

SteepleTalk



The Magazine
Of
Bourock Parish Church

Christmas 2008

Who's Who In Bourock

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Minister | Maureen Leitch | 881 1462 |
| Session Clerk | Elizabeth McKenzie | 880 5077 |
| Deputy Session Clerk | Karen Johnston | 881 5115 |
| Treasurer | Brian Honan | 571 4520 |
| Roll Keeper | John Whyte | |
| Halls Convener | Hazel McCarthy | 880 7607 |
| WFO Envelopes | Robert McKenzie | 880 5077 |
| Junior Church | Linda Dye | 876 1201 |
| Guild | Irene Draper | 881 6507 |
| Boys' Brigade (Company) | Graham Manson | 580 0871 |
| Boys' Brigade (Junior) | Lawrence Webb | 571 4330 |
| Boys' Brigade (Anchor) | Mary Murray | 881 1564 |
| Guides (3rd) | Gayle Harvey | 881 8212 |
| Brownies (2nd) | Susan Morrison | 580 5292 |
| Brownies (3rd) | Barbara Hughes | 881 2119 |
| Tweenies | Morag McKenzie | 880 5077 |
| Bourock Friends Group | Susan Morrison | 580 5292 |
| Mother & Toddler | Helen Grant | 639 2602 |
| Variety Club | Linda Dye | 876 1201 |
| Coffee Club | Norma Duncan | 881 4668 |
| Craft Club | Dorothy Ramsay | 571 5260 |
| SteepleTalk | Ken Dye | 876 1201 |
| Life And Work | Angus Leitch | 881 1462 |
| Christian Aid | Marjory Brown | 571 6403 |
| Organist | Carolyn Suttie | 881 7346 |
| Child Protection CoOrdinator | Wilma Lundie | |

Business Committee Convenors

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

Internet Addresses

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

14, Maxton Avenue
November 2008

Dear Friends,

I have just returned from a few days break in Crieff with my friend, Joanne, who ministers in two parishes in rural Perthshire. We had a good rest and talked a lot since we hadn't seen each other for months

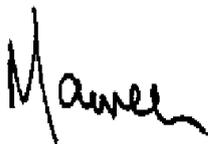
We were talking about the fact that Christmas was fast approaching and all the preparation that was involved in the different services. Nevertheless, we both admitted that we enjoyed the worship at Christmas, even though it was hard work. This year our theme through Advent and Christmas will be "Renewal". We will explore what it means to be renewed by the birth of our God into humanity. I hope as many as possible come along to worship over the Christmas season.

Although winter is upon us it is good to look back to the days of summer. We had our Summer Club with its usual large numbers. Thanks to all leaders and helpers! Also during that time the Church and Lower Hall were, variously, cleaned, painted and re-floored. Thanks are due to all who helped in any way, under the leadership of our Property Convenor, Sheila Tinto.

In the autumn we enjoyed a visit from our friends from Kibera. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet with Hannah, Martha, Naomi, David, James and Michael. They certainly brightened our lives and brought a real sense of joy to our worship. I know they would wish me to pass on a huge 'thank you' to everyone for the kindness shown during their visit. Now, we hope to move forward in bringing the school at Silanga to fruition.

I pray that we, as a church, will continue to seek God's will as we continue the journey that lies ahead of us. I pray, too, that this season of Christmas will bring a sense of renewal to all.

May the peace and joy of Christ be with each and everyone

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



JUNIOR CHURCH



We are very busy just now sorting out all the donations for Operation Christmas Child. The response has been fantastic and we are hoping to send off around 250 boxes all packed with essentials, great gifts and of course lots of love. We were concerned that the increase in postage for the boxes would cause us a problem but the donations for this have been most generous. Special thanks to the Guides who filled Smartie Tubes with coins giving us an amazing £140. The other great success has been all the ladies who have knitted hats for our boxes using the Operation Christmas Child pattern. We hope that you will all continue knitting so that we have lots of hats by this time next year.

We love doing craft in Junior Church and this year we have made some of the decorations for the Christmas windows in church. The angels, stars and Wise Mens' gifts were fun to make and we think look really good. Advent is a busy time and we will be using the Seasons of the Spirit material to produce something for our Christmas All Age Service on 21st December. Our favourite Service however is our Nativity Service on Christmas Eve at 7.00. Everyone is welcome to join the children in this very special celebration of our Saviour's birth.



Our all age Christmas party will be held on Saturday 20th December from 5.00 -7 .00 and we hope that a special visitor may appear.

Attendance continues to be good and we are blessed indeed to have so many children coming along each week to learn about the amazing love that God has for each one of them.

I would like to thank all the teachers in Junior church who come along week by week to work with the children and a big thank you to all of you for supporting the children in their work.

Christmas Blessings

Linda Dye

3rd Barrhead Brownie Pack

We are now well into our new session which has been very busy up till now, with a lot more planned before we break for Christmas. We started the new term by welcoming seven new Brownies who have taken their Promise and been welcomed into the Guiding family. The theme this term has been world countries following on from the Olympic Games in the summer. The girls have enjoyed arts and crafts, including making their own postcards, games, songs, quizzes, finding out about Brownie uniforms from other countries, as well as learning to speak some Japanese! We enjoyed our Halloween party with the 2nd Barrhead Brownies and look forward to joining them for our Christmas party, as well as our annual trip to the variety club show. We also have plans to visit the library to complete our booklover badge. We would just like to take this opportunity to thank Karen Stevenson for all the years she has given to Brownies and to put out an appeal for another adult helper – no guiding experience necessary. Best wishes for a happy festive season.

Barbara Hughes

Lorna Moran

From Here To Heaven

We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works. —Ephesians 2:10

Pro athletes and coaches sometimes get something for nothing. Let's say a coach signs a 3-year contract, and the team agrees to pay him \$1 million a year. But in his first season, the team is terrible and management fires him. So, the coach leaves but still has 2 more years of pay coming to him. He gets the next \$2 million without doing a thing.

We as Christians have to be careful that we don't view our saving faith like that. We must never think, "Hey, I'm saved. I've got eternal riches coming my way. I don't have to do anything for God."

That's partially right but very wrong. In one regard, our journey from here to heaven is paid for in full by Jesus' sacrifice. There's nothing we can do to earn salvation. But there's another part of this that we must consider.

In Ephesians 2:8-9, after Paul clearly says that we do not have to "do" anything and that salvation is a "gift of God," he goes on. Verse 10 says we indeed have a job to do. As believers, we are "created in Christ Jesus for good works." God has tasks planned for us to do while we are on this earth—not to pay our debt but to honor our Savior.

Life from here to heaven is not a vacation cruise—it's a wonderful privilege and calling to serve God.

We are not saved by good works but for good works.

READ: Ephesians 2:1-10

Dave Branon

Innocence Is Priceless

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The seven-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Alex.'

'Good morning Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque.

'Pastor, what is this?'

The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.'

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, 'Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:45?'

Tribute To Jenny McLeod

The sudden and unexpected death of Jenny McLeod left us with a mixture of emotions. Shock at the total unexpectedness of her passing; sadness because we no longer have her in our midst; and yet, a real sense of thankfulness that, to the end, she was involved with all that mattered to her.

Involved with her family , who were the most important part of her life

Jenny was always interested in her family and she was always there for them. My first meeting with Jenny was as the wife of the, then, church officer, Jim. they were a great team - Jim looking after the building and Jenny keeping it clean. However, it is true to say that they were much more than that - they were Mr and Mrs Bourrock because they knew everything that was going on!

Involved with people

Jenny loved being part of a community and she would always do her best for that community. Never afraid to serve on committees she gave her time to Arthurlie House, the tennis club and other organisations. When she moved to the main street complex she soon immersed herself in the social life there, encouraging others to do likewise.

Involved with music

She came from a musical family and enjoyed many nights of family music making. She played the piano but her real love was singing. She sang with the Nitshill choir and the co-operative choir. She sang with the variety club and also, with the church choir. Her service with the church choir must be something of a record, standing at 66 years.

Here I want to pay tribute, particularly, to Jenny's involvement with her church. Lifetime service is a phrase that sometimes is used glibly. However, we can say that, in truth, about Jenny. she has served this church well all through her life. She didn't just serve the choir for many, many years - she served the whole church. She served on the board, as a member of session from 1981, a member of the guild, a member of the choir, a member of the variety club, part of a house group. Along with Jim she started the social time after the Thursday morning service. If there was a coffee morning or a sale in the church, you can be sure that Jenny would be there, lending a helping hand. It is impossible to cover all she did but we can give thanks for her service.

As an elder, Jenny was always conscientious about attendance and contributing to committee work. She also added her thoughts to any discussions. However, her greatest contribution was possibly, on the pastoral side, for she was a committed visitor and she always kept in touch with her district. We are grateful for all she contributed to our life as a session.

It would be possible to say much more about Jenny but then, I don't need to, because everyone knew Jenny well. She gave so much service to the church and was such a constant presence that everyone knew her

We can only give thanks to God for blessing us with Jenny and we offer our sympathy to daughter Janet, son Donald and all the family, both home and abroad, as they come to terms with the loss they have suffered. However we would urge them to join with us in saying:-

“well done, thy good and faithful servant”

3rd Barrhead Guide Company

On Monday May 12 the following Guides received awards at the Parent's Evening:

Perfect Attendance: Caroline Morrison, Gayle Morrison and Laura Kennedy.

Good Attendance: Rebecca Campbell, Grace McDermott, Olivia Ross and Jennifer McIntyre.

Points for Games and Collecting Stamps, Cartridges, Toners, Mobile Phones:

Daffodil Patrol - Caroline Morrison, Rebecca Campbell, Grace McDermott, Helen Mitchell and Kirsty Murdoch.

Best Patrol: Daffodil Patrol – Caroline Morrison, Rebecca Campbell, Grace McDermott, Helen Mitchell and Kirsty Murdoch.

Best Guide: Cara Richardson.

Special Gift for all Guides as they had worked so hard ie Keep Fit Evening, Outdoor Evening at Lapwing Lodge, BBQ & Games Night, Pamper Evening & Bring-a-Dish-Night, Entertaining at Sheltered Complex, Make-a-Difference Day (MADD) – bulb planting, Street Party by Strathclyde Police (made an animated video), only a few of the varied programme the Guides took part in.



Girlguiding UK

The Guides and leaders made a surprise presentation to Barbara who has now stepped down to be a Unit Helper. Gayle is a worthy leader with many years of experience and has many excellent ideas. Thank you to everyone including Guiders of the 2nd Company, and parents, for all their good wishes. (Barbara)

The new session started in September and nine Brownies joined us along with the 2nd Company Guides who merged with the 3rd Company.

On Monday, September 29, we had a demonstration and workout with Joanne Sinclair of N-Sync Cheerleaders, this was really great fun and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Six Guides helped with the Seniors Evening on Saturday, October 11 and on Saturday, October 25 the Guides will be planting bulbs in the area around the Dalmeny Hall for Make a Difference Day (MADD). This is an annual custom which everyone benefits from, the Guides doing Community work and the residents and passers-by enjoying the flowers when they bloom in the spring.

Smarties tubes have been handed out to all Guides and Leaders. We have asked that the empty tube be filled with coins which will be given to 'Operation Christmas Child' to help towards postage charges.

Halloween Party was held on Monday, October 27, witches and wizards being the theme for the evening. A good time enjoyed by all.

A Body Shop at Home Party was held on Monday, November 10 and a large turn-out joined the Guides in this fund-raising venture.

The Guides are still collecting used stamps, ink cartridges, (no toners), mobile phones etc for Guide Dogs for the Blind and other charities. Thank you to all our collectors and please still keep collecting.

Gayle
3rd Barrhead Guider
(October 2008)

That You May Know

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. —1 John 5:13

One day, while Wim was in the marketplace in the Netherlands, he struck up a conversation with a woman who remarked that you can get to heaven by doing good works.

His attempt to explain that it is by God's grace that we are "saved through faith" (Eph. 2:8) brought a smile as the woman repeated confidently: "and . . . by doing good works." Then another woman volunteered, "You can hope you'll go to heaven, but you can't be sure." Wim's assertion that he did know for sure was met with a muttered, "Nobody knows for sure."

Wim then showed the woman what 1 John 5:11-13 says. He explained: "See, it doesn't say hope there, it says know." Unconvinced, she said, "Like you, my pastor says that we have to have faith, but you really never know whether you've been good enough. You may think you have, but who can be sure?"

To some, Wim's confidence may seem incredible. But he based his words on this statement: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works" (Eph. 2:8-9). It's true. We can't be good enough. We can never do enough good things. But we can be sure of heaven if we simply believe on the Lord (Acts 16:31). — Cindy Hess Kasper

READ: 1 John 5:6-13

We cannot earn our way to heaven
By word or work or worth;
But if we trust in Christ to save us,
Then we'll enjoy new birth. — Branon

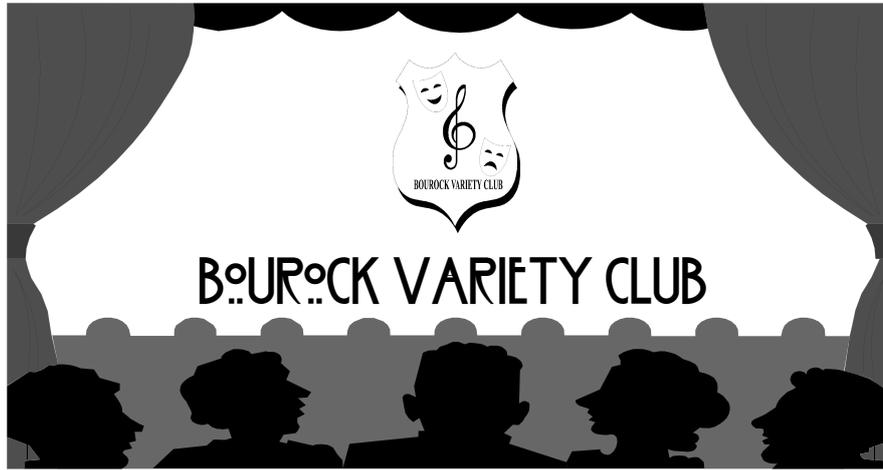
We are saved by God's mercy, not by our merit — by Christ's dying, not by our doing.



What do you mean, 'they need 30 more copies of "SteepleTalk" this month'?



I don't know Mrs Carter. It would be unethical to give him a certificate just to get out of going to family services.



We are now in the throes of final rehearsals for The Nutcracker which amazing though it seems will be the Club's 30th show. It has been a great show to do – a lovely story – wonderful music and of course our favourite setting – a Victorian Christmas. We hope that our audiences enjoy it and can appreciate the amount of work involved in putting together a production such as this. Appreciation is always shown to the cast but there are many people behind the scenes making sure that everything looks and sounds just right. There are around 50 people involved in the club with an age range from 14 to 80 so we like to think that we really do cater for everyone. The club supports many charities as well as our own Church. We have also given donations to Barrhead Summer Club and Operation Christmas Child and hopefully we will sell enough tickets this year to continue with this work.

We are always delighted to welcome along new members and we can find a job for everyone in the Variety Club. Our AGM will take place on Thursday 29th January at 8.00 in the lower hall when we will make plans for 2009. Rehearsals take place every Thursday and we would love to see you there.

Linda Dye

Producer

Tweenies

The Tweenies are for girls between the ages of 4 and 7 year. We currently have 38 girls attending on a Monday evening between 6.30pm and 7.30pm. New members are always very welcome.

We enjoy games, music and crafts, especially when making lots of mess recently planting bulbs.



We had a great Halloween party and are looking forward to attending the Variety Club Show in December.

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

Morag McKenzie (Leader)
880 5077

Tribute To Isabel McCartney

It came as something of a shock to me, when I was in California with my sister, to receive the news of Isabel's death. Although I knew that she was not in great healthy, I had not thought that death would come so quickly. However, although I was sad, I do give thanks that she did not suffer for a prolonged period of time.

Isabel was Barrhead born and bred and was always a constant in the life of the church. It was her church all her life and she has served it faithfully in so many capacities. She song in the choir, she was a long-standing member of the Variety Club, she served on the Board and was ordained an elder in 1978. She carried out her duties well and was always interested in people and how they were doing.

But she did so much more – offering her time and talent in many ways – too many ways to catalogue here. Always enthusiastic, she contributed well to church life, and never saw it as a burden.

Isabel got on well with all ages – children liked being in her company, she had a good way with teenagers as well and taking to adults was no problem.

Isabel showed much love and care in her personal life, after her husband Fred died, she looked after her mother an when she moved into Norwood Isabel was a daily visitor and came to know many of the residents there.

Isabel has shown us how love can be practiced in ordinary, everyday situations. She was one of these people who find their deepest satisfaction comes from helping others. We would do well to follow her example.

We will certainly miss her bright and cheerful presence but, of course, she will be missed most in the family circle. Our thoughts and prayers are with her son Alan and his wife, Annmarie; with grandchildren Tracy and Barry, sister Betty and all the family.

I will finish with the words used at her funeral service. They perhaps sum up Isabel's philosophy well.

Think Deeply
Speak Gently
Love much
Laugh Often
Work Hard
Give Freely
Pay Promptly
Pray Earnestly
And be Kind.

Weekly Freewill Offering

All members of the Weekly Freewill Offering scheme will have their envelopes for 2009 delivered by their elder before the end of December.

Once again I note that during the course of 2008, several members of the WFO scheme have failed to make any offerings to the church via their envelopes but I also note that this number is decreasing.

During 2008 there has been a large increase in the number of people opting to make their offering by means of a Direct Debit rather than using WFO envelopes. I welcome this trend and would encourage as many people as possible to change over to this method of giving as it is easier for both the giver and for the church.

2008 also saw more members requesting Gift Aid Declarations and this is again a very welcome trend as it increases our income quite considerably with no effort on behalf of the giver.

If anyone wishes to join the WFO scheme, obtain a Direct Debit form, obtain a Gift Aid Declaration or discuss any aspect of these schemes I can be contacted on Sundays after church or by telephone on 880-5077.

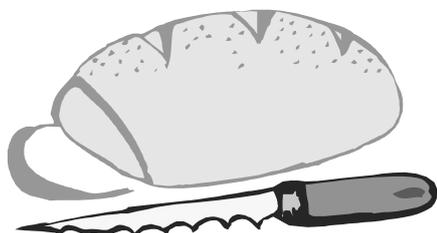
Robert McKenzie
Weekly Freewill Offering Convenor

Bourock Soup Stop

The Soup Stop is the newest venture in Bourock and we are delighted with the success so far. We started off with just soup and crusty bread but now we offer baked potatoes, toasties and childrens' snack options. Our soups have been a great hit and to date we have made 24 different soups with no complaints so far! The more unusual the soup the more popular it is and we think we have very adventurous customers. We are open every Friday in the lower hall from 12 till 2 but we do start serving childrens' meals from 11.30 to coincide with the end of the Mothers and Toddlers Group.

Apart from the fellowship and we hope enjoyment of our customers we have also been able to give donations to our own Church, Meningitis Trust, the Beatson, the Liver Transplant Unit, Children in Need and Operation Christmas Child totalling £1000. We have a chosen Charity each month and for December it is Diabetes UK.

We are delighted with the support we have had and are looking forward to our Christmas Lunch on Friday 19th December (bookings now being taken).



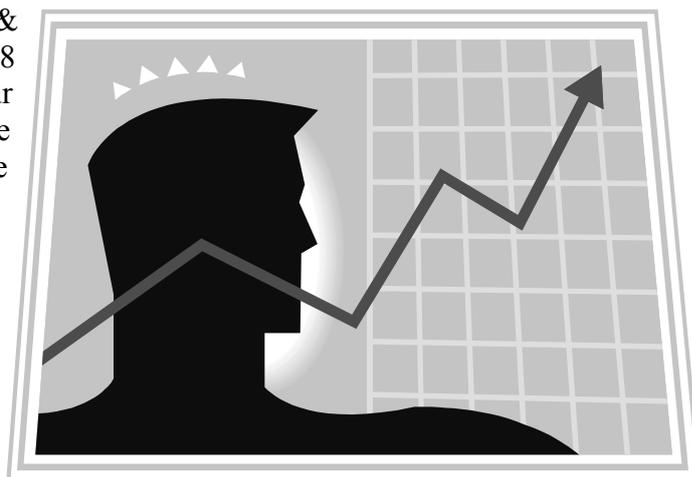
The Soup Stop Staff wish all their customers
the Compliments of the Season.



Finance Report - December 2008

At the time of writing this report I only have income & expenditure figures up to the end of September 2008 and at this point our expenditure has exceeded our income; this was anticipated due to the cost of all the necessary work done to the church and the manse during 2008, which so far is in excess of £10,000.

Approval for the work needed to be done was sought from and given by the Kirk Session earlier in the year; they also approved that the required funding would be met from funds currently held in The Ferguson Bequest. While funds are being taken from this source to ensure the necessary work is completed it is hoped to repay the funds drawn back into the Bequest in due course.



At this stage it is anticipated that our income for 2008 will fully cover our expenditure for the year, but I must point out if we do the income received as a result of our Gift Aid claim as well as the income received from our hall lets will be a major contributing factor.

This year's Gift Aid claim is currently being assessed before being submitted to HMRC, and it is expected that the claim will be higher than in recent years. A major factor is the increase in contributions via standing orders but also in particular to the increase in the number of Gift Aid declarations held by us, which enables us to make such a claim in the first place – we can base our claim on the previous 6 years contributions for any new Gift Aid declaration, so this figure

The above highlight the value of last year's Stewardship Campaign and this outcome was the desired one. An assessment of the Stewardship Campaign will be made in early 2009 once we have all the figures for 2008.

As can be seen from the above I will again emphasise the importance of this source of income and one that we need to continue to take full advantage of. If it were not for this income we would struggle to meet our annual commitments, a factor that will affect our long term viability.

I will therefore continue a familiar theme by recommending that anyone who currently makes their offering by either monthly standing order or through the weekly freewill envelopes, who also pays sufficient income tax, and has not yet completed a gift aid declaration does so now.

If you have not yet done so it will take you less than 2 minutes to complete the form. If you do Bourock will benefit accordingly. Remember it is everyone's church not just the Finance Committee's church. If you wish to pursue either of these options please contact either Robert McKenzie or myself.

Finally, on a personal basis, I thank all members of the Finance Committee and the WFO convenor for their assistance during 2008.

Derek Palmer
Finance Convenor

Organ Donation

Some of you will be aware of recent discussion regarding approval for organ donation and whether approval should be presumed or whether potential donors should be required to intimate approval. I do not know the answer to this question but I believe I may be able to help you decide by recounting our family's recent experiences.

Sandra's brother Alex was diagnosed as suffering from liver failure and last October was told by doctors that he would die within the year without a liver transplant. He was also made aware that there were more people waiting for organ donation than available donor organs.

As time went by we watched Alex's health deteriorate as he became more ill and other organs begin to fail. I am sure many of you will have experienced the emotions brought about by a loved one becoming more and more ill, the only difference here was we were aware that Alex's health would almost certainly improve if he received a transplant. But we also knew that other people needed organ donations and that someone would have to die for organs to become available.

In mid summer he was advised that his name was being withdrawn from the waiting list since he was too ill to survive a transplant and that a transplant would be unlikely to extend his life for as long as some of the other potential candidates. Alex's fiftieth birthday was in September and a party was planned but as time wore on we all began to feel that he was so ill that we would not be celebrating the birthday. His home is in London where most of the expertise in Alex's condition is located. During the summer months either Alex's Mum and Dad or Sandra and I visited London and found him more often than not in hospital.

Because of Alex's health problems we were both in London on Sunday 10th August waiting for visiting time at the Royal Free Hospital when the phone rang. Amazingly it was Alex to say that a liver had been found and if it was compatible he would be undergoing a transplant operation that afternoon. The operation took place successfully. We later found out that the donor was a 29 year old man who had suffered a fatal head injury and his organs may have been used in other transplants. We can only marvel and thank God that in the midst of such a terrible calamity this man's family were able to be so generous in agreeing to all this. Alex has also had to come to terms with the circumstance which brought about his transplant.

He is now making a wonderful recovery and we have to remind ourselves that a liver transplant is not a cure just a treatment. We also thank God for the skill of the medical staff and the support they gave then and continue to give now.

We also believe that the thoughts and prayers of our friends in Bourook and beyond helped bring these things about and we give thanks for their continuing support. We are particularly grateful to the ladies of the Soup Stop and all friends who helped with November's coffee morning. Through their generosity we have so far raised £840 for the liver unit of the Royal Free Hospital.

If you or someone you know wishes to sign up to the Organ Donor Register they can register:

Online at www.uktransplant.org.uk.

By telephoning 0845 60 60 400

When completing a driving licence application form.

At your GP's surgery.

When applying for a Boots Advantage card.

When applying for a passport.

When registering for a European Health Insurance Card.

David Miller

Christmas In Barrhead

Bourock Church

Advent Bible Studies each Sunday during Advent

Starting Sunday 30th November until Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm

Sunday 14th

Hope and Healing Service at 3pm

Sunday 21st December

All Age Worship at 11am

Christmas Eve.

Nativity Service led by Junior Church at 7pm

Informal Communion at 10.30pm

Carol Singing at 11pm

Watchnight Service at 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Informal All Age Service at 10.00am

Come along and bring one of your presents

Action of Barrhead Churches

Christingle Service Sunday 7th December at 6.00pm

In Neilston Parish Church

Carol Singing at Tesco: Saturday 13th December 10.30 – 11.30am.

Come along and help with the singing.

Carol Service Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm

In Caldwell Parish Church, Uplawmoor

Barrhead Church

Barrhead Church Service of Carols and Readings

Auchenback Resource Centre, Thursday 18 December at 7.30pm

Sunday 28th December

Barrhead Church Joint Service at 11am in the United Reformed Church

When all four churches join together

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session would like more members of the congregation to become more involved in the work of the church. Why not start a new year by becoming part of one of the Kirk Session Committees.

We have Christian Education, Finance, Mission, Pastoral Care and Property Committees. There are several committees under each heading.

Come along and become more involved we need you!

Welcome Teams.

Over the last year it has been great to see some new faces on the welcome teams and thank you to those who have volunteered. We would still like to have more people involved. Can you do this?

If you would like to be on one of the Committees or on the Welcome Team please contact Elizabeth McKenzie telephone 880.5077.

We really do need your help.

Church Flowers

Thank you to everyone who has gifted the Church Flowers over the past year. They are very much appreciated.

Thank you to the few who put money in the Flower Fund boxes at the doors. This money buys the oasis and any additional flowers required from time to time.

Thank you also to the ladies who put the flowers in the vases on a Saturday and to those who deliver them after the service on a Sunday. More help is always needed. If you can put the flowers in on a Saturday or can delivery them on a Sunday I will be delighted to take your name.

There are currently one or two vacant dates on the flower calendar for next year. If you are interested in gifting the flowers please let me know.

Elizabeth McKenzie
880 5077



Flower Arrangers Prayer

May God grant that our hearts
Our eyes and our hands may
Receive His inspiration,
Enabling us to glorify
His House with the beauty
Of the leaves and blossoms
Which He has created.

2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade Company Section

This year sees the Company Section at its strongest for some years with 20 boys attending regularly. We also have a strong staff, with 8 officers available - we also take great pleasure in welcoming Gavin Cooke back to the company after his university course at St. Andrews. We have 3 boys working towards their Queens badge this year - Andrew Mitchell, Mark Webster and Grant Maybury. They have a lot to get through and we will make sure that they get as much support as possible. It is always a real highlight of a BB year when Queens badges are presented!



We have 4 recruits within our ranks and we are pleased to see them fitting in well with the rest of the company. It is greatly encouraging to see the boys come up from the Junior Section and we are grateful, as always, to Mrs Jean Hepburn and her Junior Section staff for bringing so many boys through the Junior Section to the Company Section. This allows a continuity of learning the valuable lessons the Brigade teaches and to take part in the many activities on offer.

We have, this year, taken part in the badminton (junior and senior) and quiz competitions, achieving 2nd place in the junior quiz - well done to the boys. As for the badminton - the least said the better! We do have many more competitions to look forward to and will take part in as many as possible.

Finally, as this is the 125th year of the Boys' Brigade, we are planning to host a church service in order to celebrate this great milestone. It is an achievement to be proud of and one which we are sure everybody will join us in celebrating.

Graham Manson
Company Captain

A Mouse Tale

“Oh, it’s cold”, shivered a little mouse, “and I’m so hungry. That looks a good place to find something to eat.” He scurried across the yard to where travellers stabled their animals at the inn. “Donkeys and camels always spill food when they’re eating, so there’ll be plenty on the floor for me.” When he was full, he curled up in the straw in the corner of an empty stall. Soon he was fast asleep – but not for long. He was woken by the sound of voices. He heard a man say, “I’m sorry, so many people have come to Bethlehem to be counted for the Romans, I’ve no room for you anywhere in the inn, but you can sleep here if you want to. There’s clean straw and no animals in this stall.” “There is, you know,” muttered the mouse. Another man thanked him then a lady said, “Wasn’t that good of him, Joseph?” “Yes, Mary,” he agreed. “I’ll make you a bed on that straw. You must be so tired after that long journey.” “I am. I don’t think it’ll be long now.” “Bother! I was warm and comfortable over there,” grumbled the mouse as he moved to the other side of the stall, away from the people. “What won’t be long?” he wondered, but he was so tired he soon fell asleep again.

Next time it was the crying of a tiny baby that wakened him. “So that’s what they were waiting for, the lady was going to have a baby.” He was much too interested in what was happening to sleep now. He watched as the baby was wrapt up warm and placed on a soft little blanket on top of the straw in the manger where the animals’ food was put. “At least we don’t need to think of names for the baby, Joseph. The angel, Gabriel told me I would have a boy and we’d to call him *Jesus*.”

More people came to the stable – shepherds. They said, “We were told by angels that a very special baby had been put in a manger in a stable in Bethlehem. We came to look for him and here he is, the angels were right.” “I wish I could ask them what the angels looked like,” said the mouse to himself. “They said the baby was *the Saviour – Christ the Lord*,” added the shepherds.

“That Jesus must be a very, very special baby,” the mouse decided.

Glenda Meikle

African Partnership

Visit by Members from Kibera Parish

The African Partnership Committee would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with the recent visit of Hannah, Naomi, Martha, David, Michael, and James from Kibera Parish. We are very grateful to all those who acted as hosts, guides, chauffeurs, as well as those who prepared meals and welcomed them to our community, particularly given the short notice of their arrival.

Our visitors would like to pass on their thanks and good wishes to everyone they met. The time they spent with us here in Barrhead will live with them for ever. For their youth members, it really was a once in a lifetime trip.



One of the highlights of their trip was the visit to Xscape where they saw snow for the first time! Another was the visit to Edinburgh and seeing the magnificent old buildings along with the Castle. But nothing will last longer in their memories than the warmth and love they received from the congregations of Bourock, Arthurlie, and the Methodist Church.

National Youth Assembly

As you may be aware, one of the reasons for arranging the recent visit for when we did, was for it to coincide with the Church of Scotland National Youth Assembly, who this year were sponsoring our project. All six members of the group travelled to Dundee for this event. The highlight of the weekend was the Gala Fundraising Dinner on the Saturday night where Nicola Barton, Fiona Palmer, Heather Palmer, and Alison Mitchell presented an audio visual update on the Kibera project. A big 'thank you' goes to the girls, along with thanks to Alison Brown and Allan Ramsay for helping to put the presentation together. At this moment we do not have an exact total of the amount raised as some money is still coming in, but we believe it will be around £6,000.

Silanga School



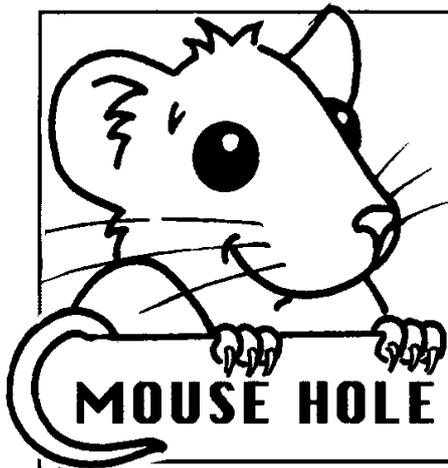
After the recent troubles and a change of government in Kenya, we have been increasingly worried about the viability of building a school in Kibera. We have been seeking assurances from the Church that the recent displacements and falling membership would not affect the funding of the school.

We held very productive talks with Hannah and Naomi on several occasions during their time with us. Combining this with the information received from Rev. Samuel regarding planning permission, costings for the new school, and information as to how the school will be funded, will allow us to make decisions about the project.

Thank you all for your continuing support. When we have more information on the project, we will post it on the website:- www.bourock.org.uk/kibera and on the notice board in the lower hall.

Jim Mitchell

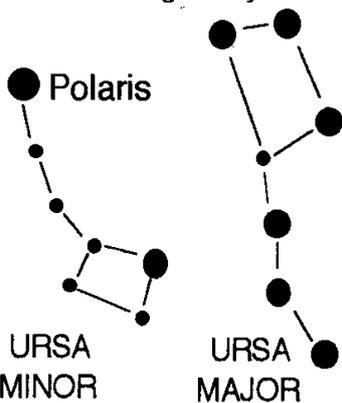
jamesclark.mitchell@ntlworld.com



MOUSE HOLE

Star Facts

'Polaris', also known as 'The North Star' can be seen in the sky all year round. Look out for it in the night sky.

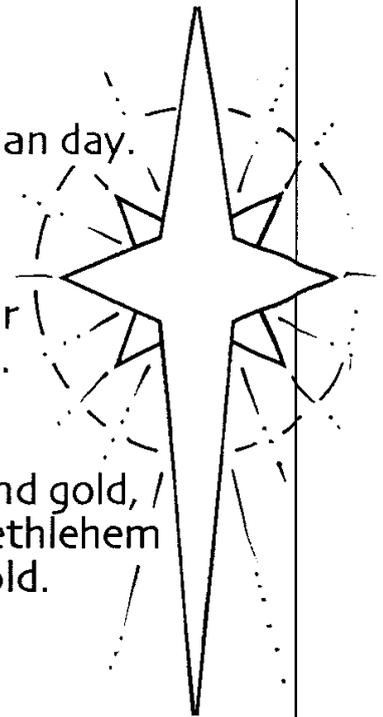


The wise men came
from a land far away,
They'd seen a great star
that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign
of the birth of a king,
So they followed that star
to pay homage to him.

They carried three gifts:
myrrh, frankincense and gold,
and they found him in Bethlehem
as the Prophets foretold.

The star led to Jesus,
our Saviour and King,
So let's join with the wise men
and go, worship Him.

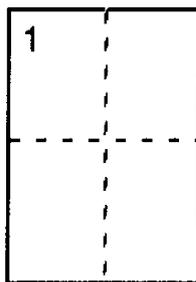


The closest star
to EARTH, is
our own SUN



Stars are different
colours, the colour we
see depends on the
temperature of the
star. The coolest stars
★ appear RED. ★
Then there's
ORANGE, YELLOW,
YELLOWISH-WHITE
to the hottest stars
★ which are a
BLUE-WHITE ★

Star Makes

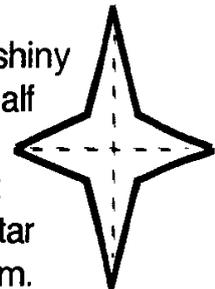


• Fold a rectangle of shiny
paper into half and half
again (1).



fold

Then (2) cut
to make a Star
of Bethlehem.



• Glue 3 lolly sticks together.
Starting from the centre, wind
wool around each
stick until about 2-3cm
of stick is left.
Try painting the sticks
gold, use gold thread and
add sparkle with glitter.

