

ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never suffer thirst any more
(John 4: 14)

Order of Service
8th of March 2026
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.

There is a **crèche** but because of the February holiday, there is no **Sunday School** this morning. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. The readers this morning are **Janet Little, Fiona Coufts and Alec Miller**. Leading worship is the **Rev. James Aitken**.

This Sunday is the **3rd Sunday in the season of Lent**.

We are in the season of **Lent** when we make ourselves ready to commemorate Jesus' Passion and celebrate his resurrection. Lent lasts forty days (not counting Sundays), and this year it began on the 18th February (Ash Wednesday). It ends on the 3rd of April (Good Friday). Lent represents a sacrificial journey of suffering. We travel with Jesus from Galilee, where he ministered, to Jerusalem, the place of his crucifixion. This journey is an opportunity for us to prepare for the events of Holy Week and then for the transformative event of Easter that transcends the sacrifice and sufferings of Lent. We reflect on what needs transformed in our lives and in the world, what is separating us and the world from God, and what holds back the people of the world from living life in all its fulness. As we do so we look forward to living new lives beyond Easter as people who believe in the hope contained in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

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** (Psalm 36: 7, 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

Minister: From the dry wilderness of our lives, we come.

Congregation: We are thirsty, O Lord, and we need your water.

Minister: The Lord is our Rock, the Source of Life.

Congregation: We come to listen to God's voice, not harden our hearts.

Minister: Come and see the Saviour of the world.

Congregation: We come to worship, and drink, and live.

HYMN 59 (Psalm 95) Oh, come and let us to the Lord

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

John 4: 5 – 42

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Narrator: Jesus came to a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the plot of ground which Jacob gave to his son Joseph and the spring called Jacob's well. It was about noon, and Jesus, tired after his journey, sat down by the well. The disciples had gone away to the town to buy food. Meanwhile a Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her:

Jesus: Give me a drink.

Narrator: The Samaritan woman said,

Woman: What! You, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a Samaritan woman? Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.

Jesus: If only you knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.

Woman: Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. How can you give me 'living water'? Are you a greater man than Jacob our ancestor, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, he and his sons and his cattle too?

Jesus: Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never suffer thirst any more. The water that I will give him will be an inner spring always welling up for eternal life.

Woman: Sir, give me that water, and then I shall not be thirsty, nor have to come all this way to draw.

Jesus: Go home, call your husband and come back.

Woman: I have no husband.

Jesus: You are right in saying, that you have no husband, for, although you have had five husbands, the man with whom you are now living is not your husband; you told me the truth there.

Woman: Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our father worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the temple where God should be worshipped is in Jerusalem.

- Jesus:** Believe me, the time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship without knowing what you worship, while we worship what we know. It is from the Jews that salvation comes. But the time approaches, indeed it is already here, when those who are real worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. Such are the worshippers whom the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and truth."
- Woman:** I know that Messiah is coming who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us everything.
- Jesus:** I am he, the one who is speaking to you.
- Narrator:** At that moment his disciples returned, and were astonished to find him talking with a woman; but none of them said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' The woman put down her water jar and went to the town, where she said to the people,
- Woman:** Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?
- Narrator:** They came out of the town and made their way towards him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said,
- Jesus:** I have food to eat of which you know nothing.
- Disciples:** Surely, no one has brought you something to eat?
- Jesus:** It is meat and drink for me to do the will of him who sent me until I have finished his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more and then comes the harvest'? But look, I tell you, look around on the field; they are already white, ripe for harvest. The reaper is drawing his pay and gathering a crop for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. That is how the saying comes true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap a crop for which you have not toiled. Others toiled and you have come in for the harvest of their toil.
- Narrator:** Many Samaritans from that town came to believe in him because of the woman's testimony: 'He told me everything I ever did.' So, when these Samaritans had come to him, they pressed him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more became believers because of what they heard from his own lips. They told the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard him ourselves; and we know that this is in truth the Saviour of the world.'

CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

HYMN 525 Have you heard the raindrops

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

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 17: 1 - 7

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ANTHEM 'God be in my Head' Walford Davies

SERMON

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

HYMN 540 I heard the voice of Jesus say

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 402) -

**'Take up your cross,' the Saviour said,
'if you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross, with willing heart,
And humbly follow after me.'**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

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

HYMN 776 Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison
(trans: Lord, have mercy)

SENDING OUT

HYMN 622 We sing a love that sets all people free

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.**