

# ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



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[www.loudavis.co.uk](http://www.loudavis.co.uk)

*This image, called "The Exiles" by Edinburgh based artist Lou Davis, evokes the Holy Family as they fled to Egypt for safety.*

## Sanctuary Sunday

Order of Service  
22<sup>nd</sup> of June 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.

This Sunday is **Sanctuary Sunday** (also sometimes called Refugee Sunday), a day when churches around the world remember and pray for refugees and people displaced from their homes. Most of us are no strangers to this topic, as we have witnessed hundreds of thousands of people flee for their lives over the last decade. On Sanctuary Sunday we look to the Scriptures and reflect on how our faith calls us to respond to the needs of refugees, both around the world and those living amongst us.

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.

There is a **crèche** and both a primary and secondary **Sunday School** this morning. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. The reader this morning is **Sheonagh Richards**. Leading worship is **Mrs Penni Brown**, our ministry student.

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 2025 we are in Year C and the principal Gospel readings come from the **Gospel of Luke**. 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** (Psalm 42 verse 8), 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

WELCOME, INTIMATIONS and SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

## APPROACH TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP (using words from Psalm 42)

Leader: Just as the deer pants for running water

**All: We thirst for you Lord: the living God**

Leader: When shall we come into your presence, Loving God?

**All: We march like pilgrims to the house of God**

Leader: Even in our distress we will wait for you, Living God

**All: We will praise you continually, our deliverer, our God!**

**HYMN 543** Longing for light, we wait in darkness

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, forever. Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 19: 1 – 15a

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### CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

**God wants to speak to you! But you might need to be quiet to hear him speaking.**

### HYMN 485

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3: 23 – 29

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### HYMN 550

As the deer pants for the water

### SERMON

There is room beneath this arc  
of sky - sunlit, star lit -  
for all the varieties of tree  
- indigenous, incomer -

that weave their limbs through  
our canopy. See how each  
makes room for its neighbour,  
how the branches are as one

from below? In winter, those boughs  
are a stopped tangle, resting  
from growth's fight; in summer,  
they'll dapple the welcome light.

Marjorie Lotfi

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

### HYMN 544

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

## 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 807**) -*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

*We give thanks for our blessings, and cry out for help for others and ourselves. The prayers have been written by refugees and people seeking asylum who come from rich and diverse prayer traditions. They were collated and published by the Jesuit Refugee Service. During the prayers this response is used periodically:*

Minister: We will keep holding on to God's promises  
**Congregation: knowing that it shall be well within my soul.**

## SENDING OUT

**HYMN 198**      Let us build a house where love can dwell

## 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.**