

S T E E P L E

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**THE MAGAZINE
OF
BOUROCK PARISH
CHURCH**

CHRISTMAS 2000

Who's Who In Bourock

Minister	Maureen Leitch	881 1462
Session Clerk	Elizabeth McKenzie	880 5077
Clerk To The Board	Bruce Brown	571 6403
Treasurer	Ross Mitchell	881 4688
Roll Keeper	Billy Irvine	881 1638
Deeds Of Covenant	Jim Auchincloss	881 6143
WFO Envelopes	John McGarrie	571 6728
Junior Church	Linda Dye	876 1201
Guild	Margaret McKechnie	580 1322
Boys' Brigade	Alistair Smith	01292 474683
Junior Section	Lawrence Webb	571 4330
Sparks	Robin Buckley	880 6531
Guides (2nd)	Jennifer Stewart	881 7320
Guides (3rd)	Barbara Jones	881 0391
Brownies (2nd)	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Brownies (3rd)	Karen Auchincloss	881 6143
Tweenies	Elizabeth McKenzie	880 5077
Young Woman's Group	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Mother & Toddler	Debbie Mitchell	571 5536
Variety Club	Linda Dye	876 1201
Coffee Club	Jim McLeod	881 3585
Craft Club	Dorothy Ramsay	571 5260
SteepleTalk	Ken Dye	876 1201
Life And Work	Angus Leitch	881 1462
Christian Aid	Marjory Brown	571 6403
Organist	Carolyn Suttie	881 7346

Kirk Session Committees

Care And Concern	Morag Brown	880 6466
Communication	Ken Dye	876 1201
Education	Linda Dye	876 1201
Mission	Agnes Brown	580 0059
Worship	Doug Swanney	876 1201

Dear Friends,

I am looking out of my study window and all I can see is blue, blue sky and the sun shining on the garden. It is hard to believe that it is November and that the shops are full of Christmas goods. It is also hard to believe that for many people in England the weather has brought chaos and heartbreak. I am sure that their thoughts are not on Christmas.

Yet, think about we must for it is fast approaching. The time of spiritual preparation - Advent - will soon be upon us. We have an enlarged programme of services and Bible study planned and you will receive our usual leaflet telling you about them. Christmas is such a special time that it would be wonderful to see all of our church family together throughout the Advent season. Even if you have been away from church for some time, please come back and join us - we miss you and would love you to join in with our Christmas celebrations.

I would like to say a big "thank you" to all who have contributed their time, talents and money to help raise the funds for the church roof. I think you will find, elsewhere in the magazine an up-to-date report of funds, but I want to say that the response so far has been most encouraging. Of course, we still have some way to go and need the effort to continue but we have made an excellent effort so far. Well done!

As I wrote at the beginning of this roof project "our normal work will continue" and that has been the case. Although we have needed to raise money for ourselves, we still take seriously the need to help others and have supported our usual causes like the Paisley Christian Social Action Centre, Christian Aid and the Children's Shoe Box Appeal. The decoration of the downstairs area is progressing too, thanks to a small band of willing volunteers (anyone can join them!).

Christmas will bring its usual round of parties and celebrations. We are looking forward to the Variety Club Show and trying to guess what this year's story is about. We eagerly anticipate the decoration of the church for Advent. Please take time to look at the windows. They are always decorated to fit in with the Christmas theme - a lot of hard work goes into them so do take a few moments to appreciate them.

Christmas brings us face to face with the reality that God came into our world as a tiny baby to show His love for us. He was prepared to go to any lengths for his people. Surely it is not too much to ask that you take some time this Christmas to come and worship Him. There is a whole range of services available so do come along. This year we introduce a new service - one that recognises that this time of year can bring painful memories for those who have been bereaved. So we are offering a service especially for those who want to have time to remember their loved ones.

I wish you God's blessing at this time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Anne', written in a cursive style.

From The Editor

Once again, the excitement of Christmas is on us and I hope that if you are visiting another Church at this time you will convey 'Season's Greetings' from Bourock.

As ever, many thanks go to the people who contribute to SteepleTalk - whether in articles or poems or even funny anecdotes. To you all - thank you!

The year has been

STEEPLE

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* Come
and
gather
round

THE MAGAZINE
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CHRISTMAS 2000



an eventful one, with many events taking place. Unfortunately, due to the roof condition, many of these have been fund raising projects. However, in true Bourock tradition, we are well on the way to raising the necessary money required.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone compliments of the season. May you all have a wonderful Christmas and joyous New Year.

Ken Dye (Editor).

The Guild

The guild resumed on 12 October with a Welcome Tea and entertainment by The CloseShave Barbershop Chorus. This was a colourful and nostalgic evening that was enjoyed by all.

The Guild theme for this year is Strength Through Gods Promises.

After the success of our last three year project which helped raise £566,096 we are at the beginning of a new one. We will be helping to support the Rainy Hospital Nursing School at Chennai in India.

The cash collected in our Granny jar goes to Malawi to help feed the many children orphaned by Aids.

The Guild is assisting Glenda Meikle with the collection of postcards to help Mission Aviation Fellowship. This is an ongoing collection and we will be pleased to accept any postcards you have.

We have a varied syllabus and taking us up to the end of the year our meetings are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 7 November at 2pm | - Christmas Decorations |
| 14 November at 8pm | - Colour Analyst (joining with the YWG) |
| 28 November at 7.30pm | - Bible Study with Glenda Meikle |
| 5 December | - Glasgow Tour and Harry Ramsdens |
| 12 December | - Frosty Frolics - Our Christmas Party. |

We do not want to be selfish and keep all this for ourselves. Please come along and enjoy an evening with us.

Margaret McKechnie
President



3rd Barrhead Guides

At the parents' evening held on Monday, May 8, the following Guides were awarded prizes:

Book Prizes:

Perfect Attendance: Susan Bradley.

Good Attendance: Jean Mackay, Colette Gribben, Jill Allen, Rhona Hall, Nicola Barton, Lauren Frew, Lucy Meechan, Amanda Frew, Fiona Corrigan, Lauren Hall, Stephanie Caldwell, Amy Moffatt, Kimberley Storrie and Louise Stewart.

For the most points scored for collecting: ring pulls/stamps/games:

Swallow Patrol: Jill Allen, Susan Bradley, Hollie Smith, Rhona Hall, Amanda Frew, Natalie Dinning and Cara Erskine.

Best Patrol:

Canary: Amy Moffat, Fiona Clark, Nicola Barton, Fiona Corrigan and Stacey Ryan.

Best Guide: Amanda Frew.

In August, 11 girls + Gayle went off to Lapwing Lodge for their annual fun camp. Various activities and games took place, which were enjoyed by all. The novelty of sleeping in a tent was a new adventure and the girls did Cadbury's proud!!

September saw 3 new girls joining the company and Jaclyn, Kimberley and Lauren acting as hostesses at the annual Senior Citizen evening. Hearing dogs for the deaf paid us a visit and told us about the work that they do for the deaf. The girls also enjoyed meeting and patting the dog.

In October, 7 girls went to Newton Mearns Ranger unit to see the older section working and ended up taking part in a quiz with them. This was insight into the Rangers and was enjoyed by all. 5 girls went to Westlea Nursing home for practical experience for their Care Of Elderly People Badge. Guide dogs for the blind came to the hall to give a talk on their work, which the Guides found most interesting as this is where the ring pulls go to, to help in their work. Ivy the dog enjoyed all the attention from the girls. The Halloween party was a great success, Witches + Wizards being the theme this year.

November, we're all looking forward to and preparing for our coffee morning which takes place on the 11th from 10-noon. We are having a drug talk on the 13th by a Police Officer from Strathclyde Police, which we are sure to find interesting.

So as you can see we have a wide and varied programme of events which the leaders and the Guides all enjoy. Anyone wishing to join us will be made most welcome.

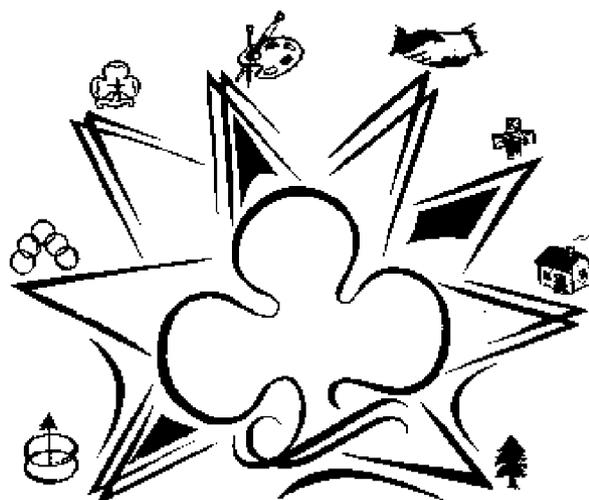
Used postage stamps are still being collected. These stamps should have at least a 1/2in border left round them. They are trimmed and sent to Ardgowan Hospice in Greenock. (Boxes are at the church and hall doors for any stamps).

Used computer ink cartridges are now being collected for Guide Dogs for the Blind. If you have any please leave them beside the used stamps.

Ring-pulls are no longer collected by Guide Dogs for the Blind - if we find another outlet we will advise.

Thanks to all who have left stamps and ring-pulls.

Barbara Jones (Guider)
3rd Guide Company





The club has been getting ready for their new production - "The Show must Go On". The cast has been busy rehearsing while the stage crew have been assembling the sets and organising props. Our wardrobe mistress has also been hard at work preparing the lavish costumes for what promises to be another first class show. As usual, the first night has been given over to Accord, with hopefully the normal excellent response.

One thing less than usual is the show itself. The club has been very careful not to let the "cat out of the bag" regarding the content, but you can be assured of good family entertainment.

By the time you read this item, there will be very little time left to buy tickets, so get them while they are still available.

Early in the new year we will be preparing to take some of the show songs out into the community. Every year we visit eventide homes, residential homes etc. to share a bit of the happiness enjoyed by those who manage to the show itself with those less fortunate who may not be able to get out and about as well as they might.

Once again, if anyone wishes to join up with the club, we are always looking for new members whether sprightly and fleet of foot, or wanting to help with any aspect of the club. Just speak to myself or any club member.

Linda Dye

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 5 December (ACCORD)	-	7:30pm Show
Wednesday 6 December	-	7:30pm Show
Thursday 7 December	-	7:30pm Show
Friday 8 December	-	7:30pm Show
Saturday 9 December	-	2:00pm Show
Saturday 9 December	-	7:30pm Show



Costumes For Hire



The Variety Club has an extensive wardrobe now for hire.

Minimum donation
£2 per item
£5 per costume

Contact - Morag Brown
(880 6466)






Junior Church



As Christmas approaches, once again Junior Church is organising the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box appeal. After the success of last year, when 88 boxes were filled, the children decided that we should try to repeat - if not better - that total. At the time of writing this article, the response has been very good and to help us out Springhill Primary School is donating some boxes which they have been filling.

The year, as you will be aware from previous issues of SteepleTalk, has been an eventful one. The latter part, after the summer break, has been especially pleasing. We have many new children and new leaders, after the success of the Summer Club. We have spent a lot of time learning new songs, working at crafts and latterly learning about Jacob. As Maureen says, Junior Church is really a lot of fun and anyone wanting to join in (young or old) would be made most welcome any Sunday morning.

On the subject of fun, it should be noted that the Christmas party season will soon be upon us. In a slight change from previous years, we have decided to combine all the Junior Church parties into one. This will be held on Saturday 23 December at 5:00pm - watch out for further details nearer the time.

The following night is of course Christmas Eve and the children will be taking our Nativity Service. If you have never been to this before, do come along and experience the real joy of Christmas as the children gather round the manger.

All that remains is for us all at Junior Church to wish everyone all the joys of Christmas.

Linda Dye



Congregational Board

The main concern of the Congregational Board during the summer months has been the financing of the repairs to the roof. All members of the congregation were informed of the problem in June when the appeal for funds was launched. I am pleased to inform the congregation that at the time of writing (just prior to the October Communion) the congregation has raised over £30,000. This has been raised by individual donations and as a result of various fundraising events. In addition thanks to the work of the Finance Committee a further £28,500 has been raised in grants. This gives us a total at the present of £58,500. However the total to be raised to complete the repairs is £100,000 so another £41,500 is still required.

The Board is confident that this money will be raised. At its last meeting the Fabric Committee was instructed to negotiate the final contract with the architects and contractors. It is anticipated that the repairs to the roof will be carried out at the start of the New Year.

Although the repairs to the roof are the major concern to us all the other ongoing work in the church and grounds has to continue. The East Chapel in memory of the late Margaret Ferguson was completed and dedicated at a service on 4th June. The cost of this was almost completely met by donations from the congregation.

Members of the Fabric Committee and a few volunteers repainted the lower hall. More redecoration work would have been carried out over the summer months if more members of the congregation had been willing to help. The corridor urgently requires redecoration and if YOU are able to help please see either myself or Gordon Simpson the Fabric Convenor.

The present state of the kitchens is unsatisfactory. As a public building we are inspected on a regular basis by the Environmental Health Department and the kitchens do not meet current food hygiene regulations. If we are to maintain the use of the kitchens they require upgrading in the near future. To this end preliminary planning is starting to upgrade the kitchens.

The upkeep of the grounds is the presently carried out by a few members of the congregation. If you can help by doing some weeding or grass cutting (training will be provided) or any other task around the grounds please speak to me. The more volunteers the less work for any one individual.

Finally the Congregational Board is very grateful for the response of the congregation to the appeal for the roof repairs but we need to keep the good work going in order to raise the outstanding £41,500.

Bruce Brown,
Clerk to Congregational Board. Phone 571 6403

Life & Work

Life & Work is the magazine of the Church of Scotland. It has recently acquired a new editor and has undergone a transformation akin to that produced by Cinderella's Fairy Godmother or even perhaps mud from the "Sea of Life".

If you are one of the 46 members who receive Life & Work regularly each month, thank you for your support. I am sure you will agree that it is a major improvement and, by the time you read this article, you will have paid your subscription for 2001 to make sure that you don't miss out in the coming year. How about being an "Andrew" and bringing a friend or relative to Life & Work? If each subscriber sets him/herself that target we can double our list of subscribers.

If you are one of the others who does not receive Life & Work, you don't know what you are missing. Why not try it out this year? What better way to start the (real) new millennium than with a new subscription to the new Life & Work?

Subscriptions for 2001 are now due. Individual magazines cost 90 pence but by taking out an annual subscription now you will get 12 issues of Life & Work starting in January 2001 for the bargain price of £9.00. How could anyone resist such an offer?

To order your copy see Angus Leitch, the Life & Work organiser, as soon as possible. He will be delighted to relieve you of £9.00 and add your name to the subscription list. Cheques should be made payable to "Bourock Parish Church". New orders are accepted at any time during the year.

The target is at least 50 subscriptions for 2001. Many more if possible. How about it? It's up to you.

A Smile For You

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the 'flu
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin
When he smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile then realised it's worth
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!!!

Gayle Jones

Satan's Plan

Satan called a worldwide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels, he said, "We can't keep the Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from forming an intimate, biding relationship experience in Christ. If they gain that Connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken. So let them go to their churches; let them have their conservative lifestyles, but steal their time, so they can't gain that relationship with Jesus Christ. This is what I want you to do, angels. Distract them from gaining hold of their Saviour and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" Shouted his angels.

"Keep them busy in the non essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend and borrow, borrow, borrow. Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their family fragments, soon, their home will offer no escape from the pressures of work! Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice. Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive. To keep the TV, VCR, CD's and their PC's going constantly in their home and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ. Fill the coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogues, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes. Keep skinny, beautiful models on the magazines so the husbands will believe that external beauty is what's important, and they'll become dissatisfied with their wives. Ha! That will fragment those families quickly! Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted, disquieted and unprepared for the coming week. Don't let them go out in nature to reflect on God's wonders. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts and movies instead. Keep them busy, busy, busy! And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotions. Go ahead, let them be involved in soul winning; but crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause. It will work! It will work!"

It was quite a convention. The evil angels went eagerly to their Assignments causing Christians everywhere to get more busy and more rushed, going here and there.

I guess the question is: "Has the devil been successful at his scheme?"

You be the judge! Does "busy" mean:

B-eing U-nder S-atan's Y-oke?

Please pass this on or are you too BUSY?!

Come and gather round

"Come and gather round" is the theme of all our worship for Christmas 2000. Over the last number of years we have adopted a theme that has enabled us to look at Christmas in a new and innovative ways. This year is no different. Using the carol of the same title we look at how coming and gathering together around the manger can change our lives and also the life of our church. As last year we shall be gathering for bible study over the weeks of Advent, and we have also introduced a new worship time, of carol singing in our chapel. Printed below is a small version of the Advent leaflet that you will shortly receive.

Sunday 3rd December 2000
First Sunday in Advent - The Prophets

11am - Worship
7pm - Service of Healing and Hope
8pm - Advent Bible Study

Sunday 10th December 2000
Second Sunday in Advent - Bible Sunday

11am - Worship
7pm - Christingle Service led by the Junior Choir
8pm - Advent Bible Study

Sunday 17th December 2000
Third Sunday in Advent - John the Baptist & Mary

11am - Worship
7pm - Carols in the Chapel
8pm - Advent Bible Study

Wednesday 20th December

7.30pm Barrhead Carol Service
South and Lavern Church

Sunday 24th December 2000
Fourth Sunday in Advent - Building the Nativity

11am - All Age Worship
Followed by the Advent Lunch

Christmas Eve

7pm - Nativity Service led by Junior Church
10.30pm - Holy Communion in the Chapel
11pm - Carol Singing
11.30 pm - Watchnight Service

Monday 25th December 2000

Christmas Day

10:30am - All Age Worship

Sunday 31st December 2000

Hogmanay

11am - All Age worship

Christmas truly is a time for us to be together in church. If you have never joined us for any of our special Advent or Christmas services, make this the year that changes all that. All the services and studies are open to all and we encourage you bring along your family and friends. Christmas is the time to come and gather in your church!

The Olympics

In an attempt to influence the members of the International Olympic Committee on their choice of venue for the games in the year 2008, the organisers of Glasgow's bid have already drawn up an itinerary and schedule of events.

A copy has been leaked and is reproduced below.

Opening Ceremony

The Olympic flame will be ignited by a petrol bomb thrown by a native of the city (preferable from the Easterhouse area), wearing the traditional costume of shell suit, baseball cap and balaclava mask. It will burn for the duration of the games in a large chip van on the roof of the stadium.

In the events in previous Olympic games, Scotland's competitors have not been particularly successful. In order to redress the balance, some of the events have been altered slightly to the advantage of the local athletes.

100 Metres Sprint

Competitors will have to hold a video recorder and microwave oven (one in each arm) and on the sound of the starting pistol, a police dog will be released from a cage 10 yards behind the athletes.

100 Metres Hurdles

As above but with added obstacles (ie car bonnets, hedges, garden fences, walls, etc.)

Hammer

Competitors in this event may choose the type of hammer they wish to use (claw, sledge, etc.). The winner will be the one who can cause the most grievous bodily harm to members of the public within the time allowed.

Fencing

Entrants will be asked to dispose of as much stolen silver and jewellery as possible in 5 minutes.

Shooting

A strong challenge is expected from the local men in this event. The first target will be a moving police van. In the second round, competitors will aim at a post office clerk, bank teller or securicor style wages delivery man.

Boxing

Entry to the boxing will be restricted to husband and wife teams and will take place on a Friday night. The husband will be given 15 pints of lager, while the wife will be told not to make him any tea when he gets home. The bout will then commence.

Cycling time Trials

Competitors will be asked to break into the University bike shed and take an expensive mountain bike owned by some mummy's boy from the country on his first trip away from home. All against the clock.

Cycling Pursuit

As above but the bike will be owned by a visiting member of the Australian rugby team, who will witness the theft.

Modern Pentathlon

Amended to include mugging, breaking and entering, flashing, joy riding and arson.

The Marathon

A safe route has yet to be decided, but the competitors will be issued with sharp sticks and bags with which to pick up litter on their way round the course.

Swimming

Competitors will be thrown off a bridge into the Clyde. The first three survivors back will decide the medals.

Mens 50km Walk

Unfortunately this will have to be cancelled as the police cannot guarantee the safety of anyone walking the streets of Glasgow.

The closing ceremony entertainment will include formation rave dancing by members of the Glasgow Health in the Community anti-drug campaigners, and synchronised rock throwing by the Govan Boys Band. the Olympic flame will then be extinguished by someone dropping an old washing machine onto it from the top floor of the block of flats next to the stadium. the stadium will then be boarded up before the local athletes break into it and remove all the copper piping and the central heating boiler.

Go For Gold - Bourock 2000

The Summer Club reunion took place on Saturday 14th October, when over 150 children turned up! As expected everyone had a ball, with songs, games, crafts and the challenge keeping everyone, young and old, entertained.

The 2001 Summer Club is already being planned, with Doug in discussion with Scripture Union regarding material and content.

For further details WATCH THIS SPACE!

Christmas Fayre

At the time of writing, the Christmas Fayre is still over a week away. While all the preparatory work has been done, we are eagerly awaiting the fayre itself. For details of how well we have done in our efforts for the roof fund, you will have to wait until the next issue of SteepleTalk. Or you could visit

<http://website.lineone.net/~steepletalk>

where Ken has promised to put as much detail as possible.

Help! Help! Help!

I have been with Bourock Parish Church for 160 years. It has been an interesting experience.

Many years ago, I remember there were only lawns and a few trees, to be attended to, but as the years advanced it was decided to add a few shrubs and of course a cherry tree. You will remember my cherry tree, it was my pride and joy, but alas, it caught a virus and died. It was a very sad time, but in their wisdom it was decided to replace the cherry tree with another variety and I have a beautiful tree with lovely deep pink flowers in the Spring and beautiful red plum like berries in the Autumn.

In the early Spring all my lovely plants begin to grow and this is the time my friends begin to attend to my plants and my lawns. It gratifies me to see all those who give of their time to make me feel good all Summer. I'm so happy to see children helping their parents and this gives me much pleasure.

Now that Summer is over and Autumn has almost passed and my gardens and lawns are needing attending - you may think your toil is over for now, roll on Spring, but you are quite wrong.

How do you feel when someone gives you a surprise, it makes you feel good does it not. I do feel most uplifted when someone comes along and trims my hedge, cuts my edgings and gathers up all the dead leaves and twigs my beautiful trees have shed.

I would ask you all, this includes youngsters and teenagers to come along at your own time, with your trowels, forks, spades and edging shears and help to keep me in peak condition. You'd be surprised how it makes me feel and I am sure you feel proud to have such well turned out gardens and lawns.

I delight when its Eastertime and the children roll their eggs down my embankment, and look at all the children who played on my lawns during the Summer and the Summer Club. You know members of the public always stop during the Summer to admire my beautiful flower beds and trees and of course my well cut lawns. There have been many weddings in our Church, some couples have been so impressed with our building and grounds that they wished to be part of our community.

Let it be that I can count on you to make me even more beautiful and proud next year by giving a small portion of your time during the week or on Saturday mornings.

I look forward to having more people tending my plants, my trees and pruning my bushes, cutting my edges, weeding my beds and paths. You know, there is no better way I have found to make new friends than join in my project. I leave you with this thought!

A letter from the Church Grounds.

The Things Children Say **(Not Bourock Ones)**

In the first book of the bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals come on to in pears.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.

The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic Genitals.

Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert.

Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten ammendments.

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

The seventh commandment is thou shall not admit adultery.

Moses died before he ever reached Canada.

Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles.

One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.

St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

A Christian should have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

Bulb Fundraiser 2000

A big "thank you" to everyone that supported this years' bulb fundraising campaign. We made a profit of £93.19 which has been donated to the roof fund.

We hope that your planting went well - and look forward to a colourful spring.

Debbie Mitchell & Karen Johnston

Flower Rota 2001

January

7 Mrs. E. Thomson
14 Mrs. R. Blair
21 Mrs. J. Smith
28 Mrs. J. Duguid

February

4 Mrs. B. Easdon
11 Mr. J. Auchincloss
18 Mrs. M. MacIntyre
25 Mrs. A. Blair

March

4 Mrs. J & A. Aitken
11 Mrs. R Carrick
18 Mrs. J. McIntyre
25 Mrs. M. Gray

April

1 Mrs. S. Irvine
8 Mrs. A. McCulloch
15 Mrs. A. Lee
22 Mrs. I. Renfrew
29 Mrs. E. McKenzie

Thank you to everyone who donated flowers during the year. These are greatly appreciated by all who receive them. Thank you also to those who put money into the Flower Fund Boxes. This money is used to by Oasis, extra flowers for the sick, extra flowers for Christmas etc. Thank you to all the ladies who put the flowers in the vases on a Saturday and to those who deliver them on a Sunday. If you can help deliver the flowers to homes or hospital, please speak to me.

Elizabeth McKenzie
Flower Convenor



Internet

As you will have seen in the last edition of SteepleTalk, Bourock is almost up and running on the web. Unfortunately, it is proving a little difficult finding a home for the website. Until we find a permanent address, for up to the minute news, please try :-

<http://website.lineone.net/~steepletalk>

Karen Anderson

Christmas is fast approaching and Karen would love to hear from you all. Her address is :- TABEETHA SCHOOL, PO BOX 8170, 2 YEFET STREET, JAFFA, ISRAEL

Session Matters

Glenda Meikle has retired as Prayer Secretary and David Miller has taken over this post. We thank Glenda for all her work as Prayer Secretary and are pleased that she is continuing to publish our Monthly Prayer Diary.

The Session Committees:

The Worship Committee has a new convenor Douglas Swanney. We thank John Whyte for all his work as convenor and wish Doug well in his new post.

The Care and Concern Committee under the convenorship of Morag Brown organised a very successful Senior Citizens Night in September which was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Communications Committee under the convenorship of Ken Dye, has set up a Website for Bourock. Items from SteepleTalk will be on the Website. Other organisations will be linked in as and when they come on line.

The Education Committee is in the process of carrying out a survey to establish the type of Christian education in each of the organisations affiliated to the Bourock.

The Session is always looking for feedback from the congregation, so please let us know how you feel about, for example, Summer Services or Evening Services or if you feel strongly about something that is happening or not as the case may be, then let us know - we need to hear your voice.

Elizabeth McKenzie. (Session Clerk)

Crossword

Thanks to all who enjoyed the crossword in the last issue. Here is the solution for those who didn't quite manage to finish it.

Look out for the next one Coming soon!!

1	L	2	E	3	S		4	E	5	V	6	I	7	T	8	A		9	R	10	S	11	T	
12	A	R	M				13	L	I	N	E	N						14	E	T	H			
15	D	R	E	16	A	M	C	O	A	T								17	G	E	E			
18	L	O	L	L			19	E	N	S					20	C	A	T	S					
21	E	L	L	I	22	S								23	L	O	T	S	A					
					24	T	H	E	25	P	H	A	N	T	O	M								
28	P	29	O	30	I		31	I	C	I	E	R					32	A	N	E				
33	O	F	T	34	H	E	O	P	E	R	35	A												
36	S	T	E	E	D									37	Y	I	38	K	39	E	40	S		
41	T	E	R	M			42	G	43	E	44	M		45	M	I	R	E						
46	A	N	A				47	S	U	P	E	R	48	S	T	A	R							
49	G	E	T				50	H	A	I	R	Y					51	E	S	T				
52	E	R	E				53	E	M	C	E	E					54	S	E	A				



BOUROCK STRAVAIGERS

MILLENNIUM LINK WALK SEPTEMBER 2000

When the Stravaigers undertook to walk from Edinburgh to Glasgow along the tow paths of the Union and Forth and Clyde Canals over five days, we thought that this would be an experience not to be missed. Allan and Dorothy Ramsay first read about the Millennium Link last year and suggested to the group that this could be the next long distance venture.

The Ramsays' checked out the route and organised food and overnight accommodation (one caravan and one trailer tent based in Stirling). The Magnificent Seven and a half (Jeff and Jean Smith, Allan and Dorothy Ramsay, Bruce and Marjory Brown, Hugh McKenzie and the Bourock Bunny) were ready to put on their walking boots and raise money for our Roof Fund, ACCORD and the Special Care Baby Unit of the RAH - what an adventure.

What do you think of when you hear about canals in towns and cities - like us you probably have a picture in your mind of derelict warehouses and mills with the water being full of rusty shopping trolleys, cars, etc., well not any more. The warehouses and old mills have been transformed into plush waterside apartments and most the rubbish has been cleared out of the canals. This was a beautiful walk along a river which meandered through woods, towns and farm land. We never knew what would be round the bend or under the next bridge. We watched swans with cygnets, ducks, moorhens, coots, herons and ducks as they too enjoyed the water. We even saw two foxes on the riverbank just outside Clydebanks. We sampled the sweet brambles as they grew in abundance. The friendship and fellowship was also in abundance as we encouraged one another along the way. Douglas Allan (South & Levern Church), a member of the Stravaigers accompanied us as we walked from Bonnybridge to Auchinstarry and Irene and Ian Glover walked from Bishopbriggs to Lock 27 on the Bearsden Road.

On reaching Bishopbriggs, we were met by Fiona together with friends and Baby Ruaraidh in his pram. This was when "Supergrandma" Jean took the lead, passing everyone as she pushed the pram to where a very welcome hot plate of soup and sandwiches were waiting for us. Fiona and Ruaraidh were also there to welcome us when we reached Bowling (the end of the trail) with champagne and savouries - what a way to finish!!

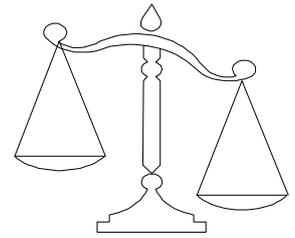
We averaged approximately twelve miles and day over fairly well maintained paths but unfortunately due to the renovation of the canals there were a few detours. There were also many reminders of the changing history of Central Scotland with the Union and Forth and Clyde Canals now being used for recreational purposes. Various boat trips are available and canoeing clubs also use the facilities. Although the locks at Maryhill are in the process of renovation, they are easily accessible should any of our congregation be interested.

We all had a wonderful time and raised £150 for ACCORD and £670 for the Roof Fund. The money which Jeff and Jean raised was given to the Special Care Baby Unit of the RAH.

Bruce & Marjory Brown

Finance Report

At the time of writing our offerings were £38,373 giving an average of £984 per week, up from £972 at this time last year but still less than our target, resulting in a deficit against budget of just over £4500. Although we are fund-raising for the roof repairs, it must be remembered that the normal running expenses of the church must also be met and, to this end, it is important that normal weekly offerings are maintained.



As you will read elsewhere in this issue of 'SteepleTalk' the board has decided to proceed with the repairs to the church roof although, at this point, it will be necessary to use reserve funds to finance the work. Contributions to the Roof Fund have been encouraging and I must extend my thanks to all individuals and organisations who have contributed so far, but we still have some way to go yet as the congregation's contributions total just over £30,000, the grants offered total £28,500 giving a grand total of £58,500 which is just over 50% of the required sum of £100,000 and this shortfall will have to be met from reserves, reducing them to almost zero. As you can see it is important to keep contributing to the Roof Fund to reduce the amount to be taken from our reserve funds.

In the last issue of 'SteepleTalk', Heather Boklach outlined the advantages of using Gift Aid to increase the value of your contributions to the church. To date she has received only 82 completed Gift Aid Declarations. If you have mislaid your form or require another, see any member of the Finance Committee at church and ask for one - this is a simple and efficient way to increase the value of your contributions.

Robert McKenzie
Finance Convenor



Tweenies

We have around 40 girls this year and are busy with crafts, songs, games and enjoying ourselves. We are looking forward to Christmas and hope to have a Party and a visit from Santa. We also hope to go along to the Variety Club Show on the Saturday afternoon.

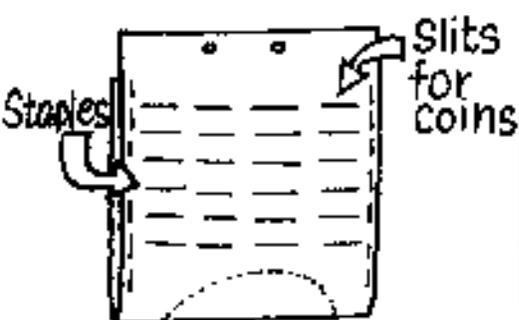
We will unfortunately be losing one of our leaders, Laura Cameron when she moves to Kilmarnock. Laura has been a leader in the Tweenies for several years and we will miss her very much.

If you could spare an hour from 6.30pm until 7.30pm on a Monday we would be very grateful for your help. Come along on a Monday and see what we do.

Elizabeth McKenzie

ADVENT CALENDARS are commercially often linked with getting rather than giving. In this advent calendar each day has a slit down which a two pence piece is dropped. After Christmas, the money can be given to a charity.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS using tissue paper and black paper are very effective. The finished windows can be used as part of the Christmas decorations at home or in church.



1	8	15	22
2	9	16	23
3	10	17	24
4	11	18	25
5	12	19	26
6	13	20	27
7	14	21	28

Come Lord Jesus come



The shepherds saw the baby lying in the manger.

