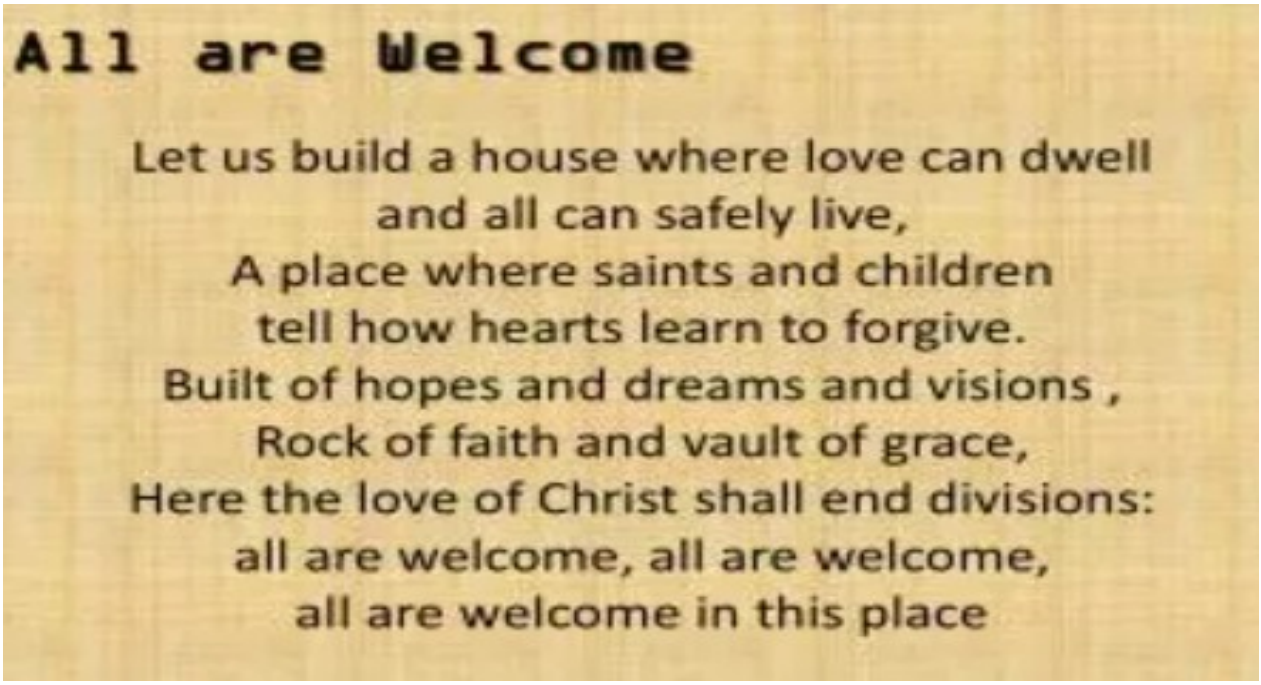
Johnstone Kirk

KIRK NEWS

Summer 2025



New time for our Sunday services
From 11th May our Sunday morning service will begin at 10.15



THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
PRESBYTERY OF CLYDE

Service of Union and Linkage
of
Johnstone High, St Andrew's Trinity & St Paul's

In Johnstone St Paul's
on

Tuesday 11th March 2025
at 7:00 pm

Revd Dr Christine Goldie
Moderator

Revd Robbie Hamilton
Presbytery Clerk

Revd Ken Gray
Minister at Bridge of Weir Freeland

The service of Union of St Paul's and St Andrew's to form Johnstone Kirk & Linkage with the High Parish took place on the 11th March 2025. The Worship was led by Rev Dr Christine Goldie, Moderator of the Clyde Presbytery. This well attended event included members both young and old from the congregations of the three churches together with members of Presbytery.



The service was thought provoking and filled with emotion, togetherness and above all harmony. Making all those attending contemplate, with hope, the new future and next chapter in the life of the Church of Scotland in Johnstone.



At the conclusion of the service everyone enjoyed a delicious celebratory buffet in the halls.
An evening which will not be forgotten.





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. Entertainment is very varied. We've had Poetry Reading, Personal Stories, Solo Singing & Community Singing. Everyone engages fully and thoroughly appreciates the entertainment provided.

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



We had a very special celebration at our Tea on Tuesday 22 April. One of our members, Jean Abraham, was going to reach the age of 96 years on the 24 April. Jean was overwhelmed when a cake, complete with candles, was brought out and we all sang Happy Birthday.

The Photos are of some of our attendees enjoying Afternoon Tea and of course, our birthday girl Jean above.

Thanks to all who attend and to those who help to set up and serve the tea.

Regards
Jean Shanks





WAYS AND MEANS SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Afternoon tea with entertainment by Regan Lindsay - Saturday 15th February



What a busy and extremely enjoyable afternoon. Around 80 people attended and we had a sing-along, dance-along afternoon. Many thanks to Regan for once again giving his time and talents, also our ever faithful bakers and all who contributed to making this a success. Total raised for church funds was £420



Joint Choir night - Friday 21st March

Well, what a way for the choirs to perform their last concert for us!! It was a fantastic evening and the choirs excelled themselves, the singing was superb. Over 150 people attended just showing how popular this evening always is. Thank you to our talented bakers for once again coming up trumps it was a big ask! also to everyone who helped in any way it was very much appreciated. £741 was raised.





VE Day celebration brunch — Sunday 11th May after morning service

Celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a light lunch (sausage rolls sandwiches and home baking) and a few songs from Regan Lindsay.

Taylors Fashions - Friday 27th June

A date for your diary. A good selection of reasonably priced clothing is always on sale this is always a very busy and fun night.

What's On in Johnstone Kirk

There are lots of groups and activities to suit all ages going on in Johnstone Kirk.

Weekly activites and groups for young people—these will re-start after the summer break

Day	Time	Name	Age group
Sunday	11am	Quest Group	Secondary school age
Tuesday	7 - 8pm	1st & 3rd Johnstone Girl's Brigade - Explorers	Primary 1 - 3
Tuesday	7 - 8.30pm	1st & 3rd Johnstone Girl's Brigade - Juniors	Primary 4 - 7
Tuesday	7 - 8.30pm	1st & 3rd Johnstone Girl's Brigade - Brigaders	Secondary school age
Wednesday	7 - 9pm	Junior Drama	8 - 18
Friday	6.30 - 7.30pm	3rd Johnstone Boy's Brigade - Anchor Section	Primary 1 - 3
Friday	7.00 - 8.30pm	3rd Johnstone Boy's Brigade - Junior Section	Primary 4 - 6
Friday	7.45 - 10pm	3rd Johnstone Boy's Brigade - Company/Snr Section	Primary 7 - S6

Activities for all ages

Day	Time	Name	Age group
Saturday	10 - 11am	Get up and go with Kirsty Galt - KG Fitness	Exercise group designed for all ages and abilities
2nd and 4th Monday of the month	2pm	Friendship group	Everyone welcome
Tuesday once a month - watch pew leaflet for date	1.30pm	Afternoon Tea Group	Everyone welcome
Thursday	2.00pm	Thursday Group	Everyone welcome

Our amazing Ways and Means/ Social Committee organise lots of events and celebrations though out the year such as

Burns Supper
Fashion show/sale
Choir nights and other musical events
Beetle Drive
Christmas Fayre

All welcome at our Sunday Services and the above activities. Please check out our Facebook page or pew leaflet for more information on any of these activities or ask any member of our congregation

3rd Johnstone Boys' Brigade

We are progressing our BB badge work and also participated in Johnstone's 80th Anniversary of VE Day commemorations on 10th May. We particularly enjoyed creating 'bunting' for the occasion and it's been a real eye-opener how therapeutic colouring in has been.



One of our Boys, Logan, took part as a piper in New York's Tartan Day and had a fantastic time, meeting John Swinney First Minister and representing Renfrewshire Schools, 3rd Johnstone BB, Scotland and of course Johnstone Kirk.

We also hosted an 'Open Fun Night' on Friday 16/05/2025 (6:30pm-9:30pm) and were delighted to welcome potential new members to come and try BB. Our Annual Display was held on Friday 23rd May (photos to follow in next edition of the magazine). This is being followed by a series of informal BB fun nights/trips every Friday till the end of June.
We would always be delighted to welcome new 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 3rdJohnstone BB





Find us on: facebook

3rd Johnstone Boys' Brigade Company

3rd Johnstone Brigade Band

1st & 3rd JOHNSTONE GIRLS' BRIGADE

We've had a busy term filled with crafting, learning new games, and making friends. As we write this for the Kirk News, we're practicing for our Annual Showcase and Prizegiving. More details will be shared in the next edition.



Our Explorers and Juniors attended the Clyde Division Craft Day (covering Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, and Dunbartonshire) on Saturday, 15th May. The girls had a fantastic time making friends with young people from other GB companies. The explorers were designing pencil cases and the Juniors (and Laura-Jane) were making funky tiles.

Our Brigaders enjoyed a thrilling trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, along with 70 other Brigaders and leaders from across the division. The day was described as "AWESOME!!!" and "TIRING"…. After a 5.30am start, it's no surprise they were tired.



A big thank you to everyone who joined our 70th Birthday and first-year celebrations. We had a wonderful day, and special thanks go to the leaders who made it possible. An extra special thank you to Noreen for decorating the hall with beautiful flowers and pretty decor. We truly appreciate your help.





Our talented Brigaders participated in a GB Scotland baking competition, sticking to our theme for the year - Noah's Ark. The girls did a fantastic job, and we're sure you'll agree they are future Bake Off stars in the making! We are still awaiting the results of the competition. In the progress of the competition, the girls also raised £50 to be donated to Jak's Den (charity).

During the school Easter holidays, we hosted an Easter lock-in (sleepover). The Explorers learned how to play rounders, and we tried an "Easter bunny drive" - it was delightfully chaotic. Despite getting very little sleep, the girls had an eggcellent time.



We had our Showcase and Prizegiving on Tuesday, 6th May, followed by our end-of-year activity - a trip to the cinema to see Disney's beloved Stitch. Details and pictures will be in the next edition of the magazine.

Best wishes,
Captain, Leaders, and Girls of 1st & 3rd Johnstone GB

Celebrations for some of our members



Congratulations to Liz and Ian McGregor who celebrated their Golden Wedding on the 5th April 2025.









Valerie's 70th Birthday Celebrations



I turned the ripe old age of 70 on the 2nd April. Prior to that date our younger son Craig organised, (behind my back), a celebratory day with relations and close friends, including our older son Stuart who lives down south. It began at Craig's home with lots of surprises, laughter, champagne (& other drinks) then out to enjoy a delicious meal. It's a day I'll never forget. The day was filled with so much joy, happiness & love. This was organised early as my husband and I were going on a cruise to within the Artic Circle and would be at sea on my actual birthday. It is difficult to explain how wonderful the cruise was. The scenery was magnificent although the cold & wind was perishing. We went Reindeer Trekking, visited the Igloo Ice Hotel, Ice Cathedral, Northern Lights Cathedral and much more. Though I have to say that the Northern Lights evaded us. We only saw them through a lens and not with our own eyes. The photos show a snapshot of the celebrations. My party with balloons & cake. The above-mentioned trips and the photo taken on my actual birthday with champagne in hand on the ship.



Thanks for allowing me to give you a brief overview of my Birthday.



Shirley Munro's retiral

On the 26th March 2025 I retired after working for 47 years in Early Education. Most of my years were spent working as a senior Early years practitioner in Paisley Early learning and childcare centre. Prior to that I worked in Quarriers, Douglas Street Day nursery and Castle Street Nursery.

Much of my work involved child protection and supporting young parents and vulnerable families. This was the work that gave me the greatest pleasure as I loved seeing the difference in the children and parents lives. Many of these family's still keep in touch with me and thank me for the role I played in shaping their young children's life's. Another part of my job that I enjoyed was training modern apprentices and NC and HNC child care students. I played the piano regularly and sang with the children and staff. I count myself very fortunate to have had such a rewarding career. I also worked with a fantastic staff team who all worked closely together to nurture and support the children in their care.



On the 25th March my staff team arranged a beautiful surprise Afternoon tea for me in the Nursery. I celebrated with colleagues past and present as well as children and families some of whom I had worked with for years. We had a lovely sing song with the piano and the staff team presented me with flowers, gifts and cards. One of the parents made a beautiful cake for me. I was completely overwhelmed with all the gifts and cards I received. The staff had also put together a lovely photo book of memories over the years for me and a guest book that everyone signed with personal messages.

Although I have retired from my job I still pop in and out of the nursery and want to continue playing the piano for the children. The nursery will always hold a special place in my heart. For me it was more than a job but a second home with lots of love, laughter, special memories and friendships.



FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Friendship Group meets on the 2nd & 4th Monday of the month at 2pm. in the Minor Hall. We have now finished for this season. We have between 14-20 Ladies, more are always welcome. We resume on the second Monday in September i.e. **8th September**.

During this session we enjoyed a wide variety of activities & talks. We had an afternoon of keep fit with Irene. A very informative talk from a young man named Stephen who is a member of the Children's Panel. We also enjoyed reflections on life from Betty Usher & Margaret Linnie. Some Mondays we put a question out for general discussion with most of the ladies taking part and giving their own views on the subject matter. We finished the session with a lovely afternoon tea, including sausage rolls, cakes and a quiz to keep the little grey cells in working order.

God Bless you all and we hope you have a lovely Summer Break. Thanks to all who make the tea, set up the hall up for us and to everyone for putting up with Fiona and Myself.
Look forward to seeing you all in September.

Isobel & Fiona

TEAR FUND

For many years we have been involved with the charity "Tearfund", they have an office in Glasgow and are involved internationally. Tearfund is a Christian charity with over fifty years of experience and they respond quickly to disasters and conflicts.

We save "loose change" either in special donation small cardboard boxes or any other suitable container which are then handed to elders on duty or directly to the convener, who you can sometimes spot on a Sunday loaded down with small money bags in her handbag!
The congregation and their extended families have contributed many hundreds of pounds over the years but now there seems to be fewer low domination coins in circulation and the donations have been lower over the last few years. We are still able to send a few hundred pounds each year so intend to continue as long as possible.

Many thanks to all who have contributed faithfully for many years and there are donation boxes available to anyone who would like to be involved.

Anne Brown



GIFT AID

Just a quick reminder to the congregation about the means for the church to get "something for nothing" which can be of benefit to our funds and which in turn can go to help others who are in need.

GIFT AID allows the church to claim back some of the money which you have paid in tax. Anyone who pays tax on their income, from working or pensions, can sign up for the church to receive gift aid from the money they regularly put in the offering plate.

We can also claim gift aid on the proceeds of any fund raising events which we run for the benefit of the church.

The government allows us to claim back 25% on every £1 which you give to the church if you are paying at least the basic rate of income tax.

Please consider giving in this way if you are a tax payer, as it can add considerably to our income, for example last year we received over £11,000 back from the government.
Ask your elder or treasurer for further details.

A deal's a deal



A teenage boy just passed his driving test and asked his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car"

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

The father responded, "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?



Easter Service 2025 in Johnstone Kirk



During Holy Week we enjoyed joint services with High Parish, Elderslie Kirk and Linwood Parish Churches.
On Easter Sunday we had our own service in Johnstone Kirk and it was lovely to see some additional Easter decorations previously displayed in St Andrew's Church. They look great in their new home.

Johnstone Kirk Junior Drama



The Junior Drama are having a busy time between now and the summer break. We returned to rehearsals after Easter last week to continue work on our forth-coming production of “Aladdin Jr”.

This will take place on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th September 2025 in the Church. Tickets will be on sale nearer the end of June.



At present the children along with former members of the Adult Section of the club are rehearsing for a Memorial Concert for Colin Rae “Let it Be” in the Church on Friday 6th June at 7.30 pm.

All proceeds of this event will be in aid of The British Heart Foundation. Tickets on sale now. Colin was an Honorary Member of the former St. Paul’s Church Dramatic Society for well over 30 years. I am delighted the former members are coming along to take part in this special night, it means a lot. Linda Rae

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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 editors. Thank you.