

St Ninian's Church

www.corstorphinstninians.org.uk



Quarterly Magazine Spring 2026

In the heart of Corstorphine



Dear Friends

Now, there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus... (John 3: 1)

So, Jesus came to a town in Samaria... (John 4: 1)

As he went along, Jesus saw a man blind from birth... (John 9: 1)

Now a man named Lazarus was sick... (John 11: 1)

How do you begin a great story? "Once upon a time..." perhaps. Or there is Leo Tolstoy's great opening to his novel Anna Karenina, "All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.... Last year, many people celebrated the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth; "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife..." What is your favourite story, and how does it begin?

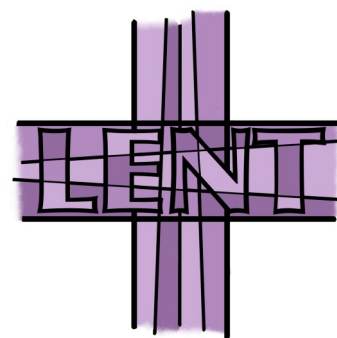
Some of mine are to be found in the Bible (I'm a minister after all!), and over the coming weeks, we will read a few of them on Sunday mornings. In the Lectionary (the 3-year cycle of Bible readings that guides our worship every Sunday), this is the year when, during Lent, we read the four great, and relatively long, stories that are found in the Gospel of John (and in no other Gospel). They are, the story of Nicodemus' nighttime visit to Jesus; the story of Jesus' encounter with a young woman at a well; the story of Jesus healing a blind man; and the story of Jesus raising Lazarus. These four stories are very different than the usual parables we find in the other Gospels. They have plot and drama, humour and intrigue. One even contains sexual innuendo! Each story has a message for their readers about who Jesus is, about who we might become, about what power is, and about what life is. But, aside from the messages they contain, they are of themselves terrific stories, and I look forward to hearing them read in church, and then talking about them.

Of course, during Lent we also retell the story of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, his Passion, and his crucifixion. Then, on Easter Sunday, we retell the story of his resurrection. The four great stories from the Gospel of John will be enfolded within these monumental and life-transforming dramas. To help us better appreciate all of this, over the course of Lent there will be a Bible Study about the Gospel of John, *Spiritual Essentials for Real Life* by Paula Gooder, a biblical scholar (Monday evenings in St. Ninian's, and Wednesdays during the day in St. Anne's).

I pray that, over the coming weeks, how you understand the story of your life will feel broadened by these biblical stories, and that they will help deepen your faith. Why not read them now; the opening lines of each one are above, and so prepare yourself for the drama that is to come.

Best wishes,

James



In the heart of Corstorphine



Holy Week 2026

Monday 30th March
Worship for Holy Week
6:30pm, St. Anne's

Tuesday 31st March
Worship for Holy Week
6:30pm, St. Ninian's

Wednesday 1st April
Worship for Holy Week
6:30pm, St. Anne's

Thursday 2nd April
Maundy Thursday Worship
7:00pm, St. Ninian's

Friday 3rd April
Corstorphine Churches Good Friday Service
7:00pm, St. Andrew's, Clermiston
(crosses leave Craigsbank Church at 6:30pm)

St. Ninian's Parish Church
144 St. John's Road
SCO 016557

Easter Sunday Sunday 5th April

Corstorphine Hill, 8:00am

(meet at 7:50am, top of Cairnmuir Road
or 7:30am in St. Ninian's car park)

Egg rolling on the hill,
and bacon rolls at the church.

St. Ninian's, 10:30am

Families very welcome,
The service will be followed by a separate
short act of communion.

St. Ninian's Parish Church
144 St. John's Road
SCO 016557



Congregation Register

30th December 2025*

7th January 2026*

9th January 2026*

29th January 2026*

31st January 2026*

Funerals:

Mrs Helen Small, West Craigs Crescent

Mrs Helen Kinghorn, Dechmont Road

Mrs Isabella Walker, Clerwood Grove

Mr Alister McGlashan, Clerwood Park

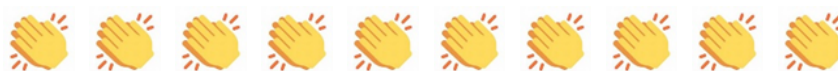
Mrs Chrissie McWilliam, Hillview Road

* Denotes member

In the heart of Corstorphine



Christian Aid Fundraising 2025



In 2025, Funds raised for Christian Aid came from a variety of events including the Myanmar Earthquake Appeal, Christian Aid Week, Forth Road Bridge Walk, Harvest of Hope and the Christmas Eve Appeal.

The Forth Bridge was one of 3 bridges across which Christian Aid organised sponsored walks (others being the Erskine and Tay Road Bridges) which were all cancelled because of COVID-19 in 2020.

However, in April 2025, I was delighted that we were able to restart the Forth Road Bridge Walk and we were joined by St Anne's Corstorphine, Derek and Fiona Munn and Lauren Petherbridge from Christian Aid. 39 people walked, ages ranging from 10 to 75+ and a fun time was had by all. Crossing the Forth Road Bridge was an amazing experience with the Rail Bridge on one side, the new Queensferry Crossing on the other side and the River Forth below.

Myanmar Earthquake Appeal	£1,025.65
Christian Aid Week 2025	£4,224.40
Harvest of Hope	£1,500.00
Christmas Eve Appeal 2025	£964.74

The total amount raised for Christian Aid in 2025 was £7714.79

Events within Christian Aid Week were the Soup & Sweet Lunch, cakes baked and sold by the Sunday School, the Christian Aid Quiz, and Retiring Collections. The Forth Bridge Walk as part of Christian Aid Week raised £2,324.60.

2026 Fundraising Events will include:

Christian Aid Week	11- 15 May
Soup and Sweet Lunch	11 May
Congregational Walk/ Bridge Crossing	Autumn 2026
Christmas Eve Retiring Collection	24 December
Supporting Emergency Appeals	As they arise

Thank you to everyone who fundraised, helped, and contributed to the amount raised and for your continuing support.

Alec Millar Christian Aid Coordinator Tel 0773 800 7302 alec.w.millar71@outlook.com



In the heart of Corstorphine



Care Van

The Care Van is an essential source of support for those who are homeless or vulnerable in the City of Edinburgh. Relying on volunteers, it goes out almost every day of the year providing soup, food, hot drinks, blankets and clothes, friendship, encouragement and support to up to 60 people a night.

Can you help us deliver our very valuable service. We are currently seeking new volunteers in the following areas

- ◆ soup makers (you would make soup 4 times a year) drop soup off at church around 7.30pm.
- ◆ Helping inside the Care Van (4/5 times a year) servicing the food/drinks and food bags with 2 other volunteers.
- ◆ Driving the Care Van up to age 70 (ask Simon or Scott for more information))
- ◆ All donations of clothes/ shoes/ boots/ blankets/ sleeping bags/ money donations always appreciated.

If you think you can help, please get in touch for an informal chat

Thanks
Cheryl Lawrence
Care Van Co-ordinator
07958645177
Cheryls-crafts@hotmail.com



In the heart of Corstorphine



Mission Committee

Fresh Start

The Mission Committee wish to express their thanks for the goods received at our December collection. Our next collection will be on Communion Sunday 1st March when we will be looking for pots and pans etc. A list of goods will be in Orders of Service in February.

Congregational Christmas Card

We would like to thank everyone who helped deliver the Congregational Christmas Cards. We are very grateful for the help given to allow us to deliver over 2000 cards to the homes within the Parish.

Bags of Hope

Once again in December we have delivered fifty Bags of Hope to members who are no longer able to attend Church. A big thank you to Brenda Anderson and Norma Gilmore for their knitting of Angels, those knitted by Brenda were included in the bags and those by Norma adorned the front gate and walls with an invitation to our candlelight Christmas Service. The bags also contained a bookmark, homemade tablet and shortbread.

Congregational Lunch

We held our Annual Congregational lunch on Sunday 18th January, the wonderful sum of £600 was raised. The decision of where the money is to go has still to be decided.

Summer Lunch

Note for your diary. We hope to hold a Summer lunch on Sunday 23 August immediately after morning worship. Watch out for further details. The Mission Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who help support the work of the committee

Margaret Hunter

Convenor

Coffee Morning

**St Columba's
Hospice Care**



**Saturday 7th March
10 am till noon.
£3 for adults, £1 for children.**

Home Baking, Hampers, Books, Tombola, Knitting, Flowers and Plants, Hospice Stall and of course teas and coffees.

In the heart of Corstorphine



Flower Fund

Each Sunday within St Ninian's I am sure you will notice there are flowers on the Communion table and also at the front porch to welcome everyone. These flowers don't just get there by magic. We have 4 ladies who buy and arrange them on Friday mornings to make members feel welcome and then after the service they go to people who are celebrating a special occasions or just need cheering up.



If anyone would like to donate towards the ever increasing cost of flowers, please get in touch with myself or Anne Kirkpatrick our organist. Most Sunday's you will find me in the choir or having Coffee after the service in the Martin Shields Hall.

Thank You Norma Gilmore

07816 789750

Lift Shares

Would you – or someone you know – welcome a lift to church on a Sunday morning, either on a regular or occasional basis?

Do you drive to the church, and could you sometimes pick someone up along the way?

We don't want anyone to be prevented from coming to the morning service through a lack of transport, but the way we're organising this now is a bit different from previous (pre-Covid) arrangements.

Rather than maintain a rota of willing drivers who can be allocated across a standing passenger list, we are now looking to build a more personalised response based on where people live, those they already know, and existing routes to church. We will work with whoever would like a lift to identify who might be able to offer a place in their car and support them in working out an arrangement that works for everyone.

In adopting this model, we are building on and learning from established informal arrangements that already work well.

If you'd like to discuss a personal lift-share plan, please get in touch with Sarah Aitken, Fiona Coutts, or your own elder if that's easiest in the first instance.

In the heart of Corstorphine



Stamps :Wanted



Many thanks to everyone who has handed in their used stamps to help Sjogren's UK with their fundraising. You can put any used stamps into the bag pinned to the Guild Noticeboard in the Crush Hall or into the bag pinned on the noticeboard near the Church main entrance.

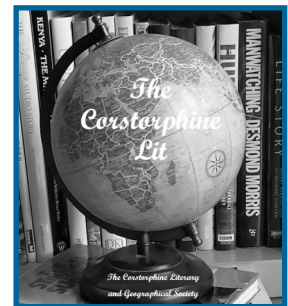
Sjogren's (pronounced show-grins) Disease is an autoimmune, rheumatic disease that can occur on its own or in association with another rheumatic disease. It mainly affects women in their 40's and above, however up to 10% of cases occur in men, and it can also be seen in younger people.

Sjogren's UK aims and objectives are; to raise awareness of Sjogren's disease, educate people about the condition and support research into its causes and treatment.

Their activities include; providing information and support to those affected by the condition, distributing a variety of literature including a quarterly magazine, operating a national members help-line, supporting regional groups throughout the UK, linking members through a "make a friend" scheme, holding an Annual Conference for medical professionals and members with talks from experts in Sjogren's, and providing an informative website.

There are information leaflets by the collection bags, please help yourself. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Marion Campbell on 07901740192, or at mc92campbell@gmail.com

Thank you for your support
Marion Campbell



The Corstorphine Lit

The Corstorphine Lit has existed for over 100 years and used to meet weekly in the Corstorphine Public Hall in Kirk Loan, which burned down many years ago. It now meets monthly in St. Ninian's Church, Burns Hall, on the first Monday of the month, eight times a year.

- The first talk this year was on 2nd February and was a fascinating presentation by Bill Simpson about the **RAF Edinburgh 603 Squadron**, which included Spitfires tackling the German Airforce over the Firth of Forth.
- The next talk will be on Monday 2nd March when **George Anderson from the Beechgrove Garden** will talk about his Horticultural Journey.
- The April 6th presentation will be about **German Spies in WWII** and the May 4th talk will be about the **Fisherrow Fishwives**.

Every meeting starts at 7.45pm and is over by 9pm. It helps if first time visitors could arrive by 7.30pm. Membership of The Lit costs £20 for a full year, covering 8 meetings, or you can come along for individual meetings and pay £4 on the door. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there.

John Barrett

In the heart of Corstorphine



Primary Sunday School

We enjoyed a very busy last quarter with practices for the Nativity, our Advent window crafts and our party. It was our Christmas Party on the Saturday 13th of December when we had fun with party games, food and of course a visit from Santa. The children brought friends with them, and we had 13 children, so it was a good number, and fun was had by all. Penny Gordon came along and supported us with an extra pair of hands which was much appreciated.

In the run-up to Christmas the Roots resources had "Advent Window Crafts" which we had fun with and were displayed in the hall, snowflakes where we transformed yesterday's news into something beautiful, concertina signs to show the way and balloons full of joy. One of the weeks we also created Junk Instruments, turning something 'useless' into something creative, this was after reading Isaiah 2:4 'God will turn their weapons of destruction into farming tools', to the group, it was fascinating seeing what the children managed to create.

For the family service, with help from Aidan and Rebekah Waugh, we staged "God with Us" a Nativity play from Tearfund. The children all did really well with their lines, and some had to play multiple roles which all they all managed, the carols in between helped allow us time for the costume changes.

We look forward to the activities and lessons that Roots have for this coming term in the run up to Easter.

Barbara Mackie



In the heart of Corstorphine



Past Times in St Ninian's

From Spring 2001

"St Ninian's Enterprise Committee is running an Auction event and coffee morning on 24th March 2001. It will be a fun family occasion with something to bid for whatever your age group.

"After a slow initial response we are delighted by the imagination shown and the generosity promised. We thank you for your offer of produce and services . . . We will be publishing a catalogue listing the full range of what's on offer. Then on the day itself you put your name and your bid against the "items" you want on the sheets provided at the auction tables. Have a cup of coffee and then keep checking the bid sheets to see if you have been successful.

" Certificates will be issued for the services such as grass cutting and hedge clipping. You can then arrange with the donor of the promise when it will be carried out.

"The event is open to everyone in the community and beyond. The entrance fee will be £1 and tea and coffee will be served. All the money raised will be put towards the redecoration of St Ninian's Church sanctuary. To whet your appetite, here are just some of the goodies to bid for at this unique fundraiser!

*1 Hour Spanish lesson *Preparation of a legal will for a person or couple *Lesson on how to use the Internet *Taking a bulky item to the Council Tip *2 hr Dinghy sailing lesson *Try playing the French Horn *6 sides of Smoked Salmon *2 Theatre Tickets

*6 Jars Home-made Marmalade *Freshly Home-baked Bread *A Basket Flower Arrangement *6 Pots of Playdough * A Hand-knitted Baby's Jacket.

"There's more and with your help we can keep adding to the range. Above all it will be an interesting day with opportunities to try out new activities and bid for that tempting piece of produce or that job that just needs done!

"Contact Irene Hamilton or Ian Kirkpatrick."



In the heart of Corstorphine





In 1976 we held an “Auction of Promises”, it was a good, effective, and original fund-raiser at the time where a very interesting and creative range of promises were available.

Andrew Broom has fond memories of buying a “2-hour Dinghy sailing” from Stewart Goudie which turned out to be at South Queensferry sailing back and forward under the bridges.

Do you have any fun memories from either of these Auction Events? We would love to hear from you in future issues.

LENT BIBLE STUDY



Lent Wise
Spiritual Essentials
for Real Life

St. Ninian's, 7:30pm

Tuesday 24th February &
Mondays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd March

St. Anne's, 10:30am

Wednesdays 25th February
& 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE EVENING

17th February 2026
from 7:00pm



To mark the start of the Season of Lent come and enjoy food, fellowship, and fun for all ages.

ST. NINIAN'S PARISH CHURCH
Martin Shields' Hall

In the heart of Corstorphine



Alister McGlashan



Sadly, in January, St. Ninian's lost by death Alister McGlashan. Alister was not only a much loved and faithful member of the congregation, and a dutiful elder of its Kirk Session, but he was also St. Ninian's diligent and hard-working fabric convenor. His death will come as a shock and a heartache to many people.

Alister brought much expertise to the role of fabric convenor, having been an architect by profession. He loved his job, and was much admired by his family as an artist to which he brought a characteristic sense of humour and wit, enjoyed particularly by his grandchildren whom he loved. They brought out the playful side of his character as he slipped effortlessly into the role of grandfather. Alister was much loved also by Vera, his wife, and Stuart and Kenny his sons, for whom he felt a great sense of responsibility. His values and faith were built on the Ten Commandments and a Gospel commitment to forgiveness. Elders and deacons will recognise his playful side from his reports to the Deacons' Court, and latterly to the Kirk Session, which always began with a joke of some kind. His district will recognise his dutifulness and kindness. The fabric committee will recognise his sense of duty and diligence. We all recognised Alister as a constant friend and colleague.

Alister's funeral was held on the 29th of January in the church he loved where his life was remembered and honoured.

In the heart of Corstorphine



Crossword Time

1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)

4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (4)

7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)

8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)

9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)

13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)

16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)

17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)

19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)

24 Simon had (anag.) (8)

25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)

26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)

27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)

2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)

3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)

4 Belief (5)

5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)

6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)

10 A seer (anag.) (5)

11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)

12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)

13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)

14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of

16 Across, — and Dolls (4)

15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)

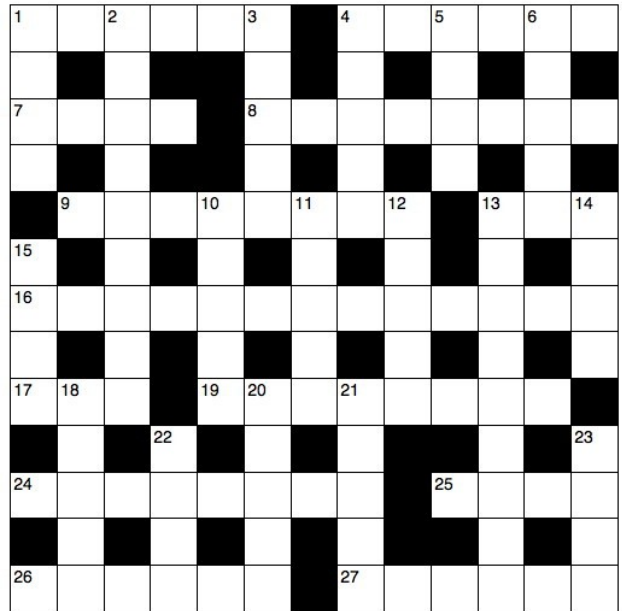
18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)

20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)

21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)

22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)

23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)



In the heart of Corstorphine



The Sundial

I have encountered many impressive sundials over the years, including the one we constructed in their back garden to celebrate my sister's Silver Wedding several years ago, where you stand in the middle of a circle of stones as the gnomon, to cast the shadow.

However, I doubt if anything will ever match last Summer's sundial experience, when we were on a family holiday in Italy, primarily to support my sister's (different sister!) participation in the World Dragon Boat Championships in Ravenna, where her team were representing Australia in The Seniors event.

As well as Ravenna on the Adriatic coast, which was hosting the dragon boat racing, we visited Bologna, home to Europe's oldest university, a maze of narrow streets, covered arcades, or porticoes (38km of them in the historic centre), its famous two leaning towers (Torre Asinelli and Torre Garisenda) and on the culinary front, home to tortellini and of course Bolognese sauce.

The Piazza Maggiore is the grand square at the heart of the city, surrounded by buildings like the Basilica di San Petronio, which is one of the largest churches in Europe (originally intended to be larger than St Peter's Basilica in The Vatican!) and it's here we find our unexpected and impressive 'sun dial'.

It's positioned on the floor of the huge nave and is the world's longest indoor sundial, measuring approximately 220 feet. It uses a small hole in the ceiling of the left aisle, almost 90 feet high, to project the sun onto the floor, precisely marking solar noon, solstices and equinoxes. The line is inlaid into the floor of the left aisle and features markings indicating the sun's position throughout the months and zodiac constellations. The sun shines onto the floor of the basilica about an hour before solar noon and it's a fascinating experience to join the other tourists to watch the small circle of sunlight slowly traverse the floor of the nave before crossing the meridian line precisely at solar noon (1.07pm on the day we were there in September!) The position of the light where it crosses the line marks the precise date and season.

At the time of its construction in 1655 the sundial was the most precise astronomical instrument globally. The designer Giovanni Domenico Cassini used it to make accurate measurements of the sun's motion and precisely determine the timing of equinoxes and solstices. The measurements gathered from the sundial provided the first experimental confirmation of Kepler's laws of planetary motion and helped prove that the Earth revolves around the Sun. It was also instrumental in identifying anomalies in the Julian calendar, which led to the creation of the leap year system used today.

You can experience Cassini's sundial for yourself by going onto YouTube and typing 'Sundial in Basilica di San Petronio Bologna' and if you are curious about dragon boat racing you can also find that on YouTube!



Derek McGillivray

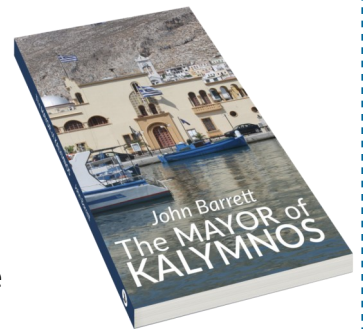
In the heart of Corstorphine





The Mayor of Kalymnos

It is a work of fiction written by the former local MP John Barrett. The book raises money to support families affected by war in Ukraine. It is available at McLean's Newsagent in Corstorphine High Street, or directly from the author, and 100% of sales from there go to charity. It is also available in paperback, hardback and as an e-book from Amazon.



Full details about the book and a synopsis are available at www.themayorofkalymnos.com

In the heart of Corstorphine



Where to celebrate the Semi Quincentennial

In 2008 the Olympic host Nation was China.

The Starting Ceremony for the Beijing Olympics was at 8 pm on 8 August 2008. This was because 8 was considered to be the lucky number. They started the ceremony at 8 on 8.8.8. This brought huge plaudits from journalists across the world. It was seen as a sign that the rest of the games would be equally well organised.

This year the largest sporting event will be the football world cup. It will attract a huge global audience. The host nation is the United States but the most significant event, for the host nation, will not take place at the time of the starting ceremony or the final. The most important date for the United States will be at the same time as the last match of the round of 32 and the first two matches of the round of 16. The eyes of most of the world will probably be on these three matches and not anything else taking place.

Two hundred and fifty years, before the last match in the round of 32 is set to be played, there was a meeting of a number of delegates from thirteen colonies. There had already been rebellion against British rule the year before but by 1776 things started to heat up. Delegates were in Philadelphia to attend the Second Continental Congress. They signed a document called the 'Declaration of Independence'. Those who signed the document became known as the 'founding fathers'. The date was, of course, 4th July. Although that date is referred to as 'independence day' it took several years of fighting before the founding fathers actually gained independence.

4th July is a public holiday in the US. Every year they celebrate it with parades, picnics, barbecues, concerts, baseball games and the singing of patriotic songs. Because it is the 250th there will be a number of special events to mark the occasion.

Fifty years ago, the US celebrated the bicentennial. That word is easy to translate. It means two centuries. Fifty years later the US is celebrating the halfway mark towards five hundred years. Events are being planned by the United States Semi quincentennial Commission.

There are plans to hold an Indy Car Grand Prix motor race in the streets of Washington. This will involve cars whizzing past the Whitehouse and the Lincoln Memorial but that will only be in August.

Probably the most spectacular event will be on the evening of third of July. They are planning to hold a gigantic firework display on Mount Rushmore. There are practical difficulties for any of us getting there. With the world cup taking place planes are likely to be full of supporters travelling across the US. Hotels are also busy. The 4th July holiday period usually has a number of US citizens travelling everywhere.

In the heart of Corstorphine



For those who do not want to make the trip to North Dakota it is always possible to mark the occasion by visiting the statue of one of the Presidents whose face is on Mount Rushmore.

Not many Edinburgh residents know that there is a statue of Abraham Lincoln situated in their home town. It was erected in the Old Calton Cemetery in 1893 . The statue is a memorial to Scots who died fighting for the Union Side in the American Civil War. It is not far from the Burns Monument.

The first statue of Lincoln to be erected outside the US was in our home town. Most of the funding came from the US: Andrew Carnegie ; Cornelius Vanderbilt, J Pierpoint Morgan, William Rockefeller and William Waldorf Aster were some of the contributors.

However, despite having no Scottish connections Abe was a major fan of Robert Burns. A lot of the songs circulating the Midwest at that time would be Burns songs and books of his poems were widely available.

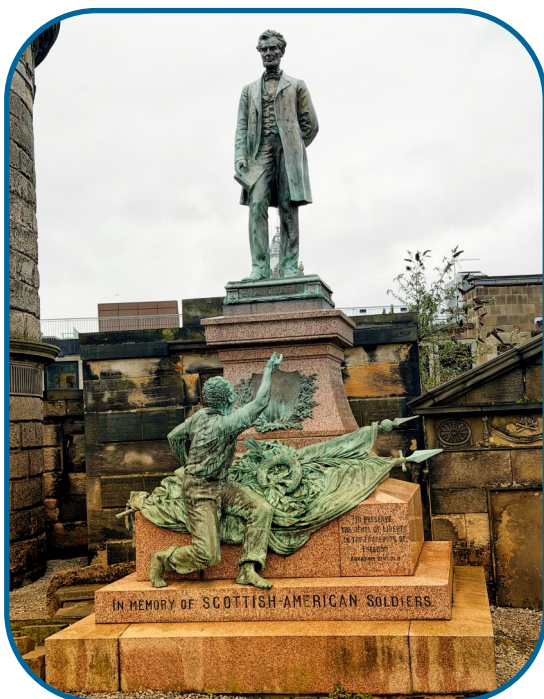
He kept a copy of his poems on the bedside table of the Whitehouse.

It is said that Lincoln was so obsessed with Burns that he developed a Scottish accent , with the help of friends, to assist with reciting Burns poems.

Lincoln planned to visit Scotland after he stopped being President. However, Mary, his widow, paid a visit after his death. His opponent in the Civil War , Jefferson Davies was also a big fan of Burns and was able to make two trips to Scotland after the war.

It follows that if you want to celebrate the Semi quinentennial and are on a low budget the cheapest route to a Lincoln Memorial doesn't involve a flight to Washinton DC. The cheaper alternative is a 26 Bus ride to Waterloo Place.

Graeme Henderson



In the heart of Corstorphine



Community

Once again on the last weekend of February the streets of Corstorphine will be transformed into a magical outdoor illuminated gallery for all to enjoy.

Corstorphine Window Wanderland is a free event and everyone is invited to take part – residents, schools, community groups and businesses. The whole community can get involved with decorating windows or wandering, or both!

Fancy joining in?

If you are going to make a window display you just need to register your window so that people know you are part of the trail and will come to see your display.

Windows will be lit up between 6pm and 9pm on the evenings of Saturday 28th February, Sunday 1st March & Monday 2nd March 2026.

Your display could be as simple as a cut-out shape, some colourful tissue paper, fairy-lights or a Lego scene. Think about what you could recycle to create your design rather than buying new. Cardboard from cereal boxes, wrapping paper, packaging and tissue paper from gifts can all be repurposed to good effect.

St Ninian's is planning to take part this year watch out for photos in the next issue.



In the heart of Corstorphine





A Sunday to remember

Sunday 16th November we arrived for the morning service to learn that the Minister was unwell and unable to be there. However, admirably, he had prepared the service and his sermon which were delivered by Fiona, Scott and Sarah. Thanks to them and we wished James well.

We knew that the following Sunday the service was to be in the Burns Hall because the boiler was to be replaced w/b 17th. BUT, more news awaited us on the 16th – the heating had broken down that very morning! Now, we had been enjoying a very warm autumn but the day before the temperatures had 'plummeted'. Elders directed us to the centre aisle and to keep wrapped up. So we all huddled together for warmth. 3 ladies managed to procure a blanket from somewhere! The temperature was indeed chilly but the atmosphere and camaraderie was warm.

But there was a salutary message, was there not? This is what some folk, who can't afford heating, would experience all the time. And what about homeless people? And I looked back and wondered how we coped with no central heating, no carpets, harsh winters in the old days! And here's another thought – who'll be the most resilient when the gas and oil run out?

Ah weel, the Meenister kent richt fine fit Sunday tae nae be weel!!!!



In the heart of Corstorphine



Hymns for Professionals

Standing on the promises

Politicians

Let all mortal flesh keep silent

Librarians

Crown him with many Crowns

Dentist

There is a green hill far away

Golfers

Come Labour on

Obstetricians

The Church's one Foundation

Contractors



Puzzle Answers

E	Z	N	O	R	B		E	Z	E	N	S
N		A			A		C		P		I
E	R	I	D		H	S	I	N	O	M	A
M		R			E		O		H		O
	A	V	D	Y	R	E	V	E		C	A
S		B		E		D		S		I	I
Y	M	A	R	A	N	O	I	A	V	A	S
U		A			O		U		R		A
G		B		H	T	G	N	E	S	T	R
	V		E		E		E		S		K
H		A	N	A	N	A	K		N	A	I
	E		A		E		A		P		O
E		K	L	E	T	A	C	K	L	E	C

In the heart of Corstorphine



Parish People : Anne Kirkpatrick

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

Ian and I joined St. Ninian's in 1975 already knowing some other members. I soon joined the Young Wives and became involved, a great way to meet a lot of people who became friends. Following the births of our sons I then had mother and toddler, Sunday school, beavers, cubs etc. I joined the choir in 1982 and subsequently asked Robin Dempster (our organist then) if he would give me organ lessons. Having played the piano since primary school, I thought it would be fun ! Little did I think then I'd still be playing decades later. I became assistant organist in 1985 and full organist in 1989. I've always liked hymn tunes-- when I was at Sunday school in the early 60s our church in Aberdeen had a grand piano and I played hymns . 1989 was also the year I was privileged to be ordained as an elder and I appreciate visiting my district. I am also part of the flower arranging team, which I love, and organise the deliveries to church members. I will take this opportunity to thank all those who deliver. The recipients do appreciate it.



Any special Memories of the Church?

Probably the christenings of our sons.

Do you have a favourite Hymn?

'The Church's one Foundation', and 'Dear Lord and Father'. There are many others I like because of the music I associate with them.

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

My Dad always said 'If you're going to do something, do it properly and to the best of your ability'

Something People don't know about me

Nothing to do with the church, but I used to go to woodwork classes at night school and made several items—bookcase, piano stool, bedside cabinet, hall table — none of them brilliant but so satisfying to achieve.

In the heart of Corstorphine



Looking Back on Christmas



Nativity!



In the heart of Corstorphine





Shahrukh Gill one of our former student ministers made a very welcome visit to the Friendly Corner Christmas Party. He brought along his wife Esi and 3 month old son Timo.



In the heart of Corstorphine



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In the heart of Corstorphine

