

St Ninian's Church  
Corstorphine

# Quarterly



Winter 2018



**Edinburgh, Corstorphine St Ninian's Parish Church (Church of Scotland)**  
**144 St John's Road, EH12 8AY**  
**Scottish Charity Number SC016557**

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website: [www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk](http://www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk)

**If you are a Visitor to St Ninian's or are reading this magazine for the first time, the following information may be useful.**

Our SUNDAY SERVICES are held at 10.30am and are followed by tea and coffee in the Martin Shields Hall.

COMMUNION SERVICES are on the first Sunday in March, June, September and December at 10.30am and 3.00pm. Our less able members are particularly welcome at the 3.00pm Communion Services in March, June and September - following each of which there is a special afternoon tea!

SUNDAY SCHOOL is held every Sunday during term time and all classes meet at 10.25am. Crèche: (0-3yrs); Beginners: (3-5yrs); Primary: (5-8yrs); Juniors: (8-12yrs); Alpha: (12+yrs).

STEP INSIDE is a youth club for our 10 to 14-year olds and is held on the last Saturday of the month (except July and December) with games, music and craft sessions.

We offer a CHURCH TRANSPORT SERVICE for our less able members. Volunteer drivers pick up passengers before the service and return them home afterwards with the option of staying for tea/coffee. Reserved car parking is available at the rear of the church.

The CHOIR leads the Praise under the direction of our Organist, Anne Kirkpatrick, and choir practices are on Thursday evenings from September to May.

The GUILD meets on a Tuesday afternoon between September and March, with interesting speakers, teas, and outings.

Men are invited to CONVERSAZIONE on the last Wednesday of the month between October and May, for fellowship and chat over a light lunch.

Many other Church and non-Church organisations use our premises throughout the week; contact details can be found on the back page.

*Dear friends,*

*You must remember all that road by which the Lord your God led you ...  
Take care not to forget the Lord your God (Deuteronomy 8: 2 & 11)*

‘Remember and don’t forget,’ was the subject of the sermon I preached on Harvest Sunday. On their way out of slavery God commanded the Israelites to remember where they had come from, and not to forget their responsibilities towards Him and towards each other.

November is a month for us to remember and not to forget nationally and in the church. In this month we mark Bonfire Night, remembering the consequences of violent revolution. Many Christian denominations celebrate All Saints, remembering the saints of the Church and its vigil Hallowe’en, as well as All Souls which commemorates the souls of Christians who have died. There is also St. Andrew’s Day, Scotland’s official national day, when we remember our origins as a nation. Of course, in November we mark the end of the First World War on Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday. That commemoration is especially poignant this year, exactly 100 years since the cessation of the hostilities of that conflict.



All these commemorations help us to link the past with the present but, in particular, they remind us of the Christian belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those who are alive now and those who lived on earth then. The lives of those who have gone before us were important to those who lived back then, and they are significant to us whose present has emerged from that past. This gives us hope that in the future our lives will be remembered for the importance they had to us, and the significant effect they had on the future.

The past, present and future are important motifs in this Year of Young People. When we remember those who died in the First World War, we remember mostly young people. When we remember the significance of that, we remember the effect on young people whose future was clouded by the Second World War because the victors of the First didn’t properly resolve that conflict through the peace they brokered.

Let us remember that God holds all souls in life: those who were; those who are; those who will be. Let us not forget that we don’t only have responsibilities towards God and each other in the present, but towards those who were here before us, and those who will be here when we are not.

Best wishes,  
*James*

## Communion Services

Communion Services will be held in the Church  
on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018**  
at 10.30am and 3.00pm.

***“This do in remembrance of Me”***

We practise inclusiveness by providing gluten-free bread  
for everyone at Communion Services.

## **Kirk Session Meetings 2019**

Wednesdays: 13<sup>th</sup> February, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> November

## **Deacons’ Court Meetings 2018**

Wednesday: 28<sup>th</sup> November

## **2019**

Wednesdays: 27<sup>th</sup> February, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 27<sup>th</sup> November

**... and some other dates for your diary**

24 <sup>th</sup> November	-	Step Inside ( <i>last Saturday monthly, excl Dec</i> )
25 <sup>th</sup> November	-	Soup & Roll Lunch
28 <sup>th</sup> November	-	Conversazione ( <i>last Wednesday monthly, excl Dec</i> )
9 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Fresh Start Donations
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	-	Sunday School re-opens
13 <sup>th</sup> January	-	Congregational Lunch
27 <sup>th</sup> January	-	Quarterly Copy Date
9 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Guild Coffee Morning
17 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Soup & Roll Lunch
17 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Soup & Roll Lunch

*(Further details will be provided in the Intimations)*

## *Christmas Services*

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1st Sunday in Advent: 10.30am & 3.00pm - Communion	
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	2nd Sunday in Advent: 10.30am - Sunday School Gift Service	
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 3.30pm - Quiet Day <i>The Church will be open for prayer and meditation - why not take a break from the Christmas rush?</i>	
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent: 10.30am - Morning Service	
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent: 10.30am - Children's Nativity Service 6.30pm - Nine Lessons & Carols, with the Choir	
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - Christmas Day Family Service (9.45am - Hot chocolate & croissants before the Service) (No Church Transport)	
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - Morning Worship (No Sunday School - re-opens 6 <sup>th</sup> January)	

## *Christmas Parties*



Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	2.30-5.00pm (TBC)	Primary Sunday School Juniors & Alpha
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	2.15pm	Guild Christmas Party with the Choir

# Congregational Register

## Baptism:

26<sup>th</sup> August  
9<sup>th</sup> September

Ella Catherine O'Donnell, 85 Gogarloch Haugh  
Olivia Margaret Souza Smith, 73 Pikes Pool Drive, Kirkliston

## Funerals:

14<sup>th</sup> August \*  
9<sup>th</sup> September  
3 October \*  
24 October \*

Miss Jacqueline Jackson, 9 Craigmount Terrace  
Mr Donald Christison, 9 Clermiston Grove  
Mr Ian Stewart, 40 Meadowhouse Road  
Miss Anne Killops, Ferryfield House

\* Denotes member

\* \* \* \* \*



## Congratulations and Celebrations!

Warm Congratulations to Ian and Norma Cameron who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

We are most grateful to Ian and Norma for all the work they have done in and around the church for many years.

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## Our OLM Student - Kay Haggarty

*[We welcome Kay and her husband, Alan, to St Ninian's and hope she will have an enjoyable and enlightening time working with James. She will be with us till Pentecost.]*

I was born and raised in the South side of Edinburgh, and after attending High School went on to study in Edinburgh and qualify as a PE Teacher in 1977. As a youngster I attended Sunday School and Band of Hope meetings held at my local primary school, and it was there at the age of ten that I put my trust in Christ. As a teenager and adult I attended and was involved at the Edinburgh City Mission in the Inch.

I married Alan in 1978 and we moved to Berwick-upon-Tweed where Alan studied for 3 years at Lebanon Bible College, and where both our children, Deborah and Richard, were born.

In 1984 we moved to Inverkeithing in Fife to work for the local Baptist Church and, for 23 years, worshipped at Rosyth Baptist Church where I was involved with Alpha, house groups, worship, and some youth and children's work. I also taught PE in Fife within the primary sector for nearly 30 years, retiring from full time teaching a year and a half ago and, since then, I have been able to spend time on hobbies which include tennis, table tennis, gardening and music and, when possible, walk the lovely beaches of Arisaig on the West of Scotland!



We returned to Edinburgh 7 years ago and for the past 5 years have been attending Gracemount Church of Scotland where I have been involved in outreaches including Christmas and Easter holiday clubs for children in the community and a Homework Club for Primary 4-7 in the local school, as well as leading worship and preaching. For the past three years I have felt a strong call to serve God in a deeper way, and opportunities to preach and lead worship arose in my own church and elsewhere. I was encouraged to pray about applying for the OLM (Ordained Local Ministry) with the Church of Scotland and throughout this process have sensed God confirming this call. I have begun long distance flexible studies for this ministry with Aberdeen University and look forward to my placement at St Ninian's Church.

\* \* \* \* \*



Did you spot our near neighbour's impressive sunflowers in St Ninian's Road earlier this summer?

Were they an inspiration for our Alpha group who had a competition to see who could grow the tallest sunflower?

*[thanks to Derek MacGillivray]*

Look out for the winner later in the magazine!

# Fabric Committee

Earlier this year we turned our attention to the condition of the whole electrical installation in the Church premises. Electrical regulations require churches to carry out Fixed Wire Testing every five years to identify any sub-standard areas which could cause failure, damage to the fabric or, more importantly, harm to the occupants. The inspection was carried out during the summer and took several weeks to complete. When you consider that we have over 30 rooms, 170 lights and 110 sockets involving miles of cabling you'll appreciate the size of the exercise. A Condition Report was produced by the electrician extending to 26 pages giving test results for each circuit and outlet. The defective items were categorized to indicate the degree of urgency, so we are now proceeding with this work in order of priority.

Several areas of stonework and pointing around the Church have received attention as they were highlighted by the Presbytery's Architects in the last Quinquennial Report.

Displaced ceiling tiles in the Burns Hall have again been re-fitted. This involves a mobile tower and costs around £250 each time so we trust that hall users will take every care not to dislodge tiles.

*Alister McGlashan*



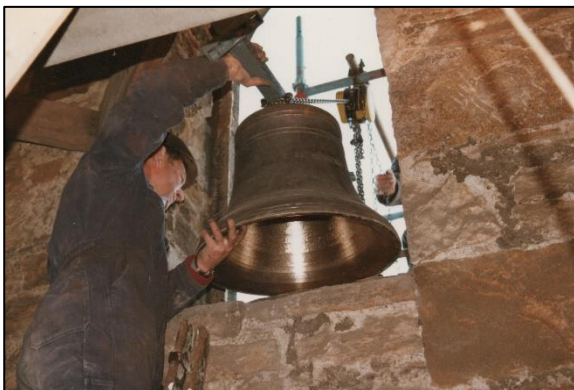
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## “FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS”

It tolls of course for thee; every Sunday morning our bell in St Ninian's rings at 10.22am for six minutes to call worshippers to the church. A bell has been calling us to worship since 1870 when the steeple was built, but the present bell was first rung on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 1997, having replaced the old one which was cracked.

The new bell was cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1996 on the same day that six other bells were cast - six for a church in Bristol and two for a church in Langley.

The old bell, having 'toll'd' its tale for 130 years, was traded-in for the new one and was going back to the foundry to be re-cycled for future use. Who knows where it ended up! The bell metal was an alloy of 77% copper and 23% tin heated to 1100°C to allow it to be poured into a mould, the moulds being made with a sand and clay mixture which was bound with sterilised horse manure!



The 400lb bell had an inscription cast into it which reads “**397 - ST NINIAN - 1997**” and it was ready to be hoisted into place on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1996. After being silent for many months, we were called to worship once more on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1997. So now you know that the bell tolls for you every Sunday and, if you are a bit late, you better run like the clappers!

*Douglas Ramsay*



# The Guild

The coffee morning on 27<sup>th</sup> October was very well supported and raised £600 towards our two projects for this session. We have already had an excellent talk on the work of the Boys' Brigade and look forward to hearing more about the Seema Project next year at a joint meeting with Corstorphine Old Parish Guild.



Recently a group of ladies from St Ninian's attended a meeting with other Guilds at Carrick Knowe Church. The speaker was Rev Dr Margaret Forrester. She gave us a very personal account of the development of the role of women in the church and particularly in ministry over the past 50 years. It was a most inspiring talk offering much food for thought.



Since I became President in March, I have really appreciated the support, enthusiasm and encouragement of Guild members. Maybe, like some readers, I was a wee bit wary of what the Guild would be like ... especially since I am not a knitter or baker ... but I was asked to play the piano for the opening devotions several years ago and I now look forward to the weekly meetings.

A copy of our syllabus can be seen on the board beside the Martin Shields Hall. Some up and coming highlights include a talk by Callum Stark on his involvement with the Youth Parliament, a presentation on Fabergé eggs and our Christmas Party on 11<sup>th</sup> December when we welcome our church choir.

Music and particularly music in worship plays a big part in my life. Since I am now Organist at Willowbrae Church of Scotland, I cannot be at St Ninian's on a Sunday morning. However, you will find me most Tuesdays at 2.15 at the Guild meeting. I hope to see you soon.

*Marion Fry, President*

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# Sunday School News

A huge thanks to everyone who helped to sort the flowers and fruit and deliver them following the Harvest Service at the start of October. We had more helpers than deliveries this year! Everyone's help was very much appreciated.

The harvest lunch donations of £390 were passed on to Megan Stevenson for her Sri Lanka trip. Thank you to everyone who donated and a very special thank you to the Hospitality Team for preparing and serving a very tasty lunch.

We met with James and the Sunday School Leaders shortly after the summer break. Our main agenda items were the Remembrance Service and the Christmas Nativity Service.

Our Christmas Nativity Service this year is being planned and rehearsals are likely to start in early November. Once again, we are trying something a little different. Dates for this and the Christmas parties are on the diary page near the front of the Quarterly.

*Diana Fairgrieve & Lesley Gulland (Joint Co-ordinators)*

Alpha had a successful Sunflower competition with all doing a great job including the teachers. Whilst I gave it my best shot I may have under-watered on a day or two. Hannah Marshall, however, was more diligent and won the competition with a height of 10 feet and, therefore, claimed the cinema voucher.

Next year, game on . . .

*Campbell Gray*



## "The Tree of Life"

Those of you who regularly use the Martin Shields Hall may have noticed the appearance of a beautiful embroidery picture of the Tree of Life. It was sewn by a late member of our congregation, Mrs Molly Fairgrieve, who was a most accomplished needlewoman.

Mrs Fairgrieve lived in Carrick Knowe Avenue and died in April 2013 and it was her wish that the picture be gifted to St Ninian's Sunday School upon her death. It would be lovely to hear from anyone who knew Mrs Fairgrieve and could perhaps tell us a little more about her.

*Susanne Hope*

## Happy Sunday School Memories

I read with interest the Minister's comments for 1968. My wife and I were married in 1968 in St Ninian's and I was quickly recruited as a "rookie" Sunday School teacher in the Seniors which had a role of about 120. At that time the juniors met at 9.30, seniors at 10.15 (part of the 9.30 Service) and the beginners and primary at the same time as the 11.30 service. There were no rooms at the west side of the church and classes met in all available spaces. Senior classes (8 with 15 each class) met in corners of the church, east corridor rooms, the lounge etc between 10.30 and 11.15. My first "classroom" was in the gallery above the front door, and our time was usually brought to an end by folks arriving for the 11.30 service. Wonderfully happy times and I still meet former "pupils" now with their own children around Corstorphine.

There were many fund-raising activities in the late '60s resulting in the development of the suite of rooms to the west of the church and the complete luxury of a room of your own to teach in.

Some lovely memories to ponder - may I extend my warmest good wishes to all in St Ninian's.

Yours in Jesus' love

*Douglas Johnston*

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## IAN STEWART ISO (1931-2018)

Ian was born in Bathgate, where he had a happy childhood. Sunday was always a day for church and Sunday School. From his schooldays he had a warm and considerate nature and was very much a people person. This carried through to his time in the Civil Service which he joined aged 16. He left at 18 to complete his National Service in the RAF as an Air Traffic Controller. He returned to the Civil Service, becoming Hospitality Officer, organising banquets for visiting heads of state and other dignitaries. He also organised the opening of the Forth Road Bridge. His diplomatic people skills were vital too when he became Accommodation Officer, allocating offices to staff - he was considerate but could be direct when necessary. Ian spent 10 years at the Parole Board which required good relationship and organisational skills and retired after 44 years in the Civil Service. For long and meritorious service, Ian was presented with the Imperial Service Order award. In retirement he spent 20 years as District Organiser for the Blood Transfusion Service.

Ian and Dolina were married in 1966 and enjoyed 52 years of happiness with shared interests in theatre, ballet, walking (including the West Highland Way and Southern Upland Way), trips to Pitlochry and, latterly, cruising (the Norwegian Fjords and Iceland). Ian was a loving, family man and enjoyed walks, the zoo and the garden with their daughter, Sheena. Ian was ordained as a Deacon at St Ninian's in 1971 and carried out his duties diligently; he was happy to spend time with those to whom he was delivering the offering envelopes. For many years he also planted up pots and nurtured them for our Christmas and Summer Fairs. In his life, Ian had a job he enjoyed; a long and happy marriage; family he loved; he was a caring, considerate, faithful man; and enjoyed a life well-lived for which his family give thanks. He will be greatly missed.

*(Extract from Rev James Aitken's Tribute)*

# Mission Committee

## Fresh Start

The next collection for Fresh Start will be on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December** when we will be looking for Dishes, Cutlery and Kitchen Utensils. More information will be in the Order of Service on Communion Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

## Congregational Christmas Cards

The Mission Committee will be looking for help to have the Congregational Christmas Cards delivered to all homes within the Parish. Look out for details in future Orders of Service.

## Congregational Lunch

A date for your diary: **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2019** when the Mission Committee will be arranging the Annual Congregational Lunch.

*Margaret Hunter*

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## "Shake it Off"

One day a farmer's donkey fell down a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old and the well needed to be covered up anyway. It just wasn't worth it to try to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbours to come over and help him.



They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realised what was happening and cried horribly. Then to everyone's amazement he quietened down. A few shovel-loads later the farmer finally looked down the well and was astonished at what he saw. With every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbours continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal it would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off!

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping and never giving up! Remember five simple rules for happiness:

- free your heart from hatred
- free your mind from worries
- live simply
- give more
- expect less

There is a lesson in this story for us all if we care to think about it. Enjoy your time and **Shake It Off.**

*Thanks to Bob Brewster*

## Care Van and Care Shelter Update

During the summer I attended a dinner and celebratory evening hosted by Bethany Christian Trust as a thank you to all helpers for supporting, volunteering and giving to the Care Van and Care Shelter. This was an uplifting evening with a super buffet cooked and prepared by 3 volunteers who each spoke during the evening about their experience of homelessness. Each had become homeless through a breakdown in a relationship and each had had their life turned around by the support of Bethany Christian Trust through the services of the Care Van, Care Shelter and Bethany House. These services make a difference.



Partnering with Edinburgh City Mission and local churches the Care Van runs every night and four lunchtimes weekly to give food, fresh soup and hot drinks to homeless people. In the year to March 2018 there were 21,440 presentations to the van with 32,000 cups of tea or coffee served and involving 750 volunteers in 50 teams.

The Care Shelter last winter was open for 196 nights and on average 43 people were given a hot meal and bed space nightly. During the worst of the winter weather St John's Church at the west end of Princes Street opened its doors 24 hours a day so that people could shelter from the elements and no one needed to be on the street in the snow. This winter the Care Shelter opened on 26<sup>th</sup> September and will be open until 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019 providing 222 nights of shelter.

Some interesting facts and figures from Care Shelter attendance, and this reflects similar attendance at the Care Van:

82% male

Average stay - 12 nights for a man and 8 for a woman

Average age - 39, with range from 16 to 77

Nationality - 68% British, 21% Eastern European, 11% other

Here at St Ninian's we have 3 teams who volunteer with the Care Van and we fulfil a once a month commitment. Recently we have seen more and more problems with the van and often have a substitute van, so are delighted that money has been raised to fund provision of a new van which is being fitted out internally for start-up through the winter. We have also had some issues of behaviour - especially at Waverley Bridge where our largest group congregate and where alcohol and drugs can fuel disputes and poor respect for others. Roadworks and road closures are always fun to negotiate in an attempt to follow the regular route! But we have our regular and our many very grateful visitors to the van who hugely appreciate a hot drink and a blether - and wow can they blether! - and this is where we really matter and where we really help and where we get so much back for our efforts.

We are very grateful for all the donations of clothing and blankets and for money which allows us to buy underwear, hats, gloves and essential provisions. I am always very grateful to my team and church for continuing support.

*Alison Cunningham (Care Van Co-ordinator)*



We are all seeing the devastating effects of climate change right before our eyes. We need to stand together with those suffering from the ensuing natural disasters. There have been two emergency appeals in close succession this year for those affected and, as usual, the response of the St Ninian's congregation has been very generous.

### **Kerala Floods Appeal**

More than a million people are staying in around 4,000 relief camps across the state and more than 370 people have lost their lives in the monsoon season since June. It's said to be the worst rains in more than 100 years.

St Ninian's contributed **£1,118.45** to this appeal.

### **Indonesia Tsunami Appeal**

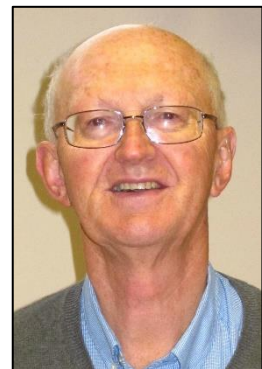
More than 1.5 million people have been affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia which have left 2,100 dead, hundreds more missing and 200,000 survivors, of whom about 25% are children who are in need of humanitarian assistance.

The retiring collection on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October has raised **£620.45** so far.

On behalf of Christian Aid, I would like to thank all those who have donated to these appeals.

We all hope that there will be no need for further emergency appeals this year but we have no control over the devastating effects of our climate.

*Alec Millar*



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## **CONVERSAZIONE (Our 'Young at Heart' Men's Group)**



We struck up our conversations again on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October when sixteen of us enjoyed a light lunch and an hour or so of convivial conversation. Our meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month, October to May (except December); they begin at 12.30 and finish around 1.30. Lunch is provided by a wonderful team of ladies who do a fantastic job. We each normally make a minimum donation of £3 to cover the cost of the food.

We hope you will join us for our next lunch and chat on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November**.

*Douglas Ramsay*

## Church & Society

Each church in the Church of Scotland should have a representative who is able to pass on accounts of the working of the Church and Society Council. You may recall that several years ago you were given the opportunity to complete a card in their "Speak Out" campaign with your suggestions for issues that should be addressed in the Church in the following ten years. These issues were divided in to eight themes named below with a brief explanation of the remit of each one.

**BUILDING GLOBAL FRIENDSHIPS** headlines the work with and for refugees in Scotland and migrants in Europe and supports the work of Christian Aid. There is also a project shared with the Church of Sweden exploring interfaith responses to refugee integration. There is an Edinburgh Weekend Club and new volunteers are always welcome.

**CARING FOR CREATION** covers eco-congregation Scotland, fossil fuels divestment (you may know that the General Assembly rejected a deliverance on divestment and recommended a process of engagement with fossil fuel companies), climate change, fuel poverty, food poverty and also pilgrimage.

**DOING POLITICS DIFFERENTLY** - the Scottish Churches' Parliamentary Office holds public events. They also encourage meetings with your local MP and MSP.

**AN ECONOMY DRIVEN BY EQUALITY** - lots about money: credit unions, universal credit and social enterprises based in churches.

**FLOURISHING LOCAL COMMUNITIES** - these are communities where the local church and its people inspire, equip and sustain community-led activity and cohesion through partnerships and networks; these may include isolation, criminal justice, homelessness and food security.

**GENDER JUSTICE** is tackling inequalities through the Council's work as well as other Councils and Departments in the Church.

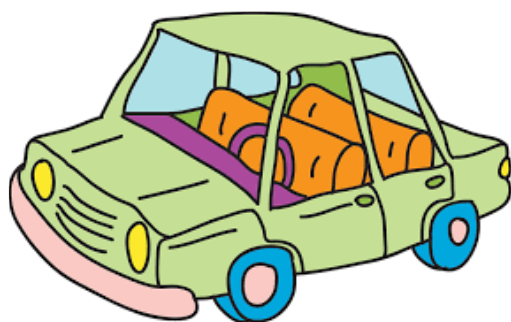
**HEALTH AND WELLBEING** - they contribute to many issues on mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, parish nursing including dementia, genome editing and, again, social isolation and loneliness.

**INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE** - all aspects involving children: the Give Me Five campaign, the year of young people; education through the work of school chaplains and local authority reps; and the General Assembly proposal for the formation of a cross-Council body to co-ordinate the Church's contribution to the flourishing of Scotland's young people.

This is only a brief update on the different topics of Speak Out - for more information on each you can dip into the Church of Scotland website and read the current e- newsletter on the Crush Hall noticeboard.

*Valerie Thomson, C&S Rep*

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## Church Transport

Very warm thanks to both our regular and reserve drivers who bring our less able members to church each week, and also to our Special Communion. If you would be willing to help out on a regular or occasional basis or, if you know of anyone needing assistance to get to church (provided they are ambulant), please get in touch. Thanks also to Charles Morgan who helps out with wheelchairs in the car park no matter the weather.

*Rona Stevenson*

## Making a house into a home

The Rock Trust have fifty flats across Edinburgh offering homeless young people, often care-leavers, a safe space to call home.



Do you remember the thrill of getting your first house and the excitement of receiving things to make it into your home? Would you help to give these young people the opportunity to do likewise?

The Rock Trust would be pleased to receive new or good quality used household items. Do you have extra things that you no longer use ... would you like them to have a new life with a homeless young person?

They are looking for bedding, cutlery, pots and pans, plates and bowls, mugs and glasses, towels and tea towels, kettles, toasters and any other kitchen utensils. There is also an Amazon wish list showing items that they need most. I shall be pleased to take anything to the Rock Trust along with the food items that you offer so generously. You may either bring them to church or I can collect from you if more convenient. Many thanks.

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More good news. The Rock Trust have been voted to receive a Nationwide Community Grant and have been awarded £50,000 towards their "Housing First for Youth" project in West Lothian. This means that five young care-leavers, who are at high risk of becoming homeless as adults, will be given permanent homes and the support that they need to progress and have the future that they deserve.

*Valerie Thomson, (Rock Trust Rep)*

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## A Vote of Thanks

As we reach the end of another year, on behalf of the congregation, we would like to extend our grateful thanks to all those who do little and big jobs around the church - the Organist & choir, the flower ladies & deliverers, the tea & coffee ladies, the church transport drivers, the crèche & Sunday School teachers, the bell ringers, the Committees, the Communion Cloth ironers, those who prepare the Elements and dress the Sanctuary, the heating controllers and the gardeners. Especial thanks to the Hospitality team who, once again, have fed and watered us extremely well. And, of course, the church officials - the Church Secretary, Beadles, Church Officer and Cleaner. We applaud your commitment.

*[Eds]*

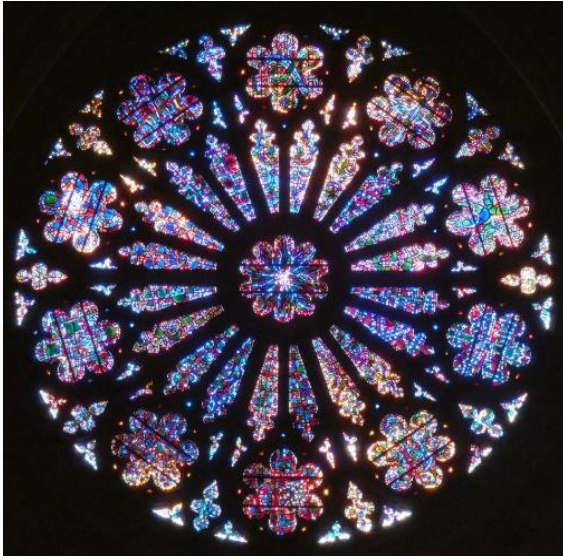
Dear God  
Grant us your vision  
to see as you see,  
to always hope,  
to never let go  
and to strive for your kingdom.  
Inspire us toward greater things  
for you are a God of the impossible.  
Give us courage and confidence,  
compassion and care  
to be the Church  
you have called us to be.  
AMEN  
*(from Together We Pray)*



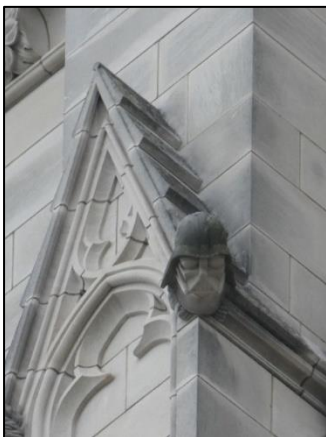
## Washington National Cathedral

Our recent trip to the USA included several visits to churches of various vintages, styles and sizes, some visits by design and some by accident.

Our first stop was Washington, visiting all the usual tourist hot spots: The White House, the Capitol Building (including access to a debate in The Senate, normally reserved for US residents by invitation via their Senator), a walk round Arlington Cemetery, a night tour of all the National monuments and, of course, as many of the Smithsonian museums as we could manage in the time available (another visit needed to do the rest!).



After a visit to Georgetown, we took the local bus up Cathedral Hill for a guided tour of Washington National Cathedral. Built in the Gothic style of a 14<sup>th</sup> century English cathedral, it is of course anything but 14<sup>th</sup> century having been started in 1907 and, after some major repairs following the earthquake of 2011, continues to evolve to this day. I certainly didn't expect to find a connection to the Air and Space Museum, which we had visited the previous day, having long been on my 'bucket list'. But there, alongside the more 'traditional' Rose Window representing 'The Creation', was the 'Space Window'. Look carefully - the small white dot right in the centre is a piece of moon rock, brought back on Apollo 11 by Neil Armstrong in 1974 and presented to the Cathedral for inclusion in the window.



Even more recently, a competition for local school children resulted in the winner's suggestion of a carving of Star Wars' chief villain, Darth Vader, being added to the range of gargoyles which adorn the outside of the building. Whether by coincidence or design, the space available for this carving was near the top of the North West Tower, which never gets any sunlight, so that Darth Vader lives permanently on the Dark Side!

There are too many other fascinating facts and stories to relate here (Martin Luther King preached his last sermon before his assassination, for example) so, if you get the chance, go there and see and hear for yourself.

*Derek MacGillivray*

# Enterprise Committee

The forty-second edition of “Let’s Talk about Corstorphine” will be distributed in late November and in December. Additional distributors would be appreciated - please contact me.

The date of the next **Christmas Fair** will be decided in January 2019. Would you like to join the Christmas Fair Committee and help organise a stall? If so, please contact me.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

*Ian Kirkpatrick*

\* \* \* \* \*

## As promised . . .

My sermon on 9<sup>th</sup> September reflected on Jesus as the Messiah and his understanding of what that word meant - as suffering and love. Suffering and love are intimately acquainted and, in the sermon, I demonstrated this using a poem by Robert Hayden called ‘Winter Sundays’. This poem is Robert Hayden’s masterpiece, and after the service many asked if it could be printed in the Quarterly. So here it is.

### Winter Sundays - Robert Hayden (1913 - 1980)

Sundays too my father got up early  
and put his clothes on in the blue-black cold,  
then with cracked hands that ached  
from labour in the weekday weather made  
banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.

I’d wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.  
When the rooms were warm, he’d call,  
and slowly I would rise and dress,  
fearing the chronic angers of that house.

Speaking indifferently to him,  
who had driven out the cold  
and polished my good shoes as well.  
What did I know, what did I know  
of love’s austere and lonely offices?

If you would like to know more about Robert Hayden, follow this link:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/68440/robert-hayden-those-winter-sundays>

*James Aitken*

[For those who would like to delve deeper into the meanings portrayed in the sermons, James now offers a fortnightly discussion group at 12 noon. Details in the Intimations.]

**“Death Is Nothing At All”**  
***by Canon Henry Scott-Holland***

Death is nothing at all.  
I have only slipped away to the next room.  
I am I and you are you.  
Whatever we were to each other,  
that we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name.  
Speak to me in the easy way  
which you always used.  
Put no difference into your tone,  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed  
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.  
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.  
Let it be spoken without effect  
Without the trace of a shadow on it.

Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was.  
There is absolute unbroken continuity.  
What is death but a negligible accident?  
Why should I be out of mind  
because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you.  
For an interval.  
Somewhere. Very near.  
Just around the corner.

All is well.

Nothing is past: nothing is lost.  
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.  
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again.

*[as read by Bertie Dobie at the funeral service for his Best Man]*

St.Ninian's Church Of Scotland , Corstorphine

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Period ended.  
31 October 2018

	Actual 2018 £	Actual 2017 £	Variance £
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
<b>Ministry and Mission</b>			
National Stipend and Mission and Renewal Fund	83,198	74,780	(8,418)
Add : Locumcy Costs	0	3,473	3,473
	<b>83,198</b>	<b>78,253</b>	<b>(4,945)</b>
<b>Congregational expenses</b>			
Presbytery Dues	2,942	1,824	(1,118)
Pulpit Supply	420	995	575
Minister's Travel and Expenses	720	235	(485)
Minister's Removal / Disturbance Allowance	0	2,175	2,175
Local Salaries	28,354	27,309	(1,045)
Fabric,Repairs and Maintenance	4,370	2,687	(1,683)
Regular Maintenance Charges	1,670	2,431	761
Hall Running Costs	8,102	10,340	2,238
Property Insurance	4,363	4,336	(27)
Manse Running Costs (inc Council Tax)	2,585	3,080	495
Office Expenses	3,955	3,087	(868)
Other Expenses	5,058	6,174	1,116
	<b>62,538</b>	<b>64,672</b>	<b>2,134</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>145,736</b>	<b>142,925</b>	<b>(2,811)</b>
<b>RECEIPTS other than Offerings</b>			
Use Of Church Halls	28,759	22,993	5,766
Investment Income	3,172	3,284	(112)
Other Receipts	3,296	3,819	(523)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,227</b>	<b>30,096</b>	<b>5,131</b>
<b>Amount to be met from Offerings</b>	<b>110,509</b>	<b>112,829</b>	
<b>Offertry and Tax Recoveries</b>			
Congregation Offerings	107,180	108,087	(907)
Tax Recovery on Gift Aid	22,011	21,469	543
	<b>129,191</b>	<b>129,556</b>	<b>(365)</b>
<b>Surplus to date</b>	<b>£18,683</b>	<b>£16,728</b>	<b>1,955</b>
<b>Before Legacies Received</b>	<b>£1,500</b>	<b>£1,500</b>	<b>0</b>

**COMMENT**

The Surplus on the General Account to October 2018 is £1,955 greater than for the same period last year. This can be explained as follows:

**Higher Costs - £2,811**

~ Ministry and Mission - the higher charge for 2018 (£4,945) is mostly due to the fact that the 2017 charge was reduced during the vacancy

~ Presbytery Dues - the higher charge in 2018 (£1,118) is mostly due to the fact that it covers a 12 month period compared to the 2017 cost which covered a 9 month period.

~ Other costs - compared to last year there has been an overall reduction (£3,252). Costs in 2017 were higher due to a combination of expenses incurred in connection with the vacancy, higher charges for water rates and regular maintenance. These savings have been offset by increases in 2018 for local salaries, fabric repairs & maintenance and office expenses.

**Higher Income + £4,766**

~ The increase in income is mostly due to an increase in hall income (£5,766) plus a small increase in Tax recovery on Gift Aid (£542). The increases have been offset by reductions in congregational offerings (£907), investment income (£112) and other income (£522)

**Janice Reynolds**  
Treasurer

## Past Times in St Ninian's

### From the Quarterly 25 years ago, January 1994

From Minister's Notes by the Rev Colin R Martin

"We look forward to the visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly [*the Rt Rev Dr James L Weatherhead*] on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 1994 when we shall recall the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the induction of the Rev George Burns as the first Minister of our Church. On that day we shall do well to remember and be thankful for the commitment of hundreds of members over the century and a half of the Church's existence, and hopefully we shall be inspired to play our parts in the worship, witness and work of St Ninian's."



*The Rev Colin R Martin, Dr James L Weatherhead, Moderator of the General Assembly, and the Rev Mary Dilby, Assistant Minister, in the vestry before the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1994*

### From the Quarterly 50 years ago, January 1969

#### Sunday School

*[As noted in the previous Quarterly and in Douglas Johnston's contribution to this Quarterly, there was an acute shortage of accommodation for the hundreds of children who attended our Sunday School every week. The Superintendent, Mr Jack Turnbull, here gives a detailed account of how this was achieved before the 7 new classrooms were added in the mid-1970s.]*

"The Beginners with Mrs Bonomy, Leader, and a staff of 15, meet in the new Large Hall [*Martin Shields*] at 11.30am. Here we have 116 youngsters of 3 and 4 years, while 115 of 5 and 6 years meet in the Large Hall [*Burns*], also at 11.30am, with Mrs Rae and a staff of 15.

"The Juniors meet at 9.15am in the Martin Shields Hall when 149 young folk, 7,8 and 9 years, go to classes and then have worship at 10.15am with Mr Seath, Leader, and a staff of 16.

"The Seniors go into Church at 10.15am for the last part of the 9.30am Service and go to classes at 10.30am in the Church. Mr James Arthur is Leader with a staff of 12.

"Morning Bible Class starts at 10.40am in Rooms 1 and 2 where Miss Mackay meets with 21 girls and Mr Howe with 16 boys.

"Thus, we have 17 men and 47 women, ie 64 persons on the Sunday School staff meeting with 531 children from 350 homes.

*[What a great deal of dedicated thought and organisation to achieve the above! - Ed]*

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