

# **ST NINIAN'S CHURCH**

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



***CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2026***

***Faithful Action***

**Order of Service**

**10<sup>th</sup> of May 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. After the service we have **fellowship** in the Martin Shields' Hall, please join us.

This Sunday is Christian Aid Sunday. Every year at the beginning of Christian Aid Week, we celebrate the work of Christian Aid, and support Christian Aid's work amongst some of the poorest people in the world. The theme of the service this year is **'Faithful Action'**. We will hear about Fridah Moraa and Belinda Kasudi who are urban farmers living in the sprawling informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi, Kenya. Life here is precarious, with inadequate housing, no reliable access to running water and few opportunities to earn an income. Hunger is a constant threat, as families face heartbreaking decisions over how to feed their children. In this densely packed environment, farming might seem impossible, but Fridah and Belinda have taken on the challenge with the support of Christian Aid's partner Beacon of Hope. Fridah and Belinda are driven by their love for their families and their desire to provide for their children and grandchildren. They speak to us about the strength they gain from their conviction that God is faithful and cares for them.

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 **Susanne Hope**. 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 sweet 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 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 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 2026**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

## APPROACH TO GOD

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Creator of all, you are faithful to the world you have made.

**All: I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.**

Leader: Giver of abundant life, you long for our flourishing.

**All: I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.**

Leader: Good shepherd of the sheep, you know us and love us.

**All: I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.**

Leader: Lord, as we gather in prayer and praise,  
we ask that you renew our faith, and form us into one body,  
ready to serve 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. A response is used periodically:

**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.*

#### **FRIDAH'S STORY – PART ONE**

Fridah Moraa lives in the informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi, Kenya. She rents a corrugated metal shelter to house her children and grandson. They do not have running water inside their home, and share a basic toilet with several other families. Fridah recently lost her husband in a tragic accident and feels his loss acutely. **'He's left a big gap,'** she says.

Day-to-day life for Fridah can be precarious. She wakes every morning worrying about how to feed her family. **'But I can't give up,'** Fridah says, **'my children need to go to school. They need to eat.'**

Fridah has been trying to develop a stable income by selling vegetables, making a two-hour round trip to buy wholesale produce six days a week. Some days she doesn't sell enough of the wholesale produce at her market stall. On these days she goes without food, so the children can eat.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 17: 22 – 31

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#### **FRIDAH'S STORY – PART TWO**

Recently Fridah has seized the opportunity offered by a project called 'Imarisha Kilimo' – Swahili for 'Strengthen Agriculture'. Run by Christian Aid's partner Beacon of Hope, this project trains women like Fridah in urban farming.

Families learn how to grow vegetables in small spaces, using cone gardens, a form of vertical planting. They learn to conserve rainwater, make organic compost, and use dehydrators to preserve food.

Now, tucked at the end of a concrete alley, Fridah tends her lush urban farm, full of kale, tomatoes and other vegetables. Her children and grandson eat fresh vegetables, and she sells her produce at market.

For Fridah, this has been transformative. **'Now I can plan... I can help my family. Urban farming has changed my life.'**

SCRIPTURE: John 14: 15 – 21

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## BELINDA'S STORY

Belinda Kasudi lives with her husband David and their five children in a wooden one-bedroom home in Dagoretti, Nairobi. David works for a building company, but his shifts are irregular. Some days there is no work – and no pay. Belinda picks up whatever jobs she can find, such as taking in laundry for neighbours.

A stable income is vital for Belinda's family. As she tells us: **'Everything here has to be paid for. We even buy water... Providing enough food for the children is very difficult, because it's so tough to find a job.'**

Belinda loves learning and is excited to be part of the Imarisha Kilimo project. She has been able to create her own water-saving cone garden, growing spinach, beetroot and local specialities such as *managu*.

Belinda delights in being able to feed her children fresh ingredients, and in selling any extra vegetables to help with costs like school supplies.

As she joyfully explains: **'I am a woman who is happy, because I know that my family eats the food that I love to grow. Now, I can help the household financially.'**

### ANTHEM

'Christ Before Me, Christ Behind Me'

Pachelbel

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Christian Aid response is used periodically:*

Leader: Lord, you are faithful and just. In your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

## SENDING OUT

### **FAITHFUL ACTION – FRIDAH & BELINDA**

Both Fridah and Belinda have spoken to us about their faith. Daily life remains tough for Fridah and her family: **'But in God I trust,'** she says, **'for the strength to keep going every day'**. Belinda tells us: **'When there is a challenge, most of the time, I pray.'**

Fridah's children are proud of their mum. Her 13-year-old son Abiud declares: **'My mum is very hardworking, patient and kind. The message that I can send to her is: thank you for taking care of me.'**

In a place where hardship means hunger, Fridah and Belinda are growing hope for their families. They have put their faith into action. Fridah says the biggest difference is she can now make plans for her family's future, rather than just surviving day by day. Belinda tells us she has become **'an independent woman'**.

For hard-pressed families in Dagoretti, ongoing support is vital to allow more urban farmers to access training and resources. This Christian Aid Week we have seven days to make a difference. How can we follow Fridah and Belinda and show our faith through our actions?

**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.**