

St Ninian's Church  
Corstorphine

# Quarterly



Spring 2020



**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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Office Hours: Tue/Wed/Thurs - 9.00am to 12 noon; Fri - 9.00am to 1.00pm  
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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, following each of which there is an 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 April, 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*

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday,  
and today, and forever.* (Hebrews 13:8)

January, usually so dark after the light of Christmas, felt hopeful to me. I enjoyed the togetherness of the congregational lunch after the service on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January. I enjoyed the presentation the congregation heard on that Sunday about the possibility of St Ninian's building a relationship with an overseas congregation through a Church Twinning project. I enjoyed meeting with members of the congregations that make up Corstorphine Churches Together during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to discuss how, together as the Church of Jesus Christ, we could be part of the Corstorphine Fair on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June. Writing this at the end of January, I feel a sense of unity that is hopeful. It means that as Christians in this world, community and congregation we are not alone. Christ calls us together and when we are together the Holy Spirit breathes and the church lives.



But, writing this at the end of January, there is a sense of isolation around as well. After all the debates and arguments and voting, this month will mark the end of the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union. What will the future hold? Is it one in which we are together in some way with others, or apart?

More immediately, the Quarterly will be published at the start of Lent, the six-week journey we make every year in the church in order that we can appreciate the significance of the crucifixion, and then understand the resurrection when we celebrate it at Easter.

The four Gospel writers in our New Testaments were unified in their certainty that Jesus was crucified and that the first disciples believed that his life did not end there. Those Gospel writers don't always agree. For example, the Christmas story is only recorded in two of their four accounts.

This unanimity of agreement about the events of Good Friday and Easter should give us a sense of reassurance that these events have historical roots. But, so too should we feel reassured because of the unanimity of disagreement that Gospel writers express over some of the details of Jesus' life. The diversity of experience of Jesus that the different Gospels express reflects the diversity of differences between people as a whole. Different aspects of Jesus' life, ministry and experience speak to different people in different ways.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, but we are not. We are many and different. We never stay the same. The Christian story is about life, death and new life; for new life to begin something must always die. We have a tendency to look at endings while forgetting to see the possibilities of new beginnings. While we rejoice at the security of unity, let's look forward to the possibilities offered by diversity.

*James*

## **Communion Services**

Communion Services will be held in the Church  
on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March**  
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 & Tea**

The Afternoon Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> March is open to all and caters especially for our less sprightly members. If you know of anyone 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. If you would be able to provide transport to this service, please also contact Rona.

## **Kirk Session Meetings 2020**

Wednesdays: 12<sup>th</sup> February; 13<sup>th</sup> May; 9<sup>th</sup> September; 11<sup>th</sup> November

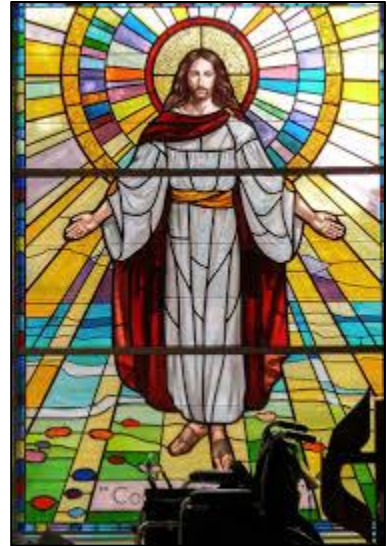
## **Deacons' Court Meetings 2020**

Wednesdays: 26<sup>th</sup> February; 27<sup>th</sup> May; 23<sup>rd</sup> September; 25<sup>th</sup> November

**NB: the May dates published in the Winter Quarterly were wrong.**

## *Easter Services*

Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00pm	Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Evening
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am	Palm & Passion Sunday - Liturgy of the Psalms and the Passion
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	6.30pm	Good Friday - Cross Procession from St Thomas' Church
	7.00pm	United Service at Carrick Knowe Church
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> 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



## SHROVE TUESDAY

## PANCAKE EVENING

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**An evening of pancakes, fellowship and liturgy on Shrove Tuesday to begin the season of Lent.**

**Come and enjoy food, fun, and worship for all ages.**

**ST NINIAN'S PARISH CHURCH  
Martin Shields' Hall**

**from 7:00pm**

... and some other dates for your diary

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> February               | - Guild Coffee Morning                                     |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> February               | - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening                           |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> February               | - Conversazione ( <i>last Wednesday monthly</i> )          |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> February               | - Step Inside ( <i>last Saturday monthly</i> )             |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> March                   | - World Day of Prayer                                      |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> March                   | - Coffee Morning ( <i>in aid of St Columba's Hospice</i> ) |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> March                   | - Fresh Start Donations                                    |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> March                   | - Stated Annual Meeting                                    |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> March                  | - Soup & Roll Lunch  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> March                  | - Guild AGM  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> April | - No Sunday School   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> April                  | - Forth Bridge Crossing ( <i>for Christian Aid</i> )       |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> April                  | - Quarterly Copy Date                                      |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> May                    | - Soup & Sweet Lunch ( <i>for Christian Aid</i> )          |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> May  | - Christian Aid Week                                       |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> May                    | - Choir: <i>Karl Jenkins' Requiem</i>                      |

(Further details will be provided in the Intimations)

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## Congregational Register

### Baptisms:

**2020**

12<sup>th</sup> January Stewart Camp, c/o 32 Forrester Road

### Funerals:

**2019**

8<sup>th</sup> November \* Mrs Naomi Watson, 23 Wester Broom Grove

18<sup>th</sup> November \* Mrs Barbara Livingston, 44 Station Road

16<sup>th</sup> December \* Mrs Muriel Gibson, Guthrie House, 12 Lasswade Avenue

**2020**

13<sup>th</sup> January Mr Ken Gummerson, Lennox House

13<sup>th</sup> January \* Mrs Thomasina Gibson, 87 Wester Broom Drive

20<sup>th</sup> January \* Mrs Gladys White, Manor Grange Nursing Home

24<sup>th</sup> January \* Mrs Chris Hood, 20 Falkland Gardens

12<sup>th</sup> February \* Mrs Hilary Sellar, 48 Clerwood Gardens

\* Denotes member

\* \* \* \* \*



## Our new Clerk of the Deacons' Court

I qualified as a chartered accountant in Dundee in 1969. In these days, studying involved a gruelling 5-year course where you were expected to work during the day on an annual salary of £104 and attend lectures in the evening and on Saturday mornings. I was one of only 4 women in my year along with 300 men. Nowadays the split is 50/50.

John and I married in October 1969 and came through to Edinburgh to live in Corstorphine Bank Drive where we are to this day. We bought the house from my grandparents who had lived in it since 1936 and I remember frequently visiting them as a little girl. In those days, there was no Clerwood or Fox Covert, and what was later to become Maybank Villas consisted of fields of grass and wild strawberries.

Initially, I worked for a few years in the audit department of Edinburgh Corporation involving me going incognito to various places to ensure financial procedures were being adhered to. I vividly recall visiting a wash house (or "steamie"). My disguise included a long coat, a headscarf and a load of washing!

A 10-year break then ensued while I looked after our 3 children until they were all at school and I joined the accountancy firm of Deloitte becoming Manager of Insolvency. This involved winding up many well-known businesses and included the receivership of the Carron Ironworks in Falkirk. The Company employed 2,000 people and had existed for 220 years, mainly as a Foundry supplying cannons for warships including those in the battle of Trafalgar. It could at times be a dangerous job. Several times I had to make workforces redundant and needed security guards to get me safely off the premises. The last straw came when I visited a farmer in the Borders to tell him he was going to be sequestrated and he came to the door with a shotgun. Several weeks prior, a Borders farmer had shot dead a debt collector who knocked on his door and I decided it was time to move on.



Thereafter, I joined the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland becoming Head of Insolvency and Bankruptcy in Scotland and later appointed Director of Insolvency. This entailed, amongst other things, visiting Insolvency Practitioners all over the country, developing policy, training and events. It also involved me frequently visiting the House of Commons to brief Ministers and civil servants on the likely impact proposed legislation might have in Scotland where Insolvency Law at that time was very different. One of the entertaining characters I met was Nicky Fairbairn with his trademark colourful tartan outfits. My abiding memory is of him sitting in the House of Commons stairwell drawing caricatures of the Honourable Members opposite!

After I retired, I became a volunteer for The Prince's Trust, mentoring and assessing whether young people could apply for a grant for training or setting up their own businesses.

I shall endeavour to continue the good work of those who have been in the job before me and look forward to the challenge.

*Anne Bryce*

## MURIEL GIBSON



Muriel was born in Glasgow on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1935. She went to Jordanhill school as a pupil and worked there as a secretary before moving to Barclay Curle ship builders at Clydebank. During the launch of the QE2, in 1967, she was there with all the family to celebrate the occasion.

Muriel was staying with her aunt in Dunbar when she attended a dance at the Dunbar Tennis Club where she met Jimmy Gibson. Romance blossomed and in 1957 they were married. They had two sons, Keith and David. They first lived in Bruntsfield and later settled in Corstorphine. A lot of friendships were formed due to Muriel being kind, helpful, sincere, hardworking and loyal which were her lifelong traits. She was always very supportive to her family and took the lead in organising events and meetings.

Muriel became involved in Art and displayed quite a talent for watercolour and acrylic paintings which were exhibited at local club exhibitions. She became a member of church organisations such as the Young Wives and Mothers and also became a Sunday School teacher. She joined St Ninians Church in 1973 and was ordained as an Elder in 1989. Muriel worked at the Open University in the Melville Street office and retired in 1995. She then took up other activities like hillwalking and bowling at the Coltbridge Bowling Club, in addition to her church activities, continuing with the Sunday School, the Silver Belles and Alpha (when over 40 children attended).

Muriel was a loving, kind mother and grandmother and she was always proud of her family. She made a point of knowing everyone and what was happening in their lives, assisting where and whenever she could.

Latterly, Muriel lived in Guthrie Court, where she died peacefully on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BARBARA LIVINGSTON

Barbara was born on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1931 and grew to become a committed, community-minded, compassionate, selfless, tolerant, empathetic woman.

When Barbara finished school, she wanted to go to university, but her parents couldn't afford it, so she never realised her full academic potential. She found a job in the accountancy offices of the Cooperative - a job that stood her in good stead for managing the family finances throughout her married life.



The move east came in 1956, shortly after she married her husband, Bill. They had two sons, Alistair and Stewart. She always supported the boys and took great joy in her grandchildren.

Barbara was always active in and committed to the local community. She was invited to join the Lampacre Road Coffee Group, which has been going continuously for 60 years. She was a member of the Rural and Corstorphine Ladies Probus for many years and, together with her best friends, Audrey Winton and Kathryn Broom, worked for 30 years as a volunteer in the Oxfam shop in Corstorphine. She bowled - carpet bowls in recent years - and she was a keen member of St Margaret's Ladies. She was active too in tennis, badminton, yoga, tai chi, line dancing, and she enjoyed her book group. All of these activities lasted many years; Barbara



always wanted to keep things going; she was committed, and regularly met up with friends from all walks of her life.

She was also committed to the church, always being first to volunteer. St Ninian's, was the heart of her community, and it became the main part of her life. She joined the Young Wives and the Guild - ten years as Treasurer. She baked her legendary paradise cakes for coffee mornings, including for the Guild Coffee Morning, which she attended just days before she died. Both her sons and two of her grandchildren were there with her.

St Ninian's wasn't just a community organisation for Barbara, she was spiritually committed too. Her faith was personal and deep-rooted, but not from birth - her parents weren't church-goers. She found her way to belief herself. She became a Deacon and then an Elder (1997) and visited in a committed way; an opportune visit from Barbara might lead to regular visits from her over decades.

Barbara died on 6<sup>th</sup> November after a very short illness.

*[Both tributes are extracts from Rev Aitken's eulogies.]*

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## **Congratulations to . . .**

- ❖ Sarah Davidson (Aitken) who was Director General, Organisational Development and Operations, Scottish Government. In the New Year Honours, Sarah was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) - an honour given to Civil Servants for outstanding contribution to public service;

and

- ❖ two more nonagenarians in our Congregation - Edith Bell and Helen Kinghorn.



*Flowers for Edith at the Congregational Lunch*

# Mission Committee

## Fresh Start

The quarterly collection for Fresh Start is on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March** when we will be looking for 'pots and pans'. This also includes cooking utensils, plastic containers, can openers, potato peelers and wooden spoons. Please note **NO** sharp knives. Fresh Start appreciate all the goods that are handed in for those who have been homeless - they have no belongings. When they move into a flat they are not able to make a cup of tea, light a lamp, shut their curtains or snuggle up under their duvet without the help of the starter packs. Fresh Start and the Mission Committee are so grateful for all the items handed in to help make a house a home.

## Congregational Lunch

The annual congregational lunch was held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January, where there was a great sense of fun and fellowship. The Hospitality Committee served 83 plates of soup (and some seconds!). The monies this year are going to the work of the Salvation Army to help them fund their project at Ashbrook House in Ferry Road; the amazing sum of £560 was raised. The Mission Committee wish to thank all those who helped and participated in this year's event. Special thanks to the Hospitality Committee. This lunch was the 13<sup>th</sup> since we started what had been called a Hunger Lunch to support the Care Van in 2008. The event name was changed to Congregational Lunch after a short time. Over the years we have supported 18 different charities who have all benefited from the cumulative total of over £7,500.



*Margaret Hunter*

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Coffee Morning



in aid of **St Columba's Hospice**  
at **St Ninian's Church, Corstorphine**

on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020** from 10:00am to Noon

**Home Baking, Tombola, Books, Hospice Stall,**  
**Flower Arrangements, Hampers, Teas & Coffees**

**Admission - Adults £2.00; Children 50p**

Please come along and support the ongoing work of the Hospice  
Anyone willing to help, please contact Margaret Hunter (339 6262)

# The Guild

Whose we are and Whom we serve  
Strategy: "One Journey Many Roads" 2018-21  
Theme: Companions on the Road

The Guild were delighted to welcome our Minister, James, to open the second session of the 2019-2020 Guild Year. James helped us to explore and develop our understanding of our theme 'Companions on the Road'. It was good to catch up with members and hear how they had enjoyed our Christmas party and the superb entertainment provided by Anne Kirkpatrick and members of the Church choir. Thanks to all who made this a delightful afternoon.

Our second meeting was a celebration of not one but two 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Congratulations to Helen Kinghorn and Edith Bell.

Our next Coffee Morning is on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** - please join us for coffee, cake and fellowship. All proceeds will be donated to the Guild projects, CrossReach and Malawi Fruits. For more detail see the Guild noticeboard. We have lots of interesting speakers to look forward to in the coming weeks. Please look at our programme on the Guild noticeboard and join us when you can.



The Guild has been around for 133 years. This year, at our AGM in March, we will be celebrating 80 years of the Guild at St Ninian's. We look forward to our journey ahead, meeting new people and enjoying new experiences. If you would like to join us on this journey, you will be most welcome.

*Irene McCartney (Secretary)*

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## Annotate and date your photographs!

The "Past Times in St Ninian's" noticeboard in the north corridor recently displayed an excellent large colour photograph of the Sunday School taken in the Martin Shields Hall around 2006. Unfortunately, no one at the time thought to keep a record of all the children's names. An appeal to passers-by to fill in the names according to a numbered list resulted in about half of the children being identified. Thanks to all who took the trouble to do this.

I was reminded of a "poem" I saw many years ago and thought it not only worth keeping but worth repeating from time to time:

### Strangers in the box

Come, look with me inside this drawer,  
Inside this box I've often seen,  
At all the pictures, black and white,  
Some in colour, all serene.

I wish I knew the people there,  
These strangers stored within the box,  
Their names and all their memories  
Have long been lost among my socks.

If someone at the time had noted  
Who they are, and when, and where,  
These faces of my heritage,  
Would come to life, their memories share.

Make time to note the details down  
And keep them safe, even with your socks,  
Or someday you and yours could be  
The latest strangers in the box.

*Andrew Broom*

## Marigolds and Amber *(Our tour of India, continued)*

We arrived in Jaipur after a long coach journey having spent the previous weekend on Tiger Safari in the hills of Rajasthan; sadly, no tigers were seen. Jaipur is a modern city and capital of the state of Rajasthan. It was established in 1727 by Raj Singh II who shifted his capital from nearby Amer to Jaipur due to a scarcity of water in Amer. It is famously known as "The Pink City" and is home to several UNESCO world heritage sites, not least of which are the City Palace and the Jantar Mantar astronomical observatory. More recently it is known as the location where the television series *The Real Marigold Hotel* was recorded.

A highlight of our stay in Jaipur was visiting the Bed & Breakfast used as the location for "The Real Marigold Hotel" which happened to be owned by our guide's



uncle. Getting there was an adventure in itself. We all boarded our bus and made our way to one of the main roads of the city leading to the Albert Hall (Jaipur branch) where we transferred to Tuk Tuks as the roads to the house are too narrow for the bus. To be environmentally friendly electric Tuk Tuks were hired, no slower than the petrol version but quieter. With four of us crammed into the back it was a cosy journey; the traffic was just as chaotic; avert your eyes and admire the architecture as it flashes past; don't look at the traffic. We arrived at the house after a 20-minute journey. We went in through a plain, narrow entrance which was unremarkable from the outside but opened



out into a wide courtyard. The house was built in a traditional manner around outer and inner courtyards, with the staff living quarters around the outer courtyard and the family living quarters surrounding the inner courtyard. The accommodation starts on the first floor with a further three floors continuing to the roof. After being regaled with stories of the antics of the principal participants, Miriam Margolyes, Wayne Sleep, Jan Leeming and Sylvester McCoy by our host, a retired Brigadier, we made our way to the roof terrace. It is this that made the visit so memorable; the view over the city is spectacular. The city was bathed in the pink glow of dusk which



was being reflected off the hills that stand to the south of the city. It had been a very hot day; the air was still, therefore families were gathered on the rooftops to cool down and relax. On the neighbouring roofs around us they were eating, playing and flying kites; in the distance the birds of prey were soaring, searching for food before night came. After taking in the



view, and in the best tradition of the Raj, gin and tonic was served - more gin than tonic - along with the best pakora I have ever tasted. We discovered that, if you asked for more tonic, it was added with an equal measure of gin as well, so more gin was consumed than had perhaps been intended by the time we left - very unfortunate. When we came to leave, the journey back was equally as exciting as it was now dark which made the city even more mysterious and beguiling as buildings were lit in a kaleidoscope of colours. But the volume of traffic had not diminished, leaving us feeling very vulnerable in the Tuk Tuk as we returned to our hotel surrounded by cars, lorries and bicycles with horns blaring and bells ringing, totally chaotic and confusing.



The following day, feeling slightly jaded, we continued to explore the old city which is surrounded by walls and is of course the tourist centre with wide, tree-lined main roads and palace buildings overlooking the bustling markets that face the streets. At the centre is the City Palace with the famous pink screens lining the streets, from behind which the ladies of the harem observed life outside the closed world of the palace. The architecture is astounding with the intricate mogul decoration making you wonder at the skills of the stonemasons used to construct these buildings.

As a capital city it was a centre for all sorts of endeavours. One of the most fascinating sites was the Jantar Mantar, an



The sundial at Jantar Mantar

astronomical and astrological observatory that was built between 1724 and 1735 and home to the largest sundial in the world, which projects



The dial

its shadows onto two graduated pits from which you can tell the time; the scale of this instrument means that you can read the time to an accuracy of a half a second. Other instruments on the site measure and observe the other celestial bodies to assist with astrological predictions, with each sign of the zodiac having a dedicated observatory. Whilst the scale of the site is overwhelming it makes you realise the advanced nature of the science that was used in its construction which uses no optics to assist in the taking of observations. This is testament to the learning and ingenuity that was present in the early eighteenth century in India at a time when, in Britain, we were just developing an understanding of how to measure longitude by time accurately.

Our journey through India continued for a few more days but witnessing the sunset from a roof top in Jaipur will be, as they say, a forever memory.

*Andrew Job*



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 want straight away.

We, in St Ninian's Church, actively support Christian Aid by fundraising in the Church and within the Parish enabling Christian Aid to help communities in the developing world. In 2019, our regular activities raised:

Forth Bridge Crossing	£1,933
Christian Aid Week	£3,307
Christmas Eve Collection	£942

In addition, retiring collections raised the following:

Cyclone Idai Appeal	£1,561
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The total raised in 2019 by St Ninian's was **£7,743**

Many thanks to everyone who helped raise such a wonderful total last year. Can we better it in 2020?

This year Christian Aid Week runs from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May and the dates of our events are:

<b>SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL</b>	<b>FORTH BRIDGE CROSSING</b>
<b>SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	<b>SOUP AND SWEET LUNCH</b>
<b>SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> - SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	<b>CHRISTIAN AID WEEK</b>

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

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## Fabric Committee

Following plaster repair works, the south-west corridor has been re-painted in a bright yellow to match the north corridor.

The light over the signboard in the front garden corroded over the years and has been replaced with a new slim-line fitting to keep the Corstorphine public informed of events in the Church.

When the radiator valve started leaking in the Martin Shields Hall, the plumber was summoned and quickly identified a faulty washer. He said that the whole system should be drained down and then refilled which could take some time. Alternatively, the apprentice could stick his finger in the pipe for the changeover. This was immediately agreed and, with the help of the apprentice's digit, the washer was replaced in record time!

It's great to see all the Church Halls and rooms being used so regularly and generating so much income. However, the Martin Shields Hall does experience a lot of foot traffic from toddlers to line-dancers so the parquet floor will be sanded and resealed with layers of protective lacquer.

*Alister McGlashan*



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## Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal

On behalf of GIFT, I would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations to both the Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal and The Rock Trust for Christmas 2019.



The Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal has been running for 26 years, starting in 1993 with 300 shoe boxes being given to people in Romania. Last year more than 106,000 shoe boxes were given to people in need of care and support across Eastern Europe. This winter the shoe boxes are being delivered across Eastern Europe and Pakistan. Every gift in every shoe box makes a difference. It can provide practical support but more than this, it lets somebody know that they've been thought about, that they are valued and loved - what an amazing gift to receive.

The Rock Trust in Albany Street provide a drop-in service for the homeless offering washing facilities, food and toiletries as well as advice, group work and housing support. Your donations, which managed to fill the large boot and back seat of my car, were very gratefully received and will be a massive help to the charity.



The generosity of St Ninian's never ceases to amaze me, so thank you very much. You're making a positive difference to the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.

*Gillian Higgins*

# Enterprise Committee

The final total raised at the Christmas Fair was £7,490-36. The two beneficiaries, The Dystonia Society and The Rock Trust, have each received a cheque for £1,872-59. A representative of The Rock Trust addressed the congregation and visited the Sunday School on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. St Ninian's share from the Christmas Fair is £3,745-18. A big vote of thanks to the many who contributed so generously of time, talents and money for the Fair and to those who attended and supported the event.

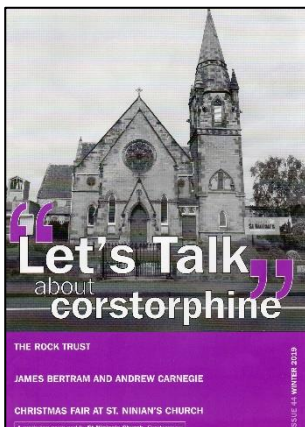


It has been decided that there will be no future print issues of "Let's Talk about Corstorphine". The possible use of social media will be investigated. Many thanks to our contributors, to our advertisers and to our distributors for 22 years of great support.

*Ian Kirkpatrick, Convener (334 5951)*

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## Farewell to "Let's Talk about Corstorphine"



Take a good look at the accompanying photograph, because it shows the final cover of a magazine which has been produced by our Church twice a year for the last 22 years, but which sadly has now had to cease publication owing to rising costs and (to a lesser extent) a continuing decline in the number of church members fit enough to deliver it house-to-house throughout the area.

At the November meeting of the Deacons' Court, its editor for all of the 44 issues, Ian Kirkpatrick, one of our senior Elders, explained that the idea of a free self-financing magazine was the brainchild of the late Jim McLoughlin, one of our Elders and the initial Convener of the Enterprise Committee.

His proposal, in 1998, was for a free coffee-table magazine to be distributed throughout Corstorphine by a small army of voluntary distributors from the congregation, the publishing costs to be met by advertising revenue and by contributors willing to provide copy at no charge. It was hoped that a modest profit would raise funds for St Ninian's and encourage new members to join the church.

It was agreed to go ahead on a trial basis, and for a time it was very successful. In its hey-day 8,500 20-page copies were distributed, making profits of more than £600 per issue. Written contributions and photographs came from a wide variety of individuals, including local religious leaders and politicians, the police and amateur writers and photographers, on a wide range of subjects relating to Corstorphine. Practically every Corstorphine group you care to name had an article published about itself, to the benefit of the whole community.

However, as time went on, advertising revenue dropped, largely because of the unforeseen appearance of a highly successful competitor, The Corstorphine Grapevine. This was also free but published more frequently which syphoned off many of our advertisers. Not only did the profit element disappear, but the congregation ended up having to subsidise each issue - quite the reverse of the original intention. The Deacons' Court reluctantly concluded that there was no alternative to ceasing publication. Instead it was decided that an attempt

should be made to concentrate in future on information being made available through "social media", which is the accepted way of doing things nowadays and which was totally unheard of in 1998.

It would be unjust to finish without a sincere tribute to Ian Kirkpatrick for all his hard work in editing and publishing the magazine for more than two decades. Quite simply he has been the powerhouse behind this publication and, without his enthusiasm and determination, it would have ceased production long before now. He deserves the warmest of thanks from us all.

*Andrew Broom*

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Ongoing initiatives:

**Food collection:** 1,814 food items and toiletries were collected during 2019. Over the year, a regular monthly delivery from St Ninian's of over 100 items has been established and, knowing that they can rely on this, the Rock Trust staff are enabled to better manage the distribution of food. Many thanks for your continuing generosity which is greatly appreciated by all concerned. If you would like to help but are unable to bring items to church, please speak to me.

**Clothing Collection:** Donations of clothing suitable for 16 - 25-year olds continue to be welcomed and are delivered to the Rock Trust by Valerie Thomson.

Other ways to help:

**Nightstop Edinburgh:** This service aims to provide young people aged 16 - 25 with emergency accommodation in the homes of trained volunteer hosts. The stay will usually be for a few nights but may, depending on the circumstances, be extended for up to two weeks.

If you feel that you have the space and time to become a host or would like more information, please contact the Nightstop Development Worker, Matthew Eastwood, on 0131 557 4059 or [matthew.eastwood@rocktrust.org](mailto:matthew.eastwood@rocktrust.org).

**Sponsor A Home:** The Rock Trust offers housing support to young people across Edinburgh and the Lothians, not only by finding them a home but also by providing dedicated support workers whose practical and emotional support facilitate successful independent living. If you would like to sponsor a home by way of a monthly donation, forms are available in the Crush Hall or online at [rocktrust.org/sponsor-a-home](http://rocktrust.org/sponsor-a-home).

More information on the work of the Rock Trust can be found on the noticeboard in the Crush Hall or by visiting [www.rocktrust.org](http://www.rocktrust.org).

The Rock Trust was one of the beneficiaries from the Church Fair and has received a cheque for almost £1,900. It is most grateful for this very generous donation.

*Susanne Hope (334 2489)*



# Sunday School News

Sunday School Leaders and Helpers had a busy few months preparing for special services. The first was Remembrance Sunday when our young people, including members of the various Uniformed Organisations, joined the congregation to commemorate Remembrance. Once again, the response from the various Sunday School Departments and the congregation to the Gift Service was overwhelming. Each year we wonder if we will have as many gifts as the previous year and it always amazes everyone how many gifts and monetary donations (£230) we receive, including those from people who do not attend Church regularly.

Alpha and Juniors enjoyed a Christmas outing to ten-pin bowling at Fountain Park with a meal afterwards at Nando's.

The Sunday School excelled itself this year by not only acting out the Nativity but by Hannah Marshall writing the script. The video of their weekend away at Loch Tay, compiled by Donna Short, was certainly much appreciated by the congregation and it was most heartening to have the feedback as to how much it was enjoyed. One remark made was that, if someone walked into Church that day and saw the video, they would have no hesitation in returning. Could this be the way forward?

As always, we welcome any comments or ideas which will help to strengthen our Sunday School.

*Diana Fairgrieve and Lesley Gulland*



# United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

In December, three children from the Fox Covert School Rights Group, supported by their teacher, Joanne Doddie, presented the children's address on 'The Rights of The Child' to St Ninian's congregation and Sunday School. This is their talk:

## **1. What are Child Rights?**

The UNCRC was created by the United Nations. Almost all countries have signed this document, including the United Kingdom. All of the rights are equally important. There are 54 articles in total but here are some Rights of the child:

- The right not to be treated in a cruel or harmful way
- The right to play and rest
- The right to an education
- The right for shelter and basic needs to be met
- The right to privacy
- The right to choose your own friends
- The right to have an identity

## **2. Who is a Right Holder and who is a Duty Bearer?**

A Right Holder is any child under the age of 18. A Duty Bearer is any adult. It is the responsibility of the adults to make sure that the children in their lives have their rights met. We wear badges around the school to show that we are in support of Child Rights. We believe that not one child should go without their rights being met - no matter what country they live in. It is important that everyone respects Child Rights.

## **3. What are we doing at Fox Covert?**

Child Rights should be respected everywhere but sometimes they are not and that's what we want to change. Children in other countries may not have their rights met so we have made this group at Fox Covert to help all children have their rights met. The group has 12 pupils, 1 teacher, 2 nursery staff, 3

parents and of course, Reverend Aitken. At Fox Covert, we have made a Playground Charter with St Andrew's Fox Covert and Class Charters to ensure that these Child Rights are being met. We are going to help our school nursery to make a garden charter. We have also planned and taught different classes about Global issues and Child Rights. We are working towards achieving our Silver award.

## **4. What are we doing in the community?**

We have organised fund-raising events such as the Rice Challenge. We sold 180 bags of rice which meant we were able to send 2 children in Malawi to school for a whole year! We have visited our school nursery and helped them raise awareness of Child Rights. We are planning to go to the local home for the elderly to share information about Child Rights there too. We have also worked with charities such as Mercy Corps and Scotdec.

## **5. How can you help us?**

Reverend Aitken attends our group weekly so we are very thankful to have him on the team. You are also important in our community to help us raise awareness of Child Rights. We would like you to become involved in our fundraising events and raising awareness to your friends and family about Child Rights. Please feel free to take one of our leaflets and we have left some badges too.

**Elili, Hamish and Rachel**

# Past Times in St Ninian's

25 years ago, January 1995

From the Year Book 1996, covering events during 1995

Extract from Introduction by the Rev Alex T Stewart

". . . I was told that, if I survived my first winter in Edinburgh, I would get by. The people may be warm but Edinburgh is a cold place! Coming from the West [*Cathcart, Glasgow*], I was well warned of this; but I never realised how cold it could be. Some of you, in your kindness, have tried to reassure me that this winter has been exceptional; but I am still to be convinced! . . ."

*[Mr Stewart survived for twenty-one years in Corstorphine as our Minister, so he must have been convinced after all!]*

## Woman's Guild Committee

Hon President	Mrs Liz Stewart
President	Mrs Muriel Gibson
Vice President	Mrs Audrey Winton
Secretary	Mrs Yvonne Wallace
Treasurer	Mrs Nancy Gummerson
Tea Conveners	Mrs N Gilmore and Mrs E Loudon
	Mrs J Robb and Mrs C Witcombe
Roll Keeper	Miss Mary McCallum

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50 years ago, January 1970, from the Quarterly

Minister's Notes, by the Rev Colin R Martin

"Such a great deal has been thought, spoken and written about that period to be known as 'The Seventies' and, by the time you read these words, we shall be living in The Seventies. I think perhaps many view this time with some apprehension - and this may be due to the incredible advances in science and technology (and the even more incredible predicted advances in these fields), which leave the laymen in such matters bemused and even a little frightened. In circumstances like these, I believe the Christian Faith can be the "Anchor of the Soul" of which the old Boys' Brigade hymn speaks, and which is so necessary in a world where physical and material change is so rapid and sweeping. But the Christian Faith must never allow the modern world to sweep over and past it, leaving it in some quaint backwater . . . . I hope we all in St Ninian's are ready to face The Seventies as Christian people, seeking the glory of God and the good of all men by our active witness to the reality of our Faith."

*[Need a single word of the above be altered to reflect the position today? Perhaps the only changes would be to amend "laymen" to read "lay men and women" and "the good of all men" to read "the good of all men and women". Women Elders were not introduced to St Ninian's until 1979.]*



**ST NINIAN'S PARISH CHURCH**  
**GENERAL FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**  
**AND BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Budget 2020 £	Actual 2019 £
<b>National Ministry and Mission &amp; Wider Work</b>		
National Stipend and Mission and Renewal Fund	100,459	102,876
Presbytery Dues	3,120	3,198
	<b>103,579</b>	<b>106,074</b>
<b>Local Staffing Costs</b>		
Minister's Travel and Expenses	960	960
Pulpit Supply	420	616
Other Salaries, Social Security & Pension Costs	38,260	37,970
	<b>39,640</b>	<b>39,546</b>
<b>Building Costs</b>		
Fabric - Repairs, Renewals & Maintenance	12,000	11,553
Cleaning Materials	1,098	1,100
Heating, Lighting and Water - Halls	8,896	9,091
Council Tax - Manse	3,331	3,234
Insurance	5,470	5,341
	<b>30,795</b>	<b>30,319</b>
<b>Other Local Costs</b>		
Telephone, postage, printing, stationery, website	6,674	7,579
Congregational Organisations	1,034	941
Other Expenses	5,832	7,425
	<b>13,540</b>	<b>15,945</b>
<b>Total Ordinary General Expenditure</b>	<b>187,554</b>	<b>191,884</b>
<b>Less: Other Ordinary General Income</b>		
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	2,815	3,247
Contributions from outside organisations for use of halls	38,000	37,840
Bank Interest and Investment Income	5,750	5,920
Other Receipts	750	1,646
	<b>47,315</b>	<b>48,653</b>
<b>Leaving a balance to be met from offerings of</b>	<b>140,239</b>	<b>143,231</b>
Offerings and Donations	129,668	130,098
Tax Recovery from Gift Aid	28,527	28,412
	<b>158,195</b>	<b>158,510</b>
<b>Leaving a Surplus (before Legacies received) of</b>	<b>17,956</b>	<b>15,279</b>
<b>Legacies received</b>	-	5,000
<b>Total Surplus</b>	<b>17,956</b>	<b>20,279</b>
<b>Provision for pastoral assistance / cost of flowers</b>		<b>(20,000)</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>17,956</b>	<b>279</b>

For the year to 31 December 2019 the surplus (before legacies) was £15,279 (2018 - £23,343). The difference of £8,064 between 2018 and 2019 is explained as follows:

- **Higher income (+£6,485)** – This was due to increases in all areas of income but particularly income from the use of our halls by external 3<sup>rd</sup> parties (£3,014) and Offerings and Donations inc. Gift Aid (£2,350).
- **Higher general expenditure (-£14,551)** – This was largely due to higher costs for Ministry & Mission payments & Presbytery dues (-£3,295), Salaries (-£4,113), Fabric Maintenance (-£5,143) and Printing (-£1,525).

The Budget for 2020 shows a small increase in Surplus (+£2,677) when compared to the actuals for 2019. It anticipates:

- Savings on costs (+£4,331) arising from lower Ministry & Mission payments and Other Expenses
- A small reduction in other income (-£1,338) and offerings (-£315).

*Janice Reynolds, Treasurer*