

ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2025

Abounding Hope

Order of Service

11th of May 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. After the service we have **fellowship** in the Martin Shields' Hall, please join us.

This is the season of **Easter tide**. Easter Sunday is only the first of 50 days (7 Sundays) of **Easter tide** that leads to Pentecost (this year on the 8th of June). Easter tide is a season of extended celebration exploring the ramifications of Jesus' resurrection for the redemption of all creation, and for joyful Christian living. **This Sunday is also 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 **'Abounding Hope'**. 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 Aurelia and Amelia from Guatemala's Indigenous Q'eqchi (pronounced Co-WAY-chee) community, and how Aurelia has witnessed first-hand the devastating impacts of climate change on her crops but has dedicated herself to serving her neighbours so that together they can share a more secure future.

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.

For young people, there is a **crèche** and **Sunday School** this morning. The reader this morning is **Fiona Coufts**. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. Leading worship is the **Rev. James Aitken**, and St. Ninian's ministry student **Penni Brown**. **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.**

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 100:3), 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, **INTRODUCING CHRISTIAN AID 2025**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

APPROACH TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Giver of living water, we thirst for your presence.

All: Let your steadfast love be upon us, as we hope in you.

Leader: Bread of life, we hunger for your word.

All: Let your steadfast love be upon us, as we hope in you.

Leader: Holy one, you set a path before us, we seek to walk in your ways.

All: Let your steadfast love be upon us, as we hope in you.

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. During the prayers this response is used periodically:

Leader: In your mercy:

Congregation: forgive us and help 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.

AURELIA'S STORY – PART ONE

In the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala, 90% of people are living in poverty. The region is home to the Indigenous Q'eqchi' (Co-WAY-chee) people. Men in the community often seek work away from their homes, while women grow crops to feed their families.

Aurelia is a community leader, a mother of eight and a beloved grandmother. In recent years record high temperatures and unpredictable weather patterns have hit farmers like her hard. Water sources are drying up or being polluted by industry.

Aurelia, and others from the place where she lives, walk for around four hours each day during the two trips they must make to collect safe, clean water from a cenote – a natural sinkhole like a cave, with water at the bottom.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 9: 36 – 43

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AURELIA'S STORY – PART TWO

Aurelia has seen first-hand the impact of the climate crisis. **'Climate change has been killing our crops, and this is our food,'** she says. **'As the plants are dying, the next thing that will die is us.'**

But Aurelia isn't giving up. Congcoop, Christian Aid's partner in Guatemala, supports communities with agricultural resources and training that help them to become more climate resilient. Aurelia took up the opportunity to gain new skills with Congcoop. She's combining her deep knowledge and understanding of her land with innovative techniques. She's making organic fertiliser, constructing rainwater collection systems, and growing a wider range of crops.

SCRIPTURE: John 10: 22 – 30

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AURELIA'S STORY – PART THREE

With Congcoop's support Aurelia is using her cacao harvest to make chocolate products to sell at a local market. **'I feel very joyful and grateful when I'm preparing chocolate,'** Aurelia says. **'I make cocoa products with all my heart! Perhaps that's why they have such a good flavour!'**

Aurelia has a big multi-generational family to take care of, from her father Ricardo to her many grandchildren. But she's always looking to help more people in her community. **'I really give my life to my neighbours, sharing my knowledge with them,'** she told Christian Aid. Despite the long journeys to collect water, and the need to work on her own farm, Aurelia still finds time to support other women and show them the skills she's learned through her training.

ANTHEM

'O How Amiable are thy Dwellings'

C. Simper

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 417) -

**Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been
love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green**

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, based on Micah 7:7, is used periodically:

Leader:

We watch in hope for the Lord:

Congregation:

our God will hear us.

SENDING OUT

AURELIA'S STORY – PART FOUR

Life for Aurelia and her community remains tough and, as the climate crisis intensifies, she fears things will get tougher. Enduring droughts, storms and fierce heat Aurelia can see the impacts of climate change accelerating. **'There was a prediction this would happen in the future,'** she says, **'but it has come earlier. This is very worrying for our kids and especially our grandkids.'**

Indigenous farmers are often under pressure to sell their land to big developers, leading to further environmental damage. But Aurelia says that she and her neighbours remain **'unified'** and **'courageous'**. They won't give up hope. **'I want to tell donors to continue supporting Christian Aid,'** Aurelia says, **'because through Congcoop, they've been supporting us.'**

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.