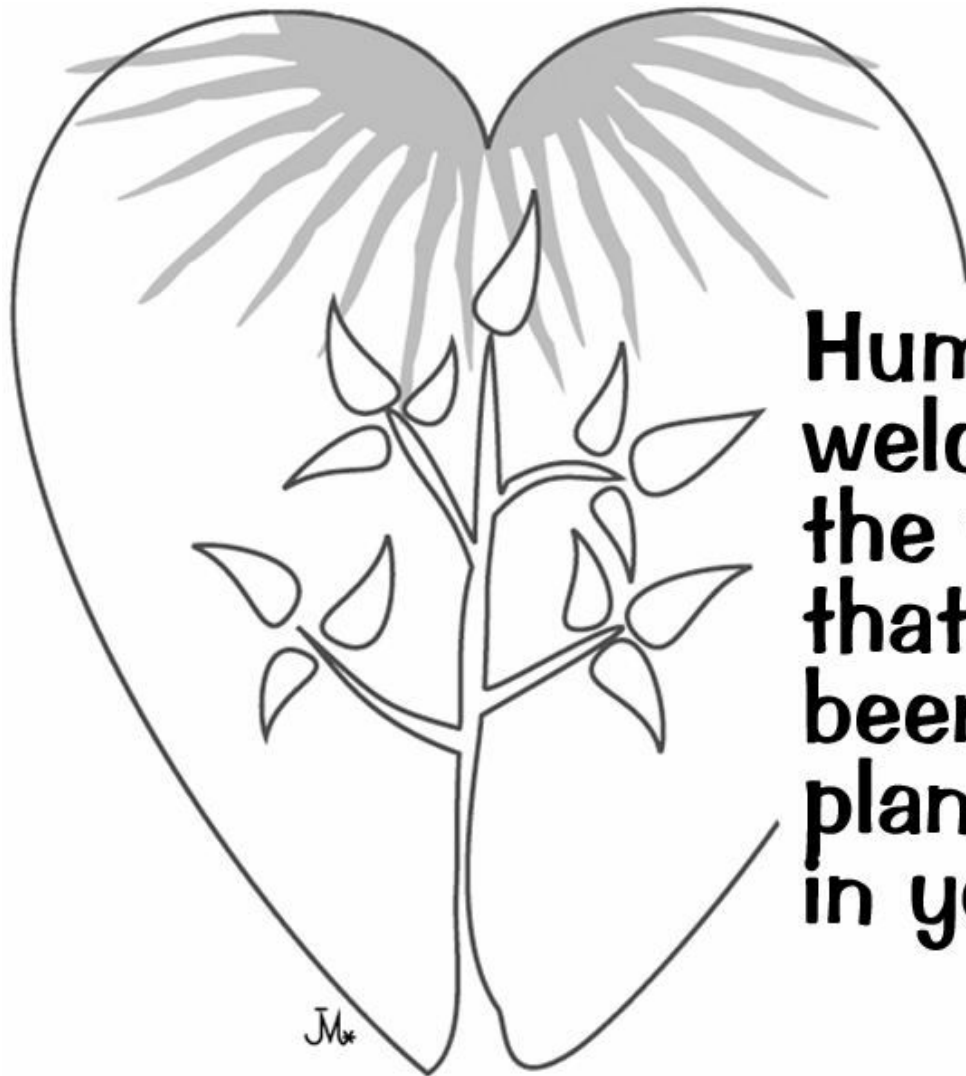


STEEPLE TALK



**Humbly
welcome
the word
that has
been
planted
in you.**

**THE MAGAZINE
OF
BOURCK PARISH CHURCH**

Spring 2016

Who's Who In Bourock

Minister	Pamela Gordon	881 8736
Session Clerk	Linda Dye	876 1201
Deputy Session Clerk	Neil McClune	881 4271
Treasurer	Tom Whyte	
Roll Keeper	John Whyte	571 4787
Halls Convener	Bruce Brown	571 6403
WFO Envelopes	Fiona Auchincloss	880 7132
Junior Church	Linda Dye	876 1201
Guild	Marjory Brown	
Boys' Brigade Captain	Gregor Condy	0790 033 2461
Boys' Brigade (Company)	Gavin Cooke	0777 533 5286
Boys' Brigade (Junior)	Brian Heron	
Boys' Brigade (Anchor)	Katie Gibson	881 8362
Guides	Ilene Easdon-Hynds	881 9961
Brownies (2nd)	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Brownies (3rd)	Barbara Hughes	881 2119
Tweenies	Morag McKenzie	880 5077
Bourock Friends Group	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Toddlers Group	Lynne Duffy	
Variety Club	Linda Dye	876 1201
Coffee Club	Ann McMillan	881 8348
Craft Club	Dorothy Ramsay	571 5260
SteepleTalk	Ken Dye	876 1201
Life And Work	Andy Ramsey	571 5525
Christian Aid	Marjory Brown	571 6403
Stravaigers	Brian & Marilyn Honan	
Organist	Paul Robertson	
Child Protection CoOrdinator	Wilma Lundie	880 5320
Web Site	Ken Dye	876 1201

Business Committee Convenors

Christian Education	Linda Dye
Mission And Outreach	Irene Glover & Rhona McDonald
Pastoral Care	Moira McCartney
Property (Temporary)	Bruce Brown
Finance	Derek Palmer

Internet Addresses

Web Site	www.bourock.org.uk (find us on FaceBook)
Minister	minister@bourock.org.uk
Session Clerk	sessionclerk@bourock.org.uk
Depute Session Clerk	sessiondepute@bourock.org.uk
SteepleTalk	steepletalk@bourock.org.uk

Message From The Manse

The song was played, everywhere. “Shut up and dance.” When you turned on the radio, went shopping or wedding reception, you heard this song by the group Walk the Moon. “The Woman is my des-tin-y...She said ooh ohh...Shut up and dance with me.” It was a song either impossible to ignore or avoid.

The song was an earworm – a piece of music that caught your attention and lodged itself into your psyche and stayed there and would never leave. Songs like Psy’s “Gangnam Style” or from The Wizard of Oz, “Ding Dong the Witch is Dead”.

Why are such songs so addictive? Is it the high pitches reached or the powerful background singers? The most recent explanation is that some songs are popular due to their simple lyrics and their repetitiveness. The brain seems to be drawn to plainness. In the world of Psychology it is known as “Processing fluency”. Our brains get excited about things easy to grasp.

Processing fluency explains the popular simple design of the iPhone with its rounded corners. It also explains why we prefer directions printed in a simple rather than complicated font.

Paul was ahead of the game using processing fluency in 2 Corinthians verses 18-20:

All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We’re Christ’s representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God’s work of making things right between them. We’re speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he’s already a friend with you.

Here, Paul is singing a song of settlement: Settled....settle....fresh start....drop their differences....making things right between them.

At the heart of our faith is making things right – making things right between God and us and one another. Paul drives home through simple language knowing that our brains get excited about things easy to grasp.

Paul says that God “settled the relationship between us and him and has given us a ministry of reconciliation”. Through Jesus Christ, God has resolved a dispute with us by repairing the relationship that had been broken due to us messing up. We now are challenged to resolve disputes between individuals and communities.

In the face of conflict we need resolution. We need to sing a song of reconciliation which is being sung in Berlin. The congregation called Reconciliation Parish sits next to a piece of the Berlin Wall that once divided the city and members of the congregation. Since the wall fell, the church has worked to start talking to enemies to resolve disputes. Everyone seems keen to forgive but it takes admitting that mistakes were made on both sides: “I’m sorry I behaved in such a bad way”.

Where do you see a dispute needing to be resolved? With your spouse? Family member? A friend? A fellow church member? A group in the community?

Let’s sing a song of reconciliation because we are hurting as individuals, as a church, as a nation and as a world. Let’s do what God has done for us through Jesus. Reconciliation is a song that should be an earworm, never leaving us, impossible to avoid or ignore. So let’s sing it together, keeping it simple and repeating it often.

Yours,
Pamela Gordon

Visit To Kibera 2016

David Miller and Jim Mitchell visited Kibera from 28th January to 3rd February this year. Here is a report of their visit.

David and Jim were met at the airport by an Elder and Deacon of PCEA Kibera Parish, and were fully escorted throughout their trip. They had the opportunity to visit several animal sanctuaries within the city of Nairobi.

They were driven to the Saturday Club at PCEA Silanga, which is financed by Compassion International, a charity that supports 1000s of children suffering from poverty around the world. On the day they visited a group of children aged 12+ sang to Jim and David before they left on a bus trip. 10 years ago, when the original group travelled to Kibera, this road, now with double lanes and street lights did not even exist. Jim and David toured the toilet block and conference centre, the construction of which was funded by us. The sanitary ware is all in place but there is no mains water available to the church or community, contrary to promises made by the government. This means that the biogas tank cannot be utilised. Some of the toilets are available to the community for a small charge; this charge pays for an attendant who uses the rain water collected by the guttering that has been fitted to the school and church buildings.

Electricity is now available to Kibera. A telecommunications company, Safari.com, pay the Church 180,000 Ksh (£1200) a year to site their mast in the church grounds, which now has floodlights, greatly improving the safety and security of the area. Following the improved security at Silanga, the National Youth Service, who are building roads, laying cables and clearing drains in the area, store construction materials at Silanga. The nearest mains water is 3km from Silanga. There are no sewage drains. The overall smell is appalling, and the lanes are filthy. New housing has been built nearby, and can be seen in the photos taken from the toilet block; however it is not affordable for the residents of Kibera.

The nursery children at the club sang for Jim and David, who also met some of the sponsored students. Approximately 30 Silanga High school children were undertaking extra tuition at the school, although the lab and computer room were locked for the weekend. The Saturday Club children were fed; drinking and cooking water had to be carried 250 yards by the 3 ladies that provide the food. The Government sponsor a fish farm project that enables them to breed fish to sell to the community to raise money.

Jim and David met Faith and Stephen, two former sponsored students who are both now in employment; Faith works in cosmetics and Stephen in repairing telecoms. Both greatly appreciated the opportunities that having the KCSE has given them.

On Sunday Jim and David, attended PCEA Emmanuel for Sunday worship, which was led by Lawrence (Session Clerk). PCEA Emmanuel has been restored, and improved, from its pre-violence state, now having mains electricity, mains water, Wi-Fi, inside toilets and a technical college built by the government. This Technical Training Centre runs classes for adult learners, in dress design, computing, electrical engineering, cookery and English.

Students are required to have the KCSE in order to enrol. Former pupils of Silanga High School are unable to afford the fees to attend the college. Local employers do not participate in day release programmes. Jim preached at the English Service and David gave the readings. The Swahili service followed; David, who visited us in 2008 and preached at the now Barrhead St Andrew's Church, led this service. Even though David and Jim couldn't understand the language at this service David joined in with the dancing and they both appreciated the energy provided by the enthusiastic congregation.

Following the service, they met with Martha, who also visited Barrhead in 2008. Martha is now a Deacon at PCEA Kibera; a Deacon helps the Elders of the Church.

David and Jim were then taken to visit Naomi, who also visited in 2008 and was the founding Parish Secretary. Naomi lives 16km away and attends her local church.

On Monday they went to Silanga High School, where they were met by the Head Teacher who is currently on maternity leave. She explained that 15 of the children that attend the school are funded by the government on a small bursary of 5000 ksh (£34). 3 members of the staff are former students, 2 of them former sponsored students. They advised Jim and David of their issues; lack of water and toilets, the recruitment and retention



of staff, lack of books, and lack of funds to provide school lunches. The members of the teaching staff are paid £68 a month, which is half of the rate state teachers are paid. They are proud to be a Church School; however they have no development plan. The main job of a clerical member of staff is to collect the fees from the families of the other students.

Jim and David met, unaccompanied, current students; David asked what we could do to improve their school experience. The students said that they enjoyed school but struggled to pay for a school lunch, which costs 23p a day. The school now employ a cook to prepare a simple lunch. David provided two pupils with lunch money, and chess sets for the teaching assistants to use.

Overall, David and Jim felt that the morale of the students and the atmosphere around the school was good, but that there seemed to be a lack of leadership.

Michael, who also visited Barrhead in 2008, is now a member of the School Board; he designed the Science Lab at the school that was funded by our charity. He is working in computing.

Jim and David met with Merci, who is the Co-ordinator for their HIV/Aids and OVC Project, which is supported by the Church of Scotland. This project receives these grants as they are in a partnership with us.

They also met with local residents who are employed by Compassion International to run the primary school at Emmanuel, as well as the Saturday Club.

Our thanks go to the Church of Scotland central office that funded Jim and David's flights, visas and insurance costs through a FaithShare Grant.

Debbie Mitchell
Secretary, Barrhead Churches Kibera Project

3rd Barrhead Brownies

After eleven years with the 3rd Barrhead Brownie Pack I have decided to hang up my Brownie uniform for now. I have had many fun years and seen many girls come through the pack and have made loads of friends. I will finish up at the end of term in May and am looking for a new Brown Owl to take over from me in September. I would appreciate it if all the congregation could assist us with this by passing the word around in the hope that we can find another volunteer.



The pack remains very healthy with 24 Brownies registered. This year the girls have completed their Agility and Artist Badges, enjoyed a Burns Supper, a Thinking Day celebration, Chinese New Year and a visit to Planet Play as well as their favourite activity – baking.

There will be lots more fun activities before we finish with Parents Evening on 23rd May and a trip to Eastwood Theatre to see “Suessical” on 26th May.

Mrs Barbara Hughes
Brown Owl

Norwood

Our monthly Services continue at Norwood - normally on the last Sunday in the month - and we always get a lovely welcome from the residents. "Thank you" to everyone in the congregation who comes along to help with the singing and chat with the residents. Due to Safeguarding rules we cannot invite everyone to come along to these Services but if you would like to come, just speak to Pamela or Linda and paperwork can be arranged by our Safeguarding Co-ordinators.

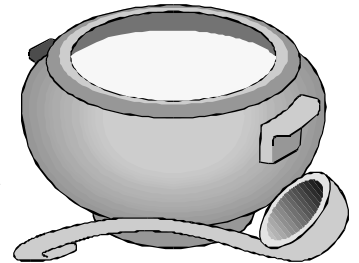
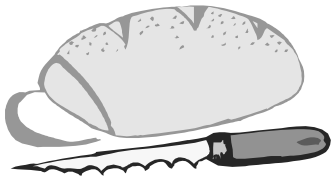
Bourock Soup Stop

Our last day of Soup Stop for this session will be Friday 6th May and we will be raising funds that day for the Church of Scotland HIV/Aids project. We didn't manage to fit in a 'Souper Sunday' in January but as Bourrock has always supported this project we thought it important to do something.

Soup Stop continues to be busy and Friday lunchtimes in Bourrock are certainly lively. We are delighted that so many different people come along to enjoy good food and fellowship. Since the start of the year we have given £500 to MacMillan Cancer, £600 to the British Heart Foundation and £600 to Diabetes UK. Our charity for April is Brightest Star and we would hope to raise a good amount for this

charity. We also donate to our own church each month. If you haven't seen our menu yet you can view it on the website or better still do come along any Friday and sample it for yourself.

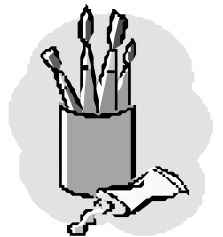
The Soup Stop Ladies hope you all have a great summer and we will reopen in August.



Tweenies



Tweenies have had another great session with 35 girls attending every Monday night. The girls have been taking part in craft activities, baking nights and lots of games. We have had our Halloween party where all the girls dressed up in fabulous costumes and our Christmas party where we all had great fun dancing and playing our party games.



2015 marked the Tweenies 50th birthday. On our last night of the 2015-2016 session, we had a birthday party to mark the occasion. We had some special guests who came along to our party including Ms Ross who was the first Leader in Charge when the Tweenies started in 1965.

We are looking forward to start the next session in September. A big thank you to all the leaders who help at the Tweenies every Monday night.

Thursday Morning Service/Coffee Club

We meet on a Thursday morning at 10:30am for a short service of worship followed by tea/coffee and a blether. We are open all summer, so if you are free come and sample the hospitality - you will be made very welcome.



By the time you read this our 'Showcase', which this year was "A Night at the Musicals", will have taken place. This event has become popular with our loyal audience and is a chance for everyone in the club to use their talents and pick what they would like to do. It is also good to have some social time over supper. The Club will meet again on Thursday 5th May to consider what our show for December is going to be. Then we will be off for 2 weeks with rehearsals starting on Thursday 26th May at 7:30pm in the lower hall. The Variety Club is open to members and friends of Bourock who are 16 or over and we would love to welcome some new members along. If the club is to continue to produce an annual show, we really need more cast members. Even if you don't see yourself on the stage there are lots of jobs backstage. Please come along and join us - good fun guaranteed.

Summer Club

Thank you to everyone who came along to our first meeting for 'Guardians of Ancora'. We still need lots more helpers, so please add your name to the list in the lower hall or speak to Linda or Lorna. The next planning meeting is on Sunday 1st May at 7:00pm, so please come along and find out more about 'Ancora'. We guarantee a job for everyone.



Parse For Thought

In Pamela's children's talk today (Sunday 17th April) she encouraged the youngsters to take time to experience the delight given to the recipient by personalised communication in the old-fashioned way, using pen and paper instead of electronic text, e-mail etc. And, in her sermon, she commented that regretfully "her generation" had missed out on being taught grammar, which might have helped her learn holiday French. She also ably illustrated the incomprehensibility of language and written formats from bygone days. There was much more which challenged us. It was a great sermon which sparked the following thoughts.

We have a wonderful language with 1.2 million words, the most of any language. However, modern instant messaging is often blamed for the disintegration of our precious language, corrupting both spelling and grammar, and stifling its poetic beauty. But is electronic communication solely guilty, or even a "bad thing"? *Bear with me, please, while I get to my point in 489 incomprehensible words.*

Whilst this degradation may, in some way, be attributable to the original limitations of early texting, and, now, also to Twitter, limiting messages to 140 characters, resulting in phonetic abbreviations such as "UR" deputising for "you are", a trend, in fact, originated by the greeting card industry's "UR21", this particular homophone itself metamorphosed to also indicate "your". Another demon of decay is the smart phone's predictive text and auto-correct facility, which shortcut aids either substitute or suggest a word to ease text entry. Those of a forgiving nature might let pass without criticism the blind acceptance of these substitutions, where "your" and "you're" appear interchangeable options. But, none of this explains the typed use of "A" for "I", "ma" for "my", "should of" for "should have" and certainly not the unassisted keyed entry of "you's" or, could it be worse, "you's". Clearly this sound-alike illiteratashpere of social media is inhabited by "that" generation which was never taught the likes of: "they're there with their friends" as an aide-memoire. But this is not new: apostrophes have long suffered longhand abuse. My favourite is the sign outside an Edinburgh, no less, baker's shop advertising "Deliciou's Gateaux's".

My opening sentence above was intentionally long. Hopefully, underlining made it understandable. It may have reminded some, who, like me, are of a certain age, not of "that" generation, of the primary school ritual pastime of parsing. Parsing is the analysis of the construction of a sentence to better understand its (not it's) meaning: it's (it is) resolving the sentence into main and subordinate clauses, which, from memory, can take many guises which in turn "qualify" or "modify" etc other parts of the sentence. Why did we parse? To reduce the complexity.

By this point, if she has reached it, Pamela will be glad she missed out on grammar lessons. Stay with it....

The bemoaned deterioration is nothing to do with electronic devices. It is both that more people are now writing more often, at speed, and that written language always differed from the spoken word they are now imitating in text. Language changes. That language lives is nothing new, Shakespeare is said to have invented 1,700 words. I have contributed one above. If used frequently enough it will officially become a "real" word. Additionally, individual words are adaptable and evolve: think of the American "cookout".

One such adaptable word is "Christian" (At last! I hear you sigh) : usually used either as a noun, "I am a Christian", or adjective, as in "Christian ministry". It struck me that, indirectly, without all this grammar guff getting in the way, Pamela was asking us to liberate "Christian" from its static settings of noun (a naming word) and adjective (a describing word) to become a verb: a **doing** word. In essence, she encouraged us to become **Christian verbs**, communicating to others the Bible texts' message, free of grammar's shackles, up 2 date, in UR own words. Simple!

Tom Whyte



JUNIOR CHURCH



We have seen quite a drop in the number of children coming along to Junior Church which is disappointing for the teachers as they put a lot of work into preparation each week. However even when our numbers are low we still have a good time as the children are all enthusiastic and keen to learn.

We have found the Spill the Beans Narrative Lectionary material very challenging not just for the children but also for us. We have covered some unfamiliar Bible stories and looked at well known ones quite differently.

In June we will have our usual 'fun' month, when (weather permitting) we will get outside for activities like our Treasure Hunt.

Junior Church will close on Sunday 26th June, when hopefully the children will share some of the work they have done throughout the session with the congregation.



3rd Barrhead Guide Company

Guides continue to be completing badges and Go For Its. Cooking, Chocolate and performing arts continue to be very popular. Guides have enjoyed trips to Chocolatiers Lime Tree Larder, the Barrhead Fire Station, Tesco for the Farm to Fork trail and Eastwood Theatre at Christmas for the Pantomime.

Guides enjoyed an alternative Burns night with sheepdog trials, table golf and of course irn bru.

Guides received a grant for sports materials and enjoyed several evenings of netball, table tennis, plate spinning, skipping and much more.

Now that the lighter nights have arrived, Guides will spend more time outside playing rounders, enjoying a few sausage sizzles and some science crafts including making rockets!

Six guides are undertaking their Baden Powell Award and are looking forward to the camp in June.

Guides will join others from East Renfrewshire in May at Auchengillan for the County Camp.

The Senior Section is 100 years old this year and the Seniors are completing a Senior Spectacular to celebrate this.

Thank you for your continued support and attending guide coffee mornings.



Girlguiding UK

Ilene Easdon-Hynds
Guide Leader

Finance Report Spring 2016

In accordance with guidelines implemented by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland the accounts covering 2015 were presented to and approved by the Kirk Session on 23rd February 2016 and presented to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting on 20th March 2016.

We have again produced accounts in compliance with OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) regulations, which includes both the Congregational accounts and the Kirk Session accounts, however I am only going to comment on the actual Congregational accounts for 2015.

We started off 2015 by carrying forward a surplus of £5,776 from 2014, with the General Fund at that time sitting at £75,172. Again during 2015 our ordinary income exceeded our expenditure, this time resulting in a surplus of £3,749, meaning the General Fund at the end of 2015 was £78,921.

In 2015 total offerings were similar to the figure in 2014 with the total received by WFO and Standing Order increasing by £1,250.

Again, there were 2 other major sources of income, which represented around 22% of our total income for 2015.

Firstly, we recovered a significant sum from the HMRC via the Gift Aid scheme in 2015, this time the sum of £13,425. This includes a claim on earnings under £20 where no Gift Aid declaration is in place following the introduction of the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme by the HMRC. Following the reduction in the basic rate of Income tax paid by individuals to 20% several years ago it is more important than ever that we continue to maximise this source of income.

Again, I would urge anyone who has not completed a Gift Aid declaration to consider doing so, as long as they are paying sufficient income tax to meet our claim. This doesn't cost you anything and take 2 minutes to complete the form. Speak to myself if you have any questions or wish a form for completion. We must have a valid Gift Aid form which includes your current Post Code

Secondly, we received £8,712 via hall lets, which is a slight fall from 2014, but once again this is a significant portion of our overall income.

During 2015 our expenditure fell by £1,408 compared to the figure in 2014.

We have budgeted for expenditure of £101,000 in 2016, which is higher than our expenditure in 2015, and will continue to manage the Church funds closely.

I would like to personally thank all members of the Finance Committee, the Gift Aid co-ordinator and the Treasurer for all their work and assistance during 2015.

Derek Palmer
Finance Convenor



"This church accepts all denominations-fivers, tenners
and twenties..."

Barrhead Bourrock Church
Profit And Loss Account
For the year ended 31 December 2015

		2015		2014
		£		£
Income	Collect- WFO non Gift aid	-		15,541
	Collections - open	5,615		7,215
	Collections- WFO	66,835		50,044
	Donations	280		355
	Gift aid	13,425		13,761
	Income from o/s agencies	8,712		8,903
	Income from orgs	4,750		4,750
	Income from wedds/funeral	700		705
	Interest received	48		212
	Miscellaneous income	851		348
		<u>101,217</u>		<u>101,835</u>
Expenses	Broadband	(138)		(61)
	Cleaning contractor	(4,972)		(4,858)
	Cleaning matts & laundry	(1,055)		(676)
	General expenses	(3,698)		(1,292)
	Heating & lighting	(8,514)		(8,792)
	L & W magazines	1		-
	Locum minister costs	-		(4,939)
	Manse expenses	(2,989)		(2,709)
	Ministers phone/other exp	(1,083)		(682)
	Minister's travel exp	(1,337)		(172)
	Ministries & mission	(55,512)		(49,412)
	Organ maintenance	(680)		(720)
	Organ supply	(3,845)		(2,500)
	Postage	(40)		(75)
	Presbytery dues	(1,188)		(1,155)
	Pulpit supply	(165)		(450)
	Rates & insurance	(5,731)		(6,735)
	Repairs & maintenance	(5,716)		(7,647)
	Salaries & NI	-		(673)
	Stationery,print ©ing	(804)		(938)
Vacancy expenses	-		(1,572)	
		<u>(97,467)</u>		<u>(96,059)</u>
		<u>3,749</u>		<u>5,776</u>
Net profit		<u>3,749</u>		<u>5,776</u>

Christmas Greetings 2015

Thank you to everyone that supported the Christmas Leaflet fundraiser last Christmas. Your donations in lieu of sending Christmas cards to each other totalled £595. The letters of appreciation from the two charities that we supported this year, CHAS and Adams House, are on display on the noticeboard outside the Lower Hall.

Debbie Mitchell

Holy Week/Easter Activities

It is hard to believe that our Easter celebrations are over for this year.

With Easter being so early this year, it hardly seemed that we had celebrated Christmas before it was the start of Lent.

Holy Week is a very special time in the Church calendar and I really enjoy how this is recognised in our church community.

The week started for me with the children making Palm branches in Junior Church. The design rarely varies and there was much cutting of green crepe paper and plenty of scellotape! The children then acted out the story of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem. This year as well as having the younger children gradually building up the noise as Jesus approached, we had some of the older children acting the parts of the Pharisees, spying on the people. We finished the morning with the procession into church waving the Palm branches.

We then had our Holy Week services. Short, simple acts of worship each evening, reminding us of those last few days before the Crucifixion. These services are really special and I find them a very peaceful and moving build up to Easter. If you do not usually attend these services, please come along next year. I am sure you will enjoy them.

On Good Friday, the Action of Barrhead Churches organised the annual Walk of Witness. This brings together people from different denominations in the town, as we walk through the Main St, stopping at various spots, telling the story of the arrest of Jesus, his road to the cross and finally his crucifixion. This year we had around 60 people taking part. It is a powerful way of bringing the true story of Easter to the town.

For the Junior Church leaders, we have the privilege of welcoming the children to Easter Club on Easter Saturday morning. The children are led through the Holy Week story, following in the footsteps of Jesus. I say 'the children are led' but it is amazing how well the children know the stories - Jesus in the temple, Mary using her expensive perfume for Jesus, The Last Supper, The Crucifixion and The story of the empty tomb. Each story is followed by a craft and songs and games add to the fun.

All of these activities built up to a joyful Easter Day. This year I unfortunately did not manage to attend the early morning Easter service, but I am sure it was as uplifting as usual, worshiping and celebrating communion in the 'fresh air'. Followed by the fellowship of Easter Breakfast.

The Easter celebrations were then completed with 11 o'clock worship with the beautifully decorated Easter Garden in church and the stunning Daffodil Cross and after the service, the children rolling their eggs outside the church, adding to the joy of the morning.

So many people contributed to making this week such a special time in our church family.

Thanks to you all !!

Agnes Brown

Happy

What makes women happy?
Nothing - men would say.
Well that's only their opinion
they're biased anyway.
So what would bring us sunshine?
What brightens up our day?
Surely not housework
Or ironing - no way.

Driving down to Asda?
Battling through the aisles?
Is it trailing round a retail park
that makes our life worthwhile?
Halfords? Homebase? No chance
Though perhaps there are a few
Who'd get some satisfaction from an hour in B&Q.

Something more upmarket? Next or M&S?
where matching size and colour
does far more to depress
you than to encourage
I'm sure you must admit.
It hardly boosts your self-esteem
when the things you like don't fit.

What makes a woman happy?
Her kids, her job, her house?
Looking after grandkids?
Or a time out with her spouse?
Going on romantic vacations
to Paris, Venice or Rome
or touring round the Blackpool amusements
Till the wind and rain drive you home?

Is it going for candlelit dinners
with the table set for two
In some fancy Italian restaurant
where you have to translate the menu?
More likely a trip to MacDonalds
for a Big Mac with regular fries
and you're too busy licking the ketchup
To have time to look into his eyes.

The answers are many and varied,
but I'm sure most of us would agree
that spending time with some cronies
over a nice cup of tea.

along with a big slice of gossip,
discussing the world and his wife,
is one way to make women happy
and a break from everyday life.

But what keeps a woman happy?
What brings meaning
to anyone's life?
When we live in a world
filled with sadness
and continual
suffering and strife.

Where nothing and no one is perfect
and life changes
day after day;
Where happiness last
for a moment
flickers and then dies away.

Real lasting happiness
isn't a thing that's
packed in a box on a shelf,
it can't be manufactured
but comes from God Himself.
For only in the Lord alone
can anybody find
a constant source of happiness
and perfect peace of mind.
It's a deep and certain knowledge
that whatever life demands
we've a Friend who knows
and loves us -
our future's in His Hands.

Sadie McLean



WEIGH OVER?

It took me ages to remember that a metre is a yard and a little bit because I learned the old way at school. We still have both metric and imperial measurements but it was even harder.

The measurement of silver used as money in the Old Testament is the shekel. But there were two different types of shekel; one, the royal or sanctuary shekel, was heavier than the other one. The light one was used in everyday life, the heavy one contained 2 grams more silver and was used for making Temple offerings. So when you offered the sanctuary shekel you were giving that bit extra to God.



It often seems that people forget to offer their best to God. We offer him our excuses for not doing the things we should, instead of giving him our best. If we have to have two standards in the way we do things, shouldn't we always give the best, to our heavenly Father who loves us so much?

W - QUIZ

All the answers in this Bible quiz begin with the letter W - can you find them all?

1. What Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for? (John, chapter 4)
2. Adam and Eve heard God doing this in the Garden of Eden? (Genesis 3)
3. Ezekiel saw these shining like precious stones? (Ezekiel 1)
4. The colour angels wear? (Acts 1)
5. Joshua brought them down with trumpets? (Joshua 6)
6. Jesus told the servants to fill these? (John 2)
7. It grows with the weeds until the harvest? (Matthew 13)
8. How Elijah went into heaven? (2 Kings 2)



How do you get rid of a white elephant?
Put it in a jumbo sale.



What puts white lines on the sea?
An ocean liner.



ANSWERS: 1. water 2. walking 3. wheels 4. white 5. walls of Jericho 6. waterpots or jars 7. wheat 8. whirlwind