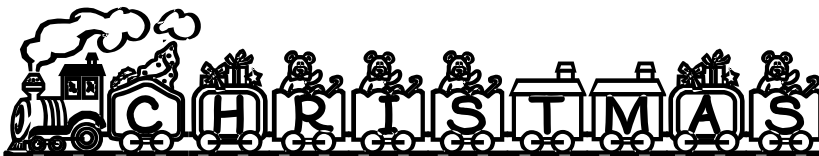


# STEEPLETALK



## The Magazine Of Bourock Parish Church



## **Who's Who In Bourock**

Minister	Pamela Gordon	881 8736
Session Clerk	Linda Dye	876 1201
Deputy Session Clerk	Neil McClune	881 4271
Treasurer	Derek Palmer	
Roll Keeper	John Whyte	571 4787
Halls Convener	Brian Honan	571 4520
WFO Envelopes	Ross Mitchell	
Junior Church	Linda Dye	876 1201
Guild	Marjory Brown	571 6403
Boys' Brigade Captain	Gregor Condy	0790 033 2461
Boys' Brigade (Company)	Gavin Cooke	0777 533 5286
Boys' Brigade (Junior)	Brian Heron	0785 030 6884
Boys' Brigade (Anchor)	Jean Hepburn	
Guides	Pauline Robbie	0780 883 2399
Brownies (2nd)	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Brownies (3rd)	Pauline Robbie	0780 883 2399
Rainbows	Heather Palmer	0734 181 2309
Bourock Friends Group	Susan Morrison	580 5292
Toddlers Group	Eleanor Forbes	
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	571 4520
Organist	Paul Robertson	
Child Protection Coordinator	Wilma Lundie	880 5320
Web Site	Ken Dye	876 1201

## **Business Committee Conveners**

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

## **Internet Addresses**

Web Site	<a href="http://www.bourock.org.uk">www.bourock.org.uk</a> (find us on FaceBook)
Minister	<a href="mailto:minister@bourock.org.uk">minister@bourock.org.uk</a>
Session Clerk	<a href="mailto:sessionclerk@bourock.org.uk">sessionclerk@bourock.org.uk</a>
Depute Session Clerk	<a href="mailto:sessiondepute@bourock.org.uk">sessiondepute@bourock.org.uk</a>
SteepleTalk	<a href="mailto:steepletalk@bourock.org.uk">steepletalk@bourock.org.uk</a>

Charity Registration No SC016467



## Message From The Manse

Dear Bourock Family,

One of my favourite traditions growing up in the run-up to Christmas was opening the Advent Calendar each morning (unless one my brothers got to it first!)

From the early 19th century, the countdown of days to Christmas originated in Germany. The Christian tradition was to mark the doors of their homes with chalk marks.

As the occupants entered their home, they would be reminded that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Later, families began lighting candles at the start of each December day and continued marking every day until 25th December.

Years later, families would place a candle on a tree every day. Sometimes the candles were lit every day or a family could simply place the candles on the tree and be lit on Christmas Eve. Again, a reminder that Jesus was born.

We tend to mark Jesus' birth a little differently and credit goes to Gerhard Lang who designed the modern day Advent Calendar. He created 30 different designs with 24 doors cut into the card to be opened every day, with both religious and non-religious images inside. Simultaneously, a calendar was made with Bible verses behind each door.

Advent calendars disappeared during the Second World War but as soon as it was over, another German, Richard Sellmer brought them back and was back in people's homes

Nearly all of the calendars portrayed the baby Jesus lying in the manger to remind people of his birth.

It is not unusual now to have chocolate Advent calendars!

Advent calendars have only become more popular and a much loved tradition for many people in this country. We as Christians are getting ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Each day when we open a new door, we can overlook the birth of Jesus and it is easy to do.

When you open your Advent calendar, take some time to think about the true meaning of Advent.

*Prayer*

Dear God,

Thank you for Christmastime.

Thank you for all the fun and excitement.

Please help us to remember the true meaning of Christmas and to have a good time with our families and friends.

**Amen.**

**Merry Christmas from Pamela and Bobby!**

## Christmas Celebration

This has been a most successful evening for the last two years so Session has asked the Worship Leaders to plan this event once again. So an evening of Christmas Carols, readings and Christmas music will take place Sunday 15th December at 7:00pm in the Church. This will be followed by tea, coffee and mince pies in the lower hall. Please come along to this evening to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

## Bourock Stravaigers

Stravaigers had another enjoyable year of walks with an increase in the number of attendees. The routes included Pollok/Bellahouston Parks, Rouken Glen/Huntley/Eastwood Parks, Eglinton Park Kilwinning, Dunlop, Galston and Eyemouth.

Our annual walking weekend was in late August when we were based in Melrose. There were 27 walkers at the weekend event and we completed four scenic walks in the Scottish Borders.

The Stravaigers Annual (Fish Supper) Meeting will be held on Saturday 4th January at 6:30pm in the Lower Hall at Bourock Church. We will look back at our 2019 activities, discuss the plans for 2020 and enjoy a fish supper tea.



## 2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade Junior Section

The Boys' Brigade Junior Section meets every Friday night and we currently have 12 boys enrolled who participate in many activities including drill, badge work, crafts and games.

We are fortunate this year to be helped out each week by 2 company section boys who are working towards their Queen's badge.

This session we have attended the Youth Organisations' Rededication Service and took part in the Remembrance Service.

The boys enjoyed dressing up for their Halloween party. Everyone enjoyed 'dooking for apples' and Halloween Bingo.

We have competed in the battalion competitions of 10-pin bowling, football and indoor team games.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party – with a special visitor!

The boys would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Brian Heron

Officer-in-Charge



In September we started as a Pre Rainbows group where the girls had lots of fun baking, playing games, colouring in and singing songs amongst other activities.

We officially started as a Rainbows group on the 4th of November with a brand new programme and the girls are thoroughly enjoying it.

Rainbows is all about developing self-confidence, building friendships, learning new things and having fun. Girls get their hands dirty with arts and crafts, get in touch with nature and play games.

All girls between 5-7 are welcome to join on a Monday nights at 6:30pm in the church hall.

Heather Palmer



Our show this year is a traditional family pantomime which is proving to be lots of fun at rehearsal stage – here’s hoping that the show is as much fun for our audience! Aladdin is a well-loved story with amazing characters and with the addition of the usual Variety Club twist should make for a great show. Tickets are selling really well and we would just love to have a full hall every night. The show runs from Tuesday 3rd – Saturday 7th December at 7:30pm every night.

As well as putting on our show in December and a ‘Showcase’ in April the Club has theatre trips, gives funds to the church and donates to charity. We would love to have some new members and if you come along any Thursday night we would be delighted to see you. Even if you don’t see yourself ‘on stage’ there is lots of work to be done with props, backcloths and costumes.

Thank you for coming along to our shows and supporting us over the years – one thing we always need is an audience.

## The Guild

Bourock Guild meets in the Lower Hall on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:30pm. The theme for this session is "Companions on the Road" which is the second year of the strategy, "One journey Many Road". We provide a varied programme with speakers coming from many walks of life. Our meetings are open to anyone who wishes to come along and always finish with a time of fellowship.

Over the years the Guild has tackled many difficult and challenging topics through the themes and has also provided tremendous financial support to the projects which have accompanied them.

In January, the charity Malawi Fruits is coming to share with us the work that is done to help the poor in Malawi and the following month, Jim Mitchell and David Miller have been invited to give us an update on Kibera.

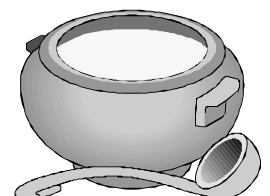
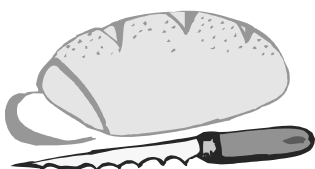


## Bourock Soup Stop

Friday lunch time in Bourock just gets busier and busier and that’s the way we love to see it. Good food, wonderful fellowship and the opportunity to raise lots of money for so many good causes. A definite recipe for success.

Our final total for Breast Cancer Care was £3,750 which was fantastic. Thank you to everyone who supported our Ladies Pink Lunch and joined us for lunch in October. Since Soup Stop started in April 2008 with just 4 of us and 2 pots of soup we have raised the amazing sum of £102,156.14. Over £15,000 of this can go to our own Church. It is wonderful that we have raised so much but Soup Stop is not just about fund raising – it is about sharing good food together with members of our local community in a warm and welcoming way. Our Christmas Lunch will be on Friday 20th December and we are all looking forward to serving a full 3 course traditional meal to our Soup Stop customers who support us all year round. Tickets for this are limited and selling fast!

Best Wishes for Christmas from the Soup Stop Ladies



## **Barrhead Churches Kibera Project**

A **Cream Tea** was held on the afternoon of Saturday 15th June at the United Reformed Church Hall. This event was very well attended, and together with the '**Buy a Book Quiz**' raised £839.64. Our thanks go to everyone who supported this event in any way - selling tickets, volunteering on the day, baking scones and cakes and coming along in the afternoon. It was great to see people from all around Barrhead enjoying their afternoon out. The event was very successful, not just in monetary terms but also by the fellowship shared between the helpers and the attendees



### **Buy a Book Competition Results**

#### **Adults Competition: Answer: Out of Africa by Karen Blixen**

- 1st A Campbell, Caplethill Rd, Barrhead
- 2nd V McGowan, Acacia Drive, Barrhead
- 3rd B Moody, Maxton Grove, Barrhead

#### **Children's' Competition: Answer: The Tiger Who Came to Tea written and illustrated by Judith Kerr**

- Erin Keegan (7), Lowndes St, Barrhead
- J Walton's grandchildren, Lavern Cres., Barrhead
- Charlie Oliphant (10), Bishopbriggs

Well done to everyone who answered the questions correctly and thank you to everyone who entered the quiz.

### **Renfrewshire Gospel Choir & Coffee Evening**

On Saturday 7th September a Coffee Evening was held in Bourock Parish Church. We were entertained by the Renfrewshire Community Gospel Choir. A lovely evening was had by all and £418 was raised for Kibera.

### **School Report Term 3 October 2019**

We received the following report from Marai I. David, the Principal of Silanga High School. "We cherish the close and cordial relationship we've had in the year 2019. God has been kind to us as a School, Church and Kibera Parish as a whole.

School programs: learning and teaching have continued on well through this year; albeit with some challenges. The school population currently stands at 110 students, twenty nine of whom are sitting for this year's KCSE National Exam. Six of these candidates are among the cohort supported by your organization-Barrhead. Out of their good discipline and hard work, we expect good results and progression to tertiary level. They have been leading in the previous examinations, including trial/mocks. Sponsored students in the lower forms (15) also perform equally well due to the fact that they are retained in school throughout (No school fees issues).



Our students participated in Convention and Christian rallies over the August Holidays organized by Kenya Christian Union Fellowship- Nairobi Regional office. Certificates were awarded to the participating students. The local church- P.C.E.A Silanga and parents facilitated this gradually, to which we are grateful to them and God. Limited sporting activities were undertaken, mainly in football, with neighbouring schools. During this term there are no extra-curricular activities as per government regulations. Also the term is usually short, one and half months to allow for administration of National Exams in November- these are the long holidays/Christmas break. It's our hope that God will sustain you in your spiritual and social life. Your support and prayers has helped us to cope and uplift the well-being of Kibera the church and community. We also do cherish your visits, welcome to Kenya. God bless you."

Debbie Mitchell  
Secretary, Barrhead Churches Kibera Project

## Choir

We recently held a service with the choir leading. During this service, choir members were asked about the choir and what it meant to them. This is one of the answers:-



I joined the church choir when I was 14 and Fiona Auchincloss is the only existing member from that time who still remains in the choir.

I have worked with many choirmasters and choir mistresses- Charles Donnelly, Len Hudson, Carolyn Suttie, Craig Weatherhogg, Lorna Moran, to name a few and presently Paul Robertson assisted by Ross Mitchell - each one bringing their own special touch and considerable talents.

**Why do I sing?** Because I love to. Music and song are a huge part of my life. I think there is nothing more enjoyable than adding harmony to music and being part of our choir.

It is true that when we sing together it is like no other activity - it fills us with emotions. It brings back memories - happy and sad. When we take words and add them to music it becomes part of who we are. We become what we sing.

How many times have you tried to remember the words of a bible verse and not been able to yet when these words are set to music it is relatively simple. Music helps the brain.

Studies prove that singing enhances cognitive abilities, short term memory, planning and an overall general sense of wellness. If singing in a choir pays such rich dividends to our overall health then surely it would do so in our spiritual health.

As a choir we sing to glorify God and hope we can help you experience a holy moment.

I pray that we continue to be a singing congregation with you being the big choir and us the little choir.

Susan Palmer

## **Finance Report - November 2019**

In accordance with guidelines implemented by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland the accounts covering 2018 were firstly presented to and approved by acclamation by the Kirk Session on 9th April 2019 then subsequently presented to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting on 12th May 2019.

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 2018.

2018 started off by carrying forward a surplus of £1,687 from 2017, meaning the General Fund at that time stood at £97,522.

During 2018 for the first time in a number of year our expenditure exceeded our income, by £1,843, resulting in a deficit and meaning that as at 31st December 2018 our General Fund stood at £95,682. Both income and expenditure fell in 2018 compared to 2017, however our income fell by a greater amount than our expenditure (£5,042 & £1,512 respectively), hence why we suffered a deficit for the year.

Total offerings received in 2018 increased by £415 compared to 2017; WFO/Standing Orders increased by £732 while Open Collections fell by £317. I would suggest though that this figure will fall for 2019, for a variety of reasons.

**Again we were very reliant on 2 other major sources of income to fund much of our expenditure.**

Firstly, during 2018 we recovered a significant sum from HMRC via the Gift Aid scheme, this time for £14,133.24 which was down over £700 from 2017; this includes a claim on earnings under £20 where no Gift Aid declaration is in place, via HMRC's Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

Secondly, during 2018 we received £9,621 via hall lets, which is an increase of £677 on the sum received in 2017, and again this equates to a significant portion of our overall income, almost 10% in 2018.

**These 2 sources of income account for over 24.4% of our total income, almost a quarter of our total income. Without either of them we would most definitely not be able to meet our annual commitments.**

**Therefore, can I once again ask anyone who contributes to Bourock either via Standing Order or WFO envelopes and pays sufficient income tax, who has not signed a Gift Aid declaration, to please consider completing one; by doing so you will allow us to reclaim income tax from HMRC on the value of your offerings. Claiming Gift Aid is vital to us being able to continue as a Church in the longer term, we need to maximise our income.**

When any new Gift Aid declaration form is signed we are able to claim back the value of standard rate income tax on the member's contributions for the last 4 years. This doesn't cost you anything and will only take you 2 minutes to complete the form.

Please speak to me if either you have any questions around Gift Aid, or wish to be given a form for completion — we must hold a valid Gift Aid form, which includes your current post code, to allow us to make any claim in the first place.

**Additionally If anyone who currently pays by WFO envelope or via the open plate wishes to pay by standing order please speak to me as well and I will provide you with the relevant details to effect such payments.**

At the time of writing this report I only have figures to the end of September 2019 and our expenditure is well in excess of income. This is primarily due to the cost of essential electrical work within the Church buildings, over £16,000 to date. We did raise £3,275.86 through donations made to the Cable Fund to offset some of the costs for the electrical work, which was a great effort (Donations can still be made) We will also utilise funds held in the Fabric and Buildings Funds, however as this will clear out these balances it will still leave a considerable shortfall which will have to come from the General Account, meaning we will most likely have another deficit in 2019.

Whether we like it or not finance is one of a number important elements in the long term survival of Bourock and is not something that can be ignored. If we wish to continue functioning as a Church we must be able to support and fund our commitments — if we do not we will only jeopardise our existence in the longer term.

Finally, I personally would like to thank all members of the Finance Committee and the Gift Aid co-ordinator for all their work and assistance during 2018.

Derek Palmer  
Finance Convenor



Barrhead Bourock Church  
Profit And Loss Account  
For the year ended 31 December 2018

		2018	2017
		£	£
Income	Collections - Open	5,660	5,977
	Collections - WFO	63,393	62,661
	Donations	135	727
	Gift Aid	14,133	14,839
	Income from O/S Agencies	9,621	8,944
	Income from Organisations	3,680	5,270
	Income from Weddings/Funerals	220	1,419
	Interest Received	30	40
	Miscellaneous Income	432	676
	Spring Fayre	-	1,793
		<u>97,304</u>	<u>102,346</u>
Expenses	Broadband	(313)	(491)
	Choir & Music Expenses	(291)	(336)
	Cleaning Contractor	(4,592)	(4,648)
	Cleaning Materials & Laundry	(930)	(1,036)
	Council Tax - Manse	(1,925)	(1,860)
	Donations to External Organisation	-	(906)
	General Expenses	(2,407)	(1,654)
	Heating & Lighting	(6,685)	(6,942)
	L & W Magazines	(52)	306
	Manse Expenses	(1,140)	(2,029)
	Minister's Phone/Other Expenses	(617)	(712)
	Minister's Travel Expenses	(1,084)	(1,343)
	Ministries & Mission	(57,704)	(57,725)
	Organ Maintenance	(311)	(752)
	Organ Supply	(760)	(650)
	Postage	(21)	(35)
	Presbytery Dues	(2,684)	(1,278)
	Pulpit Supply	(220)	(165)
	Rates & Insurance	(5,336)	(4,979)
	Repairs & Maintenance	(7,563)	(8,851)
	Salaries & NI	(3,591)	(3,822)
	Stationery, Print & Copying	(920)	(695)
	Youth Fund Expenses	-	(54)
		<u>(99,147)</u>	<u>(100,659)</u>
		<u>(1,843)</u>	<u>1,687</u>
Net (loss)/profit		<u>(1,843)</u>	<u>1,687</u>



# **JUNIOR CHURCH**



Our numbers are down in Junior Church but we have a very busy Creche and a good number of Pre-school children so this hopefully bodes well for the future. We continue using Spill the Beans material which is written for all ages by Scottish Ministers, Worship leaders and Youth Workers. We are delighted that they have decided to return to basing the material on the Revised Common Lectionary as the last few years using the Narrative Lectionary has proved very challenging for the children and the teachers. We are fortunate to have a great group of teenagers and it was wonderful to see 5 of them joining the Church in September.



Advent is fast approaching and as always is a busy time in Junior Church. Lots of donations have been coming in for Operation Christmas Child and our shoeboxes will be packed on Wednesday 27th November from 6:30pm in the Church. Everyone is welcome to come along and help. The boxes will be picked up the next morning and then taken overseas to be given to children who will have very little in the way of Christmas presents. A huge thank you to everyone in the congregation who has donated so generously to this appeal. Not only do you donate all the items we need but your financial contributions also cover the cost of sending the boxes which at £5 a box adds up to quite a sum. Special thanks to the Craft Club for their donation of the wonderful hats that they have knitted.

Our Christmas party will be on 21st December from 5:00pm till 7:00pm. Our Nativity Service on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm is really the highlight of the year for us and we hope is special for everyone who comes along. We are very aware that many other activities now take place on a Sunday morning so even if the children have not managed along to Junior Church on a Sunday we are always delighted to see them join us at Christmas.

Christmas Blessings from all at Junior Church.

## **Summer Club**

Summer 2019 saw another bumper year for the Summer Club. With the weather improving after a very wet start, 202 children registered for another busy week. At Backpackers, the children travelled with Jesus as he arrived in Jerusalem and explored the events of his last week on earth – helping them to understand his journey to death and his glorious resurrection. We also had the usual mix of songs, games, drama, craft, the challenge and lets not forget the crisps and juice.

A special thanks once again has to go to our band of helpers who made such a huge contribution to the week.

# **BACKPACKERS**

# CHRISTMAS AT BOUROCK PARISH CHURCH

Charity Registration No SC016467



## Sunday 8th December

3:00pm "Blue Christmas" Service  
*led by Rev. P. Gordon*

## Sunday 15th December

7:00pm "Christmas Celebration"  
*led by the Worship Leaders*

## Christmas Eve

7:00pm Nativity Service  
led by Junior Church

11:00pm Informal Communion Service

11:30pm Watchnight Service

## Christmas Day

10:30am Informal All Age Service  
Come along and bring one of your presents

## Sunday 29th December

11:00am Joint Service with St. Andrew's Church (in Bourock)

## Sunday 5th January 2020

11:00am Joint Service with St. Andrew's Church (in St. Andrew's)

# COME AND JOIN US



## CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations?

Or is it at the beginning of Advent which starts 4 weeks before the 25<sup>th</sup> December and is a special time for us to use to get ready for the birth of Jesus?



The word Advent means 'coming' and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare, not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today.

So perhaps the question isn't when does your Christmas start, but when does it finish?

## CHRISTMAS EVE

24<sup>th</sup> December is Christmas Eve and the answer to each of these questions starts with the letters EVE. Answers below.

1. What EVE is equal?
2. What EVE is a swamp in Florida?
3. What EVE is a happening?
4. What EVE is a dried flower?
5. What EVE is the end of the day?
6. What EVE is the world's highest mountain?
7. What EVE never loses its leaves?



**What goes red, white, red,  
white, red, white?**  
Santa rolling down a hill.

**What did the snowman and  
his wife hang over their baby's  
cot?**

A snow mobile.

**What's brown and sneaks  
round the kitchen?**

Mince spies.



Answers: 1 even 2 Everglades 3 event  
4 everlasting 5 evening 6 Everest  
7 evergreen