

SteepleTalk



The Magazine Of Bourock Parish Church

Christmas 2011

Who's Who In Bourock

Interim Moderator	Alan Birss	889 3587
Locum	Liz Geddes	01505 612639
Session Clerk	Elizabeth McKenzie	880 5077
Deputy Session Clerk	Linda Dye	876 1201
Treasurer	Isobel Lawson	881 9457
Roll Keeper	John Whyte	571 4787
Halls Convener	Bruce Brown	571 6403
WFO Envelopes	Fiona Auchincloss	880 7132
Junior Church	Linda Dye	876 1201
Guild	Irene Draper	881 6507
Boys' Brigade (Company)	Graham Manson	580 0871
Boys' Brigade (Junior)	Jean Hepburn	880 8492
Boys' Brigade (Anchor)	Katie Gibson	881 8362
Guides	Ilene Easdon-Hynds	881 9961
Brownies (2nd)	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Brownies (3rd)	Barbara Hughes	881 2119
Tweenies	Morag McKenzie	880 5077
Bourock Friends Group	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Mother & Toddler	Mhairi Frame	
Variety Club	Linda Dye	876 1201
Coffee Club	Ann McMillan	881 8348
Craft Club	Dorothy Ramsay	571 5260
SteepleTalk	Ken Dye	876 1201
Life And Work	Andy Ramsey	571 5525
Christian Aid	Marjory Brown	571 6403
Stravaigers	Allan Ramsay	571 5260
Organist	Craig Weatherhogg	
Child Protection CoOrdinator	Wilma Lundie	880 5320

Business Committee Convenors

Christian Education	Linda Dye
Mission And Outreach	Ken Dye
Pastoral Care	Moira McCartney
Property	Robert McKenzie
Finance	Derek Palmer

Internet Addresses

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Charity Registration No SC 016467

My dear friends at Bourock,

There are verses in the Bible that express, in a few words, key ingredients of our Christian faith, and surely none more so than the fourteenth verse of the first chapter of St. John's Gospel:

'And the word became flesh and lived among us.'

These words, words we hear every Christmas, take us to the very heart of the Christian faith; that this baby born of Mary, in a stable in Bethlehem, was none other than the eternal Son of God, the Word of God, through whom all things in heaven and on earth were created, he who is of one Substance, one Being, with the Father, as the Nicene Creed reminds us.

God, in Jesus, has shared our human life, with its joys and sorrows, its good times and bad times, and he has shared this human life, not among those who have everything, but among those who had nothing; born in a stable and forced into exile in early infancy.

The God whom we discover in Jesus is a God of infinite compassion, a God of love, who has a particular concern for all those for whom life is a struggle, all those who are most in need of knowing that they are loved by God.

And so this Christmas, let us do two things. Let us give thanks for the boundless love of God that is extended to us, a love that is always there for us and will carry us through whatever life may bring us. Let us also do what we can to make the love of God known to others by seeking, with the promised help of the Holy Spirit, to live lives the marks of which are compassion and caring and love.

May the Son of God, the Word made flesh, be with you this coming Christmas and be made known by you throughout your lives.

I wish all of you a truly blessed and happy Christmas

Alan Birss

The following notice was issued to all 4 churches making up Barrhead Church. This is purely for information and to keep everyone informed of progress.

Barrhead Church Steering Group would like to inform you of recent developments and plans which will affect each of our four congregations.

As you should be aware, a feasibility study was commissioned to look at the possible future use of our four existing church buildings within the united congregation of the Barrhead Church.

Unfortunately the cost attached to each of the proposals for development ranged from £2.5M to £4.5M plus VAT. The Feasibility Study Group decided that all of these were well outwith our resources.

At present we are awaiting costings of revised proposals which we hope will be within our reach.

In the meantime we are in the process of arranging a meeting of all C of S Kirk Sessions and URC Deacons Court to discuss the way forward.

Dear Bourock

It's hard to write words in November that are meaningful in December!
December is NOT a normal month because Christmas makes us *different*.

The four weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas are often described as 'preparation' and our own lives mirror this.

For some weeks now a separate Intimations Sheet has been printed to advertise all the Christmas events and celebrations at Bourock.

Lovely to come to, but busy if you're involved in *everything*, as so many of you are.....

and of course, those of you with children involved with school and youth organisations can simply double or treble your evenings on the run....

...And then, decorations, cards, gifts and food gain priority status in December – and we often stress ourselves just trying to keep our own self-inflicted schedules.

At this time of year especially, we should remember Jesus' advice, "*Don't worry!*"

We *shall* get to Christmas Day – haven't we done it before – every year, in fact?

No two Christmases are ever quite the same.

Some are difficult because change makes it hard for us to find joy.

Our Service of Hope & Healing will take place this year at 3pm on 11 December allowing a quiet place and time amid the festivities, to remember or reflect.

Maybe you could pass the word to any friends or neighbours who might like to come.

But again, some Christmases just have an extra something that's impossible to explain - simply because it's a 'something' that is *NOT* organised by us

....Maybe it's in the waiting for God,
not in the wandering from store to store,
that we find our way.
Maybe it's in the friendship of God,
not in the frenzy of the crowds,
that we are led to the manger.
Maybe it's in the steadfast love of God,
and not in the pile of stuff under the tree,
that we find what we have been searching for all our lives.
Maybe, just maybe, God of Advent,
this year will be different.
Maybe, just maybe,
we will let you lead us to Bethlehem. *(Tom M Shuman)*

Leave some space for God this Christmas.

Wishing each and every one of you all the love and joy of Christmas,
and a very happy New Year,

Liz

Kirk Session

Even although we are in a vacancy, the daily work of the church is continuing as normal.

We are very fortunate that we have strong healthy organisations and the leaders should be commended for all their work.

As we prepare for Christmas and look forward to a new year with new challenges, we would like you to help the Kirk Session.

How can you help – **become involved!**

Welcome Teams.

Are you a welcoming, friendly person - can you welcome people at the church door on a Sunday morning? If the answer is 'yes' then we need you to become part of the welcoming teams. It would be great to see you!

Session Committees

We would like some fresh input into the Kirk Session Committees

We need to know your views.

Care and Concern, Christian Education, Finance, Mission and Property Committees cover all aspects of church life.

Please think about this and contact any of the office bearers listed in the front of the magazine.

The Kirk Session wishes you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Come and join the celebration

It's a very special day

Come and share our jubilation

There's a new King born today!



Barrhead Church Kibera Project



On 20th September, William and Elizabeth Ross, from St Michael's Church, Linlithgow, took the opportunity to visit PCEA Silanga in Kibera whilst they were in Kenya. William comments; "Naomi then took us through Kibera to the Silanga Centre. What an oasis in such surroundings. Space, (one could see the sky), quietness as opposed to the bustle of life outside the gate, a bit of greenery when all around was drab-grey, a recently built sanctuary giving a feeling of hope. The Deputy Principal of the High School was a lovely person - so dedicated to delivering excellence despite shortage of text books and permanent staff. The previous principal had left for a better paid post as had several teachers - and who could blame them. We then met a group of warm-hearted ladies who supported each other as well as young folk in their community infected or affected by HIV. They took part in income generation schemes (We bought some of their washing up liquid) and then heard about the VCT work from another lovely lady - Mercy (by name as well as by nature.) Naomi gave us 4½ hours of her time. She was truly inspiring. Naomi has fond memories of her visit to [Barrhead] and also your visit to them."

Naomi reports that inflation rates are still very high; the Central Bank of Kenya reports that the inflation rate in October 2011 was 18.91%.

The noticeboard in the Lower Hall is regularly updated; please take a few minutes to have a look at the photographs. If you would like to take out a standing order, and help another child to receive a secondary education, please contact Jim Mitchell (Convenor), or David Miller (Treasurer) who can supply you with the details.

The latest issue of our newsletter, the Kibera Project News can be found on the website: - www.bourock.org.uk/kibera

If you would like to receive your own e-copy, please contact deb.mitchell@ntlworld.com

Debbie Mitchell



Men's Breakfast

Now in our third year, the Christian Men's Breakfast is firmly established on the calendar. We meet on the first Saturday of each month September - May at 09:20 and this session we have moved to a new location - Cafe 158. By meeting outside the church we witness to the people of the town and offer an opportunity for those out-with our immediate church family to join with us.

Those who use Cafe 158 during our meeting will see a large table of men from the various churches in the town (including men with no formal church affiliation at all) having an enjoyable time - not only sharing a meal but also sharing in bible readings and prayer, listening to guest speakers and entering into discussion on the topics of the day.

Already this session we have welcomed The Gideon Society, heard the Vice-Principle of International Christian College Glasgow talk on Christian Leadership and found out more about the work of the Teen Challenge mission in the town.

We have also established links with the Glasgow Southside branch of Christian Men Together and support their events, including dinner functions, quiz and curry nights and sponsored walks and runs.

I'd like to thank David Henry and the staff of Cafe 158 for their hospitality, and invite all men to come along and join with us.

Kenny



JUNIOR CHURCH



Advent is now upon us – the favourite Season for all of Junior Church. It is a very busy time and the children got off to a great start with Operation Christmas Child. We managed to cover – fill – and send off 300 boxes which was absolutely wonderful. Thank you to everyone in the congregation who donated toys sweets soap pencils skipping ropes toothpaste brushes – all the things that make up a Christmas box. A huge thank you to the ladies of the Craft Club who knitted an amazing number of hats and mitts – to all the shoebox wrappers who covered every single box with such care- and of course to everyone who donated the cash to pay for the postage on all these boxes. Our friends from URC joined with us again this year and we packed all the boxes together.



The children made the decorations at the back windows of the church for Advent in keeping with our musical theme and they are looking forward to more Christmas Craft in the coming weeks. Our Christmas Party for all ages will take place on Saturday 17th December from 5.00 till 7.00 and on Sunday 18th we will have a run through of our Nativity Play at 2.00. We all enjoy the Nativity Service on Christmas Eve at 7.00 in the church and although that is probably the busiest night of the year for families it is always wonderful to see so many people coming along to worship round the manger. Do try and set aside this time to consider the real gift of Christmas.

Christmas Blessings
Linda Dye



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think the Angel of the Lord texting the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

Bourock Friends Group

The **Bourock Friends Group** would like to thank everybody that supported our **CHAS Coffee Morning on 5th November**, with special thanks going to the ladies who helped us on the day.

We raised £402.69 at the coffee morning, and £174.02 from selling CHAS cards and calendars, so CHAS benefit by a total of **£576.71**.

THANK YOU



Debbie Mitchell

Vision Africa

As you already know, the members of the **Bourock Friends Group** sponsor a pupil in the **Seed of Hope** Programme. Her name is **Purity**, and her photo, along with some information about her, is displayed on the 'African Partnership' notice board in the Lower Hall. The 'parent charity' of the Seed of Hope Programme is called Vision Africa, and a letter from their new UK Fundraising Manager is shown below.

Dear Friends,

I am writing to introduce myself as the newly appointed UK Fundraising Manager for Vision Africa.

I am really thrilled to be joining with you at this time; I come with a passion for development and growth, and a background of wanting to serve and develop networks and contacts who can support our incredibly important work in practical and financial ways.

As our dedicated friends and supporters of Vision Africa you are our key allies in raising the profile, creating awareness and developing funding for all that Vision Africa does.

I really look forward to working with you on this.

This is an exciting and yet critical time for Vision Africa. Shortly we will celebrate 10 years of effective work and ministry that has made a difference in the lives of countless young people across Kenya. Your support and continued interest has allowed this work to develop and grow, and we have exciting potential for growth in the near future.

The uncertainties of the global financial position only serve to highlight the tremendous challenges we still have to provide the right level of holistic care for young people particularly in Kibera in providing food, clothing and educational resources.

I would be delighted to hear from you and to share ideas or hear your thoughts about how we can develop new funding streams for Vision Africa. I look forward to meeting with you at some point in the near future. In the meantime my contact details are outlined below.

Warmest Regards

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Wileman

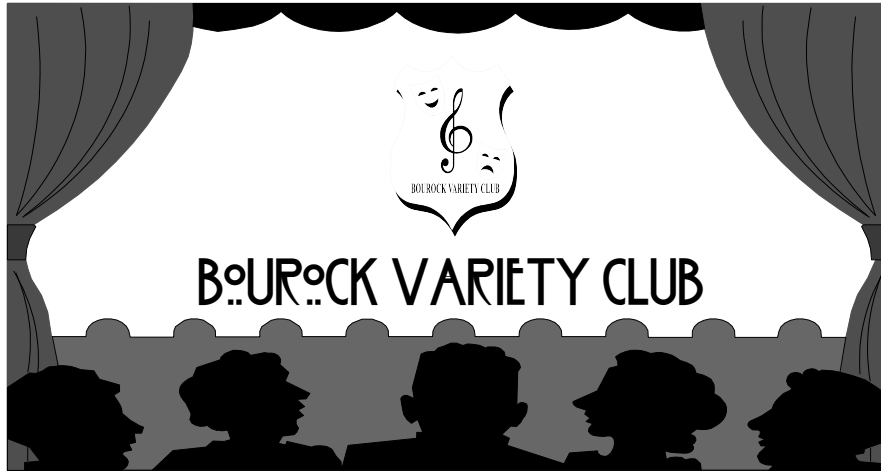
Fundraising Manager (UK) - Vision Africa

Tel : 07890 513829/01202 510491

email : andrew@vision-africa.org

26 Namu Road, Talbot Park, Bournemouth, Dorset BH9 2QU.

www.vision-africa.org



By the time you read this the Deadwood Stage will have rolled out of town and all the cowboy hats will have been put away for another show. We hope that those of you who managed to come along to 'Calamity Dame' enjoyed the show and are already looking forward to see what is coming next!

A big thank you to all the cast and crew who work so hard all year and still manage to have lots of fun along the way. A special thank you this year to our newly formed Costume Committee who had the very difficult job of trying to fill our retired Wardrobe Mistress's shoes. Morag Brown has done an amazing job over the last 30 years and there was no one who could possibly replace her but forming a committee seemed to be the best way forward. It was a daunting task for the 5 ladies concerned so a big thank you to Moira, Anne, Christine, Catriona, and Gemma.

If you enjoyed the show and are interested in any aspect of stage work please come along on a Thursday night at 7.30 and join us. You may find talents you never knew that you had!

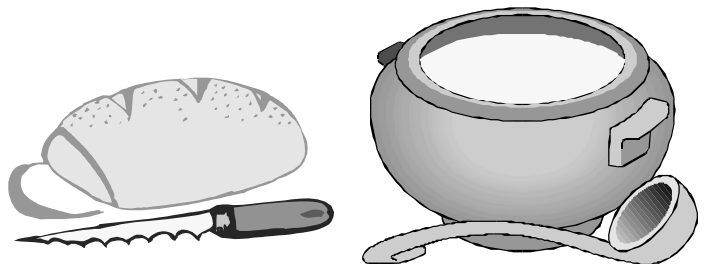
Linda Dye

Bourock Soup Stop

It has been a busy time in Soup Stop for the last few weeks. We had our Cheque presentation to Breast Cancer Care on 24th November when we were delighted to hand over £2,300 which were the proceeds from our Ladies' Pink Lunch and Soup Stop profits for October. In November we had a successful Children in Need Friday and sent off £300 that day. Our Christmas lunch is fast approaching and tickets are selling well. Our chosen charity up to Christmas is Shelter as we think it is important that we remember people who may be homeless at this time of year.

We would like to thank all our customers for their very loyal support over the year and would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas.

Soup Stop Ladies



2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade

Anchor Boys

Anchor Boys are continuing to thrive in Bourock Church. 34 boys are now on the roll and we can normally expect around 32 boys each evening. The boys are coming from all different schools and all different areas. Our newest members attend Giffnock Primary and Belmont. Word is certainly out about The 2nd Barrhead Anchor Boys!!!!



We have had a busy start to the session. As well as our usual meeting nights, we have had our annual Halloween Party where to name but a few Doctor Who and Harry Potter made a guest appearance. Our Church Elders have had their annual visit too.

November the 16th proved to be a very important day for the Anchor Boys and a very emotional one for me. As many of you are aware I currently work in Cross Arthurlie Primary and 25 Anchor Boys attend the school. To celebrate this and to forge an even bigger link with the school The Anchor Boys led the school assembly in the morning. The school welcomed these little boys into their hearts and the boys rose to the occasion to provide an informative and humorous assembly. The boys were a credit to themselves, the school and The Boys Brigade. I was extremely proud of each and every one of them and it is a day I will never forget.

Our usual Wednesday night on the 16th was scraped as we decided to have a Go Spotty and have a party for Pudsey. The spotty costumes were fantastic and the night was made complete by the arrival of Pizza and Chips from the chip shop. (Maybe not by the Weight Watchers or by the Zumba class). For little people they can certainly eat!!! We made £80 for Children in Need and had a fantastic night.

We are currently looking forward to our Christmas Party and in The New Year are looking forward to a visit to Barrhead Fire Station.

The Anchor Boys are a group of amazing young men who are certainly alive and kicking in the Bourock Church and it is a pleasure (at 8pm on a Wednesday night when they are all tucked up in bed) to know them and to be a part of their group.

Katie Gibson (Officer in Charge)



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

3rd Barrhead Guide Company

Six new guides joined us in September from the two Brownie packs.



Girlguiding UK

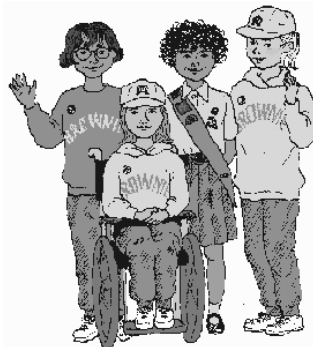
The guides have enjoyed participating in a variety of activities this term including:- several games nights, a night designing t-shirts and a night decorating cup cakes. We held a retro games nights which a number of mums and aunties attended with the guides playing hopscotch, hula hoops, skipping, elastics and ludo. For the Highland Games night the guides enjoyed games such as toss the welly, tug of war and toss the caber. The Guides organised their own Halloween party which earned the guides their Party Planner badges. We have a visit planned to a Chocolatier for the guides to complete their chocolate badge. We will finish the term with a visit to the Variety Club show and a Christmas pyjama party.

Ilene Easdon-Hynds

2nd Barrhead Brownie Pack

We are looking forward to the second half of the year when we will be just as busy with our Thinking Day celebrations in February. Also coming up will be more games as well as our Easter activities. The brownies are great fun for girls aged 7-10 and meet every Monday from 6:30pm until 8:00pm. So come along, any new girls, and join us. It's a great organisation with fun, fellowship and of course FOOD!

Susan Morrison/Rhona McDonald
Brownie Guiders



3rd Barrhead Brownie Pack

Another busy term has been enjoyed by the Brownies with new girls joining the pack and working towards their Promise Badges with a lovely ceremony hosted by the girls completing their Hostess Badge. Once again the Elders were a great help at this by preparing the drinks and assisting the girls to host, thanks again. Other Brownies in the Pack completed their Artist Badge.

At our Halloween Party with the 2nd Barrhead Pack we enjoyed some dooking for apples, eating bloody donuts hanging from string and searching for sweets in worms!! The girls all looked great in their costumes. We look forward to our joint Christmas party in December and the Variety Club Show.

Throughout November the Brownies have been working towards the Stargazing Badge. They have learnt about the moon, planets and constellations, unfortunately we have not had a clear night to view the Stars but we are off to the Coats Observatory soon to learn some more.

Merry Christmas to all.

Barbara Hughes
Brownie Guider

Tweenies



The Tweenies have had a busy time since the start of this session.

We had a great Halloween party, had fun with lots of Pudsey Bear pictures during a "Children in Need" night, and are looking forward to attending the Variety Club Show.

Soon it will be our Christmas Party when we hope a special visitor will come and see us.

We will be making lots of things for Christmas over the next few weeks including some Reindeer Dust to help Rudolph find his way on Christmas Eve. Why don't you try making some too?

Reindeer Dust porridge oats and lots of glitter – mix well and sprinkle.



Sprinkle on the lawn at night
The moon will make it sparkle bright
As Santa's reindeer fly and roam
This will guide them to your home.

Thanks to all the leaders for their hard work so far this session.

Morag McKenzie

Finance Report - November 2011

At the time of writing I only have income & expenditure figures up to the end of October 2011 and at this stage our expenditure exceeds our income; it is anticipated however that our income will fully cover 2011's expenditure, due again in no small part to the income from our Gift Aid claim added to income received from hall lets.

This year's Gift Aid claim has been assessed and will shortly be submitted to HMRC; it is expected that the claim will be for a significant sum. Again this highlights the importance of members giving by either Standing Order or WFO envelopes. Again I will ask that anyone who currently contributes to Bourock by either Standing Order or WFO envelopes and pays sufficient income tax, but hasn't signed a Gift Aid declaration considers doing so, as this enables us to claim back the income tax on the value of all that person's contributions. For any new Gift Aid declaration we are able to claim back the income tax on the member's contributions for the last 6 years.

If you have not yet done so it will take you less than 2 minutes to complete the form. If you do Bourock will benefit accordingly. Please contact me if you wish to set up Standing Order or complete a Gift Aid declaration.

I will again repeat the importance of this source of income, one that we must continue to take full advantage of.

Finally, on a personal basis, I would like to thank all members of the Finance Committee as well as the WFO convenor for their assistance during 2011.

Derek Palmer
Finance Convenor



CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations?

Or is it at the beginning of Advent which starts 4 weeks before the 25th December and is a special time for us to use to get ready for the birth of Jesus?



The word Advent means 'coming' and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare, not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today.

So perhaps the question isn't when does your Christmas start, but when does it finish?

CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December is Christmas Eve and the answer to each of these questions starts with the letters EVE. Answers below.

1. What EVE is equal?
2. What EVE is a swamp in Florida?
3. What EVE is a happening?
4. What EVE is a dried flower?
5. What EVE is the end of the day?
6. What EVE is the world's highest mountain?
7. What EVE never loses its leaves?



**What goes red, white, red,
white, red, white?**
Santa rolling down a hill.

**What did the snowman and
his wife hang over their baby's
cot?**

A snow mobile.

**What's brown and sneaks
round the kitchen?**

Mince spies.



Answers: 1 even 2 Everglades 3 event
4 everlasting 5 evening 6 Everest
7 evergreen

★ HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

"Peace on earth,
goodwill to all"...

Mouse Makes

glue

Peace on earth

OUR SAVIOUR
IS BORN!

Goodwill to all

...Listen
to the
angel's call.

A **saviour**
has been born
this day,

The **light** of the
world to show us
the way!

To make the decoration: Colour and cut out.
Fold along dotted lines. Glue to form a cone.
Add ribbon and hang from the tree.

Dec11