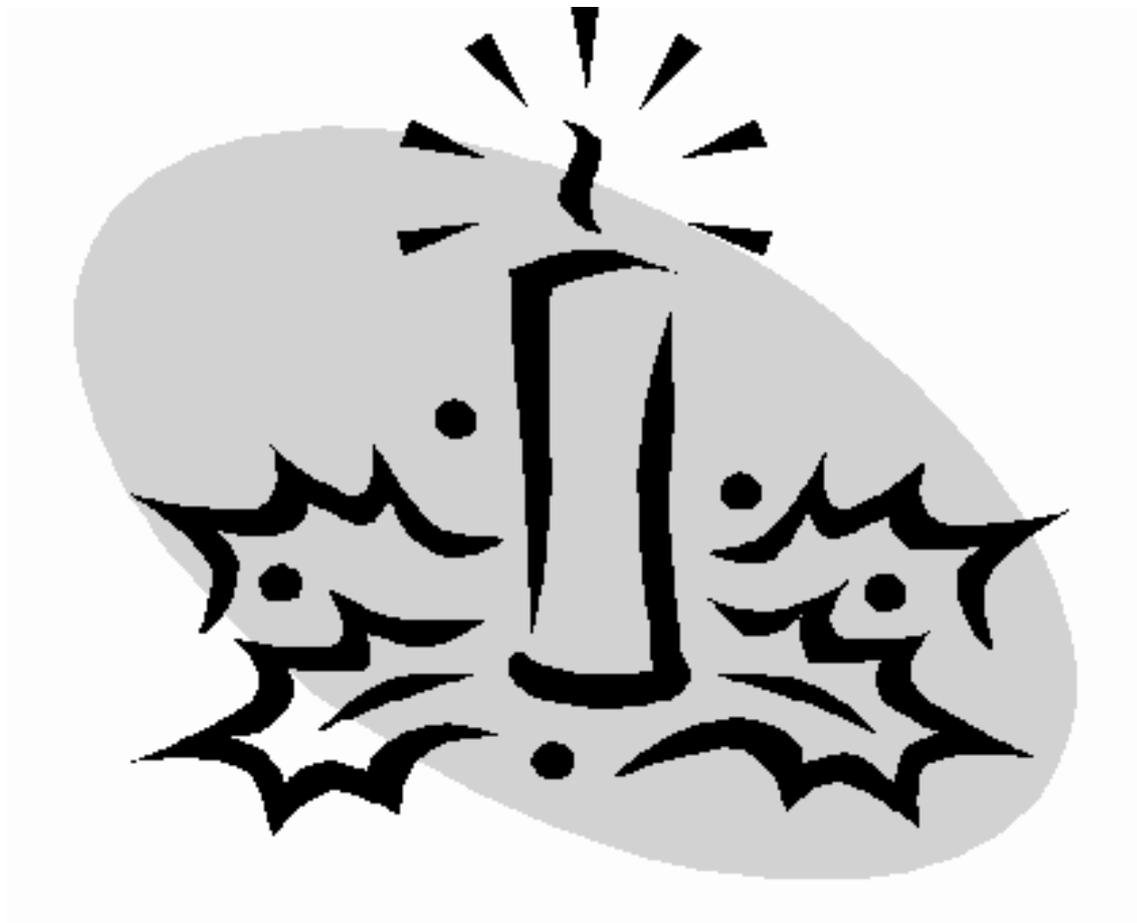


SteepleTalk



THE MAGAZINE
OF
BOUROCK PARISH
CHURCH

Christmas 2002

Who's Who In Bourock

Minister	Maureen Leitch	881 1462
Session Clerk	Elizabeth McKenzie	880 5077
Deputy Session Clerk	Karen Johnston	881 5115
Clerk To The Board	Bruce Brown	571 6403
Treasurer	Ross Mitchell	881 4688
Roll Keeper	John Whyte	
Halls Convener	Hazel McCarthy	880 7607
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 (Company)	Graham Manson	580 0871
Boys' Brigade (Junior)	Lawrence Webb	571 4330
Boys' Brigade (Anchor)	Mary Murray	881 1564
Guides (2nd)	Jennifer Stewart	881 7320
Guides (3rd)	Barbara Jones	881 0391
Brownies (2nd)	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Brownies (3rd)	Karen Auchincloss	881 6143
Tweenies	Elizabeth McKenzie	880 5077
Young Woman's Group	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Mother & Toddler	Helen Grant	639 2602
Variety Club	Linda Dye	876 1201
Coffee Club	Jenny 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	Ann McMillan	
Worship	Doug Swanney	

Dear Friends,

Christmas is coming! I am sure that I do not have to remind you of that fact. All around we are aware of all the commercial activity which is going on. However, for us, Christmas surely means more than that. We should be looking forward expectantly to celebrating the birth of our Saviour. We should be preparing for that event through worship and personal devotion.

So often the joy of Christmas is lost in all the pressure which the outside world applies at this time - the need for presents, the need for extra food, the need for celebrations that are sometimes contrived. For Christians, the real joy of this time of year is the reminder that our God came to be with us - to share our lives, to know our joys and sorrows, to bring us hope.

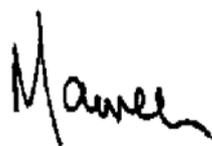
"Christmas is a time for children" - so they say. Yes, it is - a time for all God's children to celebrate. So let us look around us and make sure that no one is left out of our celebrations. For some, the festive season is not particularly happy because it brings a heightened awareness of those who are missing from the celebrations. We can include them by showing understanding of their emotions at this time - that is why we include a service of Hope and Healing in our Advent programme.

My hope is that we can be together as the church family over this Advent period. Waiting and watching together brings a real sense of joy and celebration when Christmas Day comes. Please look at the Advent services and come along as often as you can.

We have had an exciting year in Bourock with many promising signs of growth and hope. As the year draws towards a close I would like to thank all who have worked in any way at all to help build up our congregation. It has been good to see so many new people in our Sunday and Thursday worship services and we are glad to have them and welcome their contribution.

I pray that we might continue to grow and also reach out to more and more people with the Good News of a Saviour who brings hope to all.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Christmas that brings joy, comfort and a sense of God's blessings.

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



P A A D T C O N L L P Q R U B B E R G P S
 Y E A M E A N O T E P A D S H R A G S H C
 U Z N U N K I K A W N A S A E K I L T O H
 T S I C N U M P H R H N O P N D A O M T O
 O N T R I T O R B E I K A E S J A V M O C
 S E E A S L S P E T A P U L R L E E M G O
 K P U Y B M S J S T E U S E F G S S S R L
 O E B O A C D H E E S F P G N H I J O A A
 O N K N L S S L A L M A N O O T P Q F P T
 O G R S L U M T S R P T P U A V X W T H E
 G I X Y R Z P A O O P S R H T U O G B A E
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 R N F C O I D O L L G H U E N M O T L O R
 U I E R S M F S O N R A B L R B H T I N T
 O T L E A O C H O I L D M R R S S E N I A
 L N D B A C B P I A E S N E U E A R L M Y
 O S T E E W S L C A P H C U O S Y O T O X
 C C U D D L Y T O Y I L O V E N H A B D O

Word Search: - Find the words listed below

Photograph
 Letter.
 Dominoes
 Softball
 Gloves
 Comb
 Comic
 Tennis ball.

Crayons
 Pencils
 Pens
 Colouring books
 Cuddly Toy
 Notepads
 rubber
 Scarf

Soap
 Small game
 Pencil Sharpeners
 Toothpaste
 Flannel
 Sponges x2
 Hat.
 Felts

Paper x2
 Brush
 Toothbrush.
 Chocolate
 Sweets
 Doll
 Cap.
 Shoebox
 Love

YWG

Young With It Girls

Come and join us on alternate Tuesday evenings - 8pm - 10pm.

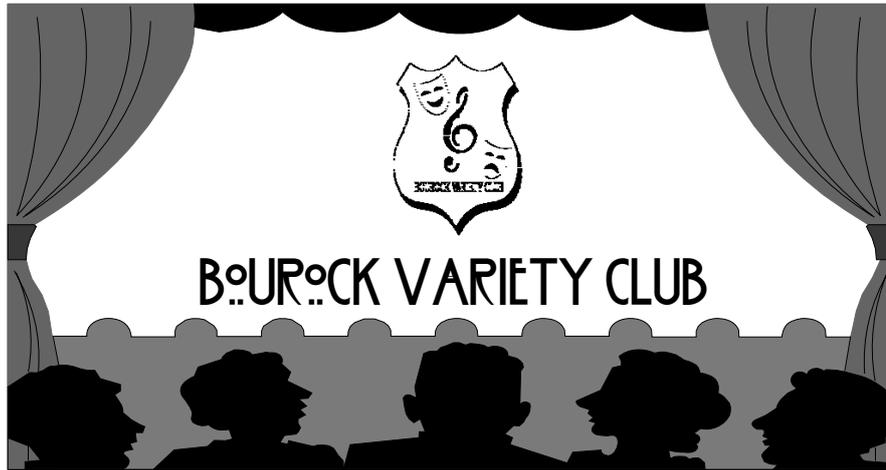
The following is the remainder of the 2002/2003 syllabus

11 December	A Christmas Get Together
14 January	A Talk On Our Theme
28 January	A Burns Theme - Wear Something Tartan
11 February	A Talk From An Airport Chaplain
25 February	Try Your Hand At Craft
11 March	A Visit To The Guild
25 March	AGM - Taste & Try Evening

3rd Barrhead Brownie Pack

The girls of the 3rd Barrhead Brownie pack; think it is, fun and exciting some weeks. We like going places and doing different things on a Monday night. We especially like making things on a Monday night and when other girls are doing cook or hostess badges because we get to eat lots of cakes and sandwiches. We like the nights where we get to play lots of games, I especially like ladders and the elimination game. One of the bad things is that we can only play some games every other week because Karen and Lorna share the halls - it is too small for ladders when we're upstairs. We don't like singing baby songs but we like singing the song about the penguin. "Did you ever see a penguin come to tea, take a look at me, a penguin you will see" (an action song we sing sometimes!) Sometimes Brownies isn't long enough, "couldn't it be 6pm until 9pm!" We're growing hyacinths for Christmas just now and we're going to decorate them and give them as gifts. Some of the badges we do are a bit boring and we don't really like the prayer we sing at the end of the night. Brownies is good because you get to see your friends and because it's something to do at night. It's good because the girls that don't have friends from school at Brownies, get to meet new friends. We like the parties a lot and learning new games.

The Brownies



It's showtime! and the club is furiously rehearsing to make this year's show even better than before. Our production (if you didn't know already) is "Jack And The Beanstalk" and the cast and crew alike are looking forward to this well known story set in a most unusual location. We now have the largest cast in the club's history, which in itself has caused a few problems given the size of our stage. However, all our problems have been resolved and we are all looking forward to opening night.

The club is delighted once again to have been asked to lead the singing before the watchnight service. This proved to be very popular last year and we hope that you will come and join with us in this time of fellowship.

The new year will see us preparing our concert party, which will as usual be visiting some of the older members of our community. This is always a great deal of fun and it's great that we can bring a smile to the faces of so many who may not be able to manage out and about so easily at this time of the year.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone the compliments of the season and hope that you all enjoy the festive period.

Linda Dye

Dates for Your Diary

TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW
WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW
THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW
FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER	-	7:30PM SHOW
SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER	-	2:00PM SHOW
SATURDAY 7 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
(0141-880 6466)



JUNIOR CHURCH



Another Christmas is almost with us and the first part of session 2002/2003 has been most enjoyable. The new material we are using is proving to be very popular with children and teachers alike. It is great when the children are talking with their parents and they realise that what we have been looking at in Junior Church has also been the topic in the "Grown Up Church". This material is produced in such a way that everyone can make use of it, from the creche onwards.

This year has again seen us collecting for the Samaritan's Purse appeal. A big "thank you" to you all for the donations of shoe boxes, toys, gifts, sweets and money which has made this such an overwhelming success.

We are also preparing for our annual Christmas party, which this year will be on Saturday 21 December. This will involve the usual fun, games, food and a visit from Santa if he's not too busy.

We will also have our Nativity service on Christmas eve at 7:00pm where all are welcome to come and enjoy with the children the true meaning of Christmas.

Junior Church would like to wish joy, love and peace in this Advent time.

Linda Dye

2nd Barrhead Guide Company

Why don't you come along to Bouroch Church for a night of fun?

You do loads of fun games and Go For It badges which you can do on your own or with a group of other people.

We have exciting parties and outings, take the Halloween party for example, we had apple dooking and great team games then ate jelly with bursting bugs, cookies and drank fruit shoots!!

Another night we did a Ready Steady Cook game and I got picked!

Guides are a great chance to meet new friends, go camping and to become more independent.

Kirsty Johnston



2nd Barrhead Boys Brigade

Company Section

The 2nd Barrhead has begun the new session in the same way it finished off last year; winning trophies, getting a good turnout from officers and boys each week and generally having a laugh.

We have twenty plus boys regularly turning up each week including a good few new recruits with between five and ten officers making sure they don't ruin the church or annoy the choir too much! Our trophy cabinet has been replenished already with a strong showing in the Christian Faith competition with the senior boys winning their competition (for the fourth year in-a-row) and the junior team managing an impressive third in a competitive field. We also entered three teams in the cross-country competition with the boys putting in a strong performance in horrible conditions.

On Friday nights the officers are continually coming up with good ideas for classes that the boys go through to gain their badges. Special note should go to Mr Mac's art class and Mr MacKinnon's debate forum on Christianity in everyday life.

The officers have also managed to keep the humorous traditions of the company alive with all the old jokes still going strong and even some new ones about Alphabet Soup and three bar fires!

We all hope to follow on from the good start we have had, win some more trophies maybe even the Battalion Championship but most importantly have "a lot of fun!"



Sgt. Gavin "Scoop" Cooke

Junior Section

The Junior Section this year has 22 boys which is very encouraging after promoting 10 boys to the Company Section last year.

The boys have entered three Battalion Competitions this year they did very well the competitions were overseas extension, table games and indoor games.

As usual the boys were dressed up in excellent costumes for their Hallowe'en Party, which they enjoyed very much, playing games and dooking for apples.

December is a very busy month, with the boys having the Christmas Party and also going to see the Pantomime at the Bourock Church. Also in December the boys visit the ten pin bowling.

At present the boys are currently working hard to finish their achievement badges before end of December.

Remember we are always looking for new boys, who are in primary 4,5 and 6.

Lawrence Webb
Officer In Charge

Anchor Boys

The new session started on September 4 2002. On the first night we had 25 boys, all but one being "old boys" returning from last year. Since then, our numbers have risen to 38 with an average weekly attendance of 30 boys. We have had at least one new boy each week since we started. The boys are energetic, enthusiastic and always raring to go!

The boys are split into 6 teams. This year, to encourage positive behaviour, we have introduced a points system. Each team starts the night with 50 points. One point is deducted each time a team member displays any negative behaviour eg fighting, not obeying instructions etc. Equally, points are awarded for good behaviour. The team with most points at the end of the evening is the winning team and each member gets a prize (usually a lollipop or sweet). Competition is keen

among the teams and each boy is eager for his team to win. The system is working very well and a minimum number of points are deducted each week. We have a varied programme each week with a mix of big games:- (eg dodgey ball, hockey, and port and starboard) quiet games:- (jigsaws, board games, play dough) and art and craft.

Craft is particularly popular with the boys. So far the boys have made book marks, star clowns, door hangers, name bugs and Hallowe'en crafts. This week we have made a start on the Christmas crafts.

The Hallowe'en party was held on October 30. The boys came along in wonderful costumes and a good time was had by all.

The next event is the pantomime matinee closely followed by the Christmas party.

This year again we have the assistance of 4 boys from the company section who are a great help and very good with the boys.

Our Guide helper Jillian Webb has so far been unable to return. She is missed by all and we hope she will be able to come back in the not too distant future.

At the end of the evening the boys have a short story from the Bible read to them. Some of the boys like to do the reading! This is followed by a short closing service and prayer.

The evening flies by and we do not have time to be bored.

Mary Murray
Officer in Charge



Christmas Coffee Morning

You have a coffee while the kids visit Santa and receive a present. Remember this date, Saturday 14 December, 10am, that is when Santa arrives, be there to welcome him. There will be various other stalls: Bottle, baking, and many more. Tickets will, be on sale shortly the tickets are £2.00 per child (which includes a present) and adults £1. See you there.



Fund Raising Committee

The Daniel Group

The Daniel Group meets regularly and discusses issues that we feel are relevant to us. With no "leader", everyone in the group has an equal contribution.

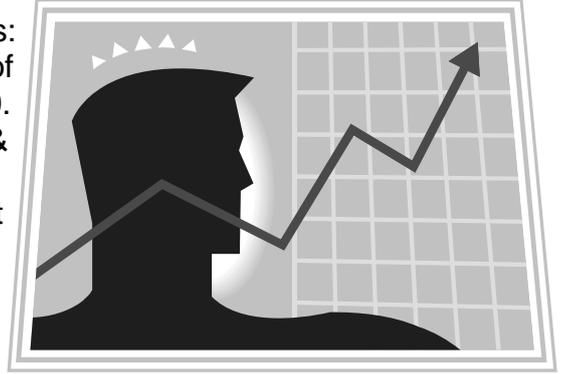
We are currently trying to meet fortnightly and new members are always welcome to join us.

Members of the group are young adults aged 16+. For more information contact :-

Alison on 580 0059 or Lorna on 571 6420.

Finance Report

At the end of October our financial position was as follows: Offerings to date were £45,958 giving a weekly average of £1069. This resulted in a deficit against budget of £2300. Hopefully the offerings will increase during November & December thus reducing this deficit.



A considerable sum has again been generated by the Gift Aid scheme. A claim for just over £9000 has been submitted and I must again thank all those who have signed Declarations which have allowed the church to claim this tax refund against their offerings. We currently have 131 Gift aid Declarations in force but I feel that this

total can be increased further. If you wish to use this simple method of increasing the value of your offerings to the church or if you wish any information, please contact Heather Boklach, the Gift aid Co-ordinator or any member of the Finance Committee.

John McGarrie has given me a report on the Weekly Freewill offering scheme and has brought to my attention the fact that some members of the WFO scheme have, so far this year, made no offerings to the church by means of their envelopes. If you wish to discontinue your envelopes, change from envelopes to Standing Order payment or require any other information on the WFO scheme please speak to John McGarrie.

I have received a letter from The Boys' Brigade, Scottish Headquarters inviting contributions to the Carronvale Development Project in order to improve & increase the facilities available at the Brigade's National Training & Conference Centre at Carronvale House, Larbert. The Board has agreed to support this appeal with a donation from church funds but I would like to bring this to the attention of any former members of the Boys' Brigade and invite them to lend their personal support to this project. Donations can be sent to The Boys' Brigade Scottish Headquarters, Carronvale Development Project, Carronvale House, Carronvale Road, Larbert FK5 3LH.

Robert McKenzie
Finance Convenor

Codeword Solution

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
4	15	17	5	20	19	6	23	8	12	25	14	11
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
9	21	10	16	1	18	7	13	2	22	26	24	3

Completed words in grid:

Across:

ABSALOM EMPTY TROUBLED USED FAILS CRETE CARMEL
EMMAUS TRUTH STILL ROOM EBENEZER WRONG POSSESS

Down:

BARNABAS FOUR ADULLAM ROMAN ONLY CLOTHES ADORNED
NEBO MOUNT MATTERS TIED BUILDERS

John Laird

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of John Laird on 7 June 2002. John had been ill for some time before his death and had been in the care of both the accord hospice and the Royal Alexandria Hospital.

John had been a member of Bourock for over 50 years and served as an elder for 40 of these years. A regular and faithful attender at worship, John was an assiduous district elder who took a real interest in his people.

Born in Barrhead - one of a family of eight - with five sisters and two brothers, John spent his life in the town. He worked in Shanks engineering department and then in the pottery. It must have been a blow to be made redundant after 41 years service but John didn't just sit back, he found a job as a porter in the RAH.

John was a member of Arthurlie Bowling Club and enjoyed the camaraderie that it brought. He also enjoyed playing indoors at Paisley Indoor Bowling club.

John had a great love for and a gift for growing plants and spent many happy hours in his greenhouse. I am sure many here will have benefited from this expertise and gardens around Barrhead bear testimony to his skills. The church too benefited in different ways.

John was a member of the men's club in the church and he also used his gardening skills in cutting the manse grass when the manse was located in Lowndes Street.

John married Mima in 1947 and they had one daughter Elizabeth who, of course, is our session clerk. Sadly Mima died in 1981 and after her death John spent some time each day with Elizabeth and her husband Robert and their two daughters, Lorna and Morag. John was very much part of the family at Boylestone Road.

Essentially a quiet man, John was very much a Christian gentleman who never let anyone down. I know that some of you will have personal reasons to be grateful to John for his interest and encouragement. John too had his own brand of humour and it never deserted him - the staff in the hospice always knew that John would have a humorous comment for them.

It is said that the church is the one organisation that never loses a member by death. Instead, they are promoted to the church triumphant - that assembly of wise and wonderful people whose names we only dimly remember.

John has indeed been promoted.

A Message For Us All

Can each of us aim to create an ambience / atmosphere / environment

Which is relaxed and non-directive.

Where people are respected and valued for themselves.

Where relationships are genuine and sincere, open rather than defensive.

Where seeing each other's point of view and listening to each other's opinion is a normal activity.

Where constructive feedback, praise and positive reinforcement are valued, and negative feedback and criticism discouraged.

Where people are encouraged and allowed to make informed choices.

Where there are no 'winners' or 'losers' — nobody seeks to score points at another's expense.

Where activities are pursued which enhance personal and educational growth and development.

Where consensus is sought rather than authority imposed.

Where working practices are always open to re-evaluation and improvement.

Where nobody is labelled, stereotyped or judged.

Where success is not measured by achievements but by growth on feelings of self value.

Where responsibility for the atmosphere/ambience/environment is shared by all.

Where people feel free to smile and have fun.

Where nobody interferes with the basic rights of others.

Where new areas of interest can be explored.

Where people are recognised as unique individuals with the right to do things their own way without having other people's values imposed.

Where it is OK to make mistakes and get things wrong.

Where liking, respecting and accepting yourself is seen as the first step in liking, respecting and accepting others.

Where being good to yourself is not seen as being selfish.

Where the 'here' and 'now' is important.

Tweenies

The Tweenies are having another busy year.

We had a Hallowe'en Party and are now looking forward to the Variety Club Panto, the Christmas Party and of course making things for Christmas.

We have currently 57 girls on the register and would be very glad of some more helpers. If you can spare time on a Monday evening between 6.30pm and 7.30pm come along and give us a hand.

Elizabeth McKenzie.

Flower Rota

December

1st Miss J. Renfrew
8th Mr. D. Gebbie
15th Rev. M. Leitch
22nd Mrs. K. Johnstone
30th Flower Fund

February

2nd Mrs. B. Easdon
9th Mr. J. Auchincloss
16th Mrs. M. MacIntyre
23rd Vacant

January

5th Mrs. E. Thomson
12th Mrs. R. Blair
19th Mrs. J. Smith
26th Mrs. J. Duguid

March

2nd Mrs. A. Aitken
9th Mrs. A. Clark
16th Mrs. J. McIntyre
23rd Mrs. M. Gray
30th Mrs. W. Irvine.



Thank you to everyone who has provided the flowers over the year, they are very much appreciated. Thank you also to those who put donations into the flower boxes, this allows us to provide extra flowers when required and oasis for the vases.

You will see there is a vacant turn on 23rd February, if you would like to donate the flowers that week please see Elizabeth McKenzie 880 5077.

Parish Register

Baptisms

August 2002

Jordon Docherty c/o 18 Cuillin Way

September 2002

Jamie Mackintosh 21 Stewart Street

October 2002

Emma Wishart 50 Aursbridge Crescent
Josh Murray 23 Don Drive, Paisley

November 2002

Rory Nicol 134 Paisley Road

Funerals

September 2002

Martha Easdon Norwood House

October 2002

Elizabeth Spellacy Mosspark
John Andrew Carnock Crescent

November 2002

Jean Shaw Westlea
James Clancy Millview
Helen Groves 31 Stormyland Way
Leeona Keerigan 23 George Street
*Betty Blair 5 Gleniffer Drive.
*Angus Turner Millview

* denotes member

3rd Barrhead Guide Company

Thirteen girls attended the Auchengillan International Outdoor Centre for their annual Guide camp (under canvas) in August. The weather leading up to the camp had been mixed but on the day it poured. When the girls arrived on the



Girlguiding UK

Friday evening the rain stopped. Various activities were completed ie abseiling, dry sledging, crate building, crafts etc. Gayle also sat and passed her First Aid Outdoor Camping Certificate. Seven new girls joined the Company in September and have settled in well. September 23 saw the Company spending the evening at Lapwing Lodge where we enjoyed outdoor challenges, eats and a super campfire with plenty of action songs.

Catherine Ellis, Rosemary Speir, Elizabeth McDougall and myself planted over 200 daffodil bulbs at the corners of Gertrude Place/Kelburn Street and Lochlibo Road/Levernside Avenue for MADD (Make a Difference Day) on October 26. Elizabeth McDougall, Kirsty MacLaren, Rosemary Speir and Lynne Blair acted as hostesses at the Senior Citizens Evening which was also on Saturday, October 26.

The Halloween Party theme - Witches - was held with plenty of games, food, fun and scary music! Everyone enjoyed themselves.

The Coffee Morning was held on Saturday Nov 16 with many Christmas crafts on sale made by the Guides. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this such a success.

The Guides will be entertaining the residents of Westlea Lodge Residential Home in December with songs and poems and taking gifts with them.

Some members are going to the matinee of the Variety Club's Pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" and are looking forward to this as two of our leaders are members, Gayle and Joanne. The joint Christmas Party is being held on December 9 when (I'm sure) all will have a good time. The Guides resume on Monday, January 6, 2003.

Used stamps and ink cartridges are still being collected and can be left in the kitchen, these are given to Ardgowan Hospice and Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Barbara (Guider)

Weekly Freewill Offering

It is shortly my intention to distribute to the Elders their Weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes for the year commencing January 2003. If any member would like to replace contributing through the envelopes or the plate to a Standing Order, could they inform me or their Elder as soon as possible.

John McGarrie
Weekly Freewill Convenor
Telephone:- 571 6728



We have come to worship him



Word search

(Matthew 2:2)

Joseph
Bethlehem
King
Star

Mary
King
Manger
Star



Joseph
Bethlehem
King
Star

Mary
King
Manger
Star

