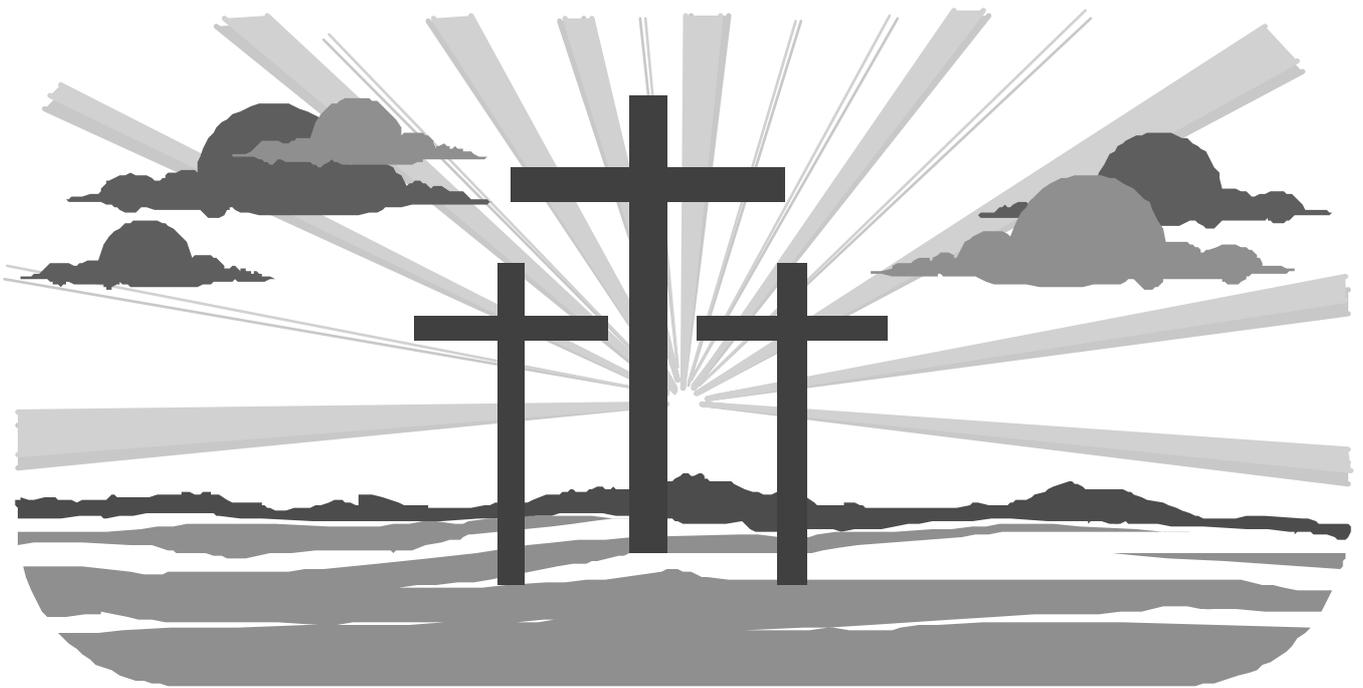


Steeple Talk



The Magazine
Of
Bourock Parish
Church

Who's Who In Bourrock

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,

Signs of hope are all around us as spring makes its presence felt. The vibrant purple and yellow of the crocus is a welcome sight after the months of winter. It is appropriate in this Lenten season to look forward with hope in our hearts. Easter brings the Gospel of Resurrection - the good news of new life. I hope we will have a packed church on Easter day to celebrate this wonderful news for all the world.

We are full of hope too that we will be worshipping again in the church very soon. The work on the roof has gone well and now we hope to see a newly decorated roof - without the polythene covering! I must say that everyone has coped well with the time of disruption. I know it has meant a bit of squeeze for some (especially a Monday night) but we have managed - with a bit of give and take. Worship in the upper hall has been a good experience. Since the congregation is gathered together rather than being spread over different areas there has been a real air of community and the singing sounds good.

I want to thank you all for the contribution that has been made to the roof fund so far. You can read about it elsewhere in the magazine. Coupled with the fact that our week by week offerings have kept up, it is fair to say "well done".

We have had our share of sadness too in the past few months with the deaths of several of our "weel kent" faces. We will be poorer for their passing but we give thanks to god for all they have contributed to this church.

Spring brings a sense of change in the air - there are signs of better days ahead - the whole place begins to look brighter - winter is over. And for us too there are signs of change. We have weathered the winter of disruption and now it is time to look forward and outward again. Time to look at ourselves as church and assess how we can best serve our community. As I have said before we want to hear your voice; your ideas; and we want your involvement. You all have so much to give - don't be shy - offer your services in some area or another of the church's work.

We are always looking for help - we need more people to visit our housebound members; we need more people to teach in our large junior church; we need people to distribute the magazine and/or leaflets; we need collectors for Christian Aid. The list is endless but we have the people - we now need then to volunteer their services. There is a place for you - come and take it up. You are the church.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all the blessings of Easter. May you be revitalised by the joy of the resurrection and heartened by the knowledge that it was all for you.



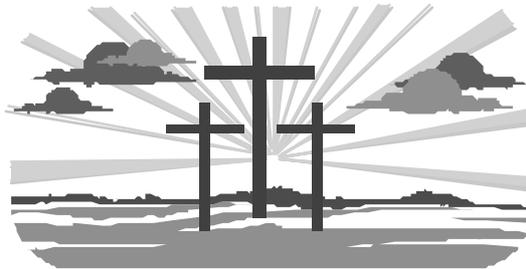
From The Editor



In the past three years of editing SteepleTalk, a lot has happened in the life of Bourock ... not least the current upheaval and disruption due to the roof works. Most of the time, however, Church life seems to go on with what it seems nothing much to report. The one thing many people seem to forget, is that there are a number of our members who are unable to attend Church on a regular basis and the only contact is either through the care and concern committee or via SteepleTalk and the articles within.

Looking back over these three years I can see a trend of some organisations regularly submitting articles with others hardly any. I appreciate that many may find it difficult to write articles, so if you only want to submit some notes with the salient points of interest I will be quite happy to put them into

SteepleTalk



The Magazine Of Bourock Parish Church

~~Winter 2007~~

rest of our congregation through the pages of this magazine in order to thank God for his gift to us - the gift of unconditional love.

Ken Dye (Editor).

some form of words. This also applies to any cartoons or anecdotes you think our members may find amusing. A magazine of this type cannot hope to totally please everyone all the time but if you can read it and find it of interest then I feel that it is serving it's purpose.

Coming up to Easter we are vividly reminded that Jesus, by his death and resurrection, brought us all the gift of new life. If ever there is a day for rejoicing in the church it is Easter Sunday, and if you are unable to attend I hope that you will feel closer to the

Internet

As many of you will now be aware, we have had a web site running for some time now. Unfortunately it has not been running quite as well as we would have hoped but the teething problems are slowly being ironed out.

The site now has it's own domain address www.bourock.co.uk so feel free to visit at any time.

SteepleTalk also has a web site at www.steepletalk.bourock.co.uk which from April should have cartoons, pictures and various other goodies.

Internet addresses have also been incorporated into our domain and the following people can be contacted at their e-mail address.

Maureen Leitch
Elizabeth McKenzie
Ken Dye
Linda Dye
Robert McKenzie
Doug Swanney

Minister
Session Clerk
SteepleTalk
Junior Church & Variety Club
Finance
Summer Club & Worship Committee

minister@bourock.co.uk
elizabeth@bourock.co.uk
ken@bourock.co.uk
linda@bourock.co.uk
robert@bourock.co.uk
doug@bourock.co.uk

3rd Barrhead Guides

December 4, found the Guides entertaining the residents of Westlea Residential Home with Christmas songs and poems and chatting to the ladies.

On Saturday, December 9, the Guides were entertained at the Variety Club's 'The Show Must Go On' which they all enjoyed.

A joint Guide/BB Ceilidh took place on Monday, December 11, where a good time was had by all.

The Guides started back on January 8 after their Christmas break. On Monday, January 22, the Company held their meeting at Lapwing Lodge. We enjoyed outdoor games (using torches), then went indoors to play 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' and indoor hockey. While this was going on, our chef (Andy) prepared hot soup, hot dogs, crisps and juice for all the girls. When the dining was over, we went outside to sing songs round the campfire. An enjoyable night was had by all.

February 22, saw the girls attending Arthurlie Church for their annual Thinking Day Church Service. Fiona Corrigan carried the Company flag.

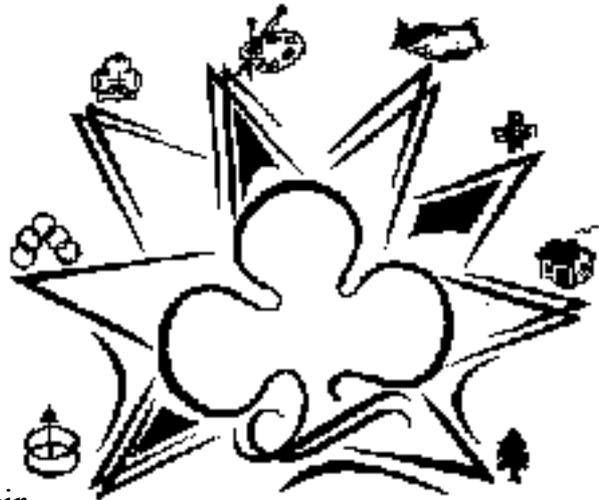
On March 10 the Guides held their Chit Chat Café which was open from 10am - 2pm. The Guides prepared and served the snacks to a hungry public. A big thanks to all who helped (donations of food/bottles, waitresses, kitchen and stall staff) in any way. The sum realised was £341.66.

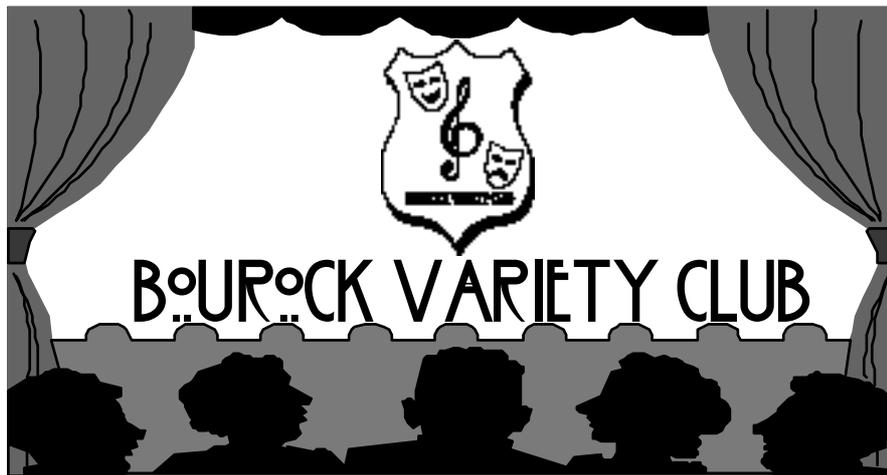
The Guides went to GX Superbowl for a 'Sponsored Bowl' for Comic Relief. The girls were sponsored per point of their total score. Thanks to all who sponsored and helped in any way.

Barbara (3rd Co. Guider)

Used postage stamps are still being collected. These stamps should have at least a ½in 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.





Another year, another show in fact two shows! After the success of 'The Show Must Go On' (which most people agree was our best ever) the club has decided to take up the challenge of performing 'Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' for one night only. This will indeed be quite a challenge as we will have to fully rehearse and be ready for Saturday 12 May when we will perform both an afternoon matinee and an evening performance. The proceeds of these shows will go towards the roof fund, which should total over £1,000 after production costs. We have already been joined by members of the congregation and choir and are looking forward to a lot of fun and hard work leading up to the big day.

Since last year's show, the club has been "out on the road" with the songs, entertaining the folks in eventide homes and sheltered accommodation. This, as ever, has been very worthwhile and we are always well received wherever we go.

And what of the rest of the year? After "Joseph" it will be full steam ahead into rehearsals for our new Christmas show, which this year will be a pantomime - watch this space for further details. As ever, the club is on the lookout for new (or not so new) talent. So if you are interested, come along or speak to any club member.

Linda Dye

Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 12 May	-	Joseph
Tuesday 4 December (Gala Night)	-	7:30pm Show
Wednesday 5 December	-	7:30pm Show
Thursday 6 December	-	7:30pm Show
Friday 7 December	-	7:30pm Show
Saturday 8 December	-	2:00pm Show
Saturday 8 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



This year has been a challenging one for Junior Church. With the roof being repaired and the services being held in the upper hall, we have had to find alternative accommodation. This has been provided by our near neighbours in Cochrane Street who kindly offered the use of the masonic halls for as long as we require them. This has proved to be a positive time for us all. The children have been thoroughly enjoying themselves and the halls are always warm and very clean. In fact the hall caretaker could not be any more helpful, giving us cupboard space for our materials and setting everything up before we arrive on a Sunday morning then clearing everything away after we have left. Numbers attending have not diminished and in fact some age groups have increased in number during this time. Once we are back in our own halls again, we will require to have a long hard look at all the facilities we offer our children, since it is often forgotten that they are not the church of tomorrow, but in fact are the church of today.

Many comments have been made to me regarding how much the children are missed at the start of the service and I have been pleased to pass this on to the children. Whilst they see our different meeting place and the walk over as a great adventure, it is good to know that the congregation do miss them.

With Summer approaching, everyone will be pleased to know that the trip this year will once again be to Kelburn Country Park on Saturday 23 June, leaving the church at 11.00am. Further details will be available nearer the time.

Linda Dye

Tweenies

The Tweenies started off the session with 46 girls, 6 moved on to the Brownies in January and 9 girls started the Tweenies at this time.

We had enjoyable nights playing games, action songs and crafts. We went along to the Variety Club Show in December and all the girls enjoyed this. We had a Halloween Party and a Christmas Party with of course a visit from Santa.

Unfortunately at Christmas we lost Laura Cameron when she moved to Kilmarnock. We will be loosing Caroline Dannfald when she marries Fraser in September. Both these girls will be greatly missed from the Tweenies and we wish them every blessing in their new homes.

If you could help on a Monday Evening from 6.30pm until 7.30pm please come and speak to me or ring me on 880.5077. The Tweenies are great fun for the adult helpers as well as the girls so give it some thought.

My thanks must go to all the leaders and helpers who come along and give their time and talents to the Tweenies.

Elizabeth D. McKenzie

JIM McLEOD (1926-2000)

We were all greatly saddened to hear of the death of Jim McLeod on Wednesday 27th December 2000. We recognised that we would be the poorer because of the passing of a man who had been part and parcel of this church for a long time. A Barrhead man through and through, he was born here and lived in the town and more importantly, he worked hard for this town.

Jim was educated in Barrhead and then went to work as a trainee accountant with a firm of lawyers. The outdated working practices and regime of the "pecking order" was not to his taste so he left after a short time to take up an apprenticeship as an electrician with Kilpatrick's. This was more to his liking and he enjoyed the job. He enjoyed meeting people and he enjoyed going to all the different places to which it took him. Eventually, he branched out into business for himself but sadly, that did not work out as planned.

Jim was a member of the 1st Barrhead Boys' Brigade company and it was an affiliation which was kept alive all through his life via the old boys' dinner.

Jim was brought up in a political household and carried on that tradition. He stood for the council and gained a seat on it. Jim was to represent the SNP but always with an independent mind and always in the interest of Barrhead. In 1969 he was elected provost and used his position to set about improving the lot of the senior citizens in Barrhead through the old folk's welfare committee which he started.

He was very much involved with Arthurlie House, providing facilities for the community. It was there that Jim was able to play and coach tennis, a game he loved. It was typical of him to put something back into the game that gave him so much pleasure by coaching youngsters.

Jim also served the wider community in his role as justice of the peace. He was such an active man that it is difficult to capture all of his many facets. For us, our main contact is Bourock Church. Jim was brought to Bourock by Jenny when they married. Despite being a "convert" he became very involved and it is fair to say that Jim became a very integral part of Bourock. He was on the board, in the variety club, a member of session and, for a number of years, the beadle. In all these roles Jim certainly played his part. He was prepared to give his opinion because the church mattered to him and he knew that the church is the people - so their views matter.

Jim was a man of principle - he did what he thought was right. Importantly, he did think about things before he spoke and acted. He loved his church and his community here in Barrhead and worked tirelessly for both. In this he was supported faithfully by his wife Jenny. Jim and Jenny were involved in many areas of life in this community but, of course, their prime consideration were the family - daughter Janet and son Donald; grandchildren, Jill, Mhairi and Katy and their great-grandchildren, Gordon and Hazel. To them we offer our sympathy and support in the days ahead.

Our best tribute to Jim will be to continue his crusading zeal to make this church one that serves this community, which he loved so much. With passion and compassion Jim was a man who acted when he saw need and he did so in a selfless way. Let us give thanks for having known him and let us try to follow his example.

ARCHIE POLLOCK (1921-2001)

It came as a great shock to us all to learn of the death of Archie Pollock on 20th February 2001. Only some ten days beforehand, we had joined him and the whole family in the celebration of the baptism of his youngest grandchild, Rhona. That day was also Archie's eightieth birthday.

Archie was born in Glasgow, one of nine children, he himself having a twin sister. He lived most of his childhood and young adult life in Inchinnan where the family bred and reared pigs. When the war came Archie was left at home to look after the pigs but an outbreak of some disease - probably swine fever - killed off the herd. Archie then joined the air force and became a flight engineer on Halifax Bombers.

After the war he went into the employ of British European Airways at Renfrew in the stores dept. He progressed in this job, becoming senior stores supervisor and in time, he undertook the setting up of a new stores regime at the new Glasgow airport.

Archie married Betty some 49 years ago and their's was to be a long and happy marriage, blessed with eight children, all of whom were associated with Bourock in one way or another. Indeed, the Pollock family is an institution in this church. It was said at the funeral that Archie and Betty filled the front pew with their family but perhaps it was more than one pew.

Archie had a varied involvement with church life. He has served as a youth leader; he was involved with and supported the variety club; he provided transport, when needed, in the 'Pollock-Mobile'; he gave of his expertise as fabric convenor; he served as clerk to the board; he was ordained an elder in 1962 and in 1977 he became session clerk.

There can be little doubt that Archie gave of his time and talents to serve the church. I am sure that it was all done with the enthusiasm and commitment that was his hallmark. Many of our memories of Archie revolve around dances - the family dances we have held in the hall. He took his grandchildren up to teach them dances. In particular we remember Archie and Betty dancing round the floor with great expertise. Our dances in the future will be the poorer for his absence.

Archie was intensely proud of his family and he always gave thanks to God for the great blessing he had in them. They too were blessed to have him as their father. To the family we offer our love and support. We acknowledge that in them we see Archie's inheritance. Archie was a man of honour and principle. We honour him by doing our best to uphold the family values upon which he set great store.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant" - that would seem to be a fitting epitaph for a man who gave of his best.

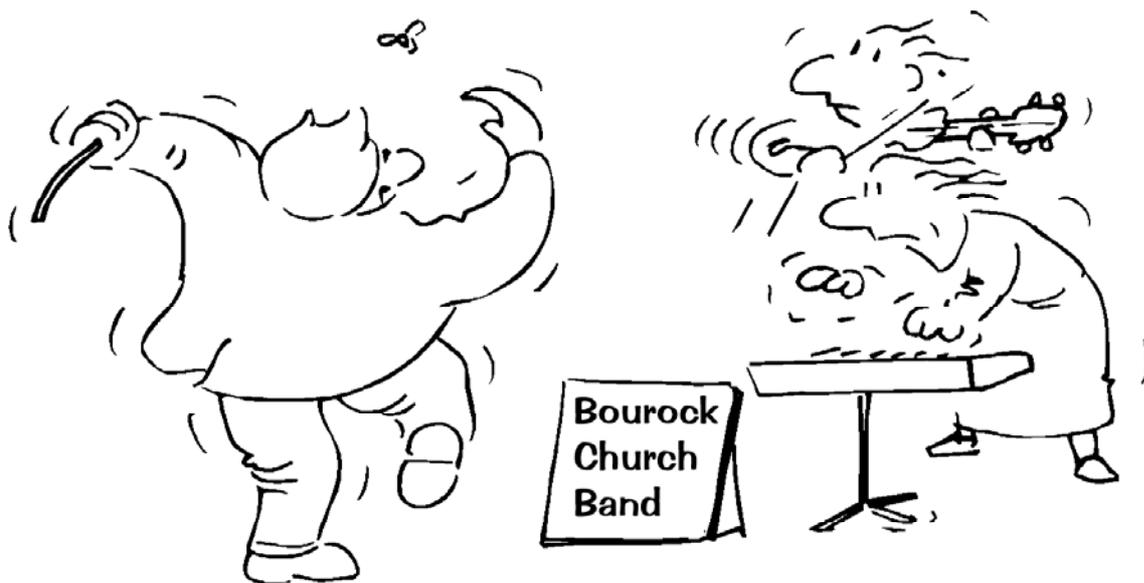
Church Choir?? **(Not Bourock Of Course!!)**

Immortal, impossible, God only knows
How tenors and basses, sopranos, altos
At service on Sundays are rarely the same
As those who on Thursday to choir practice came.

Unready, unable to sight-read the notes,
Nor counting, nor blending, they tighten their throats,
The descant so piercing is soaring above
The melody only a mother could love.

They have a director, but no one knows why.
No one in the choir deigns to turn him an eye.
It's clear by his waving he wants them to look,
But each of them stands with his nose in the book.

Despite the offences the music rings out.
The folks in the pews are enraptured, no doubt.
Their faces are blissful, their thoughts are so deep,
But is it no wonder, for they are asleep.



Everyone agreed the band played really well - until the wasp appeared!

The Spelling Chequer

I have a spelling chequer

It came with my pea sea

It plainly marks four my revue

Miss steaks eye cannot sea

Each thyme when eye have struck the quays

I weight for it two say

If watt eye rote is wrong or rite

It shows me strait a weigh

As soon as a mist ache is maid

It nose bee fore two late

And eye can put the error rite

No I shall find it grate

I've run this poem threw it

I'm shore yore policed to no

It's letter perfect in its weigh

My chequer tolled me sew

Sores Knot Known

2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade Junior Section

We are presently preparing for our parents night which this year takes place on Friday 18th May.

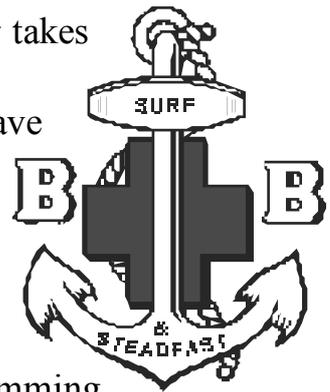
The Junior Section enrolled 23 boys this year and all boys have gained their respective badges.

The boys enjoyed the Halloween party all dressed in many disguises. During the Christmas period we were very busy doing the following; Christmas party, ten-pin bowling and enjoying the Bourock Variety Club panto.

So far this year we have entered two Battalion competition:- swimming and ten-pin bowling, and are currently doing well in both.

On the 19th March the boys will be taking part in a sponsored event, which will be an obstacle course.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff for their support this year.



Lt. Lawrence Webb
Officer In Charge



Choir News



The Choirs are, as ever, keen to have new members and we would like to welcome back to the Choir both Sandra and Susan. Please feel free to talk to any member if you wish to come along.

Both the Senior and Junior choirs are busy rehearsing very hard for the forthcoming concert. The Concert will be held in the Upper Hall, on Saturday the 28th April at 7.00pm. Tickets are priced £2.00 and £1.00 concessions, and will include a cup of tea. All proceeds are in aid of the Roof Fund. This should be a night of good music and fun, but not necessarily in that order.

Easter will be upon us very soon and we are busy rehearsing several pieces for Holy Week. Several members are also rehearsing with the Variety Club for their forthcoming performance of, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, which everyone is looking forward to.

Lindsay Simpson

Web Cartoons

A big “thank you” to everyone who visited the SteepleTalk web site over the past few months.

As you know (and everyone else will now know) it incorporated some cartoons to choose for publication in this issue of the magazine.

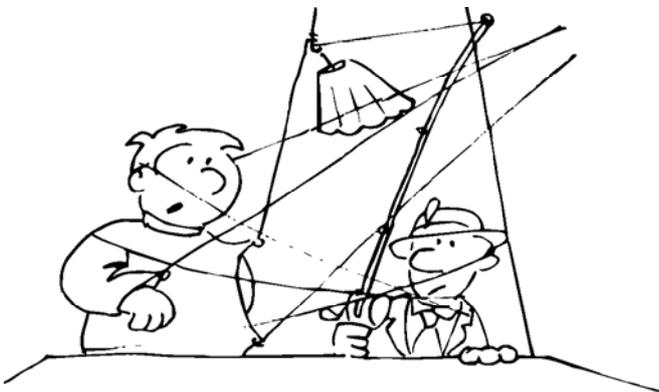
So popular were all the cartoons that you can now see them all below. The web site will again be having some cartoons incorporated and in the next issue only the one with the most votes will be printed.



One Microphone between two proved to be a problem at Bourock



Wild Bill was not really on the same wavelength as the rest of the praise group



I'm sure we'd all like to thank Mr Ramsay for his entertaining demonstration of fly fishing



Unfortunately, Daniels's poodle did not fare as well



Bourock Toddler Group



The Toddler Group has enjoyed another successful session. Since the start of the session last August, we have had an average attendance of 14 'adults', (Mums, Grans and Aunties), and 20 children. Every Friday afternoon the children have the chance to play with other children, and their 'adults' have the chance to meet other adults. Earlier on in the session we had a couple of visits from Eric, the Storyteller, who read to the older children. We are hoping to shortly run some 'Arts & Crafts' sessions, in conjunction with the Art and Family Project, run by East Renfrewshire Council.

We had a party for the children at Christmas, when Santa brought everyone a present (including me! Thank you.) The children will be receiving Easter eggs shortly, and we will continue to meet until the end of the school term in June, when we will have a 'close of session' party.

I would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone for supporting the group over the year - and look forward to seeing 'old' and 'new' faces next year. Good luck to those starting school in August.

We meet every Friday afternoon, during the school term time, in the Lower Hall, from 1.15pm to 2.45pm, and any Mums/Grans etc. are welcome to drop-in and join us. The Toddler Group is open to ALL pre-school age children - from new-born babies to 5 year olds.

Debbie Mitchell

Social Steering Committee

"Thank you" to all the folks who came along to our family functions last year. They helped us to give the church finances £1,000. All functions are for the family and everyone seems to enjoy them.

Our next venture is a coffee morning and car wash on Saturday 26 May followed by a car treasure hunt on 23 June.

Finally, "thank you" to all the organisations who take part in the Sunday tea making.

Jenny McLeod

Parish Register

BAPTISMS

SEPTEMBER 2000

ANN NORMAN MCLEOD

77 LANGTON CRESCENT

NOVEMBER 2000

NATALIE KATHRYN DROY

10 MUIR STREET RENFREW

FEBRUARY 2001

HANNAH JANE TIMLIN

90 GRAHAMSTON PARK

RHONA MARGARET HARVIE

70 LANFINE ROAD, PAISLEY

JAMIE PETER HAMPTON CHRISTIE

2 VICTORIA AVENUE

FUNERALS

AUGUST 2000

*WINNIE HOPKIRK

ST. MARY'S GARDENS

SEPTEMBER 2000

TOM SMITH

GLENIFFER DRIVE

PEGGY WALLACE

HAWKHEAD HOSPITAL

JOAN BURRELL

GATESIDE ROAD

OCTOBER 2000

*BILL JOHNSTON

71 MAXTON GROVE

NORMAN DOWNIE

4 COGAN PLACE

NOVEMBER 2000

*JENNY FAULDS

15 KERR STREET

*CHRISTINE STRANG

FIRS NURSING HOME

*MAY MCGREGOR

MONTGOMERY COURT, PAISLEY

ANDREW STIRLING

CEDAR PLACE

DECEMBER 2000

SARAH BRUCE

LAUREL WAY

RENNIE CRAWFORD

LOCHLIBO ROAD

*JIM MCLEOD

46 LEVERN CRESCENT

JANUARY 2001

*LILY HARVEY

11 SHANKS AVENUE

WILLIAM MC FAULL

COGAN PLACE

TOM JONES

8 BROWNSIDE CRESCENT

FEBRUARY 2001

* ARCHIE POLLOCK

18 CUMNOCK DRIVE

JAMES DEVENY

BELLFIELD CRESCENT

* denotes member

Prayer Group

I have recently taken over from Glenda Meikle as prayer secretary. Since volunteering I have been wondering:

- (a) What is the role of prayer secretary?
- (b) Why did I say I would do it?

Here is a thought I have found useful.

When you pray, don't talk on and on as people who don't know God. They think God likes to hear long prayers. Don't be like them.

"Your Father knows what you need before you ask" (Matthew 6:7-8).

I would like to make up a list of prayer topics for either SteepleTalk or the intimation sheet depending on timescales. You may hand any prayer topics to me or leave them in the office for collection. These can be for general or individual concerns. But please, if you are naming individuals, seek the named person's approval first.

David Miller
Prayer Secretary

The Guild

We have had another busy session, joining with the Young Womans Group in January for the Guild Theme evening when the speaker was our own minister Maureen Leitch. We also joined the YWG at their roof fund raising evening to listen to the writer Evelyn Hood

In February we had a visit from Mr Sandy McPherson, organist and choirmaster Williamwood Parish Church, who brought along twelve of his choir to help illustrate his talk.

In March we had our Guild Project fund raising evening, the money raised going to the Rainy Hospital Nursing School at Chennai. The YWG visited us that evening which no doubt helped to add to our total. Our Pancake morning was a great success once more and a big thank you to everyone who helped to make it so.

Still to come our fund raising concert, entertainment by the Paisley Musical and Operatic Society. This will be held in the upper hall on Tuesday 24th April and tickets will be available at the beginning of April.

The Guild outing in May is to Oban.

The Annual Business Meeting takes place on Tuesday 27th March and the next meeting is not until the start of the new session in October October 9th - ladies. Put the date in your diary now. The committee is already thinking about the new syllabus.



Margaret McKechnie
President

Roof Repairs

No-one can have failed to notice the frenzy of activity that has been going on around the Church since just after New Year. It took the contractors several weeks to put in place the scaffolding that would be required to support the roof as they set about replacing the rotted Main timbers of the roof. Over the years the timbers have rotted at the ends allowing the roof to sag in the centre by about 10 inches, which you can see if you look at the roofline from outside in the street! The roof had to be supported not only in the Church but also right down to the floor of the Lower Hall, as that holds everything else up.

After all was ready, the first corner was opened up and the timber cut back nearly 2 metres to expose all the rotted area. It was then very clear that we had been living on borrowed time and that we were fixing things just in time. The rot had also affected roof and ceiling rafters as well and so several of those were also removed and new timbers spliced into place. As you will appreciate, this involved some pretty clever structural repairs. Each corner, once it had new timbers in place, was encased in steel support plates on either side and welded to a steel baseplate 1 inch thick. So each corner now had a metal boot to protect it.

It had been the intention to tackle one corner at a time, but it was decided that after the first corner had been completed, it was safe to do the other corners at the same time. During all of this work the plaster on the ceiling and walls at the corners had to be hacked off to allow working access. During this work some dry rot was discovered in the walls. However, we took this in our stride and had the rot eradicated and the walls replastered. This part of the operation has been particularly difficult and dirty, with dust going everywhere, but it was essential to make sure that all problems were dealt with at the same time.

While all this was going on inside, the roofing sub contractor, was installing new lead valley gutters and ridge flashings, replacing slates, installing new cast iron gutters and generally making sure that all the roof area was watertight and fully protected against the elements. Several other small faults to the skylight and lower roofs, have also been fixed.

At this time, the last corner has had all its timbers replaced and the blacksmith has finished the steelwork. The plasterers have now moved in, following the joiners, replacing the ceiling. The new cornices will arrive shortly to be installed, followed by the re-installation of the light fittings in the balconies. After this the whole upper scaffold will be thoroughly cleaned and the painters can then paint the ceiling, cornices and upper areas of the balcony walls. Next will be the dismantling of the internal scaffolding and this could take up to a week. If you have seen the photos of the inside of the Church, then you will realise how many lorry loads of scaffolding there will be to remove. The cleaning contractor will then set about the task of removing all the dust and debris from the Church, and then the painters can complete the painting.

After this I will have to check that all bumps, scratches and dents are attended to by the Main contractor, though I must admit, that these are likely to be few, as care has been taken during all work. This has been possible because Billy Irvine or I have been on site at some stage each day, making sure that things were going as we expected them to. Many thanks to Billy who took a lot of the workload off me, and allowed me to carry on with my 'other' normal work.

These final weeks of work will enable us to ensure that everything is restored to its former state, or improved, for us returning to the Sanctuary.

I appreciate that we have all been displaced for quite a time, but I hope that when you see the finished job you will be satisfied and feel pride in knowing that, through your generosity and hard work, the fabric of Bourock has been guaranteed for more years than most of us will see. My personal thanks to all who have contributed in any way, and made this all possible. To return to our Sanctuary, will indeed make this a special Easter 2001.

Gordon Simpson

Flower Rota 2001

April

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

May

6 Mrs. A. McMillan
13 Mrs. E. Thomson
20 Mrs. I. Alexander
27 Mrs. J. Simpson

June

3 Miss F. Rankin
10 Mrs. N. Downie
17 Boys' Brigade
24 Mrs. B. Hamilton

July

1 Mrs. D. Ramsay
8 Mrs. M. Stewart
15 Mrs. N. Nutini
22 Mrs. A. McGarrie
29 Mrs. L. Simpson

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



Coffee Club

Thanks again to everyone who helps me with Coffee Club. The club is still thriving and has an average of 40-50 every Thursday attending both the service and for coffee. This is now an "all age" morning.

I would also like to thank the Anchor Boys who lay out the tables for me - it is a big help.

Jenny McLeod

Guide To Help You Know When You're Getting Older **(Gentlemen Only)**

1. The gleam in your eyes is the sun hitting your bifocals.
2. You get winded playing dominoes.
3. Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
4. You turn out the lights for economic rather than romantic reasons.
5. You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
6. You look forward to a dull evening.
7. Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
8. You feel like the night before, but you haven't been any place.
9. Your belt won't buckle but your knees do.
10. Your back goes out more than you do.
11. You burn the midnight oil after 9pm.
12. The little old lady you helped across the street is your wife.
13. Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up.
14. You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
15. Your great-grandchildren comment about your wrinkles being more than skin-deep.
16. Your children begin to look middle aged.
17. Your snoring wakes your next door neighbours.
18. Your children assume your hearing aid is always switched off.
19. Your double chin protrudes as far as other parts and stops you seeing your feet.
20. You don't think you'll outlive the 'best before' date on the Cornflakes packet.

Author Unknown

Mahatma Ghandi walked barefoot everywhere, to the point that his feet became quite thick and hard. He also was quite a spiritual person. Even when he was not on a hunger strike, he did not eat much and became quite thin and frail. Furthermore, due to his diet, he wound up with very bad breath. Therefore, he came to be known as a (wait for it ...)

:

Super calloused fragile mystic plagued with halitosis.

Bourock Parish Church

Summary Statement Of Accounts

<u>INCOME</u>	2000	1999
Offerings	£54,053	£52,699
Other General Income	£10,021	£8,789
Total	<u>£64,074</u>	<u>£61,488</u>

EXPENDITURE

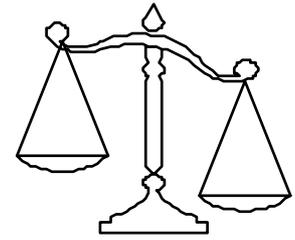
Local Ministry	£33,770	£33,829
Mission and Wider Work	£14,272	£12,379
Local Congregational Purposes	£16,364	£15,807
Total	<u>£64,406</u>	<u>£62,015</u>
Deficit	<u>(£332)</u>	<u>(£527)</u>

FUNDS AS OF 31 DECEMBER

	2000	1999
Fabric Fund	£ 2,785	£ 1,859
Roof Fund	£43,654	-
Flower Fund	£ 252	£ 252
Reserve Fund	£53,842	£56,300
Kitchen Refurbishment Fund	£ 1,000	-
Youth Fund	£ 357	£ 584
Church Redoration Fund	-	£ 858
Chapel Fund	-	£ 380

Finance Report

The following is a report on the Church's Accounts presented at the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 11 March 2001 and should be read in conjunction with these Accounts. In line with the General Assembly's guidelines, a summary statement of accounts is included in this issue of 'Steepletalk'.



Finance in 2000 started off with a small deficit of £527 and our budgeted weekly income figure of £1065 was not consistently attained, our average weekly income being £1039. As the accounts show, our deficit of income against expenditure was £332, only because interest from reserve funds, to the amount of £2305, was used to offset the deficit which would otherwise have been £2637. This however only represents a comparison of income over expenditure, as, once again, we did not achieve our budgeted target of a £2000 contribution to reserves. This means that the true end of year figures are a deficit of £4637 against budget without the transfer of interest and £2332 taking this interest into account. These figures can be put into perspective by looking at the following: our WFO income increased from £36,190 in 1999 to £37,269 in 2000, ordinary (open plate) offerings decreased from £6566 to £6121, offerings covered by Deed of Covenant increased from £9943 to £10,663 with a corresponding increase in tax recovered from £2970 to £3050. Overall our income increased from £61,488 to £64,074 and our expenditure increased from £62,015 to 64,406.



The budget figures for 2001 represent an average weekly income of £1080 and, to date, this figure has not been achieved. The average weekly income so far this year has been approximately £1019.

The Roof Fund, at time of writing, stands at £50,000. This amount has been raised by contributions from individual members of the congregation, organisation contributions and the proceeds of

fund-raising events. This is a considerable achievement of which we should all be proud. In addition to this amount raised by the congregation, we have secured grant assistance for the project to the sum of £38,500.

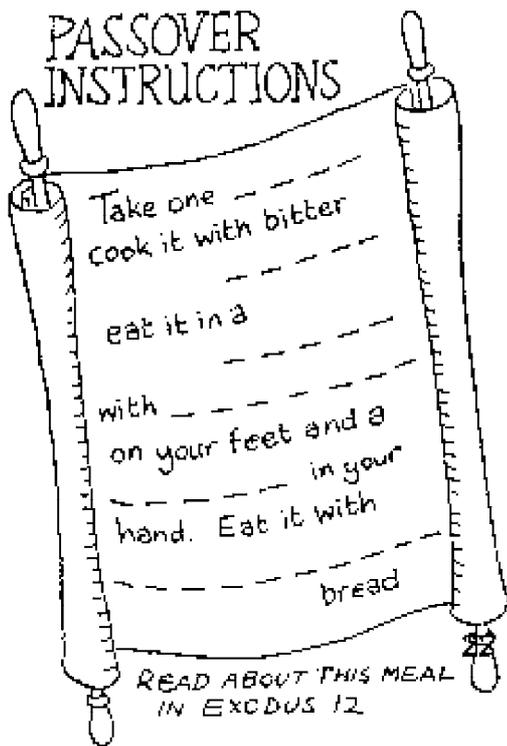
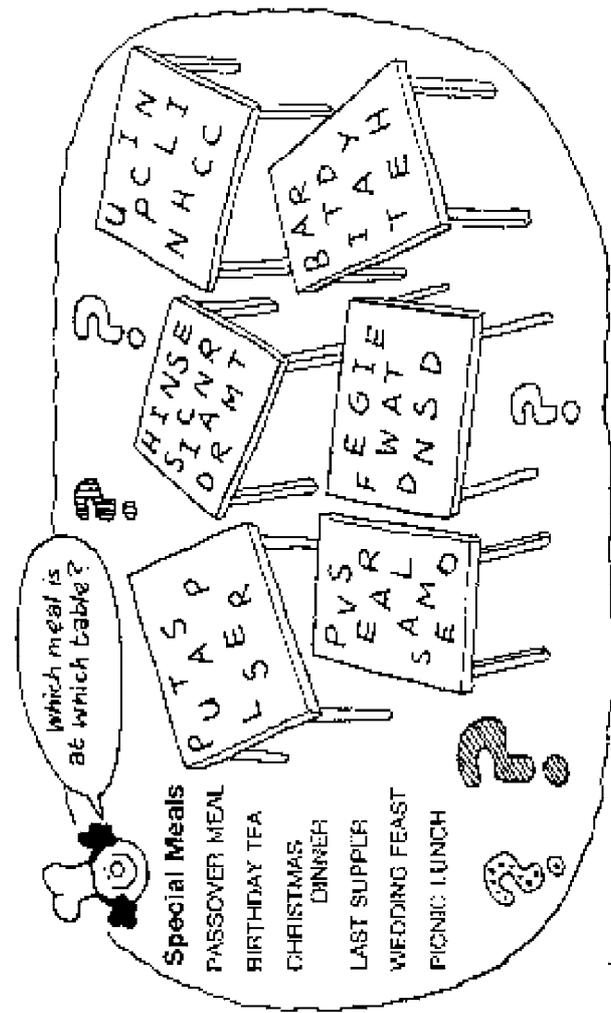
Looking at our total income for last year, the congregation should be congratulated for raising the above total for the Roof Fund and still maintaining the normal weekly income. If this commitment is maintained Bourock can only go from strength to strength.

The Deed of Covenant scheme is being replaced by Gift Aid Declarations and this has been publicised in previous issues of 'Steepletalk' and in a personal letter to all members of the congregation. To date 116 completed Declarations have been received and this is very encouraging, however, I feel that this total can be increased to a considerable extent and this is a matter that the Finance Committee will be working on during the coming year. If you are a taxpayer and have not yet completed a Gift Aid Declaration or if you are not sure if you have completed one or if you require further information, please contact myself or any member of the Finance Committee.

There has also been an increase in the use of Bank Standing Orders over the last year and if any member wishes to change over to this easy and efficient method of giving, please contact myself.

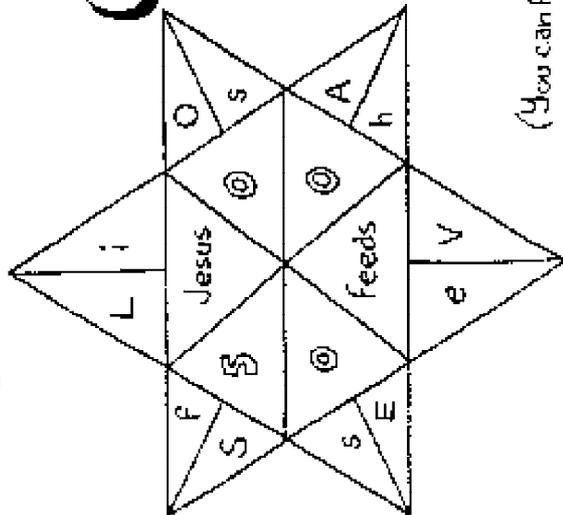
Finally I would like to thank all members of the Finance Committee for their work over the last year.

Robert McKenzie
Finance Convenor



COLOUR the star:

- RED All the letters of 'LOAVES'
- GREEN All the letters of 'fishes'
- YELLOW All the numbers of 5000
- BLUE The words Jesus and 'feeds'



(You can find the whole story in Matthew 14: 13-22)

