

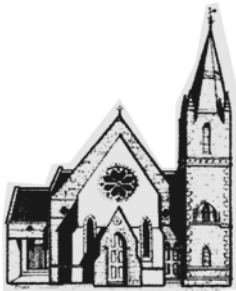
St Ninian's Church

www.corstorphinstninians.org.uk

In the heart of Corstorphine



Quarterly Magazine
Spring 2024





Dear Friends

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. (1 Corinthians 15: 12 – 14)

It is a bold claim that what is dead can live again. But, if it were not true, then there would be no hope for life in this world, and our lives would be nothing more than tragedy.

We experience suffering in our own lives in small ways and big ones. Our struggles may be personal, a consequence of ill-health or bereavement for example. They may be experienced as part of a society, a consequence of natural disaster, bad government, or war for example. They may be experienced because of the malevolence of others, a consequence of crime, gossip, or bullying for example.

Suffering is prevalent right from the beginning of our lives. When we are infants and children this upsets us greatly. But, as adults, we don't cry as much as we did when we were young. Over the years of our lives, we learn day by day, step by step, to face, endure, or cope with our struggles, even if there are times when to do so is particularly hard or seems impossible. As we grow, we learn that we are stronger than we think. We learn that what we thought was the end of the road, doesn't have to be. We learn that there is new life beyond our suffering.

This experience of life is so fundamental to what it feels like to be a human being, that it forms the central drama within the Christian faith. Over the coming weeks, we mark again the essence of the Christian story by com-

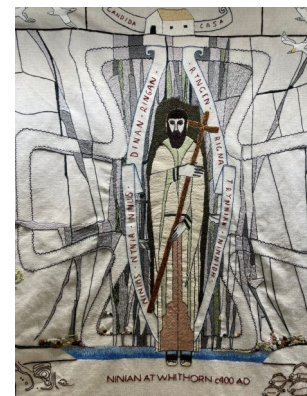
memorating the suffering and death of Jesus of Nazareth over the course of Lent and Holy Week, and his resurrection at Easter.

The first Christians saw in Jesus someone whose execution epitomised unjust suffering, and whose resurrection promised that no matter how hard or unjust life can be, it is, nevertheless, stronger than death if it is lived with the loving honesty that God meant it to be lived. When those first Christians understood this, they recognised that God, the author of life, must be living in Jesus, and that he must be their Messiah, the Christ, their saviour who offered new life not just to them, but to anyone who believed in his life, death, and resurrection.

I pray that this spring during our seasons of Lent, Holy Week and Easter you will once again find hope in the story of Jesus of Nazareth who endured the worst the world could throw at him, but emerged triumphant. I pray that whatever you are enduring in your life, whatever crucifixion is being raised in your soul, that the morning light of the resurrected Jesus Christ will help you believe that you are stronger than you think you are, and help you have faith that beyond the darkness there is the light of new life.

Best wishes,

James



The St Ninian panel from the Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels that the manse family visited in January.



HOLY WEEK

Monday, 25th March, 6:30pm St. Andrew's

A service of reflection for Holy Week.

Tuesday, 26th March, 6:30pm St. Ninian's

A service of reflection for Holy Week.

Wednesday, 27th March, 6:30pm St. Anne's

A service of reflection for Holy Week.

Thursday, 28th March, 7:00pm St. Ninian's

A service of Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday.

Friday, 29th March, 7:00pm St. Ninian's

Corstorphine Churches Together Good Friday Service.

ALL WELCOME



Lent Reflection

'I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 3:14)

Lent can be a special time to recentre ourselves by growing and learning from our faith. I sometimes compare this season within the Christian calendar to running a steady marathon. Our walk of faith is much like a marathon in comparison to a sprint, where instead of a quick burst of energy to help us cross the finish line as fast as possible we conserve and build up our spiritual stamina so the rhythm and pace of our stride is constant.



Unfortunately, I was never good at running long or short distances for that matter! However, it is truly admirable to see those runners in the morning, even when it is still dark and cold outside, who can keep their focus on their run and avoid all distractions.

The words from the Apostle Paul can encourage us and help drive our spiritual focus during the lead-up to Easter Sunday: *'I press on toward the goal'*. Just like a marathon runner, Jesus' journey to his atoning sacrifice mirrors the need for growth and discovery through challenging conditions. So for us now, how can we remain focused and build up our spiritual stamina to run the race?

Lent is a season of intentional reflection, a period where we, like Jesus, journey toward a profound destination—the cross. In the footsteps of Christ, we navigate the wilderness of our lives and confront challenges. Paul's words can become our guide, encouraging us not to grow weary but to press on with determination and faith. The journey to the cross is never easy - but what lies for all of us is a glistening bridge that can lead us to God himself!

For this incredible journey, I want to invite you to lace up and warm up! Let us run the race marked out for us with perseverance. Through prayer and encountering the story of Jesus' travel to Calvary as our means to keep ourselves nourished during our spiritual stride, we can witness the true revelation of love and forgiveness extended to all of us.



The marathon is about to begin, are you ready?

Elliot Mitchell



Primary Sunday School

We have enjoyed a very busy last quarter with two new children join us, Tyler, and Ela. Tyler joined us after coming along to the Lego service which Derek ran. It was our Christmas Party on the 9th of December when we had fun with party games, food and of course a visit from Santa. This year the children were asked if they wanted to bring along a friend which most of them did and this swelled our numbers, great fun was had by all.

We had a crafting session on Sunday the 10th when we made Rudolf candy canes, thanks to an idea from Carol at the ladies' badminton group.

For the family service, with help from Alpha, we staged "The Christmas Alphabet". The children all did well with their lines and thanks to Norma Gil-mour they all had costumes, we were missing one King but hopefully that wasn't too noticeable. We had great feedback from members of the

congregation after the service, which was appreciated.

With the start of the New Year, we are looking forward to the activities and lessons that the Roots resources provide us as leaders, we have already had fun with some shaving foam and paint...

Barbara Mackie





St Ninian's Guild

You have missed many interesting talks but never mind as we have meetings from now until the end of April...with the syllabus available on our Guild board.

Why don't you come at 2.15 pm on a Tuesday to hear some talks, varied and interesting? There is a special group of four when we shall hear about experiences in other countries – Zambia, the Himalayas, the Caribbean and Israel given by visiting and home based speakers. They, William Watt, Derek MacGillivray, Sir Geoff Palmer and Rev James Aitken would appreciate your support. We now have 43 members aged from 60 to 90+, you are never too young or too old to come to our Guild....everyone is welcome. You will have no problems, no need to be on a committee – we don't even have one!

Come just to share faith, fellowship, friendship and fun with us.
Looking forward to meeting you next Tuesday.

Valerie Thomson, Guild contact



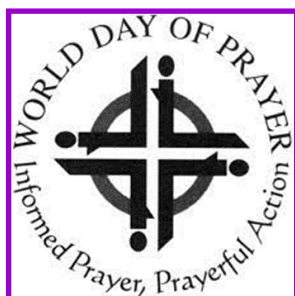
World Day of Prayer

A World Day of Prayer service takes place locally at 2.30 pm on Friday 1st March in St Thomas' Church, Glasgow Road when we have the opportunity to share this service with local, national and international WDP groups across the world.

Planned several years ago by people from Palestine the theme is "I beg youBear with one another in Love."

Everyone is welcome ... male and female, young and old ...your support will be appreciated.

Valerie Thomson, WDP convener for Corstorphine



Friday 1st March
@2:30pm
St Thomas' Church



Christian Aid



We at Corstorphine St Ninian's Church, continue to fundraise for Christian Aid enabling them to assist communities in the developing world and disasters wherever they occur.

In 2023 We fundraised for Christian Aid for a variety of their appeals including for the DEC Turkey-Syrian Earthquake, Christian Aid Week, KiltWalk2023 and the Christmas Eve Appeal as follows:

Turkey-Syrian Appeal	£1,990.00
Christian Aid Week 2023	£3,956.41
KiltWalk2023	£3,446.41
Christmas Eve Appeal	£969.29
Total raised in 2023 was	£10,362.11

Events within Christian Aid Week were the Coronation Lunch, "Pass the Peas" Challenge and delicious Pigeon Pea Biscuits baked and sold by the Sunday School, the Christian Aid Quiz, and a Retiring Collection.. **2024 Fundraising Events will include:**

Christian Aid Week	12- 18 May
Soup and Sweet Lunch	12 May
The KiltWalk2024	15 September
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.millar@blueyonder.co.uk

St Columba's Coffee Morning



Saturday 9th March 2024 from 10 am till noon.

The annual coffee morning in aid of funds for St. Columba's Hospice. There will be home baking, books, flowers, tombola, hampers and Hospice Stall. Tickets are £4 for adults and £1 for children for tea, coffee and home baking.



Mission Committee

Once again the Mission Committee and Fresh Start both would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Fresh Start collection in December. An amazing amount of goods were delivered to Ferry Road Drive. Our next collection will be on Communion Sunday 3rd March, we will be looking for pots and pans, kitchen equipment etc.

A big thank you to everyone who helped to deliver the Congregational Christmas Cards. Over 2000 cards were delivered to homes within the Parish and members outwith the Parish.

Also thank you to those who took time to deliver 'Bags of Hope' to members who are no longer able

to attend the Church Services. The bags have been very much appreciated by those who received them.

On Remembrance Sunday we held a retiral collection to provide hampers for refugees living in Edinburgh. £600 was sent to Edinburgh City Mission to assist them to make up hampers. This year 100 of the hampers, out of a total of 260, were delivered in bulk to two hotels to men seeking asylum.

Our annual Congregational lunch was held on Sunday 14th January. Over 80 bowls of soup were served at the lunch. There was a great coming together of food, fun and fellowship. The sum of £610

was raised for Cross-reach. Thanks to the Hospitality Committee for all their help.

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



rock trust

ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

St Ninian's supplied 1,574 items of food and toiletries to Rock Trust over the course of 2023. The generosity of your ongoing support is greatly appreciated by all concerned. Rock Trust gratefully relies upon our regular monthly delivery of 100 plus items to replenish its stocks. All kinds of non-perishable food items are welcome including products which can be reconstituted with water, e.g. packets of soup and noodle and pasta pots such as Mugshots

which are invaluable to young folk who may only have access to a kettle. Toiletries and other little luxuries are also appreciated. All items can be left in the dedicated cupboard at the front door of the church before the service on Sundays. If you would like to help but are unable to bring items to church, please get in touch with me.

Homeless applications by young people in Scotland increased by 4% last year, affecting more than 8,000 young people. Last

November, Rock Trust launched a new initiative, Upstream Scotland, a schools-based homelessness prevention programme to help young people and their families before they reach crisis point. If you would like to support this campaign, more detailed information on all aspects of the work of the Rock Trust may be found by visiting www.rocktrust.org.

Susanne Hope



Congregational Register

New Members by Transference Certificate:

Mrs Margaret Mack, 30 Hillview Crescent

Marriage:

4 November 2023 Aimee Keay and Euan Simpson, 9/4 Birchwood View

Funerals:

23 November 2023* Mrs Winifred Duncan, Glendevon Place
1 December 2024 Mrs Olive Stanton, Corstorphine Bank Avenue
7 December 2023* Mr James Stark, 35 Gordon Road
22 December 2023* Mrs Marion Haswell, Struan Lodge, Balgreen Avenue
26 December 2023* Mr John Ross, Murrayfield NH
10 January 2024* Mrs Mary Ovens, Murrayfield NH
22 January 2024* Mr Alan Walker, Strachan House
30 January 2024* Mr James McKean, Murrayfield NH
8 February 2024 Miss Isabel Wilson, Murrayfield NH
19 February 2024* Mrs Christine Auld, Murrayside NH

* Denotes member



Presbytery Plan Update

It is now over two years since the Presbytery Plan was first published, the latest version was agreed in April 2023. It calls for a Union to be made between ourselves, St Andrew's Clermiston and St Anne's Corstorphine. As we know this cannot proceed without the agreement of the two incumbents at St Ninian's and St Anne's and an agreement on the amount of resources that are available to the new, unified Parish. At present there is no agreement with Presbytery regarding the resources that may be available, although a proposal to employ a locally financed, assistant minister is being developed.

In the meantime, what has been happening? We are meeting regularly (about once a month) with representatives of St Anne's and St Andrew's to develop a proposed basis of deferred union. The deferred union agreement is built around the five pillars of: mission, ministry governance, management and location, and aims to set out how the new union will conduct its work and be organised to deliver the mission and ministry to the new parish. This means that when the Union occurs we will have already agreed on these matters. For example; the proposed mission narrative of the union, using the five marks of mission, is currently as follows:

The First Mark: to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God (Tell).

Reinforcing and expanding engagement and involvement (by proclaiming the Good News) using traditional and imaginative means. Develop a worship team to support the Minister and the enlarged congregation.

Second Mark: To teach, baptise and nurture new believers (Teach)

By creating more activities and opportunities of engagement with young people and families through the recruitment of a youth and family team, adding focused church services, and community outreach projects. Reinforce a welcoming environment in all we do to build new relationships and share the love of God.

Third Mark: to respond to human need by loving service (Tend)

Enhancing the provision of pastoral care to our congregation and wider community, through outreach activity by visiting and support teams for older people, children, youth and family work etc. With emphasis on work on death and dying (bereavement), and post hospital admission. Concurrently, working in our community on joint projects to meet the needs that exist, including with local retailers, care homes, schools and the Community Centre.

Fourth Mark: to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation (Transform).

Establish a mission strategy and identify local community needs such as loneliness, mental health issues, general wellbeing, whilst maintaining our current work with Christian Aid, Fairtrade, the



Fifth Mark: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth (Treasure)

Developing our current and future practices to ensure sustainability and environmental principles are embedded in all our practices as an Eco Church.

Similar work is being carried out on the other pillars of governance, management and location.

Once completed the deferred union agreement will be put to the Kirk Sessions and Congregations who will be asked to accept or reject the agreement. If agreed, by all congregations and sessions the basis union will be agreed but the execution the union will be deferred until such time it can go ahead.

In the meantime we will continue to develop joint activities that contribute towards the aims of the mission narrative. These will include joint services over Holy Week, a joint Songs of Praise at St Ninian's in April and another joint Songs of Praise at St Anne's later in the year. A joint social event, hosted by St Andrew's in the summer is also being planned.

Whilst the completion of the planned Union of the three parishes envisaged in the Presbytery plan is still a long way off, we are preparing for the time that it comes about so that the transition can be carried out as smoothly as possible.

Andrew Job

Window Wanderland



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

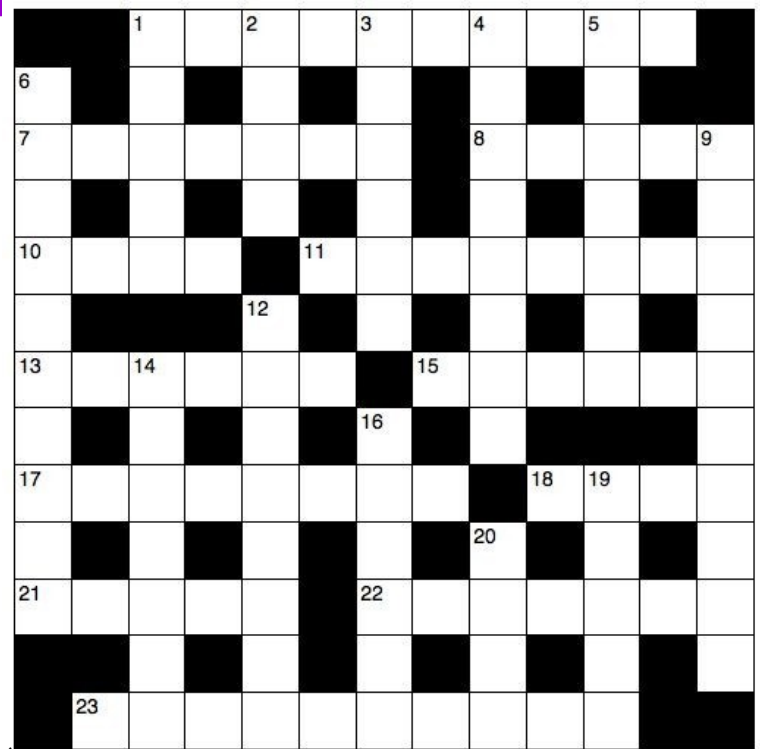
Fancy joining in? Taking part is completely FREE, and everyone is welcome! If you are go-

ing 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 between 6pm and 9pm on the evenings of

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th February 2024



Crossword Time



Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)



Transport to Sunday Services

Since Covid, the regular broadcast of the Sunday morning service has reminded us of the many members of St Ninian's who still appreciate the opportunity to share in worship, even though they are no longer able to attend church in person. However, we know that some people would still like to come out on a Sunday morning, either regularly or from time to time, if they could have access to a lift. Pre-Covid, there was an active rota of regular and occasional drivers who were able to fulfil this role. We are now keen to start this up again in the hope that no-one is precluded from coming to church for want of transport.

If you would like to take up the offer of a lift to church, or you know someone who might, or if you could offer a place in your car on a regular or occasional basis, please email me at sarah.aitken2@btinternet.com, or call and leave a message on 07906 857 281. Once I have an indication of demand and supply I will put a rota together.

Sarah Aitken

Sudoku

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

Answers for Crossword and Sudoku on Page 16



Past Times in St Ninian's

50 years ago, from the January 1974 issue of the Quarterly from Minister's Notes by the Rev Colin R Martin.

Older members of the congregation will remember the "Winter of Discontent" of 1973-4 when a severe shortage of coal owing to a series of miners' and railwaymen's strikes led directly to a shortage of power from coal-fired generating stations, leading to a 3-day week and regular power cuts, including a ban on the use of Christmas lights in the streets of our cities. Mr Martin writes his pastoral letter against this background.

Andrew Broom



"I am writing these notes in the early days of December [1973].

Somehow this year it isn't easy to think that Christmas and New Year are traditionally seasons of happiness. The ban on lighting displays has robbed us of some of the more obvious preparations, and there is a somewhat sad and drab feeling abroad with heavy emphasis on words like 'crisis', 'rationing', 'shortage', 'ban', 'breakdown'. "Perhaps this indicates that our celebration of the Christmas season is too dependent on the peripheral activities rather than the essential religious

significance of the festival, but undoubtedly we miss the visible signs of colour and brightness and joy. I can only hope and pray that, for this very reason, something of the deep and eternal truth of Christmas and the

message of love which it enshrines may penetrate the materialistic self-seeking which characterises so much of modern living, and bring a re-acknowledgement of man's need of the Presence of God, the Power of

God and the Peace of God to give real purpose and direction to life . . .

"The perennial struggle between good and evil, between moral and immoral, between love and hate seems particularly stormy at this time. But let us take heart and remember that 1974 is also A.D. – a Year of the Lord. Let our faith be strong and our confidence unshaken, our hope undimmed and our love undiminished . . ."

Rev Colin Martin



Corstorphine Community Council



LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOOD - LTN

In response to feedback from the community and traffic data, the length of the restrictions in the streets north of and around Corstorphine Primary School has been reduced from 8am-10am to 8am-9.30am. Refer to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/corstorphineconnections.

Comments to edinburgh.Consultation@projectcentre.co.uk

POLICE REPORTS

On 1 December there was vandalism to vehicles in Caroline Terrace. Youths causing anti-social behaviour are being reported at Corstorphine Retail Park and the Gyle. Don't get work done by someone who is just passing by or 'cold calling'. Use the Trusted Trader Scheme <https://trustedtrader.scot/Edinburgh> 0131 513 9921

The Police may be contacted on 999 (for emergencies), 101 (for non-emergencies) and by e-mail on EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk

PLANNING

Northcare Care Home - redeveloping the site on **St John's Road/Manse Road**, (former site of Woolworths) Corstorphine, into a luxury care home. As a major development (over 5,000 sq. m.), these proposals will necessitate a statutory pre-application consultation process, with two public consultation events being held. The first was on 31 January and the second will be on 28 February. The development will comprise a 60 Bedroom Care Home with ancillary accommodation, five assisted living apartments and a commercial unit. Northcare is a family run business which has been established for over 30 years and owns care homes in the central belt of Scotland between Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling. Northcare have developed two homes in Edinburgh already. Northcare Suites on Telford Road opened in 2019 and The Manor In Meggetland, which is now operated by Caring Homes.

Planning Application has been made for 11 new residential flats with cycle parking provision at **14 Kirk Loan (site of Corstorphine Public Hall)**. Planning Application has been made for 19 flats at site 40 metres east of 35 Station Road.

Planning Application will be made for an Arena for entertainment for 8500 people next to Edinburgh Park Railway Station.

OTHER

A 'Friends of St. Margaret Park' will be set up. The Secretary of Corstorphine Community Council wishes to step aside due to increased hostility and negativity in social media in recent months. Should there not be a volunteer for the Role, Corstorphine Community Council will close.

Ian Kirkpatrick

Member of Corstorphine Community Council representing Corstorphine Churches Together



Gift Service

I know it all seems a long time ago but I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all the gifts and money we received. There seems to be more gifts each year and these are so appreciated by the recipients who might otherwise not receive a gift on Christmas morning.

I note below an email from Barbara Wells of the Salvation Army who visits each year to collect the gifts and money. She always has her car packed so high it is a wonder she can see where she is going.

Once again thank you all for your continued support. "Thank you all again for your very generous donations. The total was £768 and we've spent every penny!"

We had a very busy day yesterday and managed to get everything sorted, bagged up and ready for the various agencies to collect today. We were running short of a few things for older boys so with some of your money managed to buy additional toiletries and gift vouchers so they can choose for themselves.

It was great to see you all again, I was really encouraged to see so many teenagers at the service and, wasn't your student good! Thank you very much for your continued support.

Merry Christmas

Barbara

Puzzle Answers

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

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



GENERAL FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
AND BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Budget 2024 £	Actual 2023 £
PAYMENTS		
Giving to Grow contributions	86,156	86,292
Congregational expenses		
Presbytery Dues	1,713	1,615
Pulpit Supply	700	680
Minister's Travel and Expenses	960	960
Local Salaries	35,676	34,888
Fabric - Renewals, Repairs and Maintenance	33,915	32,810
Hall Running Costs	19,768	12,724
Property Insurance	6,002	5,533
Manse Council Tax	3,856	3,638
Office Expenses	7,121	6,131
Other Expenses	11,093	10,015
Depreciation	0	220
	120,804	109,214
Total Payments	206,960	195,506
RECEIPTS other than Offerings		
Use Of Church Halls	38,140	40,058
Investment Income	11,914	9,866
One-off Donations	-	468
Other Receipts	3,705	6,191
Total	53,759	56,583
Amount to be met from Offerings	153,201	138,923
Offertry and Tax Recoveries		
Congregation Offerings	108,832	109,075
Tax Recovery on Gift Aid	23,943	22,467
	132,775	131,542
Surplus / (Deficit) to date	(20,426)	(7,381)
Before Legacies Received		3,000

For the year to 31 December 2023 there was a deficit (before legacies) of £7,381. This was slightly better than the position at end 2022 when there was a deficit of £8,643. The positive variance of £1,262 was the result of higher income (£10,216) arising from hall rental, investment returns and other income. This was offset by higher expenditure of (£8,594) largely due to higher fabric costs on repairs and maintenance and running costs. Including legacies of £3,000 the final position at end 2023 is a deficit of £4,381 to be covered by reserves. The Budget for 2024 has been based on the assumption that, in line with recent experience, there will be a slight fall in income and a general increase in expenditure, particularly the costs of maintaining and running our premises and that this will again result in a deficit to be met from reserves. *Janice Reynolds– Treasurer*



Parish People

In the Hot Seat this time– Laura Langdon

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

In a way I have been involved in St Ninian's since I was a baby. I was baptised by the Rev Colin Martin and began Beginners Sunday School at the age of three. I remained in Sunday School going through all the departments concluding with the three evening Bible classes. Following this I joined St Ninian's Young people and enjoyed our varied programme which ranged from leading worship to day trips to Butlins.

Alongside this I began helping with Sunday School at the age of 13 and eventually led the Beginners department for a number of years. I also passed through Brownies and Guides in St Ninian's and latterly became a Venture Scout there. I helped with Tuesday night Brownies for many years and led Venture Scouts for a few years too. Step In Side for younger teenagers was also a very special part of my formative years. The opportunity to gather with friends on a Saturday night and take along your favourite records, play table tennis and badminton etc felt very special and grown up. Over the years I have been a Deacon and am now an Elder and look after Safeguarding.

Any special Memories of the Church?

My most special memories are Simon and I marrying in St Ninian's in 2000 and our daughter Jenna being baptised in St Ninian's in 2003.

Do you have a favourite Hymn?

I have lots of favourite hymns but I especially love How Great Thou Art

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

I'm very fond of a recent piece of advice given to me by someone at Church. "Do the best you can with the time you've got." I often feel like there's not enough in hours in the day to juggle everything I have to do so I use this as a reminder to myself that I can only do my best.

Something People don't know about me

Billy Connolly and I once ran for the same taxi. I was aware someone else was running for it too but got a surprise when I looked up and realised who had arrived at the door on the other side of the taxi. He gave me a little bow and gestured for me and my friend to get in.

He assured me the staff at the Caledonian hotel would help him get one.





Church Announcements

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy."

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet on Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

Thanks to Alister McGlashan



Christmas Highlights





Christingle





Friendly Corner



A great time was had by all on 19th December. Thank you to all who visited and helped on the day. And for all the support at Friendly Corner in 2023

Fiona Coutts



Alpha Antics



Alpha have continued to meet up fortnightly with our regular group of 6. We've had trips to Costa, walks up Corstorphine Hill and our Christmas Outing to Pizza Express. Alpha are a great bunch of kids who get on very well with each other, resulting in fun and relaxed discussions along with the occasional craft session thrown in for good measure. Everyone in the group contributed to the Christmas Family worship, either narrating, reading from the bible or leading prayers and helped to make it a really enjoyable service. If you know of anyone who would like to join Alpha S1-S6 range, send them our way, they would be made very welcome.

Campbell, Donna and Gillian



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