KIRK NEWS

Johnstone Kirk

Autumn 2025



New time for our Sunday services
From 21st September 2025 our Sunday morning service will begin at 11.30

Inside our latest edition of the Kirk News

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- Ways and Means events and photos
- VE day celebrations and memories
- 1st and 3rd Johnstone Girl's Brigate update
- Wedding celebrations for some of our members
- Charity concert photos
- Junior Drama update
- And additional information for members and friends using our lovely buildng

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

Day	Time	Name	Age group
Sunday	11.30am	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	1-3.15pm	Friendship group	Everyone welcome
Tuesday once a month - watch pew leaflet for date	1-4,00 pm Check pew leaflet for exact times	Afternoon Tea Group	Everyone welcome
Thursday	2.00-4.00pm	Game and Chat Group	

Our amazing Ways and Means/ Social Committee organise lots of events and celebrations though out the year. Further details of these on page 5.

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

Wimbledon Trip by Valerie & Richard Chambers

In the last edition I had inserted an article about my 70th birthday celebrations. One of my birthday gifts was tickets to Centre Court at Wimbledon together with hospitality at The Lawn. Our day started at 10.30am. We were welcomed with champagne (or whatever cocktail or drink you desired) and Michele Roux Jnr., who oversaw all the food served throughout the day. This included a sumptuous lunch, afternoon tea, seafood bar and of course strawberry & cream bar.

If you so desired you could watch matches on TV's positioned throughout the restaurant & bar area or on the big screen in the outside area. We of course went to our seats in centre court for the first match which started at 1.30pm. It was exceptionally hot that day and at anytime you needed to cool down we were taken in a golf buggy (all of 500 metres from Centre Court) back to The Lawn to relax and cool down. The atmosphere during the games was electric. I love watching tennis but there is no comparison when you actually see it live. We especially enjoyed the match with Carlos Alcaraz who eventually went on to play in the men's final. We received exemplary service throughout the day and thoroughly enjoyed all the matches we saw. It was the most generous gift and a day I'll never forget.





Did you know that Renfrewshire have a tennis champion?

Marjory Love proves that you are never too old for sport. The following was reported last year by the BBC.

Marjory Love has been playing tennis for over half a century and in 2024 became the top ranked women's player in the world over the age of 75. She consolidated her position at the top of the Masters rankings by winning the Scottish Senior Open last year (2024).

Marjory has won over 80 IFT Masters Tour titles as an individual and doubles player.

Marjory, from Brookfield in Renfrewshire, said she was "overwhelmed" by her success and encouraged people to keep active in later life. She aims to keep playing tennis into her 90s. "It doesn't matter what you do, if there's something that you enjoy and you're active, or even if you're just interested in doing something, just keep doing it as long as you're able. It gives you a sense of achievement, a sense of satisfaction."

I'm not going to get upset if I lose but even in a friendly game I like to come off as a winner, and I think that's what keeps you going."



3rd Johnstone Boys' Brigade

We had a great finale to our year, we participated in Johnstone's 80th Anniversary of VE Day commemorations on 10th May, we had a fun filled Annual Display (our first @ Johnstone Kirk) where the Boys received their well-earned badges and trophies and finished with an exciting trip to XSite Braehead.





From everyone @ 3JBB thank you for your support & we look forward to seeing you and the Boys in 2025/26.





We resumed with a recruitment evening on Friday 29th August at 6:30pm. We started our regular Friday meetings on the 05/09/2025. We would always be delighted to welcome new members.

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

Find us on: facebook

3rd Johnstone Boys' Brigade Company

3rd Johnstone Brigade Band

WAYS AND MEANS SOCIAL COMMITTEE

VE DAY CELEBRATION

On Sunday 11th May we held a VE day 80th anniversary celebration after our morning service. We had 70 people attending this event and we were very lucky to have a number of people who were at the original VE day celebrations. This was for many a poignant celebration evoking very happy and also some sad memories. Photos and more memories shared on the next page.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this a successful celebration, and as always, our hard working bakers excelled themselves.

Everyone enjoyed their lunch and then we were entertained once again by Regan Lindsay, with everyone happily joining in with the singing.

TAYLORS FASHIONS EVENING

On Friday 27th June we had our Taylor's Fashion clothes sale in the Keanie Hall as usual this was a busy night with 70 people attending and lots of bargains to choose from.

Brian is a cheeky cheerful chappie and keeps everyone entertained showing us a selection of his clothes for sale. As people browsed and bought, we served tea, coffee and home baking which was once again provided by our faithful bakers.

BEETLE DRIVE

On Friday 15th August we held our Beetle Drive this was a busy noisy night with 52 people enjoying the fast and furious game of beetle.

We had a few new faces with us on the night, some from KG Fitness group and several from High Parish.

Thanks to all who attended, served tea/ coffee and home baking, helped set up on Thursday evening and clear up at the end of the night. Once again thanks to the bakers who never let us down.







Dates for your diary:

Friday 17th October -Taylor's Fashions clothes sale

Friday 14th November - Jimmy Blair Accordion evening

Saturday 6th December—Christmas Fayre in Masonic Hall, Johnstone

Please look out for any updates in our pew leaflet.

Aileen

VE Day Celebrations

On Sunday, 11th May, 2025 the Ways and Means Committee organised a Brunch to commemorate VE Day.

After an enjoyable snack lunch, our compare for the event, Ian McGregor, introduced Regan Lindsay. Regan is a firm favourite with everyone at Johnstone Kirk. He is a marvellous singer and always ensures we all have a fun time.

Thirteen of the people attending remembered celebrating VE Day. The photograph underneath details Eleven of them.



L to R—Rhona McGregor, Jean Abraham, Kathleen Torrance, Helen Cartwright, Margaret Linnie, Ian Kerr, May Scott, Alex Scott, Isobel Sevwright, John Muir, Oliver Jones.

We received a number of quotes & memories from some of our members.

Recollection - Isobel Sevwright

I remember on VE Day we were all out on the street in Springburn to celebrate. Bonfires were lit and all the children enjoyed the day.



Recollection – Jack Brunton

We lived in a single end in Garngad. My dad looked out of the window and I thought he said, “look at the flag up there”. There was no flag but a bonfire at the waste ground. The following morning we jumped all over the ashes. Jack aged 5.



VE Day Celebrations

Recollection – Alex Scott

As a 9 year old boy, 3 months short of my 10th birthday I recall the excitement that victory in Europe created in Johnstone. Flags hung from windows up and down all the streets. On the day, my father took my two sisters and I to the Public Park to join the celebrations. As we entered the park, straight ahead was a concrete slab, which I'm sure was the base of a very large air raid shelter. Also, a band was playing and people everywhere singing and dancing. We as a family all joined in and enjoyed the whole spectacle.

Recollection – Margaret Linnie

In 1945 I was 5 years old. Can you Believe it? I remember waking up in huge excitement knowing that this was to be a very special day. It was Victory in Europe day. The war for us was over. I remember going into The Avenue, at my beloved Quarriers Village and all the children were given sweeties galore. I had never seen so many sweeties. It was a glorious sight. We then all had a picnic and it was such a happy and exciting day. What a lovely memory.

Recollection – Andrewina Stott

I remember going to the railway station with my mum to meet her big brother Andrew (I was named after him). A lot of people were there, all crying. I asked my mum "why is everyone crying?" tears of happiness my mum said. I was only 6 years old . My uncle came and hugged my mum then he picked me up and called me "his little princess". We went home where we met other members of the family. Happy days after that.

Recollection – Ellen Cartwright

Ellen recalls being evacuated to Gretna and remained there for 18 months. She had moved back home prior to VE day. The only thing she wanted to say was "Lest we forget"

Recollection – John Muir

When the Government announced on VE Day, 8th May 1945, that the war was over in Europe the pent-up emotions of the people exploded. Singing and dancing was the order of the day and nobody was thinking about the unresolved war with Japan.



I was seven years old at the time and was staying in Millport with my mum who was caring for my grandfather, Grandpa McLean. My dad was in the Royal Navy. I remember VE Day quite well because I must have been asleep and I was awakened by a noise outside. There was quite a crowd of revellers and they were very happy going by their frolics. They had gathered at the T-junction at Miller Street with Crighton Street, where you get a great view of the Wee Cumbrae. I stood at the front window to watch them (My chin was at sill level) and I could hear the sound of laughing and singing, milk churns being knocked together at the Old Pier and the coal puffer was blowing its hooter. Just like Para Handy!



Some kinds of fireworks were being let-off. I'll never forget the experience.



Children from the tenements in Glasgow



VE Day celebrations in George Square, Glasgow

1st & 3rd JOHNSTONE GIRLS' BRIGADE



The Summer holidays are over, and 1st/3rd Johnstone Girls' Brigade is BACK!
We wrapped up the 2024/25 year with our Annual Display. A special congratulations to our Junior, Georgia, who was the first recipient of our new Ann Chambers Award for Best Girl.
During the Display, we held a collection for St. Vincent's Hospice and raised a fantastic total of £197.10, which we proudly presented the following Tuesday.



Although we took a break over the summer, we certainly didn't slow down! Our Explorers, Amelia and Miley proudly handed out programmes at the Johnstone VE Day celebrations held in Houston Square in June. We were blessed with glorious sunshine, and even Paddington Bear made a surprise appearance! Our leaders were busy promoting all things Girls' Brigade, and we invited 4th Johnstone Girls' Brigade to join us at our stall.



We've also celebrated some wonderful personal milestones. Our leader Rachel marked her 21st birthday in style! While we're sad to see her step down from GB duties to focus on her career, we are incredibly grateful for all she has contributed to 1st/3rd. We wish Rachel every success, and happiness in the future. We will keep Rachel in our prayers.



Bethany (and Chris) celebrated turning 30 with a fantastic party! Bethany has been part of GB since she was just five years old, and we're so lucky to have her.

Laura-Jane took on a personal challenge by climbing Ben Lomond, followed by a walk from Glasgow to Balloch the very next day, in memory of her late father-in-law. She raised an incredible £975 for Accord Hospice. A huge THANK YOU to all members of Johnstone Kirk for their generous donations!





As we look ahead to a new Company Session, we're thrilled to welcome an amazing team of new helpers who have kindly stepped forward to support us in 2025/26. Our staffing for the upcoming session is as follows:

Laura-Jane Easter – Brigaders Lead
Julie Hughes – Juniors Session Lead
Bethany Young – Explorer Section Lead
Janet Macleod – Treasurer
Rosie Hughes and Linda MacDonald – returning as Leaders (we're delighted!)

A very warm welcome to our new supporting leaders: Linda Houston, Noreen Lee, Gillian Queen, Zoe McKinnon, Shirley Munro, and Joanne Hampton!

If you feel you could spare six Tuesday evenings between September and May, please get in touch with Laura-Jane or any of the leaders – we'd love to have you on board.

We're grateful for any support in spreading the good news about 1st/3rd. All girls from P1 to S6 are warmly welcomed, and we have an exciting syllabus ahead – more on that in our next edition!

Celebrations

Wedding – 23/5/25 - Fiona McGregor & Ross Beattie - The Cruin, Loch Lomond

Fiona is the daughter of one of our Elders, Ian McGregor. You may not know Ian by name but I'm sure if I say he's been the compare at a number of social events you will know exactly who he is. Ian told us him and his wife Liz will not forget May 23 for a long time. The day they witnessed their only daughter Fiona saying yes to Ross, the best son in law anyone could wish for. The weather was lovely and all the family and guests had a wonderful time.
We send our congratulations and best wishes for the future to the Bride & Groom.





Count Your Blessings

When upon the bathroom scales no weight is lost
Rustle up some coleslaw, get a salad tossed
Count you many calories, count them one by one
And it will surprise you what your chips have done

Count your calories, count them one by one
Count your bulges, hip and thighs and tum
Count your bulges, count them one by one
And it will surprise you what steak pies have done

Are you ever burdened with a load of weight
To bring some consolation you pile up on your plate
Quit crisps and chips and mars bars and of course some fizz
Sweeties, chocolate biscuits and a big fat chop

When you look at others with the forms filled out
Shut your mouth and gnash your teeth – keep gateaux out
Count your many calories, goodbye chocolate bun
Bend and stretch and roll those hips – size 12 will come

So amid the conflict in fight against flab
Throw away the chip pan and the toffee slab
Resist the great temptation to have one bite
This will bring you nearer in this Life Long Fight

Count your calories, count them one by one
Count your bulges, hips and thighs and tum
Count your bulges, count them one by one
And it will surprise you what a diet has done.

The Budding Gardeners

A small group of budding gardeners have been meeting at the Church on a Wednesday evening to tidy the grounds, rose beds, and the Memorial Garden etc. in the hope of making a positive impression on any potential Minister.

While working hard to improve the general areas around the Church, the group still have time for some fun and laughter.

If you have any spare time please come and join us.

Barbara Martin



Those were the Days- by John Muir

The last week in July was very hectic for me. How is it that occasionally everything happens at the onetime no matter how well you plan.

On 23rd July I was at the wedding of my granddaughter, Eilidh to Aidan.
On 28th July I was at the wedding of my grandson, Jamie to Janet.
On 29th July my brother and I went to Pitlochry for a long weekend.



So what? I can hear you say. Well, I will tell you: Eilidh and Aidan got married in Enterkine Country Resort, Ayrshire. Enterkin House once belonged to the Honourable Alan Mackay, grandson of the first Earl of Inchcape founding member of P&O shipping line. Jamie and Janet got married in Gretna Green at the anvil. I have been at the Gretna Green Blacksmiths before but that was a long time ago now.What a transformation! It is now a large complex that handles wedding ceremonies seven days week, in a very professional manner. While we were there three other weddings were in various stages of production. A man told me that it was like this every day of the week with a constant flow of would-be wives and husbands from all over the world.

Certainly, an astonishing change from the days of runaway brides and grooms, mainly from England, seeking to take advantage of Scottish marital legislation.The current trend seems to be non-church weddings although the vows taken at the anvil seem to cater for the requirements of the new up andcoming generations and are not meant to be taken lightly. Time will tell!





I still remember and will always long for the days of Church weddings, a scramble for bile money, and a reception at The Floral Hall/ Orange Hall/PCMS, etc., and dancing to the likes of Willie Holburn's Band, with kids sliding up and down the floor and then halfway through the evening a song from your dad or someone else's dad or your old auntie or somebody else's old auntie, and there was always the fear that your dad might sing a song that seemed to have forty odd verses.

Ah yes, those were the days.

For information. John not only gave us his memories of VE Day but of a number of events, memories & experiences which took place during WW2. In the next edition John has an article about the Clydebank Blitz. (Not to be missed). John will also be giving us regular articles, some on the theme of WW2 and also on a wide variety of subjects. Please contact John with topics you may be interested to hear about.

Colin Rae Memorial Concert—"Let it Be"

On Friday June 6th the Church was full to capacity for the Memorial Concert for Colin Rae "Let it Be". All proceeds were raised through this concert for The British Heart Foundation. The Junior Drama along with former





members of the Adult Drama joined together to perform this night. Colin would have been very proud to have former members give their time and talent to remember him along with our very own Junior Section that he took so much pride in. Local businesses, family, friends and cast members donated so many generous raffle prizes .

A grand total of £5125.00, was handed over to The British Heart Foundation on Sunday 13th July. An astonishing amount, far beyond anything we ever thought possible. A huge thank you for the love and support you have shown, it really means so much to us all as a family





Johnstone Kirk Junior Drama

As summer draws to a close our Junior Members have now started back for rehearsals every Wednesday and Sunday. We have a total of 26 Juniors taking part in our Production of "Aladdin Jr. The show takes place on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th September in The Church. Tickets are now on sale at £10. Please speak to Linda Rae (07901 334952 or Wendy Young (07763 159363) Booking forms will be available very soon. This year the Charity of the Year will be St. Vincent's Hospice we do hope you will give generously to this appeal.



Good Housekeeping

We are in the enviable position to own our new commercial dishwasher. It has proven to be very effective and time saving for all that use it. Now that we have several organisations making use of it, correct procedures must be followed to ensure that the machine is kept in the best working order and that we only follow manufacturers instruction.

DISHWASHER OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- Turn on the power source at the box situated on the wall just above the dishwasher. The on position is "9 o'clock" and off is "12o'clock". Then press the 1st button at the left of the face of the machine to start the machine and heating process. The machine takes approximately 45 mins to heat both water tanks.
- The machine is automatically set for eco clean which reduces energy and water consumption
- Press the button with the triangular shape to start, the machine is automatically set for program 1 for lightly soiled dishes, this takes approximately 90 seconds, dishes are washed at 60 degrees and rinsed at 90 degrees, there is no need to dry dishes.
- For cups or mugs use the flat basket or for plates etc use the basket with sloping spikes.
- When the next basket of dishes is put in press the button again to start the washing cycle
- The washing and rinsing fluids are both situated under the sink and are dispensed automatically to the machine.
- Self clean and drain cycle must be used at the end of each day, TO CLEAN: press button with "P" on it until CL appears, and when this is finished, TO DRAIN: press button again until DR appears, this will drain the machine completely.
- Switch off the machine again at the power source.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

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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.