! I commend this time to you as a period of reflection - take time away from the busy-ness to consider why Christmas is special. At the heart of this season is the wonder of our God becoming one of us - born in a stable in Bethlehem.

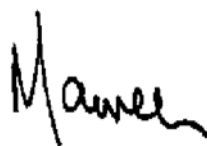
This birth is a sign of hope. We really need hope in our world today. Hope that the fighting in Iraq, Israel/Palestine, and many other places will cease and peace will break out. Hope that the strong countries might be more prepared to help the weak. So many situations in the world that need hope.

In our town we need hope. Too many seem to be in despair, with no real hope for the future. We, the people of hope, need to be more prepared to share our message of Good News with others. We need to take the initiative and remind people that "there is hope". Christmas is the ideal time to do this - for talking about a tiny baby is not difficult. Just tell people about the message of love, peace and hope that this child brings.

Perhaps, we, in Bourock, need hope too. Sadly, this year, we have suffered quite a number of bereavements and our fellowship is the poorer because of them. Naturally, we are sad because of our loss but we are not bereft. We know that we honour these people by continuing the work in which they were involved. We need the commitment of everyone in our congregation to make our church strong and prepared to be missionaries of Jesus Christ in our town.

I really do hope that you take time this Advent season to reflect upon the real heart of Christmas - God in the form of a baby, bringing love, peace and hope to a world which so badly needed these gifts. It still does!

I wish you all the joy that this season can bring.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mance". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Parish Register

BAPTISMS

April 2004

Johnathan Roland Joseph Heron 16 Tinto Drive

May 2004

Callum Gray 183 Waulkmill Avenue
Caitlin Gray 183 Waulkmill Avenue

August 2004

Ethan Sandy McCulloch 17 Broomlands Street

Sept 2004

Andrew Blair Keenan 130 Whiteford Road, Glasgow

MARRIAGES

May 2004

Andrew Dempster and Leighanne Blair
John Gray and Angela Proudfoot

July 2004

Campbell Morrison and Georgina McGonigle
Shaun Lambert and Catherine Boyle
Gregor Condy and Susan Leitch

August 2004

Raymond Dolan and Claire Drysdale

October 2004

Alexander Petrie and Margaret Taylor
David Blane and Lee Gilmour



THANKS GIVING

By Glenda Meikle

With watch on the hour
I run through the gate
There's no one about
I'm early, not late

My watch must be fast
I sit all alone
No organ is heard
And no mobile phone!

I study the walls
Read every plaque
Right down at the floor
I notice a crack

Then out of the crack
Appears a wee nose -
A little grey mouse
I watch where it goes

More people arrive
As each takes a seat
I smile, when I think
Of what's by their feet

Those ladies in front
If they only knew
Would they still sit there?
I don't think so, do you?

The service begins
The prayers are said
With singing of hymns
And liturgy read

At the Lord's table
Bread has been broken
Listening, we hear
Jesus' words spoken

Some crumbs have fallen
They land on the floor
The mouse has seen them
But now there's one more

The minister says
"Eat ye all of it"
So up go the mice
For their little bit

We all join in praise
Of Christ's sacrifice
And offer our thanks
Both humans and mice

PS This didn't happen in Bourrock.

Care And Concern

The Care And Concern committee is looking for anyone who may be willing to visit an elderly or housebound person on a regular basis, or to transport one or two people to church services.

Do you know of anyone in our congregation who may need help?

If you can help in any way, please contact any member of the Care And Concern committee. We will be very happy to hear from you.

Members are:-

Moira McCartney (Convener) 580 0883
Mary Buchanan (Vice Convener) 881 7863
Marjory Brown
Nancy Downie
Jenny McLeod
May Cumming
Anne McCulloch
Andrew Ramsey
Tom Carse



JUNIOR CHURCH



Christmas is traditionally a time for giving and Junior Church, with the help of the congregation, has been able to give most generously this advent season. By the time you are reading this, all our shoe boxes will be packed and sent off to eastern Europe. Because of your generosity and the gift of the Harvest offering, we are hoping to have more than 200 boxes for uplift. This is a tremendous achievement and it is wonderful to think that we in Bourock will have brightened an otherwise bleak Christmas for so many children. Thank you so much for supporting the children in this venture.



Our other act of giving is a very special gift for the church which the children presented to the church on the first Sunday in Advent. I hope that by now you will have seen the beautiful nativity scene which is set out on the communion table. The children and young people were delighted to present this to the church and look forward to seeing it used, perhaps in different areas of the church each Christmas.

This is a very busy time in Junior Church - our party is on Saturday 18th December and our nativity service on Christmas eve at 7:00pm. We hope that you will join us for this short service which helps us focus on the real gift of Christmas - Jesus the saviour of the world.

Christmas blessings from Junior Church.

Linda Dye





Bourock Junior Church

S1- S5

The older children in Junior Church are supporting the charity 'Vision Africa – give a child a future'. The charity has set up a project called 'Seed of Hope'. This is a residential home and training centre for destitute and orphaned teenage girls.

Our group are sponsoring a girl called Sarafina Sironka and together with the Bourock Friends Group, we are writing to another two girls, called Maryann and Fidelis.

Our involvement in the project consists of the group bringing 50p of their pocket money every Sunday that they attend Church. In addition to this, we write to the girls twice a year, send them a birthday card and a Christmas card. The girls rely on our contributions to survive and to give them an education that they can take with them for the rest of their lives.

They are very strong in their religious beliefs. To quote from one of Sarafina's letters, "... thank God through prayer that he has sent you to help us".

We have information about the girls and the Seed of Hope project on the wall of the upper annexe. Please take time to read their letters, they are an inspiration. If you feel you would like to support Sarafina, Maryann and Fidelis, you can give a donation or match the 50p the children give each week. If you are not able to do this, you can help the girls by keeping them in your prayers this Christmas and throughout 2005.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year from everyone in the S1 – S5 Junior Church.



This is the residential and training centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

Parish Register

FUNERALS

March 2004

Mary Somerville 113 Main Street , Neilston
*Jacqueline Patterson 16 Lyoncross Avenue
John Pattison 47 Glasgow Road

April 2004

Charlotte Spiers 8 Levenside Avenue
Thomas Barrowman 43 Braeside Crescent
*Betty Mclauchlan 24 Levern Gardens

May 2004

Chrissie Ingram Nightingale Home, Paisley
Daniel Laird Paisley

June 2004

Irene McGhee Crookston
*Mary Hunter 109 Main street
*Margaret Manson 25 Arthurlie Street
Alan Packer Barrhead

July 2004

Louise McKie Eastpark Home
Jim Ramage 22 Cuillin way
Isabella Wilson 3 Foxbar Road, Paisley
Ian McDonald 5 Oliphant Crescent, Paisley
John Ballingall 1 Bemersyde Road, Paisley
*Bessie Limpetlaw Millview

August 2004

Irene Yardley 42D Aurs Crescent
*Ian Mc Kay 66 Aurs Road
Darren John Hill Neilston
Elizabeth Steel 16 Kingston Road, Neilston

September 2004

*Cathy McIntyre 3 Manse Court
Jean Lannigan Dykebar Hospital

October 2004

*John Barbour 104 Paisley Road
Dugald McCall Paisley
*Stevenson Boyd 43 Lyoncross Avenue
*Isabel Reay 38 Fereneze Grove
Margaret Heaney Norwood
Irene Oliver Levern Crescent

November 2004

*Jack Watson 75 Maxton Grove

*denotes a member

John Barbour

(1929 - 2004)

We were all shocked and saddened almost two weeks ago to hear of John Barbour's sudden death. The fact that he had attended church the previous Sunday made it all the more difficult for people to accept the news.

At his funeral all who spoke of John recognised the fact that he was very much a gentleman and a gentle man. Indeed I know that many in Bourock have been recipients of his kindness and gentleness.

Jim Wardrop, deputy lord lieutenant of the county of Renfrewshire reminded us all of John's many attainments; in his professional life as a lawyer and honorary sheriff; in his wider roles as supporter and then chairman of accord hospice; his commitment to the Boys' Brigade; and in his younger days, as an athlete. Rev. Alistair Morrison told of us of John's commitment to the rotary and all the work they undertake. He was indeed a man who used his talents for the good of others.

We, in Bourock, will always be thankful that John shared in our fellowship. his presence among us was appreciated by all ages - as were his "Werther's Originals"! He was ordained into the eldership on the 20th April 1962 and gave unstinting service. I know that the church benefitted greatly from his legal expertise. However, we gained more than that from his presence as he was a wise and gentle counsellor.

John was chairman of the committee which was charged with the responsibility of installing a new organ in the church. This instrument will be a continuing memorial to him, and i am sure we will remember john fondly, especially when "Ellan Vannin" is played.

We will miss John greatly. We will miss his presence among us, we will miss his humour, we will miss his twinkling eyes and we will miss his gentle counsel.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with Martha and Joyce at this time.

Stevenson Boyd

(1941 - 2004)

It was with a sense of shock that we heard of Steve Boyd's death. Although we knew that he was ill we had not anticipated that his death would come so soon.

Steve was a constant and active member of our fellowship. He played his part in different aspects of church life. Steve was reliable and loyal.

Steve worked for James Scott as an electrical estimator and gave loyal service for 30 years with a years break, before being made redundant in 1999.

Steve came to Bourock from Levern and Nitshill Church. There he had served as a youth fellowship leader, on the board and had been ordained as an elder. On joining Bourock he was admitted to the session here on the 18th January 1987. Steve served the board and session of Bourock well.

Steve also had a long association with the B.B. and in Bourock he served in the Junior Section and will be remembered by many young men today as the person who faithfully took the Saturday morning football.

The past five years or so have been difficult ones for Steve. He took ill abroad and was brought home to intensive care. Just a few months later his wife, Mary, was also in intensive care. Then he was made redundant and he nursed Mary through her illness up until her death. Something went from his life at that point but Steve continued with hope in his heart.

Unfortunately, he too was to succumb to cancer and now he is reunited with Mary in God's glorious love. We will miss him but we will serve him best by carrying on God's work here in our community.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ann and Steven at this time and we offer them our support.

Cleaning

How did everything get so dirty so fast?" I grumbled as I dusted the glass tabletop. "I had the whole house clean a month ago."

"Cleaning is a way of life, not an event," my husband responded.

I know he's right, but I hate to admit it. I want to clean the house once and have it stay that way. But dirt doesn't surrender that easily. Speck by speck, the dust returns. Piece by piece, the clutter piles up.

Sin is like the dust and clutter in my house. I want to eliminate all of it with one prayer of confession and repentance. But sin doesn't surrender that easily. Thought by thought, bad attitudes return. Choice by choice, unpleasant consequences pile up.

The apostle Paul told the believers in Colosse to get rid of "anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language" (Colossians 3:8). And he told the church at Ephesus, "Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath" (Ephesians 4:26).

Christ's death and resurrection eliminated the need for daily sacrifice. But confession and repentance are still essential to the Christian's daily life. Getting rid of such things as anger, rage, and malice is a way of life, not a one-time event.

Julie Ackerman Link, Our Daily Bread.

Book Review

Kirk Lore by Andrew Herron

Ever wondered why there are three churches in Barrhead within a few hundred yards of each other? Have thoughts of how decisions are made in the Kirk given you sleepless nights? If you feel that you just need to know more about the whole parcel of people, buildings, history and organisation that are the constituent parts of the Church of Scotland then this book is for you. In a logical manner it guides you through many areas of activity in the church today and throughout history. In no nonsense plain easy to follow language it gives a layman's explanation of what's going on and what's happened in the past. This is a church that's had more falling outs than a family wedding and many of the characters central to these splits and schisms are discussed in this publication. It's a book that would prove beneficial to new members seeking a greater understanding of the church they've just joined but at the same time be a good and informative read to the veteran of many decades in the pews. Events in this area played a formative part of the national church and this book gives insight into these. It's not a large book and would be easily read in a week without giving up TV. Published by Saint Andrew Press I would thoroughly recommend this to all.

Robert Craig

2nd Barrhead Guide Company

Baden-Powell Challenge

Two of our guides have just completed their Baden-Powell Challenge, which is the highest award in Guides and is completed over a 12 month period. This included taking part in the Baden-Powell Challenge Adventure, which involved the girls staying over night and faced with various challenges had to completely think for themselves.

A huge "congratulations" goes to Alison Mitchell & Catriona Palmer - well done girls for all your hard work.



Social Committee Report

The Committee has again continued working tirelessly behind the scenes organising Sunday Morning Teas and Coffees, and catering for the Homecoming Lunch. Despite not being well attended, the Summer Coffee Mornings ran again this year and provided fun and fellowship for both those who helped out and to those who attended. To all the helpers I would like to say a big thanks for their commitment and work.

Although the summer months tend to be quiet, within the last six months the Committee has held two very successful and well attended events in the Fereneze Golf Club – in May we had a Cabaret Night and more recently in November were entertained by a singing duo.

A Scottish Trivia Quiz was held in September and despite the initial low response turned out to be a successful evening full of fun and laughter which was won by a braveheart team captained by Dorothy Ramsay.

This month – November, there will be an Advent Lunch on Sunday 28th and the Committee would welcome any donations of sandwiches and home baking.

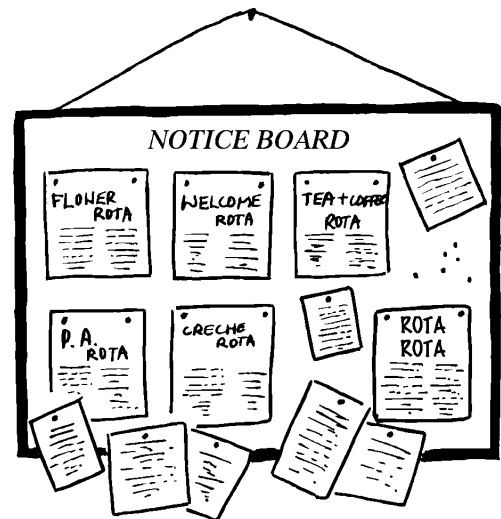
Next month – December 11th we will be holding a Christmas Coffee Morning with stalls selling Christmas items, Toys (old and new), Home Baking, Craft items and Santa will be there to talk to the boys and girls.

Next May the Committee will be holding a “May Fayre” and we would like to make this a big fund raising event so please look out for our notices which will appear soon asking for your help both for ideas and to run the event. We will also be looking for donations for stalls.

If you have any suggestions for the types of stalls that we should have or can provide any assistance in any shape or size please speak to any of the Committee.

Let’s make 2005 a memorable Fund Raising Year in the life of the Bourock Church!!!

Norma Duncan
Committee Convenor



Flower Rota

January

2 Mrs E. Thomson
9 Mrs R. Blair
16 Mrs. J. Smith
23 Mrs J. Duiguid
30 Mr J. Auchincloss

February

6 Mrs B. Easdon
13 Mrs M MacIntyre
20 Mrs M Pattison
27 Mrs A Aitken

March

6 Mrs A Clark
13 Mrs J. McIntyre
20 Mrs M Gray
27 Mrs S Irvine

April

3 Mrs A McCulloch
10 Mrs A Brown
17 Mrs I Renfrew
24 Mrs E. McKenzie

May

1 Mrs A McMillan
8 Mrs E Thomson
15 Mrs I Alexander
22 Fiona McKinnon
29 Mr N. McClune



2nd Barrhead Boys Brigade

Anchor Boys

The new session of Anchor Boys started on Wednesday September 1st 2004.

The first night saw the arrival of 15 boys, 6 of whom were new to Anchor Boys. At the moment we have 28 boys on the register with an average attendance of 24 boys per night.

The weekly session is busy and the hour flies by. Activities are available in the upper hall and annexe. The boys are split into 2 groups and while one group goes to the annexe for craft, table games and play dough the other group remains in the hall for games. "Dodgy Ball" and "Port and Starboard" are the favourites but we also ring the changes from week to week with hockey, "Fill the Bucket", "Bear and the Honey Pot", "Head and Catch" and other games. The boys take part in all the games with great gusto and have a good time. At half time, the groups swap over so that all the boys have an opportunity to take part in all the activities. The evening ends with a story from the Bible and prayers.



Our Hallowe'en party was held on October 27th. The boys all dressed up in wonderful costumes and a good time was enjoyed by all. The next event is a visit to the Variety Club pantomime matinee on December 4th. This will be closely followed by the Christmas party which will hopefully be attended by Santa!

After the Christmas holiday we will be starting on the achievement programme for 3rd year boys. This year we have 3 boys who will be eligible for promotion to Junior Section in September 2005. In September 2004 we promoted 12 boys, all of whom are regular attendees on a Friday night.

Helpers this session, without whom Anchor Boys would not take place, are Lindsay Simpson, Ross Murray and Gordon Murray. I am deeply indebted to them for their continued support and hard work. Should our numbers continue to rise, we will require more helpers in order to ensure adequate supervision for the boys.

Our first session visit took place on November 3rd. We are very grateful for the support and help we get from session.

Our Anchor Boys are enthusiastic, lively and a joy to work with. We feel privileged to be able to do so.

Mary Murray.

Officer in Charge

Life And Work

Do you subscribe to "Life and Work"? It is the best way to keep up-to-date with what is going on in the Church throughout Scotland and in the wider world.

Do you want to know more about the progress of CH4, the relevance of faith in today's world, Sally Magnusson's favourite hymns, the life of the 19th Century hymn writer Horatius Bonar, the 10th birthday of the Youth Assembly? You could have found out about all these topics, in addition to regular articles, in just one month's edition of "Life and Work" if you had been a subscriber in November. Multiply that by 12 and see what you are missing.

Almost 50 members of the congregation subscribe to "Life and Work" regularly but I am sure there is room for expansion of that number. Subscriptions for 2005 are now due. If you want to take out a new subscription see me now and you will receive "Life and Work" starting in January. It costs £15 for a 12 month subscription - a real bargain when you consider that the cost of the magazine per month is £1.50 (£18 per year).

Angus F Leitch

Life and Work Convener

Bourock Friends' Group

The Young Women's Group has decided to change its name. We will now be known as the "Bourock Friends' Group (BFG)". Contrary to what some of our more "unkind" partners have suggested, this was not a reflection on the number of birthdays we had enjoyed. It has more to do with how we feel about each other in the Group collectively.

Over the last couple of years, we feel that we have been there to support each other through the trials which life has presented us and tried to "cheer" each other up where possible. Since this changed approach, our Group has gone from strength to strength and we see it as a natural development of the importance of Friendship and Fellowship.

One of the challenges we have taken on board this year is to support the incredible work of CHAS. In particular, the acquisition of a 2nd hospice in Balloch. To this end, we are organising a Ceilidh on 5 February 2005 in St John's Church hall. Tickets are £5.00 each and include a light buffet. This promises to be a super night and we ask that you put the date in your diary. The tickets will be on sale after Christmas from any BFG member.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and hope that you all have friends who can provide you with the level of support you need, especially in the run up to Christmas.

If you would like to join us, we meet every second Tuesday in the month. You will truly be made very welcome. Contact Susan Palmer for details on 571 6730.

I received this article from a friend. I hope it makes you think about your friends.

The story goes that some time ago a mother punished her 5 year old daughter for wasting a roll of expensive gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and she became even more upset when the child used the gold paper to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree.

Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift box to her mother the next morning and said, "This is for you, Momma."

The mother was embarrassed by her earlier over reaction, but her anger flared again when she opened the box and found it was empty. She spoke to her daughter in a harsh manner.

"Don't you know, young lady, when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package?"

She had tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Momma, it's not empty! I blew kisses into it until it was full." The mother was crushed. She fell on her knees and put her arms around her little girl, and she begged her forgiveness for her thoughtless anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later, and it is told that the mother kept that gold box by her bed for all the years of her life.

Whenever she was discouraged or faced difficult problems she would open the box and take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us, as human beings, have been given a Golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family and friends.

There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

Nancy Darroch

The Guild

The Guild, this session is again enjoying a varied syllabus which, so far, has included a talk by Allan Morrison, author of *Haud Yer Wheest* and other books; we have been entertained by the “Rev Ups” from Ayrshire and eaten scrumptious chocolates courtesy of Finishing Touches of Bearsden. Gerry, from Almond Blossom in Barrhead has demonstrated how easy! it is to arrange flowers for Christmas. In December, we are off to Harry Ramsden’s following a Floodlight Tour of Glasgow and preparations are in hand for our Christmas Party. During Guild Week : 21 to 28 November, there are various events taking place in Barrhead to highlight the Guild in our community. In Bourrock on Sunday 21st November there is the Guild Re-dedication Service and on Thursday 25th November at about 1.00 pm there will be a short walk around Barrhead followed by tea and biscuits in the Lower Hall.



On the more serious front, this year we are supporting, through our Dare to Care Projects, Prison Fellowship and Together for a Change, a joint initiative (boards of National and World Mission).

Prison Fellowship is speaking at many Guilds promoting their work and is also encouraging joining the Angel Tree Appeal, where gifts can be donated for the children of offenders at Christmas time. Prison Fellowship is part of a global ministry of reconciliation and Christian outreach to prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families and victims of crime. It is a multi-denominational voluntary organisation offering new life and hope to offenders through trained volunteer prison teams, prayer support groups and the mobilisation of local churches. There is growing concern regarding the increase in the rate of re-offending in Scotland. To this end, the Prison Fellowship Restorative Justice Sycamore Tree Programme is being expanded and this five week course is proving successful. This programme is based on the Zaccheus story and helps to bring about reconciliation between victim and offender. This organisation is now active in 15 of Scotland’s prisons.

Together for a Change is an Initiative which highlights the issue of poverty here in Glasgow and certain areas in the Third World. World poverty could be abolished by only one percent of Global income going to where it is needed. Every day, people in Scotland and throughout the world, die young because they are poor. One frightening statistic is that a man in Drumchapel, on average, lives 18 years less than a man in Bearsden. The Boards of National and World Mission believe this is unacceptable in a world of plenty created by a God of love. This project is about giving people opportunities. The communities taking part in this project are Easterhouse developing links with Jamaica and Royston linked with The Gambia. Through local churches, people from these poor communities are being brought together to share one another’s experiences, to learn from one another and to make practical suggestions about how things might be done differently. A factor common to both Royston and Gambia, is that in each case, it is the women who are taking the lead in bringing improvement and change.

All the members of the Guild wish each and everyone of you a very Happy Christmas.

Marjory Brown
President

Stop Press - Shoe Box Appeal

The children and teachers of Junior Church are pleased to announce that Samaritan’s Purse have uplifted 266 boxes to distribute. A big “thank you” to everyone who donated boxes, gifts or money for our appeal!

Finance Report

November 2004

At the end of October 2004 offerings for the year to date totalled £50,162, equating to an average of £1,140 per week; at this time last year the comparative figures were £47,944 and £1,115 respectively.

Whilst this has to be looked at positively, we are still expecting a deficit for the year - hopefully this will not be the case.

We have recently been advised that for next year, 2005, Bourock's allocation for the Mission and Renewal fund is £12,669 and our contribution to the National Stipend Fund is £35,551 - this compares with £11,528 and £32,257 for 2004 - an increase of over 10%, which will impact on us considerably next year.

This year has seen a significant increase in the number of members making their offering by standing order; likewise there has also been a welcome rise in the numbers of completed gift aid declarations.

The gift aid scheme has again allowed us to claim back over £10,500 from the Inland Revenue - without this money our financial situation would be fairly unhealthy.

Much of this is down to the efforts of the WFO convener, John McGarrie, who has put so much time and effort into maximising the benefits of the above, for Bourock. John has now decided to step down as WFO convenor and on behalf of the congregational board and congregation I thank him for all his sterling efforts in getting us to the position we are now in.

Robert McKenzie has agreed to take over the roll of WFO convenor from John and this has been approved by the congregational board.

Finally in view of the above can I remind members that anyone who currently makes their offering by either monthly standing order or through the weekly freewill envelopes, and who also pays sufficient income tax, can complete a gift aid declaration. The ultimate beneficiary is the church - all it takes is less than 2 minutes of your time.

Accordingly, I once again recommend both of the above options to anyone who has neither.

Derek Palmer



Stop Press - Bourock Brownies

Bourock Brownies are stars!! They held a sponsored event and raised over £800 for Children In Need. They had skipping, dancing, aerobics and a tuck shop. 10 of the Brownies attended the BBC to hand over the cheque. Thank you to all who supported this event. **Well done 2nd and 3rd Brownies.**

Christian Stewardship

The Kirk Session has re-established the Christian Stewardship Committee, but what is Christian Stewardship?

Christian Stewardship begins with God. It acknowledges:

- ◆ That the world is God's creation
- ◆ That all life, including human life, is a gift from God
- ◆ That time, abilities and possessions are resources from God

Our response of thanksgiving and love towards God should be the giving of the resources at our disposal – time, abilities and money.

The purpose of the committee is to bring stewardship issues to your attention on a regular basis in a variety of ways. We started with a Stewardship Service at the beginning of November.

There will be regular articles in “Steepletalk” of which this is the first. There are leaflets available to give you more detailed information.

One important part of Christian Stewardship is Christian Giving. Our giving supports the work of the congregation but is more than just making sure that the books balance at the end of the year, important though that is.

Our giving also supports our outreach work in the parish. Taking the “Summer Club” as an example, it takes a sum of about £2000 to run the Summer Club. On top of that, there is the time and effort put in by a team of about 80 helpers to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Then there is the contribution we make to the national church to support its work in Scotland and the Wider World. This is done through our contributions to the “National Stipend Fund” which pays the salaries of people like Maureen and the “Mission and Renewal Fund” which supports the work of the Boards and Committees of the General Assembly. Next year our contribution is almost £50,000. A leaflet is available explaining what happens to the money we send to “Edinburgh”.

Another leaflet that I would commend to your attention is “Christian Giving is Sacrificial Giving”. It can be used for study by groups or individuals. It looks at biblical teaching about Christian Giving and gives examples of practice in the Early Church. Its main message is that our giving to the church should be a priority in our spending and not just what's left over after all the bills have been paid and that it should be a generous proportion of our income. Do we all review our giving to the church on a regular basis as our circumstances change? Elsewhere in this edition you are invited to “Step-up”. Have a look at that article and see what a difference it would make if everyone did.

Have you considered completing a “Gift Aid Declaration”? Many members of the congregation have. If you are one of them “thank you”. Has everyone who is eligible done so? Essentially, if your offering is through the WFO Scheme or by Standing Order and you pay Income Tax, by completing a Gift Aid Declaration you increase your giving to the church by 28 pence in every £. It's practical and it's painless. There is a leaflet available which will give further details. Have you complete a “Gift Aid Declaration”? If not, why not pick up a leaflet and do it soon?

More Christian Giving enables more sharing and spreading of the gospel, and surely that is what is all about. In the words of one of the hymns which we sang at the Stewardship Service : “Love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Angus F Leitch

Convener – Christian Stewardship Committee

You Are Invited To Step Up

The table illustrates the effect on congregational income of everyone in the WFO Scheme stepping up one band.

How It Works

An analysis of the WFO Scheme provided information about the number of envelopes containing offerings between the amounts shown in the “Average Weekly Giving “ Column. Offerings made by Standing Order were also included.

The “Amount per Week” is the number of envelopes multiplied by the figure which represents the mid-point of that particular range. For example 3 envelopes in the £8 - £9.99 range was calculated as 3x£9.00 = £27.00 (Envelopes in the £10+ range were assumed to have an average of £15 in each).

For “Next Year” envelopes are moved up to the next range. For example 27 envelopes in the £0-0.99 range are moved up to the £1 - £2.99 range and so on to determine the “Step-up” number.

The effect on weekly and annual income is shown at the bottom of the table. If everyone in the scheme were to make the decision to “Step-up” congregational income from this source alone would be increased by over 50%. Makes you think doesn't it!

	THIS	YEAR			NEXT	YEAR			
AVERAGE WEEKLY GIVING	PRESENT NUMBER OF WFO ENVELOPES	AMOUNT PER WEEK		NUMBER OF WFO ENVELOPES	ESTIMATED AMOUNT PER WEEK				
£10+	15	£225.00		18	£270.00				
£8 - £9.99	3	£27.00		42	£378.00				
£5 - £7.99	42	£273.00		99	£643.50				
£3 - £4.99	99	£396.00		82	£328.00				
£1 - £2.99	82	£164.00		27	£54.00				
£0 - £0.99	27	£13.50		10	£5.00				
£0.00	10	£0.00		0					
TOTAL	278	£1,098.50		278	£1,678.50				
ANNUAL INCOME		£57,122			£87,282				

2nd Barrhead Boys Brigade

Company Section

We go into another year with plenty to look forward to. We have a small but close knit section which has been augmented with four new boys. At the beginning of the session we had only one recruit in the person of Craig Kilpatrick. However, we had appealed to the boys to invite their friends who they thought would enjoy the brigade and this has been a welcome success. Craig now feels less conspicuous and is enjoying having new boys around him.

We are going about our year as normal with drill, badge classes and games taking their usual places in the programme. I was pleased to see the arrival of new Christian education material from battalion. We are running a stage three class for the older boys and although the subjects up for discussion are serious, the boys are enjoying taking part and are definitely taking something from these classes

We recently had a meeting with our colleagues from 1st Barrhead, 1st Neilston and 1st Uplawmoor regarding the Glen Shield competition. After last year's dry run, we now have everything in place with 5-a-side football, computer games and a quiz taking place between the companies. We will be taking place in many battalion competitions and this should ensure we have a busy year right through to our display.

We will be running a fund raising event this year as costs are always increasing and we must try and recoup some of the money we pay out to both battalion and the brigade nationally.

I hope we have another successful year and with the help of our large and enthusiastic staff I'm sure we will.



Graham Manson
Company Captain

Thank You

I have just been thinking about the last year which has been a pleasure, having been looked after so well. I would like to thank all who have tended me over the summer months since I have been greatly admired and enjoyed by the wedding guests during this time.

I have been listening to passers by who have been commenting on how well my lawns have been looking and on how my borders have been very trim.

May I thank all who have looked after me this year and I hope that I might look forward to a few more volunteers next year, who would continue to enhance my appearance.

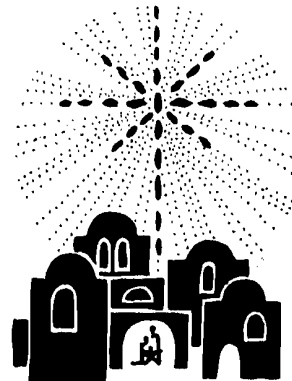
Thank you all very much until next year.

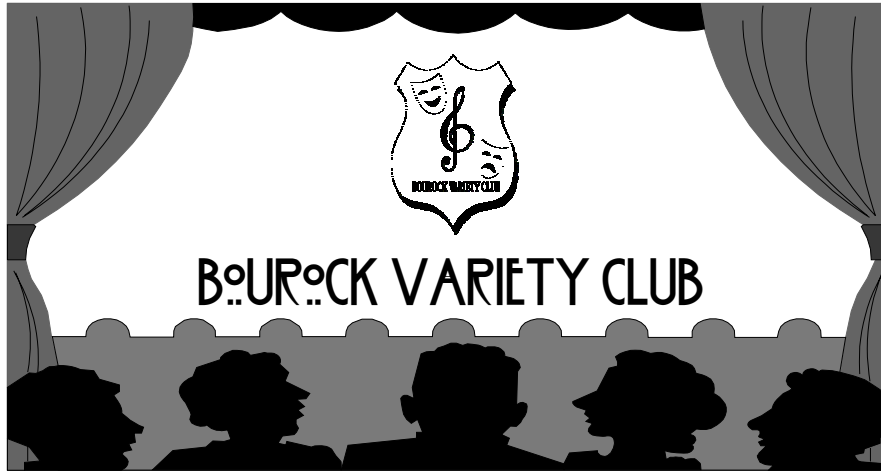
The Garden
Bourock Church

Bethlehem

A little child
A shining star
A stable rude
The door ajar

Yet in that place
So crude, forlorn
The hope of all
The world was born





As I am writing this we have two weeks until our annual show and we are all in “major panic mode”. Hopefully we overcame all the problems we are currently facing at this time, and the show has been a success. The Variety Club is fun and - especially near show time - a lot of hard work. We hope that both of these elements come over on the stage. The club is open to all ages from 14 upwards and we are always happy to welcome along new members. If you saw the show this year, you would have noticed that we are lacking males on stage - we have plenty behind the scenes but only 2 on stage. We are sure that there is plenty of talent lurking out there, so please come along and join us on a Thursday evening. We don't guarantee you fame and fortune - but fun and fellowship are definitely on offer.

Linda Dye

Costumes For Hire

The Variety Club has an extensive wardrobe for hire to church members

Minimum Donation
£2 per item
£5 per costume

Contact Morag Brown
Thursday evenings 8:00 - 10:00

Church Without Walls - The Big Saturday

The Big Saturday, a major event celebrating the life of the Church, is to be held in September 2005, and is expected to attract more than 3000 people. This regional event will be called CWW 2005 and is part of the Church Without Walls programme. It will involve congregations from the Clyde Presbyteries: Glasgow, Hamilton, Lanark and Greenock & Paisley.

The planned event on 10th September will include a celebration for 1000 children, to be led by Stephen Fischbaker of the music group Fischy Music.

An evening celebration, which the organisers hope will involve 3000 people, will be held in the Clyde Auditorium at the SECC. The event will also include a major exhibition.

Christmas At Bourock



- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------|
| angel | Jesus | shoe box |
| Bethlehem | joy | stable |
| Bourock | Junior Church | star |
| frankincense | myrrh | wise men |
| gold | nativity | worship |

Christmas is a great time of joy and celebration, but what is it really about?

It's about the birth of Jesus - the greatest man who has ever lived.

Jesus was born in a stable in a little town called Bethlehem. It was obvious he was special because a star led wise men from the east to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. Shepherds also went to worship Jesus, as an angel had told them to.

The wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

See if you can find these gifts - and other words from Christmas at Bourock in this word search.

Easter SteepleTalk Children's Crossword Solution

Across

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 BIRDS | 4 FIRE | 5 AFAR | 6 ELIJAH | 8 KERITH |
| 10 TIME | 11 FRET | 12 UNTIL | | |

Down

- | | | | | |
|--------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
| 1 BAAL | 2 DERELICT | 3 BREAD | 4 FRIGHTEN | 7 YEARS |
| 9 TELL | | | | |