

SteepleTalk



The Magazine
Of
Bourock Parish Church

Christmas 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	881 5502
Tweenies	Morag McKenzie	880 5077
Bourock Friends 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	

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Christian Education	Linda Dye
Mission And Outreach	Agnes Brown
Pastoral Care	Moira McCartney
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Dear Friends,

When you receive this magazine, Christmas will be just round the corner. I have no doubt that the shops will be extremely busy and the television adverts will be urging us to make sure that we have everything that “we need to make Christmas happy”

However, we don't really need all these things we can buy in shops. What we need is a sense of what we should be celebrating. The birth of a child who was God incarnate. We should be rejoicing because our God came to earth to live amongst us as one of us. Let us not get so carried away by commercialism that we forget that this celebration is about being included in the story of God's salvation.

Angus and I have just returned from a trip to the Holy Land (you can read his reflection on that trip elsewhere in the magazine). It is a wonderful experience to walk in the places where Jesus walked. I am hoping to organise a trip, perhaps in two years time, so that some of you might share in this experience. To celebrate Holy Communion on the shores of the Sea of Galilee with you would be amazing!

I would like to say how much I enjoyed the fellowship at the Stewardship meetings and I would like to thank everyone who was involved in their preparation. I do hope the Campaign proves to be fruitful so that we can be even more active as a Church

Thanks, too, are due to Junior Church for all their work with Operation Christmas Child. We don't know the number of boxes sent yet but I am sure that each and everyone of them will be much appreciated. It is in the spirit of Christmas that we do such work which spreads God's love to many, even though they live far from us.

I hope that you all have a blessed and peaceful Christmas

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mamee". The letters are cursive and connected, with a long, sweeping underline for the 'e'.



JUNIOR CHURCH



We started the session well with good numbers in all age groups but unfortunately some weeks the attendance is quite low. We have over 80 children and young people on our role but our average attendance is around 40. However when the children do come along they are all very enthusiastic and keen to learn. We continue to use Seasons of the Spirit material which is of course Lectionary based which means that the whole church family is working on the same parts of Scripture each week.

We are busy collecting for our Shoebox Appeal at present and as always the response from the congregation has been fantastic. We would hope to be able to send around 250 boxes as usual but I am hopeful that we may exceed that number if donations continue to be so generous. This is important work and a wonderful opportunity for us to share some Christmas love with children who have so little .

Junior Church Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 22nd December from 5.00.- 7.00. The children will be leading worship at our Nativity Service on Christmas Eve at 7.00 and everyone is very welcome to come along and 'gather round the manger' with the younger members of our Church family.

Wishing you all peace and joy this Christmas



Linda Dye

Keep Fit For Life

Casey Seymour, a successful soccer player and coach, notes that everyone on his team hates the 10-by-100 drill that ends practice. Before the men can leave the field, they must run 100 yards 10 times at full speed with minimal rest. If they don't beat a prescribed time, they have to do it again.

The players hate it - until the day of the game. Then they find that they can play at full capacity for the entire match. Their effort has been rewarded with a championship!

The apostle Paul used metaphors of training and competition in his letters. While he was a missionary to the Gentiles, he submitted to the instructions and drills of God amid great suffering and hardship. Twice in Philippians 4, he said, "I have learned" (vv.11-12). For him, and for each of us, following Jesus is a lifelong learning process. We are not spiritually mature the day we are saved, any more than a schoolboy athlete is ready for professional soccer. We grow in faith as we allow God through His Word and the Holy Spirit to empower us to serve Him.

Through hardship, Paul learned to serve God well - and so can we. It's not pleasant, but it is rewarding! The more teachable we are, the more mature we will become. As members of Christ's team, let's be coachable.

David C. Egner

Pilgrimage To The Holy Land

Early on the morning of Sunday 14th October, Maureen and I set off for Glasgow Airport to meet up with a group of about 50 others, mainly from Renfrew North Church, to start our pilgrimage. This was the culmination of more than 18 months of planning and preparation which had started shortly after Maureen returned from her fact-finding trip in January 2006. I had attended a number of the planning meetings but most of the other members of the group were strangers to me and I didn't know quite what to expect. The group leaders were Rev. Lorna Hood of Renfrew North and Very Rev. Sandy McDonald (whose other claim to fame is as Dr Who's dad – how old does that make Sandy?). Once we reached Heathrow we had to face the rigours of El Al security prior to our flight to Tel Aviv, and late that evening we arrived in Jerusalem at the Golden Walls Hotel, beside the old city wall just outside the Damascus Gate. This was to be our base for the next six nights.

Monday marked the start of a hectic four days in and around Jerusalem. What an experience to visit the places mentioned in the Bible – Bethany, the Upper Room, the Mount of Olives, the traditional site of Calvary, the Garden Tomb and many more - and now to be able to visualise what they are like. We also visited Bethlehem, not far from Jerusalem but in Palestinian territory and surrounded by a wall higher than the Berlin Wall was. To enter and leave you have to pass through a checkpoint manned by armed guards. We visited the Fields of the Shepherds where we had a very moving Communion Service and Manger Square and the Basilica and Grotto of the Nativity built over the traditional site of Jesus' birth. We started early in the morning. Most days we were on the coach by 8.00a.m. and it came as a shock to look at your watch thinking it must be nearly lunch-time, to discover it was only 10.30a.m.! However, we packed a lot into these days and there was even some time set aside for shopping!

On Friday we drove into the Judean Wilderness (yes the stones really do look like loaves of bread). We visited Qumran (where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered), the ruins of Herod's desert fortress of Masada (a magnificent collection of buildings sited on the top of a mountain and approached by cable-car), and Jericho where another check-point had to be negotiated. We also had the opportunity to float in the Dead Sea. I have always maintained that I don't float! Guess what, I was proved wrong again!

We drove north from Jerusalem to spend our final three days in Galilee where we stayed at the Scots Hotel in Tiberias and visited sites associated with Jesus' early life and ministry. Nazareth Village gives a fascinating insight into life in Nazereth at the time of Jesus. In the ruins of Capernaum, Jesus' Galilean base, we saw the Synagogue and Peter's House. We celebrated Holy Communion on the shores of the Sea of Galilee (really awesome) and sailed across the lake.

All too soon, the Pilgrimage was over and it was time to head for home. It was back to reality with an early start (even earlier than usual) and a drive to Tel Aviv to face El Al security once again prior to our return flight. As Sandy put it, it was time to "come down from the mountain". People who had been strangers the week before had now become friends with whom we had shared some wonderful experiences. Places which had been names in a book had become real. Jerusalem and Galilee had provided two very contrasting experiences. Jerusalem is very built up and commercialised, in Galilee you get a real sense of what Jesus' life must have been like. The present political situation between Israelis and Palestinians and the uneasy truce between them had become a reality for us. There were so many different experiences crammed into that short period of time it has provided lots of food for thought. Did it live up to my expectations? It surpassed them, it was a truly wonderful experience. Would I go back? Given the opportunity, I would love to return. There is so much to take in that one visit cannot do it justice. Would I recommend it to others? Most certainly. I think it's necessary for all of us to take time out from the normal routine to re-charge our "spiritual batteries". This is the ideal way of doing that. If you get the opportunity, take it and experience it for yourselves.

Angus F Leitch

Tibute To Elspeth Davidson

It was with great sadness that we learned at the end of April that Elspeth Davidson had lost her long struggle with cancer. We had come to admire the strength and fortitude she had displayed throughout her battle with this illness. We also admired the fact that she never lost her sense of humour as she underwent the various treatments associated with her illness.

A Barrhead girl, she has spent most of her life in the town, apart from a brief sojourn in Eaglesham. Elspeth had been involved with the church from a young age.

Most people will immediately connect Elspeth with choir because she had a good singing voice and, more importantly, she loved to use it. Her singing extended well beyond the church and she had sung with the co-operative choir, the Philomel Singers, and the Auburn Singers.

Music played a big role in her life and through it she gave pleasure to others but, also, gained much pleasure personally. She enjoyed trips away with her choirs and made many friendships through them.

Elspeth had been involved with other aspects of church life too as she grew up, like the Sunday school and the guides. In 1981 Elspeth was ordained to the eldership in Bourock and played her full part as a member of session until her failing eyesight limited her contribution.

Elspeth married Wilson Davidson in 1961 and they had a son and a daughter, Alan and Evelyn. And they were delighted to welcome three grandchildren, Cameron, Callum and David, into the family fold.

There is no doubt that we already miss Elspeth in the church - her cheery disposition and her ability to see the funny side of any situation is missed by many.

However, she will be missed most in the family circle and our thoughts are with Wilson, Alan and Evelyn and the grandchildren as well as with her sister Evelyn. We pray that their memories of Elspeth will prove to help them through this difficult time.

SALLY RODGER

A tribute by Glenda Meikle

Sally Rodger's many friends would be saddened by the news of her death. After a full working life, becoming an inspector of residential homes, she retired in Barrhead. She was one of Bourock's characters, known for her love of remodelling and wearing hats. Her artistic skill produced the lovely banners that are hung from the balcony.

For many years she served on the Congregational Board, led Thursday worship on numerous occasions and hosted a Bible study house group. Sally's strong faith was an inspiration to all who knew her well. I like to count myself as one of that privileged number. The Holy Spirit was her constant companion, she was never alone. She frequently chatted to him in her home in Boylestone Road.

When her Parkinson's Disease became more troublesome, she left Barrhead and moved to a bungalow near her brother in Newark, Nottinghamshire. Not long afterwards she had to go into a residential home and in her later years was transferred to a nursing home. The last time I saw Sally, was in the residential home. Although she was very disabled, there was still that mischievous twinkle in her eyes, she still addressed people as 'honey child' or 'dear boy'. She confided that it was sometimes her 'get out' if a name slipped her memory. It won't surprise you to learn that she won the Easter bonnet competition!

She will be sadly missed by her brother, sister-in-law and nieces, of whom she was very fond, but they will be glad that her suffering is over. She's made her last move to the permanent rest home where she can chat face to face with her Lord.

Thank you, God, for Sally.

3rd Barrhead Guide Company

To start the New Year (2007) the Guides had a pamper night. This was enjoyed by everyone. Also in January, Julie, a leader in a Guide Company in Glasgow, came and gave a very interesting talk on her experiences and adventures on the Tall Ships which she has been on on three occasions. Nothing was too much for her. The girls had lots of questions to ask her. Julie has cerebral palsy and is deaf but nothing was too much trouble for her. We can't wait for another visit from Julie to tell us of her latest adventures.



Girlguiding UK

Gayle and Caroline Morrison attended a Baden-Powell Adventure weekend in February in Glasgow. This was the final part of their Baden-Powell Challenge and the girls will be presented with their Awards and Certificates at a presentation supper in April. Well done from all Guides and leaders on their achievement.

When Thinking Day came round (February 22) the Guides decided to invite the two Brownie Packs to an American-themed Party where there was Line Dancing, American-style dancing, hot dogs, crisps and drinks. Everyone had a good time and dressed up for the occasion. Sorry for the glitter on the carpet!!

For Red Nose Day the Guides (13 total), Leaders (4), Helper (1) and Cllr Danny Devlin walked across the Erskine Bridge and back. This took place on Monday, March 12. It was a very dark evening, not too cold but on the return journey it started to rain but we had a bus waiting for us. The chatter was great!! The tremendous total of £770.65 was raised. Thanks to all family and friends who sponsored the Guides. A wonderful effort you'll agree from 19 people!!

We also delivered to Mrs Holland (Guide Dogs for the Blind) a large quantity of used stamps, 50-small ink cartridges, 9-large print jet cartridges, 10-large toner cartridges, 12-mobile phones and a cash donation. Mrs Holland was amazed at what had been collected and wanted to thank everyone for all their invaluable help. What might be rubbish, fit for the bin, is worth money to someone else. So please still keep collecting and leave any donations of the above at the doors where the 3rd Guides will be only too delighted to pass on.

The Awards Evening took place on Monday, May 7 this followed a games evening. The following Guides received awards:

Attendance: Perfect - Caroline Morrison, Grace McDermott, Gayle Morrison, Olivia Ross, Cara Richardson. Good - Kirsty Murdoch, Laura Kennedy, Rebecca Campbell and Rebecca Jones. Points for: Games, Stamps, Cartridges, Toners, Mobile Phones: The Patrol that won was the Starfish Patrol - Cara Richardson, Rebecca Campbell, Caitlin Attwood, Carla Hogan and Helen Mitchell.

Best Patrol: Daffodil - Caroline Morrison, Grace McDermott, Kirsty Murdoch and Rebecca Jones.

Best Guide(s): Joint winners - Caroline Morrison and Gayle Morrison.

Special Mugs were presented to all Guides who had contributed in The Body Shop Party and Comic Relief.

The new session in September saw two new girls starting with us. On Monday, September 19 the Guides held a fun evening at Lapwing Lodge. Cracking codes and carrying out many challenges from gathering different leaves to making a display with grasses, flowers etc, toasties supper with hot chocolate, seemed to go down well.

Six Guides helped at the Sr Citizen evening in October and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Make a Difference Day - Sat Oct 27 saw Guides, Parents and Friends helping to plant daffodil and crocus bulbs in the Dalmeny area.

We are now looking forward to our Hallowe'en Party and The Body Shop Party on November 19 when everyone will be made most welcome to join us and spoil themselves.

We are entertaining the ladies and gentlemen at the Sheltered Complex Main Street, going to the BVC matinee of Peter Pan and holding our Christmas Party all in December.

We would like to wish everyone a very peaceful Christmas. We start back on Monday, January 7, 2008.

Gayle & Barbara
3rd Guiders

Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Irene Draper, president of Bourock Church Guild, and her hard working committee for the lovely evening we all had to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Bourock Guild.

A three course dinner with tea, coffee and beautiful birthday cake was provided and our church choir entertained.

Guests attending were Rev. Maureen Leitch with her husband Angus and Rev. Frank Gardner wife his wife Nan.

Alioson Twaddle, general secretary of the Guild was the guest speaker and gave an entertaining talk.

June Wll represented the Presbyterial Council of the Guild and Louis Cowan was first president of the evening Guild.

Also attending were some of our twinning partners from Bellhaven Church in Dunbar as well as members from Arthurlie, South & Levern and Neilston churches.

A really lovely evening was had by all - thanks again to the president and her committee.

Ida Manson

Autumn

Autumn

Season of maturity

Fledglings flown

Wild oats sown

Children gone to

Homes of their own

Autumn

Age of opportunity

Freedom now yours

From routine chores

Chance to tackle

New endeavours

Autumn

Time for diversity

In God's employment

There's no retirement

Ask Him for your

Next assignment

Glenda Meikle

Winter

Early in the morning people are cross

When they see their cars all covered in frost

Icy roads along the way

When will I get to work today?

People muffled against the cold

Slippery pavements frustrate the old

Watery sun and misty moon

I think it will be snowing soon

Dark morning and early nights

Sensible ladies in woolly tights

Little children kicking snow

Noses red and cheeks aglow

Weary workers homeward bound

From their jobs around the town

Lots of colds and runny noses

In the garden frozen roses

Lacy webs among the trees

Cold hands and chilly knees

Scarlet berries in the bough

All the birds collecting now

Skeletal leaves and naked trees

And now and again another sneeze

When we come in from the snow

It's lovely to see the fire glow

Fishermen at sea beware

Storms are coming, take great care

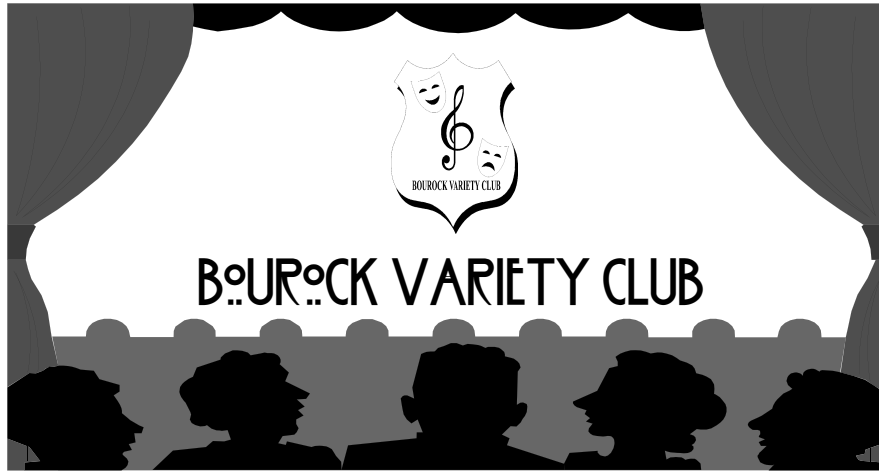
Children skating on the pond

Mothers shouting on the banks beyond

Steaming cups of tea bring cheer

It's quite my favourite time of year.

Jennifer Johnson



By the time you read this article Peter Pan will, I hope, have been a great success but as I write this it is still very much 'in rehearsal' and has a long way to go. It is a well known story and a fun show to produce but still a lot of hard work. Our club numbers are down slightly this year as some of our younger members move on to University and their interests change but we still have a very strong cast and lots of talent. We would love to welcome along new members especially male as Angus is just a little outnumbered on the stage!!

The club is planning a Burns Ceilidh on Friday 25th January in The United Services Club in aid of CHAS where the music will be provided by "The Stuart McKeown Band". Please put that date in your diary for now and more details will follow.

All I can say to finish is - I REALLY hope that you enjoyed the show.

Linda Dye

Bourock Friends Group

The BFG continues to try to meet once a month. We are an informal group of friends - who are not so young, hence the change of name from the young womans group. When Maureen intimated our last meeting and made reference to the Big Friendly Giant we were all a bit afraid of what she would say, so when she came out with the "Bourock Friendly Girls" we were all greatly relieved even although she was wrong! We are the Bourock Friends Group, fourteen in number but would still welcome new members young or old - some of us are much younger than others!

Our plan for this year is based on fun and fundraising for the Seed of Hope and CHAS.

We've have just had a very successful evening at Moira's house where Jean Malcolm assisted us in purchasing some lovely gifts for Christmas- the money raised for this event was for the Seed of Hope as we continue to sponsor girls from the school.

We are going to have our annual Christmas dinner at Karen Johnstone's. This promises to be a really good evening if previous ones are anything to go by. Instead of presents for each other we are going to donate the money that we would spend again to the Seed of Hope .

Future events for the following year hopefully include a visit to the bowling and the theatre with a tour of somewhere in Glasgow thrown in. We also hope to visit Robin House and plan a sponsored walk round the Church grounds prior to this. This will enable us to raise funds for this very worthwhile cause and we will be looking for your support- so keep your eyes and ears peeled for further information.

Sandra Miller is going to entertain us later on in the year with a murder mystery - at which, I have been told and I am not surprised, she is very good.

We will end the year with a night out - anyone with good ideas please speak to Susan Morrison!

If you feel like joining us for one or more of these events please do so!

Susan Palmer

Finance Report - November 2007

Finance has been a major issue this year, being the basis of the stewardship campaign. Sadly, whether we like it or not, it is an important element in the long term survival of Bourrock and cannot be ignored.

At this stage it is difficult to determine whether our income will fully cover our expenditure for 2007, but again I must point out if we do it will be as a result of the income received as a result of our gift aid claim as well as the income received from our hall lets.

Our claim to the Inland Revenue this year again covers 2 aspects. Firstly, in relation to our offerings, through WFO and Standing Orders, we have claimed just over £13,500, while secondly, we have also claimed around £630.00 in respect of donations given to the building fund - again both claims are most welcome and on behalf of the Finance Committee I thank everyone who contributed in any way.

As can be seen from the above I will emphasise again the importance of this source of income and one that 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.

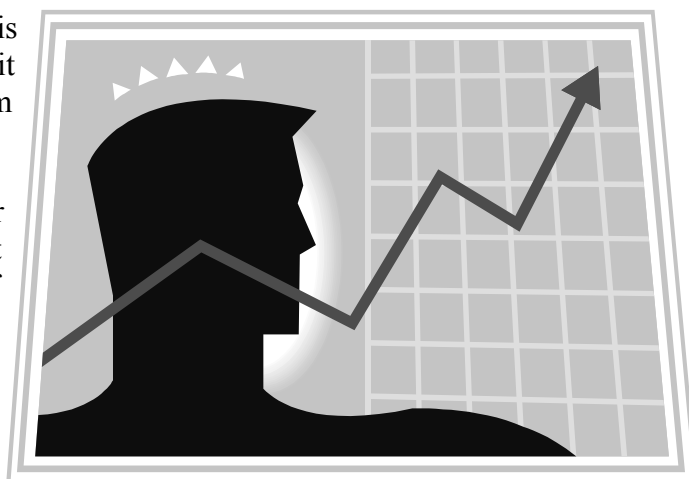
I will therefore continue a familiar theme by recommending that anyone who currently makes their offering by either monthly standing order or through the weekly freewill envelopes, who also pays sufficient income tax, and has not yet completed a gift aid declaration does so now.

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

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 2007.

Derek Palmer
Finance Convenor



2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade Company Section

This year sees us enjoying good numbers with an average attendance of 18 boys and 5 officers. We have begun our year with a renewed enthusiasm with drill, Christian faith and poster design classes as well as target badges for our recruits being run.

The boys are responding well and their participation is a credit to them. Every week I get positive feedback from the staff regarding the attitude of the boys. Long may this continue and as a staff we will do our best to ensure a varied and enjoyable programme.

We have participated in various competitions with Christian faith, general knowledge quiz, junior badminton and the imminent cross country contest featuring in our list of achievements. We have done reasonably well in these competitions and we hope to lift silverware very soon.

We have a visit to Pollok fire station planned, where the boys will receive expert tuition and advice from the staff at the station. This should be an informative and enjoyable evening, contributing to their community badge.

Our Anchor Boys and Junior Section are most successful as usual and I am grateful to Mary Murray, Lawrence Webb and staff for their sterling efforts.

We are looking forward to visits from Battalion and our own Kirk Session and hope that their representatives are impressed at what they see.

Graham Manson
Company Captain.



Warning and Response

When a dangerous blizzard hit Colorado Springs in late October 2006, residents had plenty of warning. Weather forecasters began predicting the storm 36 hours before it arrived. On a warm, sunny afternoon people swarmed into grocery stores to buy supplies, while tyre shops worked overtime to meet the demand for winter treads. Everyone was talking about the coming storm. Even before the snow began, schools and businesses announced they would be closed for the day. When the storm hit with blowing snow and freezing temperatures, most people were safe at home, not trying to get to work or school.

When we believe a warning, it affects our behavior. It's true in every area of life, including our walk of faith. Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica, reminding them that the day of the Lord would come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night (1 Thess. 5:2). His call to action urged them to avoid spiritual lethargy but remain alert and self-controlled (v.6).

Paul's challenge echoed Jesus' own words urging His followers to be watchful and ready, "for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matt. 24:44).

If we believe our Lord's word about His coming, how will it affect our thoughts and actions today?"

David C. McCasland

2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade

Anchor Boys

Our new session started on September 5th. We had 27 boys on our first night back with more than half of these new to Anchor Boys. Our average weekly attendance is 28 boys at present. Our programme follows the tried and tested formula with a mix of big games such as Hockey, Dodgey Ball, Port and Starboard all of which the boys enjoy. We also have craft every night in the annex along with table games, play dough and target games.

The boys are willing and enthusiastic participants in all the activities.

On Saturday September 29th Paisley Battalion ran a promotional event at Braehead Shopping Centre. I attended the event with four of our Anchor Boys. Never having attended the event before, we didn't know what to expect. Boys from several companies within the battalion attended the event. We had a very enjoyable morning and the boys enjoyed taking part in all the activities and games. They were a credit to the section and themselves and their families. They would have stayed all day had they had the chance!

Our Hallowe'en part was held last Wednesday and the boys (and helpers) attended in wonderful costumes. Once again, a good time was had by all.

The run up to Christmas will see the boys attending the BVC pantomime and we will have our Christmas party on December 19th. The time is flying past and it is hard to believe that our session is almost half way through! Our staff this year consists of Jillian Webb, Mary Gauld, Ross Murray and Gordon Murray. Unfortunately Lindsay Simpson has not been able to come this year and we all miss her.

Derek Palmer continues to be our treasurer and I am grateful for his help.

We are also grateful for the support of Session and the congregation.



Mary Murray
Officer in Charge

Christian Stewardship Programme

The 'Gatherings' which took place on 18th and 19th September were very successful and well attended. The organisations and groups associated with the congregation mounted a comprehensive and varied display of the work of the church. The presentations gave informative accounts of 'Christian Spending' and 'Christian Giving' illustrated by an entertaining quiz and drama. The refreshments at the end of the evening were excellent and much appreciated.

Visitors have now completed their Response Visits:-

1. To collect responses from members who attended the Gatherings but had not returned them.
2. To deliver packs to members who were unable to attend the Gatherings and return to collect their responses.

In this way, all members of the congregation have been contacted and invited to respond. At present the responses are in process of being collated and analysed.

The Planning Group would like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of this project by acting as visitors, completing display boards, baking, serving refreshments and in any other ways. We would also like to thank all members of the congregation for their positive response to this campaign. An assessment of the programme will be made and issued in due course.

Angus F Leitch
Stewardship Planning Group Convener

The Guild

The Guild got off to a wonderful start with its 100th Birthday party and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Guild committee members for their invaluable support and assistance in the preparation for this event, which was a great success and a lovely evening. Also a big thank you to everyone who took part in the United Guild Service, and to the Guild members for their excellent home-baking.

These days life is so busy and we all have so many commitments, but the other day I received an e.mail from a friend which kind of puts everything into perspective and I would like to share it with you.

Irene Draper
Bourock Guild



The Mayonnaise Jar and 2 Cups of Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things - your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favourite passions - and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car.

The sand is everything else - the small stuff. "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit with grandparents. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house. Take care of the golf balls first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled and said, "I'm glad you asked."

"The coffee just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

Cosy Coffee House

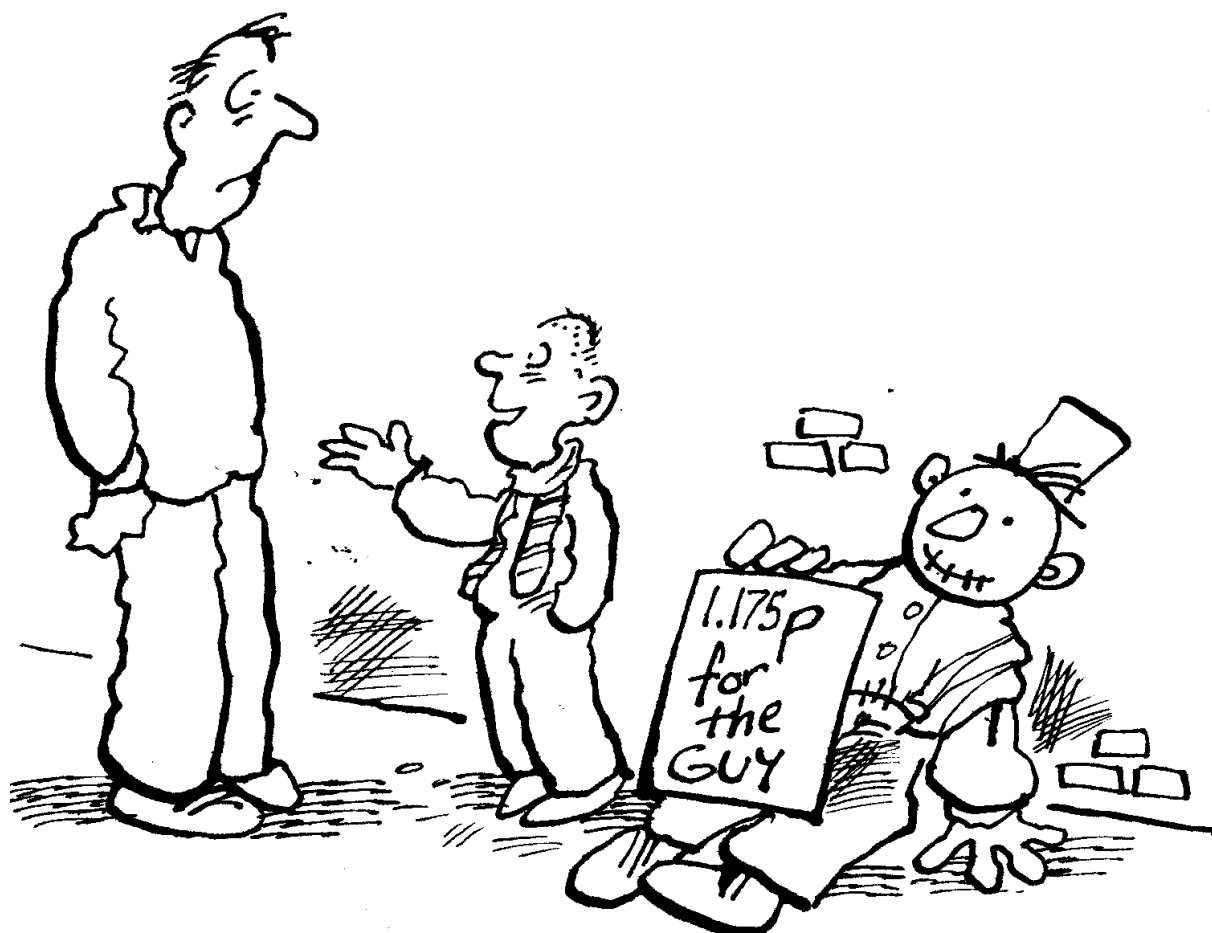
Our church group recently asked Session if it would be alright to run a Cosy (Church of Scotland Youth) Coffee Shop. The Cosy Coffee Shop idea came about as a way to try and get young people into the church and show them that the church can be a place to hang around and talk to your friends about many issues. Session quickly agreed to this and ordered (and paid for the box for us - so a big thank you to them) a starter pack. In the pack were a few t-shirts and an apron for the chief coffee maker, lots of coffee, hot chocolate and invitations for the guests. We came up with a date and had a planning meeting to work out who should wear the apron!

On the night we all went down early and started to set up the annexe with lots of pillows, cushions, candles and fairy lights to make it look cosy and welcoming. We had brought along some music so that people could sit back and relax or sit and chat with friends. The annexe looked really good and the smells of coffee from the kitchen made it seem like a real coffee house.

All of our church group attended and we were really nervous in case the folks we had invited didn't turn up. We shouldn't have worried though because altogether we had around 17 people through our coffee house. Everyone felt very relaxed and comfortable and we had lots of informal chats. We also discovered lots of different ways to make hot chocolate. Everyone agreed that it had been a great success and we would do it again in the future.

Thanks to Linda, Susan and Ken for being there - hope you enjoyed your coffee!

Fiona Palmer



*I made so much profit last year,
I've had to register for VAT!*

Update on the Kibera Project

With your help over the past 12 months we have managed to raise over £13,000 towards the cost of the new school building in Kibera. This is a tremendous total and a very big 'thank you' goes to everyone who has supported the project. The Church community in Kibera have been overwhelmed by your most generous support, and can now, after many years of hard struggle, see real hope for their children's' future.



We hope that you will continue to support us over the coming years.

News from PCEA - Kibera

The Presbyterian Church in Kibera have had a very sad and trying time since the last newsletter. On 24th June one of the members of their Sunday school, a 6 year old girl, was murdered and her body was found in the garden of the Minister's Manse. Our thoughts and prayers have been passed on to her family. Then on 17th August, the Church at Emmanuel was attacked by the neighbouring Muslim community, who burnt down the nursery school classrooms and some residential houses. The attackers are objecting to the presence of a Christian Church in the area. This is a very worrying time for the Church in Kibera, and they have asked us to remember them in our prayers. Kibera Church has not yet received any news regarding the planning application for the new school at Silanga, but hope to hear soon.

Visit of Members from Kibera Parish to Barrhead

The National Youth Assembly for 2008 has adopted our Kibera Project as their sponsored project. The Church of Scotland Annual Youth Assembly is for young adults who have a connection to the Church and are aged between 16 and 25. Next year's National Youth Assembly takes place in Dundee from Friday 5th to Monday 8th September, at the Apex City Quay Hotel. Around 300 young adults aged 16 to 25 are expected to take part.



Therefore we have decided this would be an appropriate time to bring some members from the Kibera community to our community here in Barrhead. We are currently in discussion with the Church of Scotland World Mission about the possibility of obtaining a grant to cover the cost of airfares, visas and passports etc. This would be a very exciting opportunity for their members who have never been given the opportunity to travel abroad before. We will begin to work on the itinerary shortly, and would welcome any suggestions as to activities/events etc that they could take part in during their stay in Barrhead.

Website

Our website is now up and running. It gives information about the PCEA, the projects and our involvement with the Seed of Hope charity.

The web address is www.bourock.org.uk/kibera

Are You Free?

The Springhill House Group meets on alternate Mondays, usually the 2nd and 4th of the month, at 7.45 pm. If you are free then, you'd be very welcome to join us. We're a very friendly, informal group, interested in finding out more about what's in the Bible. We will be using an Advent study in October/November then starting a study of Joshua in January. Please phone Glenda on 881 4269 for more information.

