

SteepleTalk



The Magazine
Of
Bourock Parish Church

Easter 2008

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	571 4520
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	

Business Committee Convenors

Christian Education	Linda Dye
Mission And Outreach	Agnes Brown
Pastoral Care	Moira McCartney
Property	Sheila Tinto
Finance	Derek Palmer

Internet Addresses

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

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it is the season of Easter already!. It doesn't seem so long since we were celebrating Christmas and now we are in the midst of Easter celebrations. However, we must take into account that Easter this year is as early as it possibly could be.

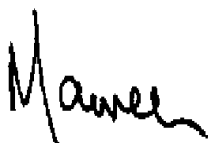
No matter on what date it falls, Easter is the high point of the Church's year. At Easter we celebrate the fulfilment of the promise of Christmas. By his sacrifice on a cross, and then his resurrection, , Jesus brings the promised victory over death and the offer of new life to all. It is a day of celebration and Christians everywhere should be joining together to sing the praises of our wonderful God.

As a church family we are grieving the loss of several loved ones at this time. However we can still give thanks for their lives and example and, in their memory, vow to continue to bear witness to the love of Christ. I know that all would have wished that we continue to build a strong community of fellowship and love here in Bourrock..

Our new kitchen in the Lower Hall has now been completed and we have a lovely, modern facility to use in order to build up the bonds of fellowship over tea, coffee and food. I would wish to pay tribute to all those, under the leadership of Gordon Simpson, who gave so willingly of their time and skills to bring this project to completion. I hope we will honour their hard work by using this kitchen well and taking care of the fabric.

Easter is a time for renewal, so if you have any suggestions on how you would like to see the church moving forward, please don't hesitate to speak to our Session Clerk, Elizabeth McKenzie, or myself or, indeed, your elder. We are always delighted to hear the views of our congregation.

I hope you are all renewed in your faith this Easter. May God's blessing be on each and everyone.

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



JUNIOR CHURCH



Junior Church really enjoyed the Advent Theme of shoes and were even able to carry it through to our Nativity Service which was as always well attended by both children and adults. Morag Brown had made some new costumes for us as some of our 'shepherds' and 'kings' were getting a little shabby. Everyone enjoys this Service and it is a wonderful way to spend Christmas Eve. Our party was also a great success and very well attended.

Operation Christmas Child 2007 exceeded everything we could have hoped for. We sent off from Bourock a total of 337 boxes which was amazing. It is wonderful to know that 337 children who otherwise may have received nothing got a Christmas Box because of your love and generosity. I spent a day working at the depot where the boxes are checked and dispatched and be warned I will be looking for a team of people who can give up a little time to assist in this work this year. To date 1.3 million gift filled boxes were sent from the UK in 2007 to needy children in Eastern Europe the former Soviet Union and Africa. Many of these children live in poverty, have been orphaned or abandoned, or are sick with AIDS or other life threatening diseases. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this Appeal in any way and please feel free to start collecting now for this year !



We are now well into our Lent programme in Junior Church. and the children are looking forward to their Easter Club on Saturday 22nd March from 10am to 12am. We are also learning a new song for Easter with a very familiar tune and we hope to share this with the whole church on Easter Day. Our new teachers in Junior Church are giving lots of help and I hope that they are enjoying the experience. We continue to work with Seasons of the Spirit material which is lectionary based and gives real continuity through all ages in our Church. We are always pleased to welcome visitors (children or adults) so please feel free to come and see what we do downstairs.

Linda Dye

Tibute To Lindsay Simpson

Like so many people in Bourock, we are still coming to terms with Lindsay's death. We had become so accustomed to seeing her about the church that her passing has left a huge void in the life of our community. We will miss her cheerful presence and sense of humour for she was able to laugh in many different circumstances.

Lindsay had been involved with Bourock ever since her Sunday School days and she participated in many activities over the years. Her husband Gordon was an officer in the Boys' Brigade so Lindsay also joined and served as an officer with the Junior Section. In recent years she served again - this time with the Anchor boys

She was a member of the Choir and also helped the Variety Club during Show weeks and for some performances like Joseph. Summer Club was another of her activities - no one who has ever attended can forget the sight of Lindsay leading 100+ children through the intricacies of making and decorating various crafts.

Lindsay was also to be found at the Thursday morning service where she would contribute to the Worship but also organise the tea/coffee afterwards. The same could be said about Saturday morning coffee, where she was always on hand to chat and give friendly advice.

She was an elder and she took her duties seriously. Never the most vocal at meetings she would speak up about subjects that were important to her. She was Communion Organiser, making sure all the elements were ready and in place. However, her greatest strength lay in the pastoral side. She was a faithful and much-loved visitor. I know her District will miss her cheerful presence.

I could fill many pages in recording stories about Lindsay but I only want to say that we have much to be thankful for in having shared with Lindsay and I know that she will be much missed. Nowhere more so than in her family for they were the most important part of her life. Our sympathies go to Gordon, Andrew and Lorna and we offer them our support at this time.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to Lindsay's faith. Throughout her life she has been a very faithful attender at worship and it was something that was very important to her. Her faith was deep and genuine and it was a great support to her throughout her illness. She made the journey into the presence of God without fear and with confidence - that was the mark of a woman of faith.

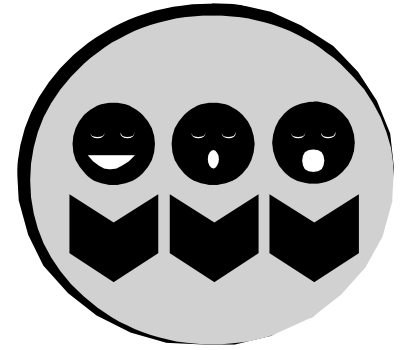
The Choir Needs You!

Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of the choir. You may have noticed that the number of members in the choir has diminished - we are looking for new members (young or old).

We are very sure that there are several people in the congregation who would be willing to come forward and join the choir but may be too shy. Why not speak to Carolynn or any member on a Sunday morning? We would be delighted to welcome you on a Friday evening from 7pm - 9pm.

Think of the alternative if by chance we do not increase our numbers. In no time at all, there will not be a choir to lead worship and that would be a great pity, as there has always been a choir to lead the congregation in worship in this church!

This may be the 21st century but we have a tradition to uphold in this church. We WANT you to help carry on this tradition.



Nancy Downie

A Night To Remember

What has 120 legs, is about 105 year old, travels long distances and can keep a church full of people spellbound for nearly three hours?

No not a new Minister to Bourock!

The answer is the Glasgow Phoenix Choir.

On Friday evening the 15th February 2008, thanks to the efforts of Dorothy Ramsey and Angus Leitch the Glasgow Phoenix Choir performed one of their world famous concerts as part of the Bourock Guild 100 year birthday celebrations.

Conducted by Marilyn Smith a truly momentous, magical, memorable, majestically magnificent musical evening was had by one and all.

The programme included sacred songs, modern choral works, as well as the well known classics and songs from West End shows, such as Les Miserable. It would be wrong to hold one item above all the others, but I guess we all have our favourites. Certainly my favourite item from the programme was "Highland Cathedral".

An evening that will be the talk of the "Steamie" for many years to come!

On behalf of everybody who was there of that unforgettable night, congratulations to The Guild, their Committee and all who helped create, what has to be described as an enchanting, captivating, enthralling and delightful musical evening.

Finally of course we must not forget our very own Angus whose singing talents and organising abilities did so much to make the evening unforgettable, outstanding, pure dead brilliant, tremendous, and terrifically impressive.

Well done to you all.

Geoff Orry

3rd Barrhead Guide Company

Well we started back in January after a lovely rest with a Ready Steady Cook challenge. The Guides had a few weeks to prepare everything they would need from decorating a table to preparing a 2 course meal on the night. Great fun was had by all and I'm sure no supper would be needed that night when they went home from Guides!!



Into February we had a Keep Fit/ Aerobics evening. The parents, family and friends were invited along to come and join us for some aerobics which were taken by Mrs Margaret MacRae. Also in February we had our annual Thinking Day Evening. This year the girls acted out a play for us and produced the normal Thinking Day Tables. Another successful night and enjoyable for all the girls.

April we are planning a Pamper evening along with "bring a dish" night so all beautiful nails and faces leaving the hall along with full tummies!!! Also in April we are hoping to have a BBQ evening with chef (Mr Jones) providing the grub.

We are hoping Mrs Holland & Pearl (her Guide dog) will pay us a visit to accept the ink cartridges, mobile phones etc. which we have been collecting for Guide Dogs for the Blind for some time now in either April or May.

The bulbs we planted for Make A Difference Day back in September in the Dalmeny Area are coming along well and we're hoping for a lovely display.

Our final evening is on 12th May and I'm sure the girls are looking forward to a well earned rest.

Thanks to everyone who has handed in stamps, mobile phones, ink cartridges, toners etc. Please still keep collecting for us, it really is appreciated.

Gayle & Barbara

Springhill House Group

The Springhill house group meets on alternate Mondays, usually the second and fourth, at 7.45 pm in Glenda Meikle's home. Transport can probably be arranged if required. It's a very informal, friendly group that's interested in finding out more about what's in the Bible. Newcomers are always welcome. We are doing a Lent study then starting Joshua. Why not give it a try? For more information please phone 881 4269.

Worship Survey

Thank you to everyone who took part in this survey in January. Following on from this, early morning services will commence on Sunday 6th April at 9:30. This service will be a more informal type of worship and will be on the first and third Sunday of every month.

Peripheral Vision

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for [Jesus] to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem. —Luke 9:51

Peripheral vision enables us to be aware of our surroundings while remaining focused on our destination. What we see from “the corner of our eye” can be useful, unless it distracts us from our goal.

During the weeks leading to Easter, as we think about the cross, we may be struck by our Lord’s purposeful approach to the city where He knew crucifixion and resurrection awaited Him. “Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). From that moment on, Jesus’ eyes were on the cross. Every obstacle to accomplishing His Father’s will became part of His peripheral vision.

When a man professed an interest in following Him, Jesus told him: “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (v.62). The issue was probably not the man’s family (v.61) but his focus. We can’t move ahead while looking at what we’ve left behind.

Neither cries of “Hosanna” nor shouts of hatred could deter Jesus from His goal “to give His life a ransom for many” and to pay the price to set us free (Matt. 20:28).

Where is our focus today?

David C. McCasland

Bourock Friends Group

Well, we are trying our best to follow our plan. Everyone in the group does not manage to attend every event but we are all quite happy to come and go when we are able.

Christmas dinner at Karen’s was, as usual, excellent. How she does it I don’t know. There were thirteen people sitting round her dining table and we were all served with a four course dinner. She forgot nothing and was able to give us valuable advice for our forthcoming Christmas meals. We did gather our gift money for the Seed of Hope so at least we were not the only ones benefiting out of the evening.

The bowling was great fun and if you have never been to Xscape I would recommend it. Thanks go to Paula for organising this. The biggest draw back was that some of us were better than others- I think that Karen Johnston had been practising on her Wii at home because she out classed everyone else. The best part of the night was that I beat Sandra over the two games even although she managed to get a number of strikes. It’s amazing what determination can do –I was certainly determined that I wasn’t going to be beaten by someone as old as she is.

Linda has managed to persuade Jennifer Stewart to run an aerobics night for us on Wednesday 5th March. This is open to anyone – in fact the more the merrier. I’m sure this will be a fun event

The theatre trip is booked for later in March when we are going to see Calamity Jane at the Kings. Helen Grant is part of the cast for this and we are looking forward to it. We just hope that we don’t get put out for singing along as some of the group get a bit carried away!

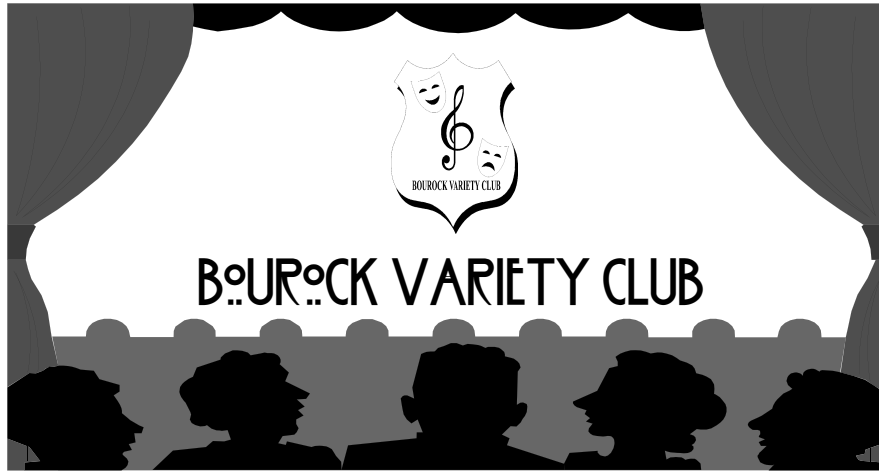
We are still hoping to visit Robin house and do our sponsored event. I am sure we will be well supported in this by Church members in their usual generous way. The visit will be of great interest to us and I am sure will encourage us to do even more fund raising for Chas.

Sandra and I are attempting to plan our weekend away to St. Andrews to buy the murder mystery box. We discovered a few years ago the stationery shop across from WH Smiths sells them, as I am sure many other places do. We have managed to use this as an excuse to have a weekend there for a wee while, just don’t tell our husbands! We’ll keep you posted as to whom the murderer is on the night.

Finally, we have not as yet booked our night out but had best get a move on with this. It is quite frightening how time flies-and they say it goes even faster the older you get- not that I would know!

I’d like to repeat our previous invitation from the last edition of the Steeple talk – if you’d like to join us for any of these events we would do our best to make you very welcome.

Susan Palmer



Peter Pan seems to be just a distant memory but a good one. The show was a great success although we did not sell as many tickets as we would have liked. However we have still be able to make donations to many charities and to our own church totaling £2500.

We also held a Burns Ceilidh in January where we raised £500 for CHAS (Childrens' Hospice Association) and had a great time as well. We also struggled to sell tickets for this but the 80 people who came along were very generous and I am sure enjoyed their night. Many businesses in the town supported as as well and we really appreciated their donations.

The club are planning something a bit different at present. We hope to produce a 'Showcase ' of the talents within the club in the form of a Variety type show but with tea served in the middle. We hope to be able to provide transport for those who need it and to make it a social night for everyone in our Church family. The proposed date is Saturday 19th April so watch out for further info !

Rehersals for our December show will start on Thursday 1st May and we would love to see some new members coming along. Even if you don't see yourself 'on the stage' there are lots of other jobs 'backstage' . We have a wide age range - from 14 upwards with no upper limit! Why not come along - you never know what hidden talent you may have.

5 members of the club (Susan, Sandra, Sheila, Gill and myself) will be taking part in the Glasgow 10k run on 18th May. We will be looking for sponsorship as we are doing this for the Beatson Oncology Unit.

Linda Dye

Christian Stewardship Programme

The effects of our Stewardship Programme, 'Giving for God', which centred on the Gatherings held on the 18th and 19th September last year, are still being felt and it is still too early to judge exactly what increase in offerings has been achieved. We plan to make a comparison of income figures for August 2007 (prior to the campaign) and February 2008 (when new standing orders should all have come on-stream) to give some indication, but the most accurate comparison will be to look at the annual income at the end of 2008 compared with the 2007 figure.

Early indications are that income increased in the final quarter of 2007 as a result of the 'Giving for God' programme. More members now use Standing Orders to cover their offerings, either having taken out new ones, or having increased existing ones. This is very helpful in predicting more accurately what our annual income will be. There has been a welcome increase in the number of Gift Aid Declarations giving us an additional 25% on all money which is Gift Aided.

Our target in running the 'Giving for God' programme was to achieve a 20% increase in our offerings. Early signs are that we are moving towards this. Will we reach our target? Time will tell.

Angus F Leitch
Stewardship Group Convener

Parish Register

BAPTISMS

June 2007

Erin Kaci Laird 8 Crompton Grove, Paisley

July 2007

Ashley Aileen Rebecca Duncan 22c Kerr Street
Mollie Long 43 Glenfield Gardens, Paisley

August 2007

David Andrew Bain 49 Fenwick Drive

October 2007

Oscar Blair Smith 4 John Smith Gate
Nicole Campbell Coyne George Street

December 2007

Georgia Margaret Robb 18 Gamrie Drive, Crookston

January 2008

Lucy Marion Johns 19 Brownside Crescent
Iona Douglas Thomson 12 Boylestone Road

WEDDINGS

June 2007

Steven McElharon and Mary Deveney

August 2007

David Jack and Sharon McNaught
Andrew Calderwood and Caroline Gray
Scott Holmes and Beverly Johnston

September 2007

Alex Murray and Lorraine Quinn

FUNERALS

April 2007

Gail Robertson c/o 26 Grampian Way
Joseph Mulholland 11 Gladstone Avenue

May 2007

*Elsbeth Davidson 10 Campbell Drive
Sarah Kent Norwood House
*Susan Blair (Anna) 568 Clarkston Road
*Parlane Clark 16 Kerr Street

July 2007

Stuart Carse 3 Seaforth Crescent
Elizabeth Parker(Margaret) 3 Fingleton Avenue

September 2007

Boyd Millar c/o 190 Lavern Crescent

October 2007

Johnston Lawn 8 Belmont Avenue
Demi Buchanan 49 Fenwick Drive

November 2007

Dorothy Johnston 55 Colinbar Circle
*Lindsay Simpson 107 Glenshee Avenue

December 2007

*Violet Jackson 11 Killoch Drive
Jim Carse 16 Cairngorm Crescent

January 2008

*Jenny McLeod 101D Main Street

February 2008

*Eleanora Suttie Norwood House

* denotes a member/adherent

Church Flowers



April

6 Mrs. A McCulloch
13 Mrs A Brown
20 Mrs. I Renfrew
30 Mrs E McKenzie

May

4 Mrs. A. McMillan
11 Mrs. E. Thomson
18 Mrs. I. Alexander
25 Mrs. F. McKinnon

August

3 Mrs. J. McGarrie
10 Mrs J. Auchincloss
17 Mrs. E. McKenzie
24 Mrs. D. Ramsay
31 Mr. J. McK. Allan

June

1 Mr. N. McClune
8 Mrs. N. Downie
15 Mrs. M. Buchanan
22 Mrs. B. Hamilton
29 Mrs. B. Watson

September

7 Mrs. S. Miller
14 Vacant
24 Variety Club
28 Mrs. B. Brown

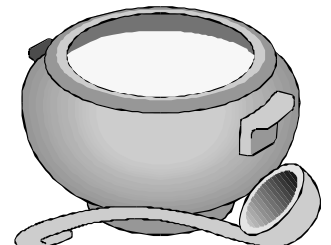
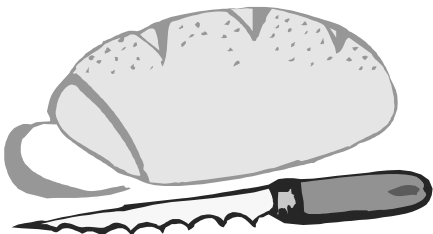
If you would like to gift the flowers for the sanctuary then please contact Elizabeth McKenzie
Tel 880 5077.

Thank you to everyone who gave the flowers last year and to all the flower team who put them in on a Saturday.
If you could help on a Sunday to deliver the flowers then please speak to Elizabeth.

Bourock Soup Stop

Coming Soon!

From Friday 4th April (and every Friday thereafter), you will be able to enjoy a bowl of home made soup and crusty bread in the lower hall from 12:00 - 2:00pm. Please come along and support this new venture.



Kirk Session

WELCOME TEAMS.

It has been great to see new faces on the welcome teams over the past six months but we would still like to involve more members of the congregation. If you would be willing to help in this way then please give your name to Elizabeth McKenzie or any member of the welcome team.

KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

The Kirk Session would like to involve more members of the congregation in the work of Session. This is **your** church and we need to hear **your** voice.

If you would like to be involved, it does not need to be for a long time, you can decide how long, then contact any of the people listed below or Elizabeth McKenzie, Session Clerk.

Tel 880 5077.

EDUCATION

We have a Children and Youth Committee and an Adult Education Committee.

If you are interested in the work of either of these committees please speak to Linda Dye.

Tel 876 1201.

MISSION & OUTREACH

There are several committees under this heading.

Christian Aid

Media Group

Mission Committee

Stewardship Committee

If you are interested in the mission work of the church please speak to Agnes Brown.

Tel 580 0059.

PASTORAL

Under this heading we have two committees

Care & Concern and Pastoral Teams

If you would be interested in assisting with one of these committees please speak to Moira McCartney.

Tel 580 0883

PROPERTY

There are three areas in this group

Church Property

Manse Property

Grounds

If you are interested in looking after the church (your) property please speak to Sheila Tinto.

Tel 07946 458426

The Tweenies

The Tweenies finish on 10th March after a very busy year. We have had 38 girls this year.

We have enjoyed games, music and crafts. We attended the Variety Club Show, which everyone enjoyed. We have had the usual parties at Halloween and Christmas.

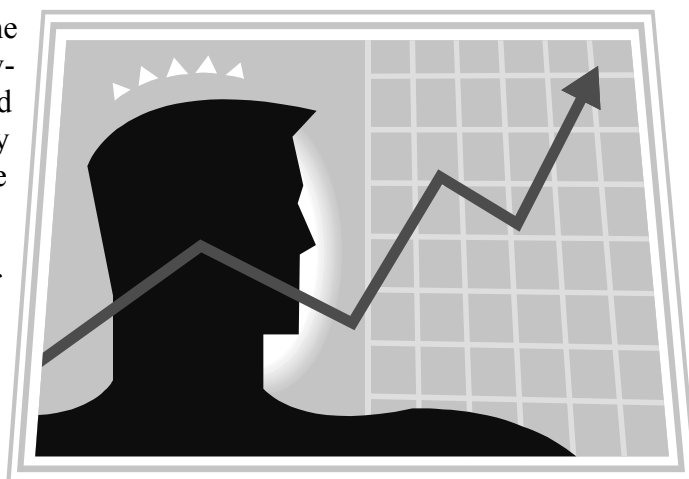
Sarah, one of the Tweenie leaders has just had a baby boy and we are looking forward to seeing baby Samuel before we finish.

Morag McKenzie (Leader)

Finance Report - Easter 2008

In accordance with new guidelines implemented by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland the following summary accounts, covering 2007, were presented to and approved by the Kirk Session on 10th February 2008. They will be presented to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting on 6th April 2008.

We started off 2007 by carrying forward a surplus of £917 from 2006, meaning the General Fund at that time stood at £11,659. Fortunately during 2007 our income again exceeded our expenditure, this time though by a reduced amount of £503. This meant that on 31st December 2007 our General Fund stood at £12,162 - this included writing off a small deficit in the Youth Fund.



During 2007 total offerings rose by £6,908, - the total offerings received by WFO and Standing Order rose from £54,725 in 2006 to £60,241 in 2007, an impressive rise of £5,516.

Once again though, we were particularly reliant on 2 major sources of income to meet our commitments.

Firstly, we recovered a significant sum from the HMRC, £13,521 via the Gift Aid scheme.

The amount recovered again emphasises the importance of the Gift Aid scheme to us, and again 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, Robert McKenzie 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 £6,225 in respect of hall lets, which is again higher than the figure from 2006.

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

During 2007 our expenditure increased by £4,091 from 2006. This was mainly due to increased expenditure on heating & lighting as well as a significant rise on expenditure on the fabric of the manse.

Expenditure in 2008 is budgeted to increase to £88,878; an increase of £2,580 from 2007 as can be seen on the next page.

Finally, a personal thanks to Brian Honan & all members of the Finance Committee for all their work and assistance during 2007.

Derek Palmer
Finance Convenor

**BOUROCK PARISH CHURCH
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2007**

	2007		2006
	£		£
INCOME			
Offerings	81,295		74,387
Other General Income	10,729		8,737
Total	92,024		83,124
EXPENDITURE			
National Ministry and Mission	50,448		50,089
Local Staffing Costs	8,061		7,494
Building Costs	23,336		18,346
Other Local Costs	4,453		6,278
Total	86,298		82,207
Transfer to Ferguson Bequest	5,000		
Transfer to Youth Fund	223		
(Deficit)/Surplus	503		917
FUNDS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER			
	2007		2006
	£		£
Fabric Fund	5,339		3,327
Building Fund	2,972		291
Flower Fund	421		930
Kitchen Refurbishment Fund	0		1,600
Kenyan Fund	5,270		4,043
Youth Fund	0		-223
BUDGET FOR 2008			
EXPENDITURE			
	£		
National Ministry and Mission	48,228		
Local Staffing Costs	10,750		
Building Costs	25,500		
Other Local Costs	4,400		
Total	88,878		
INCOME			
Offerings	79,178		
Other General Income	9,700		
Total	88,878		
(Deficit)/Surplus	0		

It Only Takes An Hour

Inspired by the, “An hour on a Sunday” by Nancy Beach

Anybody with a young family will instantly recognise the scenario: it is about 30 minutes before the church service. Disaster strikes! One child cannot find their socks; one child insists on playing with their Gameboy and is still in his pyjamas while the other two are fighting like cat and dog as to who used the last of the Rice Crispies for breakfast.

Or, perhaps it was a cold wet, windy Sunday morning, and you wake up to the sound of the wind and rain battering against your bedroom window, but you are warm and cosy and tempted to snuggle down under the duvet. You have just fifteen minutes to get washed, dressed and have breakfast and get to church on time. However it is a much more of an attractive proposition to have a lie in on Sunday mornings!

I am sure we have all experienced similar situations at some time or another. And I am also sure we have also asked ourselves the same questions, why bother, lets give church a miss this morning after all we were there last week. It's too much bother to sort out the children's problems **and** get to the church on time and it is also so very tempting to turn over and go back to sleep again on a cold winter's morning.

Yet what we should really be telling ourselves is that the very essence of community life, both physical and spiritual, begins on a Sunday morning.

One hour a week. One hour, that is all it takes to rejuvenate our faith and revive our spiritual lives.

These days we have to be pretty realistic and face the fact that it is difficult at times for people to get to church every week. What with family outings, sports events, shopping, DIY around the house or work commitments on a Sunday.

Just one hour a each week on a Sunday that is all it takes to become a better Christian. We have to believe, and have a strong faith in that hour each and every Sunday.

That hour can be for us just to sit in the pews with our minds wandering aimlessly during the sermon. Perhaps a bit like Eutychus in Acts Chapter 20: verse 9. He fell fast asleep listening to Paul's sermon! But at the end of it will we really feel that we our faith has been spiritually invigorated?

It can be an hour of true inspiration, a time of invigoration or even perhaps a time of good old fashioned dedicated Christian spiritual awe.

I would guess if we were to take a very quick poll in Barrhead about how people would describe their emotions during a service of worship, I would say at the best they would describe it as tolerable, at the worst as boring, and in between words such as irrelevant, mediocre, stuffy, hypocritical and academic would also get used. Then, if you were to follow that up with a question asking when they last went to church, the answer would probably be that they had never been to church!

Sadly in this 21st Century there are a great many people who do not regularly attend a service of worship and never, ever get the opportunity to discover if they will get bored. Or even to find out if it is mediocre or stuffy. They never even contemplate that they could be inspired, invigorated or even transformed.

And it only takes one hour.

It seems to me that those of us who are inspired by Sunday worship have an enormous amount of work ahead of us. Certainly God, looking at the church worldwide, must be disappointed that the church, in general, world wide, is looked upon with so much apathy and disdain.

God is just waiting and longing to use the hearts and minds of those gathering to worship him in faith, love and in hope. He wants to use our hearts and minds for some of his greatest work. Our church is a church that requires participation from us; it is a church that will only succeed if we all get involved. It will not succeed in its mission by passive spectatorship!

And it all begins on Sundays

A healthy church cares for the poor, and cares for the sick, it ministers to the youth of the community, it cares for the elderly and reaches out to connect with people in the community who are a long way from God.

These facilities are provided not just by the Minister but are the responsibility of every church member who professes their faith. The spiritual activities and welfare responsibility of the community depends upon us all.

The church is not an island in the community we, the people of the church, depend on that one hour every Sunday, to act a funnel, as a catalyst if you like, for resource, leadership, vision, spiritual motivation, and the core values to perform God's work in our community.

That hour on a Sunday is a vital part of the relationship we have with our church. We are called, yes all of us are called to look deeper into ourselves, to question and to recognise the presence of God among us; to feel the deep, real deep emotion of the presence of God among us during our worship.

For all of us each and every Sunday morning, God will captivate us, God will encourage us and God will challenge us to participate in this lifelong adventure with God.

That is why we should all be at church on a Sunday morning worshipping God.

And it only takes an hour on a Sunday

Geoff Orry

2nd Barrhead Guide Company

The Guides had a Fun night for Children in Need & raised £33.00

Guy Fawkes theme night - with mini baked potatoes, popcorn over tea lights and firework crafts.

Halloween Party in fancy dress with lots of games & food

In December we had Ice Skating at Braehead & the Christmas party also with games & food!

We just recently had an International evening sampling lots of different foods from around the world

Also a games night with various fitness activities and aerobics

The Guides have now completed the confectioner badge and are working on the active response badge

All 8 Guides are planning on attending the county camp the last weekend in May at Auchengillan with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and senior section from all over east Renfrewshire

We would like to also mention that if any girls would like to join us then just come along on a Monday night from 7.30pm till 9.30pm & join in on the fun..

Happy Guiding!

from the 3rd Barrhead Guides

2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade Company Section

We are now well into our year and are enjoying the fellowship of the officers and boys in the company. We are running the programme to suit all the boys taking part in badge work and have this year 3 boys going forward for their Presidents badges. We will hopefully see them carrying on next year and achieving their Queens badges - an honour for any boy as well as his parents and company.

We have participated in various competitions this year. Our most recent success was in the swimming gala, where we had a real "good haul" with our senior team triumphing and individual performances taking top marks in this event. Well done to Mark Webster, Connor Wasson, Callum Murray, Matthew Hepburn, Duncan McGregor, Cameron Gibson and John Faulds.

Next on our agenda are the junior and senior 5-a-sides football events at Linwood Sports Centre. There are always fiercely contested games and hopefully our boys will do well.

We recently enjoyed our visit from members of the Kirk Session and hopefully they found that all was well! We now have our display to think about and this will keep us busy as usual, right up to the night which this year takes place on Friday 30th May. We hope to as many as possible of you there to give the boys and officers support.



Graham Manson
Company Captain

2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade Junior Section

During this session, we have seen a growth in the number of boys attending Junior Section - 27 most Friday nights. All the boys are now working within the new achievement scheme and gaining their respective badges. We have recently taken part in battalion competitions doing well in the swimming and ten-pin bowling. The boys also had a very busy Christmas period - enjoying the BVC pantomime and their own party.

The big upcoming event is the annual parents night, which will be held on 9th May.

As I mentioned earlier, it is great to have so many boys attending. The only problem with this is that we could do with more help. If you are interested, please contact myself or any other officer.

Lawrence Webb
Officer In Charge



The Craft Club

The scene in the Lower Hall is a very busy one on Monday afternoons from 2pm – 4pm, as the ladies of the Craft Club continue to go about their work. Busy hands do not mean that tongues have to remain still, however, and there is plenty of time for fun and fellowship too. Knitting, sewing, plastic canvas work, crocheting we do it all and if someone learns a new skill it is soon passed on to the others in the group who want to learn.

It gives us a great deal of satisfaction to know that our talents are being put to good use in providing items which are needed by the church such as the fridge freezer and cooker for the new kitchen in the Lower Hall. If you feel that you would like to come along and share some of your skills or if you think we could help you to learn a new skill please come along any Monday afternoon and you can be sure of a very warm welcome. You could also help by keeping an eye open for anything that you think we could make for sale or by donations of material, wool etc. It is really important for us to try to have new things for sale on our sales table.



The Stravaigers

Now that the days are getting longer the Stravaigers are putting their best feet forward and getting out and about once again. Already this year we have walked along the Kelvin Walkway to the Botanic Gardens and also walked around Kirkintilloch.



We have at least one walk planned for every month and these walks vary in length and difficulty. There should be something in our calendar to suit everyone and if you start off at the beginning of the year you should be fit to tackle most as the year goes on.

It is some time now since we tackled a long distance walk. We intend to remedy this in September when a party has already booked for a week-end in Bute to tackle the West Island Way. This is a walk of approx 30 miles and we are really looking forward to seeing some really beautiful parts of Scotland as we travel along. The Stravaigers is a group made up not only by people from Bourrock but from all the member churches of the Barrhead Church and one of the biggest pleasures has been that of getting to know each other well. As we walk along the groups change about and reform so that people mix with each other. It also feels very safe when you walk with a group and that is another advantage which is worth consideration in today's society.

An Apology

I reported in the Church on Christmas morning that Sandra Miller gathered milk jugs when she stayed in hotels. I finished what I was saying by adding 'Well this is what I say any way' I hope that most of you realised that this was in fact a joke. Most of what I say is rubbish. Sandra does **not** help herself to cream jugs. Usually what I say concerning Sandra is in fun so I hope that no one was offended by my remarks. It has had quite a positive outcome however, as Sandra has managed to add some more jugs to her 'collection'. Ken and Linda brought her one back from their recent holiday!

Susan Palmer



Bourock Toddler Group



Yes, we are still here

Since the start of the term in August we have had a Halloween party where we all had fun dooking for apples and eating loads of party food.

In December we had our Christmas Party which was well attended. Santa delivered presents and we all had fun eating and playing.

We started back in January and we have had a few new mums attending.

Some of the mums have organised to go and see "Calamity Jane" in March in the Kings Theatre. (Coming to see me dressed as a Bumble Bee was definitely the attraction there!!!!)

We have also organised a night out to see Mama Mia at the Clyde Auditorium in April.

The group is open to all children from birth to pre-school and runs during term time from 10am to 11.30am. We have song time at the end of the session and I would like to thank Linda for allowing us to use the little hand bells from the Junior Church. The children love playing them.

Dads, grandparents, aunties, uncles, carers will all be made most welcome. So come along and have a chat. It's amazing what we all talk about during coffee!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If anyone has got any unwanted toys please see me. They must be in good condition. In the past toys have been handed in and they don't work or they are broken. Please check that they are in working order and are suitable for small hands.

Helen Grant



African Partnership

News from PCEA - Kibera

As you may already be aware, Kenya has been in a state of turmoil since the general elections that were held at the end of December. Incidents of riots, looting and neighbours turning against neighbours were reported across the whole country, especially within the slums and the most deprived areas. Unfortunately, the Church in Kibera has not escaped these events. PCEA Emmanuel was attacked and suffered severe damage when it was looted and burnt out. The Church Manse was also looted and burnt. PCEA Silanga has not been as badly affected, with only minor looting and damage to the Church building. The congregation at Silanga are still able to use their Church for worship, but the members of PCEA Emmanuel are being hosted at another Church 3 km away.



Update on the Kibera Project

The architectural drawings for the new school are now complete and are ready to be submitted to the appropriate planning department. We hope to get a copy of these drawings shortly. Unfortunately, due to the recent unrest some government departments are still in a state of disarray, and it is not clear at this stage how long the process of obtaining planning permission will take. We will keep you up to date with the progress.

Visit of Members from Kibera Parish to Barrhead

Despite the unrest in Kibera, plans are well underway to bring members from the Kibera community over to visit us here in Barrhead. Letters of invitation have been sent to the Church in Kibera, from both ourselves and the Church of Scotland headquarters. The Church in Kibera has accepted our invitation to visit Barrhead and we have provisionally agreed the date of August 29th for their arrival. We hope that the visit will last around 15 days. There will be six guests travelling to Barrhead; two adults and four youth members. (Note: PCEA Church members are considered 'youth' members up to the age of 35.)

We have managed to secure a Faith Share grant from World Mission which will cover all the travelling costs for the four youth members. The visiting group have asked to be hosted as guests in our homes rather than stay in a hotel.



This will be a very exciting opportunity for both communities to develop our mutual partnership.

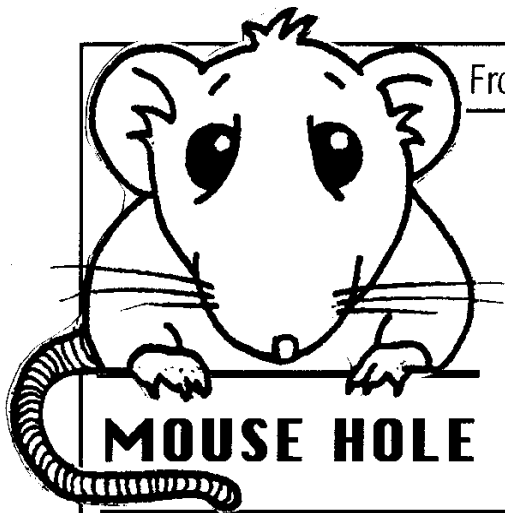
We are now ready to work on a preliminary itinerary, and would welcome any suggestions as to activities/events etc that the visiting guests could take part in during their stay in Barrhead.

Fundraising News

Thanks to everyone who has supported us throughout 2007.

The African Partnership Committee and friends from Kibera Parish would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Easter.

Jim Mitchell
Convenor



MOUSE HOLE

From my home in the church I learn about all sorts of things...

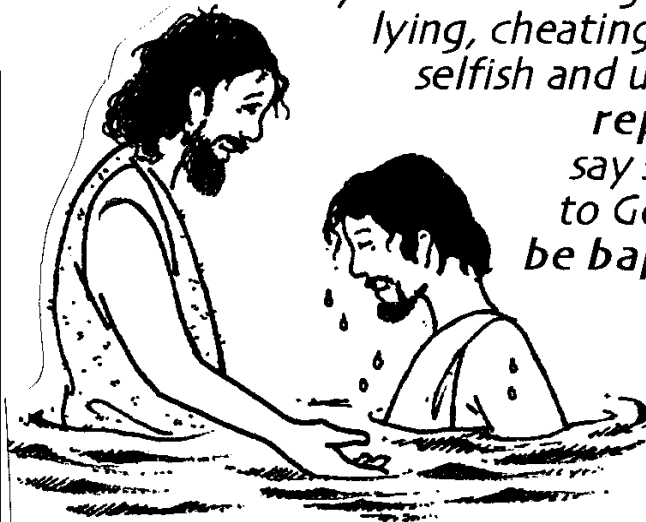
GET READY! GET READY!

The Prophet John had a message from God for everyone who wanted to listen.

"Get ready, the Messiah, our Saviour is coming...."

Get your lives straight, stop lying, cheating, being selfish and unkind...

repent, say sorry to God and be baptised".

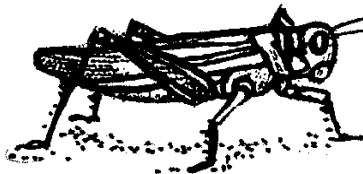


Many people changed their ways and came to John to be baptised

Read John's story in Matthew chapter 3

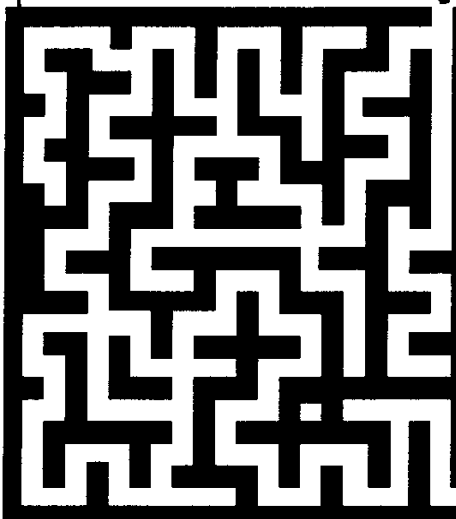
LOCUST LUNCH

John was Jesus' cousin, he lived in the desert and ate locusts and wild honey. Eating locusts may sound horrible to us but in some countries people love them. When they land they are collected then roasted or boiled. Some are dried, beaten to a powder and used like flour to make cakes!



The 40 days before Easter is known as **LENT**. It's a time to think and pray 'and learn more about God.

Can you find your way through the crooked ways to the straight path? ↓



The first day of Lent is called **ASH WEDNESDAY**.

It is a day for saying 'sorry' to God for any wrong things you have said or thought or done.



Make a Lent calendar bookmark.



Draw 40 footprints, plus 7 extra for 'Holy Week'. Colour in a footprint each day.

