

St Ninian's Church
Corstorphine

Quarterly



Autumn 2021



Edinburgh, Corstorphine St Ninian's Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
144 St John's Road, EH12 8AY
Scottish Charity Number SC016557

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

Church Telephones: OFFICE (and Voicemail): 316 4777;
CRUSH HALL (Church Officer): 334 8615
e-mail: office@st-ninians.co.uk

Office Hours: Tue/Wed/Thurs - 9.00am to 12 noon; Fri - 9.00am to 1.00pm

website: www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk

**Due to Covid-19, the usual activities listed below may not yet be fully operational.
Refer to the weekly Intimations for up-to-date information
or contact the Church Office.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL is held every Sunday during term time and all classes meet at 10.25am.
Crèche: (0-3yrs); Beginners: (3-5yrs); Primary: (5-8yrs); Juniors: (8-12yrs); Alpha: (12+yrs).

STEP INSIDE is a youth club for our 10- to 14-year-olds and is held on the last Saturday of the month (except July and December) with games, music and craft sessions.

We offer a CHURCH TRANSPORT SERVICE for our less able members. Volunteer drivers pick up passengers before the service and return them home afterwards with the option of staying for tea/coffee. Reserved car parking is available at the rear of the Church.

The CHOIR leads the Praise under the direction of our Organist, Anne Kirkpatrick, and choir practices are on Thursday evenings from September to May.

The GUILD meets on a Tuesday afternoon between September and March, with interesting speakers, teas, and outings.

Men are invited to CONVERSAZIONE on the last Wednesday of the month between October and April, for fellowship and chat over a light lunch.

Many other Church and non-Church organisations use our premises throughout the week; contact details can be found on the back page.

Dear friends,

'He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

(Mark 4: 39)

It is not 'completely calm' yet, and if there's anything we have learned over the past eighteen months or so, it is that there is always the possibility of another storm brewing over the horizon.



*Church Cave, Isle of Rona **

But life feels calmer than it did. I was on holiday in three nations over the summer, Scotland, England and Wales. In the remote Highlands the pandemic felt very far away; life was very calm. The valleys of Wales felt safely isolated. But in England, where no face coverings were required and social distancing was rarely discernible, I was surprised by how nervous I felt. It takes longer to return to normal than we might at first think.

Nevertheless, the road to normality is the one we are on at the moment, and with hope we can pray that life will feel completely calm again soon. Of course, life is never completely calm; there is often more to be done than time to do it; life's turbulence buffets our hearts; worry clouds our minds. However, a sense of normality and routine can ease stress, anxiety, and worry. In that sense, the continuing presence of Jesus Christ in our lives helps us to find the calmness of hope in new life, peace as our guiding principle, mercy in our relationships, and love as the foundation for all we do.

The presence of Jesus Christ is there as a holy spirit when God's people are gathered for worship. St Ninian's, as a place of worship for God's gathered people, offers you a sanctuary of calm where you can find the Holy Spirit of hope, peace, mercy and love. It is a safe place.

To celebrate the stilling of the storm and the gradual return to the calmness of routine and normality you are invited back to church - to fellowship, to Sunday School, to sing, to share bread and wine. Elsewhere in this Quarterly there are more details about these but, in particular, I would like to remind you of Communion on 5th September and to tell you that there will be a Songs of Praise service on 19th September when we shall have the opportunity to sing your favourite hymns, all those we have not been able to sing together over the past eighteen months.

Let's take the next step together on the road to normal, and let Christ calm the storms that rage around us.

Best wishes,

James

** islanders worshipped in the cave until 1912 and children were still baptised there after that date. It was last used for worship in the 1970s.*

Welcoming you back to Church

As you know, the Church sanctuary has been open for worship for some time, with various restrictions and limitations on how the service can be conducted and the numbers of attendees allowed. With the latest relaxation of the regulations that apply to places of worship, we thought that it would be useful to update you on the current guidance from the Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland and how this has changed the way in which we can conduct Sunday worship. The changes to the restrictions and guidance for places of worship were published on 9th August and were discussed at a meeting of the Church Recovery Group on 11th August.

The guidance from the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Government can change at very short notice. At the time of writing the next update of these regulations and guidance is due to be announced on 30th August, but there may be changes in the interim. The most up-to-date information will be available on our website or in the minister's weekly email. If you do not receive the minister's weekly email and would like to, please contact him at JAitken@churchofscotland.org.uk and your name will be added to the circulation list.

For the time being, the recorded Sunday Worship service will continue to be available on-line on YouTube and Facebook using the links below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW-OUJ0F3JLO9vUD7KYMffa>

<https://www.facebook.com/stninianschurch>

However, on-line recordings will be phased out as the restrictions relax further. Plans are being developed to broadcast the Sunday service as a live stream once or twice a month at some time in the future, but there are some technical hurdles to overcome before this can happen. We will keep you updated.

Sunday worship will continue to be held in the sanctuary at 10:30am. We are obliged to continue wearing face coverings whilst in the sanctuary. Singing is permitted so long as face coverings are worn. Hymn sheets will be made available at the entrance but if you have your own copy of the hymn book you can bring it with you to the service. We have been allowed to reduce the social distancing in the pews to one metre and we have also re-opened the gallery. This means that the maximum capacity of the sanctuary has been increased to 102. The pew cushions have also been reinstated. The one-way system of entrance through the main doors and exit via the East corridor will also remain in place.

However, we are obliged to carry on with the register of attendees for track and trace purposes, consequently the booking telephone (07399 950 204 between 9:00 am and 12 noon Tuesdays to Thursdays) will continue to be available. Whilst it is not essential to book in advance, it is helpful to do this so that queues at the entrance are kept to a minimum.

We expect to be able to offer teas and coffees in the Martin Shields Hall after the service from 22nd August although, initially, we are restricted to 7 tables of 4 people at each table (28 in total) with table service. If you want to join us for tea or coffee it is advisable to book, which can be done at the same time as you register your details for the track and trace attendance register.

Given this relaxation of the restrictions, we will be holding the following special services over the coming weeks, all at the usual time of 10:30am:

5th September	Communion
19th September	Songs of Praise
3rd October	Harvest Festival

We are also in the process of welcoming back organisations and clubs who meet in the halls. If you require any information about this, please contact the Church Office.

The Kirk Session will meet on 8th September in the Burns Hall at 7:30pm as well as being available via Zoom. Full details will be published nearer the time.

As can be seen, we are making every effort to provide a safe, compliant and welcoming environment for our Sunday worship and we hope that you too will feel comfortable in joining us in worship. If you have any questions, please contact either the Church Office or the minister.

Andrew Job
Church Recovery Group

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Kirk Session Meetings

2021 -8th September; 10th November

Deacons' Court Meetings

2021 - 22nd September; 24th November

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Congregational Register

Baptisms:

30 May 2021	Finlay Coffey, 50 Meadowhouse Road
11 July 2021	Jacob Allanson, 32 Craigs Road

Funerals:

3 June 2021*	Mrs Dorothy Bow, 24 Broombank Terrace
16 June 2021*	Mrs Marguerite Thomson, Inchview Care Home
28 June 2021*	Mr George Smeaton, 15 North Gyle Grove
20 July 2021*	Mrs Mary Boag, Struan Lodge
29 July 2021	Mr Colin McLean, Eildon Nursing Home
29 July 2021*	Mr Michael Gunn, 50 Parkgrove Drive

* Denotes member

A Prayer for Summer Days

God of creation, whose creative power and love are seen in the beauty, the majesty, the wonder of the heavens and the earth, we praise you for each act of creation which tells of your glory and witnesses to your love.

We praise you for summer days; for the long sunlit hours; for the vibrant colours, and heady scents of the summer flowers that assail our senses.

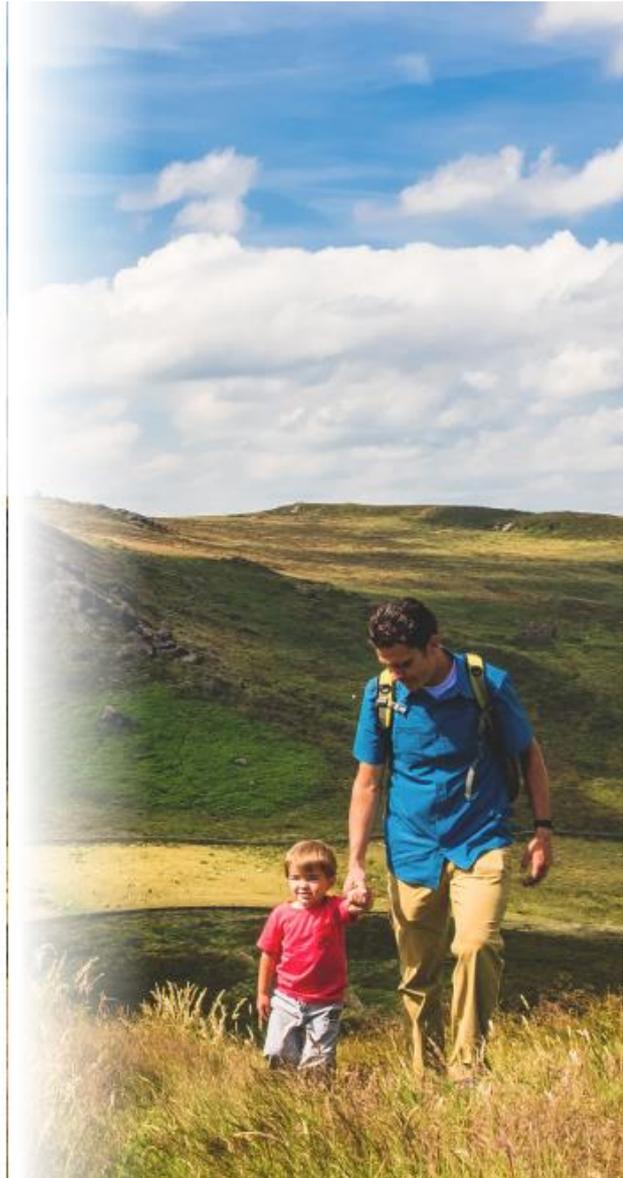
We praise you for days of rest and recreation; time to set aside the normal activities of our lives; to enjoy the beauty of the natural world, to inspire us, to renew us, to refresh us.

We pray that through the beauty and wonder which surrounds us our spirits will be lifted, and our physical and mental health restored after so many months of hardship, anxiety, fear and despair.

Lord Jesus Christ, you came to bring us new life, and sent the Holy Spirit to breathe new life into your people, encouraging and equipping them for the service of your kingdom.

We pray that, as we look to the beauty and wonder of creation for days of rest and recreation, we can turn to you. That through the Holy Spirit's presence we will be given all we need to live full lives, to serve you, to see around us the evidence of your love, and to receive that new life which you have promised.

God – the Creator, the Redeemer, the Enabler, help us to walk more closely with you; willing to follow where you lead; trusting in you for the future; looking to you for the present in the knowledge that in all things, at all times and in all places we are held in your love.



(This prayer appeared in the August issue of Life & Work)

Celebrate Life and Work Sunday this month and support the magazine of our church

LIFE and Work has been informing, uplifting, moving, connecting and occasionally enraging the Church of Scotland for over 140 years. This summer, we are offering churches the chance to celebrate that.

Life and Work Sunday will be marked on August 29 with a celebration and the team are delighted to offer a collection of resources, including a specially-written prayer and short reflection, and suggested readings and hymns for inclusion in worship if you wish. Alongside that, there will be a slideshow and printable exhibition of past covers.

The magazine was founded in 1879 by Archibald Charteris, who had identified that there was a demand for a distinctively Scottish Christian magazine for ministers to circulate in their parishes. He established the template that in many ways remains to this day: news of the Church at local, national and international level, commentary on the

key issues of the day from a Scottish Christian perspective, spiritual guidance and Bible study, interviews and profiles of key figures within the Church.

Later editors would recall that the new publication faced scepticism and even ridicule from elements of the Church establishment but, distributed through the parish churches with a supplement for local news, Life and Work quickly became part of the furniture and - with the exception of a two-month break because of a printer's strike in 1959 - it has published monthly ever since - even, more recently during the Covid-19 global pandemic.

At the Union with the United Free Church in 1929 it became 'Life and Work: the Record of the Church of Scotland', and with the coming of the internet acquired an online presence, www.lifeandwork.org You can now also read the whole magazine in digital form which also helps the Church of Scotland

move to a Net Zero position over the next decade (meaning greenhouse gases are equivalent to those taken away).

Special digital supplements also underpin our service and resources for the Church of Scotland.

But however you choose to read, Life and Work remains an essential news source and platform for discussion for the whole Church.

The Very Rev Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the General Assembly in 2019-20, writes: "I have found over the years that (Life and Work) has enlarged my understanding of the Church I am glad to serve. It is given me material to reflect on that shows the width of our Church. There has been a warmth in it which has meant that I have felt included 'as part of the family'. It has helped me keep in touch. It has made me not only part of a Church of Scotland congregation but part of the Church of Scotland." ■



Join us on August 29 as we celebrate the past, present and future of the Church's magazine. You'll find worship resources at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship and the slideshow and exhibition at www.lifeandwork.org/resources/life-and-work-sunday

The Guild

Whose we are and Whom we serve.
Strategy: Look Forward in Faith

The summer is coming to an end and the Committee have been discussing various ways of opening the Guild at the end of September or possibly early October. We were very fortunate in being able to meet in the Martin Shields Hall, whilst adhering to all the Government covid rules and regulations. It was good to meet face to face, albeit having to social distance.

Prior to recommencing the Guild, we will be required to hold an AGM to approve the Guild Accounts which will encompass the past two years. At that time, we generally appoint new Committee members who will replace the Office Bearers who, having served their 3-year term, wish to step down. We are currently seeking replacements for the posts of President, Treasurer and Project Partner. The Treasurer's position is open to anyone of any age who enjoys working with figures. Perhaps a young trainee would be interested. This position does not have to be held by a member of the Guild. Anyone who may be interested in any of the above positions and wishes more details should contact me by email: imccartney52@gmail.com or call 0131 334 1057.

A suggestion has been made that we include a small survey in the combined edition of the July/August 'OUR NEWS'. This is to gauge how many of our members wish to, or can, return whilst some restrictions may still be in place. At this point in time, nothing is certain, but it would be prudent to consider all eventualities.

Marion is continuing to receive interesting articles for the Guild newsletter, 'OUR NEWS'. It has been a very popular way to keep in touch with everyone during the pandemic. Hearing stories from far and near and getting an insight into the adventurous sides of some of our fellow members. Although very popular, the newsletter was only ever intended to keep us in touch until the Guild can reconvene. That said, perhaps Marion can be persuaded to issue a special edition from time to time.

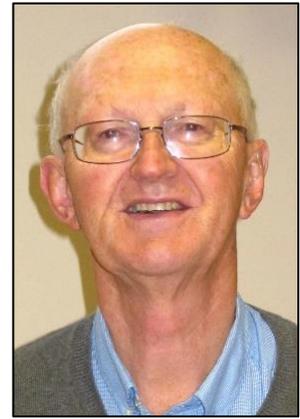
I am pleased to say I have managed to attend Church over the past few weeks and felt completely safe. The Church Officer, Church Secretary and Stewards together with the Risk Assessment Group have done a stellar job in making the Church a clean and safe environment. Many thanks for all your hard work.

For those of us who have not yet managed a trip away and are enjoying the summer right here in Corstorphine, here are a few photographs, taken locally, on our very own doorstep.

Please continue to stay safe and well.

Irene McCartney
Secretary





At St Ninian's Church we support Christian Aid by fundraising within the Church and Parish enabling Christian Aid to help communities in the developing world. COVID-19 severely restricted this fundraising in 2021, and we are still unable to undertake our normal fundraising activities. However, some of the congregation took part in the Kiltwalk and this proved to be a success both in terms of fellowship and funds raised. Christian Aid Week was equally challenging, but we got round the virus by using delivery-only CA envelopes, asking that donations be sent to our JustGiving page, instead of to local shops.

Christian Aid were very grateful for sum raised by St Ninian's even though was it was significantly down on previous years when we did House to House Collections. Many thanks to all who did the Kiltwalk, to those who delivered envelopes within the Parish, and to all of you who donated to Christian Aid Week 2021. Considering we were unable to do our normal activities, this is a good result.

I'm hoping that, if COVID-19 requirements ease later in the year, it may be possible to run other events. Between now and Christmas there will probably be an Emergency Appeal and that will be followed by the Christmas Appeal at our Christmas Eve Service.

Alec Millar *Tel :334 1471* alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk

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Enterprise Committee

Due to the current situation with Covid-19 and the likely requirements, it has been decided that there will not be physical Open Gardens this year. However, with the success of **Virtual Open Gardens** last year with photos being put on the St Ninian's website, this will be repeated this year but with the added incentive of a Competition!

New photos of Gardens will not only be put on the "Photos" section of the website, but also be judged such that what are deemed to be the "best" three or four will be displayed on the Home Page. The photos on the Home Page will be anonymous. Should you wish to be included, please send no more than two photographs, attached to an e-mail, to andrewjjob@outlook.com. Narrative can be included but should you wish your Christian and Surname to be included this will require explicit permission for GDPR requirements; so, Ian Kirkpatrick's garden would require permission, but Ian's garden would not. It would not be advisable to include your postal address.

It has been decided to postpone this year's **Christmas Fair** due to uncertainties about the situation with Covid-19 later this year.

Ian Kirkpatrick
Convener

Fabric Committee

It's been many years since the high-level roof timbers over the sanctuary were inspected partly due to the challenging 30-foot rise to a small ceiling hatch above the balcony. However, it's important to check such areas for decay and the timber specialists recently found some salt contamination and borer infestation which have now been spray treated.

The Church of Scotland Property group prompted me to review our Asbestos Register and Management Record. There are still some items of composite materials in the building and Artex ceilings with asbestos fibres which help form the texture finish. Left undisturbed and sealed with paint all these items offer no threat to the public. Guidelines recommend that these areas are clearly identified so you may see some small yellow warning signs around the Church.

Rooms 2 & 3 are used by Kumon, the child tutoring group. They have painted the walls white and installed brightly coloured children's desks and chairs. We replaced old ceiling lights with new energy efficient strip lights and the rooms now look extremely attractive.

Alister McGlashan
Fabric Convener



Not quite “44 Scotland Street”, but a serialised story nonetheless . . .



Trinidad & Tobago, Part 4:

In Part 1, we learned about the establishment of a Church of Scotland charge in Port of Spain, Trinidad in 1837.

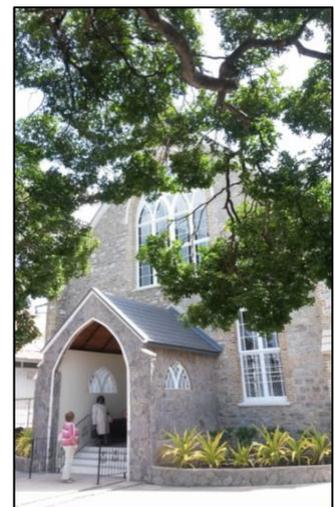
In Part 2, I described how a union with the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago had been proposed.

In Part 3, we heard about the Congregational Meeting to discuss the proposed union.

So now to Part 4, the Final Instalment:

In 1997, the Scottish congregation of Greyfriars had united with the Portuguese congregation of St Ann's but had continued to use both buildings for worship. In addition, there were 2 Mission Stations at Arouca and Sangre Grande which still continue to exist. By 2007, however, the ravages of time had resulted in both church buildings no longer being fit for use, so the congregations had continued to worship in the St Ann's hall. There is no mention of the process, but it appears that it was decided to sell the Greyfriar's church, hall and manse in order to raise funds to renovate the St Ann's church. This work started in 2008 and was completed in 2013.

The Re-dedication of the sanctuary and an Easter Celebration were held on Sunday 20th April 2014, with Rev Garwell Bacchas (Moderator), Rev Denyse Rattansingh-Atwarie (still the current minister) and Rt Rev Lorna Hood, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.



St Ann's after renovation

But, right to the end, there was controversy attached to Greyfriar's. A major row erupted when the developer started to demolish the Greyfriar's building. Contemporary accounts allege that the government, the National Trust of Trinidad and the city council of Port of Spain failed to give the buildings sufficient protection, despite an intention to make them part of a heritage site under preservation laws.

Apparently the demolition was started early on a Sunday morning when many people would have been at church. The local 'Citizens for Conservation' group mobilised, and one lady clambered on to the excavator in an attempt to stop the demolition work, at some danger to her life!

The work was stopped for a few days by the government, but demolition eventually continued and the site is now a car park, having gone from this:



to this (and beyond):



If you would like to read further, there is a fascinating article on the website "Saving these Sacred Walls":

<https://medium.com/@jlckcreative/saving-these-sacred-walls-fca270f1d864>

Thus, a sad ending to what I hope you will have found to be a fascinating story.

Andrew Gibb

St.Ninian's Church, Corstorphine
General Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 31st July, 2021

General Fund - Summary

	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	Variance	
Total Receipts	102,952	106,852	(3,900)	●
Total Ordinary General Expenditure	(92,575)	(109,352)	16,777	●
General Fund - Surplus (Deficit)	<u>10,377</u>	<u>(2,500)</u>	12,877	●
Legacies Received	2,500	10,000	(7,500)	●
TOTAL	<u><u>12,877</u></u>	<u><u>7,500</u></u>	<u><u>5,377</u></u>	●

General Fund - Analysis of Receipts & Payments

Receipts

Congregation Offerings (inc. Gift Aid)	84,678	80,956	3,722	●
One-off Donations	6,298	29	6,269	●
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	600	480	120	●
Contributions from outside organisations for use of halls	4,461	16,345	(11,884)	●
Bank Interest and Investment Income	2,287	3,184	(897)	●
Other Receipts	4,628	5,858	(1,230)	●
	<u>102,952</u>	<u>106,852</u>	<u>(3,900)</u>	●

Expenditure

National Ministry & Mission & wider work	(54,791)	(61,961)	7,170	●
Local Salaries, Social Security & Pension Costs	(17,414)	(19,649)	2,235	●
Office / Administration Costs	(2,783)	(3,362)	579	●
Fabric, Repairs, Renewals & Regular maintenance	(6,080)	(5,377)	(703)	●
Premises running costs (halls & manse)	(8,685)	(14,824)	6,139	●
Other Local Costs	(2,822)	(4,179)	1,357	●
	<u>(92,575)</u>	<u>(109,352)</u>	<u>16,777</u>	●

COMMENT

As at 31st July, there is a surplus on the General Fund of **£10,377**, an increase of **£12,877** on the position for 2020.

Lower Income = Reduction in surplus of £3,900 – mainly due to the following:

Hall Rentals – lower than 2020 by **£11,884** due to halls being closed from January to April 2021 during lockdown

Offerings & Tax Recoveries – higher than 2020 by **£3,722** due to continued support of congregation

One-off donations – higher than 2020 by **£6,269**

Lower Costs = Increase in surplus of £16,777 – mainly due to the following:

Ministry & Mission and Presbytery Dues – lower than 2020 by **£7,170** – both cut to acknowledge the financial impact on congregations of Covid-19

Salary costs – lower than 2020 by **£2,235** due to reduction in salary costs during lockdown from January to April

Hall Running costs - lower than last year by **£6,139** largely due to lower energy costs

Taking account of legacies received the surplus is **£12,877**, an increase of **£5,377** on the position for 2020.