

ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



1st Sunday of Christmas

Order of Service

28th December 2025

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.

Before the service there is weekly a **Prayer Group** that meets in Room 6 (the Alpha Room) from 10:00am – 10:15am. Everyone is welcome, please ask a steward for Room 6, the Alpha Room.

The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. The reader this morning is **Jim Hunter**. Leading worship is the **Rev. James Aitken**.

This Sunday we celebrate **The First Sunday in Christmas**.

The season of Christmas lasts for twelve days from Christmas Day to the 5th of January. Christmas is the celebration of the nativity of Christ and the mystery of the incarnation. During this season we identify ourselves with the angels who at Jesus' birth proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest", with the shepherds who were afraid but offered worship, and with Mary who pondered the meaning of these events in her heart (Luke 2: 13 – 20). Christmas is the first in a series of celebrations (Christmas, Epiphany on the 6th of January, Jesus' baptism on the 7th of January, and his transfiguration on the 2nd of March), which precede the season of Lent and Easter. These events in Jesus' life affirm both his humanity and divinity, and anchor our understanding of God and his kingdom.

Following worship there is **fellowship, friendship, and refreshments** in the Martin Shields' Hall. Please join us.

St. Ninian's uses the Revised Common Lectionary which is an approved week-by-week three-year cycle of biblical readings. In 2026 we are in Year A and the principal Gospel readings come from the **Gospel of Matthew**. 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** (Hebrews 1: 1 - 2), 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.

WELCOME, INTIMATIONS and SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: God of glory, your splendour shines
from a manger in Bethlehem

Congregation: into the darkness of human night.

Minister: Open our eyes to Christ's presence
in the shadows of our world

**Congregation: so that we may become beacons of justice
and defenders of all for whom there is no room.**

Carol Book 24

Angels from the realms of glory

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

We continue our worship celebrating what God has given us while apologizing for what we have done to harm God, his creation, and his people.

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

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 63: 7 – 9 Pg 611

Matthew 2: 13 – 23 Pg 790

ANTHEM

SERMON

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Carol Book 54

Before the world began

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 292) –

**So Father, we would thank you
For all that you have done,
And for all that you have given us
Through the coming of your Son.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, LAMENT & 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: Jesus, by your love,
Congregation: shine your everlasting light.

SENDING OUT

Carol Book 37

Joy to the world

BENEDICTION

**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.**