



Johnstone Kirk

linked with

Johnstone High Parish



Parish Profile



Mission Statement:

To follow Jesus Christ, share the Good News, and show God's love to all at the heart of our parish and throughout the community.

Introduction

Johnstone Kirk – a recent union of St Andrew’s Trinity and St Paul’s churches – has now been linked with Johnstone High Parish as part of the presbytery plan for our area. Though early in this shared journey, we firmly believe that God is at work: guiding us through change, nurturing unity, and blessing us with dedicated people and resources to strengthen our mission and ministry.

We are now seeking a minister who will walk with us and lead us — someone with vision, warmth, and spiritual depth — as we grow together in faith and serve the people of Johnstone. This is a particularly exciting and formative time for our churches, full of potential and promise. With God’s help, we are laying a strong foundation for a vibrant, Spirit-led future.

Across our congregations, we see strength in Spiritual Fellowship, expressed in a rich, multicultural community that includes many young people. Our aim is to connect deeply with the people of Johnstone and their families, sharing the invitation that “All are Welcome”.



We long for people to come, taste and see that the Lord is good — to experience a place where Praise is Rising and faith is growing.

We are seeking a forward-thinking teacher and communicator, someone who can inspire, guide, and nurture us all on our spiritual journey.

Can you help us bring more of our community into the life of faith — to grow our witness and to realise our shared vision: “To follow Jesus Christ, share the Gospel, and bring the knowledge of God’s love to all.”

The Charge and Congregations

Johnstone Kirk

Johnstone Kirk is a modern church with a traditional feel, set within its own grounds and surrounded by attractive, well-maintained gardens. Located within the parish boundary, the building is bright, flexible, and welcoming, with a sanctuary that allows for both worship and wider community use. Music and praise play an important role in the life of the congregation, with worship supported by an Allen electronic “pipe” organ, a Clavinova, and a fully integrated sound and visual system. Services are streamed and recorded online, extending the church’s reach to those unable to attend in person.

The church building includes a large adaptable hall used by various local groups and for a range of church and community events, alongside a smaller hall that can be subdivided for meetings or group work. The halls are used weekly by youth and community groups including the Boys’ Brigade, Girls’ Brigade, and Johnstone Kirk Junior Drama Group. Additional facilities include a modern fully equipped kitchen, office and vestry, all maintained to a high standard through the dedication of volunteers and professional cleaners. Toilet facilities are available, including provision for disabled access. The building is fully wheelchair accessible and equipped with a hearing loop system. On-site parking makes the premises easily accessible for visitors and community organisations alike.

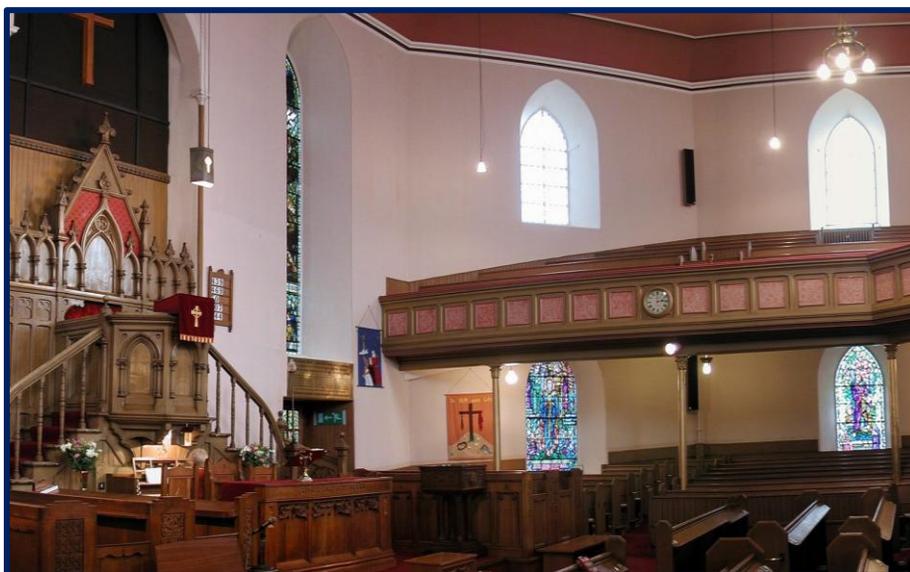


The church is proud to host and support the Renfrewshire Food Bank on its premises, playing an active role in responding to local needs with compassion and practical help.

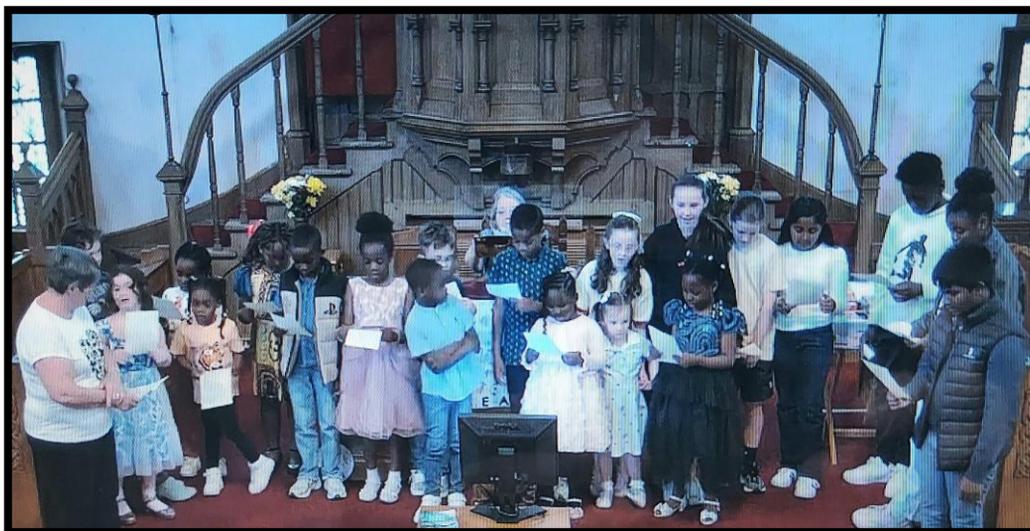
Johnstone Kirk, with around 100 attending regularly for Sunday worship, is a congregation with a heart for hospitality and welcome, where traditional worship is combined with a readiness to adapt, serve and follow Christ.

Johnstone High Parish

Johnstone High Parish Church stands proudly in the centre of town, where it has been a landmark of faith and witness for over 200 years. Surrounded by a historic walled graveyard, the church holds deep significance for the local community and contributes meaningfully to the cultural and spiritual life of the town. The congregation is vibrant and growing, with an average weekly attendance of over 100, including 30 to 35 young people who take part in worship before heading to Sunday School. Praise is central to worship, blending the sounds of a traditional church organ with the energy of a live Praise Band, often joined by the joyful percussion of children. The church maintains a strong online presence, with weekly services streamed and archived on YouTube, and daily reflections posted on Facebook.



Rooted in an open-minded evangelical tradition, Johnstone High Parish has an outward-looking mission and a visible presence in the community. Members of the congregation regularly take to the streets during the festive season to offer prayer, conversation, shortbread, and Christian care to those they meet. The church works closely with the local Town Business Consortium and participates in initiatives such as “Families First,” seeking to meet people where they are. The church’s location in the heart of Johnstone places it at the centre of town regeneration conversations, with local MSPs and councillors expressing their support for maintaining a visible Christian presence in the area. The congregation is diverse and multicultural, reflecting its commitment to inclusion, welcome, and service in the name of Christ.



Worship Life

Worship lies at the heart of both Johnstone Kirk and Johnstone High Parish, with each congregation expressing a shared commitment to heartfelt praise, biblical teaching, and inclusive participation. Both churches value the presence of all ages in worship and actively encourage members to take on roles that reflect their gifts and faith journey.

At Johnstone Kirk, worship is traditional in structure but open in spirit. Services regularly include congregational participation through readings, prayers, and occasional drama, and there are opportunities for youth involvement in Sunday worship. Members of the Kirk Session have also led services on a regular basis, and several have undertaken the Church of Scotland's Leading Worship training. Leadership is seen as a shared calling, and Elders have previously taken part in annual Elder Training Conferences to support their roles in pastoral care, worship leadership, and church life.

Johnstone Kirk is also committed to ecumenical worship and has been an active participant in such events with shared services and joint witness in Johnstone. This spirit of cooperation extends into community engagement and outreach, where worship becomes a lived expression of the church's mission in the town.

At Johnstone High Parish, worship blends a traditional framework with a lively, open-minded evangelical energy with a trained Worship Team of three people who partake and lead our worship when required. Services are supported by both a traditional church organ and a Praise Band, with children participating in musical praise before going to Sunday School. There is a strong focus on accessibility and communication, with weekly services streamed online and archived for those who cannot attend in person. The church also maintains a rhythm of daily reflection posts on social media, extending spiritual encouragement beyond Sunday mornings. There is also, an active Prayer Group and Prayer Line which is of great value for the comfort of our congregation

Both congregations are welcoming and inclusive, with a shared desire to offer meaningful worship that brings people closer to God and one another. Whether through music, message, or shared prayer, worship in the Johnstone churches is rooted in community, faith, and a desire to serve.

Community and Location

Johnstone Kirk and Johnstone High Parish Church serve the entire town of Johnstone in Renfrewshire, located approximately 12 miles south-west of Glasgow. Johnstone is a historic planned town, laid out in the late 18th century by the then Laird, George Houston. Originally developed around coal mining and the cotton industry, the town later became a centre for machine tool manufacturing. Today, it is a lively commuter town with a strong local identity and a rich industrial heritage.

The town lies within easy reach of major transport links, with the M8 motorway, Glasgow International Airport (just three miles away), and direct rail connections offering swift access to Glasgow city centre in around 15 minutes. This excellent connectivity makes Johnstone an attractive location for those working across Greater Glasgow and beyond.



The parish area includes the full extent of the town of Johnstone, home to a population of approximately 16,000 people. The housing is mixed, with a combination of local authority estates and private residential areas. The community is diverse and representative of all backgrounds. There are four non-denominational primary schools and one secondary school within the parish, serving families across the area. Johnstone High has close ties to Thorn Primary school and hosts annual services at Christmas and End of Term. Our previous minister was chaplain to the school and two of our Worship Team have engaged with the school and further developed our relationship with them.

Johnstone offers a wide range of local amenities, including supermarkets, cafés, restaurants, a cinema complex, and a sports centre with swimming pool. The town continues to be part of active regeneration conversations and maintains a strong sense of community engagement. Just beyond the town lie the Gleniffer Braes to the south, offering walking routes and scenic views, while the agricultural lands of West Renfrewshire and North Ayrshire stretch to the west. The Ayrshire coast and the Firth of Clyde are also easily accessible, providing further recreational and leisure opportunities.

Vision for Future and Ministry

As we journey forward together, Johnstone Kirk and Johnstone High Parish share a united desire: to become a vibrant, accessible church at the heart of our community — a *Church without walls*.

We recognise the changing nature of society and the growing need for the church to reach beyond its buildings. We long to actively connect with those around us — families, young people, individuals of all ages and backgrounds — and to extend an open invitation to encounter Christ through welcome, worship, and witness.

We want to build on the good that already exists listening to our people, honouring our heritage, and moving forward together in faith. Through prayer, creativity, and the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek to become a place where the love of God is not only spoken but seen and felt.

We believe the church should continue to be a living presence at the heart of the community — a space where groups and organisations are welcomed throughout the week, creating vitality and strengthening both church and community alike. In essence, we want to be a *vibrant Christian community within Johnstone*.

Our hopes for the future centre on growth — not just in numbers, but in spiritual depth, inclusivity, and connection. To that end, we are focusing on several key areas:

- Reaching out to those now living in the many new homes across our parish, sharing with them the life and opportunities available through our church communities.
- Continuing and deepening our links with local primary schools and after-school care services.
- Building stronger relationships with other Christian communities across Johnstone to promote shared mission and uphold our common faith.

At the same time, we are mindful of the need to be focused and intentional — seeking depth rather than dilution — so that our efforts truly bless our community and bring lasting fruit.

We are praying for a minister who is approachable, energetic, and Spirit-led. Someone who values inclusion, encourages participation, and inspires growth. A minister who will not only lead our congregations but play a visible, active role in our wider community.

We trust that God is already preparing the right person to join us — to walk beside us, and to help us become all that God is calling us to be.

Activities and Organisations

Johnstone Kirk

Johnstone Kirk is home to a vibrant range of activities and organisations for all ages, with a strong tradition of music, drama, and youth involvement. The life of the church is enriched by a very active 'Ways and Means' Committee, Mission group, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Friendship group, Games & Chat group, Saturday Keep Fit Class, Quest Group, Church Choir, and Junior Dramatic Group.

The Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade provide a Christian foundation for children and young people aged 5 to 18, with regular weekly meetings that focus on faith, confidence-building, and personal growth. These groups attract members from across the wider Johnstone area and play a key role in our youth ministry. Brigade members also contribute to church worship and events throughout the year.

The Quest Group offers older young people a space to explore faith, values, and current issues. Meeting on Sundays, it combines time in worship with open discussion and group-based learning, helping participants to grow spiritually and personally.

Among our adult groups, the superb 'Ways and Means' Committee, which puts on various exciting events throughout the year and the mission group who have monthly afternoon teas with entertainment bring people together from other churches and the wider community. There is also the Friendship Group which meets twice a month, offering fellowship and spiritual encouragement through shared conversation, worship, and prayer. The Church Choir supports regular worship and our Junior Drama Group stage productions that bring together all ages in a celebration of creativity and community. A dedicated Flower Committee provides beautiful floral arrangements for worship and ensures that flowers are delivered to members who are ill, bereaved, or celebrating a special occasion — offering quiet yet meaningful pastoral care.

Johnstone Kirk has a long-standing connection with local primary schools, developed over many years by previous ministers and youth organisations. These relationships continue to offer opportunities for faith-based engagement, school chaplaincy, and community support.

Together, these groups reflect the active, welcoming, and faith-filled character of Johnstone Kirk, where people of all ages are encouraged to belong, participate, and grow.



Johnstone High Parish

Johnstone High Parish is a lively and inclusive congregation with a strong focus on practical service, pastoral care, and community engagement. The church supports an active and welcoming Guild, both Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade companies, offering a Christian-based programme for children and young people aged 5 to 18. These groups meet weekly and contribute to worship, events, and the wider life of the church.



The church halls host a range of community-focused initiatives, including *Buddy Beat*, a mental health and wellbeing programme that uses rhythm-based activity to support individuals in recovery. The church is committed to caring for those on the margins, and that care extends to three local care homes, which are visited regularly by church members to offer worship, fellowship, and comfort to older or infirm residents.

Like our linked congregation, Johnstone High Parish also has a strong history of engagement with local primary schools, developed through the work of previous ministers and the outreach of our youth organisations. These connections have created meaningful partnerships between church and school, allowing us to support spiritual development and offer a visible Christian presence in local education.

Johnstone High Parish also operates its own food bank, welcoming all who are in need and offering practical help in a spirit of dignity and compassion. This vital ministry reflects the church's heart for mission and its commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ in the local community.

These activities are a living expression of the church's faith, creating a culture of welcome, care, and Christian service in the heart of Johnstone.



Sustaining Mission, Supporting Ministry

Stewardship and Finance

Johnstone Kirk and Johnstone High Parish are financially secure and debt free, with a shared commitment to careful stewardship and supporting the ongoing mission of the church. Johnstone Kirk benefits from modern accommodation throughout its estate, allowing for efficient use and minimal ongoing maintenance. Johnstone High Parish buildings, while B-listed and historically significant, are in good condition and may be eligible for grant funding should future upgrades be required. This strong financial position enables both congregations to maintain their facilities, support local outreach, and contribute to a range of charitable causes in keeping with their Christian commitment to serve others.

Copies of Accounts and most recent Quinquennial Reviews can be made available.

The Manse

At present, we are in the process of acquiring a new manse to serve the needs of our linked charge. This is an exciting opportunity to secure a modern, comfortable, and well-situated home that will support the wellbeing and ministry of our new minister. The property will reflect the high value we place on providing a welcoming and practical base for parish life. We look forward to sharing more details as this process progresses and are committed to ensuring that the new manse will be a fitting and supportive residence at the heart of our shared journey.

Communication

Both Johnstone Kirk and Johnstone High Parish are welcoming, outward-looking congregations that value connection, clarity, and community. At Johnstone Kirk, communication is supported through a weekly pew leaflet and a quarterly magazine, *Kirk News*, produced by the Publications Committee to share updates, reflections, and news from across the congregation.

Both churches actively use social media and digital platforms to extend their reach. Weekly services are streamed and shared on YouTube, with daily reflections and church updates posted on Facebook. This online presence helps both congregations stay connected with members, support outreach, and offer encouragement throughout the week. Together, these efforts reflect a shared commitment to being accessible, engaged, and responsive in today's world.

Tenure and Compliance

This charge is offered on the basis of **unrestricted tenure**, in accordance with the approved Presbytery Mission Plan of the Presbytery of Clyde.

Should your application be progressed by the Nominating Committee, the Presbytery of Clyde will provide you with a copy of the current Presbytery Mission Plan for your reference.

As a consequence of the divergent votes of the two Kirk Sessions, the Church of Scotland ruling is such that the Charge will not depart from the given position of the Church of Scotland with regard to the Ordination and Appointment of Ministers and Deacons in same sex civil partnerships or marriages.

Useful Links

Johnstone Kirk

www.johnstonekirk.org



Johnstone High Parish

www.jhpchurch.org



For further information please contact:

Nominating Committee Chair:

Joe Graham
Mobile 07780 947098
Email:
josephbellgraham8@gmail.com

Nominating Committee Clerk:

Leanne Law
Mobile: 07875 709087
Email:
Leanne.lister@hotmail.co.uk

The Interim Moderator:

Rev David W G Burt
Tel: 01475 633914
Mobile: 07971431185
Email: dwgburt@btinternet.com