

Port Glasgow New Parish Church



Everyone **is** WELCOME Here

Good News Magazine
December'25



If you require to contact our minister, Rev William Boyle,
either phone **01475 745407** or

email **WBoyle@churchofscotland.org.uk**

For Sunday Morning Worship and all Church News tune into
our

Facebook Page - Port Glasgow New Parish Church

Youtube channel - portglasgownewparishchurch

Twitter page - newparishchurchportglasgow.uk

Instagram - portparish

Also our church web page can be found on

newparishchurchportglasgow.uk



From the Manse – When I look back on 2025, I am so thankful for all that’s been happening in the life of our Church.

We continue to be an active and growing Church. A Church that is much more than one hour on a Sunday, but one that lives out our faith every single day. What we experience together on a Sunday spills out into how we live and serve throughout the week.



This edition of the magazine will have many examples of this from our groups and organisations and the many examples of how we have reached out to our community.

We also share the exciting news that we welcomed two new members of our team this year in John and Liz to help and support us moving forward.

As we move towards Advent and Christmas, we are reminded that the light that came into the world in Bethlehem still shines among us today, calling us to share that light with others. Let us share that light in so many ways, from supporting our Joyful Angel Project, in Pastoral visits, our many planned outreach events and so much more.

And if you haven’t been to Church in a while, we would love for you to join us this Advent and Christmas. Come and share in the hope, love, joy, peace and sense of belonging that this season brings. You are missed and a much-loved member of our Church family.

May I take this opportunity in thanking everyone who contributes to the life of our active and growing Church here in the heart of Port Glasgow.

And may I take this opportunity in wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your Friend and Minister – William

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:14)

New Post in Presbytery

I have been asked by the Presbytery of Clyde to become the Convenor of a new Congregational Support Group.

This is all very new and what the new group will look like is still being worked out and how it will support Congregations across the Presbytery.

For a long time, people have perhaps had a negative view of Presbytery, especially if you have ever been through a linkage or a union. It perhaps feels like something that is distant, not very supportive and not approachable.

I think Presbytery has changed so much for the better, especially since the arrival of our new Clerk and I think this new idea of a new Congregational Support Group is a great idea. This group will work alongside Congregations in a supportive and encouraging way, will help them plan ahead and be there for them through the good times and the tough times.

As I said, this is all new and so I will update you when I have more information and the group gets started in the New Year – William

Compass Project

Can you believe that our Compass Project has now been in place for five months, doesn't time fly! It is great to have Liz and John as an integral part of our church team and family. It has been a very busy five months for Liz & John, setting up the office space, starting to get to know everyone, exploring opportunities for future work both within the church/parish and the lower Port Glasgow area and investigating possible funding opportunities to allow church/community events to take place.



This project would not be possible without the prayerful and financial support of our whole congregation and for that we are deeply grateful.

Through our 20p/50p appeal, by the end of the year, you will have raised the wonderful amount of £9,500. Donations have also been received from our Good As New Appeal, our New Parish Cafe and some individual donations. If you remember, when the project was started, as a congregation our responsibility was to raise 11% of the overall three year cost. The total raised so far has been tremendous and exceeds our hope of £7,000-£8,000 per year. If you are reading this and would like to donate to our 20p/50p appeal, please speak to one of the Session Clerks. Thank you all so much for believing in the project and your willingness to offer support and help to ensure that God's love for everyone is shown in all we strive to do here in Port Glasgow New Parish.

What is our Compass Project all about? What targets do our team have during the three year period. There are three main aims of our project:

- *To revitalise our existing congregation as we equip ourselves to take part in the new missional project, support new worshipping expressions and communities and guide new seekers on their discipleship journeys. (Root the Compass Project into the identity of the church by sharing the vision of the Project).*
- *To grow our connection with young people resulting in a new worshipping community that develops faith. New young people becoming Christians and engaging in our church. (Explore the establishment of a new worshipping community that is distinct and owned by young people and the wider community)*
- *To grow our connection with families in the community resulting in new expressions of worship they can attend. New people becoming Christians and engaging in our church. (Explore the establishment of new expressions of worship for families and the under 40s)*

These are not easy targets to achieve. They will take a great deal of prayer, hard work and commitment, not just from William, John & Liz but from each and everyone of us in Port Glasgow New Parish.

Lots of existing events, opportunities and times of engagement will be opened up and new initiatives explored. To grow our connections with young people, to establish new worshipping communities and to encourage and support others in their faith journey are tremendous responsibilities and not to be taken lightly.

Our Compass Project is a whole church initiative and everyone is an integral part of the work. We are all called to serve in different ways but together with God's help and support, God will be served in the most amazing ways here in Port Glasgow.

Pictures from one of our first community events-a great success!



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Christmas can be a difficult time for many. It could be that you have lost someone this year, last year or many years ago. The thirty minute Blue Christmas Service is a chance to come together with others, away from the hustle and bustle to be still, reflect, remember and give thanks for those people who have been part of your lives and continue to mean so much.

During the Service you will have an opportunity to add your loved one's name(s) and a message to our Blue Christmas tree. Then if you wish to do so, come through for tea and coffee or spend some time in silence in our church sanctuary. I will also be on hand if you need any help and support.



Our Blue Christmas Service will take place on Sunday 14th December at 3 pm. You are very welcome to attend and please feel free to invite guests to join us.

Christmas Arrangements

Sunday 30th November

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday 14th December

Service of Holy Communion at 11.00am

Sunday 14th December

Blue Christmas Service at 3.00pm

Sunday 21st December

Family Nativity Service

Wednesday 24th December

Family Service at 6.00pm

Carols & mince pies in the Hall 10.00pm

Watchnight Service at 11.30pm

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day Service at 11.00am

Sunday 29th December

Morning Service at 11.00am



Mission & Outreach Committee



Hi everyone, on behalf of the Mission and Outreach Group we would like to thank everyone for their continued support and prayers as we look to put into action God's work into our community of Port Glasgow. Our team meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month to plan, schedule and review the outreach activities for the church.

Mission & Outreach John Denyer our Mission and Outreach worker took over as convenor of the group from September'25.

Cowal Kirk Visit Pizza Church –A visit was made on the 26th September to our friends at Cowal Kirk for their monthly Pizza Night with the aim to find out how they operate. This was their first anniversary of hosting the event it was a great occasion. Outcome of this is that we are looking to partner with Cowal Kirk and help expand in Port Glasgow what they have created.

Port Glasgow 250 Community Event – Members of the group and others from the congregation took part in the PG250 community event in Port Glasgow town hall in October. This was a great occasion to celebrate the history of the town, the incredible community outreach work and all the working groups.

New Members' Postcards – We looked at ways to reach out to our new members whom we haven't seen in a while. Postcards have been produced which contain a written message and a link to a video message from William.

Worship Leader Training –Two of our team Pamela and John are currently undertaking worship leader training. This 6-week course will enable them to help deliver morning worship services.

Night Sky Event – In partnership with our friends from Inverclyde Skywatchers an evening event was hosted at the church. With over 70 people attending, we enjoyed an evening of exploring God's creation, hot dogs, hot chocolate and great fellowship. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event possible and special thanks to Erin MacDonald who read a poem for us.

Multifaith Event John & William visited the Muslim Centre Greenock on the 29th October with representatives from across Inverclyde's Faith Communities. This was an excellent event aimed at fostering closer relationships across the faith communities, the authorities and the local community – including other faith leaders.

The group shared their journey from 2018 when they started meeting in Laird Street both as a Mosque and also as a community hub. The recent attack on the premises was awful, but the members were strengthened and touched by the warmth and support from the police, the authorities, and the local community – including other faith leaders.

Fullarton Connections Visit – John visited our friends at Fullerton Connections on the 30th October. This was an inspirational visit to Neil Urquhart’s facility in Irvine. They have been established for 10 years and have achieved so much. Their facilities and the programmes they provide have grown so much over that time.

Family Quiz Night – As part of our Compass Project one of our aims is to host a monthly community meal starting with a Quiz Night & Pizza on the 15th November.

The Joyful Angel Project - Our Joyful Angel Project is back! After another successful year last year it will be repeated during Advent. The angel project is not about spending lots of money but connecting with others. Could you be a joyful angel this Advent? If so please send a message to our page or speak to Maureen Williams at Church.



The focus of this project is creating connections between individuals in the church through small acts that can hopefully allow people to feel part of the wider community. We are looking for people to sign up and become a joyful angel.



Are you interested? Would you like to be an angel? Would you like to be the person designated an angel or both? Just let us know.

Please take photos as you go along, protecting your identity for the first few weeks, and show us your acts of kindness and joyfulness.

The project starts from the week beginning Monday 24th of November with the card being delivered by the 16th/17th of December so that any photos can be created into a slide show. Hopefully we can have another successful year and show someone how much we care. ♥



The Season of Advent

During the four weeks leading up to Christmas, our Church Christmas tree will be erected and each week an Advent Candle will be lit symbolizing

Hope Peace Joy Love



Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club started back in September and there are between 10 to 15 ladies attending on a weekly basis. The ladies have a great afternoon enjoying togetherness with plenty of chat, tea, coffee and sometimes cake.

Why not pop along and join them between 2.00pm-3.30pm every week?



Volunteers Needed

Could you give an hour or two in support of the many growing projects taking place within our church community? It is great to see many of our groups flourishing and taking off but this will only continue if some more volunteers come forward to help. Please give this appeal some prayerful thought and speak to William, Robert, Sheena or Frances if you require more information or just come along to any of the groups mentioned and find out what goes on.

1. **New Parish Cafe** meets every Friday, 11.30-1.30 and numbers attending are steadily growing, You do not require to commit to every week but any help will be appreciated.

2. **New Parish Pals** our group for children with additional support needs, meets every Thursday from 3.30pm - 5.00pm. This is a safe, caring place where parents and their children can relax and enjoy fun and fellowship. As a volunteer you will not have any responsibility for the children but would help with snacks, activities, etc. If interested pop along on a Thursday and see what happens.

3. **Pastoral Visiting Team** would you be interested in helping with visiting members of our congregation? We have many of our congregation who are housebound, in care homes or are socially isolated. Visits would take place every 6/8 weeks. Again, please give it some thought.

4. **Arranging & Delivering Sunday Flowers** Every week our sanctuary is enhanced by the beautiful arrangements of flowers which are then delivered to our sick and housebound members. Could you help either to arrange or delivery? Help would be greatly appreciated.

5 **Church Committees** Kirk Session has set up four new committees to help with the running of the Church. These include:

Mission & Outreach - John Denyer

Stewardship & Finance - Gillian Wishart

Pastoral Care - Sheena MacFarlane

Facilities (Property) - Jim Kelly

If you would be interested in giving of your time to any of the above, please speak with the person whose name appears beside the group. The work of the church belongs to everyone.

Don't be shy at coming forward.

Everyone is important and has lots to offer. Give it a go!!!!

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

The newly formed committee consisting of the Health and Safety and the Property Committee had their first meeting on Tuesday 19th of August. The new committee will be known as the Facilities Committee with Jim Kelly as the convenor. Going forward there must be :

- A walk through the property once a month.
- Any issues must firstly be reported to the Business Committee with recommendations and prices of repairs.
- The Convenor will then report to the Finance committee before it goes to the full Kirk Session for agreement or not.
- HSE Posters on display in the church. These are on display in two locations in the church.
- A fire drill must be conducted before the end of the year involving the congregation and also all organisations who use the church.
- Following a walk about by the committee there are now new emergency torches that will be wall mounted for easier access.
- The link floor and stairs are in the process of being repaired and will look much better when finished.



Jim is in the process of sourcing a visual fire alarm after it was highlighted that a few of the groups didn't hear the alarms during fire drills. A visual alarm consists of a flashing light to attract attention when the alarm is activated.

A high level latch has been added to the electrical cupboard in the foyer to ensure the children can't access the cupboard or stage area.

Anyone accessing the church premises will need to sign in and out at the welcome desk to keep a record of who is on the premises. This is not only for security but also for safety if lone working.

A bell will be fitted to the link door as there have been occasions when a member of the congregation has been at the door and no one has been there to let them in.



Old Boys' Union

The OBU is looking for new members, so if you are an ex BB or a church member and would like to come to one of our meetings to get a feel for the club, just turn up at 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening. See our syllabus below for information about speakers. Contact Ross Nugent on 07933080626 or ross.nugent@ntlworld.com for more information.



7th January	President's Address	William McFarlane
14th January	Health & Wellbeing Journey	Douglas Clark
21st January	Just a Boy Fae Greenock	Iain White
28th January	Burns Supper 7.15pm	Bobby Shaw Immortal Memory
Sun 1st Feb	Founder's Day Service	
4th February	The Greatest Job in the world	Adam McKenzie
11th February	Kilimanjaro	Jimmy McPaul
18th February	Emergency Support Skills	Glen Miller
25th February	My 50 Years Involvement in Football	Campbell Ogilvie
4th March	Touch and Go/Hidden dangers	Kevin Pollock
11th March	Closing Business Meeting	

New Parish Cafe



The New Parish Cafe is on every Friday from 11.30am -1.30pm and we would love to see you coming along to visit us. The cafe resumed in August following the summer break and continues to be

popular.

Each week fresh homemade soup, delicious toasties and a surprise weekly special is on the menu - and all we ask is that you pay what you can.



It is a great place to meet with friends. Everyone receives a warm welcome from the happy team of volunteers.

Pastoral Register

Deaths



Shirley Cooper	Robert Heron
Gordon Fraser	Mattie Lyle
Kathryn Paterson	Joyce McPherson
Duncan McCalman	Isobel Steele
Ronnie Ramsay	Lachie Campbell

We extend our deepest sympathies to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

New Members

We warmly welcome to our Church family the following members by profession of faith.

Jamie & Rachel McNab

Katie Gorman

Connor MacKay

Elizabeth McVey

Janette Docherty



Baptism

Sophia Mhairi Gorman



MarchmontHous
care hoi

Our monthly services at Marchmont Care Home take place on the second Wednesday of each month.

If you would be willing to help out with these, please speak to Sheena Mac.

Volunteers to help with the singing etc would be much appreciated

Church Flowers



January 2026

4th Wilma Buchanan
11th
18th Wilma McDade
25th Margaret Craig

February 2026

1st The Steele Family
8th Elspeth Stirling
15th Ellen Hill
22nd Ann Ferris



If anyone would like to donate flowers, please contact Mrs Lena Cupples / Sheena 01475 744290



March 2026

1st
8th
22nd George, Elizabeth Steel & Family
29th Doreen Borland

A huge thank you to everyone who so kindly donates flowers which enhance our chancel every Sunday. As you can see from above, there are a number of spaces.



Welcome Team

Could you help out with our Welcome Teams? We are seriously short of volunteers for a Sunday Morning. As part of a team, you would welcome folk into church, help uplift and count the offering once every six or seven weeks. If you would be willing to help out, please speak to Robert, Frances or Sheena. Thank you!



New Parish Guild

The Guild meets every Monday in the small hall from 2pm. So, “What’s On at the Guild?”. We have a varied programme and each week we have a speaker or an activity like a quiz, a game, craft or some gentle exercise, like chair yoga, and of course, we always end up with a cup of tea and a chat.

The Guild is in the second year of our 3-year programme, “Let us Build a House”, and our theme for 2025 -2026 is “Living Stones”. We will think about how we can work for the church through the Guild. We work together in the Guild, in the church and in the community, showing our faith in action.

In October we thought about our new theme and our new projects, and our chaplain, the Rev William Boyle spoke to us about what it means to him and to us to be a “Living Stone”. Also, in October, our dear friend and faithful Guild member Nancy Mitchell celebrated her 100th birthday! While she was able, Nancy never missed a Guild meeting. She has been one of our Fireside Members for many years now. Fireside members are ladies who can no longer attend the Guild in person but who know the Guild still remembers them. We could not let Nancy’s special milestone go without a visit and a card and flowers from her Guild friends, on her special day.

In November, Guild members spent time getting to know one another. It is amazing what you don’t know about the person you sit beside and chat to regularly. Do you know the person you sit beside in church every week? We also had a “Getting to Know You” session with our Mission and Outreach worker, John Denyer. A visiting speaker was Mary Dempster from Good News for Everyone, the new name for the Gideons.

We have been supporting our 4 new Projects since January 2025. The Projects are Crossreach, Playful Beginnings, the Scottish Bible Society's, Bibles for Bairns, Release International, Operation Hope (Egypt) and Bear Necessities, Build my Church (Bulgaria). From 1st January to 30th September, the Guilds in Scotland, have raised £107,432.47. That's why we talk about "faith in action" in the Guild. If you would like to know more about any of the Projects, just ask any Guild member.

The month of December is about preparing for Christmas. We celebrate the beginning of Advent in New Parish and join other Guilds in Clyde Presbytery for a Celebration of Advent and Christmas. This year, we will be in Faifley and Duntocher Church in Clydebank, on the 30th November. We share the celebration of Christmas with Guilds from all over Scotland with A Big Sing Carol Service in St George's Tron Church in Glasgow. We have a fun afternoon, when Joan McIlhinney very patiently helps us in a Christmas craft activity. We finish the first part of our session with some food and fun and Santa (we hope) at our Christmas Cracker on the 15th December. After 11 weeks we will be ready for our Christmas break.

The Guild is about worship, prayer, action and fun, but don't take our word for it come and see for yourself when we start again on the 20th January 2026. What's on in 2026? Our First Foot will be our good friend, Jack McHugh. The remaining weeks till Easter will be filled with more speakers and activities. Come and join us in the small hall on a Monday at 2pm and see for yourself. There is always something to suit everyone and everybody is welcome!

We wish all members of New Parish a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year! *Helen Eckford Guild Convener*



Sandra would love to see lots of new faces at our Move it or Lose It Group on a Tuesday morning at 11.00-12.00.

Non strenuous exercises which help improve,

- balance & confidence
- mobility & flexibility
- strength & independence

Everyone welcome



The Church of Scotland

Port Glasgow - *New Parish Church*

What's on at your Parish Church..

Sunday	Sunday Service / Sunday Club & Bible Class / Church Cafe
Monday	The Guild at 2pm Mini Athletics at 4.00- 4.45pm Walking Football at 6.00pm Junior Line Dancing 6.00pm / Line Dancing at 7.00pm
Tuesday	HSCP at 10.00am Move it or Lose It at 11.00am Tuesday Club at 2.00pm 2nd PG Girls' Brigade at 6.30pm
Wednesday	Singing for Wellbeing 11.00 - 12.30 The Friendship Stitch 1.00-3.00pm Mini Athletics 4.00-5.00 OBU at 7.30pm 2nd PG Boys' Brigade at 7.00pm
Thursday	New Parish Playgroup at 10.00 -11.30, 12.00- 1.30pm Tai Chi at 11.00am New Parish Pals at 3.30 - 5.00pm 2nd PG Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys & Juniors at 6.00pm
Friday	New Parish Cafe at 11.30 - 1.30pm Riverside Youth Band at 4.00pm 2nd PG Boys' Brigade at 4.30pm
Saturday	Walk & Talk (every second week) at 10.00am KA dance School 9.00 - 1.00pm



There are also church youth organisations which meet in local schools:

Newark Primary School

Monday	47th/97th Greenock and District Scouts at 6.15pm
Thursday	1st Port Glasgow Girls' Brigade at 6.30pm

St Michael's Primary School

Monday	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides at 5.30pm
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New Parish Playgroup

New Parish Playgroup continues to thrive, meeting every Thursday at the new session times of 10.00 - 11.30 am & 12.00 - 1.30pm. Since returning after summer some of our tots moved on up to nursery, and we've welcomed some new families to our groups, it's been lovely getting to know them all.



We've recently had our Halloween celebrations, with around 70 children across both sessions coming to playgroup dressed up, playing games, decorating cakes and exploring our New Parish pumpkin patch! It was a great day

for the kids and adults alike! The children took home their own pumpkin they picked from the patch and a glow stick with "you are the light of the world" Matthew 5:14-16 on it.



We look forward to the months ahead, with Remembrance crafts, St. Andrews Day crafts, and our annual Christmas Cradle service on the 4th December & Christmas parties on the 11th of December when we will finish for the festivities and return Thursday 15th January.



New Parish Pals

New Parish Pals continues to meet every Thursday from 3.30-5.00pm. Our group is for families with children with additional support needs of any kind, and their siblings.



We have games, snacks, crafts & lots of fun! If you know anyone who would benefit from our group please invite them along. Small charge of £3 for the 1st child, £1 per sibling to cover snacks and craft costs.

We recently celebrated Halloween with the kids coming along in costumes, dancing, playing games, decorating cakes, and each taking home some sweets and pumpkins.

We look forward to the months ahead, Remembrance Day crafts, St. Andrews Day crafts & celebrating Christmas together with our annual cradle service which will be Thursday 4th December & Christmas party on Thursday 11th December. We will return on Thursday 15th January at our usual time of 3.30-5.00pm.



Our "Singing for Wellbeing" Group which meets on a **Wednesday from 11.00 - 12.30** is



holding an open coffee morning on Wednesday 3rd December.

Please come along, enjoy a coffee and homebakes and of course some singing !!!!!



Thank you to everyone who generously knitted/crocheted poppies for our Remembrance Display and to the small group who lovingly put the display together. Appreciated by all.



Tonight we had the privilege of sharing the most amazing news with the girls at 1st Port Glasgow Girls' Brigade....

It has been confirmed by GB Scotland and GB International that we are.....

The oldest active Girls' Brigade Company in the World!!!

This is testimony to the dedication of generations of leaders, girls, parents and supporters over the last 120 years.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in any way.



Watch out and see what the future holds for 1st PG GB as we celebrate our 120th birthday as the oldest Company in the World.



47th/97th Greenock and District Scouts

The Group started the session at a run! So far everyone has been working hard earning new badges. We've been to camp at Lapwing and had adventure badge days at Auchengillian, a sleep over at the Sealife Centre with a visit to the Riverside Museum the following day.

Next year, we are continuing the adventures with a sleep over at the Science Centre and much more. Our Scout Group is growing which means more fun, more adventures and more opportunities for our young people to gain skills for life. To keep

everything running smoothly, we are looking for a few more adults to join our friendly team. You don't need to have Scouting experience (or even know how to pitch a tent!) just a willingness to get involved and a bit of enthusiasm. Many of our volunteers started out as parents just like you. Here are some of the roles where we'd love your help,



Chair of the Trustee Board Help guide our group's future! The Chair leads the trustee team — ensuring meetings run smoothly, decisions are made fairly, and our young people have the resources and support they need. *Time commitment:* around 1–2 hours a week (mostly flexible) and a short evening meeting every couple of months. Perfect for someone organised, supportive and good at bringing people together

Group Secretary Keep us on track! the Secretary helps with admin tasks such as preparing meeting agendas, taking minutes and keeping records up to date. It's a great way to make a big difference from behind the scenes *Time commitment* - a few hours a month mostly from home. Perfect for someone who enjoys being organised and wants to help in a flexible practical way.

Section Assistants - Beavers ages 6-8 & Cubs ages 8-10. Get stuck into the fun part of Scouting. Help run activities, games and outdoor adventures. You'll be part of a small supportive team who plan sessions and make sure every child gets to join in and learn new skills. *Time commitment:* usually one evening a week (term time only). Perfect for parents who love working with children and what to share in the fun!

All roles come with support and training and you'll be joining a welcoming family friendly group that values flexibility. Even if you can only spare a small amount of time, we'd love to hear from you.

Interested? Drop an email to conor.chisholm@47thgreenockanddistrictscouts.co.uk or give Conor a call on 07702491642 or have a chat with us at your child's next meeting. We'll happily tell you more about what's involved - no commitment, just a friendly conversation. Together we can make sure that every young person in 47th/49th Greenock and District Scouts get the chance to shine.

Yours in Scouting, Conor Chisholm, Group Lead Volunteer

2nd Port Glasgow Girls' Brigade



Our new session has started well. Our numbers are growing and it is very encouraging to meet new girls. The girls have been learning to bake and have made flat bread, cakes, cookies and of course a healthy option of fruit kebabs.

Pompom bees were made and once a month we are having a mystery night. A few weeks ago, the girls went to the Coronation Park for fun. Our treat was pizza and sausage rolls. The girls enjoyed our hot dog and chip roll night. We had a games night with pass the parcel which went down well along with sharing tasty snacks and juice.

We have updated the display walls in the large hall and have received lots of good comments from everyone.

On Tuesday 9th of December, we are holding a Beetle Drive in the hall at 7pm . Tickets for entry are £2 per adult which includes tea, coffee and hot snacks. This is an opportunity for the girls to have fun and fellowship with the community.



1st Port Glasgow Girls' Brigade



1st Port Glasgow Girls' Brigade is excited to share the news that we are 120 Years Old on 5th November 2025. We have known since before our Centenary in 2005 that we were the oldest Company in Scotland. We are proud to share the news that we are now the oldest existing Company ***throughout the world!!!***

We have a number of extra activities planned for this special year – a Quiz Night, Celebration Service, Birthday Party, GB120 Camp as well as the usual PGNP Youth Service, Pantomime and end of session trips.

As we celebrate our 120 years we have changed how we are doing our Badge Work this year. The whole Company are doing the same themes, differentiated to their age group.

We are thinking about “People who help us”. This list could be endless but we have covered Lollipop Crossing Patroller, Air Ambulance, Coastguard and Road Recovery drivers. We have a visit to the Church planned to see Rev William and find out what his job entails, see around the Church and learn about the different features in the Church. We have a visit to the Fire Station before Christmas and hope to visit the Police Station and have a visit from the Ambulance Service and Inverclyde Foodbank too.

We have been working on cards and gifts for Compassionate Inverclyde. We look forward to them visiting at the end of November to tell us all about their charity and collect the Christmas gifts we have been making for their boxes.

We have been learning about games and activities through the last 120 years. Marbles, elastics, ball games, etc were all popular. We are looking at physical activities that girls did at GB throughout that time – skipping, scarf movements and Indian clubs, to name a few.

We shared an old photo from around 1978, when the Explorers participated in the Inverclyde Musical Festival singing ‘A Mouse Lived in a Windmill’ and ‘I’m a Little Dutch Girl’. Watch out, the songs [and gingham skirts] may appear at our Annual Display on 9th May 2026.

We have been finding out about the history of Girls' Brigade, from the first night in Ireland in 1893, to the first night in Glasgow in 1900 to the early years at 1st Port Glasgow Girls' Guildry, when it started in Clune Park Church in 1905. This changed to The Girls' Brigade in 1968, when the Girls' Brigade of Ireland, the Girls' Guildry and the Girls' Life Brigade [England and Wales] joined to be one International Organisation.

On Thursday 11th December 60 of us are heading to the Port Glasgow Town Hall to see the Greenock Players Pantomime 'Aladdin'. We also have Christmas Crafts, our Christmas Party and the Church Nativity to look forward to.

Our numbers are good at the moment but there is still space for more girls in all three sections. All school age girls are welcome to join us.



Explorers P1 – P3 6.00-7.00pm

Juniors P4 – P7 7.10-8.40pm

Brigaders S1 – S5 7.10-8.40pm

See our Facebook page "1stPortGlasgowGirls'Brigade" or contact us at 1stportgb@gmail.com if you require any more information.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Peaceful New Year

Our Bible Class

Our group of young teenagers and Sunday Club continues to grow! Exciting times ahead. So much so that they need a room to themselves.

On a Sunday morning, Bible Class will continue to meet in the Sheena Morgan Hall while the Sunday Club meet in the small hall.

We now just need to find an appropriate space for the Creche!





2nd Port Glasgow BB Company Section

During the late spring and early summer, the company continued to meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We practiced for a drill competition which was cancelled, our band continued to practise and we prepared for Camp Day Sports. On a Friday, our table tennis club continued as the boys wanted this to attend for a while.

Our camp sports day in early May was a great success. On a beautiful sunny day we met early at Auchenfoil and held some competitive team sports including football, cricket, volleyball, tug of war and basketball as well as the boys enjoying time with each other.

We had lunch at Auchenfoil and then spent the day fishing and enjoying lazer clay pigeon shooting. Dinner back at camp and then the older boys in the Junior Section joined us for our annual Olympics after which we all sat around a camp fire to finish a long fun day.



Later in May, we held a parents and company/senior section sports/games night. This was a good fun night with honours divided between the boys and parents. In early June, our young band played at Bridge of Weir Gala day. The gala Committee could not have picked a wetter day for this adventure, however, we held it together and played very well in the parade and in the field. When we finished playing the storm subsided!



Later in June, Jack Wilson received his King's Badge at a Civic Reception in Greenock Town Hall. Knowing the amount of hard work that goes into achieving this award, his parents and officers were rightly proud of Jack's achievement. During the summer, Murray undertook his President's Badge Service at Parklea Branching Out. He hopes to achieve his President's Badge this session and in 18 months, having achieved all that is necessary, he too will gain his King's Badge.

The new session began in August with two relaxed Wednesday nights of hall sports and a fun games night. By the end of August we were back in uniform. Wednesday and Thursday nights as well as Friday's table tennis club have been very well attended. Our numbers have increased and now we not only have more boys in the Company/Seniors but in all 3 sections and this is very encouraging.

Wednesdays are our formal night where we wear our uniform. The boys fall-in to their squads followed by drill and band practice and some recruit training. We have some fun games to warm-up and gymnastics and squad competitions, tuck shop and hall sports. Thursday nights, to date, have seen a programme of band workshops as we try to mould a new, very young band. We also play hall sports like indoor football, volleyball, dodge ball, indoor hockey and other sports.

Our reflections on a Thursday commenced last week when the boys learned about the BB, its history and what it stands for. We have some interesting speakers coming along to speak to the boys in the coming weeks.

Our Friday Table Tennis Club has seen an upsurge in boys coming along and our boys recently played at the East Ayrshire Open and The West of Scotland Junior Development League, where among the 120 juniors taking part, our boys found they were at times playing some of the best emerging junior players in Scotland.



Our walking club resumed with a walk around the Greenock Cut in September and in October we had a more adventurous walk from Queen's View up the Whangie Loch at Drymen and a short walk on the West Highland Way and the Rob Roy Way

Before the end of the year, our young band have two engagements and we have a visit to the Greenock Fire Museum and McDonalds as well as a Christmas Games Night to look forward to. All these events are taking place on our existing Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights up until Christmas. Never a dull

moment at the BB!

We have a good crowd of boys and officers. We can achieve so much working together, helping and encouraging each other along the way as we seek to carry out the "Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys."

Riverside Youth Band

A busy period lies ahead for Riverside Youth Band, as the award-winning organisation prepares for a string of performances over the coming weeks.



Riverside is looking forward to performing in Port Glasgow New Parish Church on Friday, November 28, alongside guitarist Thomas Williams; vocalist Mark Robertson; and Port Glasgow New Parish Church Choir. The event starts at 7pm, and is followed by a light supper in the church hall.

Admission is free, with donations gratefully received.

A couple of days later, Riverside Youth and Training bands will travel to the Scottish Concert Band Festival, showcasing their carefully-prepared programmes.

Riverside joins forces with Greenock Philharmonic Choir on Saturday, December 6 in Lyle Kirk, before RYB's own Christmas concert takes place in Port Glasgow Community Campus on Friday, December 19 at 7pm. The event includes the Riverside Youth and Training bands, as well as the Riverside Rookies.

Tickets cost £10; under 12s go free. Purchase tickets at www.ticketsource.co.uk/riverside-youth-band/ Alternatively, speak to Mark or Laura Good at church on a Sunday.



Mark Good, musical director of Riverside Youth Band, commented:

"Preparations have been going well ahead of an extremely busy period for Riverside Youth Band. Our young people continue to do themselves proud, and we're grateful to Port Glasgow New Parish Church for being a wonderful home for Riverside, as we welcome more than 40 young people through the doors each and every week."

Look out for Riverside Youth Band performing throughout the festive period, including playing at Port Glasgow's Community carol service in Port Glasgow Town Hall on December 21. Email: info@riversideyouthband.co.uk or speak to Mark and Laura Good at church.

Riverside Youth Band rehearses on Friday afternoons in Port Glasgow New Parish Church.

Brass and percussion players are welcome to get involved. Riverside Youth Band rehearses on Friday afternoons in Port Glasgow New Parish Church.



Brass and percussion players are welcome to get involved. Email:info@riversideyouthband.co.uk or speak to Mark and Laura Good at church.

Your Help is Needed

Our Pastoral Team require your help! If you know of any church members who would benefit from a pastoral visit, please complete one of the pastoral cards at the end of each pew or speak to one of the Session Clerks. That way, the group can try to ensure that everyone feels cared for and supported.



Looking for some company and good conversations, why not come along to one of our well being groups. Everyone is welcome.





A **huge thank you** to everyone who donates on a regular basis to our **Sunday Church Cafe, New Parish Cafe, Walk & Talk, Knitting Stitch and our Playgroup.**

Your donations over the year have greatly helped with the ongoing work of the church and in particular the upkeep of our suite of halls. Below is just some of the

expenses which have been covered by your donations

£

1,000

Compass Project

160

Food Hygiene Course

100

New Embroidered Aprons for the Cafe Volunteers

36

For Mesh for Poppy Display

132

Removing rubbish from Session House

220

AV equipment for church

300

5 weekly cleaning of church & hall windows

210

New freezer for Kitchen

1,000

Donation to church to help pay for new flooring in the Link



Total of £3,158 approx

That doesn't take account of the ongoing cost of paper cups, napkins, sugar, tea, coffee, stirrers, paper plates, etc that we go through in a year.

Also this fund pays for all the cleaning material, black bags, soap, toilet rolls required for the halls / church.



Good As New Sale



A **Huge Thank You** to Joan McIlhinney and her team for all their hard work at our recent sale. Well done everyone.....

Advanced notice

The team will be holding a one off
Christmas Sale

on

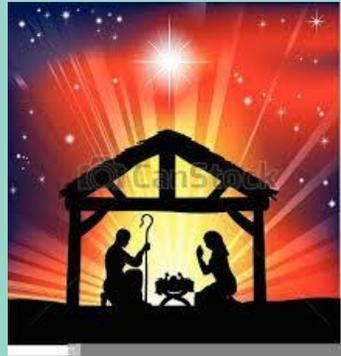
Saturday 6th December

10.00 - 14.00



Keep the date free! Come along for some early Christmas Cheer.

I am led to believe that Santa is also visiting !!!!!!!



Colouring page for our Young Folk. When completed bring in to Sunday Club



Standy Brand '79

Illustration for children, 1979



Oh Holy Night

***Wishing you every blessing
for a happy, peaceful
Christmas Season and a
joyous New Year.***

***May you be aware of God's
love and joy at this time.***

Who's Who in Port Glasgow:New Parish Church

Minister	Rev William Boyle
Missson & Outreach	
Officer	John Denyer
Admin Assistant	Elizabeth Robertson
Hall Keeper	Gillian McAllister
Session Clerks	Robert Guthrie Sheena MacFarlane Frances Boyd
Organist	
Treasurer	Gillian Wishart / Donna Irwin
Youth Mission	Sheena MacFarlane
Safe Guarding	Lynne Guthrie Donna Hendry
Pastoral Care	Sheena MacFarlane
Property	Ian Dunnachie
Facilities	Jim Kelly
Mission & Outreach	John Denyer
Church Flowers	Lena Cupples
Data Protection	Lorna Stein
20p Convener	Kathleen Guthrie
2p Convener	Sheelagh Conn
Church Web Page	John Denyer

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Church Website newparishchurchportglasgow.uk

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