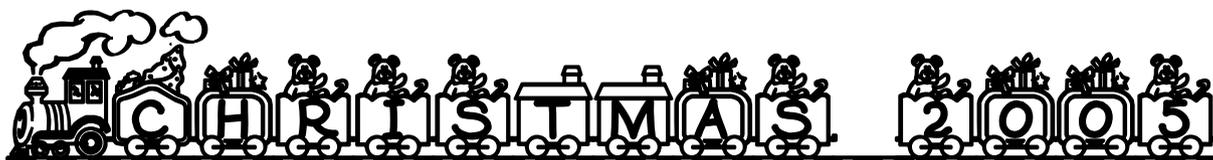


# SteepleTalk



**THE MAGAZINE  
OF  
BOUROCK PARISH CHURCH**



## **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           | Ann Craig          |          |
| Treasurer                    | Ross Mitchell      | 881 4688 |
| Roll Keeper                  | John Whyte         |          |
| Halls Convener               | Hazel McCarthy     | 880 7607 |
| WFO Envelopes                | Robert McKenzie    | 880 5077 |
| Junior Church                | Linda Dye          | 876 1201 |
| Guild                        | Marjory Brown      | 571 6403 |
| 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 Stevenson    | 881 6519 |
| Tweenies                     | Morag 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                  | 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       |          |

## **Kirk Session Committees**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Care And Concern       | Moira McCartney  |
| Communication          | Nancy Darroch    |
| Adult Education        | Willie Robertson |
| Mission                | David Miller     |
| Children & Youth       | Susan Palmer     |
| Congregational Support | Debbie Mitchell  |
| Stewardship            | Angus Leitch     |

## **Internet Addresses**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Web Site      | <a href="http://www.bourock.co.uk">www.bourock.co.uk</a>             |
| Minister      | <a href="mailto:minister@bourock.co.uk">minister@bourock.co.uk</a>   |
| Session Clerk | <a href="mailto:elizabeth@bourock.co.uk">elizabeth@bourock.co.uk</a> |
| SteepleTalk   | <a href="mailto:editor@bourock.co.uk">editor@bourock.co.uk</a>       |

Dear Friends,

Christmas will be upon us soon. I like this time of year because of all the excitement that surrounds it. The children have a special sparkle about them as they eagerly await Christmas Day and all its surprises. Adults, too, look forward to the gifts that come their way.

However, for us, it is a special time because we remember how God broke into our world in the form of a tiny, helpless baby. It is good to be reminded in a world that is power-crazy that God actually favours the weak and vulnerable in our midst. And for that reason, as well as reasons of love, we should be thinking of others at this special time. In particular, we should be doing what we can to alleviate suffering in the world - by giving to help the homeless, the hungry, the refugee or asylum seeker.

It was good to see the Junior Church continue their work in this field by organising the Shoe Box appeal once more. So often these appeals start off with great flourish but are allowed to disappear without a trace after a few years. So, well done, Junior Church for continuing the good work.

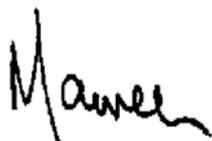
Sometimes the people we can help are living in our own community. Is anyone you know going to be spending Christmas on their own? Could you make a place for them at your Christmas table? We all know that it would not be difficult to provide a meal for another at Christmas - most households I know (including my own) always have far too much food at this time of year. So let us be aware of those round about us. Where would Jesus have been born if the innkeeper hadn't shared his accommodation - humble though it was!

Some of our young people this year are going to have to seriously consider other people when they visit Kenya and see for themselves the extremely poor conditions in which many people have to live. It will be an experience which will give them an insight into poverty which is beyond anything we know in this country. I hope that this visit will shape their view on the world and how we, as Christians, must speak out and take action to help improve conditions for those who cannot speak for themselves.

This visit has grown from their desire to help others and a growing need to understand the global context of poverty. I thank all who have supported this trip and know that our youngsters will share their experiences with you when they return.

The Christmas message is one of love - love for each other because God loves us and this time of year when we celebrate his love is a good time to remind ourselves to show that love to others.

Christmas blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mamee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



# **JUNIOR CHURCH**



This session has seen Junior Church examining Paul's letters - a topic proving to stretch both children and teachers alike. After what at times has been heavy work, we are glad to be approaching advent and are looking forward to the Christmas story.

Once again, this year, we have been collecting for the Samaritan's Purse appeal. A big "thank you" to you all for the donations of shoe boxes, toys, gifts, sweets and (especially this year) money which has made this such an overwhelming success over the years. Without the help of all the congregation this venture would never get off the ground.

We are also preparing for our annual Christmas party, which this year will be on Saturday 17 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

## What Really Matters About Christmas

Some years ago, when a Bishop's doubts about the virgin birth of Jesus hit the headlines, a clergyman was interviewed on the BBC's 'Breakfast Time' programme about what it all meant. The interviewer, a well known TV personality with very little time for Christianity, had one great objection to what the Bishop was saying. He put it in the form of a question to the clergyman: "If Jesus wasn't born to the virgin Mary does that mean we'll have to stop sending Christmas cards and giving presents?"

It might sound a stupid question, but it actually highlights an important issue. For this BBC presenter, as for many others in Britain today, what really matters about Christmas is the cards and the presents. If Jesus wasn't really born as the Bible says, that would be a nuisance - but only because it would take away the justification for the ways in which we celebrate his birth! It might even mean one or two bank holidays less.

In fact if Jesus hadn't been born as the Bible says the implications would be much more serious. It would mean that God has not come into this world to put right what we have spoilt. It would mean that we have no way of getting to know God. It would mean that we have no chance of anything but judgment and condemnation when we die.

Christmas is worth celebrating, not as an excuse for cards or presents or holidays, but because Christmas assures us that God hasn't written us off - that he loves us and has a plan for us. At Good Friday and Easter we see that Jesus has dealt with our twin problems of sin and death. At Pentecost we find that the new life achieved by Jesus can be ours as well.

Is Christmas important to you? If so, why? Just for the trappings of cards, presents and holidays, or for what it really means?

May this Christmas be a time when you receive the gift that matters: God's Son as your Saviour.

# Eco Congregation Scotland

Bourock Church has joined Eco-Congregation Scotland - The Churches' Environmental Programme which encourages and enables churches to green their life and mission. Eco-Congregation Scotland was launched in March 2001 with the endorsement of most major denominations and the backing of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS). It is supported through a partnership between Keep Scotland Beautiful (an associated company of ENCAMS) and the Society, Religion and Technology Project (SRT) of the Church of Scotland. It has an ecumenical steering group and receives financial support from the Scottish Executive's Sustainable Action Fund.

Over 50 congregations in Scotland are already participating and find Eco-Congregation enjoyable; it enlivens their fellowship and helps them engage with their local community.

There are three Sections to choose from -

**Growing in Faith and Understanding** which includes ideas and resources for worship, some green theological perspectives, ideas and activities for children and youth groups and bible studies for house groups.

**Putting God's House in Green Order** which gives guidelines for caring for church premises including management of financial, catering and purchasing matters and practical ideas and advice to care for church grounds and land. Our church grounds already have a wildlife area and it is hoped to put up bird boxes on a few of the trees to encourage nesting birds.

**Changing Lives: Changing Communities** provides information and suggestions to green personal lifestyles, ideas to help churches work with, through and for their local communities. Also available are sources and resources to help churches think globally and act locally. The Craft Club, who will be reorganising its storage cupboards, has been in touch with The Raven Trust, a Scottish charity, which among other things, sends wool and knitting needles to Ekwendeni Hospital in Malawi.

If you would like to join the team, please contact me on 571 6403.

Marjory Brown

## Book Review

Walking with Jesus through Advent and Christmas

By Murray McBride £9.99 ISBN 1841013609

A fun and flexible resource that has been designed as a biblical 'story map' to guide readers on a spiritual journey as they prepare for the Christmas period.

It would be suitable for individuals, families, church-based children's groups or schools as part of daily devotion or a weekly project. The book includes photocopy permission, contains 31 daily reflections, full instructions for building up the story map and suggestions for prayer and activities.

Imaginative use is made of the idea of a 'visual pilgrimage', as accompanying the story map itself is a large 'Maporama' which gives the geographical setting of the story, allowing both children and adults to stand in the shoes of those involved in the very first Christmas.

Murray McBride first learnt to communicate the Christian faith with children and young people as a full time youth worker. He trained as an evangelist with the Church of England's Church Army and, for over 10 years, led missions and supported local churches in their outreach to the community. An award winning evangelist, he regularly trains others in creatively sharing the faith.

## It Was Christmas

Long grey face  
Straight grey hair  
Long, straight grey coat  
The visitor sat  
In her lonely pew

All attempts to cheer and welcome  
Met with an on/off flash of a smile  
Like a brief communication  
From a car's extended beam

Her husband,  
Grey faced, grey haired  
Sternly stood  
Isolated in the pulpit  
Insulated from any warmth  
That might melt  
His icy exterior

With pent up excitement  
We awaited the hour to strike  
The signal to be given  
For hugs and kisses and good wishes  
To flood our church with joy  
As we celebrated once again  
Our saviour's birth

The moment came .and went  
Without reference.  
Had he not heard?  
It was Christmas.

Despite disgruntled mutterings,  
He announced the last hymn,  
Then  
Turning to his grey lady,  
Their eyes met  
Their faces shone  
The brightness lit up all the faces  
In the church that night.  
Eyes gleaming  
Smiles beaming  
With *Angels from the realms of glory*  
We all worshipped Christ,  
The new born King

After that  
The church erupted  
With hugs and kisses and  
Goodwill to all men.  
It was Christmas!

Glenda Meikle

## A Thought - To Think

Over the past decades or so, the Bourock Parish Church has changed for the betterment of the congregation. In the past it was a place where most people had their own seats, said "good morning" as they came through the door, sang the hymns, heard the prayers and the sermon from the minister, left without another word and went home for dinner.

Things have certainly changed – everyone speaks to one another and enjoys the fellowship of a cup of tea after the service.

Even after all the decades, the organist plays before the service to help set our minds on the service.

The service itself begins with the bible being brought into the sanctuary, followed by the minister – the congregation standing at this point in respect for the bible. The choir stands and sings the introit, which commences our time of worship. The children then have their talk before going to Junior Church, which is followed by the readings and sermon.

The choir once more stands to sing during the offering which, it is hoped, you can all hear and enjoy.

A lot of work goes into our preparation for the Sunday services – maybe it sometimes goes wrong but we do our best to compliment the worship with our music.

I would like to think that our part in the service is appreciated.

N. Downie  
Choir Secretary

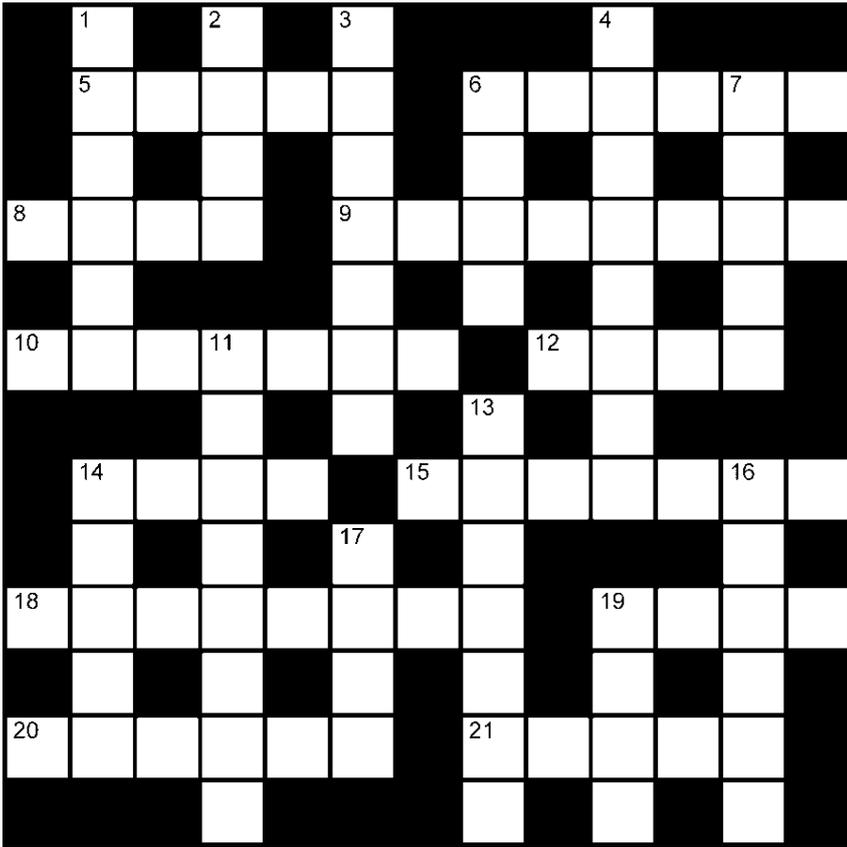
# Christmas Crossword 2005

## Across

- 5 Love intensely (5)
- 6 Men's hairdresser (6)
- 8 Afforded (4)
- 9 Chief city of Mysia, in Asia Minor.  
One of the seven churches in Revelation (8)
- 10 Fall (7)
- 12 Metropolis (4)
- 14 Flank (4)
- 15 Trim (7)
- 18 Belief system (8)
- 19 Experienced (4)
- 20 Begrudge (6)
- 21 An empty area (5)

## Down

- 1 Official residence of an exalted person (6)
- 2 Where you live (4)
- 3 Snake (7)
- 4 Bringing into existence (8)
- 6 Birthplace of Jesus (4)
- 7 A very dark black (5)
- 11 Think about carefully (8)
- 13 Rein (7)
- 14 What place (5)
- 16 Soft white precious metal (6)
- 17 Lean (4)
- 19 Plant fibre that is made into thread (4)



*"I suppose there's no good reason why I shouldn't come back next week..."*

## 3rd Barrhead Guide Company

Gemma Paton, Elizabeth McDougall and Pamela Walker have now completed all sections in the BP Award and are awaiting the presentation of their badges and certificates. The final Challenge they had to complete was held in Guide Headquarters in Glasgow at the beginning of October. This was a Health and Beauty weekend where the girls enjoyed - Yoga/Pilates, Fitness, Fashion section, Relaxation, Hairdresser, Dance/Aerobics and much more. They all had plenty of fun and made new friends. Congratulations to all three girls from Guides and Guiders.



Kirsten Dolan, Gemma McLauchlan, Cara Richardson, Caroline and Gayle Morrison all helped at the Senior Citizens Evening on Saturday, October 8. They all worked really hard and had a lovely time.

Make a Difference Day (MADD) was on Saturday, October 29 when ten Guides and Guiders helped to plant about 1000 daffodil and crocus bulbs in the area of the Dalmeny Community Centre, Barrhead. Thankfully the ground was soft and it was much easier than last year - not one blister!! It will be nice to see what our 'patch' looks like in the Spring.

The Hallowe'en Party was held on Monday, October 31. This was well attended and everyone had a good time with games, dookin' for apples and lovely food.

Bag-a-Badge Day was on Saturday, November 12 and Cara Richardson, Gayle and Caroline Morrison went along to Maxwell Mearns church halls to learn and sit two new badges each. The girls completed the Healthy Lifestyle and World Issues Badges.

The Remembrance Day Service was well attended by the Guides.

The Guides will be entertaining at the Sheltered Housing Complex, Main Street on Monday, November 28 with songs, poems, games and musical instruments. We all look forward to this event and have been putting in a lot of 'singing time'.

We are now all looking forward to the visit to Ali Baba where one of our Guides, Gemma Paton, is taking part. Gayle is otherwise engaged!!

The Christmas Party is on Monday, December 5 and this will be the last night until Monday, January 9, 2006.

Thanks once again to everyone who collect used stamps and ink cartridges. These are given to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Barbara

## Tweenies

So far, this session has been another busy one - we have 52 girls attending the Tweenies this session.

We have been very busy so far because of the numbers and we currently have a waiting list for new Tweenies starting in January.

We enjoy games, music and crafts and are just about to attend the Variety Club Show in December, which all of the girls look forward to and enjoy. We had a great Halloween party and we are looking forward to our Christmas one.

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

Morag McKenzie (Leader)

Tel. 880.5077

## Flower Rota

| JANUARY | Donation          | Arranger       |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1       | Mrs E. Thomson    | E. McKenzie    |
| 8       | Mrs R. Blair      | M. Gray        |
| 15      | Mrs J. Smith      | M. Honan       |
| 33      | Mrs J. Duiguid    | R. McDonald    |
| 29      | Mr J. Auchincloss | J. Auchincloss |

| MARCH | Donation         | Arranger  |
|-------|------------------|-----------|
| 5     | Mrs A. Clark     | M. Aird   |
| 12    | Mrs J. MacIntyre | M. Carse  |
| 19    | Mrs M. Gray      | M. Gray   |
| 26    | Mrs S. Irvine    | S. Irvine |

| FEBRUARY | Donation         | Arranger    |
|----------|------------------|-------------|
| 5        | Mrs B. Easdon    | S. Tinto    |
| 12       | Mrs M. MacIntyre | M. Carse    |
| 19       | Mrs M. Pattison  | M. Pattison |
| 26       | Mrs A. Aitken    | R. McDonald |

| APRIL | Donation         | Arranger     |
|-------|------------------|--------------|
| 2     | Mrs A. McCulloch | A. McCulloch |
| 9     | Mrs A. Brown     | M. Pattison  |
| 16    | Mrs I. Renfrew   | M. Honan     |
| 23    | Mrs A. McMillan  | A. McMillan  |
| 30    | Mrs E. McKenzie  | E. McKenzie  |



## 2nd Barrhead Guide Company

We started the year in September with seven new guides to boost our numbers and add some fresh faces to our company.

In October, the girls working towards their Baden-Powell challenge organised and hosted a 'Dance Factor' evening which was very energetic and enjoyed by everyone.

Also in October we had a pancake morning which the girls helped serve tea, coffee and fresh pancakes. This was very well attended and a sum of £152.75 was raised for guide funds. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

In November we had the Remembrance Parade which was well attended and Bag-A-Badge day which two of our guides went to. This was an organised day where the girls spent the afternoon and gained two badges each. Well done girls!

On 14<sup>th</sup> November we had a pyjama party for Children In Need, where we played 'pin the bandage' on Pudsey, Guess The Teddy's Name Draw Your Own Pudsey and a pampering corner – all washed down with some hot chocolate, marshmallows and a cake! This all helped to raise money for a very good cause.

Over the next few weeks we will be going to the Ten Pin Bowling and the Variety Club pantomime – all before our Christmas party.

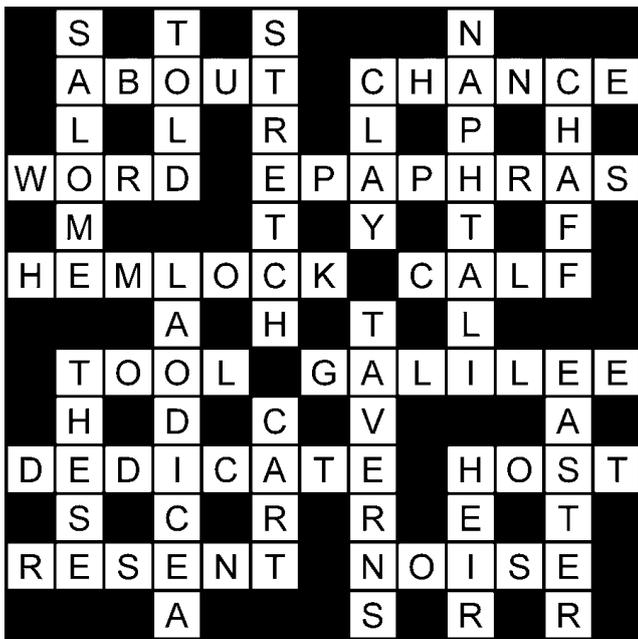
Anyone who wants to join us, please feel free to come along any Monday night.

Seasons greetings,

The Guides and Guiders of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Barrhead Guides.



## Autumn 2005 Crossword Solution



## 2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade Company

As we are now fairly well into our session, there have been some interesting developments which we can now bring you up to date with.

Last year was a particularly difficult year for us as numbers were down and we were struggling to keep the boys interested for the whole of the session. However, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Barrhead spirit prevailed and we had a successful and entertaining display to round off the year in style.

As we enjoyed our summer break, I received a phone call from Andrew McLaren, who as well as being one of our own officers is also helping at a company in Priesthill. He informed me that their captain – Ian Corbett – was no longer able to run the company and asked us if there was any way we could help. I had a meeting with Ian, who explained the company set up, numbers in each section, equipment available etc. and since geographically we are the closest company and their boys knew Andrew well, we felt that could (and should) invite the boys to join our company.

A meeting was held at St. Christopher's church in Pollok where the company actually met and the situation was explained to the boys and their parents. This meeting was a great success and quite simply, the boys decided that they wanted to join our company. This they did and have continued to come along.

Our Junior and Company Sections have gained greatly in numbers and in characters who have blended instantly into our company. Our own boys have responded fantastically, making their new friends very welcome and basically helping to make them "our boys" as well. We have always enjoyed a fun atmosphere whilst realising that discipline is necessary to make things go properly – and our boys are always ready to put this into practice.

A new and varied programme, plenty of boys, several officers and a host of battalion competitions to take part in can only help to take us forward .

We all wish Mr Corbett all the best in his retirement after a lifetime of brigade involvement and we know that we will see him around more often than not.

To all our boys, old and new, we know that we're going to have a great future and will make sure that we have "a lot of fun".

Graham Manson  
Company Captain



## TRIBUTE TO ANDREW McINTOSH

ANDREW McINTOSH WAS A NATIVE OF GLASGOW, HAVING BEEN BORN IN THE GORBALS. HE MOVED TO BARRHEAD BECAUSE HE WORKED WITH YORKSHIRE IMPERIAL METALS AS A PROGRESS CLERK.

ANDREW WAS MARRIED TO JANET IN 1950 AND THEY HAVE TWO SONS, CAMPBELL AND TOM AND TWO GRANDCHILDREN, JENNIFER AND ALAN.

ANDREW WAS METICULOUS IN EVERYTHING HE DID AND HE ALWAYS LIKED LIFE TO BE ORGANISED. THIS NOT ONLY RELATED TO HIS WORKING LIFE BUT TO HIS HOME LIFE AS WELL.

IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS HE WAS A KEEN CYCLIST AND THOUGHT NOTHING OF CYCLING TO PLACES LIKE FORT WILLIAM WHERE HE WOULD CYCLE THE DIRT TRACK FROM KINLOCHLEVEN BEFORE WALKING UP BEN NEVIS. HE WAS INDEED A FIT MAN.

HIS OTHER HOBBIES INCLUDED BADMINTON, SEQUENCE DANCING AND GARDENING. HE ALSO LOVED TINKERING WITH CARS.

ANDREW WAS SOMEONE WHO COMMITTED TO WHATEVER HE DID AND THAT WAS TRUE ALSO OF HIS CHRISTIAN LIFE. ORIGINALLY A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST HE JOINED BOUROCK THROUGH THE INVITATION OF A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH AND WAS A FAITHFUL PARTICIPANT IN WORSHIP. ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> OCT 1968 HE WAS ORDAINED AS AN ELDER AND HE SERVED FAITHFULLY IN THAT CAPACITY.

ANDREW HAS NOW GONE TO A WELL-DESERVED REST SURROUNDED BY THE LOVE OF GOD. WE GIVE THANKS FOR HIS LIFE AND OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH HIS WIFE JANET, SONS CAMPBELL AND TOM, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE JOAN, AND GRANDCHILDREN JENNIFER AND ALAN.

# Baptismal Register

## **March 2005**

Nathan Callum Gray

25 North Park Avenue

## **May 2005**

Blair Compton McKie

8 Rankin Way

Georgia Jane Foye Salmond

1 Deanston Park

## **June 2005**

Molly Margaret Nicol

Paisley Road

## **July 2005**

Lucy Elizabeth Johnston

94 Grahamston Park

Christopher Thomas John Murray

Crookston

## **August 2005**

Christopher William Miller

3 Deanston Park

Logan James Norris

37 Rufflees Ave

## **September 2005**

Abigail Wyllie Craig

10 Brownside Crescent

Jack David Stuart McCarthy

31 Wright Avenue

## **October 2005**

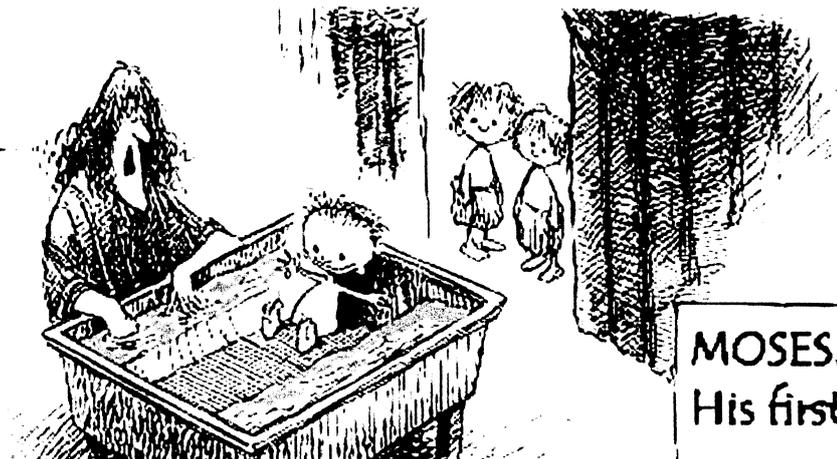
Ben McAlpine Grant

1 Ballantrae Crescent, Newton Mearns

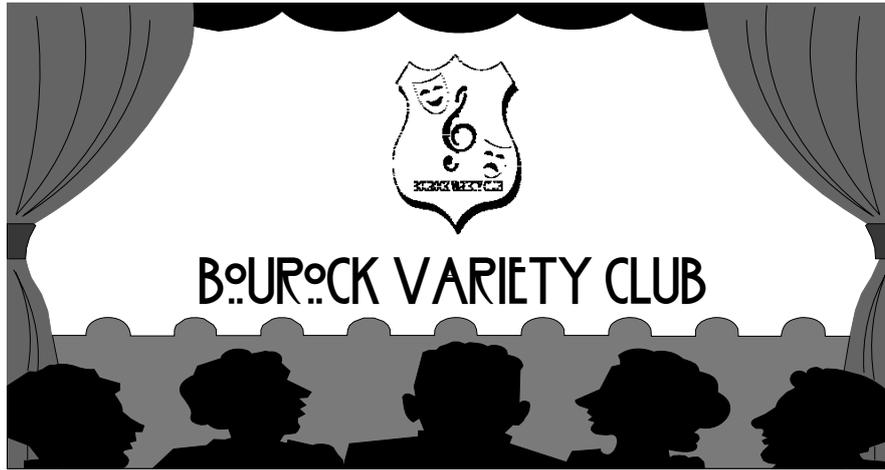
Oliver David Naismith Miller

6 Westerlands Gardens, Newton Mearns

**MOSES!!**  
Stop your  
nonsense  
and take  
your bath!!!

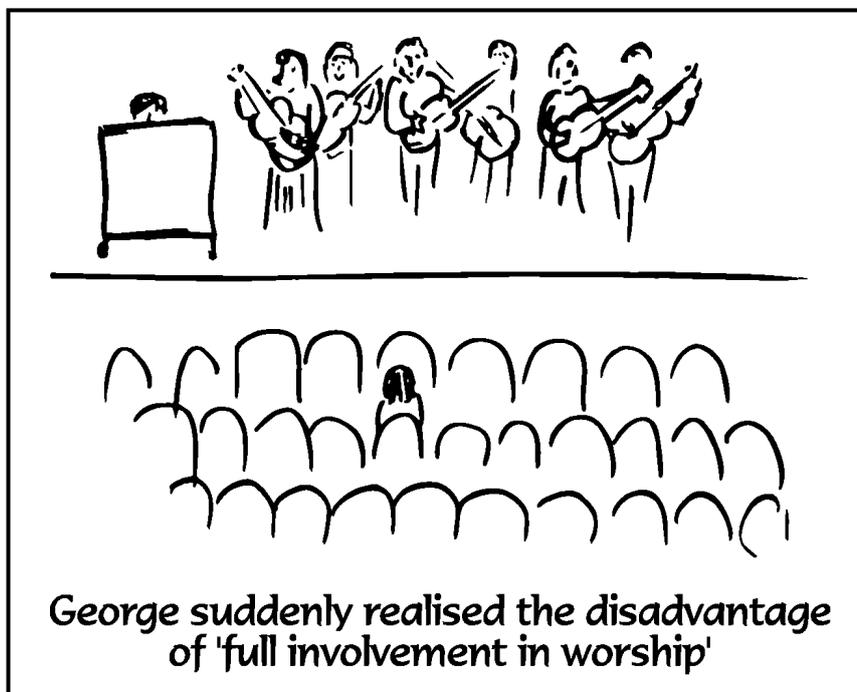


**MOSES...**  
His first years.



As I write, we have only three rehearsals to go until opening night. At this point, the nerves are starting to creep in and everyone realises that it's really too late to back out. The favourite saying in the club at this time is "we just need the costumes and an audience". What I am actually saying is "we need at least another six rehearsals"! Hopefully by the time you read this, the show will have played to full houses for six performances, and that cast and audience will have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Once again, we have had to extend our stage to accommodate our cast and are delighted to have some new members both front curtain and back stage. You will notice, however, that there is still a lack of males in our cast, so if you would like to join in fun and fellowship (as well as keeping Angus company) we would be delighted to welcome you in the new year.

Linda Dye



### Stop Press - Shoe Box Appeal

The children and teachers of Junior Church are pleased to announce that Operation Christmas Child will be uplifting 270 boxes to distribute. A big "thank you" to everyone who donated boxes, gifts or money for our appeal!



**2<sup>nd</sup> Barrhead Boys' Brigade**  
**Anchor Boys**  
**November 2005**

Our new session opened on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2005 with 33 boys in attendance. Only 4 of these were new to Anchor Boys, the rest were returnees from the last session. The number of boys attending each week varies between 30 and 33.

This year we have continued to use the same programme we have used in the past, the boys are familiar with it and it works.

This year, a new Anchor's programme has been introduced by the Brigade Executive. Instead of just the 3<sup>rd</sup> year boys gaining badges, all year groups can now gain awards. The new scheme focuses on Body (physical activity); Mind (think and do); Spirit (God and me); Community (me and my world) and Creativity (make and do). Elements from each category are incorporated in the weekly programme and boys will gain awards as they take part in the usual section activities.

The main aim of the programme is that the boys have variety and fun and enjoy themselves. If the enthusiasm and enjoyment shown by the boys is anything to go by, these aims are being achieved!

Because of the number of boys attending, an appeal for more helpers was made through the intimation sheet. There was a good response and Jackie Faulds and Angela McCool are now a part of the team. Jillian Webb has also returned as a helper. This brings our numbers to 7 including Lindsay Simpson, Ross and Gordon Murray and myself. I am very grateful for the help of these people, without them, there would be no Anchor Boys.

So far this year, we have had our Hallowe'en party which was well attended and enjoyed by all. The next event is the visit to the BVC panto matinee on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our Christmas party will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup> with a special visitor.

Anchor Boys will be on holiday for 3 weeks over Christmas and normal service will be resumed on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Three elders from Session visited us on October 5<sup>th</sup>. I think they enjoyed the visit! 33 small boys make a lot of noise!!

On the whole, the boys behave very well. A points system and a reward for the winning team encourage the boys to do their very best in everything.

We are very grateful for the support and encouragement we get from the session, congregation and parents.

Mary Murray (Officer in Charge)



### CHRISTMAS STAR

There are stars everywhere we look at Christmas time, on trees, cards or decorations. But the star only appears in one version of the Christmas story in St Matthew's Gospel (chapter 2, verses 1-12). Modern astronomers say that it wasn't a new star, or a meteor or comet. What was unusual in the heavens was that the planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were close together forming a triangle in the group of stars known as Pisces. The wise men who saw the 'star' and followed it would have interpreted this as the sign of a great event in the land of the Jews.

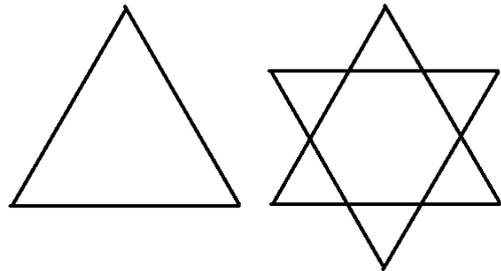


Many countries still celebrate the Christmas star in special ways. The 'Festival of the Star' is held in Poland after the evening meal on Christmas Eve, when the village priest, as the 'Star Man', asks the children questions about their religion. In Alaska, children carry a star-shaped figure around the houses and sing carols, hoping to be given Christmas treats.

### STAR WRAPPING

Make some really smart wrapping paper for your presents this year. Use plain brown paper and print it with stars (cut a star shape out of half a potato and use yellow poster paint).

Or use a gold or silver pen to draw stars all over the brown paper. Can't draw stars? Yes, you can! Draw a triangle, and then draw another triangle upside down on top of the first triangle. Easy!



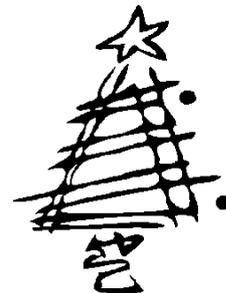
**Knock, knock**

Who's there?

**Wenceslas.**

Wenceslas who?

**Wenceslas train home?**



**Knock knock**

Who's there?

**Wayne**

Wayne who?

**Wayne in a manger.**

## Finance Report - November 2005

After undertaking major alterations to the buildings over the last 8 months it is not surprising that our finances are somewhat depleted at present.

Our toilet facilities were upgraded to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act with a new kitchen being built onto the annexe leading to the upper hall.

In addition to this we laid a new path at the East Side of the upper hall, adding railings as well.

To date the congregation and organisations have raised in excess of £18,000 towards the overall cost, for which the Finance Committee is extremely grateful. There was also a balance of £4,193 in the building fund prior to the work being undertaken, which has been used to offset the cost of this work. In addition we have secured £13,000 in grants from various charitable sources.

The total cost of the work to date is in excess of £47,000, therefore we still have some way to go before we have raised the full cost of the work undertaken, around £12,000.

In the meantime we must ensure we continue to meet our commitments; at the end of October offerings for the year to date was £50,943, equating to £1,158 per week. At this stage last year our income equated to £1,137 per week.

Bearing in mind the additional work undertaken this is welcome, however, sadly, due to increased expenditure, if offerings continue at the same level for the remainder of the year we are faced with a four figure deficit at the year end.

If this is the case this will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year in succession Bourock has incurred a deficit and looking to the longer term, if we continue to show deficits year on year, we may not be allowed to call a minister in future.

This year's figure, like previous year's figures, would be considerably higher if it were not for the "gift aid" scheme. In recent years we have claimed back in excess of £10,000 from the Inland Revenue, and have done so again this year.

This scheme allows the church to reclaim tax already paid by an individual so long as they have already paid sufficient income tax.

As can be seen from the above this is now an extremely vital element of Bourock's income and one we need to continue to take full advantage of. If it were not for this income we would definitely not be able to meet our annual commitments.

Again this highlights the importance of having as many gift aid declarations completed as possible.

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.

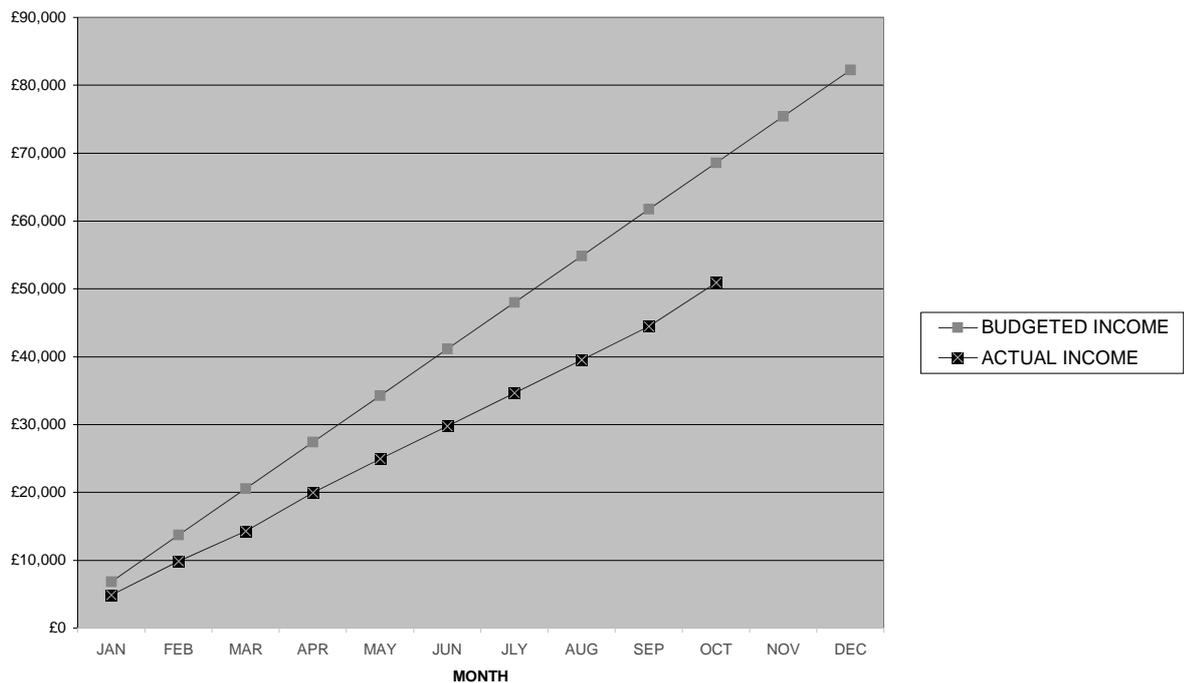
If you have not yet done so it will take you less than 2 minutes to complete the form. If you do Bourock will benefit accordingly.

If you wish to pursue either of these options please contact either Robert McKenzie or myself.

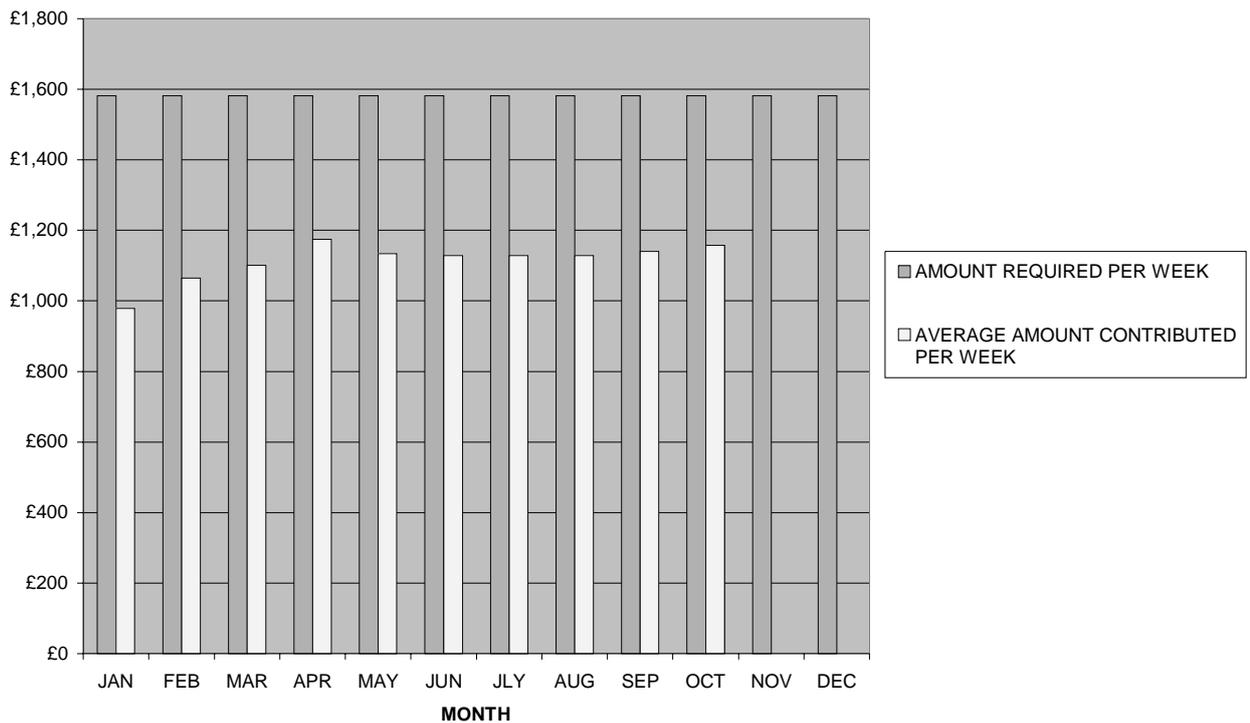
Derek Palmer  
Finance Convenor



**BOUROCK PARISH CHURCH INCOME FROM OFFERINGS 2005**



**BOUROCK PARISH CHURCH AVERAGE WEEKLY GIVINGS 2005**



## Craft Club

At the time of writing the Craft Club ladies (and their glamorous male assistants) are busy putting the finishing touches to what we think will be our best ever Sale on 26th November.

Although we have had a few smaller sales during the year this is THE big event in our calendar. As soon as Christmas is passed we begin the work to fill the tables at the next year's sale. We hope everyone who comes along will find something that they just can't resist.

There are now almost twenty members and they come along with amazing regularity on Monday afternoons at 2 p.m. We manage to keep busy and to enjoy a good chat and a laugh at the same time. Multi-tasking is our speciality. If you would like to come along to join us either come on a Monday or get in touch with me or any other member of the club for more details.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who comes along to support us at our sales, who donates materials which we can use, who comes home from holiday with cases full of plastic canvas etc and who brings new ideas for us to make. Keep up the good work!

Dorothy Ramsay

## Stravaigers

The 2005 season has just ended with a very successful walk along the banks of the River Ayr. As a native of that fair town I was delighted that the walk showed it at its very best. The party which had representatives from every one of the Barrhead Churches and whose ages ranged from 3 to quite a bit older enjoyed beautiful autumn colours reflected in the still waters of the river and the day ended with one of the most beautiful sunsets I have ever seen.



Over the year the walks have covered quite a few of the loveliest parts of Strathclyde and have given those who came along great pleasure. As usual we have tried to vary the length and difficulty of the walks so that all tastes are catered for. If you have not yet joined us to sample the camaraderie of the Stravaigers why not join us in the New Year.



As usual we will have a Fish Supper Night at the beginning of January when we will decide who will lead next year's walks. Details of exactly when this will take place will appear shortly. Please come along if you can.

## With Christmas Shopping In mind

Advertising: The science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it.

The Christmas season has come to mean the period when the public plays Santa Claus to the merchants.

A cheerful giver does not count the cost of what he gives. His heart is set on pleasing and cheering him to whom the gift is given.

The manager of a department store put this notice in the window: 'If you need it, we have it.' But in the window of a rival, a sign appeared, stating: 'If we don't have it, you don't need it.'

## Weekly Freewill Offering

All members of the Weekly Freewill Offering scheme will have their envelopes for 2006 delivered by their elder before the end of December. Next year's envelopes are of a different design to those used in previous years and I hope that everyone will find these easier to use.

I am disappointed to note that during the course of 2005, several members of the WFO scheme have failed to make any offerings to the church via their envelopes but also note that this number is decreasing.

During 2005 there have been a 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.

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

Robert McKenzie  
Weekly Freewill Offering Convenor

## Getting Ready For Christmas

Four men were talking on 23rd December last year, and discovered that none of them had yet bought anything for their wives for Christmas. All intended to shine up their credit cards and go that afternoon, or the next day (Christmas Eve!) into the town centre. Three of them had no idea even at that stage what they were going to buy.

On the other hand, their wives had posted all their cards and bought all their presents by mid-November, though they still had lists of other things to be done before THE DAY.

Have you ever thought of the preparations that God himself made for the coming of Jesus? The Bible tells us that "when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son. . ." When he had got everything ready, in other words. "Everything – like what?" you may say.

Well, for one thing, the TIME of his coming. The history of the Roman Empire was full of bloody conquests, but when the empire was complete, it offered a unique opportunity for travel and the spreading of news and ideas. In the years following Jesus' death, his followers could have travelled from Bethlehem to Berwick on Tweed safely and without a passport, if they wished, subject only to the weather. A knowledge of Greek would get them to Rome by land or sea, and Latin would take them the rest of the way.

If they could stand the long sea journey they could go from Joppa (Tel Aviv) to any port in the Med. or all the way to Britain. From any such port an excellent road system was at their service. You can pick out the Roman roads on a British road map even today.

Travel throughout the Roman Empire was probably easier for the spread of the news of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection for the first 400 years A.D. than it was until the 19th century. The time had come.

Even more significant was the preparation of the Jewish nation, their scriptures, their culture, and their informed expectation, which had begun with God's choice of Abraham around 2000 years before.

You think you have a lot to do before 25th?

# The First Christmas

