

St Ninian's Church

www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk

In the heart of Corstorphine



Quarterly Magazine
Summer 2024





Dear Friends

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

(1 Peter 1: 3)

The season of Eastertide begins on Easter Sunday, and ends at Pentecost. This year, it has run throughout April and May. Over these weeks, at St. Ninian's, we have seen examples of what God has promised his people as befits a congregation who believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ: great mercies; new birth; living hope.

There have been some changes at St. Ninian's. On Easter Sunday, at the beginning of April, we said goodbye to Elliot Mitchell, our student over the past twenty-five weeks, and Gaynor Beames, our church administrator over the past nineteen years. At the beginning of May, we said thank you to Janice Reynolds, our treasurer for the past nine years. We have been sad to see them leave their posts as we have benefitted and enjoyed what they have each offered us, whether for a short time or for a very long time, as friends of Jesus Christ, and as friends of St. Ninian's.

However, even as we say goodbye, we also welcome new people, new opportunities, and new hope. At the end of May, we will welcome a new student for ten weeks over the summer, Andrew Carter. Andrew has completed his first year at New College training for the ministry, but he already holds a PHD in Scottish Church History! Kirsty McGregor has taken over from Gaynor in the office. Please pop into the office and say hello to Kirsty. Phil Tang has replaced Janice as treasurer, and he

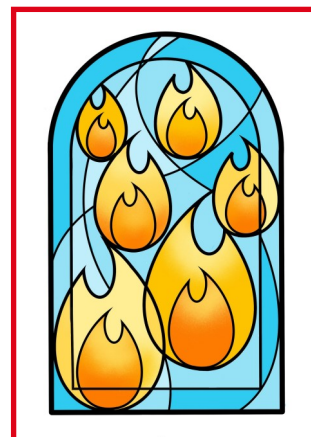
will be supported by Ishbel Massie, our new bookkeeper, as well as by a Finance Committee, which is something St. Ninian's hasn't had for a very long time. There's no doubt that while we have benefited much from the past and from those who have gone before, these new people and these new ways of doing things will bring new life and new hope to the spiritual life and the management of the congregation.

While all of that has been going on in the background, over this Eastertide, we also enjoyed in worship an intimation of a hopeful and joyous future for the congregation when we celebrated our Crucifixion, Resurrection & Ascension Songs of Praise with St. Anne's and St. Andrew's. Throughout Scotland, all congregations have been struggling to maintain themselves as they have aged, and as administration has become more demanding. That is true in Edinburgh, and in Corstorphine. So, it is a great mercy when congregations work together to offer new hope to their members and communities. The Songs of Praise service was a lovely way for the three congregations to begin the journey of getting to know each other, and of looking to the future. More events are planned, please come along when they do.

I pray that over the coming months after Pentecost you will feel the breath of the Holy Spirit blowing new life into all that happens at St. Ninian's.

Best wishes,

James





St Ninian's, St Anne's and St Andrew's

On the 28th of April, the three congregations that the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian has grouped together in Corstorphine, St. Andrew's, St. Anne's, and us at St. Ninian's, enjoyed a terrific celebration of the season when we came together for a joint Songs of Praise Service. We joyfully sang hymns about crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, and we read seasonal words of encouragement written by Justin Welby (the Archbishop of Canterbury), Sally Foster-Fulton (the current Moderator to the General Assembly), and Pope Frances. The service was a celebration of new life and new hope.

There were over sixty worshippers present, made up of members of each congregation, and the service was led by our own minister of St. Ninian's, James Aitken, as well as by Rev Jamie Griggs, the minister from St. Anne's, and Brian Endicott, a member of St. Andrew's. After the service we all met over tea and coffee for friendship and fellowship.

There are more events planned as part of our Grouping, including an afternoon tea in the summer, and an Advent Songs of praise towards the end of the year.

Rev. James Aitken





Edinburgh Presbytery

As of the last census, the population of the city of Edinburgh was about 520,000. The population of the neighbouring county of West Lothian is around a third of that, and its largest town, Livingston, has around 57,000 people.

So one of the first tasks when the presbyteries of Edinburgh and West Lothian united was to reassure the members of the smaller presbytery that they were not just being absorbed into the larger one.

"There is always the risk, when you have a larger group merging with a smaller one, that there is a sense of takeover," says the Very Rev Dr Derek Browning, minister of Morningside Parish Church and convener of the new presbytery's business committee. "But I am not picking up any of that feeling. We have been very intentional about including everybody and the committee structures are well represented by both former presbyteries."

His vice-convener, Lynne McEwen, an elder from the former West Lothian presbytery, concurs. "If a convener is from Edinburgh, the vice convener is from West Lothian and vice versa. The first in-person meeting was held in St Michael's Linlithgow (in West Lothian) and the first Presbytery Moderator (the Rev Julia Wylie) was from West Lothian. The former West Lothian people feel included."

Sensitivity about inclusion aside, Derek describes progress in the new presbytery as 'fairly steady', as they come to grips with a body that covers everything from a major city, with some of the country's wealthiest addresses but also some of its most deprived, suburbs, small towns and villages and significant areas of rural farmland.

It also includes some of Scotland's most historic and high-profile churches: not just the Edinburgh icons of St Giles', St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars, but also St Michael's in Linlithgow, which has a history going back to the 12th century and witnessed the baptism of Mary Queen of Scots.

Along with completing the union formalities and getting to know each other, the largest piece of work so far has of course been in completing the Presbytery Mission Plan, which has now been agreed. As with every part of the Church of Scotland, that has included some hard decisions, although Presbytery Clerk Dr Hazel Hastie insists the scale is not as great as has been reported: "The general public seem to think we are going to close lots of churches, but the reality is it won't be that many."

The hope now, Hazel says, is to move the presbytery on to a more missional footing: "We've approved the plan and we're moving forward with that, and working with people hopefully in a much more missionally directed way. We stopped doing local church review during lockdown and the union, but we're hoping to reintroduce that and hopefully by the end of this year that will give us much more missional focus."

A 'significant' mission fund has been established and will be spent in projects that Derek says are making a difference across the presbytery. "A lot of the projects are not necessarily groundbreaking, but they would be missed if they weren't there." One more innovative project that he points to is the Workplace Chaplain at the Gyle shopping centre, which the presbytery has taken on after Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland was wound up in 2022. "The chaplain has been doing tremendous things reaching out to people who use the Gyle and also those who work there. This is emblematic of the kind of thing we are hoping to be able to do in the presbytery."



He also highlights ecumenical working, for instance in providing funding towards the city's nativity scene, which was brought back last year. "We don't just always look at our own needs as a Church of Scotland presbytery, but also we see the role we can play alongside our sisters and brothers in the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches and other denominations too.

"And of course we have a very lively interfaith community across the presbytery and we maintain good friendships with our Jewish and Muslim communities."

A major challenge and opportunity for the new presbytery is that the population of Edinburgh is projected to double within the next three decades, along with major expansion in the surrounding areas including West Lothian. For the Church, that will mean working out how to establish a sustainable presence in the new communities.

One positive sign is that the Church has established communications with the City of Edinburgh Council and is hoping to be involved in the discussions as the council develops what it is calling its 2050 Vision. "We recently had a very brief meeting with the Lord Provost," says Hazel, "And we had the chief executive of the council come to talk to us four or five years ago. It all kind of got knocked on the head during Covid, but we have asked if we can have a seat at the table for those discussions.

"We also need to liaise with equivalent partners in West Lothian Council to see if we can get a seat at the table there."

That may involve very different challenges from Edinburgh, where the vision envisages '20 minute cities', where people can reach every amenity they need without a car within 20 minutes. As Lynne says, there are areas of West Lothian that are not served by bus, especially on a Sunday.

Whatever the challenges, the emphasis is not on claiming a privileged position but on demonstrating that the Church can earn its place through the help it can offer, whether that is in working with the schools, providing community facilities, or working with people living with dementia.

"I don't think any of us can expect a place at the civic table," says Derek, "But we need to be clear that we do bring something to the table. We have to be flexible and think about how we place ourselves within the infrastructure of developing communities. We do have a voice, and we contribute considerably to wellbeing and welfare of the whole community we serve."

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Primary Sunday School

We have had another busy term with good attendance from our cohort of 10 children with some additional visitors from time to time. The lectionary readings for the first part of the term were from the old testament and some were a bit trickier than others but from the Roots resource that we use we always manage to find activities that hopefully suit the age range of the children.

We have had a couple of weeks where the suggested

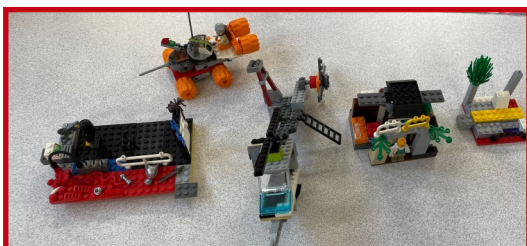
activities have used Lego and the children always have fun with this, it's great to see how they rise to the challenge. One was to work in pairs to create an object for the rest of the group to try and guess what they had made. Our latest activity was to build the highest free-standing tower with a solid cornerstone and one without.

As well as activities with Lego we have also made "10 item biscuits", following a set of in-

structions while talking about God giving us 10 instructions for living well, decorated encouragement slates, created some messy art, learnt that good can come out of mistakes and much more.

This coming term we will have a Christian Aid fundraising activity with an assault course and some home baking for sale after Church.

Barbara Mackie





St Ninian's Guild

Our Guild has just finished its 2023-2024 session. We are sorry that you were not there to enjoy some time with us and to find out what happens in the Guild. With over forty members we have shared faith, fellowship, friendship and fun; we learned about the theme for this year "New Wine, New Wineskins; we chose to support Starchild as our project and heard how a young Scottish lady achieved her aim in building a school in Uganda for children with a disability in memory of her young adopted brother who came from there.

We listened to talks by people who had been in other countries...to teach, to trek, to live and to work. We hoped that others would dip in to these.....yes, you are welcome.....but only two folks came.

We learned about the work of two Christian charitiesBethany Christian Trust and CrossReachand will support them with a contribution this year.

We have been entertained by talks of things gone by, reminisced about Life in Scotland in the Good Old Days, heard music from the 60s, laughed at humorous stories from a hotelier and agreed that the remedies in Lotions and Potions would not be so agreeable as some offerings available from the NHS nowadays. More seriously we had a demonstration of CPR and the opportunity to be down on our knees to practise on a model and we got up again!

What happened in 1940? Our Guild was formed and to celebrate we took the letters of ANNIVERSARY and each person with a name that matched these letters told a tale around that date.....of course a few had not been born by then but they still found a story.

Talking of age we have our very special group of nonagenarians. We are so proud of them and what they contribute to our Guild. We celebrate their birthdays with flowers while they and everyone else receives a card on their special date. No one is too old to be in the Guild and likewise no one is too young....all are welcome.

We did it ourselves; we had a soup and dessert lunch at Christmas time and several afternoon teas each to mark a special occasion..... our opening welcome meeting, a shared meeting with another Guild and our farewell for this session. You have missed out but there will be other times.

Yes, there will be more when we start the next session of our Guild on Tuesday 1st October 2024. Will you be there; you will certainly be very welcome. Please know that you will not be put on a committeewe do not have one! Everyone has ownership of our Guild and shows support whenever and wherever they are able. You could be part of this great organisation, a branch of the National Guild.

Valerie Thomson





Christian Aid

We at Corstorphine St Ninian's Church, continue to fundraise for Christian Aid (CA) enabling them to assist communities in the developing world and to support disaster relief.

At the time of writing, Christian Aid Week on 12-18 May 2024 is fast approaching.

Christian Aid Week [12- 18 May](#) Retiring Collection and Quiz

CA Quiz 12- 18 May

Soup and Sweet Lunch 12 May after the morning service

The KiltWalk 2024 15 September

Christmas Eve Retiring Collection 24 December

Supporting Emergency Appeals As they arise

Each year, CA showcases a country where CA partners, funded by our generous donations, are transforming the lives of those living in extreme poverty. CA has been working in Burundi, East Africa, since 1995. It is one of the poorest countries in the world with more than 70% of the population facing malnourishment and poverty, putting them on the edge of survival.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. Aline Nibogora, a determined mother in Burundi, suffered abuse at the hands of her violent husband and she was forced to flee. He then turned the community against her. She lost almost everything. Separated from her children, she was forced to sleep on the streets. Despite being pushed to the brink of survival by poverty, Aline pushed back harder with help from CA and is now thriving.

This Christian Aid Week, our fundraising will ensure that more people in Burundi, like Aline get the skills and knowledge they need to push back against the inhumanity of poverty.

With your help, we can work towards a world where families can escape the trap of poverty and fulfil their ambitions.

In 2023, St Ninian's Corstorphine raised a total of £10,362. **CAN WE DO EVEN BETTER IN 2024?**

Thank you for all your support!

Alec Millar *Christian Aid Coordinator*

Tel 0773 800 7302 alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk





Our annual coffee morning held in aid of funds for St. Columba's Hospice was held on Saturday 9th March 2024. The funds raised exceeded all previous years with the wonderful sum amounting to **£3729.98**.

This years amount brings the total raised since we started in 2000 to over **£53750**.

We are extremely thankful to all who help and support this wonderful cause.

On Sunday 28th April Geoff Rae, a volunteer at the hospice, came to morning worship to accept a presentation cheque from St. Ninian's.

Margaret Hunter

St Columba's Coffee Morning





Mission Committee

It has been a busy few months for the Mission Committee our collection for Fresh Start in March resulted in two deliveries to Ferry Road Drive. We were overwhelmed by the amount goods being brought to room 4. Once again Fresh Start were delighted with the on-going support from St. Ninian's and expressed their sincere thanks. Our next collection will be on Communion Sunday 5th June when we will be looking for cleaning materials; washing up liquid, toilet cleaner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand soap, toilet rolls, bin bags and liners, dust pan and brushes, all purpose cleaners and laundry tablets.

A big thank you to everyone who helped to deliver the Congregational Easter Cards to homes within the Parish and members outwith the Parish. Over 2000 cards were delivered these included the homes on the old Queen Margaret site.

We hope to have 'Bags of Hope' delivered within the next few weeks to members who

are no longer able to join us for worship in the Church.

A date for your diary: 18th August 2024. We are going to hold a Congregational Summer Lunch immediately after morning worship, look out for further information nearer the time.

The Mission Committee wish to express their thanks for all the support received which enables us to carry out all our various projects.

Margaret Hunter
Convenor

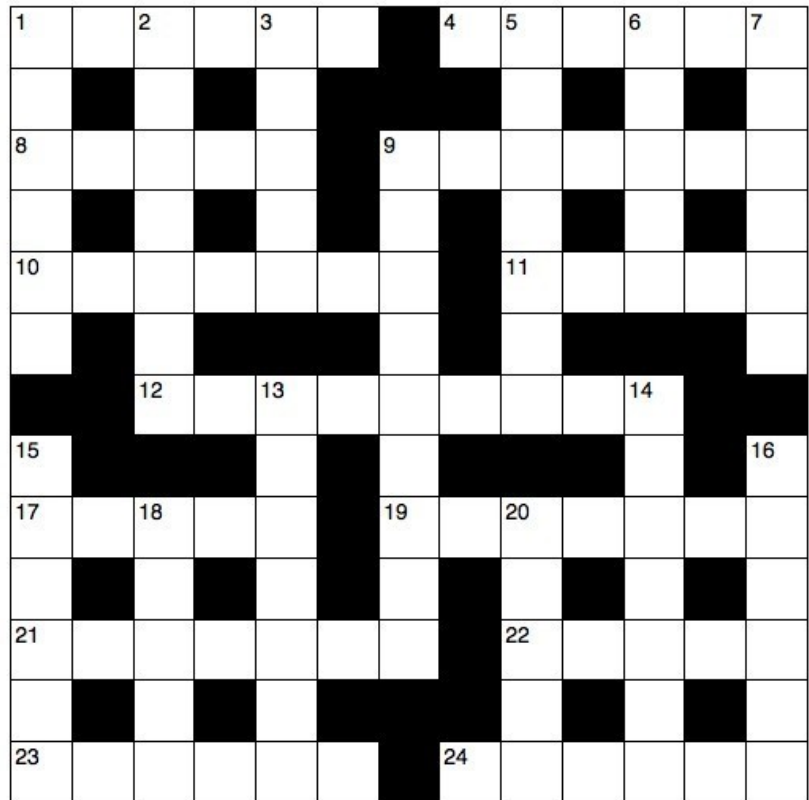


**Elliot, Shahruck and James
celebrating communion at
New College**





Crossword Time



Across

1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)

4 Place of learning (6)

8 'When Moses' hands grew —, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)

9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)

10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)

11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)

12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)

17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)

19 So clear (anag.) (7)

21 'I have just got —, so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)

22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)

23 Musical beat (6)

24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)

2 Art bite (anag.) (7)

3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)

5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)

6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)

7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)

9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)

13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)

14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)

15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)

16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)

18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)

20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)



Sudoku

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| 8 | | | 5 | | | | | 7 |

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Puzzle answers Page 15





Past Times in St Ninian's

25 years ago, from the Quarterly, Summer 1999

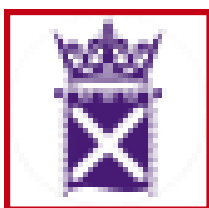
[The new Parliament of Scotland was set up on 1st July 1999. The following was published in the Summer edition of the Quarterly in that year.]

"Thoughts from the Editor"

"To mark the new Parliament, the Scottish Office asked school children to write about their vision for Scotland's future. What is YOUR vision?"

"Whatever our "fate", the result of the election will have been decided by the time you read this *Quarterly*. It certainly won't bring Utopia. But irrespective of our personal visions, we are surely all united in wanting a society where people *care* about others; where people are thoughtful and considerate; understanding and compassionate; tolerant and patient. People *are* important and for us there is only one Leader to follow. Let us hope our politicians remember this when they lead the nation in the reality of this historic event."

Andrew Broom



50 years ago, from the Quarterly July 1974

From "Minister's Notes" by the Rev Colin R Martin

"I was delighted the other week to attend an enrolment ceremony for our new 195 "C" Brownie Pack. The fact that twenty little girls were enrolled to form the nucleus of this fourth Pack in St Ninian's is evidence that there is a need for it. We are grateful to Mrs Pat Gibb for adding 195 "C" to her responsibilities as Brownie Guider of 195 "B" and to Mrs Forrest and Mrs Brett for agreeing to assist. Naturally with activity amongst youngsters involving four Brownie Packs, two Cub Packs, two Guide Companies and a Scout Troop, there is always the need to know where we might look for helpers when we require them. Anyone with an interest, and particularly anyone with experience, is invited to contact either Mrs W P Scott or Mr J Nisbet, the respective Commissioners.

"During the past three months, the Deacons' Court received two donations to be used for Church purposes. Along with one of them there was the suggestion that it might be used towards the re-carpeting of the Sanctuary Area in Church. Estimates were obtained, and the Deacons' Court decided that this would be an acceptable way to use both donations. The work has now been carried out, and a rich blue carpet adds to the beauty of the Apse we deeply appreciate the gifts which made this possible. . ."

[The Apse carpet has worn well over the past fifty years and still looks good!]



Corstorphine Community Council



CORSTORPHINE CONNECTIONS UPDATE (LOW TRAFFIC EIGHBOURHOOD - LTN)

Summary of the latest monitoring data - what was found by the Project Team .

Lower levels of traffic around Corstorphine Primary School, particularly at peak times, and slightly reduced traffic overall in the project area, with particular decreases on Manse Road, Saughton Road North and Ladywell Avenue. Creating a street environment that feels safer for children going to school, has been a key focus of the project so this outcome is encouraging. It is also reflected in the residents' survey that reported that more parents feel streets are safer for children going to school than before the project started. However, levels of traffic remain a concern for the community and we will continue monitoring this as the project progresses. Increased levels of traffic on boundary roads outside the project area. Slightly increased traffic overall in the project area at peak times, with particular rises on Featherhall Avenue, Station Road and Ladywell Road. Levels of traffic around the city, particularly in the west, have increased since 2021. The traffic increases on boundary roads that our monitoring has recorded are beyond what could be reasonably attributed to potential traffic displacement from within the project area. As noted above, we will continue monitoring this as the project progresses. Reduction in numbers of children getting dropped off by car to Carrick Knowe and Corstorphine Primary Schools. Decreases in walking overall, but increases in people walking on streets where pavements have been widened and improved. It was also noted that the baseline data was collected in early/mid-November, but, due to very poor weather earlier in the month, the six-month data was collected in late November. Levels of noise and air quality have marginally improved. Whilst minor improvements are welcomed, it is likely this is more attributable to changes in vehicle emissions levels (such as vehicles generally becoming somewhat less polluting), rather than the traffic changes from the project.

Refer to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/corstorphineconnections

Maybury Quarter

This is the site at the junction of Glasgow Road and Turnhouse Road currently occupied by Saica Packaging Factory which has closed. Plans are being prepared for up to 1,000 houses with a central facility to possibly include a hotel, retail and open spaces. There will be a pedestrian link to Edinburgh Gateway train and tram station. Car parking will only be provided for less than 25% of the dwellings. Access will be from and to Turnhouse Road. (As part of the West Town development a new West Edinburgh Secondary School is planned.) It is intended that Planning Application be made by the end of 2024 or early 2025 in the hope that Planning Permission be granted next June. In the short term, buildings on the site may be used for other purposes such as storage.

Councillor Reports

The Council budget is allowing for more streets to be resurfaced with a list of those affected will be produced after 25 April. However, it is known that Wester Broom Avenue and the path through Corstorphine Old Parish Church will be resurfaced.

Ian Kirkpatrick

Member of Corstorphine Community Council representing Corstorphine Churches Together



Congregation Register

Marriage:

27 April 2024 Connie Reynolds and Jesu Tunji Akinnibosun (TJ)

Funerals:

14th March 2024 Mr Robert Kinghorn (Bob),

25th April 2024* Mr Robert Watt Young Dobie (Bertie), Strachan House Care Home

24th May 2024* Mrs Brenda Graham, West Craigs Crescent

3rd June 2024* Mr James Gibson (Jimmy), North Gyle Terrace

* Denotes member

Puzzle Answers

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| B | | A | | B | | O | | G | | E | | G |
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| F | | | | S | | H | | | | A | | A |
| | | A | T | O | N | E | M | E | N | T | | |
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| 3 | 7 | 6 | | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 5 | | | |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | | 9 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | | | |
| 6 | 8 | 1 | | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | | | |
| 9 | 3 | 7 | | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | | | |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 9 | | | |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | | 2 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | | | |
| 1 | 9 | 3 | | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 | | | |
| 2 | 6 | 4 | | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 3 | | | |



St.Ninian's Church, Corstorphine

General Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 31st March, 2024

General Fund - Summary

| | 2024 Actual | 2023 Actual | Variance | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---|
| Total Receipts | 45,342 | 47,789 | (2,447) | ● |
| Total Ordinary General Expenditure | (46,585) | (52,756) | 6,171 | ● |
| General Fund - Surplus (Deficit) | (1,243) | (4,967) | 3,724 | ● |
| Legacies Received | - | - | - | |
| TOTAL | (1,243) | (4,967) | 3,724 | ● |

General Fund - Analysis of Receipts & Payments

Receipts

| | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|---|
| Congregation Offerings (inc. Gift Aid) | 31,765 | 34,715 | (2,950) | ● |
| One-off Donations | 69 | 120 | (51) | ● |
| Contributions from Congregational Organisations | 878 | 240 | 638 | ● |
| Contributions from outside organisations for use of halls | 9,897 | 8,914 | 983 | ● |
| Bank Interest and Investment Income | 480 | 400 | 80 | ● |
| Other Receipts | 2,253 | 3,400 | (1,147) | ● |
| | <u>45,342</u> | <u>47,789</u> | <u>(2,447)</u> | ● |

Expenditure

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|---|
| Giving to Grow contributions / Presbytery Dues | (23,512) | (23,488) | (24) | ● |
| Local Salaries, Social Security & Pension Costs | (9,399) | (9,303) | (96) | ● |
| Office / Administration Costs | (1,954) | (1,594) | (360) | ● |
| Fabric Expenditure | (4,337) | (9,078) | 4,741 | ● |
| Premises running costs (halls & manse) | (6,353) | (6,760) | 407 | ● |
| Other Local Costs | (1,030) | (2,533) | 1,503 | ● |
| | <u>(46,585)</u> | <u>(52,756)</u> | <u>6,171</u> | ● |

COMMENT

As at 31st March, there was a deficit on the General Fund of **£1,243**. This is a slight improvement on the position for the same period in 2023 when there was a deficit of **£4,967**. The difference of **£3,724** can be explained as follows:

Lower Income = Increase in deficit of £2,447

There were increases in Contributions from Congregational Organisations of **£638** for hall usage and Sunday morning teas, Hall rental income of **£982** and Investment Income of **£80**

There was a decrease in Congregational Offerings of **£2,950** partly due to differences in the timing of offerings between 2023 and 2024 and partly due to an overall reduction in offerings so far in 2024.

There was a decrease in Other Receipts of **£1,147** 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.

Lower Costs = Reduction in deficit of £6,171

The main areas of cost reduction were:

Fabric expenditure of **£4,741** due to higher expenditure in 2023 on repairs to the manse

Other local costs of **£1,503** which is mostly due to the timing of payments rather than costs savings.

Janice Reynolds (Treasurer)



Parish People : Campbell Gray



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

Yikes, as I hit 50 this year (what! no way (need to keep moisturising that face)).... I therefore surmise I've been involved for 49 and ½ years in some way or other be it an attendant at crèche, Sunday School, SNYP and helping to lead Alpha now. I've also helped with financial stewardship and brought it to Ian Kirkpatrick's attention circa 20 years ago it might be an idea to have a mobile phone mast installed. Great for the Church finances.

Any special Memories of the Church?

Marriage.... I married Felicity in July 2003 and we now have our two boys Matthew and Oliver. Over those 20 year and being with family and church has been a really positive experience.

Do you have a favourite Hymn (or song)?

How Great Thou Art. However, as I was penning these words I had just returned from an 80s music night at the Corn Exchange hosted by Ooo Gary Davis (his catch phrase for BBC Radio 1 in the 80s) and from that I would also include 'There's More to Love (Than Boy Meets Girl) by The Communards.

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

Not necessarily advice but I've realised that life doesn't seem to go in a straight line. There are many twists, turns, ups and downs and sometimes baby steps in a forward direction is all that can be achieved. The journey will take longer and a new destination may materialise but hopefully you'll be less stressed getting there.

Something People don't know about me

In 2002 I ran the New York marathon in just under 4 hours and this being my only marathon I'm told is quite an achievement. I had however a little help from a mis-measured piece of string. My weekend long runs revolved around devising routes on predominantly bicycle paths with a piece of string that was to cut to scale / 1 mile. However two thirds of the way through my training I realised my string was in fact not 1 mile but 1.25 miles. For every 4 miles I thought I was doing in actual fact I was running 5. Heah ho, it proved helpful in the end!



Which is
Which?



The Easter Journey



Shrove Tuesday,
Making Pancakes

Decisions, Decisions,
there were just too
many toppings!





EASTER

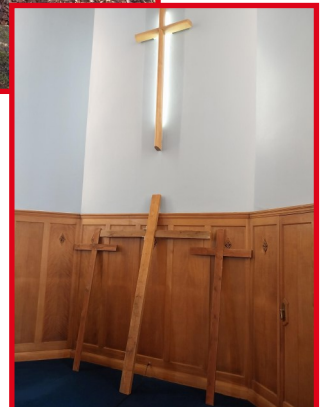
Elliot treated us t to a rendition of
"Thine Be the Glory" on his trumpet



The Egg rolling got a
bit competitive

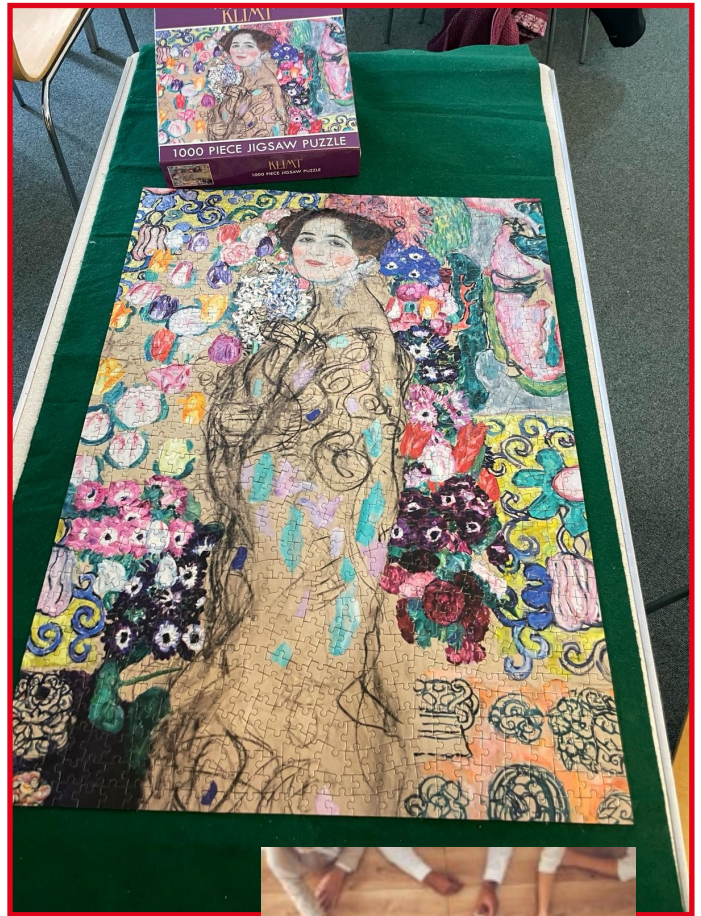


Time for a Bacon Roll
and Coffee





A 1000 piece Jigsaw that the Friendly Cornerers have been working on the past six months



In between the April showers, a rainbow landing on the Manse





Children's Chat

We set our Sunday School Members a quiz. We will feature some of the highlights in coming issues

Professional Footballer
Thomas

Help people like spiderman
Ela

Venom's Power
Nathan

If you could have a superpower,
what would it be?



Make a Rainbow
Maria

Wind Power
Piper

Create Lightning from
my hands
Jeff

I like to look at the Pulpit
Jeff

Jesus because he is so good
Ela

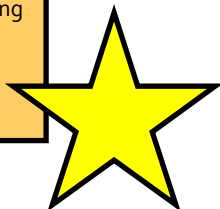
The Window because they are very
colourful
Thomas

When you are in
Church, what do
you like to look
at and why?

I like to colour
Piper

James because he is very interesting
Nathan

I listen and look at the flowers
Maria





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