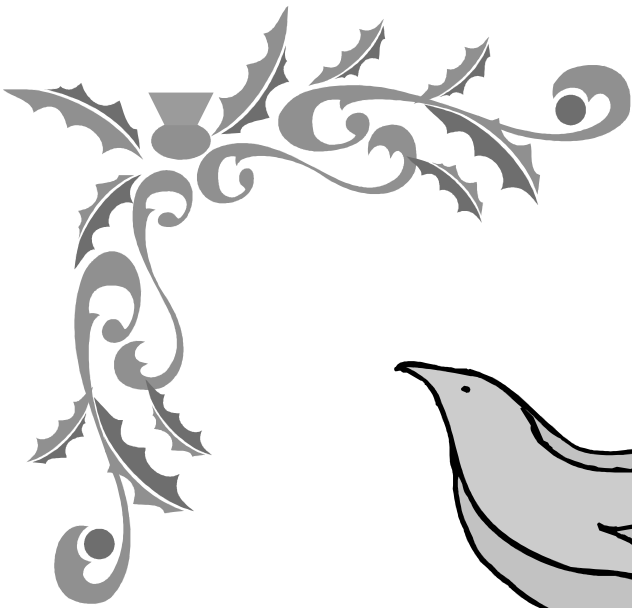


SteepleTalk



The Magazine
Of
Bourock Parish Church

Spring 2007

Who's Who In Bourock

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Minister | Maureen Leitch | 881 1462 |
| Session Clerk | Elizabeth McKenzie | 880 5077 |
| Deputy Session Clerk | Karen Johnston | 881 5115 |
| Treasurer | Brian Honan | |
| 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 |
| Bourock Friends Group | Nancy Darroch | |
| 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 |

Kirk Session Committees

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Education | Linda Dye |
| Finance | Derek Palmer |
| Mission & Outreach | Agnes Brown |
| Pastoral | Moira McCartney |
| Property | Gordon Simpson |

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
April 2007

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on Easter Monday (late, as usual) and still feel very 'lifted' by our joyous Easter celebration. It was great to see a busy church and hear the rousing singing. So many people contributed to our Holy Week worship and all the associated times of fellowship and I would like to express my thanks to them. It certainly was a team effort! I am sure that you would agree with me that the church looked beautiful on Easter Day and thanks are due for all the hard work that goes into that. Now our "daffodil Cross" is proclaiming the good news of new life to the town.

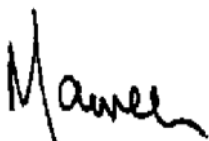
We look forward now to Communion at the end of the month and then, in May, we have a Flower Festival. I hope as many of you as possible will come to support this event - it certainly sounds as if it will be worth visiting. Programmes will be available soon. This is a really great way to celebrate God's goodness to us as we let his beautiful floral creations tell of the work of his Holy Spirit.

At the Stated Annual Meeting we paid tribute to Ross Mitchell who has stood down from being Treasurer after some 13 years service. We are grateful to Ross for all his hard work on our behalf. At the same meeting we formally welcomed Brian Honan as the new Treasurer and we wish him well in this post.

We have now adopted a new way of ordering the affairs of the church. We are operating under the Unitary Constitution, approved by both Presbytery and the General Assembly. This means that we no longer have a Congregational Board - all matters are in the hands of the Kirk Session. However, this does not mean that only elders can be involved - on the contrary, this way of working should involve more participation by all people in the congregation. It works on a system of small committees who then 'feed in' information and recommendations to the Kirk Session. The good news for those volunteering their talents to these committees is that you do not have to be involved in long meetings! The idea is to be flexible and use people with particular talents for specific jobs. We certainly hope this will encourage more people to become involved. So if you are approached to join a committee please say 'yes' We want all people in the congregation to give of their talents to help shape our church.

Perhaps one of the first opportunities for this will come in the summer weeks. We are planning a new kitchen for the Lower Hall (badly needed) and Gordon Simpson is looking for volunteers to help. Plans are ready, and with the help of willing volunteers, the kitchen can be installed during the quiet spell for hall usage. So if you think you can help please sign the list which is in the bottom corridor. There is a job for everyone from construction to painting to clearing up or making tea. Can you help?

As you can see there are busy times ahead of us. Let us thank God that we are active for his Name's sake





JUNIOR CHURCH



Junior Church finished the year well by sending off 256 shoe boxes. The response from the congregation was superb and the 3rd Barrhead Guides gave us a real boost by holding a “Body Shop” party with all the proceeds going towards the shoe box postage. We have already started collecting for this year and many of you have said that you prefer buying things over the months, rather than one big effort in November - we are happy to receive donations at any time. Special thanks must go to Nancy Downie, who covered over 100 shoe boxes with Christmas paper last year and has started on this year’s already.

Our Nativity Play was very well attended on Christmas Eve and the children, as always, gave star performances.

Numbers on the roll in Junior Church continue to be quite high but with not so many children attending every week. Moving the creche to the annexe has been worthwhile, as it is a much better area for the toddlers and also allows them to come into the hall to join with the others in various activities. We are continuing to use “Seasons Of The Spirit” material which is challenging but allows us to follow the Lectionary along with the adults.

We also celebrate Communion at the same time as “Senior Church” but in a slightly more informal way. The children appreciate being involved in this celebration and look forward to a special time of sharing.

A decision has not yet been reached on whether or not we will have a trip this year, as support for this has been dwindling over the last few years. Please come and share your thoughts with me on this.



Linda Dye

Flower Rota

May

| | | |
|----|--------------|-------------|
| 6 | A. McMillan | |
| 13 | E. Thomson | S. Tinto |
| 20 | I. Alexander | R. McDonald |
| 27 | F. McKinnon | M. Carse |

June

| | | |
|----|-------------|-------------|
| 3 | N. McClune | E. McKenzie |
| 10 | N. Downie | |
| 17 | M. Buchanan | M. Aird |
| 24 | B. Hamilton | M. Honan |

July

| | | |
|---|------------|---------|
| 1 | J. Watson | M. Gray |
| 8 | M. Stewart | |

August

| | | |
|----|----------------|-------------|
| 5 | A. McGarrie | M. Carse |
| 12 | F. Auchincloss | |
| 19 | E. McKenzie | |
| 26 | D. Ramsay | M. Pattison |

September

| | | |
|----|---------------|-------------|
| 2 | J. McK Allan | R. McDonald |
| 9 | S. Miller | M. Aird |
| 16 | J. McLeod | |
| 23 | Variety Club | |
| 30 | Marjory Brown | M. Honan |

October

| | | |
|----|---------------|-------------|
| 7 | Morag Brown | |
| 14 | M. McKechnie | M. Gray |
| 21 | I. McCartney | S. Tinto |
| 28 | Woman’s Group | E. McKenzie |

November

| | | |
|----|-------------|-------------|
| 4 | Guild | |
| 11 | L. Simpson | E. McKenzie |
| 18 | R. McDonald | |
| 25 | S. Tinto | |

December

| | | |
|----|----------------|-------------|
| 2 | Vacant | |
| 9 | L. Dye | |
| 16 | K. Johnston | E. McKenzie |
| 23 | M. Leitch | E. McKenzie |
| 30 | Joint Service. | |

Bourock Parish Church

Main Street : Barrhead

Flower Festival



Thursday 17th May : 2pm - 4:30pm & 7pm - 9pm

Friday 18th May : 10am - 4:30pm & 7pm - 9pm

Saturday 19th May : 10am - 4pm



Africa Partnership Update



Over the past eight months the African Partnership Committee has been overwhelmed by the support and generosity received from members of our congregation. You raised £1000 as a retiring offering at the Harvest Service and another £1000 through the Church's Christmas card

scheme. This together with personal contributions and a £1500 donation from the Barrhead Church means we are able to commit to sending nearly £9000 to help start projects in Kibera. The Church in Kibera is now meeting to decide the best use of this money and we hope to report back on their progress in the near future.

The Barrhead Church has adopted the Kibera Project as part of their ongoing mission work and we hope to encourage as many members as possible, from all the Churches, to help with the future development of the project in the coming years. If you are unaware of the reasons why we are undertaking this project, and would like details of how we can help the Church in Kibera, I have included below an extract from the leaflet distributed to the Barrhead Church congregations in late February.

To mark the first anniversary of our trip to Kenya we will be holding a social night in early June. This will be the first opportunity to view our DVD of the trip and everyone is welcome to attend. Also in early June we will be launching our website, which will be full of interesting facts about Kenya and the PCEA projects, along with photos and video clips of our trip. We will be announcing the web address in the near future.

Meanwhile, if you would like any further information or would like to help in any way with the future direction of the project, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jim Mitchell
Convenor, African Partnership Committee
email: kibera@bourock.co.uk

Extract from the leaflet distributed to the Barrhead and Methodist Church congregations in late February:

African Partnership Committee Update

The Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) in Kibera currently serves a congregation of 600 adults, 80 youths, and also 150 children in its Sunday school. This congregation includes some of the neediest people living in the slums of Kibera. More than 80% of Church members are unemployed. Those who are employed earn between 1500 and 3000 Kenyan shillings a month. (£11- £22).

Due to these low-income levels the congregation has not been able to actively thrive, as they face a daily struggle to even feed their families. Most of the young people of the Church are affected by the lack of employment opportunities and many are out of work, making them a liability rather than an asset to their already poverty stricken families.

Although the Church in Kibera has many diverse needs and wants, they are spiritually rich, and if their needs were met it would be possible for them to achieve their vision of growth and development for their Church and community.

Currently the Church has no electricity, no water, and no toilet facilities. Without these basic facilities, the Church is unable to be used to its full potential.

In Kibera it is very unusual for anyone, or any organisation, to have the title deeds for a piece of land. However, the PCEA in Kibera has the advantage of owning the land on which the Church stands (around 1 acre), and would like to make full use of the ground it has available. Although at the moment it runs a school adjoined to the Church, this school is too small to meet the needs of the community. It currently has two classrooms, which can accommodate a total of 60 pupils, who must leave school after P2.

The Church is currently working on a long term development plan. Their main objectives are to;

- Build classrooms to expand the Primary School, allowing pupils to attend from P1 to P8, enabling them to complete certificated primary education.
- Drill a borehole to obtain a clean supply of water for the Church, and the local community.
- Construct a youth vocational training centre.
- Install electricity to all its projects.

The PCEA is committed to ensuring that all of its projects are viable and sustainable, to improve the welfare of future generations.

The total cost of this project is around £50,000. This sounds a lot of money, and indeed it is. However, this is a long-term project. We have already received support from the congregations of the Barrhead Church, as well as the Methodist Church, and with your continued support we can help these people to fulfil their vision of growth and development, and improve their standard of living.

2nd Barrhead Guide Company

In January we celebrated Burns night with a Burns supper where we all wore tartan and most of us enjoyed the haggis, neeps and tatties!!



Girlguiding UK

3 Baden Powell guides, Rachel Darroch, Kirsty Mitchell

& Karen McDonald completed the BP adventure at Guiding HQ in Glasgow and had an overnight stay.

Karen Palmer and Karin Dye attended the East Renfrewshire county camp at Auchengillan in March with 100 guides, 100 brownies all staying 2 nights plus 70 rainbows on the saturday. They enjoyed crate building, a photography course, an assault course in the trees, and they got really muddy!!

We had a comic relief night where we all chose to have a PJ party & pampering night, raising £59.46 from the tuck shop where some of the guides brought home baking.

The guides working towards their Baden Powell award this year organised a Chinese New Year party, with games, a quiz, crafts and food!

Parish Register

BAPTISMS

January 2007

Niamh Mary Stewart 14, Victoria Crescent

February 2007

Cara Janette Stevenson 92D Kelburn Street
Fraser James Condy 9 Stable Grove, Paisley

March 2007

Eilidh Elizabeth Anna Harvie 9 Muirhall Terrace, Perth

WEDDINGS

November 2006

Colin Lewis and Catherine Calderwood

March 2007

Donald Moran and Lorna Simpson

FUNERALS

November 2006

Peggy Thompson c/o 4 Heather Avenue
*Mattie Stuart 49 Levern Crescent

December 2006

Alan Cairns 37 Blackburn Square
*Elsie Collins Firs Nursing Home
*Betty Goldie 42 Springhill road

January 2007

Edward Johnson 55 Colinbar Circle
Murdoch Carmichael 9 Cogan Place
George Mitchell 32 Springhill Road
John Connor c/o 2 Rankin Way
Christina Faulds 19 Newton Avenue
*Moira Mitchell 4 Arthur Avenue
Jean Renfrew 15 Deanston Avenue
Alex Cunningham 36 Langton Crescent
Jean Hunter c/o 26 Cochrane Street

February 2007

*Bobby Blair 19 Eildon Drive

March 2007

*Bob Harvey 11 Shanks Ave
John Gray 23B Orchard Street, Renfrew

April 2007

Margaret Pinkerton Norwood House
*Jessie Millar Westlea

* Denotes member

Christian Stewardship

You may have heard that the Kirk Session has decided to run a Stewardship Campaign later this year. If you haven't already heard, remember that you read it here first!

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

After all, our accounts show a slight surplus this year. That is true, but only because of a substantial income from use of our halls by outside organisations. We cannot rely on always having this. It would be so much better if our expenditure could be totally met out of our income from offerings. We hope that this campaign will result in the necessary increase in general income to achieve this aim.

WHAT FORM WILL IT TAKE?

You will receive a personal invitation to a "gathering" of the congregation which will take place in September. There will be displays by all church groups and organisations, we hope to explain where the congregation's income comes from and where it goes, and, of course, there will be the opportunity for refreshments and a chat.

WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN?

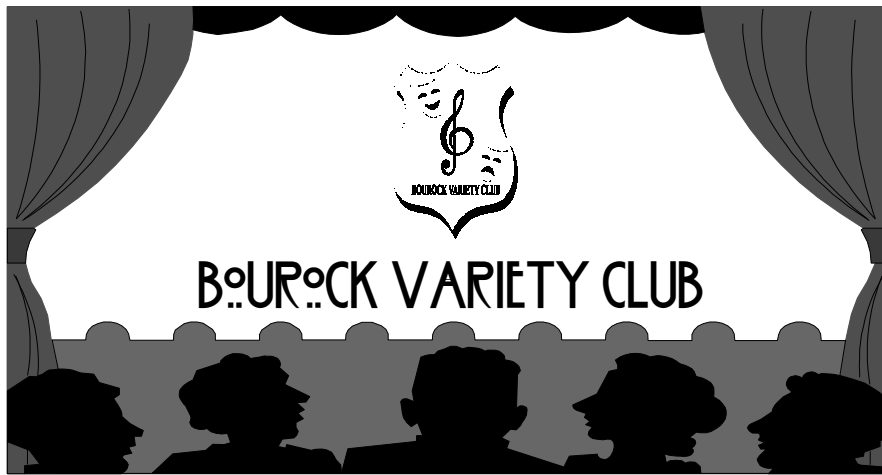
You will receive more detailed information later in the year but meantime, keep either the 18th or 19th September free. You can come along to the gathering on either of these evenings to find out how much it costs to run Bourock Church and how your offering contributes to this.

Angus F Leitch
Stewardship Convener

Springhill House Group

This year the group has been studying Peter's first letter, a passage none of us knew much about. It's a very friendly, informal group. We would love to welcome newcomers. We meet on alternate Mondays at 7.45 pm in Springhill House. Transport can be arranged if required. Please phone Glenda on 881 4269 for more details.





“Home For Christmas” seems a long time ago but was a very successful show. Audience numbers were not just as high as previous years, but only a pantomime brings us a sell-out watch this space for this year’s production.

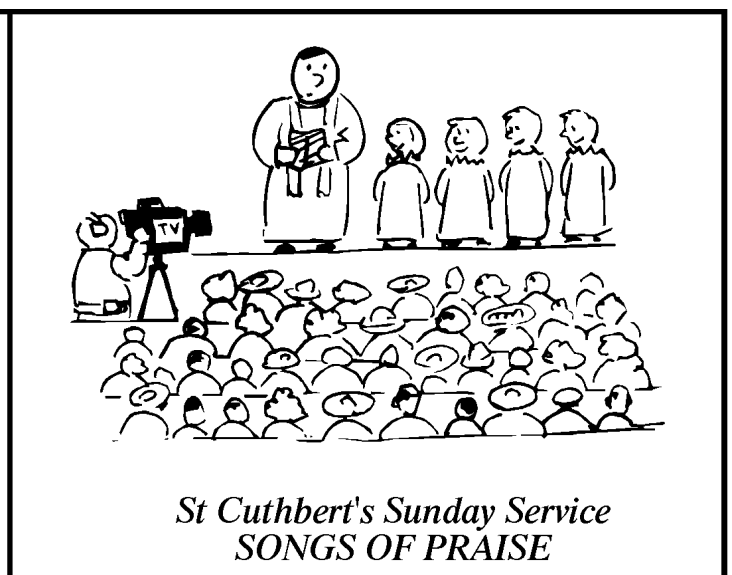
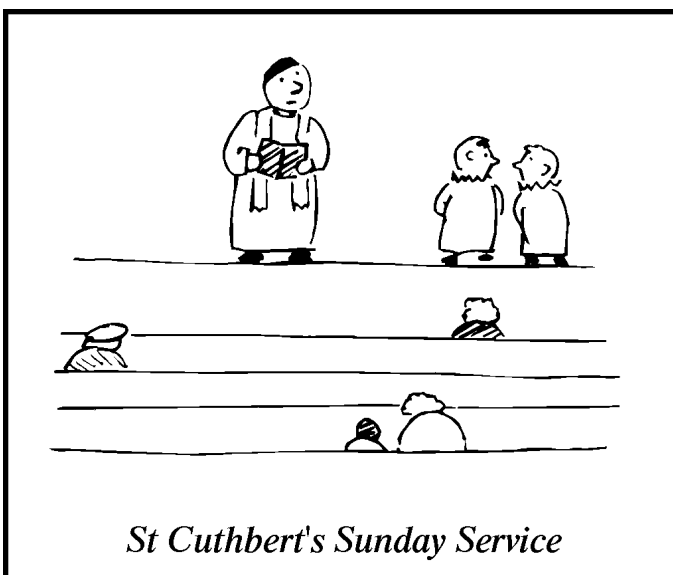
The club was once again delighted to lead the Congregation in our pre-watchnight singalong, which is becoming increasingly popular.

At the start of the year, we held our AGM and were able to distribute £3,000 - split between our own church, CHAS, MacMillan Nurses, Adams House, The African Partnership and The Meningitis Trust. It is wonderful that as well as entertaining so many people and having a lot of fun, we can also raise money for good causes.

The club was excited to take part in Easter worship this year by producing a worship version of Jesus Christ Superstar with additional readings and meditations. The music is very difficult and rehearsals were hard work but we were pleased with the end result. There was an excellent attendance at the church on Easter Saturday and the production was very well received by everyone who attended.

We are now ready to commence work on our new show - so if you are interested in the stage at any level (on or behind), do come along on a Thursday evening at 7:30pm in the lower hall. It’s lots of fun and we will guarantee that there is a job for everyone.

Linda Dye



It Was On The Wednesday

It was on the Wednesday
that they called him a waster.

The place smelt like the perfume department
of a big store.

It was as if somebody had bumped their elbow
against a bottle
and sent it crashing to the floor,
setting off the most expensive stink bomb on earth.

But it happened in a house,
not a shop.

And the woman who broke the bottle
was no casual afternoon shopper.
She was the penniless poorest of the poor,
giving away the only precious thing she had.

And he sat still
while she poured the liquid all over his head ...
as unnecessary as aftershave
on a full crop of hair and a bearded chin.

And those who smelt it,
and those who saw it,
and those who remembered
that he was against extravagance, called him a waster.

They forgot
that he also was the poorest of the poor.

And they who had much
and who had given him nothing,
objected to a pauper giving him everything.

Jealousy was in the air
when a poor woman's generosity
became an embarrassment to their tight-fistedness ...

That was on the Wednesday,
When they called him a waster

From "Stages On The Way"
Published by Wild Goose Resource Group

2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade

Anchor Boys

The 2006/2007 session of Anchor Boys ended on Wednesday March 28th 2007.

We have had a busy, successful session once again. There were 29 boys on the roll with an average attendance of 24 per night.

The programme comprised of games, craft, board games, puzzles, Bible stories and prayer at the end of the evening. The boys took part enthusiastically in everything with the old favourites like Port and Starboard and Dodgey Ball being the most popular games.

The award scheme changed last year. The old programme provided for achievement tasks for 3rd year boys. This is no longer the case and the boys gain their badge through the activities in which they take part each evening. These are now classified as Body, Mind, Spirit, Community and Creativity.

This year, we had 14 3rd year boys who are now promoted to Junior Section. Nearly all of the 15 who were promoted last year still attend Junior Section.

Once again, I am indebted to my helpers Lindsay Simpson, Jillian Webb, Ross and Gordon Murray and a new addition to our ranks this year Mary Gauld. Without them Anchor Boys could not run.

We had our usual parties at Hallowe'en and Christmas. We also attended the Bourock Variety Club panto which was enjoyed by all. At the beginning of March, 20 boys attended the battalion Anchor Boy day at St. Benedict's High School in Linwood. The boys took part in a packed programme of games, singing, craft, story telling and tuck shop. The day ended with an entertainer who held the boys spellbound with a mixture of songs, magic tricks and puppets. The boys (and Lindsay and I) enjoyed the day.

On the last night of the session we had our parent's night. Lots of parents and friends stayed to see what a typical Anchor Boy night is like and take part in some of the activities.

We had 2 visits from Elders this session and we are grateful for the support we get from Session.

The 2007/2008 session will start on Wednesday September 5th. In the meantime, we are going to enjoy the break.



Mary Murray - Officer in Charge.

Company Section

We are now well into our year with our display looming on Friday 25th May. As usual we don't know where the time has gone but rest assured that the officers and boys have been busy with all the usual activities taking place.

We recently ran a fundraising dance at Fereneze Golf Club where we enjoyed a splendid evening of music, dancing and the chance to gather in convivial surroundings and enjoy each others' company. We had unprecedented reaction to our appeal for raffle prizes and this helped greatly in the overall success of the evening. We raised the magnificent total of £430 which will be split between the three sections of the company. We would like to pass on our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and/or contributed to this very important venture.

We have found it difficult to keep continuity throughout the session with the school holidays interrupting the flow but the boys are keen to attend and numbers have stayed fairly constant.

We have had visits from Paisley and District Battalion and Kirk Session and we are always glad to spend time with the respective representatives on these occasions.

We once again thank everyone connected to the company for their continued support and hope to see as many of you as possible at our annual display.

Graham Manson
Captain

Low Saturday

All were enthralled
By his preaching,
Teaching, healing
But now -
it's over.
He's gone.

His call answering,
Leaving everything,
Gladly following
But now -
It's over
He's gone

Watching, listening,
Learning, copying,
Doing, marvelling
But now -
It's over
He's gone

After euphoria,
Utter devastation
Why end it like this?
It's all over
They killed him
Jesus is dead.

Glenda Meikle

Quiet Time

You astound earthbound imagination,
Great God of wonder and delight.
You created the knee to bow then
Gave the freedom to choose.
You poured out justice on sin yet
Spilled Your blood for sinners.
You fill the heavens with glory yet
Light darkened souls with love.
You are everywhere at once yet
Call humble hearts your home.
We bow in awe before such
immense majesty.
We rejoice forever in such
Immeasurable intimacy.

Susan Lenzie 2006
(In "Every day with Jesus" Jan/Feb 2007)

Finance Report - Easter 2007

The following is a report on the Church's Accounts presented at the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 11th March 2007, and should be read in conjunction with these Accounts. In line with the General Assembly's guidelines, a summary is included in the next page.

We started off 2006 by carrying forward a small surplus of £587 from 2005, meaning the General Fund at that time stood at £10,742. Fortunately during 2006 our income again exceeded our expenditure, this time by £917, meaning that on 31st December 2006 our General Fund stood at £11,659.



During 2006 total offerings rose by £1,583, with the total offerings received by WFO and Standing Order rising from £53,676 in 2005 to £54,725 in 2006, a rise of £1,049.

Whilst any rise is welcome, we cannot afford to be complacent as once again we were effectively reliant on 2 major sources of income to meet our commitments.

Firstly we recovered a significant sum from the Inland Revenue, £11,284 to be exact, via the Gift Aid scheme.

This figure could be significantly increased in future years if any members who currently pay income tax but do not currently make their offering by either WFO envelopes or standing Order were to now start doing so. On average in excess of £120 per week is currently received via the open plate money on which we are unable to claim back any tax from the Inland Revenue. For every £100 received under a Gift Aid declaration we can claim back £28.20 from the Inland Revenue.

The amount recovered emphasises the importance of the Gift Aid scheme to us, and I would urge anyone who currently has not completed a Gift Aid declaration to now consider doing so - it doesn't cost you anything and will take less than a minute to complete the form. Speak to John McGarrie, Ross Mitchell or myself if you have any questions or require a form for completion.

As a reminder the 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.

Secondly we received £5,812 in respect of hall lets, which is higher than the figure from 2005.

Between them these 2 sources of income account for over 20% of our total income; without either we would not meet our commitments.

During 2006 our expenditure actually reduced by £636 compared to 2005. This was mainly due to reductions in Fabric Repairs & Maintenance and reduced local costs.

Expenditure in 2007 is budgeted to increase to £84,757; an increase of £2,550 from 2006 as can be seen on the next page.

Whether we like it or not finance is an important element in the long-term survival of Bourdock 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 to ensure our longer term.

Derek Palmer
Finance Convenor

Bourock Parish Church
Summary Statement Of Accounts
Year Ended 31st December 2006

| | 2006 | | | 2005 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--|--|-------------|
| | £ | | | £ |
| INCOME | | | | |
| Offerings | 74,387 | | | 72,804 |
| Other General Income | 8,737 | | | 7,336 |
| Total | 83,124 | | | 80,140 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| National Ministry and Mission | 50,059 | | | 48,521 |
| Local Staffing Costs | 7,494 | | | 7,124 |
| Building Costs | 18,346 | | | 19,947 |
| Other Local Costs | 6,278 | | | 7,251 |
| Total | 82,207 | | | 82,843 |
| (Deficit)/Surplus | 917 | | | -2703 |
| FUNDS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER | 2006 | | | 2005 |
| | £ | | | £ |
| Fabric Fund | 3327 | | | 2780 |
| Building Fund | 291 | | | 0 |
| Flower Fund | 930 | | | 352 |
| Kitchen Refurbishment Fund | 1600 | | | 1600 |
| Kenyan Fund | 4043 | | | 3107 |
| Youth Fund | -223 | | | -223 |
| BUDGET FOR 2007 | | | | |
| EXPENDITURE | £ | | | |
| National Ministry and Mission | 50,457 | | | |
| Local Staffing Costs | 7,800 | | | |
| Building Costs | 19,200 | | | |
| Other Local Costs | 7,300 | | | |
| Total | 84,757 | | | |
| INCOME | | | | |
| Offerings | 75,757 | | | |
| Other General Income | 9,000 | | | |
| Total | 84,757 | | | |
| (Deficit)/Surplus | 0 | | | |

