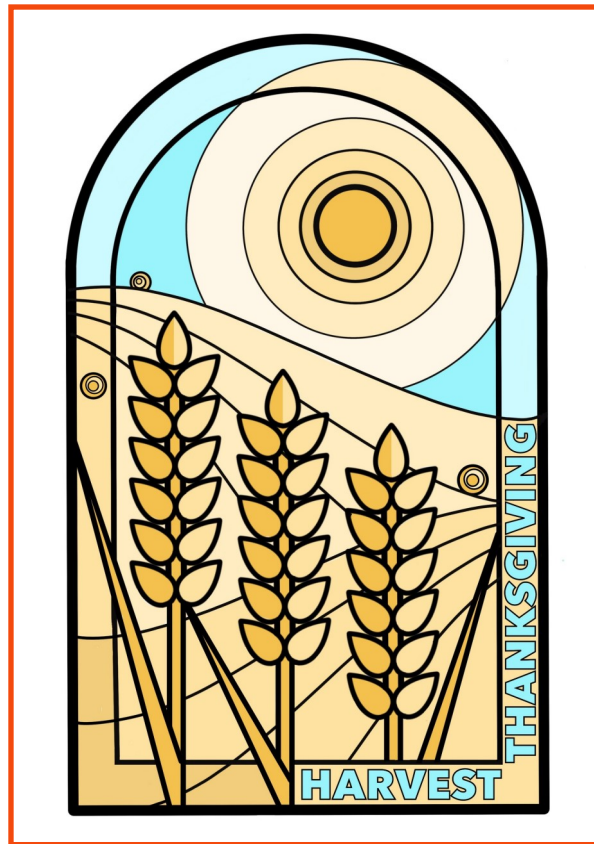


St Ninian's Church

www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk

In the heart of Corstorphine



Quarterly Magazine

Autumn 2024





Dear Friends

Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, 'Lord, will only a few be saved?' He said to them, 'Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. (Luke 13: 22 - 24)

The apostle Paul wrote, "When I came to Troas to proclaim the good news of Christ, a door was opened for in the Lord." (2 Corinthians 2: 12)

When I first came to the village of Corstorphine, I thought that the front doors of St. Ninian's were too narrow. There have been times since when this has proved to be, literally, the case. However, metaphorically, St. Ninian's narrow front doors would please Jesus. On Sunday mornings it is not always easy to come to church up the steps, through the narrow front door, up more steps, then more steps, and finally into the sanctuary. For some, it takes much effort, they 'strive to enter through the narrow door.'

Much of life is a narrow door: passing exams at school; finding a fulfilling job; marrying the right person; keeping fit; even keeping the garden looking good and a golf handicap under control take work of different forms and persistence. Living life in all its fullness, as God would want us to do and as Jesus taught us how to do so peacefully, justly, mercifully, and lovingly, takes faith, persistence, routine, and hard work. No wonder Jesus likened following him to entering through a narrow door. But, for those who make the effort, the rewards are great.

That is true not only in all walks of life, but for all people. That is why, although our front doors are biblically narrow, there's nothing to stop us throwing them wide open. That is what we have been doing over the summer on Tuesday mornings, and what we would like to keep doing.

Throwing wide open the front doors of the church during the week has offered the community not only the chance to see the inside of the church, but the opportunity to see that St. Ninian's is part of the community. People have come for the stillness, the quietness to find out more about the church, to pass through to Friendly Corner. In these ways we are proclaiming the good news of Christ as Paul did when doors were opened for him. Moreover, open doors are always open in two ways. Not only can people encounter St. Ninian's, we at St. Ninian's can meet the people of our community. When we do so, our narrow hearts grow wider. Open doors lead to open hearts.

This autumn why not sign up to help throw open wide St. Ninian's narrow doors so that the people of Corstorphine can discover a place of peace, of love, of justice and of mercy in contemplative silence, in conversation, over a cup of tea, or just a chat.

Best wishes,

James



LET'S OPEN ST. NINIAN'S DURING THE WEEK

The Sanctuary has been **'OPEN'** on a **Tuesday 11am - 1pm** for the last month, helped by Andrew Carter. In that time, we have enjoyed seeing visitors each week; some to spend quiet time, and some come to see the Sanctuary and hear about the Church, and the Church of Scotland. An updated short leaflet on the history of Corstorphine St Ninian's Church is available to give to visitors, so they can remember us.

The Friendly Corner will continue to take place in the Beith Hall and coffee/tea, chat and support will be available to all during the Church 'OPEN' time.

If you would like to help keep the church **'OPEN'** starting in October we are looking for volunteers to sit in the Sanctuary for an hour either **11-12** or **12-1**, on a Tuesday, to also enjoy the quiet time.

If you are interested in helping out, please speak with Moira Mather or James Aitken.

h





There is always hope

The Rev Neil Glover outlines the premise of his new book 'Finding Our Voice'.

WE all know the story, we've been living it for almost seventy years: the "Story of the Empty Pews".

The front pews which once were filled by a thriving Sunday School, the pews which were weekly occupied by the same dependable stalwarts, the pews which are crammed for large parish funerals but empty on a Sunday morning, the pews which were sold when the church was closed, the pews which were turned into comfortable chairs and seemed to keep the numbers for a while but, more recently, have also been empty.

Over the last seventy years, we in the Church of Scotland have not been short of initiatives and plans to refill the pews, but nothing, it seems, has reversed the tide. Is this because we lacked courage to make the most important changes? Is it because we are too in love with our past and resistant to change? Is it because the Church of Scotland loves its bureaucracy and our committees will always suffocate our best ideas? Is it because we have too many buildings and not enough youth pastors or ministers? There is some truth in all of these, but none of them are, I believe, the root cause of our loss.

It is vital that we understand the root cause, because otherwise we will always be drawn to solutions which address the surface but not the root; and such medicines not only fail to resolve the underlying condition, they also have a tendency to make things even worse.

I believe that the root problem is this: for too long, too often and in too many places, our churches were not places where the people of Scotland (and beyond) met with God. Yes there were many times that we did. That's why most of us are still here. But too often, people did not. The history of this goes back not just seventy years, but something closer to five hundred years. Out of a well-founded desire to avoid the conflicts of religious wars, the vagaries of superstition and a deep-rooted fear that we could never be good enough to meet with God, we in our churches too often sang our hymns and prayed our prayers to a respectable, pre-shrunk, timid and lifeless deity. We might have told stories of a God who met with Moses in a fiery bush, with Elijah in a still-small voice, with the blind-man in the touch of his eyes, with questioning disciples in bread and wine, with the early Church in strange tongues: but these experiences were for other people. The God we learned to believe in was far away, emotionally distant, morally foreboding, thin in love, and reluctant to truly forgive.

Too often we stripped our faith of its awe, its intimacy and its magic. We acted out our religion but it did not touch the heart. And so our pews became places where people got bored: during sermons they counted the organ pipes, during prayers they began to think about their shopping and they yearned for the closing benediction to arrive. And after too many Sundays of being bored, they stopped coming, they didn't bring their children, and the pews got emptier and emptier.

And as the pews got emptier, another deeper fear took hold. Perhaps God has abandoned us? Perhaps God has taken God's glory to the thriving Baptist or Pentecostal church that our last remaining young family have moved to? And with that fear, if we are honest, we search for scapegoats, become rigid, angry and suspicious, give up on the God who gives abundance even in de-



So what do we do? We must not divert our energies towards surface cures (which, I very tentatively suggest, may have been what has too often cost us with presbytery mission planning), nor can we slavishly import models from elsewhere (be that North American churches, or the world of entrepreneurial leadership), nor do we panic in the face of our deficits (neither do we ignore them). Perhaps God is using this moment to teach us something. Perhaps we are to learn to become ourselves in a contemporary age, to appreciate our gifts, to work out, with faith and fear and trembling, our own salvation, to trust that Christ is still at work within us. In this we

are not far from the mottos of our two most recent Moderators: "Remember who you are" and "Building together". During the writing of *Finding our Voice I spoke with people from across the Church of Scotland and from mainstream (or "mainline" as they are sometimes known) churches across the world. During this, I began to notice four movements in mainline churches which are experiencing renewal:*

- Seeking and experiencing the presence of God, the God who told Moses "I am who I am", the God we meet in Jesus Christ. Resisting our fondness for respectability and safety, we must seek the God who is God; that our worship would be a place of such transformative power that, in the words of American writer Annie Dillard, we should be issued with crash helmets, life-preservers and signal flares, and ushers should "lash us to our pews". Let us pray for such encounter in our Sunday morning worship, let us walk like our Celtic ancestors on wild trails and beaches, let us learn to spot the presence of God in every hedge and stairwell of our parish,
- Discipling and growing. Too often Presbyterianism has, in the words of G D Henderson, "taken too much and given too little." We ask our people to sign up for our rotas, but how often do we actually enable them to flourish as human beings? We are suspicious of the secular "turn to the self" but understood properly, loving self and loving neighbour inform on another, they are not in competition. In our churches this may mean offering spiritual direction for all our members (annual "Spiritual MOTs" as one church called it), being given confidence in prayer and the scriptures (how often do people ask me for help with this), to be given support and training in facing the great challenges of life, to have gatherings in which we enjoy each other's company and in which we grow.
- Celebrating our unity and diversity. It has been suggested that mainline churches are too diverse and lack brand identity. Better to be "very conservative" or "very liberal": being "moderate" will attract no one. However, we will always be a broad church, this is who we are. The challenge is to own this, to be unafraid to name our differences and discover our mutual belonging, so that being "one in Christ" is not a bland platitude but a song we sing.
- Reclaiming and nurturing our gifts.

I believe there are seven of these which are particularly abundant in the mainline church: connection, community, scripture, parish, justice, song and stillness.

These may be challenging times, but I do not believe that our pews are truly empty. I believe in God who is still present in them and in us, and so, there is always hope.

Finding Our Voice is published by Saint Andrew Press and available to purchase at <https://standrewpress.hymnsam.co.uk/>

Reproduced by Kind Permission of Life and Work, August 2024



Primary Sunday School

We had a great last term before summer with the highlight being our Christian Aid activity where we raised an amazing £781.90 from our assault course challenge and bake sale. We were very grateful to all the family, friends and congregation who donated to our Just Giving page, bought cakes, and donated on the day. The children worked really hard, and we received a lovely letter from Christian Aid in recognition of their efforts and the money raised.

On the last Sunday of the term the children were presented with books and those who were moving from P3 to P4 received a copy of the Good

News Bible.

There are a few changes this term as Aidan has moved up to join Alpha and Mark Richards has stepped down from helping with Sunday school. I want to thank Mark for all his years' service to the Primary Sunday School, it has been a pleasure to have led the group alongside him and I am sure for our big events we will be able to twist his arm to help. While Aidan has moved up to Alpha and Ela has moved to a Church closer to her house our numbers are still okay with 10 children coming along, although not all at once.

We continue to follow the Roots resource and so far, this term the children have built a bug house and created a poster about Wisdom, I am sure that there will be more fun activities in the coming weeks.

Barbara Mackie





St Ninian's Guild

Sunshine and showers... we have had our share of these. Now we notice that the daylight hours are shrinking and autumn is approaching fast. This brings an indication that seasonal activities are about to commence. Yes, the Guild programme has been prepared ready for the off on Tuesday 1st October.

We hope to welcome back those who have been members for a short time and those who have served for a long time, a time stretching back forty plus years... all wonderful people who have contributed much to our Guild. There are people who have missed out still on being part of this group and we invite you to be there to share faith, fellowship, friendship and fun with us on any Tuesday from October through to the beginning of December and again from January to April. We shall be pleased to welcome you soon.

Every three years the Guild introduces a new strategy and from 2024 to 2027 it will be "Let Us Build A House" a topic that has been explored before in the Church and the Guild. The choice of four projects for a similar time have been chosen based on this strategy. In addition there is a new theme for each year Sure Foundations, Living Stones and Beyond the Walls.

Notices are posted on the Guild Board in the corridor off the Crush Hall and you will be kept Up-ToDate about the talks / presentations that will take place. Feel free to dip in at any time.

All our members have ownership of our Guild and share with minimal effort in organising our weekly meeting. There is no committee and no one has a label and so no one should feel concerned that they need to make a commitment. Everyone's contribution is appreciated. No limits on attending..... our ages range from 60 right through to 90+, both male and female, ambulant, walkers and wheelchairs but, of course, we would love to have younger people also in our Guild.

Up to 2.15 pm access is from the door at the rear of the church or down the ramp to the door at the end of the corridor beside the Martin Shields Hall or from 1.40 to 2.10 pm by the front door at the west side of the church. Someone will be there to meet you and welcome you to our Guild.

With an interesting programme ahead we hope that many of you will be there to share it. Remember to come at 2.15 pm to the Martin Shields Hall on any Tuesday afternoon starting from 1st October.

Valerie Thomson





Christian Aid

Since the conclusion of Christian Aid Week 2024, further donations have been received. The final amount raised was £3,073.02 comprising:

Church Retiring Collection	£1,854.12
Soup & Sweet Lunch	£346.00
CA Quiz	£91.00
Sunday School 70 Lap Challenge	<u>£781.90</u>
Total	<u>£3,073.02</u>

A special thank you to the Sunday School who raised **£781.90** for their **70 Lap Challenge** in the Church carpark together with baking sold in the Crush Hall.

Looking forward, it is hoped to hold retiring offerings for CA crisis appeals depending on the situations in Ukraine and the Middle East later in the autumn running up to the Christmas Appeal.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Alec Millar Christian Aid Coordinator

Mobile: 0773 800 7302 alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk





Sunday School Fundraising





Mission Committee

The Mission Committee would like to welcome a new member Penny Gordon who has recently joined us, we hope she will enjoy her time with us.

Our Fresh Start collection was on 1st September when we were collecting bedding, curtains, dish cloths etc. The staff at Fresh Start wish to pass on their sincere thanks for the continuing support from St. Ninian's.

On the 18th of August we came together to celebrate the start of a new session following not a great summer!! These events do not just happen and the Mission Committee would like to thank Georgie and the Hospitality Committee, the Gift Girls and Anne our organist for all their hard work in helping make it such a success. The wonderful sum of £630.50 was raised for Church funds.

Looking forward we will once again be collecting food for the Edinburgh Food Project on Sunday 6th October to be delivered to Broomhouse. There will be a retiring collection on Remembrance Sunday, 10th November, for the refugees in Edinburgh. We will also hopefully be able to assist with the delivery of Christmas Hampers for the refugees.

On Wednesday 12th June the Mission Committee, the minister and our student Andrew had a visit to the warehouse at Fresh Start. A big thank you to Jen who gave us a huge insight to the work and the different services provided by Fresh Start. We are hoping sometime in the future to have someone from Fresh Start to come and speak to the congregation as part of our morning worship.

As we go into the Autumn session the committee would like to thank the Kirk Session and congregation for their on-going support.

Margaret Hunter





CARE VAN– We need your help

If you don't know our CARE VAN through the charity Bethany Trust goes out in Edinburgh offers food and support to people in crisis on the streets of Edinburgh.

The CARE VAN would love to say thank you, for all who has helped and continues to help with donations.

We are very low in men's clothes, especially

- ◆ socks/underwear
- ◆ t-shirts/shirts
- ◆ jumpers/hoodies
- ◆ jackets
- ◆ belts
- ◆ footwear



Are all very welcome. All items bring to church and put in the large buckets and note CARE VAN on the front.

If you can't donate clothes/footwear, any funds are very well for us to buy the items needed.

If anyone is interested in helping go out in the CARE VAN or help go on the route for soup/rolls, then please get in touch. All help is very appreciated.

Thank you

Cheryl Lawrence

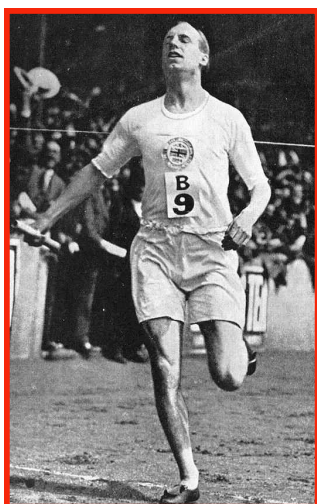
07958645177

Cheryls-crafts@hotmail.com





Eric Liddell, the Paris Olympics, 1924 and 2024



As I entered the Church on a recent Sunday in August, I said to our minister who was waiting outside

Today is the Centenary of the Paris Olympics, the one where Eric Liddell didn't run- -- because his race was to take place on a Sunday.

This happened at the Paris Summer Olympics of 1924 when the heats for the 100 metre race fell on a Sunday, so instead Eric entered the weekday 400 metre race and won that, setting a new Olympic, British and European record.

His strong Christian faith prevented him from participating, a fact which formed the basis of the wonderful Scottish and by now iconic film Chariots of Fire.

Now he is celebrated in Edinburgh with a venue named after him, appropriately at Holy Corner. But when the film was originally released in 1981 he would certainly not have been well known in the United States. Which is why I was asked by its Director David Puttnam whether I thought that the new film would be well received in America. This took place in the Odeon cinema at the private reception, following the Royal Premiere showing in the presence of Princess Margaret as well as the elderly sisters of the athlete, who were flown across from North America by British Airways. Scotland was chosen for the honour of providing the Royal Premiere of the film, which normally would have taken place in London of course. This was at the insistence of its director.

I replied without hesitation that I thought it would go down well. By now the film's writer Colin Welland joined in our conversation and asked me why I felt that. I explained that America would welcome a film about Good Guys and Heroes. Also attending the Premiere was the Scottish sprinter Alan Wells, who had just won the 100metre race the previous year in the Summer Olympics Moscow in 1980 and was the first British athlete to do so since 1924. I chatted with him, and he asked me if I would like to see his Olympics Gold Medal. Of course I would, so he went to his locker and brought out its presentation case with the medal and offered it to me to hold briefly. Such an unexpected honour. It was quite heavy.

Suzette Bell





Introducing our new Church Treasurer & Secretary



My name is Philip. I am from Edinburgh and started going to church with my grandparents when I was 4 years old. I feel blessed to have grown up in a Christian family and loved going to Sunday school and youth fellowship.

I joined St. Ninian's Church in 2018 when we moved to Corstorphine. I still remember the warm welcome Wendy and I received when we first came here. Things were a bit challenging then with the pandemic and two young kids at home. But I am so grateful that we can all come back to church and both Nathan and Maria are enjoying Sunday school very much.

I have always thought about how I can serve God by using the skills that God has equipped me. I am a Chartered Accountant by profession so when the opportunity arose to take up the role as treasurer, I believe this is a calling from God. I have never been a treasurer before, but I look forward to learning as I serve.

Philip Tang

I was born and grew up in Christchurch, New Zealand, with a Kiwi Dad and a Scottish Mum. After finishing a degree in Classics at university, I came to Scotland planning to stay for a year or so and then go back home. Soon after I arrived I met my now husband. That was over 20 years ago, and I have been here ever since, mostly living around Corstorphine. After going back to university to complete a law degree I worked in the civil service for a number of years, before taking time out to raise my 3 children. Now that the kids are a bit older I decided it was time to go back to work, and I am loving being a part of St Ninian's.

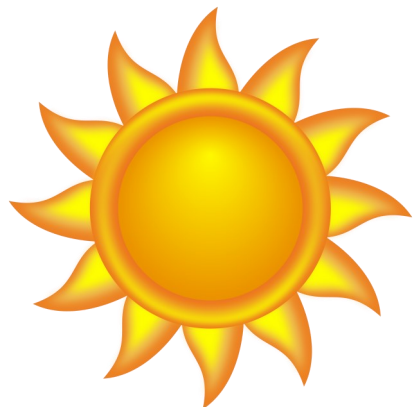
In my spare time, when I'm not running around after children, or acting as a taxi service, I like reading (especially mysteries or anything historical), practising yoga, and baking and cooking.

Kirsty McGregor





Corstorphine Fair 2024



This year the sun certainly shone on a very successful and busy event.

The Corstorphine Fair is held bi-ennially on the first Saturday in June. The Fair is Edinburgh's largest Community run event





Crossword Time

Across:

8 Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)

9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14-17) (3)

10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have —' (Malachi 1:3) (5)

13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)

16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)

19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)

22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)

24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the —' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)

25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)

2 See 24 Across

3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)

4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)

5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus —' (John 11:35) (4)

6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)

7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)

12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)

14 Second city of Cyprus (8)

15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)

16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)

17 Braved (anag.) (6)

18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)

20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)

21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)

23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8												
9				10								
11	12					13		14			15	
16		17				18		19		20		21
22				23						24		
25												



A summer Sunday on Lismore – The Cathedral Church of St Moluag

At the start of the summer holidays, we spent a few days visiting the beautiful long island of Lismore, which lies in Loch Linnhe between Appin and Morvern. If you want to know more about it, there is lots of useful information at www.isleoflismore.com

On the Sunday, we took ourselves off to morning worship at Lismore Parish Church and we thought our friends at St Ninian's might like to hear about our experience of being in the congregation there.

As you can see from the picture, the church is a little white building today, but that disguises the fact that it is actually the remnant of what was once St Moluag's Cathedral, dating from the 13th century. St Moluag himself was on Lismore much earlier than that; he founded a monastery on the island in the year 562 along with twelve of his friends from Ireland.

Nowadays, the church is linked with Appin Parish Church on the mainland and the Minister has to get the boat across the sound in between his two Sunday morning services. Luckily the crossing from Port Appin to Lismore is very short and relatively sheltered.

It was very peaceful in the small church. There were not many people there, but they gave us a nice welcome and were good singers. Before the service, one of the ladies on duty invited Aidan to go behind the communion table and look at their old long-handled wooden collection boxes.

We were not the only visitors that day. After he left Lismore, St Moluag travelled on to the north-east of Scotland where he founded more monasteries and three churches in the Dee Valley. One of these – at Tarland in Aberdeenshire – commemorates his ministry. A well-known Scottish fiddler called Paul Anderson is a member of Tarland Church and he was making a pilgrimage to the "sister church" on Lismore that Sunday. Happily, he had brought his fiddle with him, and he played a beautiful piece of traditional Scottish music during the service, as well as bringing greetings from the minister and congregation at Tarland.

Lismore is unusual in the Inner Hebrides in having retained a strong Gaelic language culture, with its own specific words and pronunciation. Efforts have been made to record the culture and to encourage new speakers to learn and practise using the language in daily life.

This includes reading the Bible in Gaelic during the weekly church service. After getting to the end of the appointed lessons in English, the reader said, "now we will hear the Bible in the language of the Garden of Eden!". If you were in church on June 30th (and especially if it was your turn to do the readings) you might recall the one from the Gospel of Mark about the healing of Jairus's daughter. It is a very long reading (23 verses) and we listened to all of it twice, first in English and then again in Gaelic! But we didn't mind because it was so lovely to listen to, just like the music.





The church service on Lismore is at 12.30 to give the Minister enough time to sail across from Appin. That meant that we could have a nice long lie and a slow breakfast before cycling to church, which was ideal for a holiday Sunday.

The future of the church in Lismore has been uncertain; the Presbytery of Argyll intended to dispose of the building in 2023, but it appears that the community has been trying to put together a proposal for a community buy-out (or similar arrangement). There were certainly signs of some work going on around the church when we were there. We hope that they are successful with this venture and that the wee white cathedral is able to offer locals and visitors a place of welcome and worship on the island for many years to come.

Aidan and Sarah Aitken

Fabric Committee



Over three days in August the 5 yearly Electrical Installations inspections took place in the Church. This involved testing all the nine Distribution boards and all the circuits to ensure electrical controls and wiring comply with present regulations. This is a mandatory requirement of Presbytery and Building Regulations. No major problems were reported but five items were noted for immediate attention.

Work on the Quinquennial Report will continue with the re-pointing of stone copes at the east gable end. Following calls to

aid visibility of step edges, our white lining expert Bob Brewster has painted the east courtyard steps and the St John's Road entrance steps.

Due to a request from a neighbour on St John's Road, the birch trees at the west garden will be pruned and reduced to prevent excessive leaf fall on their roof. Annual maintenance of the fire extinguishers has recently been completed.

In the Car Park, we filled the pot holes with a tarmac compound. Several Church members passing by asked if we could also fill the holes in their street but we had to respectfully decline.

Later the yellow lines and logo for the disabled car park spaces were repainted by Bob Brewster, Ian Stewart and myself. Thank goodness for knee pads!

A section of the Car Park wall has been impacted by a vehicle and knocked out of alignment but no-one has admitted responsibility. Estimates have been received for wall repairs and an insurance claim has been submitted.

Alister McGlashan



Past Times in St Ninian's

1999

25 years ago from the Quarterly, Autumn 1999

"Playdays"

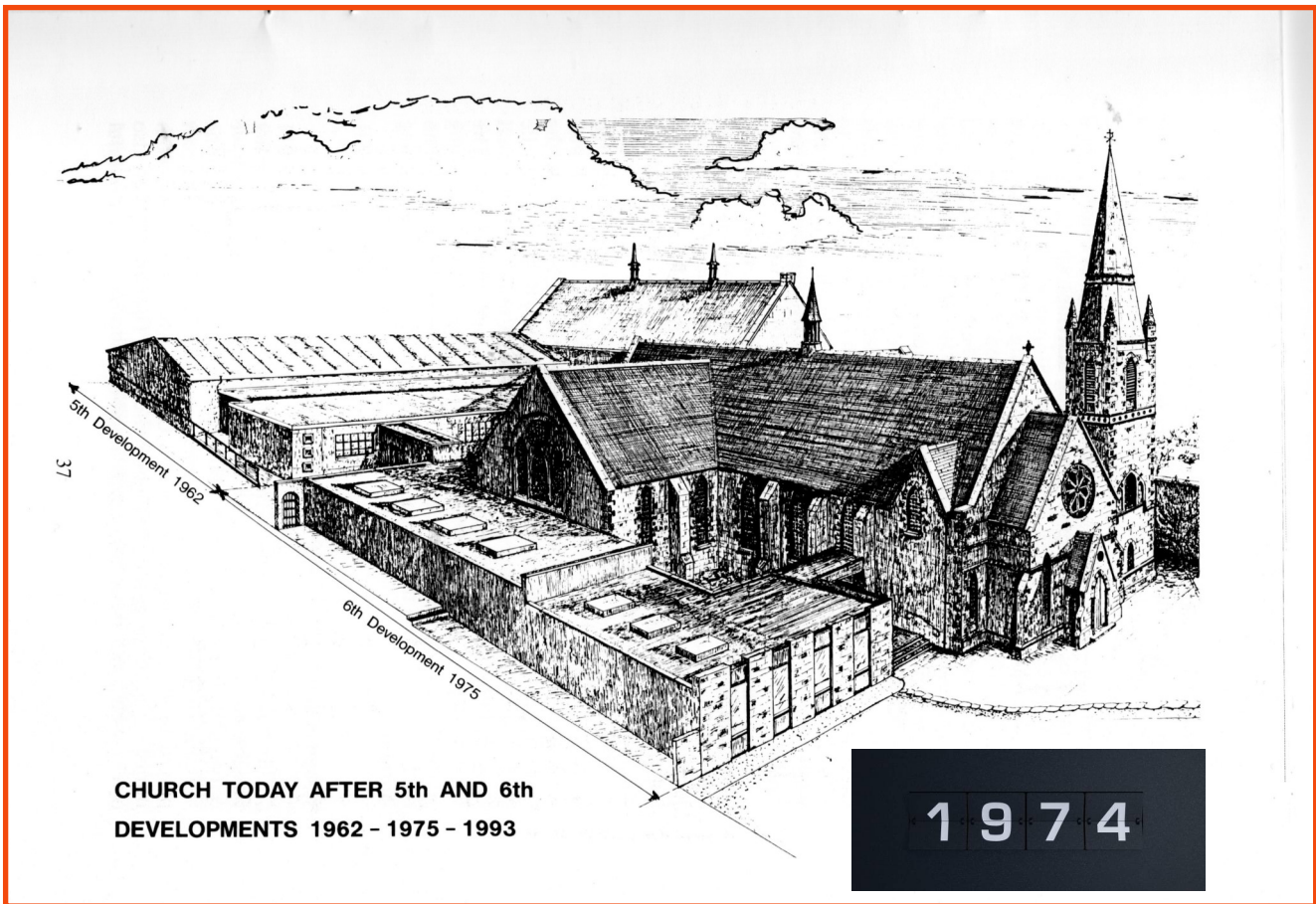
"During the Second World War it was difficult to obtain a piano and I was desperate to have one. At four years of age I would strum out a rhythm on any surface which made a noise, and when I entered St Ninian's Sunday School I was so envious of the lady who sat at an ancient small organ playing "Jesus Loves Me" and "Away in a Manger". I do not remember her name but she always wore a bright blue coat and hat and I followed her every note.

"In due course I was promoted into the Primary Department and my eyes were drawn to the top right-hand corner of the "big hall" where Miss Hilda Jeffrey sat at the piano belting out our Scripture Union choruses. She always played with such enthusiasm which encouraged us all to join in and make a big noise. I was really impressed and vowed there and then to follow in her footsteps one day.

"I eventually got a piano of my own, went to lessons and when Jack Turnbull, Superintendent of the Sunday School, phoned me up one day in 1954 and asked me to come and play the piano for Sunday School, my joy was complete. The rest, as they say, is history, but if anyone out there is nursing a secret ambition to take over my role, don't be shy! The rewards far outweigh any effort involved."

"Doreen Bunton"

Thanks to Andrew Broom



CHURCH TODAY AFTER 5th AND 6th DEVELOPMENTS 1962 - 1975 - 1993

1974

50 years ago from the Quarterly, October 1974

[The following report relates to the major construction project of building additional rooms and a corridor down the west side of the main church building during the 1970s. Intended originally to provide additional accommodation for the Sunday School, these additional rooms have since proved invaluable to the congregation in a variety of ways.]

"The start of the Final Phase of our building extension on site is a good time for appraisal of what has been completed and of what has still to be done to finish the job. . . . The Congregation's and Church Organisations' responses so far can be viewed with a sense of achievement - £26,502 raised after an initial repeal for £25,000 is, indeed, an outstanding achievement, especially as the regular Church offerings have also risen during the period. We are now, however, within sight of a clearly defined goal *[to raise £4,000]* and one last combined effort during the next few months should see us home without the need for a bank loan with its accompanying high interest rates.

"Donations, interest free loans and fund raising activities by the Church Organisations can all make this possible and these possibilities are now being actively explored."

"D I Cameron, Convener

J S Carlile, Treasurer

Building Committee"

[£26,500 in 1974 would today amount to £283,220, using the Bank of England's Inflation Calculator]



Congregation Register

Baptism:

14th July 2024

Maxwell Kenneth Smith

Funerals:

20th May 2024* Mr Sandy Brodie, North Gyle Terrace

31st May 2024* Mr John Spence, Essex Road

21st June 2024 Mrs Patricia Sinclair (Pat)

26th June 2024* Mrs Mary Anderson, Drum Brae Park

29th July 2024* Mrs Isabella Lloyd (Wilma), Ladywell Avenue

* Denotes member

Puzzle Answers





St.Ninian's Church, Corstorphine

General Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 30th June, 2024

General Fund - Summary

	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	Variance	
Total Receipts	96,868	95,071	1,797	●
Total Ordinary General Expenditure	(90,166)	(90,052)	(114)	●
General Fund - Surplus (Deficit)	<u>6,702</u>	<u>5,019</u>	<u>1,683</u>	●
Legacies Received	-	-	-	
TOTAL	<u><u>6,702</u></u>	<u><u>5,019</u></u>	<u><u>1,683</u></u>	●

General Fund - Analysis of Receipts & Payments

<u>Receipts</u>				
Congregation Offerings (inc. Gift Aid)	65,078	67,542	(2,463)	●
One-off Donations	583	169	415	●
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	1,190	1,055	135	●
Contributions from outside organisations for use of halls	20,398	17,436	2,961	●
Bank Interest and Investment Income	7,166	4,789	2,377	●
Other Receipts	2,453	4,080	(1,627)	●
	<u>96,868</u>	<u>95,071</u>	<u>1,797</u>	●

<u>Expenditure</u>				
Giving to Grow contributions / Presbytery Dues	(45,451)	(45,421)	(30)	●
Local Salaries, Social Security & Pension Costs	(19,301)	(18,111)	(1,190)	●
Office / Administration Costs	(4,292)	(2,677)	(1,615)	●
Fabric Expenditure	(5,790)	(9,240)	3,450	●
Premises running costs (halls & manse)	(12,550)	(10,639)	(1,912)	●
Other Local Costs	(2,781)	(3,965)	1,183	●
	<u>(90,166)</u>	<u>(90,052)</u>	<u>(114)</u>	●

As at 30th June, there was a surplus on the General Fund of **£6,702**. This is a slight improvement on the position for the same period in 2023 when there was a surplus of **£5,019**. The positive difference of **£1,683** can be explained as follows:

Higher Income = Increase in surplus of £1,797

There were increases in Contributions from Outside Organisation for Use of Halls of **£2,961** and increases in Bank Interest & Investment Income of **£2,377**.

There was a decrease in Congregational Offerings and Gift Aid Reclaim of **£2,463** due to an overall reduction in offerings so far in 2024 which was offset by increase in one off donation of **£415**.

There was a decrease in Other Receipts of **£1,627** due to lower income from the 2024 Listed Places of Worship claim and one-off receipts in 2023 which will not be repeated in 2024.

Higher Costs = Decrease in surplus of £114

The main areas of higher costs were:

Local Salaries, Social Security & Pension costs of **£1,190** due to 2024 salary increases and new book-keeper position.

Office & Administration costs of **£1,615** which was mostly due to higher printing costs (**£539**) and new photocopier maintenance contract fees (**£240**).

Premises costs of **£1,912** which was mainly due to increase in electricity (**£992**) and gas (**£111**) costs because of new contract with higher rates.

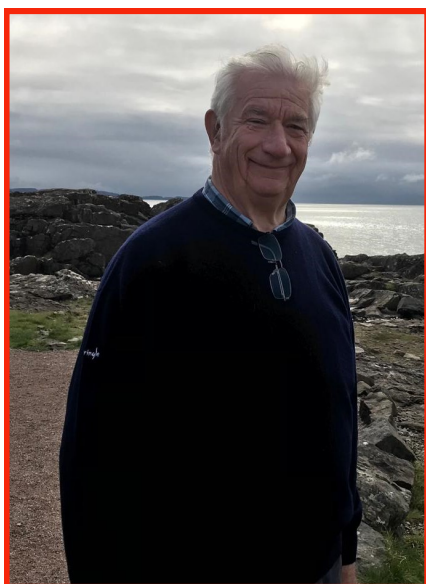
However the above higher costs were offset by the following cost reductions:

Fabric expenditure of **£3,450** due to higher expenditure in 2023 on repairs to the manse.

Other local costs of **£1,183** due to lower miscellaneous expenses compared with 2023.



Parish People : Jim Hunter



How long have you been involved in St Ninian's and what ways?

I was baptised by the Rev Martin Shields in September following my birth in July 1950. My father was also baptised in St. Ninian's as was his mother who is in the first Baptismal Register. Both of our children and three of our grandchildren have also been baptised in St. Ninian's. The first name on the war memorial board is one of my above mentioned grandmother's brothers. So all in all a strong family connection covering many generations.

Roles – Apart from being a child through the Sunday School, I also taught in the Senior Sunday School, have been the Covenant Treasurer during the transition to Gift Aid, A Deacon then Elder for 40 years, Roll Keeper since 2006.

Any special Memories of the Church?

I can remember the Church garden before the additions of the new hall (Martin Shields Hall) and the subsequent rooms added down the west side of the Sanctuary. Lasting memories are the Sunday School picnics when many were held on the grounds of the Rosebury Estate at South Queensferry where all the children were transported by double decker bus. Up to six yes 6 buses drove along to the back of the Church to load up with many excited children, with mugs tied round their necks with ribbon, and on route we held streamers out of the bus windows.

Do you have a favourite Hymn?

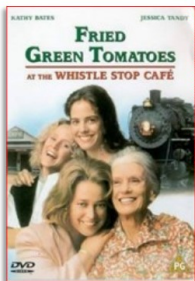
Not so easy due to my lack of singing capability, but perhaps "Thine be the Glory".

What is the best piece of advice you've received?

Always be patient, a good listener, and help others. A previous Session Clerk said always ask a busy person to take on a role, and always look as if you know what you are doing.

Something People don't know about me

Not many know this – but many many years ago a variety show was held in the Burns Hall with the usual singing, dancing, joking etc. I with another five gents, joined with a number of young ballet dancers from the Cherrie Noble Dance School, to dance our version of Swan Lake. It brought the house down, especially with the tutu's and white tights!!



Tuesday October 29: Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café

NB: doors open 6.30pm, film begins 6.50pm

A warm, touching and at times greatly amusing tale about the importance of friendship.

Tuesday November 26: The African Queen

An engrossing motion picture. (Variety)



Tuesday December 17: Billy Elliot

Dance your way to Christmas with this heartwarming, and foot tapping, coming-of-age comedy drama!

Tuesday January 28: The Post

Based on true events, a thrilling story of the efforts of a newspaper owner and their editor as they strive to expose a massive cover-up of devastating government secrets.



Tuesday February 25: Blithe Spirit

The classic screen version of Noel Coward's much-loved supernatural comedy.

Tuesday March 25: Mrs Harris Goes to Paris

Planning a summer holiday? How about some inspiration! In 1950s London, a widowed cleaning lady falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, deciding she must have one of her own. After working to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris that will change not only her own outlook -- but the very future of the





Psalm 24 : A new interpretation

We have been treated over the 'summer' months from James and Andrew to an exposition on a number of Psalms, in the context of the trials and tribulations of David. MacBraynes Ferries have endured their own trials and tribulations over the past few years, with a range of issues which continue to be well documented in the press and news. MacBraynes are a key part of the travel infrastructure in the West Highlands and Islands, to the degree that the locals have hijacked Psalm 24 to describe the critical importance of the company to community life.

Derek McGillivray

The Earth belongs unto the Lord,
And all that it contains;
Except The Kyles and Western Isles
For they belong to MacBraynes.
The Earth belongs unto the Lord
And all that it contains;
Except a few West Highland Piers -
For these are D MacBraynes.



Corstorphine Forrester PROBUS Club

For attention of retired PROfessional and BUSiness men:

The purpose of Probus Clubs is to provide regular meetings for retired professional and business people who would value, in their retirement, increased social contacts and the opportunity to meet others in similar circumstances.

The Corstorphine Forrester Probus Club (for men) meets in the Martin Shields Hall at St Ninian's Church on alternate Wednesday mornings between the end of September and the start of April. We meet for fellowship with coffee and biscuits at 10 am, and then at 10.30 am, we have a guest speaker to give us an interesting talk. Recent topics have ranged from the Dambusters Raid, and the police drug squad, to riding a Harley Davidson. The meeting normally winds up by 12 noon.

Our next season begins on 25 September; new members and guests will be made welcome. For more information, contact Phil Wheeler (phil.wheeler47@btinternet.com or 334 4235).

Two Ladies' Probus Clubs also meet in the church hall.

Phil Wheeler



We set our Sunday School Members a quiz.

I listen to a German Story on the iPad

Thomas

Reading Books

Ela

I just fall asleep, no help needed

Nathan

What helps you fall asleep at night?



Songs and books

Piper

A good chat before bed

Jeff

My Teddy

Maria

A Campfire

Jeff

Plants that are growing

Ela

The smell of Grandma's Clothes

Thomas

What smell brings back a memory for you?

Strawberries

Piper

The Bathroom

Nathan

Airplanes remind me of holidays

Maria



144 St Johns Road
Edinburgh
EH12 8AY

Minister Rev James Aitken
17 Templeland Road
Edinburgh
EH12 8RZ
Tel 334 1324 Email: JAitken@churchofscotland.org.uk

Tel Office and Voicemail 316 4777
Crush Hall 334 8615
email office@st-ninians.co.uk

Scottish Charity Number SCO16557



www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk

Our Contacts

Joint Sessions Clerks Fiona Coutts/ Andrew Job/ Mark Richards/ Scott Waugh session-clerk@st-ninians.co.uk	Treasurer Philip Tang churchtreasurer@st-ninians.co.uk	Roll Keeper Jim Hunter 339 6262	Organist & Choirmaster Anne Kirkpatrick 334 5951
Sunday School Co-ordinator Diana Fairgrieve 339 5146	Church Officer Gillian McDonald 334 8615	Freewill Offering Treasurer: Kenneth C Gillies 334 1484	Quarterly Editor Simone Hislop simone_hislop@blueyonder.co.uk
Care Van Co-ordinator Cheryl Lawrence 07958 645177	Christian Aid Alec Millar 334 1471	Church Transport Andrew Job 339 6723	Conversazione Douglas Ramsay 334 5599
Fabric Convener Alister McGlashan 334 6438	Flower Convener Norma Gilmore 334 6433	Flower Delivery Anne Kirkpatrick 334 5951	GIFT (Girls in Fellowship Together) Penny Gordon 334 5929
Guild contact Valerie Thomson 339 6115	Hospitality Georgie Wallace 539 4610	Mission Committee Margaret Hunter 339 6262	Safeguarding Co-ordinator Laura Langdon 07402 245 885
Website Group Andrew Job 339 6723	Cradle Roll Isobel Govenlock 334 4525	Crèche Val Blair 334 0626	Sunday School – Primary Barbara Mackie 334 2964
Sunday School – Secondary Campbell Gray 467 1262	Toddlers (Tue & Fri) Church Office 316 4777		