

SteepleTalk



THE MAGAZINE
OF
BOUROCK PARISH
CHURCH

EASTER 2015

Who's Who In Bourock

Minister	Pamela Gordon	
Session Clerk	Elizabeth McKenzie	880 5077
Deputy Session Clerk	Linda Dye	876 1201
Treasurer	Isobel Lawson	881 9457
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		
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		
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	Peter Christie & Ross Mitchell	
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	Robert McKenzie
Finance	Derek Palmer

Internet Addresses

Web Site	www.bourock.co.uk (find us on FaceBook)
Session Clerk	elizabeth@bourock.co.uk
Depute Session Clerk	linda@bourock.co.uk
SteepleTalk	editorial@bourock.co.uk

Message From The Manse

Earlier this year, I went to the cinema to see the film 'Wild' starring Reese Witherspoon. The film is based on the true story of Cheryl Strayed's 1100 mile walk on the Pacific Crest Trail, beginning in the Mojave desert and ending on the Oregon and Washington State Line at Bridge of the gods.

Cheryl, at the age of 26 lost her mother to cancer. Her family lost touch with each other and then her marriage ended. Impulsively, Cheryl decided to take a walk....eleven hundred miles in fact, on her own. Her life was shattered and she was on the trail or a pilgrimage to physically and mentally put her life back together again.

We as Christians are God's pilgrims - we, like generations of Christians before us seek healing, inspiration and redirection. Where does this journey begin? It begins in the heart and is carried in our Creator's hands. The intent of the journey is to be one of repentance, resurrection and rebirth - if you read the book or watch the film 'Wild' you will see just that, without giving too much away.

Our journey as pilgrims doesn't allow us to remain stationary. We move forward expecting to see God work with hope and faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit who took Jesus through his 40 days in the desert.

Hebrews 12:1 says: 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith' (NRSV). The journey for us takes us to the heart of God.

Sounds enticing but are you willing to put your walking boots on and become a spiritual pilgrim? Cheryl came up against mountain lions and rattle snakes on the PCT. As Christians, are we prepared to take risks and face uncertainties? A pilgrimage isn't meant to be a straight path from A to B. There are places to be explored, searched out, moved. There are questions that will be asked and answered, some not answered at least, not on this side of heaven. There will be challenges but who better to be a pilgrim with than Jesus who has been in the hard places. What are the hard places we have to face?

Conflict, Damaged reputations. Injustice. If you are thinking about hanging up your walking boots, not so fast. To refuse to travel is to take the easy road back to the armchair.

The armchair isn't for Christians. To be a Christian, a pilgrim is to refuse to let the power of the Gospel be tamed and not to settle for 'the low road'. The gospel message is repentance, resurrection and rebirth. May that be the message of our lives for our sakes and for the sake of others.

Here is a prayer for you to pray, written by Thomas Merton

My Lord God
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean I am actually doing so.
But I believe that my desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire in all I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this
you will lead me by the right road
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always
though I seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me
to face my perils alone.
Amen.

See you in church
Pamela

From The Kirk Session

At the end of each year we complete a return to Presbytery and this then goes to Edinburgh. For your information, these are some of the figures:-

- At the end of December 2014 we have **447** names on the Roll of Bourock Parish Church.
- We are very fortunate to have **206** young people under the age of 17 involved in the Life of the Congregation.

In Bourock we have strong organisations and we are indebted to the Organisation Leaders for all their hard work and for giving of their time and talents in this way.

Junior Church also has a dedicated team under the leadership of Linda Dye and we give thanks for all they do working with our children.

How can you help?

The Session has several committees who would welcome your input. If you can help them in any way please contact the convenor who is listed below.

Christian Education	Linda Dye
Finance	Derek Palmer
Mission	Irene Glover and Rhona McDonald
Pastoral Care	Moira McCartney
Property	Robert McKenzie

We need a Treasurer for the Church - Can you help?

Mrs. Isobel Lawson is standing down as Church Treasurer at the end of March. We urgently need someone to take her place. If you can think of anyone who would be able to take on this role, please give their name to the Minister, Elizabeth McKenzie or Derek Palmer, Finance Convener.

Pastoral Care Team would welcome drivers who would be willing to go on a rota to bring people to church. Contact Moira McCartney.

Property - things are always getting broken, a daily occurrence. Could you help by taking on some of the small jobs? Contact Robert McKenzie.

Welcome Teams still need some more people. Can you welcome people, uplift the offering etc. Contact Elizabeth McKenzie.

Bourock Church belongs to all 447 members not just Session.

Can you help? Please say "Yes" we can!

Elizabeth McKenzie (Session Clerk)

Kibera Project



Update from PCEA Kibera Parish

PCEA Kibera Parish has a new minister, Rev David Maina Muthui. The Parish have also announced the following appointments: Session Clerk, Elder Lawrence Githinji, Parish Treasurer, Elder Peter Karuku and Finance Chair Elder John Njenga Kimani.

HIV/Aids Orphans & Vulnerable Children Programme

The Central Offices of the Church of Scotland have given us an update on the HIV/AIDS OVC Programme that they fund in Kibera. This programme gives hope to those infected or affected by HIV and AIDS, and is a lifeline for the guardians and children who struggle in very vulnerable circumstances. There are twice monthly meetings with the guardians of 16 children, to share information and provide training on education, health and nutrition. There is also a very small savings and loans facility to encourage the guardians to set up a small business to support the children in their care. The programme also provides a peer education programme; a one-day seminar was attended by 68 junior youths, focusing on career and life choices. The programme also offers HIV testing and counselling services, and completed 42 tests in the first half of 2014, reaching 276 people through group counselling and undertaking home visits if appropriate. Local Church members donate clothes and food, which is much appreciated.

Update from Silanga High School

M.D. Lukorito, Principal, gave the following report: "This partnership has so far benefited 31 students... On behalf of the staff, I would also like to pass our sincere thanks. The funds you have provided have gone a long way in making our work much easier."

AGM 2015

This year's AGM will be held on Sunday 19th April 2015, in the Ferguson Chapel, Barrhead Bourock Parish Church, at 12:30pm. This meeting is open to everyone who is interested in the work of the project. Refreshments will be available in the Lower Hall after the morning service.

Below are two of the letters of appreciation written by current students:-

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: THANK YOU NOTE

This is to inform you that I have been doing well in my academics. I thank you for the support that you have offered to me since I started my secondary education. My mean score for last year was B-. Thanks too for the school uniform.

Charity Kamene Kilonzi, Form 4 2015

Ref: Sponsorship

I take this opportunity to say a word of "Thanks" for the assistance you have extended to me over the years, from uniform, school fee payment and moral support. I wouldn't have gone this far without your support.

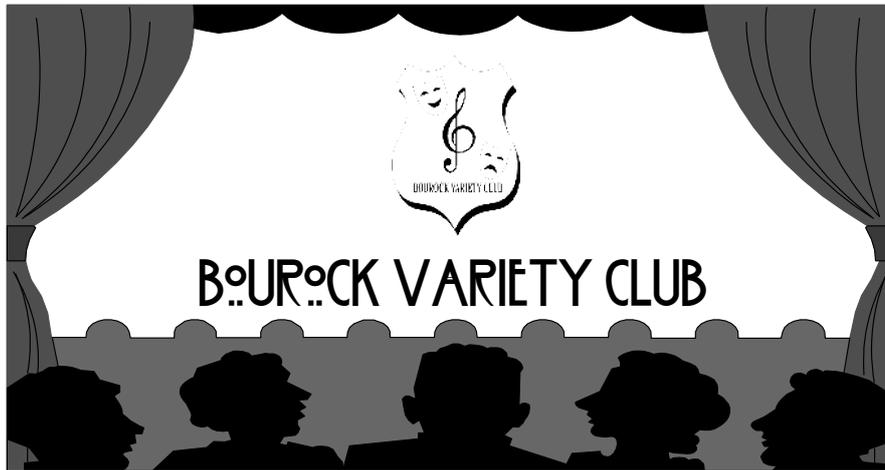
Mwongela Mathew, Form 4, 2015

Our website: <http://www.kibera.bourock.org.uk/>

If you would like to receive the Kibera New by email, please contact me as below.

Debbie Mitchell

deb.mitchell@ntlworld.com



At this time the club are working on a proposed 'Showcase' for Saturday 25th April. It is still very much in rehearsal mode but we hope that it will take place as planned. We know that this event has become popular with our loyal audience and is a chance for everyone in the club to maybe do something a bit different. We also know that the supper is much appreciated!

The Club will meet on Thursday 30th April to discuss our new show and then have a couple of weeks off. We will start again on Thursday 21st May and we would love to see some new faces. The Variety Club is open to members and friends of Bourock who are 16 or over and we really need some new members. Even if you don't see yourself on the stage there are lots of jobs backstage and we can guarantee good fun and you never know what talents you may have!

Rehearsals are every Thursday night from 7:30 in the lower hall and our show will take place during the first week in December. Please come along and give us a try?

Bourock Soup Stop

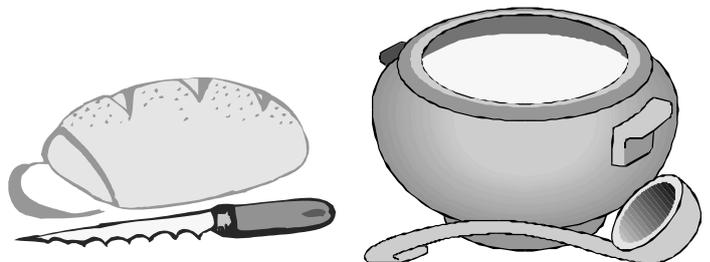
Friday lunch time in Bourock is becoming a very busy place indeed. It is wonderful to see so many different people coming along to enjoy food and fellowship and raising funds for charity.

We were delighted to present a cheque for £600 to MacMillan Cancer Care with January's profits and £650 was raised for the British Heart Foundation in February. This month we are supporting Glasgow City Mission. In January we enjoyed serving soup on Souper Sunday and £160 was raised for the Church of Scotland HIV Project. In addition, we give £200 to our own church every month which we hope more than covers our electricity.

Since Soup Stop started in April 2008 we have raised over £50,000 which is quite amazing and this amounts to quite a few gallons of soup!

Please continue to support us and if you have not sampled a Soup Stop lunch yet do come along.

Best Wishes for Easter from the Soup Stop Ladies



2nd Barrhead Brownies

The 2nd Brownies have had a very busy year so far. We started with 18 girls in September and increased to 26 in January, which is fantastic.



Our programme this year has been varied. Lots of activities, celebrations, St. Andrew's night, Burns' Night, Chinese New Year and Thinking Day celebrations where we remembered Brownies, Guides and Scouts in other countries.

The girls sat and passed a few badges this year. The Artist, Home Skills and Hostess badge which is always great fun with tea and cakes.

We will be celebrating Easter with baking and lots of crafts.

After Easter, we will be enjoying the outdoors with different activities (weather permitting) - games, gardening, planting pots and of course ending with our yearly BBQ.

In February, we ran a Coffee Morning for our charity "Laurens Lifelines". We raised £375 altogether which was fantastic. Lauren is a Brownie in the 3rd Brownie pack, who has a particular condition.

We would like to thank everyone who bought tickets, donated baking and bottles and who came along to support us. It was a super morning.

The last event will be the "Wizard of Oz" show at Eastwood Theatre on Saturday 16th May from 2:30pm. We hope all the girls will come along.

The Brownies will finish on Monday 18th May for this year and will start back on the first Monday in September for the 2015/2016 session.

Tweenies

The Tweenies have now finished for this session and will start back on Monday 7th September.

We have had lots of different activities including a sports night, pyjama party, lots of messy crafts and several new games.

At the end of March we invited along our parents for a craft and fun evening.

During this Session we have had two coffee mornings which raised over £100 each. Thank you to everyone who supported these.

Thank you all the leaders who come along faithfully every Monday. Without you the Tweenies could not happen.



If you would like any further details about the Tweenies contact Morag McKenzie (tel 880 5077), or come along at the start of the new session.

Finance Report Easter 2015

In accordance with guidelines implemented by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland the accounts covering 2014 were presented to and approved by the Kirk Session on 4th February 2015 and presented to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting on 29th March 2015.

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 2014.

We started off 2014 by carrying forward a surplus of £3,851 from 2013, with the General Fund at that time sitting at £69,396. Again during 2014 our ordinary income exceeded our expenditure, this time resulting in a surplus of £5,776, meaning the General Fund at the end of 2014 was £75,172

In 2014 total offerings were virtually identical to the figure in 2013; the total received by WFO and Standing Order increased by £1,459, which is the first increase in a number of years.

Again there were 2 other major sources of income, which represented over 22% of our total income for 2014.

Firstly, we recovered a significant sum from the HMRC via the Gift Aid scheme in 2014, this time the sum of £13,761. This is slightly higher than recovered the previous year, following the introduction of the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme by the HMRC, allowing claims on earnings under £20 where no Gift Aid declaration is in place.

This is an increase in the amounts recovered in recent years following the reduction in the basic rate of Income tax paid by individuals to 20%; 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 it takes less than a minute to complete the form. Speak to myself if you have any questions or wish a form for completion.

Secondly, we received £8,903 via hall lets, which is a slight fall from 2013; again this is a significant portion of our overall income.

During 2014 our expenditure fell by £2,429 compared to 2013's figure, reflecting reduced expenditure in all 4 categories.

We budgeted for expenditure of £103,836 in 2015, which is higher than our expenditure in 2014.

I would like to personally thank all members of the Finance Committee and the Gift Aid co-ordinator for all their work and assistance during 2014.

Finally, it is also appropriate to offer a special thanks to Isobel Lawson for all the work she has done during her 6 years as Treasurer.

Derek Palmer
Finance Convenor

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014

GENERAL FUND

	2014		2013	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Offerings				
WFO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	15,541		10,954	
Gift Aid Donations	50,044		53,172	
Tax on Gift Aid Donations	13,761		13,293	
Ordinary Offerings (Open plate)	7,216		7,268	
Other offerings and donations	703		2,553	
		87,265		87,240
Other Ordinary General Income				
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	3,750		4,250	
Income from:				
Regular Fund Raising Events				
Weddings & Funerals	705		325	
Investments				
Deposits	212		445	
Use of Premises	8,903		9,079	
		13,570		14,099
Total Ordinary General Income		100,835		101,339
EXPENDITURE				
Total Ordinary General Expenditure		95,059		97,488
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		5,776		3,851
EXCESS GENERAL INCOME				
		5,776		3,851
General Fund Balance at 1 January		69,396		65,545
Transfers to / from Ferguson Bequest		0		0
Transfers to Youth Fund		0		0
GENERAL FUND BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER		75,172		69,396

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE

	2014		2013	
	£	£	£	£
National Ministry and Mission				
Ministries and Mission Allocation (see Note *)	58,146		58,122	
National Stipend Fund Allocation (see Note *)				
Less: Vacancy Allowance	-8,286		-6,960	
Less: Endowment Income	-448		-448	
Mission & Renewal Fund Allocation (see Note *)				
Presbytery Dues	<u>1,155</u>		<u>1,140</u>	
		50,567		51,854
Local Staffing Costs				
Voluntary Additional Stipend & Employers National Insurance				
Minister's Travelling Expenses	172		149	
Minister's Telephone & Other Expenses	682		254	
Ministerial Assistance (Salaries, NI & Expenses)	4,939		6,460	
Pulpit Supply	450		395	
Other Salaries, National Insurance & Pensions	<u>673</u>		<u>0</u>	
		6,916		7,258
Building Costs				
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance	6,198		4,166	
Heating & Lighting	8,792		9,541	
Water Charges & Insurance	6,735		6,943	
Manse Expenses	3,158		4,598	
Cleaning contractor	4,858		4,810	
Cleaning Materials & Laundry	676		622	
		30,417		30,680
Other Local Costs				
Telephone, Posts, Printing, Stationery, Photocopying	1,075		994	
Congregational Organisations	0		0	
Organ & Piano Maintenance	720		661	
Choir & Music Expenses	2,500		3,223	
Publicity & Advertising	1,572		611	
General Expense	<u>1,292</u>		<u>2,207</u>	
		7,159		7,696
Total Ordinary General Expenditure		<u>95,059</u>		<u>97,488</u>

Information For Gift Aid Donors

As a reminder, the Gift Aid scheme allows the church to reclaim tax already paid by an individual so long as they have paid sufficient income tax in the financial year in question

The personal allowances for 2014-15 are:-

- For those born after 5th April 1948 - £10,000
- For those born between 6th April 1938 - 5th April 1948 - £10,500
- For those born before 6th April 1938 - £10,660

The figure for 2015-16 is £10,600 for all individuals born after 6th April 1938 and £10,660 for those born before this date.

Donors should also remember the following:-

- You must notify the WFO convenor if you have changed your address, as we now require a gift aid form which correctly quotes your current post code.
- If you no longer pay sufficient income tax again you must notify the WFO convenor.

Whilst it is expected the above will only affect a small number of members, if you have any queries on the Gift Aid Scheme please speak to either Derek Palmer or Fiona Auchincloss..

Congratulations

Congratulations to Kenny Rankin on completing his Readership course and we look forward to his "Setting Apart" Service soon.

Derek The Cleric





JUNIOR CHURCH



Lent is a busy time for Junior Church as in addition to our normal activities we are making a Lent Frieze highlighting all the bible stories we have been learning leading up to Easter Day. We hope to be able to share this with the congregation on Easter Sunday. We also had to fit in Mothers' Day gifts and cards and we do look forward to our palm branches on Palm Sunday. We will

be having an Easter Club on Easter Saturday 4th April from 10:00 – 12:00 for all children in our Church family. This is always a great morning where we follow in the steps of Jesus through Holy Week. We have used the same pattern for this for many years – games craft storytelling singing and baking (always a great favourite). The children seem to enjoy it and It is a wonderful way to learn about the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. We hope that many children will come along and take part in this amazing journey.

We know that Sunday morning is proving a difficult time for many parents as some of the children have other activities especially sporting ones on offer at that time. Please be assured however that Junior Church is delighted to see the children even if it is infrequently.

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Easter Blessings from all at Junior Church.

Summer Club 2015

This year's club - 'POLAR EXPLORERS' looks to be an exciting programme with lots of fun and activities for the children. We have already had our first leaders' meeting and so far we have 40 helpers signed up but we need lots more. There are many different jobs to be done during Summer Club and we guarantee finding the one to suit you! If you have not put your name down yet please add it the list on the Summer Club Notice Board in the Lower Hall. Even if you cannot commit to every night just indicate on the list the nights you can commit to. The more helpers we have the better the club is.



With the possibility of up to 300 children we need to know that we are covered to run our Summer Mission safely and successfully. The children hopefully gain a lot from the club but so do the leaders - ask anyone who has ever helped at a Summer Club and they will tell you firstly how tiring it is but always how rewarding.

Polar Explorers will run from Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July at 6:30pm and our 3 planning nights are 19th April, 31st May and 28th June - all Sunday nights at 7:00pm.

Helpers are encouraged to attend all training evenings but the last one on 28th June is compulsory as all safeguarding, fire regulations, first aid and behaviour issues will be covered. With the number of children involved it is most important that we are compliant in all areas.

This is our chance to really reach out to all the children in our community so please sign up and if you are unable to physically help please keep 'Polar Explorers' in your prayers.

Summer Club Committee

Holy Week Services

We hope that during Holy Week you will be able to come along to some of the services below:-

There will be a short Service each evening at 7:00pm

Monday 30th March This will be led by the Worship Leaders.

Tuesday 31st March This will be led by the Minister.

Wednesday 1st April This will be led by the Worship Leaders.



Maundy Thursday, 2nd April

10:30am Sacrament of Holy Communion led by the Rev. Margaret Whyte.

7:00pm Sacrament of Holy Communion led by the Rev. Pamela Gordon.

Good Friday, 3rd April

10:15am Walk of Witness this will leave St. Johns Church at 10:15am.

You can join this at any time on the journey round the churches.

7:00pm Stations of the Cross at St. Johns Church.

Easter Sunday, 5th April

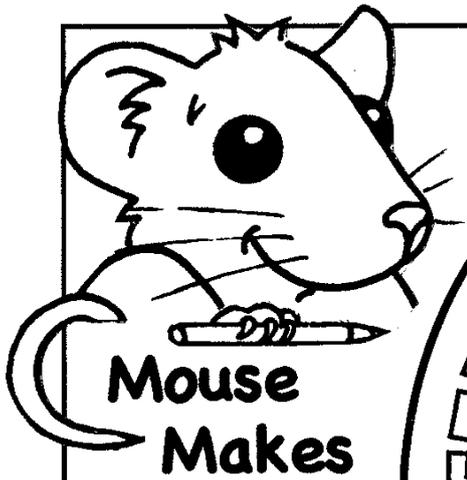
8:30am Short Communion Service
followed by breakfast.

11:00am All Age Service.

More Derek The Cleric



It's Derek's attempt to make
the offering more popular!



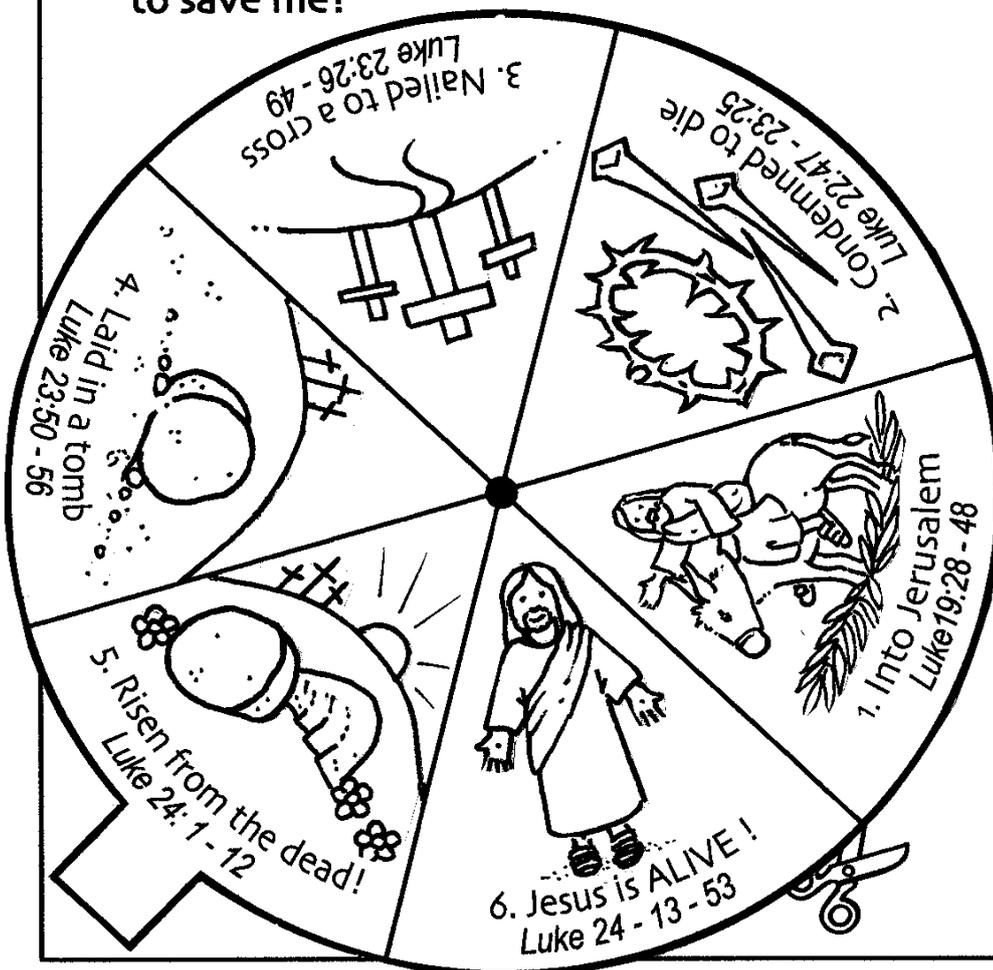
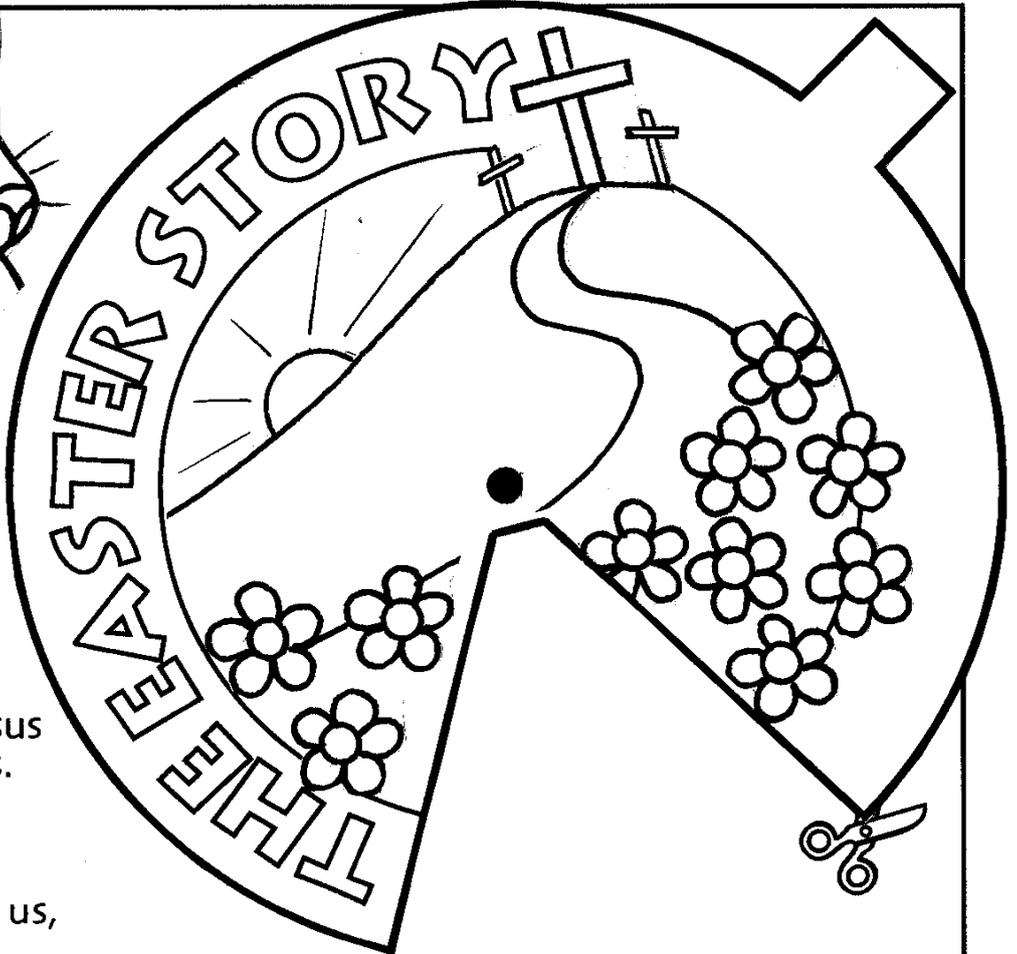
Mouse Makes

Nailed on a cross,
condemned to die,

They said that Jesus
was telling lies.

But he is risen
for all to see!

He came to save us,
**Jesus came
to save me!**



To make your Easter Story Teller glue the page onto thin card. Colour in then carefully cut around both circles. With the help of an adult, pierce a small hole through the black dot in the centre of both circles. Push a split pin through the top circle and again through the bottom circle to join together. Spin around to tell the Easter Story.

