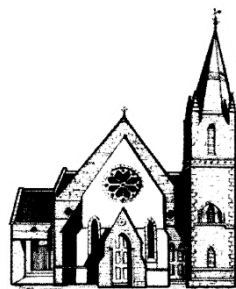


St Ninian's Church  
Corstorphine

# Quarterly



Winter 2020



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)

**We have resumed our SUNDAY SERVICES in the Church at 10.30am. These are open to a restricted number of people, so please pre-book to attend - see the weekly intimations on-line, and the article inside this issue of the Quarterly.**

**Sunday Services are also available on You Tube at:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW-OUJ0F3JLO9vUD7KYMffa>

**Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the usual activities listed below are suspended until further notice.**

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,*

*Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?  
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife  
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain  
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?*

At the recent funeral of Ian Cameron, a member, deacon, and elder of St Ninian's, we listened to 'Will your anchor hold'. Ian was a BB, boy and man. This hymn was a favourite of his and is a favourite of many who were once BBs whether or not they have retained their church connection and commitment throughout their lives. The faith and values that were germinated in their youth and grew in their adulthood anchored their lives.



What is your anchor? What stops you drifting on to rocks? What slows you down when life threatens to run away with you?

The clouds have unfolded their wings of strife in 2020, and more than at any other time this year it is possible that we will see the storm at its worst over this winter and particularly Christmas. Perhaps, it won't be the storm that upsets us so much, as the quietness, the stillness, the isolation, the loneliness.

But ... Christmas hasn't been cancelled, just as the church was not closed during lockdown, even though we couldn't gather in person to worship and share fellowship. The services during the Sundays of Advent and at 8:00pm on Christmas Eve will be online and as things stand at the moment there will also be services at those times in the sanctuary. As we do now, these services will be available on DVD, CD, and printed text, delivered prior to the service being broadcast or held. There's no reason why anyone should miss out this Christmas, even if we might miss being in the company of others.

The birth of Jesus Christ was the incarnation of the God of joy, peace, love and hope into human life and experience. I pray that you will experience that incarnation this year. Christmas is joyful - amidst the storm of 2020, what anchor can you rejoice over: the NHS perhaps; the love of friends or family; the worship of the church? Christmas is peaceful - without the usual round of busyness, can you find some peace to remember the real Christmas this year? Christmas is love - many will feel isolated this year, but we are not alone. Can you pick up the phone to someone in the congregation who is alone this year? Christmas is full of hope - hope is not blind optimism, it is the conviction that if we care for each other, treat each other mercifully, and are generous towards one another then we will anchor ourselves amidst the storm and ride out 2020.

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll  
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move  
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love*

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)*

Best wishes,

*James*

## Communion Services

Communion Services are due to be held in the Church  
on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December**  
at 10.30am and 3.00pm.

*“This do in remembrance of Me”*

We practise inclusiveness by providing gluten-free bread  
and alcohol-free wine for everyone at Communion services.

. . . but see the following page for provisional details  
of worship arrangements.

## Kirk Session Meetings

2020 - Wednesday: 11<sup>th</sup> November

2021 - 10<sup>th</sup> February; 12<sup>th</sup> May; 8<sup>th</sup> September; 10<sup>th</sup> November

## Deacons' Court Meetings

2020 - Wednesday: 25<sup>th</sup> November

2021 - 24<sup>th</sup> February; 26<sup>th</sup> May; 22<sup>nd</sup> September; 24<sup>th</sup> November

These are the dates planned. The arrangements for meeting  
will depend on whatever social distancing rules  
are in effect at the time.

## Congregational Register

### Funerals:

June 2020*	Mr Robert Kerr, 18 Craigs Bank
20 August 2020*	Mr John Sutherland, 42 Craigmount Avenue North
2 September 2020*	Mr Engel Nelson, 13 Wilkieston Road, Ratho
7 September 2020	Mr Brian Johnstone, 151 Broomhall Crescent
6 October 2020*	Mr James Brown, 77/16 Barnton Park View
2 October 2020*	Mrs Barbara Reid, The Cedars, Manse Road
2 October 2020*	Mrs Elizabeth Martin, Murrayfield Nursing Home
14 October 2020*	Mr Tommy McClung, 19/10 Wester Coates Gardens
28 October 2020*	Mr Ian Cameron, 16 Victor Park Terrace
6 November 2020*	Mr Robert (Bob) McLarty, 2 Craigmount Loan
23 November 2020*	Mrs Nan Paterson, Struan Lodge Nursing Home

\* Denotes member

# WORSHIP AT ST NINIAN'S

Sunday services are available...

- **online** ... on YouTube and Facebook from 10:15am every Sunday
- **on DVD or CD** ... hand delivered to your door every week prior to the 10:30am service
- **on printed text** ... a text copy of the entire service can be delivered to your door every week prior to the 10:30am Sunday service
- **in the sanctuary** ... Sunday morning worship has resumed in St Ninian's for a maximum of 50 people every week

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST NINIAN'S

Everything is subject to change at the moment, but what won't change is the celebration of Christmas. At the moment we can't be certain how Christmas will be celebrated, but we will do our best to do the following:

- 29<sup>th</sup> November**      **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent** - 10:30am worship online & in the sanctuary.
- 6<sup>th</sup> December**      **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent, Communion** - 10:30am communion online, and worship in the sanctuary (possibly with communion).
- 13<sup>th</sup> December**      **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent, Gift Service** - see the Quarterly & website for how you can contribute to the Gift Service this year.
- 16<sup>th</sup> December**      **Blue Christmas** - 7:00pm in the sanctuary only: a service of prayer, peace, light and music for those who have experienced bereavement, loss or other hardship in 2020.
- 20<sup>th</sup> December**      **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, Nativity service** - 10:30am online, and worship in the sanctuary.
- 24<sup>th</sup> December**      **Christmas Eve, 8:00pm** - a service of music, readings and poems for Christmas online and in the sanctuary.
- 25<sup>th</sup> December**      **Christmas Morning worship** - 10:30am Zoom only (not on YouTube or Facebook, or in the sanctuary).
- 27<sup>th</sup> December**      **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas** - 10:30am worship online & in the sanctuary.

*James*

## ‘It gave me hope...’



Our Church reopened on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October and a very warm welcome awaits you. We have to adhere to some conditions, though. The number of worshippers on a Sunday morning is limited to 50 by the Scottish Government, and there is a telephone booking system to ensure there is a place for you when you come to church on a Sunday morning. Everyone has to wear a face covering (unless exempt), and you will be guided to a seat by stewards.

Please phone **07399 950 204** on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 9:00am and 12:00. Please use this number only, and not the church office number. When you call, you will be asked for your name, the number of people in your party who share the same household as you do, and for your contact details. If there is no answer, leave a message giving those details, and someone will call to confirm that you have a place. If you wish, you can turn up on a Sunday morning without

booking a place, but if you do so you may find that all the available places have been taken. Our strong advice is to book.

The service is approximately thirty minutes long, there is music, but no singing. Entry is through the front door and a one-way system will lead worshippers into the sanctuary for worship, and then out through the east door. Disabled access is through the west door, as before. In addition to our Beadle, there is a team of stewards in attendance each week to guide you and to ensure that we comply with contact tracing etc.

Unfortunately, we are not allowed to have tea and coffee fellowship after the service. Please disperse quickly, maintaining appropriate social distancing while leaving the church grounds. All other parts of the building will be out of bounds.

Each week the church is thoroughly cleaned to the standards set out by the Church of Scotland.

Those who have attended our new socially distanced services have been very positive about the experience. One commented ‘it gave me hope’. Another said, ‘it was wonderful to be back in St Ninian’s’. Many have said they have felt very safe and without exception everyone has really enjoyed the music provided by Anne.

Here in the office I am enjoying speaking to you when you call to book your place and hearing how much you have enjoyed the service. I already have a list of ‘regulars’.

*Gaynor Beames*  
*Church Secretary*





# IAN CAMERON

Ian Cameron was a well-known and much-loved member of St Ninian's since joining in 1966. Ian died on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2020 aged 89.



Ian was not only a member of the church, but also a deacon and, for over forty years, an elder. He was very committed to the congregation and gave great service, using, in particular, his printing skills. Ian was a compositor (I'm proud to say I am young enough to have had no idea what that was when Ian first told me!). A compositor arranges type for printing, and Ian did so for twenty-seven years at the Scotsman newspaper, working all hours including Christmas Day and New Year's Day to get the newspaper out.

His trade meant that he worked also for twenty-seven years as publications convener at St Ninian's, having been asked to fill the vacant post by the Rev Colin Martin not long after he joined in 1966. However, the rôle he cherished at St Ninian's was that of Santa Claus at the Beginner's Sunday School Christmas party - he only retired, reluctantly, when his grandson joined the class and began recognising his voice. Over the years Ian sang in the choir, participated in shows, was a member of the Men's Club, distributed clothes in the evenings on the Care Van, and much more besides. Ian offered service outside the church as well - he received a certificate at the City Chambers for donating 100 pints of blood (not all at the same time).

When he wasn't working or doing his civic or religious duty, Ian - being a Leither - supported Hibs. He enjoyed holidays (particularly to Puerto Pollensa in Majorca) on which there was always some escapade or hilarious story attached (all best left abroad). He loved swimming and taught his children to swim - to the amazement of his grandson he back-flipped in Drumbrae Leisure Centre in his seventies!

Ian will also be remembered as a wonderful husband to Norma (whom he swept of her feet at the Cavendish ballroom before they were married in 1958), a caring father to Fiona and Ronnie, and a rôle-model to his grandson Jack - always his favourite grandson, he would say! They all remember him for his fun, his love and his loyalty, and will miss him greatly, as will many in St Ninian's who were his friends over the years.

*James Aitken*

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## St Ninian's Memorial Garden

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of St Ninian's, to thank Ian Stewart most sincerely for the upkeep of the memorial garden. Quietly behind the scenes, Ian tends to the garden on a regular basis ensuring it is neat and tidy throughout the seasons.

As always, at this time of year, the wooden remembrance crosses have been replaced in the garden. Unfortunately, due to Covid19, we cannot view them from the West corridor but, as you can see, they are all in situ.



*Irene McCartney*

## Derek Munn: the journey of a St Ninian's Elder



*Derek and Fiona*

Alec asked me to pen an update of where I am in my studies to become an Ordained Local Minister. Although lockdown has curtailed so many church activities, my training has continued apace. As I am studying at Highland Theological College all lectures and assignments are conducted online anyway. The lockdown came just as I was preparing for exams, so I was one of the few people who was glad of the sudden slow-down of everything to allow more time for study! I passed my first year and am now working hard with second year studies. I have to pass second year, by June next year, before starting my probation year at a church (still to be decided!) probably in Edinburgh.

I also have to complete two six-month placements over the first two years of study. My first placement was at Slateford Longstone with Rev Sam Torrens. Fiona and I felt so welcome there and I learnt a lot and even got involved in starting a Men's Shed group in the church. Fortunately, I had more or less finished there when lockdown happened, but I did have to shelve my last sermon, which was on quite a tricky part of Esther - phew! Sam still jokes that he's looking forward to hearing it eventually! My latest placement is at Davidsons Mains with Rev Dan Robertson. I've just started there, and it will shape up to be quite a different experience. As well as Sunday worship, they run a café, a counselling centre and have quite a large children and youth ministry. With the restrictions, many

activities have been adapted to meet the Covid-19 guidelines. The church is also using online channels more and I'm looking forward to working with Dan on new ways of doing church both now and looking forward to the future.

Like many of you, getting used to Zoom meetings has been a big part of the last six months. I've been to conferences for Ministry candidates and have various peer groups that I meet up with regularly. The Church of Scotland also organise small support groups for the trainees, which are really useful - Rev Stewart McPherson leads my group. I also value the help I've received from James and the support group at St Ninian's - they've been so encouraging and inspiring.

I was thrilled when James asked me to do pulpit supply the other week. I must admit I was quite tearful when I stepped up into the pulpit - it was like coming home - and also strange to be looking out from the pulpit rather than looking in! Fiona, Alex and I were so touched by all the kind, encouraging and welcoming comments we received. Hopefully I can do it again sometime - maybe we'll not need masks then!

Fiona and I are both working from home and have had plenty of time to enjoy the garden - as with many others, it's never looked so good, although we would still welcome lots of advice from Anne Kirkpatrick and Susanne Hope! Crunchie is also grateful to have her mum and dad home to take her for lovely long walks as long as we don't disturb her before 11:00 a.m.!

I am grateful for all the support you have all given me and ask you to continue to remember us in your prayers as we will remember you in ours.

Take care all and see you soon!

*Derek*

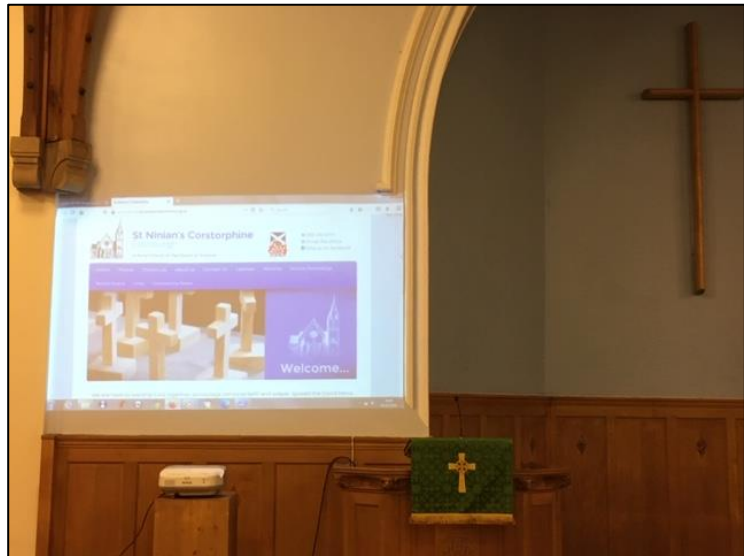


## 'TechComm' update - Sound and Vision

While the visible focus of the 'TechComm' Group over the past few months has been on the delivery of the weekly service by video via YouTube, Facebook, DVD and CD and the after service coffee get together by Zoom, work has gone on in the background to upgrade the audio visual technology in the church buildings.

Not seen, but hopefully heard now that we are back in church, has been the replacement of the old analogue mixer desk in the big box in the gallery by a modern digital equivalent. This enables control of the microphones and the sound system in the sanctuary to be done from a laptop, tablet or phone, without the need for someone to sit upstairs adjusting controls manually. The minister could alter the volume from his tablet, whilst delivering his sermon from the pulpit, should he so choose!

Also in the sanctuary, with thanks to Alister McGlashan, we have set up a removeable wooden platform to hold the new projector, which enables pictures and video to be shown on a 'virtual screen', which in fact is just the sanctuary wall, next to the pulpit, as you can see from the attached photo. We can now show anything from intimations or hymn sheets to Christian Aid videos or Sunday School presentations without having to resort to the 'Heath Robinson' efforts of the past.



Finally, as you can see from the second photo, we have installed a digital 'Touch Screen' in the Crush Hall, which will initially be of benefit to the various groups restarting activities in our halls, like Kumon and Jo Jingles.



From simple 'welcome' messages, direction instructions to the halls, rules for how to operate in the current climate, to club and activity advertising, the possibilities for this technology are endless, especially when we start to use the interactive touch screen capability. Watch this space as we learn more about how to use this - you could be scrolling through the next Quarterly on the screen while waiting to pick up your daughter from Brownies!

*Derek MacGillivray*

## Mission Committee

This year's Congregational Christmas Cards will be ready shortly and will have an insert giving details of the Services available over the Christmas period. Once again, we thank Derek Munn for his help in producing the cards.

Hopefully, the cards will be available for distribution by the end of November. The Mission Committee will be looking for help to deliver these cards to the homes within the Parish, and further details will be available nearer the time.

The Mission Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas.

*Margaret Hunter*

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## Fabric Committee

Emergency repairs and general maintenance continued in Church during the lockdown period.

Gas fumes from the church boiler-room were traced to a blocked flue. Scaffolding was erected and the flue cleared and repaired, and a new terminal fitted. The boiler itself had to be fully cleaned out and re-set and it is now in full operation and keeping the sanctuary warm.

A new rooflight has been installed in the Crush Hall where the local youth made such a spectacular entrance. On the advice of our Health & Safety Consultants, warning signs have been fitted on the rooflights but hopefully reports of the incident will deter future trespassers.

Alterations were carried out at the rear of the Crush Hall to reduce the cupboard and fit a mounting board for a digital display screen. A pedestal has also been constructed for a video projector in the sanctuary.

The stained corner area of the gallery ceiling has now been treated and redecorated.

*Alister McGlashan*

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## Contactless Giving

St Ninian's and 8 other churches have been asked to carry out a 3-month trial of contactless giving, which is intended to replace open plate Offerings but not Freewill envelopes or standing orders. The trial will be free of charge during this period. The card machine, which will be located near the manse pew, will be preset at levels of £3, £5, and £10 donations. The machine can be tapped up to 3 times making a maximum donation of £30. Various questions were raised by members including confirmation that anti-bacterial wipes would be available beside the contactless machine for hand cleaning purposes. The donations will be anonymous during the trial.

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# St Ninian's Church Defibrillator

Defibrillators have been used for many years to save the lives of people who suffer sudden heart failure.



In 2019, Edinburgh Presbytery agreed a city-wide mission project in conjunction with the charity St John Scotland to put an external defibrillator on the outside of all its churches and to make Presbytery funds available to underwrite the purchase costs. This Public Access Scheme provided St Ninian's with a great opportunity for mission and engagement with the local community and allow life-saving equipment to be available 24 hours a day. After discussion, the Kirk Session agreed to participate in this project and to fully fund our purchase costs. Our application was approved, and the new defibrillator and cabinet were delivered and later erected on the stone wall of the office at the west frontage where a power supply was available. St Ninian's is one of the first Church of Scotland churches in Edinburgh to receive this equipment.

Survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest are directly related to how soon the victim receives treatment. For every minute of delay, the chance of survival declines by 7-10 per cent. The HeartStart Defibrillator is an automatic external portable unit designed for a simple reliable operation and is powered by a small lightweight battery. It can be used by anyone. They should call 999 and give the unique cabinet number (SJS153) noted on the cabinet. The operator will know the location of the caller and will dispatch an ambulance. At the same time, they will provide the code to access the defibrillator and then talk the user through operating the device. All the emergency services now have our cabinet's location and the code for access.

A handover meeting will be arranged in due course when a representative of St John Scotland will present the congregation with a certificate and plaque.

*Alister McGlashan*



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# Looking Out for Others

We are reminded to look out for others and in the present difficult situation it is very obvious that this is happening “full on” in a variety of ways, many of which are highlighted in our news programmes. This, of course, has been the way through many different circumstances and during immeasurable time. Sadly, not all people care for others in an exemplary fashion and so there came a time after some very disastrous events when legislation that would safeguard vulnerable people had to be put in place.



Firstly, Child Protection Acts were introduced so that anyone working with Children and Young People would go through a strict vetting procedure before they were allowed to work with them. Disclosure Scotland was the body to oversee this. Later a new scheme, the Protection of Young People and Vulnerable Groups came into being and everyone had to become a member of this PVG Scheme. The members of many organisations joined but were obliged to do this for each one in which they were involved with the result that some people could have three or more memberships.

The Church of Scotland was one such organisation. In order to implement the scheme each church is required to have a **Safeguarding Co-ordinator** who enables this by keeping a register of all the people who are working with Young People and Vulnerable Adults adding new people through their application procedure and removing others who wish to demit membership. There is also a **Safeguarding Panel** who would support the coordinator in the case of an emergency or a difficult situation. There are usually four on the panel including the minister, the coordinator and two others from the congregation.

In the church we all look out for others caring for them in many and varied ways. However, to conform to the legal requirements we need both of the above in place. At present we have three on the panel and would be pleased to have another to assist this group. The position is not an onerous one; mainly an advisory one and rarely needed. **Will you be that person?** The Safeguarding Coordinator is hoping to demit that role but would like to make an easy handover to the person who would take this position. **Will you be that person?**

It will be necessary for the person in each position to have a PVG Scheme membership or be willing to apply for one and also attend a Coordinator training session of three hours. Please contact James Aitken or Valerie Thomson if you want to find out more about being the person in our church who will be looking out for others.

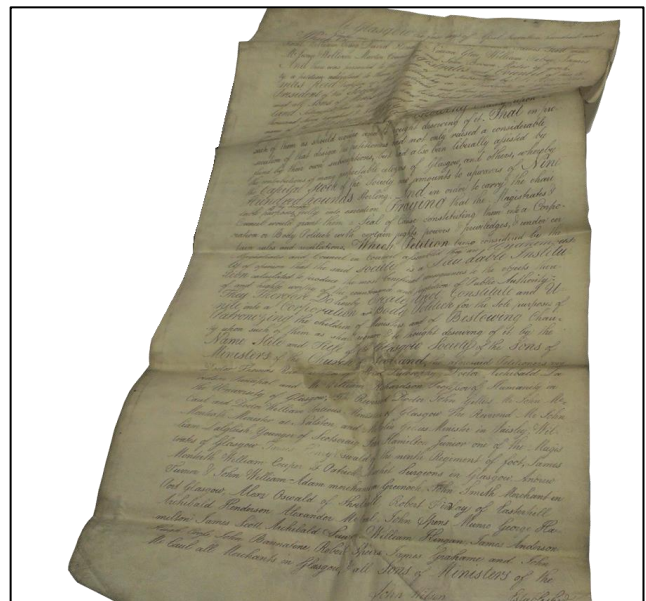
*Valerie Thomson (339 6115)*

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As many of you will know, I am a “Manse Bairn”. During my professional life I regularly appeared in the Sheriff Court and, back in the early 1970’s, Sheriff Martin Mitchell roped me in to chair the Board of a hostel set up for young men aged 16-21 who found themselves in Court. At that time the Courts did not have any alternative disposals available to them and Sheriffs often found themselves locking up youngsters who simply then ended up in what many called the “Universities of Crime” at Polmont, Saughton and Glenochil. One of the other Sheriffs who had been involved in setting up this hostel was Sheriff James Aikman Smith. He was likewise a “Manse Bairn”, and he persuaded me also to become a member of “The Glasgow Society of Sons of Ministers of the Church of Scotland” as it then was.

The Society is a fellowship founded in Glasgow in 1790 by wealthy merchants who were “Sons of the Manse”. The purpose of the Society (now “Sons and Daughters of Ministers of the Church of Scotland”) was initially to support sons of deceased Church of Scotland Ministers in preparation for gainful employment in a profession or trade and in cases of hardship. Over the years, daughters were added to the beneficiaries as were children of living ministers and the spouses of deceased Ministers.



The 1790 constitution is held in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow

Despite the name, there is no geographical limit on those we can support. We have about £1.3 million of funds invested and managed for us, and hand out annually about £50,000 to £60,000 to applicants. These applications are means-tested. We also work closely with the Edinburgh Society and the Esdaile Trust. The Edinburgh Society’s full title is “The Society for the Benefit of Sons and Daughters of the Clergy of the Church of Scotland” which, unsurprisingly, has similar objectives. The Esdaile Trust was formed when the Esdaile School for daughters of Ministers and Missionaries closed in the 1970’s.

I have been on the Council for ever and we meet on the second Wednesday of March each year in Glasgow Cathedral for an Annual Service of Thanksgiving - as stipulated in the original constitution. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find Board Members, but it is vitally important that the work of the Society over the last 230 years should continue. The vision is for one generation of members of the Society to continue to help the next by acting as a network for fellowship and financial support - these days, that means increasingly communicating through social media.

Andrew Gibb

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In early 2017, I was contacted in my then rôle as Convener of Corstorphine Churches Together Executive by the then Deputy Chairperson of Corstorphine Community Council who suggested that Corstorphine Churches should be represented on the Community Council. I passed this suggestion to the Executive for comment and, if favourable, to suggest who should be nominated to be on the Community Council. The Executive were in favour of this representation and suggested that I should be nominated! After due process I became a member.

The Corstorphine Community Council currently meets on the third Tuesday evening of each month with the exception of one month during the Summer. Initially, when I joined the meeting was held in the Dower House, then in the Corstorphine Astoria Centre and since Covid-19 online.

Although Community Councils are only legislated to consider Planning and Licensing, a range of topics is considered at meetings. At most meetings, a Community Police Representative provides an update on crime statistics in Corstorphine. A request for matters of concern results in referrals on speeding, parking, access to schools by children, youth disturbances, people acting suspiciously etc. The Police welcome these referrals and will follow them up as resources allow. The e-mail for the Community Policing (North West) Team is [edinburghcptnorthwest@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:edinburghcptnorthwest@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

At some meetings there will be a presentation by a Community Group wishing to communicate what they provide and possibly seek support. For example, at a recent meeting HcL Transport (formerly Handicabs) provided an update on their services.

One or more Corstorphine/Murrayfield City Councillors report and answer or refer questions. On occasions, City Officials attend to discuss some matters and take questions and feedback; this has happened more in recent months due to the sometimes-controversial proposals for road and traffic changes within the current 'Spaces for People' programme.

The Planning Subcommittee reports on some of the more controversial Planning Applications. The Community Council may choose to object to some Applications and some changes have so resulted. Reports on Business, Licensing and Amenities, Environment and Communication and social media are also considered, plus Any Other Business.

A member of the Community Council is pursuing the setting up of a Corstorphine Traders' Association, although this would not be run by the Community Council once set up.

I am very aware that on the Corstorphine Community Council I am representing Corstorphine Churches Together and not my own views.

When relevant, I send summaries of Corstorphine Community Council Meetings and pass on relevant e-mail communications to members of the Committee of Corstorphine Churches Together. These summaries are also presented to meetings of St Ninian's Deacons' Court.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of Corstorphine Community Council. Should you wish to attend (at present the meetings are being held online) please contact me and I will arrange for access to the Zoom Meeting.

Ian Kirkpatrick (e-mail: [ian\\_g\\_kirkpatrick@hotmail.com](mailto:ian_g_kirkpatrick@hotmail.com))

# The Guild

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



*Still going strong  
after 80 years!*

For a number of years, St Ninian's Church Guild has been supporting Pregnancy Counselling & Care (Scotland) - previously Life-Line - based at Haddington Place, Edinburgh. It is a

charity that has supported needy families in Edinburgh and the Lothians for over 40 years. They are Edinburgh's only baby bank service regularly helping over 400 families, providing baby clothing from birth to 5 years old. We have been very fortunate in having many Guild members and friends who knit hats, gloves, jackets, coats and baby blankets. One of our members makes beautiful cards for all occasions in cross-stitch and we have a table on Guild afternoons and coffee mornings to raise additional funds.

We know our efforts make a huge difference to many young families and we have just recently made a



further contribution of 40 jackets, 26 hats and 20 blankets to the charity. We all hope we can continue our support in future, particularly when we return to normal meetings. In the meantime, a big thank you to all our knitters and helpers.

*Anne Robertson*

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## GUILD LONG-SERVICE CERTIFICATES

Over the past year a number of members of St Ninian's Guild marked up significant anniversaries of service. Guilds throughout the country do much to maintain the life, witness and service of the Church of Scotland. They worship regularly, campaign and fundraise for important social causes and provide fellowship and entertainment for many people.

At St Ninian's, we should be proud of the strength and commitment of our Guild. In normal times it meets weekly and successfully does all the things that Guilds do. It is a great shame that this year it hasn't been able to meet in the way it normally does. If it had been able to do so, there would have been an opportunity to celebrate and mark the years of service that members have given, which have sustained the work of St Ninian's Guild.

Despite the pandemic the Guild President, Marion Fry, has been able to present certificates to some of the eligible members in their homes. I wanted to take this opportunity in the Quarterly to express my thanks, and that of the Kirk Session, for the hard work, commitment and service these members have given over the years. It is down to their efforts, and many like them, that the Guild has stayed strong in St Ninian's. Congratulations!

*James*



As you know, our plans for Christian Aid Week were thrown into disarray when COVID-19 spread across the world including Scotland. We were unable to undertake our normal fundraising activities due to lock-down and distancing restrictions, so St Ninian's set up a dedicated St Ninian's page with the Christian Aid (CA) online JustGiving page enabling the congregation and others to donate to CA.

CA is responding to the coronavirus outbreak in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, working together with partners and faith leaders to inform people about the risks, offering vital hygiene training, equipping health facilities with supplies, and providing food packages to the most marginalised families.

Since the Autumn Quarterly, there has been little action on the Christian Aid front with the exception of £900 donated from St Ninian's funds to the CA Coronavirus Emergency Appeal. COVID-19 and the lock down are still in place and the church only recently opened to restricted numbers of the congregation. Once restrictions are lifted to allow a full congregation return, a retiring collection will be held.

The next Christian Aid activity on the horizon for St Ninian's is likely to be the Christmas Eve Retiring Collection on Thursday 24 December 2020, with a Just Giving page for the wider congregation. (That's not to say an emergency appeal won't emerge before then!)

Alec Millar    Tel :334 1471    [alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk)

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## SURVEY FINDS AROUND HALF OF SCOTS FEEL MORE NEIGHBOURLY

A Christian Aid survey found that around half of Scots were feeling more connected to their neighbours as the six-month anniversary of lockdown approached.

The survey, which was carried out for the charity by polling firm Savanta ComRes, found that 49% of Scottish adults felt an increased sense of community in their neighbourhood.

The feeling of increased neighbourliness was slightly less in England (44%) and Wales (41%).

Those taking part were also asked if they felt more connected to people around the world due to the pandemic. People aged

under 35 in the UK were most likely to agree (39%) while lower numbers of people aged 35-54 (31%) and 55 and above (21%) agreed they feel closer to global neighbours.

Sally Foster-Fulton, who is the head of Christian Aid Scotland, said that the results reflected what many people have been feeling.

"We are living through hugely challenging times but one of the positives is an increased sense of community connection with our neighbours – to those just across the street and across the world. We are all part of one humanity and share the same beautiful and

fragile planet", she said.

"As we launch our global neighbours Autumn Appeal we're asking people to do what they can to fundraise for Christian Aid, and to do it for their global neighbours, who are facing huge challenges too and sometimes in really fragile contexts, with no access to even the basics, like clean water and soap and with no safety net or NHS.

"Climate change, less in the headlines because of the global pandemic but still causing huge challenges for those living in poverty, is an injustice we must keep challenging."

(This article first appeared in the November 2020 edition of Life and Work.)



Despite these testing times, the work of Rock Trust continues apace. Support for homeless youngsters now covers East and West Lothian in addition to the Edinburgh area. A new initiative, Future Builders, has been set up in Perth funded by OVO Foundation, a charitable offshoot of OVO Energy, which currently provides 7 young people with affordable housing and employability support, helping them to build their own future. It is hoped to expand this project over time.

Lateral thinking has had to be applied to fund raising events which have been adapted to comply with current restrictions. This year, supporters were encouraged to participate in a Virtual Kiltwalk, and the annual Sleep Out and U18 Sleep Out challenges became 'Stay:Up For Young Homeless People' where participants were challenged to raise £100 by staying up all night. On World Homelessness Day a collection point was set up beside the Leith Police Box on Leith Walk to increase awareness of youth homelessness and to receive donations of food and toiletries.

Demand for the Rock Trust's services has never been higher and is likely to continue to grow with the threat of increasing numbers of redundancies adding to the problem. Now, more than ever, support from the community is needed and the best way to help continues to be by online donation at [www.rocktrust.org/donate](http://www.rocktrust.org/donate) or by cheque to Rock Trust, 55 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QY.

As always, members of St Ninian's have stepped up to the plate and Andy Marks, one of the community fundraisers, has sent me several messages of thanks for your continuing generosity.

Many thanks.

*Susanne Hope (334 2489)*

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## The Window

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation.

Every afternoon when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one-hour periods where his world

would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and colour of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every colour and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man couldn't hear the band he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by



the window portrayed it with descriptive words. Days and weeks passed. One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep. She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a

blank wall. The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you."

Epilogue: There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy. "Today is a gift, that's why it is called the present."

*People will forget what you said...  
People will forget what you did...  
But people will never forget how you made them feel...  
Make someone happy, share a kind word today  
(Anon)*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Sunday School: Update

As you know, some members of our Sunday School have continued to do a reading for the Service each Sunday and this has given all those who have been able to follow the on-line Service a great deal of pleasure to see them still involved in the life of the Church, albeit remotely. However, when Sunday School does resume, it will see several changes in staffing - Scott, Simon, Jenny, Jennifer and Lesley have all decided to step back from their various rôles within Sunday School and this will leave a large void in all departments.

For many years, the congregation has generously supported the annual Gift Service in aid of the Salvation Army by the donation of monetary gifts, toys, toiletries etc. As things stand at present, we will not be able to continue with this service this year. However, we have made arrangements for donations to be received via the Church of Scotland on-line donation page which you can find by following this link:

<https://www.corstorphinestnians.org.uk/services/sunday-school20357/> .

However, if you would prefer to contribute to the appeal by cheque, then please send a cheque made payable to St Ninian's Church to Diana Fairgrieve, % Church Office, 144 St John's Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8AY. I will arrange for these to be passed to Janice Reynolds, our Treasurer, to be incorporated in the total funds collected.

All monies collected using these methods between 1st November and 30th November will be used to make a donation to the Salvation Army to allow them to continue with their good work supplying toys and gifts to those less fortunate children.

*Diana Fairgrieve  
Sunday School Co-ordinator.*



## Pop Song with a Message

In today's religious climate it does seem odd that popular tunes with Christian religious lyrics should form part of the musical scene, but they certainly did in the 1950s. One of the most popular of these was "I believe", composed in 1953 in response to despair at the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, so soon after the end of World War 2. It was recorded by many well-known performers such as Frank Sinatra, Perry Como and (wait for it) Elvis Presley. Perhaps the best of them was the version performed by Frankie Laine, slightly spoiled by the backing of an allegedly gospel choir. Nonetheless, the words still have a resonance for us today.

*I believe for every drop of rain that falls, a flower grows.  
I believe that somewhere in the darkest night, a candle glows.  
I believe for everyone that goes astray, someone will come to show the way;  
I believe, I believe . . .*

*I believe above the storm the smallest prayer will still be heard.  
I believe that someone in the darkest night hears every word.  
Every time I hear a new-born baby cry, or touch a leaf, or see the sky,  
Then I know why I believe.*

The following verse, to be found on the internet, was not included in the popular recorded versions, and may have been added later by Christian groups who felt the above two verses weren't explicit enough about the Christian message.

*I believe the Lord in Heaven is my guide, my sins he'll hide.  
I believe on Calvary that Jesus died, with pierce-ed side.  
I believe in death we'll part to rise again, and meet in Heaven, with loud Amen.  
That's why I know I believe.*

*Andrew Broom*

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### **Judge Not . . .** (Matthew Ch. 7, vv.1-2)

*There is so much **good** in the worst of us,  
And so much **bad** in the best of us,  
That it hardly becomes **any of us**  
To talk about **the rest of us**.*

*Anon*

Not quite “44 Scotland Street”,  
but a serialised story nonetheless . . .

## Trinidad & Tobago, Part 1:



During these most surreal of times, much “Spring Cleaning” has been done and historical artefacts have come to light which have enabled us to reminisce. In my own case, looking through old passports reminded me of a very unusual instruction I received as a lawyer. The entry in my passport dated 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1999 indicated that I entered the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for a “Church Meeting”! Well, what was all that about?

In early 1999, Rev. Finlay McDonald phoned me - he was at that time Principal Clerk to the General Assembly and subsequently became Moderator in 2002. I have for a long time been involved in Church Law - hence the phone call - and indeed I am still a member of the Legal Questions Committee. I had met him frequently and the purpose of his call was to ask me if I would be interested in representing a number of members of the Church of Scotland charge of Greyfriars/St Anne’s in Port of Spain, Trinidad. As might be said colloquially, there was “trouble at t’ mill”! The story was very straightforward. In 1977, the Church of Scotland charge of Greyfriars in

Port of Spain had united with the Portuguese church of St Anne’s forming Greyfriars/St Anne’s. The Church of Scotland charge had been founded in 1837, and there was a very strong link with Scotland at the outset. Many of us are not aware of an earlier schism in the Church of Scotland before the Disruption of 1843 which of course resulted in the formation of our own church as a Free Church congregation. The earlier schism in 1738 had resulted in the formation of the United Secession Church of Scotland. It broke away from the Church of Scotland over the matter of patronage and the right of congregations to call their own Minister. Shades of 1843 to come!

In 1833, the Synod of the Secession Church encouraged congregations to carry out foreign missionary work. That call was taken up by Greyfriars Church in Glasgow, the mother church of the Secession in the West of Scotland in 1834, and the congregation decided in 1835 to send a missionary to Trinidad. There was no Presbyterian presence in Trinidad “where there was much to be done ministering to

the many Scots in the island and to the newly emancipated slaves”.

There was certainly a wish for a Presbyterian presence on the island, as in October 1833, a Memorial was sent by the Trinidad Presbytery Association to the Governor, Sir George Fitzgerald Hill, asking that Presbyterian Churches and clergymen be provided for Trinidad, and this was despatched to the Secretary for the Colonies on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1833. Alexander Kennedy from Cumnock was ordained for this mission in an overflowing Greyfriars Church in Glasgow on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1835 and arrived in Trinidad on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1836. Before I embark on more recent events, in 1906, Greyfriars was again looking for a new Minister. An information leaflet indicated the following:-

*“The necessary qualifications for a successful Minister of this congregation are of a varied character. We require a Minister of pulpit ability of at least above the average, and who has already had*

*congregational experience, a man of culture and refinement with literary attainments and a good personal experience. A married man about 40 is preferred. As we have been used to extempore preaching of a high order, we would not find a preacher acceptable who used notes extensively, and who did not possess good pulpit supply and delivery.”*

The stipend offered was £400 per annum with a comfortable manse (unfurnished) in one of the best localities in town.

So much for history. The Trestrail sisters arrived from the Port of Spain to explain the background. But that is for later. Also for later, “What does a Church of Scotland Minister have in common with a cell in the detention suite at Piarco Airport, Port of Spain?” !

To be continued . . .

*Andrew Gibb*

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## For a Quiet Smile . . .

There was a man who had worked all of his life and had saved all of his money. He was a real miser when it came to his money. He loved money more than just about anything, and before he died, he said to his wife, "Now listen, when I die, I want you to take all my money and place it in the coffin with me. I want to take my money to the afterlife." So, he got his wife to promise him with all her heart that, when he died, she would put all the money in the coffin with him.

Well, one day he died. He was stretched out in the coffin and his wife was sitting there in black next to her closest friend. When they finished the ceremony, just before the undertakers got ready to close the coffin, the wife said, "Wait just a minute!" She had a shoe box with her, she came over with the box and placed it in the coffin next to the body. Then the undertakers locked the coffin lid down and carried it away.

Her friend said, "I hope you weren't crazy enough to put all that money in the coffin." She said, "Yes, I promised. I'm a good Christian, I can't lie. I promised him that I was going to put that money in the coffin, and I did." "You mean to tell me you put every penny of his money in the coffin with him?" "I sure did," said the wife. "I got it all together, put it into my account and I wrote him a cheque."

*Anon*

## Past Times in St Ninian's

*This is the first of a series of short biographical notes about our earlier Ministers, beginning with the third in the line of succession, the Rev Peter Beith, whose dates of service here were 1901 to 1939.*



Peter Beith was born in Paisley in 1872, the youngest of 10 children, not all of whom survived to adulthood. The records appear to show that Margaret Beith was 45 when she gave birth to Peter, which must have been thought a very

advanced age at that time for a woman to give birth to a healthy child. We know little about the family except to say that, although they cannot have been well-off, Peter one way or another found sufficient means to be able to study successfully for the Ministry.

At the age of 29 he was ordained in 1901 and immediately applied for, and obtained, the appointment as Assistant Minister to the Rev James Morrison whose long period of service here from 1865 was coming to an end. Before Mr Morrison's death in 1912, Peter Beith gradually assumed all the duties, and his acceptability to the congregation was shown by the fact that he was elected to succeed Mr Morrison as sole nominee. This was to be his only ministerial charge until his retirement in 1939. During his ministry of 39 years Mr Beith was to see Corstorphine transformed from a remote Midlothian village into a bustling and populous suburb of Edinburgh, during which the congregation's membership rose from 270 to well over 1,000. This must have been a huge challenge to Peter's organisational as well as his pastoral and preaching skills.

The 1911 Census shows Mr Beith residing in the then Manse, "Estherville", in what is now Ladywell Avenue, together with three of his siblings: William (b 1861); Ann (Annie, b 1866); and Janet (Jennie, b 1870). None of them seems to have married. Surprisingly, the Head of the House is shown as William because the Census

listed people in order of age, not occupation, so Peter appears under the other three! William is listed as clerk and secretary to a paper mill. It is generally accepted that in return for their keep, Annie and Jennie performed housekeeping duties for their bachelor younger brother throughout his ministry here.

Eileen Wilson who wrote the congregation's history, 1843 to 1993, recorded that "The tall erect figures of Miss Annie and Miss Jennie Beith were kenspeckle members of the Corstorphine community and the support they gave to their brother and this congregation is worthy of record in this history." Unfortunately, no photos of the ladies appear to have survived. Eileen Wilson also records some of the congregation's activities during Mr Beith's long and active ministry; for example, sales of work of the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, the formation of a Mission Study Circle and the existence of a Boys' Brigade Company; also, the formation of an Orchestral Society in 1907. In consequence of the huge growth in congregational numbers, an ambitious third development of the Church between 1912 and 1914 resulted in the roof being heightened and the transepts added to complete the layout we are familiar with today, over a century later.

During World War I Mr Beith volunteered for several weeks' service with the Church of Scotland War Emergency Committee, ministering to Scottish troops immediately behind the Front line. It must have taken a great deal of courage to volunteer for this.

The Rev Peter Beith retired in 1939 and died aged 67 only a few months later, on 24 January 1940. Eileen Wilson concluded her short account: "Through his conscientious pastoral work and faithful interpretation of the Gospel, he had built up during his long ministry a strong, generous and loyal congregation. It was into this inheritance that the Rev Martin B Shields MA entered on his translation from the West Church, Forfar, in March 1940."

*Andrew Broom*

St.Ninian's Church Of Scotland, Corstorphine

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Period ended 31 October 2020

	Actual 2020 £	Actual 2019 £	Variance £
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
<b>Ministry and Mission</b>			
National Stipend and Mission and Renewal Fund	83,716	85,730	2,014
<b>Congregational expenses</b>			
Presbytery Dues	3,120	3,198	78
Pulpit Supply	60	616	556
Minister's Travel and Expenses	240	720	480
Local Salaries	21,942	32,005	10,063
Fabric - Renewals, Repairs and Maintenance	7,694	9,335	1,641
Hall Running Costs	10,312	7,977	(2,335)
Property Insurance	4,376	4,247	(129)
Manse Council Tax	2,344	2,586	242
Office Expenses	4,987	5,035	48
Other Expenses	5,952	5,780	(172)
	<b>61,027</b>	<b>71,499</b>	<b>10,472</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>144,743</b>	<b>157,229</b>	<b>12,486</b>
<b>RECEIPTS other than Offerings</b>			
Use Of Church Halls	16,585	29,085	(12,500)
Investment Income	3,544	3,435	109
Other Receipts	1,557	3,011	(1,454)
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,686</b>	<b>35,531</b>	<b>(13,845)</b>
<b>Amount to be met from Offerings</b>	<b>123,057</b>	<b>121,698</b>	<b>1,359</b>
<b>Offertry and Tax Recoveries</b>			
Congregation Offerings	97,008	108,593	(11,585)
Tax Recovery on Gift Aid	20,774	23,797	(3,023)
	<b>117,782</b>	<b>132,390</b>	<b>(14,608)</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) to date</b>	<b>(5,275)</b>	<b>10,692</b>	<b>(15,967)</b>
<b>Before Legacies Received</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£5,000</b>	<b>£5,000</b>

**COMMENT**

As at 31st October, before taking account of Legacies received, there is a deficit on the General Account of **£5,275**. Taking account of legacies received results in a **Surplus of £4,725**. As is to be expected, given the current restrictions due to Covid19, the financial position at October 2020 is not as favourable as for the same period in 2019. The reduction in surplus of **£15,967** before legacies received (**£10,967**, inc legacies), is explained below:

**Lower Costs = Increase in surplus of £12,486**

Most costs are in line with last year with increases and decreases offsetting one another. The main areas of variance are:

- ~ **Ministry & Mission and Presbytery Dues** - lower than last year by **£2,092**. These were reduced as a result of lower income in prior years.
- ~ **Salary costs** - lower than last year by **£10,063** because 2019 costs included payments to cover staff absence and 2020 costs have been reduced by funds made available by the government Job Retention Scheme to cover a large proportion of the cost of furloughed staff.
- ~ **Hall Running costs** - higher than last year by **£2,335** due to higher energy costs

**Lower Income = Reduction in surplus of £28,453**. The main areas of variance are:

- ~ **Income from Hall Rentals** - lower than last year by **£12,500** due to halls being closed since the start of lockdown.
- ~ **Offerings & Tax Recoveries** - lower than last year by **£14,608** due to the loss of FWO and Open Plate donations during lockdown.

**Legacies Received = Increase in surplus of £5,000**

It is important to note that despite the current position we have sufficient resources to continue for some time to come and I would like to thank everyone for your continued support throughout this difficult time.

**Janice Reynolds**  
Treasurer