

St Ninian's Church

www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk



Autumn 2026

In the heart of Corstorphine



Dear Friends

I hope you have had a good summer. No matter the weather and no matter your plans, none of us have not been at a loose end. If nothing else, there has been plenty of sport to watch on T.V. What have you been watching: the World Cup, Scotland's rugby team, Wimbledon, the Open, Test Match Cricket? No doubt, I've missed something. Because the World Cup was held in a different time zone, and many matches kicked off in the middle of the night here in the U.K., had you wanted to, on some days this summer, you could have watched live sport constantly for twenty-four hours.

Sport has provided a feast for our summer, both metaphorically and literally. It is a feast because there is so much of it, but in his book *A Brief Theology of Sport*, Father Lincoln Harvey, an Anglican priest based in London, writes that big international sporting events are like religious feasts; like Easter, for example.

A religious feast offers respite from life's routine, drudgery, and toil. It is a celebration that takes what are otherwise common things, and sanctifies them so that they help us transcend the everyday, filling our lives with meaning, significance and purpose, which helps to sustain our lives for the rest of the year.

Something like the World Cup, which brings together so many people from so many countries around the world, celebrates football, but also great individuals and teams, as well as our own nation and every other participating nation each in their individual uniqueness. People honour the differences between Scots, Brazilians, Ghanaians, Koreans, Uzbeks and all the rest. There is intense, heartfelt competition combined with joy and the romance of possibility. As Pope John Paul II once said, "Of all the unimportant things, football is the most important." Father Harvey writes that the victories and defeats of teams are a pageant of life and death, full of contingency, "You could see the horror of war as a fallen, corrupted sporting competition," he says.

The players themselves are particularly involved in the feast. The World Cup is their pilgrimage, the training camp their monastery, their reward for sacrifice is victory (and, in the minds of supporters down the decades, eternal life). For any footballer, the World Cup must feel somewhat heavenly.

Of course, like religious feasts themselves, sport can be corrupted, used by others for the wrong reasons, and used to inspire dangerous feelings and convictions. Competitions like the World Cup or the Olympic Games have always been at the mercy of politics. But, even then, when individual sportsmen and women, teams, nations, and supporters from across the globe come together on a level playing field there is a good chance that our spirits will be lifted by joy and hope, by peace and love so that humanity's differences become something less important than our similarities.

Next time you watch a world-wide sporting competition think of the apostle Paul who wrote in the book of Hebrews, 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.'

Best wishes,

James



In the heart of Corstorphine





Congregation Register

Funerals:

27 th May 2026*	Mrs Joan Gordon, prev. Claycotts
24 th July 2026*	Mrs Janet McDonald, prev. Caroline Terrace
7 th August 2026	Mrs Sue Massie, Featherhall Crescent South
14 th August 2026*	Mr Philip Wheeler, Templeland Road

* Denotes member



GIFT are busy planning their next event.

It will be held on the afternoon of **Saturday 19th September**, in the Church Halls, and will involve cake!

More details to follow.

or more information contact Marion on 07901740192, or the Church Office on 0131 316 4777

In the heart of Corstorphine



The Guild

What do *you* do on a Tuesday afternoon? Some of us gather in the Martin Shields Hall.

"Why?"

We are at the Guild.

"What is the Guild?"

With over 15,000 members in Scotland and beyond it is one of the largest organisations in the Church of Scotland.....and WE are part of it.

"When do you meet?"

We gather and start the meeting at **2.15pm on a Tuesday.**

"Is that every week?"

Yes, from **22 September through to 8th December 2026** and again from **12th January through to 27th April 2027 omitting 23 March in Easter Week.**

"What do you do *every* week?"

Well, we start the meeting with worship, a reading, a prayer and an offering, because of course we are working in God's name, whose we are and whom we serve. As a church organisation would you expect otherwise? Then there may be a speaker – they offer a great variety of topics with time for questions. Any issues are discussed, e.g. how shall we celebrate our anniversary? Then we have time for tea and a chat before we go home at 3.45pm.

"Who organises all this?"

A named person and a treasurer are the only two people required to organise and run a Guild but everyone is free to give support and help wherever they can.

"Why don't you have a committee to do that?"

That puts an onus on several people and the fear of "commit" prevents anyone from offering. Instead our members share the tasks for only two weeks at a time. They may meet and greet folks at the door, set the tables, serve tea, clear the tables, wash the dishes or count the offering. Others give suggestions for topics/speakers, take flowers to some of our nonagenarians.....

"Wait, *did you say* nonagenarians?"

Are they not too old to be in the Guild?"

By February we shall have 18 of whom 12 are able to attend. You would be surprised how active they are in their support, physically and mentally.

"Is there an age limit?"

Not at all! You can come whether you are young or old – you are never the wrong age to be in the Guild. By the way since 1997, when the Woman's Guild became The Guild, the members may be male or female and presently we have a few male – all are welcome. Also you do not need to be a church member – everyone is welcome.

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"Would I have to come every week?" Well, we would enjoy your company every week but we don't keep a roll book to check your attendance! If you were missing for a couple of weeks, we would get in touch to see if you are unwell and we would offer help if it is needed.

how would I join?" You just come along and we would welcome you.

"Do we have to pay?" There is a yearly subscription - £18 this year – but new members come free for their first year. Long ago we felt able to fundraise but alas no longer and so we take an offering of £3 each week. This covers a donation to a Guild project, payment to speakers and the running of the Guild.

Any more questions?ask Valerie or Rona who are in church most Sundays.

Better still....come along any Tuesday and find out what is happening this session. You will be very welcome.

You may not have to wonder what to do on a Tuesday afternoon for the next few months.

Valerie Thomson



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Mission Committee

Bags of Hope

In June the Mission Committee prepared Bags of Hope to be delivered to members who are no longer to attend Church. These brightly coloured bags contained home-made tablet, shortbread and soap along with a small glass vase filled with dried flowers. Thank you to all who helped deliver these bags.

Fresh Start

A big thank you to everyone who gave so generously at our June collection of cleaning materials etc for Fresh Start. The support from St. Ninian's is greatly appreciated by the staff at Ferry Road Drive and once again they pass on their sincere thanks.

At our next collection on **6th September** we will be looking for donations of bedding, curtains, towels etc, information will be in Orders of Service nearer the time.

Congregational Summer Lunch

We look forward to our Congregational Summer Lunch to be held on **23rd August** after morning worship.



Harvest Food Collection

As in previous years we will be collecting food for the Edinburgh Food Project at Broomhouse at our **Harvest Service on 4th October**.

Foods needed can be found in Orders of Service prior to our collection date.

The Mission Committee would like to express their thanks to The Minister, Kirk Session and Congregational members who help and support our work over the year.

Margaret Hunter

Convenor Mission Committee

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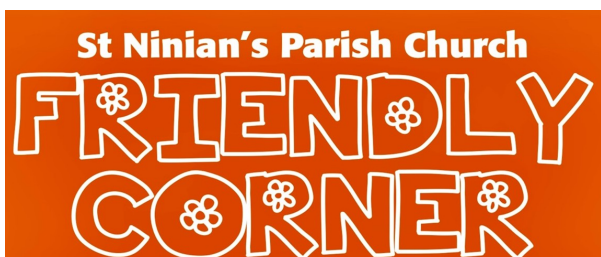
Friendly Corner Picnic



We gathered under the gazebos, under the canopy over the front west corridor door or outside in the front garden and generally enjoyed the classic Scottish Summer weather.

Nearly 60 members of the church and the local community including Manor Grange Care Home, consumed the picnic goods, home baking from volunteers AND delicious ice cream served by Scott from 'The Little Parlour' at South Queensferry. Everyone thought the ice cream was amazing, including the Minister who offered a free tasting service if required. I don't think anyone took him up on his offer.....

Friendly corner is open to all and offer tea/ coffee/ chat and laughter..... everyone is welcome Tuesday or Thursday 11 am – 1pm. Thank you to all who made it a fantastic occasion.



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Sunday School Fundraising



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Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week 2026

Christian Aid Week from 10th to 16th May was another success story for St Ninian's with contributions from all parts of our church

Retiring Collection	£1180.50
Soup & Sweet Lunch	£250.00
Christian Aid Quiz	£85.50
Sunday School Bake & Sale	£341.60
Total raised	£1857.60

Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

Not long after Christian Aid Week, Venezuela was struck by two devastating earthquakes in the La Guaira and Greater Caracas area. Millions of people were affected (4,500 killed, 16,700 injured and 3.5M in need of food aid) with homes, buildings, businesses and social services destroyed.

Christian Aid immediately released emergency funds through their network of trusted local partners active near the epicentre enabling medical treatment, delivery of meals and food baskets, and ensuring people had access to clean drinking water.

St Ninian's held a retiring collection on Sunday 9th July 2026 in aid of the Christian Aid Venezuela Earthquake Appeal (supported by DEC).

The congregation dug deep and raised the tremendous amount of **£1,200**.

Please keep the people of Venezuela, and all who are responding to this crisis in your prayers.

Forth Road Bridge sponsored walk

We are still hoping to do a sponsored walk in September across the road bridge and back although due to my mobility issues this may have to be sidelined.

Alec Millar Christian Aid Coordinator 07738007302 alec.w.millar71@outlook.com



In the heart of Corstorphine



The Lit 2026 Programme

September 7th

Monkeys, Snakes, Birds & Tigers – The Stories of T'ai Chi and Gerda Geddes
Harriet Devlin

October 5th

The Mile Beyond the Wall -The Netherbow to Holyrood
George Laing

November 2nd

Scoresby Sund in East Greenland -The World's Largest Fjord System
Chris Norman

December 7th

Musical Presentation - The Rolling Hills Chorus

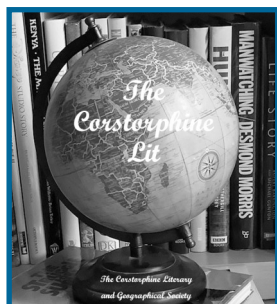
The new Autumn and Winter session of the **Corstorphine Literary and Geographical Society**, (known as The Lit) which holds its meeting in St Ninian's Church Hall, will start on the first Monday in September, and is an interesting programme for the year ahead.

Every meeting is held on the **first Monday of the month**, eight time a year. Each meeting **starts at 7.45pm** and ends by 9pm, and everyone is welcome.

Membership of The Lit costs £20 for a year and covers all eight meetings, or each individual meeting costs £4 to attend. Please bring cash and arrive by 7.30pm if it is your first meeting, so you can be added on to mailing list, to keep you in touch with future events.

The first meeting of the new session will be with Harriet Devlin, a well known Tai Chi instructor, who will talk about Gerda Geddes, an amazing woman who led a fascinating life from an early beginning in Norway, where she joined the resistance against the Nazi occupation, to China and the USA, where she learned Tai Chi, back to the UK where she became the first female Tai Chi instructor in the west, and finally to Scotland, where she continued to practice and teach until her death in her 90's. Harriet Devlin, the speaker, is the daughter of Gerda Geddes.

The final event this year in December will be a Christmas concert by the excellent acapella choir, The Rolling Hills Chorus.



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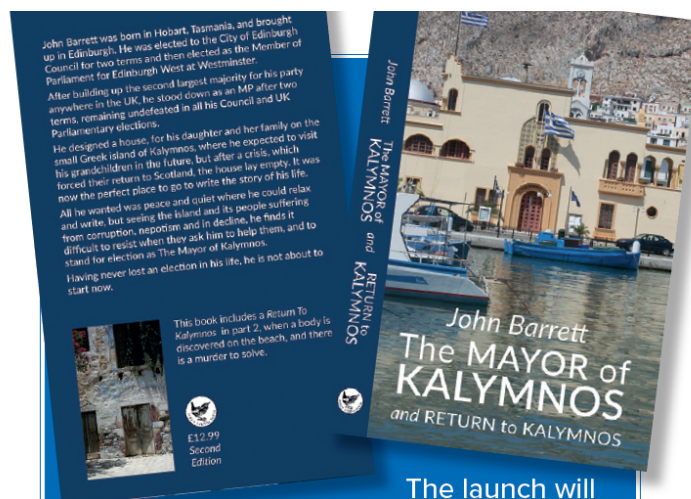
BOOK LAUNCH

The MAYOR OF KALYMNOS *and* RETURN TO KALYMNOS

John Barrett, the former MP for Edinburgh West, published *The Mayor of Kalymnos*, about a retired politician on a Greek island who becomes involved in island politics.

All proceeds from his book sales went to charities. Proceeds from this new book will go to Sunflower Scotland, a Scottish charity supporting families affected by war in Ukraine.

In August a second edition, with a new part 2, called *Return to Kalymnos* will be released and will be available from Amazon and locally at McLean's newsagent in Corstorphine High Street.



The launch will be on 29th August at the Dower House in St. Margaret's park from 2.30pm to 3.30pm where John will talk about his book and how it was developed.

Tickets for the event will cost £5 and will be available from The Corstorphine Trust website:
www.corstorphinetrust.co.uk/concerts

In the heart of Corstorphine



New Wall hangings in the Beith Hall

Friendly Corner meets on a Tuesday and Thursday (11am – 1pm) in the Beith Hall at St Ninian's, Corstorphine. The height of the room means that when Friendly Corner is busy the noise level can be high. The Mission Committee thought that putting up wall hangings may help to baffle the noise level. Amazingly, we have been very fortunate to have received 3 wall hangings donated by Friendly Corner visitors.

'Noah's Arc' was donated by Effie MacSween, who has recently come to St Ninian's and Friendly Corner having moved to the area. Effie is Willma Swanson, our church officer's mother in law. Effie started the wall hanging many years ago, but the hanging still needed a backing to finish it. Norma Gilmore and Brenda Anderson very kindly agreed to complete the back of the wall hanging and 'finished it off' for hanging. The result is amazing and visitors greatly admire the skills involved in this artwork and enjoy recognising the animal characters.



The other two wall hangings have been kindly donated by Mrs Sheila Swanson, mother of Gillian McDonald, retired church officer. The hangings needed a new home and on a timely visit by Gillian to Friendly Corner the donations offered and accepted.

We are very fortunate to have members of the church community who have amazing quilting skills and lots of experience. The skilled work undertaken in all three wall hanging, both from the front and back, are incredible. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the 'crafting' of the wall hangings, the very generous donation, the finishing off and those who put them up.

Come and visit the wall hangings in the Beith Hall or join us for a cuppa at Friendly Corner and see them then.

Time will tell if the wall hangings contribute to noise reduction...

Fiona Coutts

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Fun Facts about the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

- This year it takes place **7th to 31st August**. The largest arts festival in the world, it is made up of thousands of arts and cultural events which together attract the same number of people as a World Cup.
- This year, it will feature a total of **3,649** distinct shows and **53,884** individual performances across **258** venues. It would take months to see everything.
- Each year, the influx of performers, crew members, and attendees roughly doubles the city's population to about a million.
- The Festival began in **1947**, in the wake of WW2, to celebrate European cultural life and to heal divisions. Nowadays, it serves as a launchpad for global stars.
- The Fringe was an accident – born when eight theatre companies, who had not been invited to the Festival, still decided to come along anyway, and stage their performances on the edge of the festival.
- There is not just one summer festival : as well as the International and Fringe Festival, Edinburgh also hosts the Edinburgh Art Festival, Edinburgh International Book Festival, and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



In the heart of Corstorphine



Past Times

The St Ninian's; Church Fair 2001

The 26th of May seems such a long time ago. Now. But, even before that, I was sitting at home, giving Mr Stewart a long list of reasons why I was no way the person he was looking for as Convenor of the Church Fair Committee. Some of my excuses even sounded quite plausible.

So it was with some dismay and confusion as I bid him farewell, that I realised exactly what I had agreed to. One of his many helpful comments stuck in my mind.

"You don't have to be able to do everything, as long as you have a good Committee that can"

So I was now a man with a mission, and thankfully my prayers were soon to be answered. A Committee was formed., and we set about organising the single biggest fundraising event in the Church calendar. Quite a daunting task you might think, and you'd be right. The list of tasks seemed endless, and we wondered how on earth we would manage. The answer sound became very obvious indeed, there was no way we could manage this on our own. We did not have to, because from out of the woodwork came offers of help and advice from more members of the congregation that I can care to mention. The closer we got to deadlines, the more the entire church seemed to go into "Fair Mode", it was truly remarkable.

At last the big day arrived, the sun shone, the hoped for crowds turned up, the teams of volunteers did a marvellous job, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Later that evening after a good meal and having been entertained by Quern, I thought to myself, how did we do that? But if you have read this or were there, you will know the answer.

My thanks to Muriel, Sandra, Jim and Everyone who helped.

O yes we did raise a lot of money.

Adrian Ovens

Thanks to Jim Hunter for sourcing



In the heart of Corstorphine



Phil Wheeler



9th March 1943 – 28th July 2026

Phil was brought up in Thetford, Norfolk, but he moved to Scotland when he was 18 to go to St. Andrew's University. Phil loved Scotland; he supported Scotland (even if he also never stopped following Norwich City); he made his home here in Edinburgh with Maggie and his two children, Alison and Andy; he built a career with the Royal Bank of Scotland; he joined the St. Ninian's and the Church of Scotland in 1974 when he and Maggie moved to Clerwood.

Phil was community-spirited and involved with many clubs, groups and organisations. He was always keen to take responsibility and play a role. At St. Ninian's he was a Deacon and then an elder, regularly attending Kirk Session meetings and a diligently visiting his districts. He enjoyed reading at services and, living next door to the minister, was always ready to fill-in at short notice.

Phil was well known and well-liked in Corstorphine. He served on the Corstorphine Trust and was elected to Edinburgh Council in 2001, serving twelve years and playing a role in a number of initiatives including the Edinburgh Trams.

When he wasn't working or involving himself locally, Phil enjoyed hill walking (he was proud he managed to climb Scheihallion soon after a quadruple heart bypass). In later years there was a holiday adventure to Canada and Alaska, and then grandchildren came along, Becky and Freya, whom he loved.

Phil wasn't just a gentle man and a gentleman, a selfless, loyal and committed servant of the communities he was part of, he was also light-hearted, humorous and kind. He loved to chat. He will be very much missed not only by his family who loved him, but by his many friends in Corstorphine and St. Ninian's.

In the heart of Corstorphine



	3				2			6
7	9			8		2		
8								
		5					2	
		8	2		3	9		
	6					7		
								9
		1		4			6	8
6			1				5	

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...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

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Crossword

Across

8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)

9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)

10 Single (1 Corinthians 7:27) (9)

11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)

13 Treachery (2 Kings 11:14) (7)

16 Of India (anag.) (2,3,2)

19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the —' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)

22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in predestination (9)

24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to — the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)

25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

Down

1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)

2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)

3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings 12:11) (8)

4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)

5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)

6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)

7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)

12 Run (anag.) (3)

14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)

15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we — our lips' (Psalm 12:4) (3)

16 Earnings (1 Corinthians 16:2) (6)

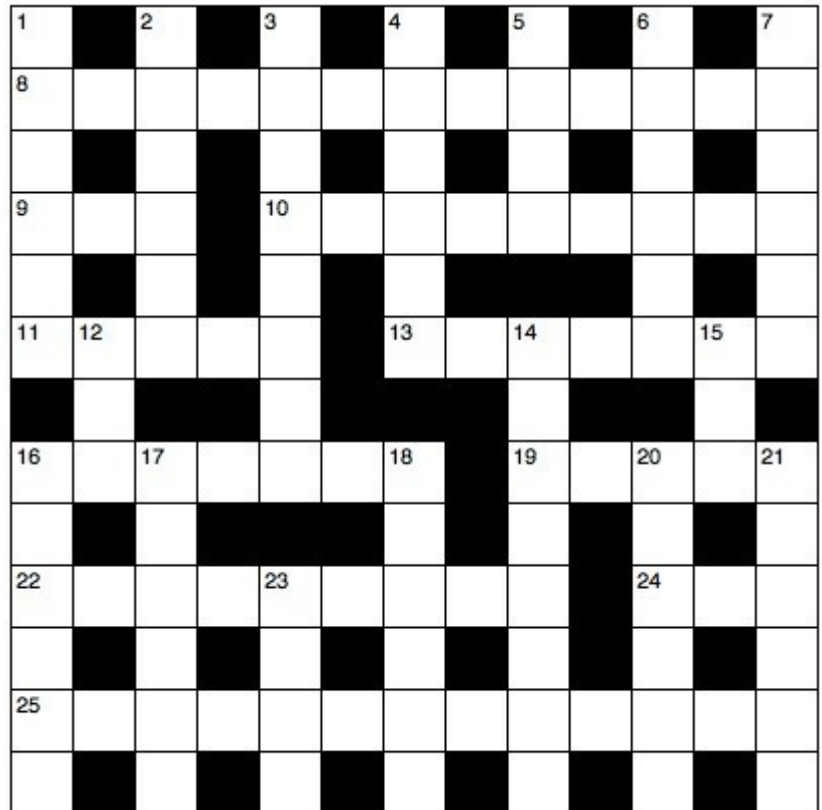
17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that — you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)

18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1) (6)

20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state (Daniel 11:4) (6)

21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women, — to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)

23 This month (abbrev.) (4)



In the heart of Corstorphine



Church Notices (that don't quite work)

- * Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the minister's sermons.
- * Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- * Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.
- * The organist invites any members of the congregation who enjoy sinning to volunteer for the choir.
- * Remember in prayer the many who are sick both of our church and the community.

Puzzle Answers



2	5	4	9	3	1	7	8	6
8	6	3	7	4	5	1	2	9
9	7	1	6	2	8	3	5	4
3	8	7	1	5	4	9	6	2
5	4	9	3	6	2	8	7	1
1	2	6	8	7	9	5	4	3
7	3	5	4	9	6	2	1	8
4	1	2	6	8	7	9	5	3
6	9	8	2	1	7	4	3	5

In the heart of Corstorphine



Parish People : Andrew Broom

Andrew Broom and his wife, Katherine, joined St Ninian's in 1970 shortly after coming to live in Corstorphine where they have lived in the same iconic Corstorphine bungalow for nearly 60 years. He retired from Elder's duties in 2019. Now unable to attend Church Services he and Katherine still faithfully watch the St Ninian's Services on YouTube transmitted live every Sunday, and which they very much appreciate. They have two children and five grandchildren. Andrew, now aged 93, is one of our senior Elders, having been inducted to the Kirk Session in 1971.

In what ways have you been involved in St Ninian's?

"As Elder I paid quarterly visits to the folk in my Elder's district for many years until I retired from being a visiting Elder in 2019. For 10 years from 1972 I served as a Sunday School teacher in the Junior Department in the days when the number of Sunday School pupils neared 400 every week. In addition to regularly attending Kirk Session and Deacons' Court meetings, I served as Presbytery Elder for 4 years, and also (under Andrew Gibb) as Deputy Session Clerk for 4 years. I organised and allocated Communion Duties for many years from 1998, and edited the Church Quarterly from 2002 to 2012; also set up the St Ninian's Memorabilia to house ephemera, especially photographs, recording every aspect of the Congregation's activities. These are now the responsibility of the Session Clerk team. I have taken a keen interest in the Congregation's history. In addition to taking many photographic slides of our buildings, I have written articles for the Quarterly and given talks on the subject; and in 2013 compiled the War Memorial directory, a copy of which is readily accessible from the small display cabinet on the wall below the Memorial. Clearly, St Ninian's has played a central role in my life ever since Katherine and I came to Corstorphine in 1969. Katherine also has played an active role in a variety of Congregational activities. We have both been very happy here."

Have you any special memories of the Church?

"An outstanding memory is of having conducted an Evening Service, in common with a number of my Session colleagues, at a time when our then new Minister, the Rev Alex Stuart, was under heavy pressure from being a temporary Minister in (Wardie?) while a new Minister there was being sought, in addition to his normal duties in St Ninian's."

Do you have a favourite Hymn?

"The Saviour died but rose again' (CH4, no 425, formerly Paraphrase 48)."

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

"At Mother's knee I was taught to treat other people as I would like them to treat me: essentially what Jesus taught in 'Love thy neighbour as thyself' (Mark 12, v31)."



Something People don't know about me

"As a child I dearly wanted to drive a bus. At age 21, I qualified as a single-deck bus driver, and for three wonderful weeks in the summer of 1955 drove the service bus between Brodick and Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran, sadly cut short by being called up late in July for 2 years' National Service in the Army."

In the heart of Corstorphine



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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		

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