JOHNSTONE KIRK

CONGREGATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF JOHNSTONE KIRK

Spring 2025

Dear Friends,

In the last Herald I remember writing that we were looking forward to the union of St Andrew's Trinity and St Paul's to create the new Johnstone Kirk and the linkage with Johnstone: High. The formal voting has now taken place, and we look forward to the next milestone of the service of union and service of linkage which will both be organised by the Presbytery and should be happening quite soon. These are very exciting steps that will enable our churches to move forwards in the process of being able to advertise the vacancy and subsequently call a new minister.

There is a particular passage that I love in the New Testament which reminds us of the need to allow our lights to burn brightly: "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." (Matthew 5v15) Jesus exhorts us to use our talents and skills for his kingdom, and to allow ourselves and our lives to be used to give glory to God, and never to hide this or cover this with a bowl. During this next stage of the story of the churches in Johnstone, we will all be needed to exercise our gifts and talents to enable us to reach out to the people of Johnstone, and together to share the love of God, made known through his son Jesus Christ, to all.

Every blessing
Philip

FLOWER LIST 2025

The new list for 2025 is pinned to the wall, behind the table in the vestibule.
Anyone who wishes to have flowers in the church to commemorate a special event or celebration can add their name to the list on the Sunday nearest to that particular date.
More than one person can use the same date. A monetary donation would be appreciated.
At present, there is still a number of dates empty.
Please consider adding your name to the list as after the service the flowers are delivered to the sick, bereaved and housebound.
If you require any further information please speak to any elder on duty in the vestibule.



Anne Brown
Flower Convenor
01505 343956

Tuesday Afternoon Tea Group





It always amazes us how many people join us for the afternoon tea. We have gone from strength to strength.

As usual we always have a selection of scrumptious home baking which is enjoyed by everyone.
Each month we look forward to seeing all our existing members and hope some new members will join us as well.

We meet at 1.30p.m. on a Tuesday once a month.
Please keep an eye on the pew leaflet for the dates.





The photos show everyone enjoying the Christmas Tea. Lots of Festive Jumpers and headgear. Plenty of carol singing with the help of Christine and Margaret. A great time was had by all.

Regards,
Jean Shanks

KG FITNESS









Every Saturday morning between 10am & 11am there is a seniors fitness class held within the Keanie Hall. The class is run by Kirsty Galt. Kirsty is a very enthusiastic and motivational teacher. All levels of fitness are accommodated and exercises adapted if required. If you want to improve your fitness levels please come and join us.

The ladies of the Group enjoyed a Christmas Lunch in Trattoria Roma. There was much laughter and a wonderful time was had by all.

The photos were taken at our Christmas Lunch.









WAYS AND MEANS SOCIAL COMMITTEE



CHRISTMAS FAIR

As reported in the last Herald, our Christmas Fair was held on 7th December.

Despite it being a miserable day, we were extremely busy. All stall holders did a great job providing a large variety of goods for sale, including for the first time, chocolate oranges with knitted Christmas themed covers which went down extremely well.

It was so good to see a full hall and everyone enjoyed having a cuppa, some home baking and good catch up with old friends as well as new. A sincere thanks to all the home bakers who never fail to rise to every occasion.

Once again, our Junior Drama members gave a fantastic performance. Linda Rae and her team are to be congratulated on the high standard these youngsters have reached. Finally, I'm delighted to say we made the fantastic total of £2,145

A massive thank to all.



BURNS SUPPER



Our annual Burns Supper was held on Friday 17th January.

As ever this was a great night and we owe so much to the array of talented folk in the church for the entertainment. To Sheila and Moyra for providing the food for us which is always very well received.

Once again Logan McKenzie did us proud piping in the top table and of course the haggis.

We had over 70 attending, so thank you to all who came together to make this another success.





Total raised for Church funds on the night was £400.





AFTERNOON TEA

An afternoon tea was held on Saturday 15th February with the entertainment provided by the immensely popular Regan Lindsay.

Photos to follow in the summer magazine.

JOINT CHOIR NIGHT - Back by popular demand!!!

On Friday 21st March within the Church we will be welcoming back to entertain us, the members of both Renfrew Ladies Choir and Clydebank Male Voice Choir.

This will be the third time having this event. The past 2 years have proved extremely popular with up to 150 people attending. Please watch the pew leaflet for further details and when they become available, please get your tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Once again thanks to all who support us.
Aileen & the ways & Means Committee

3rd Johnstone Boys' Brigade

We were pleasantly surprised and delighted to receive a fantastic donation from the Kirk Session of St. Paul's and put it to good use with a Christmas party for the Anchors and a visit to Tropical Island at Xsite Braehead for the Juniors & Company sections.

We're now back for 2025 and looking forward to the Boys gaining their badges and awards.

We are still recruiting and would be delighted to welcome further members see below: -

Anchor Section (P1 - P3) 6:30pm – 7:30pm Contact: Liz Anderson Tel. 01505 335597
Junior Section (P4-P6) 7:00pm – 8:30pm Contact: Stephen Gardner Tel. 07515 831114
Company/Snr Section (P7–S6) 7:45pm - 10pm Contact Stewart Digney Tel. 07355 054878

Best wishes from all the Boys & Officers of 3rd Johnstone BB









Find us on: facebook

3rd Johnstone Boys' Brigade Company

3rd Johnstone Brigade Band

1st & 3rd JOHNSTONE GIRLS' BRIGADE



We've had a busy start to the year, welcoming two new Juniors to our Company. We resumed our activities with a lively Burns Celebration, enjoying ceilidh dancing and a selection of Scottish treats, including haggis crisps, Tunnock's teacakes, caramel wafers, red cola, and Irn-Bru.

Our badge work is progressing well. The Explorers have been learning about friendship and kindness, while the Juniors have been discovering the importance of plants - planting their own daffodils along the way! The Brigaders have been discussing online safety, focusing on fear and respect, as well as learning to play badminton.

It has been wonderful to see the girls connecting with others across the Clyde Division. 15 of our Explorers and Juniors had a fantastic time at the Craft Competition, making new friends and designing beautiful Easter bonnets. Our Brigaders also enjoyed a thrilling day trip to Blackpool, joining many other girls from across the Clyde Division.



This year, 1st Johnstone GB is celebrating its 75th birthday! To mark the occasion, we are hosting a Cream Tea Party in the Keanie Hall on Sunday 16th March 2025, and everyone is warmly invited. Tickets are limited, if you would like to attend, please get in contact with one of our GB leaders.

As we approach the end of our session, all our girls and leaders are busy preparing for our Annual Display and Prize Giving, which will take place on Tuesday 6th May at 7pm in the church. We would love for you to join us in celebrating the achievements of our girls.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Easter!

Best wishes,
The Leaders and Girls of 1st & 3rd Johnstone Girls' Brigade



ERNIE, THE Fastest DANCER IN THE WEST.

You could hear the music sound
As they raced across the ground
The clatter of their heels
As he spun her round and round,
He tangoed in and out of hold
Dancing closely chest to chest
She said, I'm having such a lovely time
You really are the best.
That tickled old Ernie (Ernie)
And he danced the fastest Tango in the west.
Now Ernie loved to tango
And the ladies loved that too
He'd invite them up one by one
Then show them what to do.
Sometimes they were too good for him
They were crafty proud and quick
But Ernie got to dance with them
Three times every week.

They called him Ernie, (Ernie)
And he danced the fastest Tango in the west.

Now one lunch time girls saw Ernie
Quietly sitting off the floor
It drove them mad to see him
Still there at half past four.
Now one got up from her Tango seat
Sore bum and an empty cup
She went across to where Ernie sat
And she didn't half invite him up
Her name was Sadie (Sadie).
And she loved the fastest in the West.
Ernie was only 52, he only wants to dance
And when he sees a lady sitting out
He always takes the chance,
Cos the dancers there are angels
The ferocious ones are banned
And Ernie's life is full of fun
In that Tango dancers land.
But a woman's needs are many fold
And it really must be said
Strange things happen on that Tango floor
And Ernie's face went red
Was it just the speakers rustling
Or just the music sounding great,
Cos Sadie gave him a great big kiss
And later so did Kate

They won't forget Ernie (Ernie)
And he danced the fastest Tango in the west.

Sent in by Irene Jones



Thursday Club

The Badminton Group and the Craft Group have now joined together to form the Thursday Club. Everyone is welcome to join us on a Thursday afternoon from 2p.m to 4p.m. in the Keanie Hall.

If you are able to enjoy a game of badminton or whether you just enjoy the company of others then come along for an afternoon of fun, chat and a cup of tea.



Please come and join us. All are welcome.

The ladies enjoyed a Christmas Lunch where there was much laughter and delicious food. The photos show a snapshot of the afternoon.

Lyn Thom







Saturday Sunshine Club



The Saturday Sunshine Club started in September 2016 as Messy Church with The Rev Dr. Alistair Shaw leading the committee. After our first year a decision was taken to change the format and the name to Saturday Sunshine Club.

The Club has been a success over the years and many children and parents have come through the doors and enjoyed fellowship through an animated Bible story, crafts, games and sitting together to enjoy a meal.

Unfortunately, due to falling numbers and a few other reasons it was decided that it was time to bring the Saturday Sunshine Club to an end. So, on December 21st we finished on a happy note with our Christmas crafts, Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa. It was a busy day, well attended and enjoyed by everyone on what was an emotional time.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have given of their time and skills, some having been there from the beginning and to all who have supported with donations and the Kirk session for agreeing to funding. Without all of them it would not have been possible.

Christine McCormack







Friendship Group



The group meets in the Church on the 2nd& 4th Monday of the month. We have about 20 ladies who attend. It's always a wonderful afternoon of fellowship,much laughter and of course a cup of tea. Our Meeting in December was our Christmas celebration. Lots of delicious snacks & treats. We also held a secret santa which everyone took part in. All the gifts received were much appreciated and very diverse.

The photo show us enjoying our festive celebration.
Please come and join us. All are welcome.

Fiona Millar & Isobel Seivwright









St. Paul's Junior Drama



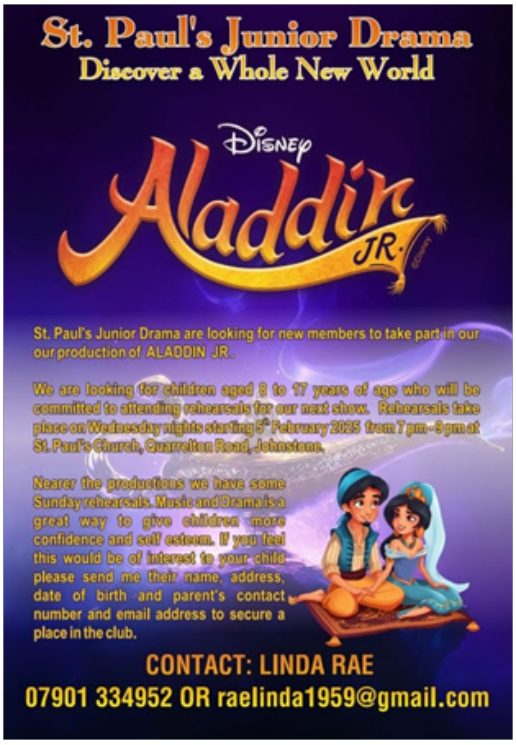
Christmas 2024 was a busy time for the Junior Drama. On the 7th December we were kindly asked to sing at the Church's Christmas Fayre. We sang a variety of Christmas Songs and the children had a great morning, they certainly filled the room with festive cheer. Thank you again to Aileen and team for asking us and also for the head wear for the children and their selections boxes.

After the Christmas Fayre we rehearsed for the forthcoming Nativity. Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the Wee Donkey took place on 22nd December and going by the comments the congregation thoroughly enjoyed it. Our Baby Jesus Fearne Galt was so well behaved that day and slept through the full performance.

The month of January the production team have been preparing for our next production which will be Aladdin Jr. The children started back on 5th February, 2025 when they auditioned for the next show. The show will take place in the autumn, dates to be confirmed. We are looking for new members so if anyone knows of any children between the ages of 8 and 17 who may be interested please let me know.

Linda Rae





CHURCH DIRECTORY

Interim Moderator	Rev Phillip Wallace 1 Alexandra Drive Renfrew	0141 570 3502
Session Clerks	Elizabeth Alexander 24 Spey Place Johnstone	07581480155
	Graham Martin 6 Taylor Avenue Kilbarchan	01505 704373

This newsletter is for everyone. If you have articles that you would like to share, like family celebrations, news, photos from past events in the church or other items of interest, please email or phone the editor. Thank you.