

St Ninian's Church
Corstorphine

Quarterly



Spring 2019



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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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

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. (Deuteronomy 31: 8)

Recently, the National Galleries of Scotland advertised a job for a 'Gallery Educator'. I wasn't sure what a Gallery Educator was, so I read on to find out.

"Your rôle will be to facilitate learner-led adventures in the gallery that help pupils think for themselves, ask questions and find the words to explore their own ideas about art. You will give them the skills to analyse art for themselves, challenge assumptions and develop their creativity skills through problem-solving, curiosity, open-mindedness and imagination."

This description excited me - and that made me think. When I was a pupil at school in the late 20th century learning was nothing like this: led by me? an adventure? an exploration? Not at all. I don't remember receiving much "help" of any kind, never mind help to "ask questions" and "find the words" to explore *my own* ideas. Wouldn't it have been wonderful, I thought, to have been "given the skills" to analyse for myself, challenge assumptions, and develop such things as creativity, curiosity, open-mindedness and imagination? Thinking of my own experience of education back then in the late 20th century, and then comparing it to what is expected of education today in the early decades of the 21st century, it seems to me that teaching has changed a lot over the past 30 years. Reading that advert - I want to be young again!

How has church life changed over the past 30 years? When you come to church to worship, or to take part in meetings, or to enjoy fellowship, do you feel that you lead it? Would you describe it as an adventure and an exploration? Are you encouraged to ask questions? Is there help to explore your own ideas? What skills are you given? Would you feel secure in challenging assumptions? Is your spiritual creativity, curiosity and imagination developed?

Mmmm... I wonder? Has the church kept up? At St Ninian's, when we look at the way we worship; the way we disciple adults; the way we organise ourselves, involve people, and run the congregation's business; the functionality of our building; our interaction with our community, do these things reflect the way society used to be in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, when the church was more established and popular; when worship was taken for granted; and a healthy spiritual life assumed? Does St Ninian's need to develop into a church that better fits what people living in the early years of the 21st century expect from their organisations, their buildings, and their relationship with God?

That last question is one that the Kirk Session and the Deacons' Court will be asking itself over the next four months. During that time the Presbytery of Edinburgh will be carrying out a Local Church Review in which it will ask questions of St Ninian's about what we do, why we do it, and what new things might we do over the next five years. What new things should we do over the next 5 years? If we need to become a 21st century congregation, what does a 21st century congregation look like? You can tell your Elder, you can write to me or the Session Clerk or the Clerk to the Deacons' Court. You can tell me at the Sermon Discussion Group, or the Lent Bible Study or at any other time.

James



Communion Services

Communion Services will be held in the Church
on **Sunday 3rd March 2019**
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.

Afternoon Communion & Special Tea

The Afternoon Communion on 3rd March is open to all and caters for our less sprightly members. It is followed by a Special Tea in the Martin Shields Hall, providing an opportunity to catch up with friends in a more relaxed environment. Reminders are sent out to some members who are unable to attend church regularly; if you know of others who would like to attend, please let them know. Anyone requiring transport, providing they are ambulant, please contact Rona Stevenson (334 4471). Wheelchairs can be accommodated in the church if anyone needs to come by taxi. Everyone is welcome.

Kirk Session Meetings 2019

Wednesdays: 13th February, 8th May, 11th September, 13th November

Deacons' Court Meetings 2019

Wednesdays: 27th February, 22nd May, 25th September, 27th November

Easter Services

Sunday 14 th April	10.30am	Palm & Passion Sunday Morning Service
Thursday 18 th April	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Friday 19 th April	7.00pm	Good Friday United Service at St Thomas' Church
Sunday 21 st April	8.30am	Service on Corstorphine Hill <i>(Meet in St Ninian's Car Park at 8.00am)</i>
	10.30am	Easter Service followed by Communion



... and some other dates for your diary

17 th February	-	Soup & Roll Lunch
23 rd February	-	Step Inside <i>(last Saturday monthly)</i>
27 th February	-	Conversazione <i>(last Wednesday monthly)</i>
1 st March	-	World Day of Prayer
9 th March	-	Coffee Morning <i>(for St Columba's Hospice)</i>
10 th March	-	Fresh Start Donations
10 th March	-	Stated Annual Meeting
11 th March	-	Lent Bible Study <i>(5 weeks)</i>
17 th March	-	Soup & Roll Lunch
26 th March	-	Guild AGM
14 th & 21 st April	-	No Sunday School
15 th April	-	Let's Talk Copy Date
28 th April	-	Quarterly Copy Date
7 th May	-	Coffee & Gateaux Evening
11 th May	-	Forth Bridge Crossing <i>(for Christian Aid)</i>
12 th May	-	Soup & Sweet Lunch <i>(for Christian Aid)</i>
12 th -18 th May	-	Christian Aid Week
19 th May	-	Choir (Handel: <i>The King Shall Rejoice</i>)
13 th October	-	Kirk Session & Deacons' Court Get-together
23 rd November	-	Christmas Fair

Congregational Register

Baptism:

4 November Piper Lee Ray Lawrence, 69 Forrester Road

Marriages:

1st September Sarah Moreland, 52 Carrick Knowe Terrace
John McLarey, 52 Carrick Knowe Terrace

22nd December Michelle Benson, 11 Meggetland Square
Gavin Smith, 11 Meggetland Square

Funerals:

27th October * Mrs Chris Mickel, 60 Caroline Terrace
23rd November * Mr Joseph Lemmon, 29 Clerwood Park
12th December * Mrs Pat Smith, 69 Caroline Terrace
14th December * Mrs Margaret Turner, Middleton Hall Nursing Home, Uphall

2019

10th January * Miss Mary Moncur, Northgate Manor Nursing Home
15th January * Mrs Evelyn Goodwin, Belgrave Lodge Nursing Home
18th January * Mrs Muriel Stringer, 30 St Ninian's Road
22nd January Mrs Catherine Young, 66 Broomfield Crescent
8th February * Mrs Cath McLean, Murrayfield House Nursing Home

* Denotes member

LENT BIBLE STUDY

EVERYONE WELCOME

The Bible Study will use a method called Contextual Bible Study to read and reflect on the Lectionary's Gospel readings for the Sundays in Lent*. The group will read the texts together and talk about their meaning, and how they relate to us today and to the season of Lent.

Lent week 1: **Monday 11th March** Luke 4: 1 - 13
Lent week 2: **Monday 18th March** Luke 13: 31 - 35
Lent week 3: **Monday 25th March** Luke 13: 1 - 9
Lent week 4: **Monday 1st April** Luke 15: 1 - 3, 11 - 32
Lent week 5: **Monday 8th April** John 12: 1 - 8

All at St Ninian's, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

There is no need to commit to all five, each week stands alone; come along to one, two, three, four or five - or try one and then decide about the others! If you are interested in taking part, please email or phone James (JAitken@churchofscotland.org.uk; 334 1324) or sign up on the sheet in the vestry.

**The Revised Common Lectionary is an approved week-by-week three-year cycle of biblical readings. The readings lead us from Advent through the Christian year, the Bible, and Jesus' life through birth, baptism, his public ministry, his death, resurrection and ascension. The Bible study will focus on the Lectionary's five gospel readings for Lent.*

Food for Thought?

James' letter at the beginning of the Quarterly mentions the forthcoming Local Church Review. This editorial in a recent issue of Life & Work places such a Review within the wider context of change in the Church in Scotland.

What will 2019 mean for the Church of Scotland?

Who could have predicted at the beginning of 2018 that the General Assembly would (somewhat unexpectedly) rise up and overwhelmingly demand urgent action on a radical action plan for the short and medium-term future of the Church of Scotland?

Whatever the outcome, it is clear that the Church of Scotland needs to go back to its roots and reform to find a new way of speaking and reaching out to the people of 21st century Scotland.

However, its cumbersome structures and the disconnect that has long existed between the central church, presbyteries and local churches need to be addressed urgently.

Over the years I have listened to presbyteries debate business and reference is made to '121' or 'Edinburgh', usually followed by 'has told us...' The Church's central offices exist to serve the Church and carry out the work of the General Assembly - it is not a self-sustaining bureaucratic body but is subject to the same rigorous examination and inspection as any local church.

However, many in congregations experience 'church' only in a local context. The relationship of local churches with presbyteries and the central church and General Assembly is not an easy one to understand and it is easy to see why many choose to stay within the safe sphere of understanding that is their local congregation.

Yet despite the declining numbers, there are many valuable people and gifts within local congregations that could play a key part in the future of our Church by serving as part of the central church. But any change will also require a new mindset and a new path.

Many will have to accept that the model of 'one church, one minister' with worship at 11am on a Sunday morning, is no longer sustainable. The Church of the future may offer seven days a week worship in a multitude of community locations or even 24/7 service on 365 days of the year.

Outside the Church, there is the prospect of turmoil and further uncertainty.

Notwithstanding the impact of Brexit in March, followed by the rollout of changes to the Universal Credit benefits system, the Scotland of 2019 feels a much less certain place than it did even four or five years ago. This offers an opportunity for the Church with its message of hope, love and joy. For history has shown that it is during those most uncertain times that the Church of Scotland has flourished and grown.

2019 may appear to be full of trepidation, but there is always the eternal promise of better days.

[Lynne McNeil, Editorial, Life & Work, January 2019]

Hospitality Group

Morag Small and I started the group way back in the last century - 1999 to be exact, after being ordained as Deacons. It seems no time at all since then, but I hope over the years we have provided a good service to our fellow church members and visitors. Morag decided to give up the stewardship of the group some 3 years ago and I was happy to take on the mantle.

I have a great bunch of helpers in the group namely Ann Stewart, Fiona Knapp, Fiona Havill, Sheonagh Richards, Lindsay Stevenson, Margaret Benson, Maggie Wheeler, Sheila Minty and, of course, Morag Small still likes to keep her hand in. There are many others who are willing to supply home baking which is much appreciated.

Over the course of a year we cater for the Congregational Lunch, Care Van Social, Afternoon Tea after Communion, Christian Aid Lunch, the Harvest Lunch and the biennial Christmas Fair. We also do periodic Soup and Roll lunches which give us funds to help cover expenses for various charitable events. There are assorted one-offs, eg Alex Stewart's retiral and James Aitken's induction.



If anyone would like to join the group (male or female), they will be very welcome, especially on Fair Day on November 23rd. You don't have to be a home baker, just bring an apron and a pair of rubber gloves!

Georgie Wallace

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The Computer Swallowed Grandma *(no connection with the above article intended!)*

The computer swallowed grandma.
Yes, honestly, it's true!
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm,
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the internet,
But nothing could I find.

In desperation I asked Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online'

So, if inside your 'inbox'
My grandma you should see,
Please 'copy', 'scan' and 'paste' her
And send her back to me.



[This is a tribute to all the Grandmas who have been fearless and learned to use The Computer ... they are the greatest!! We do not stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing. NEVER Be The First to Get Old!] *Source - Anon.*

Mission Committee

Once again 1800 Congregational Christmas Cards were delivered to members' homes outwith the Parish and all the homes within the Parish. The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who helped deliver these cards.

Our Annual Congregational Lunch was held on 13th January after morning worship. We were slightly down in numbers, possibly because of seasonal dates and because the Sunday School was not back prior to the lunch date. However, we raised £412.70 which will be passed to CRISIS - a charity for homeless people. They help homeless people and campaign for the changes needed to solve it all together. A big thank you to everyone who came for lunch and all those who supported this worthwhile cause.

Our next Fresh Start collection will be on **Sunday 10th March** when we are looking for the following items:- soup pots, frying pans, milk pans, cooking utensils, Tupperware, can openers, potato peelers and wooden spoons. Also Fresh Start are happy to accept small household electrical items such as:- kettles, toasters, lamps, vacuum cleaners, irons, radios and microwaves. These items will be listed in the Order of Service on Communion Sunday, 3rd March.

Margaret Hunter

Coffee Morning in aid of St Columba's Hospice

at St Ninian's Church, Corstorphine

on Saturday 9th March 2019 from 10:00am to Noon

Home Baking, Tombola, Books, Hospice Stall,

Hampers, Teas & Coffees

Admission - Adults £2.00; Children 50p

Please come along and support the ongoing work of the Hospice



Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1

A commemorative event was held over the weekend of 10th/11th November 2018. Ladies from the flower team decorated the sanctuary appropriately and their efforts were much admired. Memorabilia from that time, on display in the sanctuary, proved to be fascinating and of great interest to those attending. Posters in corridors and in the Martin Shields Hall told of the effects of the conflict and changes in society as a result of all that happened.

Here in Edinburgh, amongst other things, we learned how Elsie Inglis raised funds for a field Red Cross unit, how the players of the Hearts and Hibernian teams took part, and we saw photographs of the Armistice Day parade in Regent Road. Information about a Zeppelin raid over Edinburgh and the German fleet sailing into the Forth Estuary on 21st November 1918 to surrender were brought to life with photography. Poems told the story of wartime, and the men of Corstorphine who gave their lives were honoured.

The Hospitality team provided teas and coffees along with a suitable selection of tasty goodies.

Donations and the sale of floral arrangements raised the magnificent sum of just over £1,034, which was given to the charity *There But Not There*.

The Mission Committee



Fabric Committee

Every year we are asked to submit an Inventory of all the contents and equipment in the Church buildings for Presbytery Property Reports and Insurance renewals.



Did you know that we have 304 chairs, 416 hymnaries and 30 tea towels? I do. I had to count all of them! However, we now have a very comprehensive list for our records and insurance claims. Some items have special historic value such as the silver Communion cups, Communion plates, serving trays and covers, so we have marked them with security codes and taken photographs for our records.

Access to the front door of the Church can be difficult for some members of the congregation, particularly with snow or ice in winter. A new handrail has therefore been installed to provide support and we hope this will prove beneficial.

Every year we experience problems with blocked gutters due to a build-up of leaves and debris. Autumn leaves are beautiful on the trees but a headache when they fall and pile up on the roofs. We have now arranged for an annual clearance of all the gutters on the Church buildings and at the Manse.

Alister McGlashan

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Save the Date ...!!



Coffee and Gâteaux Evening

Tuesday 7th May from 7pm - 9pm

Martin Shields Hall

Fundraising for Christmas Fair proceeds

An opportunity to spend an enjoyable evening chatting to friends over coffee and as much gâteau as you can eat!

Tickets will be on sale from Sunday 21st April.

The Guild

We welcomed our Minister, James, to the first meeting of the new session. James encouraged us all in our 'peregrinations', as he explored this year's theme 'One Journey Many Roads'.

In the next few weeks some highlights include talks on Hopetoun House and Glasgow Cathedral. A copy of this session's syllabus, together with a list of the six Projects, can be found on the Guild Notice Board outside the Martin Shields Hall.

A number of our Guild members joined with Corstorphine Old Parish Guild members to hear about Seema's Project which is part of the Free to Live Trust.

With the support of the Guild throughout Scotland, the Project plans to:

1. Start a lunch programme for children of the red-light district in Pune, India.
2. Double the number of children cared for at a recently built home.
3. Rescue and rehabilitate some of the trafficked sex workers.
4. Provide skills training for the teenagers when they leave school.

We all worked hard at our February Coffee Morning, raising funds for all our Projects. Many thanks to all who supported us.

Our annual lunch was held this year at Fabio's and we are now looking forward to our annual outing which is planned for May.

Membership is growing but we still would like to encourage others to come along on a Tuesday afternoon and join us for Fellowship.

Irene McCartney (Secretary)



Sunday School News

Sunday School Leaders and Helpers have had a busy few months preparing for the special services.



The first was Remembrance Sunday when our young people, including members of the various youth organisations, participated in the service for the first time in several years. We have received some lovely feedback and hope that our young people will continue to be involved with this particular service in years to come. A special thank you to Dorothy Davidson and Andrew Broom who both took the time to speak to Alpha and the Juniors prior to the Service and gave them an insight into the war years and remembrance.

The build up to Christmas was full of excitement: Christmas Parties and outings for our young people and the gift service, where we were overwhelmed with gifts and donations for Barbara Wells from the Salvation Army to take away to give to those less fortunate than ourselves. A lot of work was put into the Christmas Nativity Service which was thoroughly enjoyed by the congregation and the feedback on this was very encouraging. It was something different and we hope to work and build on this theme in future years.

As well as our Alpha group doing readings in church on Sundays on a regular basis, it was lovely to see some of our young people reading during the Lessons and Carols Service on 23rd December.

As always, we welcome any comments or ideas. We are fortunate to have a strong team of leaders and helpers who are always willing to help.

Diana Fairgrieve & Lesley Gulland (Joint Co-ordinators)



Projects Abroad Trip - Sri Lanka, December 2018

I had the most amazing trip to Sri Lanka last December - I loved every minute of it. It was such a great experience learning about another culture and meeting so many people. Also, it was hot as it's summer over there - an added bonus!

Lisa and I flew from Edinburgh to Dubai and then on to Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. We were then taken to our host house in Kotikawatta - a suburb of Colombo city, situated east of the city centre. Staying with us in our host house were other volunteers from all around the world - two Australians, two from Dublin, one from Dubai and one other from Scotland - we will be friends for life.



Throughout my two weeks in Sri Lanka I was based in Kolonnawa, a town in the western province of Sri Lanka, where I worked with my fellow volunteers in Sambauddaloka Pre-School, working in a Nursery with children aged between 2 and 5. The programme was a mixture of teaching dancing for their Christmas Show, painting/craft work and spending quality time with the children. When we were introduced to these children for the first time it was clear they were living off the bare minimum and were poor wee souls.

However, within a few days of being in the school they came out of their shells and were so excited and interested in us. They were intrigued by the different colour of skin and the light eyes. We could only speak the basics of English with them, teaching them a little more day by day. Through observing their faces and body language it was very easy to understand what they were trying to tell us.

We were at the Pre-School for five out of the seven days, working only 9am till around 3pm, and then we got to do a "social" activity after this. We went sight-seeing around Colombo, bought gifts at the market, visited many temples and parliaments and we saw many guards with big guns outside these locations before heading back to the host family for an amazing dinner and some down time. At the weekend off, we travelled to Kandy. We had to get up at 5am and travelled around 6 hours in our mini bus with our favourite driver. We arrived at our hotel and got freshened up. We stayed in a room with an amazing view. There were posters on the door saying to shut the windows or else monkeys would get into the hotel which is something that would never happen back in Scotland. We met the elephants on this trip - another fantastic experience!



It was the most amazing two weeks, full of experiences I will never forget. I didn't realise I could get so attached to children in such a short space of time. The Projects Abroad team were amazing at taking care of us and on our last day we went to a luxury hotel for our Christmas party where we played some competitive games in the pool the whole day. I met so many amazing people and our leader, Mummanara, is keeping in touch with news, for example about my host mum having her second baby girl in January.



I truly hope to go back sometime in the near future and thanks again to the congregation of St Ninian's for their generosity in supporting our fundraising efforts to get there.

Megan Stevenson

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The Gift of Time

(A Thought for the Day from our Locum Minister in January)

Another year ahead of us, another block of time. And, as we stand at the gateway of 2019, what do we see?

We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And it is all a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchase it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as part of life. The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak - every man, woman and child has the same 24 hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it; there is no way to slow it down, turn it off or adjust it. Time marches on relentlessly, and you cannot bring it back. Once it is gone it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever.

If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. Yes, we may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will, or can, spend it on ourselves or, as good stewards, invest it in the Kingdom of God.

The New Year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out of the window, or will you make every minute count?

May God bless you as you continue on your spiritual journey at St Ninian's.

Rev Bill Irving

. . . and more on Father Time:

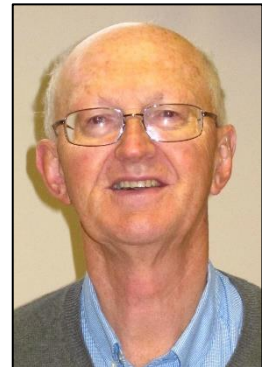
Time is

too slow for those who wait,
too swift for those who fear,
too long for those who grieve,
too short for those who rejoice,
but for those who love,
Time is eternity.

Anon



Christian Aid has more than 70 years' experience of working in partnership to support communities to thrive. We tackle the root causes of poverty so that women, men and children the world over are strengthened against future knocks. And, if disasters happen, we get people the help they need straight away.



In St Ninian's, we actively support Christian Aid by fundraising in the Church and within the Parish enabling Christian Aid to help communities in the developing world.

In 2018, our regular activities raised:	
Forth Bridge Crossing	£3,033
Christian Aid Week	£3,302
Christmas Eve Collection	£990

In addition, retiring collections raised the following:	
Kerala Flood Appeal	£1,118
Indonesia Tsunami Appeal	£781

The total raised in 2018 by St Ninian's was **£9,224**

Many thanks to everyone who helped raise such a wonderful total last year. Can we better it in 2019?

This year, Christian Aid Week runs from 12th to 18th May and the dates of our events are:

SATURDAY 11th MAY	FORTH BRIDGE CROSSING
SUNDAY 12th MAY	SOUP AND SWEET LUNCH
SUNDAY 12th - SATURDAY 18th MAY	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The sponsored walk across the Forth Road Bridge with a real mix of ages is great fun and not too tiring!

The Door-to-Door Collection during Christian Aid Week only takes a few hours of a collector's time but is worth its weight in gold! Returning to the same street annually is like meeting up with old friends while at the same time helping others in real need. **New collectors would be most welcome.**

Alec Millar (alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk)

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Linked In

Some of you will recognise the title as a business and employment-oriented service that operates via websites and mobile apps. It is mainly used for professional networking, eg employers advertising jobs and job seekers posting their CVs.

You could say that we, too, are linked in. Our church representative keeps you informed about the work of the **Church and Society Council**, mainly through their e-newsletter on the board in the Crush Hall. At a recent meeting it was good to see their Climate Change Officer, Adrian Shaw, presented with Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in recognition of his work. In addition, he is seconded part-time to Eco-congregation Scotland and handles international and wider ecumenical relationships relevant to Climate Change.

We also have a church rep for **CrossReach** and, mainly through literature displayed on the board, you can read of its work. This year they celebrate the 150th anniversary of social care delivered by Churches. In 1869 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland decided that a committee should be appointed "to inquire as to the progress of Christian Work in the country". From then on there was the launch of Life and Work, the Young Men's Guild, Women's Guild (1887), Deaconess Training Hospital, first C of S huts supporting soldiers at the front, first eventide home and so on until 150 years later Christian work is still found in the social care services provided in 70 locations throughout Scotland to over 10,000 people of all ages. A few of our members support their work but more could be done through prayer, donating or volunteering.

Each year the first Friday of March is designated as the **World Day of Prayer** when we are linked in through a shared service to Christian people all over the world. This year the service was written by Christian women in Slovenia. In Corstorphine reps from each church will lead the service in care homes, retirement homes and in a church. On Friday 1st March St Ninian's hosts the church service and we would warmly invite you to share it with us and the people of Corstorphine. The service starts at 2.30pm for approximately one hour and is followed by tea when we share fellowship with each other. **PLEASE COME... 2.30pm on Friday 1st March.**

Linked in with the **Rock Trust** since 2003, we contribute food items to them to support young people aged 16 to 25 who are at risk of being homeless. Many of our members contribute regularly but we can never get enough donations and so perhaps you may consider helping as well. The recent appeal for household items was not just for Christmas but is ongoing in their efforts to make a house into a home for these young people. New and good used items can be brought to church at any time for onward delivery. All donations of food items and household items are appreciated by them.

In another way we are linked in to the **Clothing Store** who appreciate good used clothes which may be passed on to people who have become disadvantaged, aged from one year (no baby clothes at the moment) to the elderly.

Yes, in these ways and many more we are linked in, making contact with other organisations and people - a way of enriching our own lives and sharing our faith through worthwhile actions.

Valerie Thomson

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St Ninian's Ladies Badminton Club - 50th Anniversary

What happened in 1968? Martin Luther King was killed, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland permitted the ordination of women as ministers . . . and St Ninian's Ladies Badminton Club was formed!

The Club was started on Wednesday 9th October 1968 by some members of the Young Mothers' Group who felt that they needed to do something to keep themselves fit. The first organiser was May Robertson. The Club proved to be very popular and, when not playing, members sat on the stage of the 'Big Hall' (now the Burns Hall) having coffee and a chat while keeping an eye on their pre-school children. Eventually there were so many members that a Tuesday morning was booked in addition. Gradually over the years the Wednesday mornings became less well attended and those ladies who were left joined the Tuesday girls instead.

It has always been a very friendly group. Apart from the weekly coffee and chat, two annual lunches were arranged - one at Christmas and another in the Summer - and members took it in turn to host these in their home. Weekends away were also arranged.



Do you recognise anyone from this early 1980s' photo? Names are on the 'Past Times at St Ninian's' noticeboard outside the Martin Shields Hall

The Club continues to flourish with 18 members who, between games, still sit on the stage in the Burns Hall having coffee and putting the world to rights. There is still a Christmas Lunch and a Summer Lunch, but these are now held in either the Burns Hall or in a restaurant.

The 50th Anniversary of the Club was celebrated with an informal lunch in the Burns Hall on 20th November 2018. Twentynine members attended - both past and present - and all enjoyed the

lunch, reminiscing over old photographs and catching up with old friends. The cake was cut by Estelle McKean who was one of the original members and who is still regularly playing badminton. Thanks to Andrew Broom for acting as official photographer on the day and to the Church Officer, Gillian McDonald, for all her help every week.



We would love to have some new members (hopefully we can reduce the average age of the Club!). If you are interested, just come along to the Burns Hall on any Tuesday morning between 10am and midday during school term time. A warm welcome awaits you.

Christine Millar

Enterprise Committee

6,400 copies of the forty-second issue of “Let’s Talk about Corstorphine” were distributed. Thanks to contributors, distributors and advertisers. The copy date for the next Issue is 15th April. Articles and suggestions for articles would be appreciated. Additional distributors would be welcomed.

The date for this year’s Christmas Fair is Saturday 23rd November. You may wish to start thinking about what you could make or what you could donate. Some new volunteers have joined the Christmas Fair Committee with welcome new ideas!

You would be most welcome to become involved with the Christmas Fair, Let’s Talk about Corstorphine and/or any of the other activities of the Enterprise Committee. To assist with any of these please contact me.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Ian Kirkpatrick, Convener (334 5951)

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Corstorphine Churches Together

In the bleak mid-winter, it is comforting to remember the hot summer days of last year when the Corstorphine Fair took place on 2nd June in St Margaret’s Park. The Old Parish, St Anne’s, Carrick Knowe, Craigsbank, Corstorphine Community Church, St John The Baptist and St Ninian’s organised a Fair Trade stall and decorated cakes with messages of Peace, Hope and Love. These cakes were freely distributed on trays to everyone. Hopefully these messages will continue to be shared in the Corstorphine Community long after the Fair.



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ian Kirkpatrick for all his hard work and dedication while serving on the Committee of Corstorphine Churches Together for 19 years.

Jenny Taylor

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A Seasonal Laugh!

A hospital patient is somewhat concerned to find haggis, neeps and tatties on his breakfast tray. At lunchtime he is presented with haggis, neeps and tatties again. Similarly, his supper tray sports haggis, neeps and tatties. On enquiring of the Nurse as to whether there is any other food on offer, she says “No, this is the Burns unit”!

(Contributed)

ST. NINIAN'S PARISH CHURCH
GENERAL FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018
AND BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Budget 2019 £	Actual 2018 £
National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work		
National Stipend and Mission and Renewal Fund	102,876	99,837
Presbytery Dues	3,198	2,942
	106,074	102,779
Local Staffing Costs		
Minister's Travel and Expenses	960	960
Pulpit Supply	420	420
Other Salaries, Social Security & Pension Costs	34,656	34,052
	36,036	35,432
Building Costs		
Fabric, Repairs and Renewals	5,500	4,740
Fabric Regular Maintenance	1,720	1,670
Cleaning Materials	1,010	1,099
Heating, Lighting and Water - Halls	9,064	8,363
Council Tax - Manse	3,313	3,217
Insurance	5,309	5,425
	25,917	24,514
Other Local Costs		
Telephone, postage, printing, stationery, website	4,850	6,054
Congregational Organisations	1,108	1,129
Other Expenses	8,150	7,425
	14,108	14,609
Total Ordinary General Expenditure	182,135	177,334
Less: Other Ordinary General Income		
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	2,925	2,925
Contributions from outside organisations for use of halls	29,000	34,826
Bank Interest and Investment Income	5,500	5,454
Other Receipts	1,000	1,312
	38,425	44,517
Leaving a balance to be met from offerings of	143,710	132,817
Offerings and Donations	124,806	129,424
Tax Recovery from Gift Aid	24,961	26,736
	149,767	156,160
Leaving a Surplus (before Legacies received) of	6,057	23,343
Legacies received	-	1,500
Total Surplus	6,057	24,843
Provision for premises refurbishment and flower costs		(11,000)
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	6,057	13,843

For the year to 31 December 2018 the surplus (before legacies) was £23,343 (2017 - £26,164). The difference of £2,767 is explained as follows:

- **Higher income (+£1,999)** – This was largely due to an increase in income from the use of our halls by both external 3rd parties (£1,762) and church organisations (£300). Gift Aid recoveries also increased by £715.
- **Higher general expenditure (-£4,766)** – This was due to higher Ministry & Mission payments & Presbytery dues (-£2,185) and higher Congregational Expenses (-£2,581). The increase in congregational expenses was mainly due to higher salary and office administration costs.

The Budget for 2019 shows a further increase in expenditure of £4,801 arising partly from higher costs for Ministry and Mission and Presbytery Dues and provision for higher building costs. At the time of preparing the budget it was anticipated that income would fall by £12,226. Experience since then indicates that income from use of halls may exceed the £29,000 allowed for in the budget.

Past Times in St Ninian's

From the Quarterly 25 years ago, January 1994

From Minister's Notes by the Rev Colin R Martin: a short extract from his address to the AGM of the congregation in March 1994.

"There might be merit in our taking a little time to think about what the background to our buildings here illuminates for us.

"It was clearly recognised very soon after the congregation came into being [as Corstorphine Free Church in 1843] that a Sanctuary for worship was essential. And, indeed, for the first fifty years or so of its life, the congregation was able to manage with a gradually-enlarged fixed-pew Church. The various extensions in the 19th century were not to provide more flexible accommodation but more space for the growing number of worshippers . . . The Free Church in Corstorphine had a distinct advantage over the Old Parish Church: no graveyard!" [For that reason, we were able to expand on this site, which they were unable to do on theirs.] "Old parish churches stood - and frequently stand - in splendid isolation within the very quiet environment of graveyards! We have only to consider the massive development of our buildings compared with the Old Parish Church to see the problem illustrated."

[The only answer for the Church of Scotland to cope with increasing numbers in Corstorphine was to build an additional Church, St Anne's, at just about the same time as we were adding the east and west transepts, thereby nearly doubling our capacity - Ed]



The Old Parish Church could not expand on its ancient site because of the graveyard