

SteepleTalk



The Magazine
Of
Bourock Parish Church

Christmas 2006

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	Irene Draper	881 6507
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	563 4724
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	Norma Duncan	881 4668
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
Child Protection CoOrdinator	Wilma Lundie	

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

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14 Maxton Avenue
November 2006

Dear Friends,

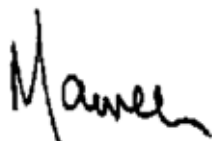
I am sure that the years are getting shorter and shorter in length. I know that people will just say that is because of my age but I would have to say that people of all different ages have made the same comment to me (perhaps it is a side effect of global warming?). It is difficult to come to terms with the fact that Christmas is upon us once more.

However, that is not a cause for dismay - I like Christmas - not for the commercial side but because of the wonderful message it brings. God coming to be where we are in the person of Jesus Christ. No matter what our personal situation, God understands it and walks beside us through it all. This is the real reason for the celebration. As I once preached on at Christmas - **JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON**. Our society is in danger of forgetting that - it is our job to remind them.

And Jesus is the reason for everything we do as Church. He is the reason behind the Summer Club which so successfully takes the gospel to so many youngsters. Thanks to all who help with that venture in any way. He is the reason why we went to Kenya, and He is the one we met there in the midst of so much poverty. He is the reason why we fill shoe-boxes to send to Eastern Europe. I could go on and on and talk about all the good work done by our many organisations. I won't because of the space it would take up, but I will say "thank you" and keep up the good work because it is done for the glory of God!

I would like to thank you all for your forbearance whilst I was Interim Moderator at Lochwinnoch. I am happy to report that their new minister was inducted on 2nd Nov. and I have now been discharged from that post. I am grateful to Willie Robertson(Reader) for all his help in Lochwinnoch during the months of vacancy. Now I am looking forward to giving all my attention to Barrhead over the coming months.

I wish you all the joy, peace and love of Christmas





Junior Church



After another busy session, Junior Church has once again been getting organised for the Samaritan's Purse shoebox appeal. All the teachers and children would like to thank everyone who has made any kind of donation - shoe box, toys, sweets or money. A big thank you goes to 3rd Barrhead Guides who held a Body Shop party and raised the sum of £120 to help with postage of the boxes. Another thank you goes to Lorna Patrick and her work colleagues who instead of having a "Secret Santa" kindly filled shoe boxes and made a handsome donation for the appeal.



The session itself has been an exciting one, with the Seasons Of The Spirit providing everyone with challenging material. We also produced our own news sheet which is enclosed at the end of SteepleTalk. Everyone, however, is looking forward to the festive time and our party is on Saturday 23rd 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 all in Junior Church.
Linda Dye

Bourock Friends Group

Our programme this year offers a wide ranging series of events starting with us making our own jewellery courtesy of the skills and enthusiasm of Agnes Brown. We will be having a further jewellery party in November; this time made by the professionals which will allow us to get a bit of Christmas shopping done in plenty time, we hope. We will be supporting the Mary Russell School at what has become our "annual bingo evening!" We are looking forward to helping them with their fundraising again as this evening was a great deal of fun last year.

Instead of our usual Secret Santa present this year at our Christmas dinner night, we are making donations to CHAS which is one of the charities that we are involved with. Further into the New Year, we will be having a visit to the cinema, a murder mystery night, a tour of the Glasgow Herald, a trip to Craftology, a ten pin bowling evening and a visit to the theatre.

As has been the case for the last 2 years, we are committing ourselves as a group to continuing our sponsorship of two girls through Vision Africa – the Seed of Hope in Kenya. Based on the Parable of the Three Servants (Matthew Chapter 25), we have decided this year to take a small sum of money (£5) and try to "make it grow" to pay for the girls upkeep. Some of our members have been very successful so far, selling crafts or making lunch for colleagues and this is proving to be a tougher test of our commitment to this charity.

I think that this is probably one of the most varied programmes we have organised and offers something for every taste. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Susan Palmer or myself for details.

Nancy Darroch

Prayer Pointers

The monthly Prayer Pointers leaflet contains daily suggestions for prayer. If you miss the distribution Sunday, copies can usually be uplifted from the table on the left of the chancel. Are there any items for prayer you would like to have included? Would you be interested in assisting in compiling Prayer Pointers? Please contact Glenda Meikle on 881 4269.

Christmas Services



Sunday 3rd December

3:00pm

Service of Hope and Healing

Sunday 10th December

4:00pm

ABC Christingle - *in St. Johns Church Hall*

Saturday 16th December

ABC Carol Singing *outside Tesco*

Tuesday 19th December

7:30pm

ABC Christmas Service – *in the URC*

Sunday 24th December

11:00am

Morning Worship for all ages

7:00pm

Nativity Service led by Junior Church

10:30pm

Communion

11:00pm

Carol Singing followed by:-

11:30pm

Watchnight Service.

Christmas Day

10:30am

Come and celebrate on Christmas Morning

Sunday 31st December

11:00am

Barrhead Church joint Morning Worship in South and Lavern



Baking Time

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me at all our Summer/Autumn coffee mornings. To date we have raised the sum of £590 towards the building fund.

Nancy Downie

Church Flowers

Thank you to everyone who has gifted the Church Flowers so far this year. To those who arrange them and deliver them each week thank you also. The flowers are always appreciated very much by those who receive them.

If you could help by delivering them on a Sunday please speak to Elizabeth McKenzie.

Just a reminder that there are flower boxes at the doors for small contributions. This pays for the oasis and wrapping paper we need each week and extra flowers when necessary.

We are hoping to have poinsettias in the church again this Christmas and would appreciate plants on 9th December. These can be handed into the church between 10am and 11am that Saturday.



Out of Barrhead - Into Africa

For the past year we had been planning a trip to Kenya to visit various projects in the Nairobi area and to hopefully set up a link between the Churches in Barrhead and Kibera a slum area of Nairobi. We received wonderful support from you all, and also from the other churches in the town. The Barrhead Church and the Methodist Church both held coffee mornings and St Johns made their facilities available to allow us to hold a very successful auction in February. The Arthurlie Church held a lunch to raise money and we received a very generous donation from Provost Cunningham.

Finally, after all our hard work and fund raising we were finally standing in the grounds of Silanga Church, in the slums of Kibera, which is a township on the outskirts of Nairobi.

Kibera is the largest slum in Africa and one of the biggest slums in the world. It is on a hillside covered with huts which are made of scrap metal, card, wood and mud, usually with no more than a tattered piece of fabric for a door. It is home to more than a million people, sixty percent of whom are children. (Kibera covers an area the same size as Barrhead population 20,000) To be born in Kibera is to be born into a prison of poverty, from which there is little chance of escape. No roads, no running water, no electricity. Mud tracks wind their way through the maze of 'houses', raw sewage running down either side. Dogs, goats, chicken, sheep, and any vehicles share these mud tracks. The stench is overwhelming, as are the conditions in which many survive each day.

More than 80% of people living in Kibera are unemployed. They survive by doing manual and casual labour, when such work is available. Many are the days that they do not have anything to do, and fate condemns them to sleep hungry. Those who are employed earn between 1500 to 3000 Kenyan shillings a month. This is equivalent to between £12 and £24 although £3 would be the usual sum spent to keep a family for a week. This money will cater for all their needs including food, water, rent, clothing, school fees and health provision.

Yet in the midst of this you meet the children, who have big smiles and bright eyes, are optimistic about the future and are eager to learn. Silanga Church is working with the local community to help to bring hope into the lives of over 400 children. They run a primary school five days a week and a children's programme on a Saturday. They aim to provide them with a decent education, a free meal and a chance at life.

The children start school at 8.00am and finish at around 5.00pm. They sit on broken benches with up to 30 in a classroom no bigger than the size of a standard living room. The commitment of the teachers and the children, both to teach and be taught, in such cramped conditions and for such a long day shows how much they value a good education and a chance to escape the poverty that they were born into.

We had the good fortune to see the Church at work when we were invited to help at the children's club. This starts at around 9.00am and runs until about 2.00pm. The children get taught bible stories and songs before going outside to play games. During their break they receive a free meal which will have to last some of them for several days. It was a very fulfilling day, singing songs, helping with the games and watching the boys play football with an old basketball, but absolutely heartbreaking watching them line up to receive their lunch knowing they may not see food again until Monday or Tuesday.

The Church at Silanga has diverse needs. It has no electricity, no water and no sanitation, but the people are very rich in their faith and their beliefs. They want to build a block of 8 classrooms that will make a complete primary school. This will allow them to give the children a formal education that will set them up for secondary school and beyond.

They also want to drill a borehole to enable them to access clean drinking water, as water shortages mean the inhabitants of Kibera have to walk long distances just for their daily water. The vision and commitment of the people who run Silanga and similar projects throughout Kibera are extraordinary to say the least.

We are very keen to help these people to fulfill their potential and in the weeks to come we hope to set plans in place to allow this to happen. It is our hope that people in Barrhead would want to help this community in Kibera.

Kenya is a beautiful country full of wonderful scenery and interesting people, we certainly learned a lot from our trip. It was beyond all our expectations, but now we are back in Barrhead reflecting on our experiences, we realise that it is not the end of our journey but only the beginning.

Jim Mitchell



Township of Kibera - Typical view of part of the slum town of Kibera



Primary School - Some of the 'luckier' children, being taught at a primary school built of corrugated iron sheets



Silanga - Children from Silanga School welcoming the younger members of our visiting group. The gentleman in the tie is Rev. Samuel Kariuki, the minister of Kibera Parish



Playing Catch - Our own Rev. Maureen Leitch playing catch with some of the children who attend Silanga Church's Saturday Club

3rd Barrhead Guide Company

The Guides invited Mrs Jacqueline Holland and her Guide Dog, Pearl, to the Company on Monday, April 24 to accept the used postage stamps, ink cartridges, toners and cash that had been collected for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Mrs Holland explained to the Guides all about the training, cost, who is chosen for a Guide Dog, retirement of a Guide Dog etc. The Guides and Guiders learned a lot about Guide Dogs for the Blind.



The final evening was held on Monday, May 9 when the Guides had a Beetle Drive and eats prior to the awards being presented.

The following Guides all received awards:

Book Prizes for Attendance: Caroline Morrison, Laura Kennedy, Cara Richardson, Pamela Walker, Gayle Morrison, Rebecca Campbell, Mary Kerr and Gemma McLauchlan.

Patrol that collected most Stamps, Cartridges, Toners and points for Games:

Daffodil Patrol Pamela Walker, Caroline Morrison, Sarah Speir, Laura Kennedy, Gemma McLauchlan and Rebecca Campbell.

Best Patrol:

Panda Patrol Gayle Morrison, Caitlin Morrison, Cara Richardson, Caitlin Attwood and Mary Kerr.

Best Guide:

Pamela Walker.

On restarting in September the Guides went to Lapwing Lodge on September 18 for an outdoor meeting. The theme was sports, egg & spoon, sack, three-legged and many more. A great night was had by all.

Six Guides helped at the Senior Citizen's Evening on September 30 and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The Halloween Party was held on Monday, October 30 which everyone enjoyed. Make a Difference Day (MADD) saw Guides, Guiders and Parents help plant over 1000 bulbs in the Dalmeny area on Saturday, October 28. Thanks to all who gave up their time to help.

A Body Shop Party was held on Monday, November 13 and all proceeds made were given to the Shoebox Appeal to help with the postage.

The Guides will be entertaining with songs and playing musical instruments at the Sheltered Complex, Main Street on Monday, December 4 and are looking forward to this.

The girls are going to the Variety Club Pantomime in December and their Christmas Party on December 11.

The Guides restart on Monday, January 8, 2007.

Thanks again to everyone who collect used stamps, ink cartridges and toners. As explained above these are passed on to Guide Dogs for the Blind. Mrs Holland also told us that old mobile phones are also collected, so, if anyone has any old mobiles lying at the back of cupboards, drawers etc. the Guides would be pleased to accept these and pass them on.

Gayle & Barbara



Parish Register

Baptisms

March 2006

Jamie Mark Morrison 36 Mull Crescent, Irvine
Robert Thomas Cameron Dye 12 Grahamston Road

May 2006

Arran Edward Junner 208 Gateside Road

September 2006

Emma Mary McDowall 15 Grampian Way

October 2006

Callum Andrew Young 5c Stewart Street

Marriages

June 2006

George Nixon and Mima Warnock
Allyson Phillips and Fraser Gilchrist

July 2006

Steven Brooks and Emma McMillan
David Orry and Magali Hassen (service of blessing for their marriage which took place in France)

August 2006

Tony Baldesarra and Laura Purvis

Sept 2006

Jim Auchincloss and Fiona Rankin
Mark Illingworth and Lorna Patrick
Mark Stewart and Lindsay Turnbull

Funerals

March 2006

Roderick Munro c/o 53 Colinbar Circle

April 2006

Ethel Johnstone South Arthurlie Cottage
Jim Hay 14 Cuillin Way
Annie Gray 18 Dovecotehall Street
Betty Forsyth 33 Heys Street

May 2006

Elizabeth Cameron 155 Newton Avenue
Caroline Moore 17 Gorse Drive

September 2006

Agnes Steven c/o Greenloaning, Gateside Road
Nettie Brown Johnstone Hospital
Maisie McKenzie 34 Springhill Road
Caitlin McNally Paisley

October 2006

Jim Cook Barrhead
Isobel Blair 19 Eildon Drive
Helen Johnston 145 Levern Crescent
Alex Clelland Norwood House

Weekly Freewill Offering

All members of the Weekly Freewill Offering scheme will have their envelopes for 2007 delivered by their elder before the end of December. For 2007 I have continued with the larger self-adhesive envelopes that are easier to use.

One again I note that during the course of 2006, several members of the WFO scheme have failed to make any offerings to the church via their envelopes but I also note that this number is decreasing.

During 2006 there has been an increase in the number of people opting to make their offering by means of a Direct Debit rather than using WFO envelopes. I welcome this trend and would encourage as many people as possible to change over to this method of giving as it is easier for both the giver and for the church.

I also note that there have been more members requesting Gift Aid Declarations and this is again a very welcome trend as it increases our income quite considerably with no effort on behalf of the giver.

If anyone wishes to join the WFO scheme, obtain a Direct Debit form, obtain a Gift Aid Declaration or discuss any aspect of these schemes I can be contacted on Sundays after church or by telephone on 880-5077.

Robert McKenzie
Weekly Freewill Offering Convenor

The Plus Factor

To mark the late Rev. John Brown's 80th birthday, his three sons, John, Gordon and Andrew, collected their father's Sunday sermons and had them published as a hardback under the title "A Time to Serve".

The book resonates with the Rev. John Brown's brand of practical Christianity in which theology and doctrine are important - but even more important is how Christians treat other people, especially the less fortunate.

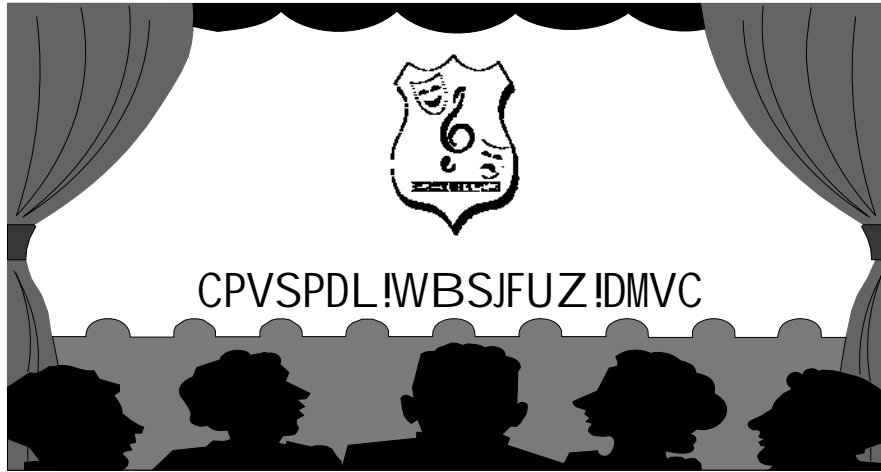
One chapter of the book, entitled Christians Extras, outlines John Brown's concept of the plus factor saying -

" In appearance, the cross is very like the plus sign, suggesting to us that Christianity is the religion of something more. Nor is this to be regarded as a false or erroneous idea. Christianity is such a religion. It has a plus sign right at its centre. It gives more and it expects more.

We as Christians have received more and we should be prepared to give more, by the way of love and service to our fellow men and women."

Springhill House Group

The Springhill House Group meets fortnightly, usually on the second and fourth Monday of the month, at 7.45pm in the home of Glenda Meikle, on the left at the top of Springhill Road. It's a very friendly, informal group. This autumn, in line with being an Eco Congregation, we are using a Bible based series of studies dealing with environmental issues from a Christian perspective. If you are interested, come and give it a try. You'll be made very welcome, but we won't be offended if you don't want to come back. For more info or transport, please phone Glenda on 881 4269.

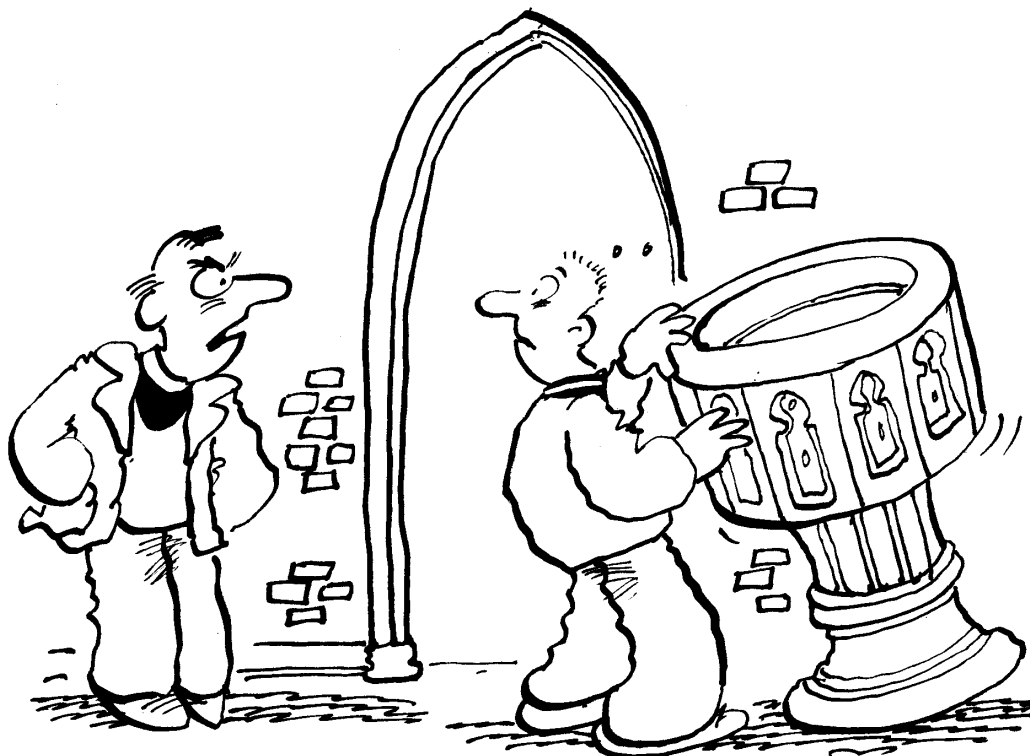


Here we are - almost at another show and as usual the cast and crew are becoming ever more frantic as we approach opening night. This year sees another large cast (33) and an enthusiastic crew which should mean another great week. The club is hoping for a repeat of last year's success, although the tickets for some evenings have been a little slower to be sold than others. This, as we have also found in the past, is because it seems to be more difficult to sell tickets when the show is not a pantomime.

Rehearsals again have been great fun, with everyone of all ages enjoying the fellowship on a Thursday evening. So if you feel you would like to "tread the boards" or just help out with props and scenery, 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.

It only remains for me to wish you all the compliments of the season and hope that you have a happy and prosperous new year.

Linda Dye



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*I don't care how much it's worth on ebay.
You're still not going to auction it for church funds!!*

Shrike System

Read: Ephesians 6:10-18

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. —1 Peter 5:8

The ancient sport of falconry used trained hawks or falcons in the pursuit of wild game. When the "educated predator" was allowed to fly, however, it often rose too high for human eyes to see. So a hunter often carried a small caged bird called a shrike. By watching the antics of the little bird, the man could always tell where his hawk was, for the shrike instinctively feared the predator and cocked its head to keep it in view.

Christians desperately need an alert perception similar to that of the shrike to detect their spiritual enemy. Our adversary, Satan, "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Our responsibility, according to the apostle Peter, is to be sober and vigilant. In other words, we're to be always on the alert.

It would be nice if God had giant sirens to warn us of an attack by the devil. But He doesn't operate that way. Instead, we must read the Bible regularly, meditate on its truths, maintain a prayerful attitude throughout the day, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Only then will we be sensitive to an imminent assault by the evil one, and be armed by grace to meet it.

Is your spiritual "shrike system" working? —Mart De Haan

*The devil is clever, deceiving us all,
He cunningly causes the strongest to fall;
But we his sly methods are sure to discern
By making God's warnings our daily concern. —D. De Haan*

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. —1 John 4:4



I thought it was high-time I introduced some worldly realism into our harvest service!

The Guild

Bourock Guild has resumed again on a fortnightly Tuesday evening, and we have a varied programme organised for the coming session, from 'humbugs' (Klickman's Sweets) to Hummels, from the Peoples' Palace to Balinese Handicrafts. We also have a speaker from CHAS, the Children's Hospice and from our two chosen projects for the year, Action for the Adivasi People in Bangladesh, and the Crossreach Bluebell Project, which deals with post-natal depression.

We have two afternoon meetings, one in October when we will be entertained by June Walls and her choir, and one in January when we look forward to a visit from our own Minister, Rev. Maureen Leitch, who will be talking about her visit to Kenya. The session finishes with our fundraising concert in April 2007 with the Bearsden Fiddlers, but more about that in the New Year!

I was very nervous last year about starting my three years as Guild President, but with the help of a great committee and the support of fellow Guild members, here I am at year 2! Is the Guild dull and boring? - well if our last AGM is anything to go by, most definitely not!! – following the business of the evening, we had a hilarious performance of 'Strictly Come Dancing' and it was wonderful to be part of such fun and fellowship. We have on average 40 guild members attending every Guild meeting – and we welcome any new members who would care to come along and join us.



Irene Draper
Guild President



On 24th October over 130 people from the four Barrhead Churches, Arthurlie, Bourock, South & Levern and the URC, met in Dalmeney Park Hotel. This was a really good meeting. Following group discussion each group was asked to name the three most important things they would like to see happening, within the Barrhead Church

The three main points, which were well ahead of any of the others raised, are as follows:

1. One purpose built Church.
2. Mission and outreach
3. A Team Ministry .

The Barrhead Church Steering Group will now take forward these points.

Finance Report - November 2006

Whether we like it or not finance is an important element in the long term survival of Bourock and is not something that can be ignored. If we wish to continue functioning as a church we must be able to support and fund our commitments - if we do not we will jeopardize our existence in the longer term. If we show deficits year on year, we may not be allowed to call a minister in future.

Therefore when working out our requirements for the next financial year we consider the following -



- Estimate our anticipated expenditure for the forthcoming financial year - this includes our commitments to the Church of Scotland, mission expenses, manse expenses, church expenses etc.,
- Estimate income we will receive from external sources,
- Estimate income we will receive from church organisations.

Once these figures are calculated we then have a rough idea of how much is required from offerings on a weekly basis to ensure our commitments are met.

While the above can never be exact, the figures produced are usually fairly accurate; it is worthwhile considering though that a small variance of 3% equates to around £2,500.

For 2006 we estimated we required approximately £1,165 per week from our offerings to meet our commitments. At the end of October 2006 this figure currently stands at £1,176 per week, so we are slightly ahead at this stage. This also compares with an average of £1,157 to the end of October 2005 and £1,137 per week October 2004.

Expenditure at the same stage is slightly below budget - taking the estimated figure for 2006 and apportioning this on a pro-rata basis for 10 months we have spent around £750 less than we budgeted for. However it is worthwhile remembering that fuel prices have increased considerably since the start of 2006, which may have a bearing on the end of year figures. It will certainly have an effect for 2007.

One of our main sources of income again is the money reclaimed through Gift Aid - our claim to the Inland Revenue this year covers 2 aspects. Firstly in relation to our offerings, through WFO and Standing Orders, we have claimed just short of £11,000, while secondly we have also claimed around £2,600 in respect of donations give to the building fund. Both claims are most welcome and in respect of the claim for the building fund this means our shortfall in respect of all the work undertaken to comply with the Disability Discrimination act is now less than £1,000, which is a tremendous achievement. On behalf of the Finance Committee I thank everyone who donated to this in any way.

This Gift Aid scheme allows the church to reclaim tax already paid by an individual so long as they have paid sufficient income tax in the financial year in question.

As can be seen from the above I will emphasise again the importance of this source of income and one we need to continue to take full advantage of. If it were not for this income we would struggle to meet our annual commitments, a factor that will affect our long term viability.

Again this highlights the importance of having as many gift aid declarations completed as possible.

I will therefore continue a familiar theme by recommending that anyone who currently makes their offering by either monthly standing order or through the weekly freewill envelopes, who also pays sufficient income tax, and has not yet completed a gift aid declaration does so now.

If you have not yet done so it will take you less than 2 minutes to complete the form. If you do Bourcock will benefit accordingly. Remember it is everyone's church not just the Finance Committee.

If you wish to pursue either of these options please contact either Robert McKenzie or myself.

Finally, on a personal basis, can I thank all members of the Finance Committee and the WFO convenor for their assistance during 2006.

Derek Palmer

2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade **Anchor Boys**

The new session of Anchor Boys started on Wednesday September 6th. On the first night, 17 boys attended. Since then, our numbers have increased to 24 with new boys joining nearly every week.

Each night, we have been running the usual programme, a mixture of games, craft, table games, Bible stories and prayer. The boys seem to enjoy the evening and keep coming back for more.

Two of our helpers from last session, Jackie and Angela, moved to Junior Section with their sons. This session we have Lindsay Simpson, Jillian Webb, Ross Murray and Gordon Murray. I am very grateful for their assistance, without them; there would be no Anchor Boys!

This Wednesday November 1st, we have our Hallowe'en party with, no doubt, the usual range of scary costumes. We will also have our Christmas party on December 20th. Also a trip to the Bourcock show is in the diary.

All of us, boys and staff alike enjoy our Wednesday evenings; it's the quickest hour of the week!

A copy of the session programme is posted on the BB notice board along with some of the craft done by the boys.

We are grateful to the church Session and the congregation for the support they give us.

Mary Murray
Officer in Charge.

Thought For The Day

For God so loved the world that He didn't send a committee!

Our Financial Position

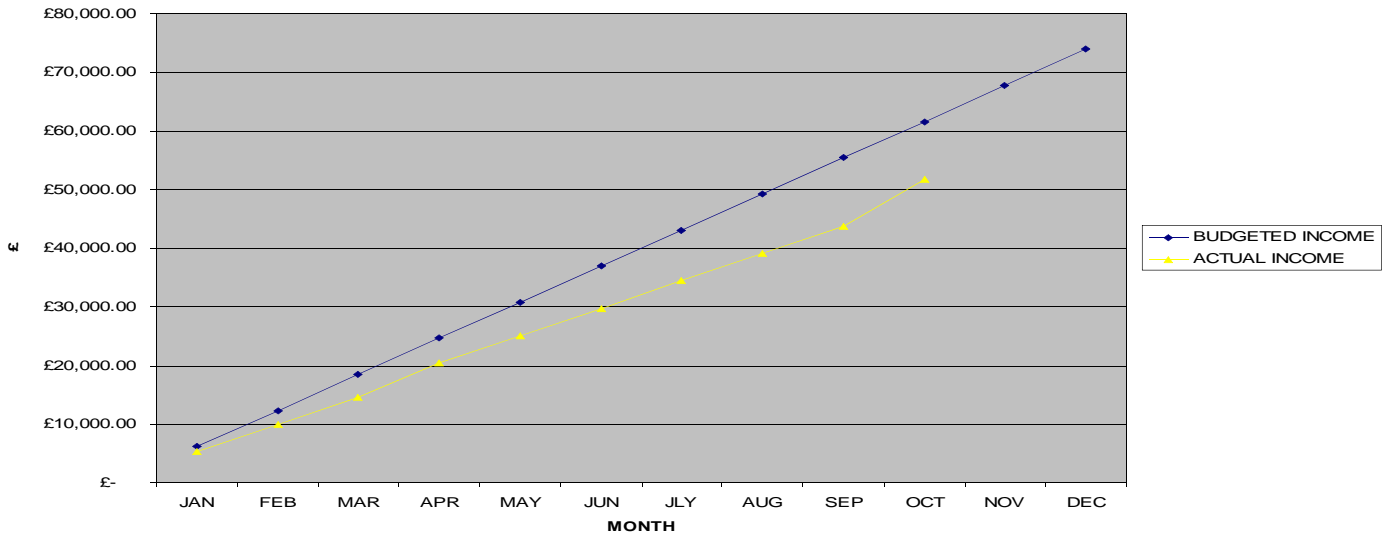
Chart 1 shows how our income from offerings has progressed over the course of the year. The upturn in October is a result of the offering at the October Communion. It is to be hoped that offerings will continue at that level in November and December.

Chart 2 compares the average amount contributed per week to the average amount required to meet budgeted offerings.

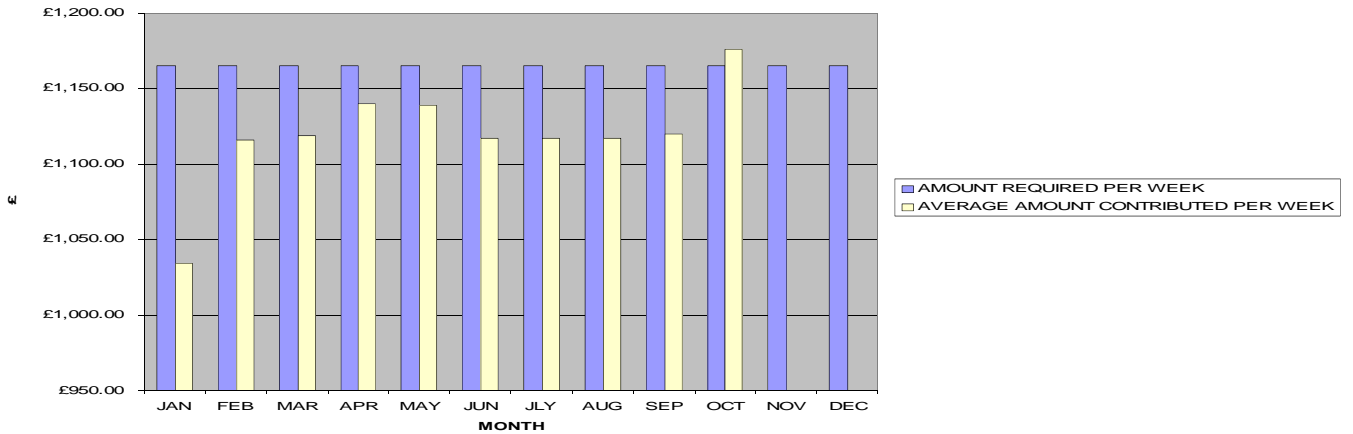
Again, the increase due to the October Communion is apparent.

Chart 3 shows budgeted and actual expenditure. You will note that expenditure is running just below budget.

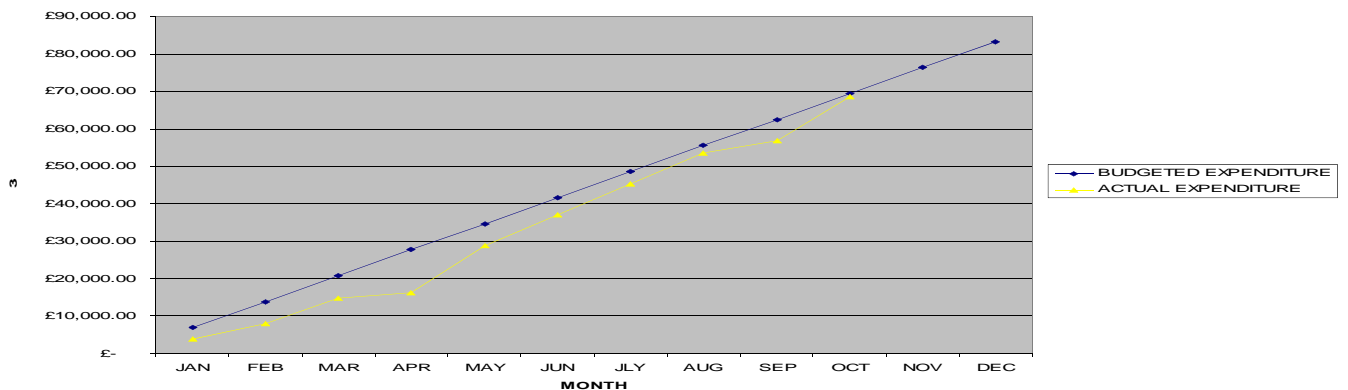
BOUROCK PARISH CHURCH : INCOME FROM OFFERINGS 2006



BOUROCK PARISH CHURCH : AVERAGE WEEKLY GIVINGS 2006



BOUROCK PARISH CHURCH : EXPENDITURE 2006



Losing To Gain

On my father's farm were certain fields he sowed by hand. He would strap on a canvas contraption that looked somewhat like a kangaroo pouch, fill it with seed, and go out to sow. He would cast seed everywhere.

When a farmer sows seed in his field, it looks like he's throwing it away. It seems to be lost, but it isn't really gone. In due time he gets it back—with much more besides.

When we give ourselves to Christ, it may seem to people as if we're throwing our life away. But He said that it is only as we lose our lives in Him that we find true life (Matt. 10:39).

Jesus teaches us to measure our lives by losses rather than gains, by sacrifices rather than self-preservation, by time spent for others rather than time lavished upon ourselves, by love poured out rather than love poured in.

It's a rule of life: God blesses those who give of their lives and resources (2 Cor. 9:6). Give out the truth you know, and He'll give you more to give away. Give your time, and you'll have more time to give. Set no limit on your love, and you'll have more love for others than before.

Israel's wise man said, "There is one who scatters, yet increases more" (Prov. 11:24). It's one of the oldest paradoxes in the world, but it works.

David H. Roper

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (New International Version)

Sowing Generously

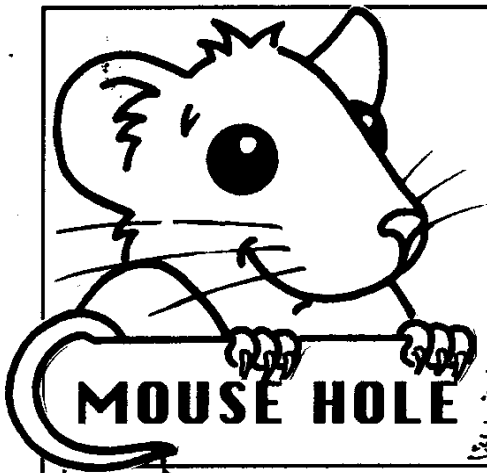
6Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9As it is written:

"He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor;

his righteousness endures forever."^[a] 10Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

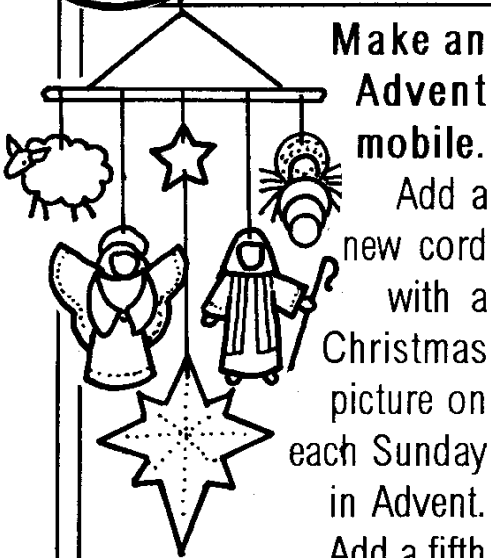
12This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

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MOUSE HOLE

Make an Advent mobile.



Add a new cord with a Christmas picture on each Sunday in Advent. Add a fifth

cord on Christmas Day with a large sparkling star on to help you remember that one day Jesus will come again!



T A M A R Y J
I B I N N U O
M A N G E R Y
E B J E S U S
A Y C L O T H

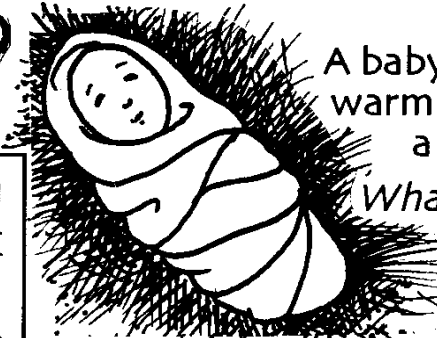
Look in the manger for these words:

JESUS MARY JOY
INN BABY MANGER
TIME ANGEL CLOTH

What does a new baby need?

A baby needs somewhere to be born, like at home or in a hospital.

Where were you born?
Jesus was born in a stable.

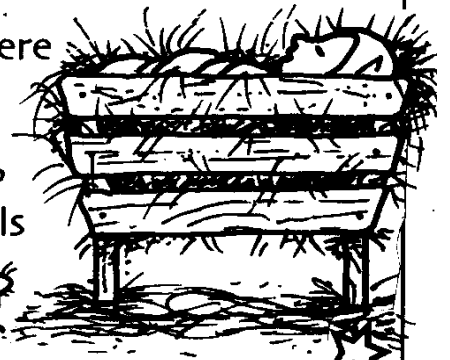


A baby needs clothes to keep warm like fleecy pyjamas or a warm vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?
Jesus was wrapped in strips of linen cloth.

A baby needs somewhere to sleep like a cot with a cuddly blanket.

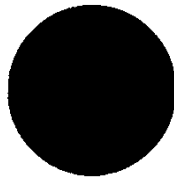
What did you sleep in?
Jesus slept in an animals manger with hay to keep him warm.



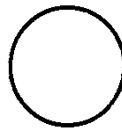
At Christmas we remember Jesus, God's Son and our Saviour, coming to Earth as a baby, and we look forward to the time when Jesus will come again, not as a baby but as a mighty King!

Little Baby Jesus

• Cut from thin card:



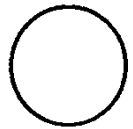
1 x gold



1 x pink



2 x white

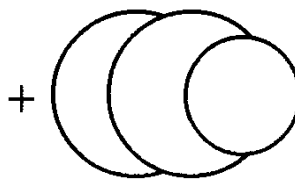


1 x white

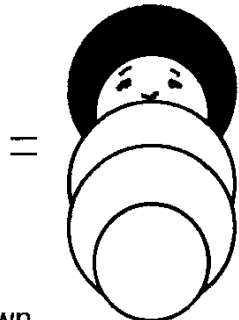
• Then glue together:



pink



+



- Draw a face on the pink circle.
- Glue lengths of raffia, wool or brown paper on the back to look like hay.
- Glue to a card or hang as a decoration.

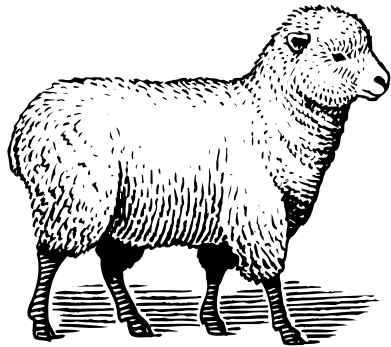
[May 7th 2006]

Volume 1, Issue 1

Bourock Junior Church Herald



*The news from the **heart** of the upper hall.*



Junior church seek Good Shepherd.

Shepherd wanted. He, or she, must be very special and like children.

Junior Church is in need of a special shepherd to control our sheep! The children tried to catch the sheep when they escaped from the pen. If you think you can help us you will need to be able to look for the sheep that are lost, bring back sheep that wander off, bandage the sheep that are hurt and heal sheep that are sick. Please, if you are that special Shepherd help us NOW! **Lindsay Pattison**

The children of Bourock Junior Church are in need of a special Shepherd. The Church's sheep are out of control and are going crazy running around the place.

One of the children said that a sheep ran on the road and nearly got knocked down.

The children say that the Shepherd must be kind and one who will care for

the sheep. We are looking for the kind of shepherd mentioned in Ezekiel and in Isaiah.

If you think you have the skills, please contact Bourock Junior Church as soon as possible. **Jennifer Pattison**

A Christening Today
Gemma Carse and
Heather Allan



Today Arran Edward Junner was christened in the Bourock Parish Church. He was looking handsome in his romper suit. His God Parents were called Lindsay Allan and Jason Nicol. Lindsay carried him around the Church. When the cross was drawn on his head he didn't cry and he was very good. Heather Allan gave the baby a bible and Sarah Allan gave him a flower. When he came to visit junior church he did



*Other things
happening in the
world from our
special Bourock
Journalists*



Bourock Junior Church Herald

not seem to like our singing very much.

Have you seen our daffodil cross outside our church?

We put it outside every Easter Sunday to show Barrhead that Jesus is alive and has risen. We think it cheers up the church and the whole of Barrhead.

We also get to roll eggs down our very own hill just outside our front door. You really should come along and join in the fun.

On the day before Easter Sunday some of us come to church for an Easter fun club. We made lots of things including Easter cakes.

Sports this week at Bourock. Mathew Hepburn.

Team three of the Second Barrhead Boy's Brigade company recently won their game three nil. This game was one of the games played in the B.B.'s football league involving all the teams who played each other and team three won. Well done to team three.

Coming Soon: The Church Fun Day.

We always go to Kelburn Country Park and we have fun and run races. We also get the chance to play in the park and sometimes we have a yummy barbecue with yummy sausages.



A poem by Grace McDermott

Jesus is what it is all about!

Usit very nice

No grim faces

I believe in Jesus

Our hall is really big

Run around playing and singing

Church is our family

Hope you can come too

Uwould be made welcome

Ryou able to come?

Come soon

Help us to learn more about Jesus
