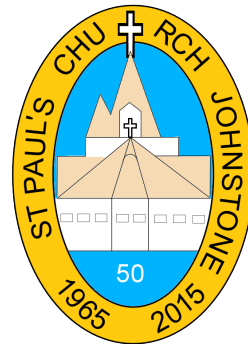


ST. PAUL'S HERALD

CONGREGATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, JOHNSTONE



Spring 2024

Letter from the Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

The Christmas season is now over, the long dark days are drawing to an end, and the New Year has well and truly started.

At the time of writing, January is drawing to a close and the future is beckoning, with the promise of lighter days, maybe a little less rain (!) and certainly the surprises that may befall us. We never truly know what is just around the corner, and maybe that is a good thing. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6 not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have it's own surprises and worries; in Philippians 4 Paul reminds us not to be anxious, but to bring our concerns to God. We are to be concerned about today and to ask God for encouragement and help for today.

We are also approaching the season of Lent, which not only helps us to recall the early ministry of Jesus, but also helps us to prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter. Lent is a time of reflection. Historically, for some traditions within the Christian faith, it has been a time of fasting and prayer, of giving something up. I often encourage people to take something on: it may be praying a bit more, reading an extra chapter of the Bible, or going out of your way to help a friend or neighbour. We are encouraged to reflect on the sacrificial nature of Jesus' ministry, and what that may mean in our lives. We might want to reflect on our membership promises of the giving of our time, talents and money for the work of God's kingdom.

Every blessing to you all at this Lenten time.

Philip





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 at 2p.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.

The photos were taken at our Christmas Lunch which was held in the Boarding House, Howwood.

Looking forward to seeing some new faces.



CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals

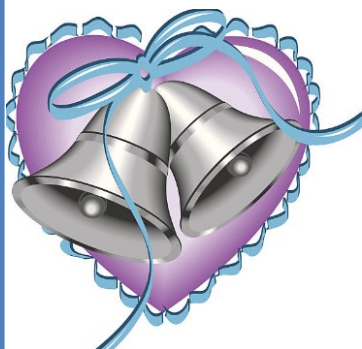
Mrs. Betty Rosendale, formerly of 12 Don Place, Corseford, latterly of Ranfurly Care Home, Quarrelton Road, Johnstone.

Date of Death : Thursday, 2nd November, 2023; Date of Funeral : Friday, 17th November, 2023.



Mr. Peter Pettigrew, 17 Langside Park, Kilbarchan.

Date of Death : Wednesday, 22nd November, 2023; Date of Funeral : Tuesday, 12th December, 2023.



Wedding

Bride: Michelle Manley; Groom: Lee Martin King

Address: 20 Ramsay Place, Johnstone. Date: Friday, 5th January, 2024.

Tuesday Afternoon Tea Group



The monthly afternoon tea goes from strength to strength. We had another successful one just before Christmas. There was community singing of carols and festive songs. The afternoon proved to be an enormous success with those that attended and of course the usual scrumptious home baking was

served.

The photos were taken at the Christmas tea. Unfortunately, the afternoon tea in January had to be postponed due to the inclement weather. By the time you receive this magazine the February tea will have taken place and everything will be back to normal.



Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Jean Shanks



KG Fitness

Every Saturday morning between 10am & 11am there is a seniors fitness class held within the Keanie Hall. There is approximately 18 members who attend on a regular basis. The class is run by Kirsty Galt, many of you will know her by her maiden name Rae. 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 photos show the girls at their Christmas Lunch and also getting ready to start class. Hope to see some new members in the future. All are welcome.



A Story to ponder

An atheist was walking through the woods. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself. As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him.

He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw that the bear was right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him.

At that instant the Atheist cried out, "Oh my God!"

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky. "You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to cosmic accident."

"Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

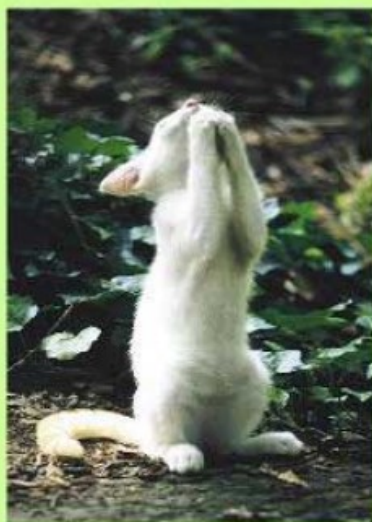
The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian?"

"Very well," said the voice. The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed.

And the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke: "Lord bless this food, which I am about to receive from thy bounty through Christ our Lord, Amen."



~ A Cat's Prayer ~



Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray this cushy life to keep.
I pray for toys that look like mice,
And sofa cushions, soft and nice.

I pray for gourmet kitty snacks,
And someone nice to scratch my back,
For windowsills all warm and bright,
For shadows to explore at night.

I pray I'll always stay real cool
And keep the secret feline rule
To NEVER tell a human that
The world is really ruled by CATS!

author unknown

And staying on the animal theme

Alexander Blackburn McMenemy (BEM)

Better known to St Paul's as Alex McMenemy, who was recently awarded The British Empire Medal (BEM) for his voluntary service to the Scottish Schools Football Association (SSFA) and to the Scottish Football Association (SFA).

The 77-year-old's commitment over a span of more than 50 years to youth football, on this voluntary basis, has been described as "incomparable."

Alex, formally a PE teacher at St Cuthbert's in Johnstone before becoming deputy head teacher at Renfrew High School from 1975 until 1998, has worked his way through the ranks, from representing Paisley and District schools in the early 1970s to holding a seat on the Scottish FA's Congress.

His career has seen an impressive array of accolades, including being named as honorary treasurer of the Scottish Schools Football Association (SSFA) in 1995, whilst his work made him a natural choice as the inaugural Chair of the Scottish FA's (SFA) West Region Committee in 2005.

In an interview with the Gazette, Alex stated: "I am obviously very honoured and quite delighted about the whole thing, but with the Scottish Schools, there are many members there who have been doing many years of schools football. I think the thing that maybe tipped it in my Honours list was that I ran our schools lottery with the help of my wife and family for 29 years from 1986 until 2015."

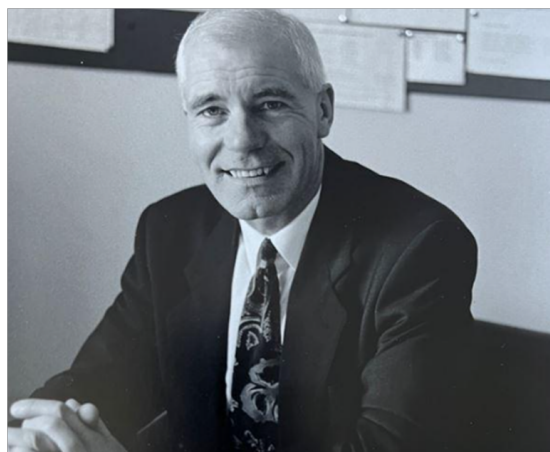
He introduced the SSFA Lottery in 1986, and then promoted it nationwide for almost three decades. During this time the lottery raised around £750,000 with half of the money going to the Scottish School's main accounts and half to the participating schools throughout Scotland.

His sustained contribution has been instrumental in promoting the sport across the country and extending its reach beyond the traditional male environment. In practice, his service has involved attending trials, training, organising national and international fixtures, heading delegations, finding sponsors, liaising with local schools across the country and ensuring congruence with the parent body of the SFA to name but a few.

Alex mentioned the continued support from his wife Ethel saying "she is the one that deserves the most credit for putting up with all these years of schools football. She has been incredible, a great assistance to me. It's only now you get to my age that you get to realise how perhaps selfish you are with

schools football and with your hobby and she's been my rock."

Everyone in St Paul's Church congratulate Alex on this wonderful achievement.



WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Christmas Fair

We had our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December in the Masonic Hall, Johnstone.

Oh how it snowed that day and was bitterly cold, so a massive thank you to everyone who came along and made this event such a massive success. We made over £1,300.



The Hall was busy as soon as the doors opened at 10am and was still bustling when we were finishing up at 12noon. We had our usual stalls as well as the cafe and all did very well. It never fails to amaze me how kind and generous the members of St. Paul's are, thank you very much for the donations of goods to sell and a special thanks to all the bakers.

Once again, we were delighted to have the children from St. Paul's Junior Drama who came along and entertained us, well done to Linda Rae and all her team for the way the children performed.



It was lovely to see so many people enjoying a cuppa and chat with friends. Photos show how successful the event was.



Upcoming Events and Dates for your Diary.

Taylor's Clothes

We are having Cheeky Chappie Brian Taylor with his clothes sale, back by popular demand! this year it is on Friday 23rd February in the Keanie Hall.

This is always a fun night for everyone and there is always the chance of a few bargains!



Joint Choir Night

We are happy to announce we are for a second year, hosting a joint Choir Night with Renfrew Ladies Choir and Clydebank Male Voice Choir. This is being held on Friday 22nd March. It will be in the sanctuary followed by tea etc in the two halls.

This was a resounding success last year, so watch out for the tickets going on sale folks.



Burns Supper

Our Burns Supper was held on the 2nd February within the Keanie Hall.

The night is always popular as we have such a wealth of home grown talent and visitors to entertain us each year, for which we are grateful.

This year was no exception. It was a wonderful evening filled with laughter, good company and of course delicious food.

Thanks to my helpers and all those who attended and made it such a memorable evening,



1st JOHNSTONE GIRLS' BRIGADE

Girls Brigade



A massive thank you to everyone who attended our Crois-sant Sunday on 26th November - it was a real success, with a final total of £270.40 raised. This helped enormously towards our Christmas party; lots of delicious food and creative crafts were enjoyed. We also had a very spe-

cial visitor in a red suit.

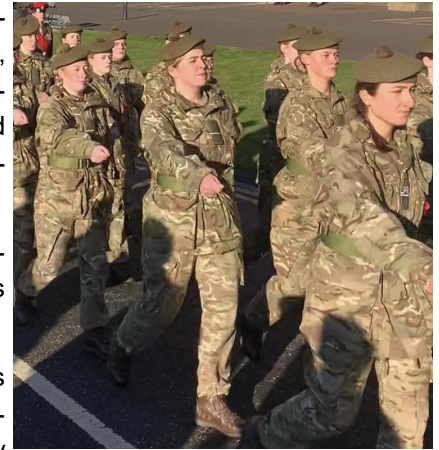
This year our leaders were involved in a couple of Remembrance Day services. Bethany and Laura-Jane laid the GB poppy wreath at Paisley Cenotaph and Rachel was on Parade at University of Glasgow.

Unfortunately, due to the recent storms we postponed our return date to GB, safety is our number one priority – we welcomed the girls back on Tuesday 30th January. Our theme of topical events continues, the history of Robert Burns, St. Valentine's Day and Pancake Day to name a few of our topics.



Our Junior section are looking forward to attending a divisional wide Junior day – on Saturday 17th February, in Paisley. This year's theme is neon paint – photos to follow in the next edition.

Laura-Jane, Captain



St Andrews's Friendship Group

The above group meets on a Monday, once a fortnight, within the church hall of St. Andrew's. There are about 14 ladies who attend regularly with a varied programme of activities/speakers for each meeting. If you would like any further information please speak to Betty Usher. The photos were taken at the Christmas Lunch when a very important individual made a visit.



F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

Forgive you
Respect you
Involve you
Encourage you
Need you
Deserve you
Support you



St. Paul's Junior Drama

Remember Colin Rae

Colin Rae's Involvement with St. Paul's Church Dramatic Society 1983 – 2023.

In the early 1980's the Dramatic Society was struggling to keep going and the Minister at the time was willing to come along and share his wealth of theatrical experience. He staged two plays "Sailor Beware" and "Boeing Boeing". At this time the lighting board on the stage in the old St. Paul's was in need of repair. Colin was asked if he could come along and get the lighting board up and running. Colin repaired it, but also ended up taking a leading role in "Boeing Boeing". After the plays the club extended in membership and a decision was made to put on a Pantomime. Over the next three years we produced three pantomimes Sinbad the Sailor, Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk this not only provided great fun rehearsing but also helped to raise funds for the New St. Paul's. Colin played the roles of the dames in Sinbad



"Semolina" and in Cinderella one of the Ugly Sisters "Davinia". In Jack and the Beanstalk he was the "Baddie" Draculstein.



Colin helped with the decision to take our productions to Johnstone Town Hall, a big step but it paid off. We started putting on musicals the first being "Oklahoma".

At this point Colin took on the role of Stage Manager then after a few years he directed many shows. A big highlight for Colin was the success of the production of "Godspell" which took place in the Church. This production was also taken to a Church in Barrhead. He also directed The Scottish Amateur Premiere of "Children of Eden". Colin always wanted to tackle "Jesus Christ Superstar" but the Society never had enough men to play the roles. In 1995 Colin directed "Annie Get Your Gun" and several children took part in this venture. The enthusiasm of the children gave Colin the idea for Linda to establish a Junior Section which is still providing Music and Drama for children today. In 2015 Colin had been involved in the committee for the staging in the new Town Hall. We were very happy to be the first Dramatic Society to hold the first musical there "Me and My Girl" As well as being involved in the productions Colin also took on the role of President of the Society several times over the years and was honoured to become an Honorary Member. He was also involved in helping arrange various Anniversary Dinners at The Lynnhurst Hotel. Colin attended along with many other members the Scottish Noda conferences at Peebles Hydro over the years and many Drama outings to see other amateur shows and visits to Seamill Hydro. In 2018 Colin was saddened when the Society folded as no other members were interested in taking over the reins. He was delighted the Junior Section had continued and hoped it would continue to grow. So many children, former members that Colin had worked with attended his funeral in November of last year. His love of the theatre will live on





Saturday Sunshine Club

Saturday Sunshine Club

The Sunshine Club meets once a month on a Saturday between 4pm & 6pm. Children under school age must be accompanied by an adult but those over school age do not. A good number of children attend. All have a marvellous time with craft projects, games and of course the fellowship of coming together for food. A delicious main meal is served with yummy dessert to follow. This is of course enjoyed by children and helpers alike.

The next dates for your diary are: 16 March, 20 April & 18 May.

The photos show the children enjoying their crafts, play and dinner. Some of the photos were taken at our Christmas Meeting, which also included the presentation of a beautiful Cake to Christine, on the occasion of a very special birthday.



These were taken in January showing the children having fun with craft and games.

Look forward to seeing you all next time.





St. Paul's Junior Drama



St. Paul's Junior Drama thoroughly enjoyed singing at The Church Christmas Fayre. Everyone enjoyed hearing the Christmas Songs which put everyone in the Christmas Mood.

The children all had a great time rehearsing for The Church Nativity "Shine" which took place during the Christmas Service. A tradition in

St. Paul's is to have a real Baby Jesus and the part was played beautifully by Caleb. We also would like to thank Janice and Gail for playing the roles of "themselves" which was very comical and enjoyed by everyone in the Congregation. We have also cast the part of next year's Baby Jesus, Baby Galt child of Kirsty and Derek due to be born at the end of June.

We have now started back for rehearsals for our Summer Production of "The Little Mermaid Jr". This will take place in the Church on the 6th and 7th June at 7.30 pm. At present we are looking for a rehearsal pianist if you know of anyone who can help us out please tell them to get in touch. Tickets will be on sale very soon.



**“Spring will come
and so will happiness.
Hold on.
Life will get warmer.”**

– ANITA KRIZZAN



CHURCH DIRECTORY

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	Renfrew	
Session Clerk	Elizabeth Alexander	
	24 Spey Place	
	Johnstone	01505 705390

This newsletter is for all of St Paul's congregation. If you have any thing 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.

Website and Facebook



St Paul's Church Johnstone



www.johnstonestpauls.org