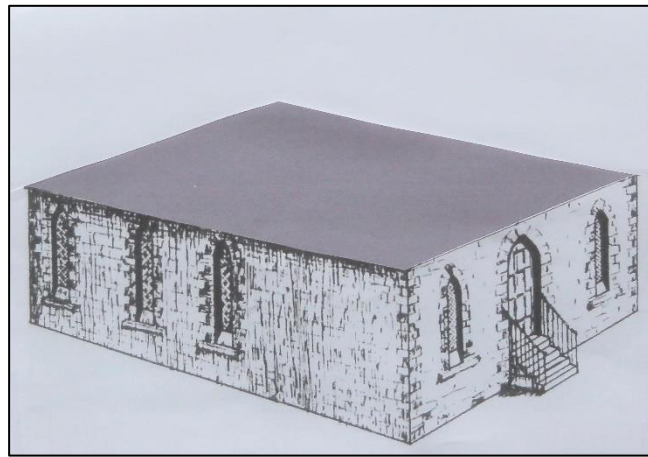


St Ninian's Church  
Corstorphine

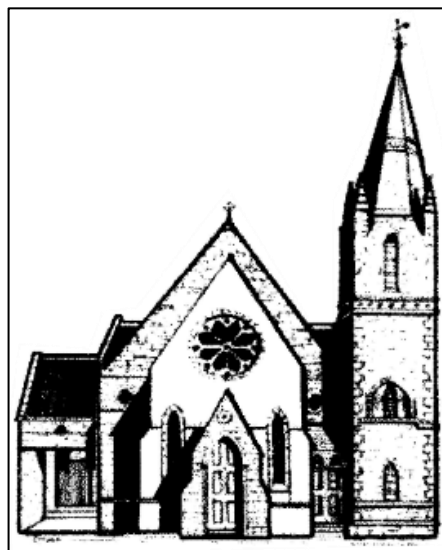
# Quarterly

Summer 1844:



to

Summer 2019:



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

**MINISTER:** Rev James Aitken  
17 Templeland Road, Edinburgh EH12 8RZ  
Tel: 334 1324; Email: JAitken@churchofscotland.org.uk

**Church Telephones:** OFFICE (and Voicemail): 316 4777;  
CRUSH HALL (Church Officer): 334 8615  
**e-mail:** [office@st-ninians.co.uk](mailto:office@st-ninians.co.uk)  
Office Hours: Tue/Wed/Thurs - 9.00am to 12 noon; Fri - 9.00am to 1.00pm  
**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*

*To make an apt answer is a joy to anyone, and a word in season how good it is! (Proverbs 15: 23)*



*James welcomes our visitors on  
Easter Sunday (see article)*

There have been conversations happening in St Ninian's, people are talking.

We've been talking in the Kirk Session and the Deacon's Court about the Local Church Review that the Presbytery is carrying out with St Ninian's. The Local Church Review, too, supervises the ministry and mission undertaken by us all at St Ninian's, and encourages us to produce a plan of Next Steps for the next 5 years. The Session and Court have now approved a Next Steps plan, but at the time of writing it hasn't been approved by the Presbytery. However, by June we should be in a position to start talking to everyone about what is in this plan. Thank you for your input to this. Many people completed the forms asking you to tell us the things you wanted to see retained, changed and started. Reading these helpful contributions has felt like a congregational conversation; they were full of "apt answers" as Proverbs puts it. Not everything can be included in the Next Steps plan of course, but many things are, and many others will be looked at in any case by the Kirk Session.

There have been other conversations going on. The Bible Study over Lent was well supported. It encouraged people to talk not just about the Bible, but about the context of our lives, our communities and our world within which the Bible is read. The Sermon Discussion Groups have also been well supported - my sermons seem to spark off all sorts of conversations about worship, theology, life, and much more (and quite a lot of pressure on me to feel the "joy of making an apt answer"!)

There will be more Bible Studies, and the Discussion Groups will continue. Join us, and you'll discover how good it is to hear "a word in season" as Proverbs puts it.

It is good news to hear so much conversation in the Church. After all, Jesus - the Word of God - didn't just perform miracles, he mostly talked to other people - about their lives, God, the Bible, and the future.

*James*

## **Communion Services**

Communion Services will be held in the Church  
on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 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 2<sup>nd</sup> June is open to all and caters especially 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: 11<sup>th</sup> September, 13<sup>th</sup> November

## **Deacons' Court Meetings 2019**

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

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

12 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Christian Aid Week
14 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Guild Outing, Netherurd Abbey
18 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> May	-	General Assembly
19 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Choir Service (Handel: <i>The King Shall Rejoice</i> )
25 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Step Inside ( <i>last Saturday monthly - till July</i> )
29 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Conversazione ( <i>last one till October</i> )
9 <sup>th</sup> June	-	Fresh Start Donations
12 <sup>th</sup> June	-	Guild Outing, Hopetoun House
16 <sup>th</sup> June	-	Sunday School Promotion Service
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	-	Sunday School Closing Service
30 <sup>th</sup> June	-	No Sunday School - Summer Holidays
16 <sup>th</sup> July	-	Guild Outing, Kingsknowe Golf Club
28 <sup>th</sup> July	-	Quarterly Copy Date
18 <sup>th</sup> August	-	Sunday School Resumes
13 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Kirk Session & Deacons' Court Get-together
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	-	Christmas Fair

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## Congregational Register

### Baptism:

28<sup>th</sup> April Benjamin William Richard Allanson, 32 Craigs Road

### Funerals:

7 <sup>th</sup> February	Mrs Mary Findlay, 13 Barony Terrace
18 <sup>th</sup> February *	Mr Graham Kennedy, 33 Broomhall Terrace
21 <sup>st</sup> February *	Mrs Heather Sutherland, 42 Craigmount Avenue North
6 <sup>th</sup> March *	Mr Bill Knowles, 5 Ladywell Avenue
27 <sup>th</sup> March *	Mrs Nan Moffat, Queens Bay Lodge Nursing Home
26 <sup>th</sup> April *	Mr Derek Pottinger, 1 Belmont Park
3 <sup>rd</sup> May *	Mrs Margaret Fleming-Miller, Manor Grange Nursing Home
8 <sup>th</sup> May *	Mrs Gwenneth Duncan, 39 North Gyle Avenue
10 <sup>th</sup> May *	Mrs Maureen Zeims, Thorburn Manor Care Home

\* Denotes member

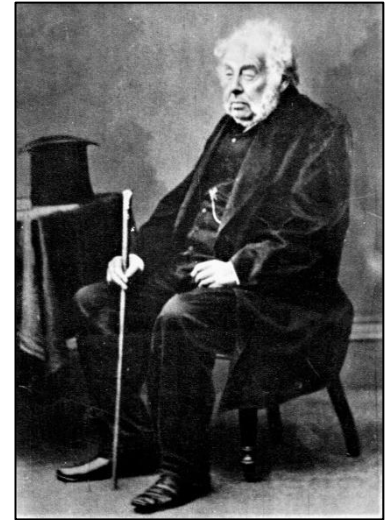
# 175 Years (1844-2019)

On Easter Sunday we were delighted to welcome to our service Ian and Cathy MacKay from Ottawa, Canada. They had come to Edinburgh to do some ancestral research, but I don't know if they realised how timeous their visit was.

Cathy's Great Great Great Grandfather was the Rev Dr George Burns, who was inducted as St Ninian's 'first' Minister on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 1844; he conducted his first service in the 'new Church' on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May. This year is therefore the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that service.

The history of St Ninian's is outlined later in this Quarterly. Our resident historian and archivist, Andrew Broom, has provided the story and we are most grateful to him for his dedicated research. Whilst the Free Church officially started in 1843 after the Disruption, the first Minister was not appointed until 1844.

Cathy and Ian were planning to join the congregation at the Old Parish (where Dr Burns was buried, there being no graveyard at St Ninian's) but, fortunately, Cathy's mother contacted them just in time to say that he had been the Minister at St Ninian's! Following their visit, Cathy sent this note.



*Our First Minister (1844-65)*



*"My (3x) Great Grandfather, The Rev Dr George Burns, was the first Minister of the Free Church at Corstorphine in 1844. He lies buried in the Old Parish Church graveyard with his wife, my (3x) Great Grandmother, Esther Struthers. They lived at "Estherville", the manse at 11 Ladywell Avenue.*

*While holidaying in Scotland, my husband, Ian, and I were thrilled to be able to spend Good Friday and Easter Sunday in Corstorphine finding the grave, the manse and joining you for the Easter Sunday service. Many thanks for the warm hospitality we were shown and congratulations on your 175th anniversary."*

*Cathy MacKay, Ottawa, Canada*

In 1994 Eileen Wilson, Andrew Broom, Jim Carlile, Adam Wight and Sandra Marwick set up an exhibition to celebrate 150 years of St Ninian's. There is also a historical booklet, with photos tracing the Church's history.

St Ninian's has had only six previous Ministers: Rev Dr George Burns (1844-1865), Rev James Morrison (1865-1901), Rev Peter Beith (1901-1939), Rev Martin Shields (1940-1966), Rev Colin Martin (1966-1994) and Rev Alex Stewart (1994-2016).







### ***Cyclone Idai Appeal***

The retiring collection, on behalf of Christian Aid, for victims of Cyclone Idai raised the phenomenal amount of £1,491.35, including £117.85 from Alpha's Baking Stall and £100 from the Junior Sunday School. Many thanks to all who contributed.

### ***Cross the Bridge for Christian Aid***

By publication date, this year's sponsored crossing of the Forth Road Bridge on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May will have taken place. Here's hoping for good weather with a similar turnout to last year by all parts of St Ninian's.

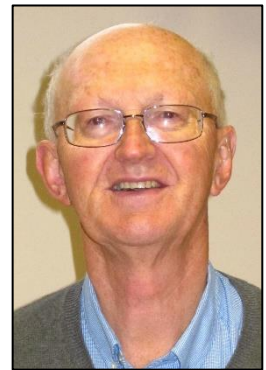
### ***Christian Aid Week 12th - 18th May***

Similarly, Christian Aid Week will have taken place. This commences with the Soup and Sweet Lunch followed by the house-to-house collection in St Ninian's Parish. Hopefully, there will be enough volunteers to allow us to collect from the whole Parish.

As Café Rosa has closed, I have arranged with Corstorphine Hub, opposite the Church, to act as the local collection point for the envelopes from those who miss the collector and still wish to contribute. As we move towards a cashless society, different ways people can donate are explained on the No-Reply slip by:

- FREEPOST to Christian Aid
- Online at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)
- Phone 08080 006 006
- Text to GIVE to 70040

Alec Millar ([alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk))



\* \* \* \* \*

### **Food Items**

Some very generous members of our congregation will recognise that we have been collecting and giving away food items for quite a few years. However, they may not be aware that this outreach initiative started away back in 2003 from an idea linked to a Guild project; that particular one was to find a way for people in Guatemala to feed their people in a nourishing way by providing seeds to grow vegetables as a supplement to their usual diet of corn products. We knew that we could not send food to help them but perhaps we could do something locally to help people who were homeless and suffering from food poverty.

In a small way we delivered food tins to the City Mission, Salvation Army, the Rock Trust and even to St Nicholas Church and, by the end of the first year, we had donated 609. Increasing this total each year we came to a record breaking 2,054 food items in 2017. Food items include not only tins but also products which can be reconstituted with water, eg packets of soup, noodles, mugshots and pasta, for those people who live in accommodation where they have the use of only a kettle. Donations now go mainly to the Rock Trust who work with young people to try to prevent them becoming homeless, to Fresh Start and at Christmas to Women's Aid in response to their annual appeal.

Thank you for your support which allowed me to do this for fifteen years; Susanne Hope has offered to continue this outreach and, thanks to her and with your generous donations, these vulnerable groups will still receive food items from St Ninian's.

Valerie Thomson

# Mission Committee

In our next Fresh Start collection, (**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June**), we will be looking for cleaning materials. Information will be in the Orders of Service on Communion Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their ongoing support.

After another very successful Congregational Lunch in January we were delighted to welcome Judith Chisholm from CRISIS to morning worship. The Minister gave Judith a cheque for £500 which will greatly help their work with the homeless.

A big thank you to everyone who helped deliver this year's Congregational Easter Cards. 1,800 cards were delivered to homes within the Parish.

We are looking forward to an Office-Bearers' Get-Together on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**. Our speakers will be Major Carol Young from the Salvation Army and Andrew Broom who will speak on the history of St Ninian's.

\* \* \* \* \*



## Hospice Coffee Morning

On 9<sup>th</sup> March we held our 20th annual coffee morning in aid of St Columba's Hospice. We raised the amazing sum of £3,162.70, which brings our total over the years to over £43,000. A sincere thank you to everyone who supports this very worthwhile cause.

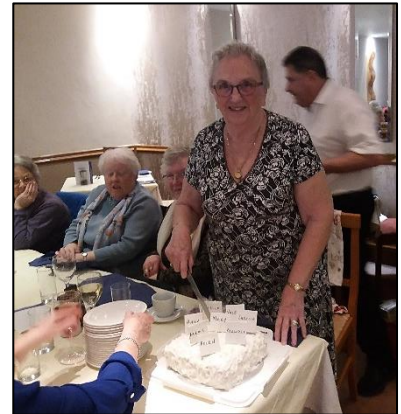
*Margaret Hunter*



# The Guild

Whose we are and Whom we serve  
Strategy: "One Journey Many Roads" 2018-21

It has been another splendid year for the Guild; interesting speakers, wonderful music with lots of fun, love and fellowship. Our Annual Lunch, in February, in Fabio's, was well attended and enjoyed by all. Norma made a beautiful birthday cake for all the ladies who celebrate a birthday in February - nine in total!



We ended the Guild year in March, as always, with our AGM, chaired by our Minister, James, followed by a lovely afternoon tea. James presented our two retiring Committee members, Brenda Anderson (Treasurer) and Isobel Hunter (Office Bearer) with orchids and thank-you cards for their dedicated service to St Ninian's Guild over the years. Our Vice President, Sheila Minty, will be taking up the post as Treasurer going forward. James also presented Isobel Mackenzie with her 40-year membership certificate. Well done Isobel!

Many thanks to all the Committee who give of their time and talents throughout the session. We could not function without you.

The theme for 2019-20 is "Companions on the Road" which builds on the previous theme, "Seeking the Way".

The Guild is in recess for the Summer but, following in the "Companions on the Road" theme, we have arranged three outings as follows:

<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Netherurd Abbey, Biggar</b>
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>		<b>Hopetoun House, South Queensferry</b>
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>		<b>Kingsknowe Golf Club</b>

Details of each outing will be intimated in the Order of Service and can also be found on the Guild notice board.

A Guild is, by definition, about companionship and sharing. We look forward to journeying together in the next session.

Have a lovely Summer.

*Irene McCartney (Secretary)*



*The Sycamore Singers*

## The setting up in 1843 of the new Corstorphine Free Church congregation

Readers may wish to know a little about the circumstances leading to the setting up of the new Corstorphine Free Church congregation in 1843, prior to the first Service in the newly-built Church on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1844, as set out on the facing page.

In 1843 a break-away from the Established Church of Scotland, familiarly referred to as the Disruption, was of national significance and led directly to the setting up of a congregation of the Free Church in Corstorphine. Free from what, you may ask? Free from state interference in church matters; specifically, freedom for a congregation to choose its own minister, and not have a minister chosen for them by the local landowners (heritors). Since 1712 heritors throughout Scotland had enjoyed the right to induct a minister of their choice, perhaps to compensate them to some extent for the responsibility and expense of providing and maintaining a church, manse and school in every parish.

After decades of intense argument without a resolution, the dispute came to a head in 1843 when several hundred ministers left a meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in St Andrew's Church in George Street and made their way to Tanfield Hall in Canonmills where they enthusiastically endorsed the setting up of a Free Church of Scotland, enshrining the principle that its congregations would select their own minister.

In Corstorphine the Rev David Horne, Minister of the Old Parish Church, had warmly supported the principle of independence from the Established Church; but, as the day of separation drew near, he "manifested symptoms of a cooling zeal" according to a contemporary report and decided to remain within the fold of the Established Church, with a secure if modest stipend and a manse provided at the heritors' expense, both of which he would have lost if he had "come out".



*This photograph of 1870 or later shows the tiny pan-tiled schoolroom (long since demolished) just to the east of our church where our first Services were held prior to the opening in 1844 of our new, flat-roofed, church on the same site as the present nave or "body of the kirk".*

Around 36 members of the Old Parish Church, however, decided that they wanted to join the Free Church and, on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1843, they did not go to the Parish Church but instead met for this purpose in a small schoolroom just to the east of our present Church and constituted themselves as a congregation of the new Free Church. During the summer of that year services were held in a tent, and Free Church ministers came from Edinburgh to lead the worship and encourage the little congregation. Local support steadily increased and, at the first Communion Service on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1843, no fewer than 130 people took their places at the Lord's Table in the small schoolroom.

Within two months of the Disruption, the congregation had discussions about the building of a church, and a Building Committee was set up. On 25<sup>th</sup> January 1844, the Rev Dr George Burns, who at the Disruption had "come out" as the Parish Minister of Tweedsmuir, was inducted as our first Minister (our large hall today is named the Burns Hall in his memory); and on the same day the foundation stone of the new church was laid. It is remarkable that, only four months later, the new church was complete and the first service was held there on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1844.

*Andrew Broom*

*[The above text is largely based on the account given in "St Ninian's Church, Corstorphine, 1843-1993" by the late Eileen Wilson, published in 1994.]*

## The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our first Service in 1844

Around the time this edition of the Quarterly is due to be published, we will be marking the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Service in the newly-built Corstorphine Free Church on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 1844. Coincidentally, 19<sup>th</sup> May this year also falls on a Sunday.

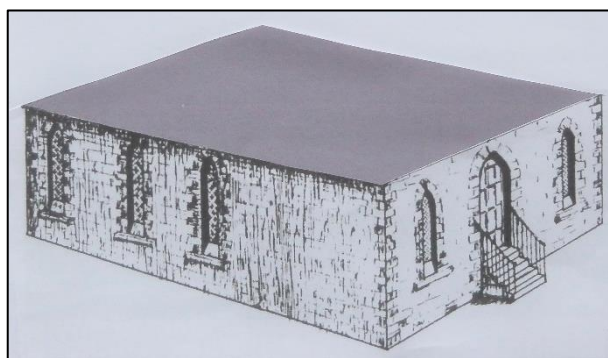
At the beginning of Volume 1 of the Kirk Session's Minute Books, a detailed account of the earliest days of the congregation's history from 1843 to 1845 was compiled by Robert C Thomson who became one of our Deacons, later an Elder, and precentor. It includes this invaluable eye-witness account of that first-ever Service:

"On Sabbath, 19<sup>th</sup> May 1844, a day to be held in everlasting remembrance, the new church was opened for Divine service by the Rev Dr [Robert] Candlish [of Free St George's] in presence of a crowded audience. The first Psalm which was sung was 'The Lord doth reign'. The music was conducted by Mr Robert Thomson, assisted by a band of singers, and well sustained by the energy and animation of a united throng of worshippers. Dr [George] Burns [our first Minister] preached in the afternoon and the Rev G R Davidson, Free Lady Glenorchy's, in the evening. The collection at the whole of the diets amounted to £35 15s and [fourpence three-farthings], afterwards augmented by the addition of £2 from Sheriff Speirs; altogether it proved the largest sum ever collected in the Parish before.

". . . And now that the Free Church is complete, and pastor, elders and deacons set over us, we have good reason to say that, had not the Lord been on our side and maintained our cause, our efforts could never have been crowned with success. The idea of a Free Church being created and sustained in a place so unpromising in point both of population and wealth as Corstorphine was laughed to scorn by enemies of the cause and was far from being confidently entertained even by the most sanguine of its friends and promoters."

From other sources we can surmise (lacking any contemporary image of it) that the new church must have been an uncomfortable place to be in: up to 250 people crammed in to the area we know today as the nave - of the same width as today, but stretching only from the door of the sanctuary at the south end as far as a wall right across the point at which the transepts start today. The roof was flat and much lower than it is now. Natural light from the windows had to be supplemented by candles when required. Singing was led by a precentor with a tuning-fork. There was no heating; and pews consisted of forms with no backs to them. Our predecessors were a hardy and devoted lot. Yet it was from this humble beginning that they and their successors steadily expanded our Church premises over the following century-and-a-half on the same site to achieve the fully-developed suite of buildings we see and benefit from today.

*Andrew Broom*



*A conjectured image of our first, flat-roofed church, built on the site of, and of the same width as, and almost the same length as, our existing nave up to where the transepts start*

## Fabric Committee

The west corridor rooms were built in the 1970s and the electrical supply no longer meets the additional demand and doesn't comply with current standards. A new supply cable has therefore been installed along the corridor running to new switchboards in Room 4. Once the wiring is completed, the cable will be boxed in.

The Church timber windows were in poor condition and have now been repaired and repainted.

You've heard the phrase "there's a bug in the system".

Well at 4.00 am one morning in March, our fire alarm was activated and fire engines rushed to the Church but couldn't find any fire. The next day an engineer examined the control panel log to read that the smoke detector in the Cleaner's Store triggered the alarm but there was no sign of any fire. However, he removed the smoke detector cover to find several tiny insects inside and confirmed that it must have been one of them that crossed the laser beam and set off the alarm! The store has now been deep-cleaned and a sticky tape barrier fitted around the detector to deter little visitors.



*Alister McGlashan*

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## Sunday School News

It's been a quiet few months for the Sunday School. Our Alpha group continues to read a lesson prior to the Children's Address. We've received many positive comments from the congregation on how well and clear the readings are.

Our young people were on holiday over the Easter break, although we did have a few young people in Church and two took part in the Palm and Passion service. We ran a very small club with 2 children on Easter Sunday. We hope to run a similar holiday club over the summer break, and this will be discussed at our next meeting at the end of April.

We are now about to start planning the Sunday School closing service and our older children have provided their ideas for this. We are always on the lookout for new and different ideas and hopefully the theme chosen by our young people will be enjoyed by the congregation. What would be a great help to us when planning is to hear about any memories that people may have from their Sunday School days, especially if they attended St Ninian's. These could be from Sunday School picnics, a favourite Sunday School Teacher or even singing in the Junior Choir.

Plans are also being progressed for our older children to go on some outside visits, possibly to "Teen Ranch" and the "Abernethy Trust", both Christian organisations offering several great activities for young people. Both have websites for anyone looking for a bit more information on them: <http://www.teenranch.scot/> and <https://www.abernethy.org.uk/>

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



## What do you get from a sermon?

I'm sure that every Sunday after morning service, ministers around the country must ask themselves, "I wonder what they got from the sermon this morning? Did the congregation get the message? Did they get the point?". Well, the message may not always be the one intended.

In May 2017, while St Ninian's was between Ministers, the Very Reverend Lorna Hood returned to the Church where she had served as Assistant Minister in 1977, prior to her ordination.



Also in 1977, across Edinburgh, Eileen and I were just married and were setting up a new home in a flat overlooking The Meadows and I was developing my DIY and decorating skills. One of my first projects was tiling the bathroom in a fetching 'Pampas' colour patterned 1970s' style, where the challenge was to ensure that the tiles correctly matched up. Not quite The Alhambra but challenging enough for a novice tiler. The finished wall looked great, until my younger sister arrived to admire the work and noticed that just one tile, right in the centre, was upside down! While sympathetic at the time, as big brother of three younger sisters who was 'always right', this was cast up to me many times over the subsequent forty

years, especially every time I talked about something being 'perfect'.

Then Lorna arrived and preached at St Ninian's about her recent visit to Texas, where Donald Trump was advocating the construction of a wall to keep the Mexicans out. Of course, Mexican workers, including tilers, are a key part of the Texan economy. However, having admired their handiwork in her host's house, Lorna was puzzled to notice that just one tile in the bathroom was upside down, until it was explained to her that the Mexican workmen always left one tile the wrong way round, to remind us of our imperfections and the fact that only God is perfect.

I have to say I felt a slight sense of smugness, and the icing on the cake was the following week when my sister came round for a birthday tea and asked what presents I had received. "Listen to this" I replied, as I dug out the newly recorded CD and played back Lorna's sermon to the family. She was both suitably impressed and somewhat gobsmacked with the story, especially as it had confirmed that big brother had actually been right for all those years!

*Derek MacGillivray*

\* \* \* \* \*

### Peace in the World

If there is to be peace in the world,  
There must be peace in the nations.  
If there is to be peace in the nations,  
There must be peace in the cities.  
If there is to be peace in the cities,  
There must be peace between neighbours.  
If there is to be peace between neighbours,  
There must be peace in the home.  
If there is to be peace in the home,  
There must be peace in the heart.  
(Lao-Tse - 6th Century BC)

(Source: <http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers>)



# Enterprise Committee

The forty-third issue of “Let’s Talk about Corstorphine” will be distributed in May and June. Additional distributors would be appreciated.

The date for this year’s Christmas Fair is **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** (starting at 11.30).

Have you got any new ideas? What would you be able to make or what could you donate? Are you able to help?

New volunteers 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)*



*Christmas Fair Hampers*

\* \* \* \* \*

## What Happens to our Used Stamps?

Thank you very much to everyone who collects used postage stamps for the Scottish Bible Society. According to figures available from the Scottish Bible Society, in 2018 Bible Societies around the world completed 66 Scripture translations used by 440 million people. Of those 66 translations, 44 were ‘firsts’:

- 9 communities received their first full Bible
- 15 communities got their first New Testament
- 20 language groups received their first, or additional, portions of Scripture

Around 5.6 billion people around the world now have access to a Bible in their own language. Your stamps have helped to make all this possible! But, as over half of the languages spoken around the world still have no Scriptures at all, there is still much to do.

Used stamps, as well as old coins and foreign currency, can be left in the Manse Pew at the rear of the church for me to collect.

*Jenny Grimmond*

## Safeguarding

From the Safeguarding Policy Statement (on every notice board in the Church in an area where children meet) we read that “through its congregations the Church seeks to safeguard the welfare of all people who come into contact with the Church and its services”. We each have a responsibility to prevent any type of harm; we have a duty to care and a duty to protect.

In particular, we must protect children and adults at risk and this is done through the structure of Safeguarding in the Church. Each person, a volunteer or paid person, who does regulated work\* with children, young people and vulnerable adults must become a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 Scheme, familiarly known as the PVG Scheme. This Scheme was introduced in 2011, replacing the previous Enhanced Disclosure check, and consequently everyone in our Church who worked with children and young people had to join it.

The Safeguarding Co-ordinator manages this process, maintains records of all children’s workers, reports to the Kirk Session, completes a yearly register for attestation by Presbytery and promotes training opportunities (this is mandatory). In other words, the main purpose of our Safeguarding Co-ordinator is to ensure that The Code of Good Safeguarding Practice 2011 is effectively implemented in the congregation of St Ninian’s. The Safeguarding Co-ordinator is the recognised

person to receive reports of any harm or abuse of children and adults at risk and is responsible for liaison with other agencies in any further action taken.

From a Deliverance from the General Assembly in 2010 it is mandatory for the members of the Kirk Session to attend an appropriate training to raise their awareness of the rules and regulations of the PVG Scheme; to know how to act or proceed if any situation of harm or abuse occurs; to recognise the need for a risk assessment; to understand the requirement for a Covenant of Responsibilities. Records are maintained of those who have undertaken training and it is recommended that after six years a refresher course should be attended to be aware of current policies of the PVG Scheme. This will apply next year to many of our volunteers who undertook their training in 2013.

More information may be sourced from Valerie Thomson, Safeguarding Co-ordinator in St Ninian’s or on [https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about\\_us/safeguarding\\_service](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about_us/safeguarding_service).

*Valerie Thomson*

\* Regulated work may be with children or/and adults at risk.

The PVG Act defines it by references to “the activities undertaken by a person; the establishment where these take place; the position held; the people for whom they have day to day supervision or management responsibility.”

\* \* \* \* \*

## Some Recommended Light Reading!

FULL ASSURANCE by May B Knott  
THE PROTESTANT WORK ETHIC by Daly Grind  
PRAY CONTINUALLY by Neil Aylott  
SALT OF THE EARTH by Pastor Pepper  
INTERCESSION by Frank and Ernest Pleading  
PRAISE IN THE USA by Hal E Looyah

Enjoy!!

## Other Big Celebrations ...

### CrossReach @150

This year marks 150 years of the Church of Scotland providing social care in Scotland. Celebrations will be launched this month at Heart and Soul 2019 where the 150th anniversary exhibition will be debuted and on display at St Cuthbert's Church of Scotland. Join CrossReach in thanks and celebration with more opportunities to get involved being promoted throughout 2019.



### 150th anniversary exhibition

In celebration of 150 years of the Church of Scotland providing social care in Scotland, CrossReach will be showcasing a very special exhibition. The 150th anniversary exhibition will be debuted at Heart and Soul 2019 and will then tour venues in Scotland throughout the year.

### As we celebrate 150 years – help us knit 150 Wellbeing Octopuses!

150 years ago, the Church of Scotland started sowing the seeds of 'care in Christ's name.' To join in the celebrations CrossReach invites you to take part in knitting 1 or some of 150 knitted CALAMARI SHANARRI octopuses for children throughout Scotland to enjoy. Wellbeing is at the heart of the work of CrossReach with children, young people and their families. Are you ready to start sewing some wellbeing messages? To learn more and download your pattern visit: [http://bit.ly/CR\\_meet\\_CAL](http://bit.ly/CR_meet_CAL) or email [tanya.anderson@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:tanya.anderson@crossreach.org.uk)



\* \* \* \* \*

“always ask for directions! . . .”

As a bagpiper, I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man with no family or friends. The funeral was to be held at a cemetery way out in the country and this man would be the first to be laid to rest there. As I was not familiar with this remote area I became lost and, being a typical man, did not stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late. I saw the digger and the crew who were eating lunch, but the hearse was nowhere in sight.

I apologized to the workers for my tardiness and stepped to the side of the open grave, where I saw the vault lid already in place. I assured the workers I would not hold them up for long, but this was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch. I played out my heart and soul. As I played the workers began to weep. I played, and I played, like I'd never played before - from Going Home and The Lord is my Shepherd to Flowers of the Forest. I closed the lengthy session with Amazing Grace and walked to my car. As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I overheard one of the workers saying to another: “That is amazing. I never seen nothin' like that before - and I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years.”

*Unknown*



The Church of Scotland  
Stewardship and Finance Department

**Archie McDowall**  
**Deputy Treasurer**  
**Congregational Finance**

121 George Street  
Edinburgh, EH2 4YN  
Tel: 0131 225 5722

March 2019

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

Dear friends,

I write to thank you for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through your regular financial offerings. It is important that you know what happens to your money and this letter explains how your congregation's Ministries and Mission Contribution will be used to enable the work of the Church in 2019.

**010024 - Edinburgh Corstorphine St Ninian's**

Total Contribution to Ministries and Mission for 2019

**£102,876**

The contribution is used to provide over 720 ministers and parish workers in communities throughout Scotland and further afield and assists with recruitment and training costs. The 2019 cost of a parish minister at the top of the stipend scale is **£42,912**. I would invite you to compare this with your congregation's contribution. Many churches gave additional contributions in 2018 and these have been gratefully received.

Your contribution is also used to support work in: resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach; to further the caring work of the Church to people in need through CrossReach; to accompany partners around the world on our shared Christian journey; to offer the Church's opinion in public debate; to provide administrative, financial and legal advice, plan the General Assembly and ensure the Moderator represents the Church. The contribution from your congregation ensures a diverse ministry is maintained, and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in many ways and in many places.

A new National Stewardship Initiative 'A Narrative of Generosity' will be launched at the Heart and Soul event which is taking place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019. This modular resource is easily accessible and can be tailored to respond to the particular needs of your congregation. Should your church require support with this new, or any other Stewardship resource please contact the National Stewardship Coordinator, David Lynch at [dlynch@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:dlynch@churchofscotland.org.uk). David's team of consultants are available to work with you without any charge for their time. I myself look forward to assisting you in any way I can.

With grateful thanks.

*Archie McDowall*

Archie McDowall  
Deputy Treasurer – Congregational Finance  
Email: [amcdowall@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:amcdowall@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Congregation Number: 010024**

**St.Ninian's Church Of Scotland, Corstorphine**

**Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Period ended 30 April 2019**

	Actual 2019 £	Actual 2018 £	Variance £
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
<b>Ministry and Mission</b>			
National Stipend and Mission and Renewal Fund	34,292	33,279	(1,013)
<b>Congregational expenses</b>			
Presbytery Dues	3,198	2,942	(256)
Pulpit Supply	136	120	(16)
Minister's Travel and Expenses	240	240	0
Local Salaries	13,835	11,267	(2,568)
Fabric,Repairs and Maintenance	2,281	2,135	(146)
Regular Maintenance Charges	1,438	978	(460)
Hall Running Costs	2,999	2,703	(296)
Property Insurance	2,124	2,182	58
Manse Running Costs (inc Council Tax)	642	689	47
Office Expenses	1,943	1,658	(285)
Other Expenses	3,019	1,750	(1,269)
	<b>31,853</b>	<b>26,661</b>	<b>(5,192)</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>66,145</b>	<b>59,940</b>	<b>(6,205)</b>
<b>RECEIPTS other than Offerings</b>			
Use Of Church Halls	10,419	13,216	(2,797)
Investment Income	400	400	0
Other Receipts	225	850	(625)
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,044</b>	<b>14,466</b>	<b>(3,422)</b>
<b>Amount to be met from Offerings</b>	<b>55,101</b>	<b>45,474</b>	<b>9,627</b>
<b>Offertry and Tax Recoveries</b>			
Congregation Offerings	44,124	41,622	2,502
Tax Recovery on Gift Aid	9,137	8,431	706
	<b>53,261</b>	<b>50,053</b>	<b>3,208</b>
<b>Surplus to date</b>	<b>(1,840)</b>	<b>4,579</b>	<b>(6,419)</b>
<b>Before Legacies Received</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

**COMMENT**

The Surplus on the General Account to April 2019 is **£6,419** less than for the same period last year. This can be explained as follows:

**Higher Costs - £6,205**

- ~ Ministry & Mission costs / Presbytery dues - higher charges for 2019 of **£1,013 / £256** are due to a general increase in both areas
- ~ Salaries - the increase of **£2,568** is mostly due to the cost of providing cover for sickness and holidays
- ~ Fabric,Repairs & Maintenance / Regular Maintenance - the increase of **£606** is the result an increase in some maintenance costs
- ~ Other Costs - the increase of **£1,761** is due to cost of the Stewardship campaign, higher printing costs and the timing of water rate payments

**Lower Income - £214**

- ~ Income from Hall Rentals - the fall of **£2,797** is mostly due to the timing of receipts compared to 2018
- ~ Other Receipts - the fall of **£625** is due to the timing of contributions from Church organisations compared to 2018
- ~ Offerings & Tax Recoveries - the increase of **£3,208** is due to the response to the Stewardship campaign & more efficient Gift Aid recoveries

*Janice Reynolds, Treasurer*



# Past Times in St Ninian's

## From the Quarterly 25 years ago, July 1994

From *Minister's Notes* by the Rev Colin R Martin

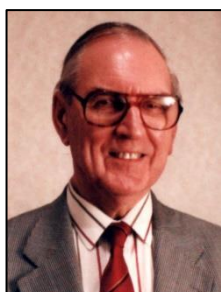
*[Mr Martin here comments on the recent decision by himself and his wife, Jean, to retire from St Ninian's on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1994]*

"'Jacta est alea' - 'The die is cast' - so said Julius Caesar as he decided to cross the river Rubicon on his way to a new life in Rome. In infinitely less dramatic circumstances, we have to say the same as we decide to cross the River Almond on our way to a new life in Kirkliston! The outcome of our decision is likely to be somewhat less earth-shattering than the outcome of Caesar's, but it represents just as major a step for us as was the Call to come to St Ninian's in 1966. Separately and together, my wife and I have been in Corstorphine longer than we have been anywhere else - and for that reason above all others, leaving is the more difficult.

"The privilege of Ministry is to share joy and sorrow, laughter and tears, glad days and bad days with those of the congregation and Parish - and over a period of twenty-eight years, that translates into a very considerable bond . . . the future of St Ninian's has to take precedence over our happy and comfortable personal tenure here. Fresh hands at the helm will enable the congregation to head for new horizons and different destinations . . ."

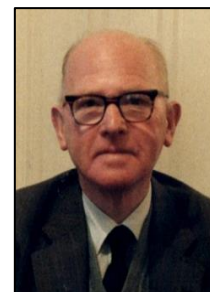
## From the Quarterly 50 years ago, July 1969

From *Minister's Notes* by the Rev Colin R Martin



*The late  
Duncan Cameron*

"The Kirk Session at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June appointed as Session Clerk, Mr Duncan I Cameron, BL, CA, JP, to succeed Mr David F Meek. Mr Cameron has been an Elder in St Ninian's for eight years and has played a full part in the work of the Session and congregation. We wish him well in the responsibilities of the Office for which he was a popular and unanimous choice. With the concurrence of the Kirk Session, an appointment has also been made to the position of Sunday School Superintendent, to replace Mr John Turnbull. Mr James Arthur, until now leader of the Senior Sunday School, has agreed to take this duty. We are delighted that one known and respected by the Sunday



*The late  
Jim Arthur*

School staff and many of the pupils should accept this most responsible and onerous position, and we wish him well also."

". . . Christian Aid Week 1969 was a tremendous success . . . The part of the campaign which caught the interest was a new effort for St Ninian's - a sponsored walk from Linlithgow to Edinburgh. Arrangements were handled by Mr James Arthur with the support of Mr Seath and others. 130 walkers of all ages took part. . . and the result was the quite remarkable total of £642 12s 1d . . . This means that we have handed to Christian Aid a total of £855 6s in respect of this year's campaign - a worthy effort."

*[£855 in 1969 at today's value would be worth about £14,500, according to the inflation calculator on the thisismoney website - Ed]*