

ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2024

Extraordinary Love

Order of Service

5th of May 2024

10.30am

Find us: <http://www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk> on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stninianschurch/> & live on [YouTube](#)

Good morning and welcome to everyone who has joined us at St. Ninian's this morning. We hope you will enjoy our worship of God together today. As a congregation our mission is to, '**Worship God together, encourage personal faith and prayer, spread the Good News about Jesus Christ, and love and care for others in our community.**' If you are a visitor, there is a **visitors' book** at the front door, please sign it. After the service we have **fellowship** in the Martin Shields' Hall, please join us.

For young people, there is a **crèche** and **Sunday School** this morning. The reader this morning is: **Andrew Gibb**. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. Leading worship is the **Rev. James Aitken**. *During the service, we will also hear from St. Ninian's Christian Aid representative, Alec Millar.*

Following worship there is fellowship, friendship, and refreshments in the Martin Shields' Hall. Please join us. *This Sunday there is also a light soup and sandwich lunch in support of Christian Aid.*

*This Sunday is Christian Aid Sunday. Every year at the beginning of Christian Aid Week, we celebrate the work of Christian Aid, and by doing so join with Christian Aid in loving our neighbours by supporting Christian Aid's work amongst some of the poorest people in the world. The theme of the service this year is '**Extraordinary Love**'. Through prayer, scripture, and song, we will explore God's love for us and our call to love our neighbour. We will hear too about Aline Nibogora from Makamba Province in Burundi and how she has persevered against the odds, persisting in faith, hope and love.*

St. Ninian's uses the Revised Common Lectionary is an approved week-by-week three-year cycle of biblical readings. In 2024 we are in Year B and the principal Gospel readings come from the **Gospel of Mark**. The readings lead us from Advent through the Christian year, the Bible, and Jesus' life through birth, baptism, his public ministry, his death, resurrection and ascension.

ENTRANCE

The service begins with a **sentence from the Bible** (Rev 21: 1), a **call to stand** (please do so if you are able to), an **introit** from the choir, and the **entrance of the Bible**. For the rest of the service the words in bold are read or sung by everyone. We sit to pray and stand to sing.

INTROIT

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELCOME, INTIMATIONS, **INTRODUCING CHRISTIAN AID 2024**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

We welcome one another with Christ's words 'Peace be with you'.

APPROACH TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on 1 John 3: 1)

Minister: We gather as children of God, bound to one another by love.

All: See what love the Father has given us.

Minister: We gather to live out our calling to love our neighbours and our enemies.

All: See what love the Father has given us.

Minister: We gather to experience in word and song, in prayer and worship, the overflowing compassion and tenderness of our God.

All: See what love the Father has given us.

HYMN 141

Oh, the life of the world

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

We celebrate what God has given us, and confess how we have harmed God, God's creation, and each other. We use this response periodically:

Minister: Out of the greatness of your love.

All: Lord, forgive us.

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S ADDRESS & CHRISTIAN AID WEEK FILM

HYMN 685

For everyone born a place at the table

Children leave for Sunday School. Visiting children are welcome to join in.

ALINE'S STORY – PART ONE

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world financially. More than 70% of the population live in poverty. Most people get their living through farming. Farmers have been significantly affected by the climate crisis, facing droughts, floods and landslides. Many families eat just one meal a day. Philip Galgallo, Country Director of Christian Aid Burundi tells us: 'I think the biggest worry for most Burundian mothers is how they'll feed their children.' On top of all this Aline Nibogora faced extra challenges. She was abused by her husband and forced out of her home, becoming separated from her children. With nowhere to live and worrying daily about her children's safety, Aline was pushed into the most extreme poverty.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 86: 1 – 7

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ALINE'S STORY – PART TWO

Aline told Christian Aid about life when she was homeless: "I wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep. Those who showed me kindness would let me stay for two or three days, but it was difficult. People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow." Aline never gave up. Pushed to the brink of survival, she pushed back. Aline joined a community workshop led by Christian Aid-funded trainers. She learnt about Village Savings and Loans Associations and was determined to form her own to help herself and others around her. Village Savings and Loans Associations offer a way for community groups to manage, save and lend money. Aline was able to get a start-up loan and began trading avocados and peanuts. She was also able to buy a bicycle so that she could transport her goods.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25: 31 – 40

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ALINE'S STORY – PART THREE

Aline's business was successful, and she was able to rent a house. At last, she was reunited with her three eldest sons who came to live with her. She is hopeful that one day she will be together with all of her children. Aline can now afford food for herself and her family. She has bought solar panels so that her children can have light to help them study. Now Aline is baking her own bricks and building a stronger home for her family, in every sense. Aline told Christian Aid: 'We pray together as we are still alive thanks to God's grace. ... We have been through difficult times, but now we make plans for the future.'

ANTHEM

The Candle of the Lord

SERMON

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

HYMN 544

When I needed a neighbour

This hymn was written for Christian Aid in 1965 for Christian Aid's 20th anniversary.

OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Freely given, our offering supports the work of Christ's church and symbolises our spiritual dedication to the building-up of the Kingdom of God. We remain seated to sing our dedication (CH4 204) -

**I am the Church! You are the Church!
We are the Church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world,
yes, we're the Church together.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

We give thanks for our blessings, and cry out for help for others and ourselves. During the prayers this response is used periodically:

Minister: God whose love endures forever,

Congregation: Hear our prayer.

SENDING OUT

ALINE'S STORY – PART FOUR

Burundi continues to be one of the toughest places on earth to live and Aline and her family still face challenges. When a ferocious storm destroyed Aline's home, almost killing her and her children, she was able to recover by selling the cows she'd been keeping. Now when crisis threatens her family's survival, Aline has options. Even a small business can provide just enough resilience to weather the most brutal of storms in Burundi. Aline's now the chairperson of a Village Savings and Loans Association that she founded. She's using her experience to help transform the lives of 25 families who are building their own a brighter future together. Aline says, 'If anyone has a problem, we help them find a solution. ... The members thank me for the training and the positive impact it has had on their daily lives. People come to me as they trust me. Here in Burundi, a neighbour is considered a member of the family.'

HYMN 804

You shall go out with joy (x3)

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**