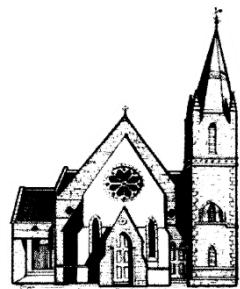


St Ninian's Church  
Corstorphine

# Quarterly



Summer 2021



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

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

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

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

**website:** [www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk](http://www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk)

**Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the usual activities listed below  
are suspended until further notice.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Dear friends,*

Throughout May we are going to sing about spring because -

*The spring has come,  
New people are the flowers of it.  
Through wind and rain,  
new life is in the showers of it.  
New bud, new shoot,  
new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.  
New bud, new shoot,  
the spring has come,  
new people are the flowers of it. (Shirley Erena Murray)*



Springtime in Glen Tilt!

This is the final verse of hymn 224, *The spring has come*. Over the course of May, we will be singing this each week in order to learn it and make it part of our repertoire at St. Ninian's. If you don't like it, don't worry. Even once we have learned it, it's a hymn we can only sing in May each year.

*The spring has come* is a hymn that unfolds spring to reveal the season of Eastertide. Between Easter Sunday and Pentecost, we celebrate Easter and Jesus' resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus unfolded over fifty days. First there was transformation. When his disciples first encountered him in those early days after the crucifixion, they didn't recognise him, and they doubted; he had been transformed. Then, there was recognition when, with them, he broke bread, ate breakfast, showed them his hands and feet, spoke to them, and even breathed on them. Following that, there was new life for the disciples when, filled with a spirit of holiness, they banded together as a church to ensure Jesus' life continued in a new way, and that they would live in the world in a new way.

Between now and the summer we will celebrate transformation, recognition, and new life. During Christian Aid Week we'll hear how the world is being transformed by climate change. We need to recognise that and live in a new way. At the end of June, we will mark Sanctuary Sunday when we hear how the lives of refugees are transformed by violent conflict. The world must recognise that it needs a new approach to refugees, and we can give them a new life when we offer them sanctuary. Throughout this time, we will be experiencing the end of lockdown, our lives will be transformed. We need to recognise not just how liberating that will be, but how hard it will be to adjust to living in a way that will avoid further lockdowns. If we can do that, our lives will feel new.

Resurrection is all around us: in the season, in the environment, in the news, and in our lives. Let us learn to be transformed by it, and to recognise it, so that we may enjoy new life in all its abundance.

*Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the  
Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6: 4)*

Best wishes,

*James*

## Kirk Session Meetings

2021 -8<sup>th</sup> September; 10<sup>th</sup> November

## Deacons' Court Meetings

2021 -26<sup>th</sup> May; 22<sup>nd</sup> September; 24<sup>th</sup> November

These are the dates planned. The arrangements for meeting will depend on whatever rules for social distancing are in effect at the time.

## Worship At St Ninian's

We are delighted to report that the sanctuary has reopened for worship.

The procedures for worship are as before, you will need to call to reserve a place (or turn up on the day with hope in your heart). The phone number is 07399 950 204 between 9:00 am and 12 noon, Tuesdays to Thursdays.

The services on **Sunday 23rd May** and **Sunday 20th June** are **family services** for which families with young children have priority - booking available now.

Services will continue to be available online on Facebook and YouTube using either of the links below.

- Worship online on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW-OUJ0F3JLO9vUD7KYMffA>
- Worship online on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/stninianschurch>
- And, if you can't access YouTube or Facebook, you can have a DVD, CD or printed text of the service delivered to your door every week prior to the 10.30 service

Communion will be celebrated online and in the sanctuary on Sunday 6th June at 10:30am. Thereafter communion services will be celebrated online (and in the sanctuary when restrictions permit) on the first Sundays of September, December, March and June.

The minister sends out a weekly email every Friday with details of the services and other news from St. Ninian's. If you are not on his list but would like to be, email him on: [jaitken@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jaitken@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## Congregational Register

### Funerals:

31 October 2020*	Miss Margaret Morton, 60 Glasgow Road
5 March 2021*	Mr Alan Millar, 7 Featherhall Avenue
11 March 2021*	Mrs Betty Robertson, Drumbrae Care Home
21 April 2021*	Mrs Janet MacPhail, 32 Forrester Road

\* Denotes member

\* \* \* \* \*

## Mission Committee

This year we saw a change in delivery of our congregational Easter cards. Following guidance from the Church of Scotland at 121 George Street, we were unable to ask volunteers to deliver these cards by hand. So, the decision was taken to use an independent private delivery organisation. A huge thank you to Gaynor, our Church Secretary, for all her hard work in organising for this to happen. Hopefully!! we will be able to get back to normal in time to deliver our congregational Christmas cards.

The Mission Committee, along with the Minister, met on 15<sup>th</sup> February (by Zoom) for our first meeting since the start of lockdown. We took the decision to investigate St Ninian's becoming involved with refugees who have been forced to flee their homeland. To take this further we arranged for a meeting with Sabine Chalmers, the co-ordinator of Scottish Faith Action for Refugees at 121 George Street, and this took place by Zoom on 19<sup>th</sup> April. Sabine gave us a very passionate and informative overview as to how we as a congregation could become involved. The Mission Committee meet again on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May to discuss what our way ahead may be. Please note that the family service to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> June is also to relate to refugee week.

*Margaret Hunter  
Convenor*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Enterprise Committee

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

*Ian Kirkpatrick  
Convenor*

# The Guild

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

I think we are all, very much, looking forward in faith. Hoping to return to some kind of normality. Meeting up with family and friends and going for a nice coffee or perhaps a much longed-for lunch that we do not have to cook for ourselves.

Our Committee Members are arranging a Zoom meeting or, if we are lucky weather wise, an outdoor meeting in a garden or cafe at the end of May. This is to discuss and consider the logistics and risk assessment required to recommence our meetings going forward, which at the moment are unknowns.

Sadly, the Co-Convenor, Brenda Russell of Corstorphine Old Parish Church Guild, has advised us that, after 129 years, their Guild will be closing down at the end of May. Brenda has kindly offered their support in future St Ninian's fundraising events.

Marion continues to receive interesting and varied articles for the Guild newsletter, 'OUR NEWS'. A great way of keeping in touch with our members and learning new things about each other.

Reflecting back, we have enjoyed many events - be they fundraisers, interesting speakers or days out. I searched for some of the photos we had taken and thought I would share them with you: afternoon tea at the Marriott and Geoff Alsop telling the Guild about his military service in Korea.



Wishing you a lovely Summer.

*Irene McCartney  
Secretary*



We at St Ninian's Church continue to support **Christian Aid** by fundraising within the Church and Parish enabling Christian Aid to help communities in the developing world. COVID-19 severely restricted our fundraising in 2020, and in 2021 we are still unable to undertake our normal fundraising activities (house-to-house collection, soup & sweet lunch and Forth Bridge sponsored walk).

With so much dependent on vaccine roll-out and government regulation this year, instead of the Forth Bridge Walk, Christian Aid partnered with The Kiltwalk. Many charities use The Kiltwalk as a vehicle to raise funds. This is a unique way of charity fundraising and The Hunter Foundation will add 50% to the total raised by us.

So, as our Christian Aid Co-ordinator, I signed up to do a Corstorphine Circular Kiltwalk on Saturday 24 April 2021 accompanied by 13 other church members clad in a variety of tartans. With a prayer to bless us on our way, we were off from St Ninian's carpark, along St Ninian's Rd, down Station Rd, through Paddockholm, along the old Corstorphine Railway to Balgreen tram station, returning alongside the tram line, Saughton Rd N, Dovecot Rd, St Margaret's Park, Featherhall Ave and back to the Church carpark. This is about the same distance as the Forth Bridge Walk.



The weather was fine and all enjoyed the walk, particularly the meeting up with friends they hadn't seen for a long-time. Through a mixture of JustGiving, cheques and cash, £2,020 was raised as of 26 April. (In 2019 we raised £1933 from the Forth Bridge Crossing). Your sponsorship money will be used by Christian Aid to help communities in the developing world, especially in relation to climate change. Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water. Together, we can STOP this climate chaos.

Next up is Christian Aid Week from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May, with an online quiz and Just Giving page. A Soup & Sweet Lunch may be held later in the year.

Alec Millar      Tel :334 1471

[alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk)

# A Prayer For Our Time

Lord, in a world turned upside down, where daily life is far from normal, we come to you, the One from whom our help comes. The One who is the same, yesterday, today and for ever.

We come to you, giving thanks that you have promised to always be with us. In your presence we find the security for which our hearts cry out at this time.

In this time of personal and national crisis help us to believe this is true. Help us to trust in you. Give us a faith that will be an anchor, firm and secure, in the storms we are going through.

Lord, we pray for all directly affected by the Coronavirus Covid-19. For those who have been infected; those who have been hospitalised; those who have lost loved ones.

We pray also for all who are caring for and supporting those with the virus. Medical staff, health workers, carers. The emergency services. Families and friends. Give them strength, compassion and love in these difficult days.

Lord, you knew abandonment and isolation. In the Garden of Gethsemane you were abandoned by your disciples. They slept while you prayed. In your anguish they could not keep watch with you. On the cross you felt abandoned by your Father.

We pray for all who feel abandoned or isolated because of the emergency we are going through. Help us, in these difficult days, to be good neighbours. To reach out in love to our neighbours in our communities and beyond.

Lord, you said, ‘By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’ We give thanks for all who by their acts of love and selfless service are standing by their neighbours especially in these challenging days.

Amen.

*(from ‘Life and Work’ May 2020 but, sadly, still very relevant)*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Easter Sunday Memories

This year, St Ninian's wasn't able to have the usual Corstorphine Hill early morning service followed by rolling eggs, but some of our young people showcased their talents by creating colourful Easter Eggs.

Congratulations to the artists, and thanks for brightening up the Quarterly!

- Finlay Scott
- Mary Brotherton
- Thomas Brotherton
- Aidan Aitken
- Rebekah Waugh
- Hannah Waugh





Care you can put your faith in

*From a recent email from CrossReach to supporters:*

**It's been tough recently; the suicide rate in Scotland is at its highest level in almost 10 years with 833 people taking their own lives in 2019 alone.**

Tracy was diagnosed with depression in 2012 after having a major breakdown and attempting suicide several times. She has been brave enough to tell you her story...

*"I was diagnosed with depression round about 2012 and was referred for support, unfortunately they didn't take time to sit with me and go through things with me. She diagnosed me with being slightly depressed I asked her if there was anybody that could help me.*

*She then told me about the CrossReach Morven Centre and showed me where it was, I walked in and self-referred myself. They opened my eyes and helped me in ways I didn't know I could be helped.*

*When I came, I wouldn't speak to anybody, wouldn't do anything . . . until one day I decided to go on a trip that the centre provide. Because of that, I started speaking to other people and they started speaking to me, before you knew it I was involved in stuff around the Centre!*

*Because the Centre was closed during lockdown we couldn't visit, I went through a very stressful time to the point I was ready to take my own life again, but the staff had seen me through it, kept my spirits up and was great. I couldn't fault them in any way.*

*They did that with everyone. Made sure we were ok and didn't feel so alone."*

*Tracy, supporter of CrossReach*

Now, more than ever we need to be there for everyone who comes to CrossReach looking for that extra support in such a difficult time, support any of us could need. In 2020 the number of people in vulnerable positions who needed our help rose substantially. CrossReach operate over 70 expert services across Scotland covering areas including substance use, homelessness, mental health, and specialist residential care. Our doors are always open for those in need, **but we cannot do this without your help. We are beyond thankful to those who already support CrossReach and, if you are able, we are asking you to give a little extra help to allow us to cope with these unprecedented times and the extra support we want to give to those in need. You could be their lifeline . . . and you can give at** <https://www.justgiving.com/crossreachchurch/donate>



## Moderator-Designate 2021-22: The Rt Hon Baron Wallace of Tankerness QC

the House of Lords in January and has scaled back his work for his year of service as Moderator. But he has received many messages of congratulations from Christians across the political spectrum and has been heartened by them.

The Assembly over which he will preside will not be a traditional one. The decision was taken earlier this year to hold the Assembly online amid the resurgence of Covid-19. Looking ahead to the third week in May, he says: “It is pretty daunting, but also exciting. I watched the General Assembly online in October. (A two-day online Assembly took place to transact only essential business after a small physical Assembly in May to install the Moderator). I knew what was going to happen at that time, but others did not know. I thought Martin (the Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, his predecessor in the office) handled that brilliantly. It was a real challenge.”

“I know people of faith across the spectrum recognise that there is a role for the Church in helping to shape post-Covid Scotland,” he says. Looking ahead to the year and the emergence of Scotland from the pandemic, he is particularly keen to acknowledge and encourage those serving as chaplains. “Many of the places where we have chaplains - schools, hospitals, college, universities, prisons - they are all places which have been at the sharp end of the Covid-19 pandemic and have kept supporting people. I would like to recognise the work that they have done and encourage them in their work.”

But, as only the second elder in modern times to be nominated to the office of Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (Dr Alison Elliot served as the first elder and woman in 2004/05), he is keen to restate the importance of the eldership to the Church: “One thing I hope to focus on is the fact that I am an elder and the importance of the eldership. It is

As an elder for almost 40 years, it is no surprise that the Moderator-Designate to this month’s General Assembly (22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May) hopes to encourage those holding the office to serve more widely within the Church of Scotland:

“I would hope that by having an elder as moderator again that I can encourage elders who have not yet thought about it to contribute talents and expertise to the Church, but also to recognise that the numbers of ministers is decreasing and that more and more will fall on the shoulders of elders and members of the congregation. And in turn, the Kirk should reflect on how it can use better the reservoir of talent within the eldership. I hope I can give them encouragement to take on these responsibilities. It shows that the Church does appreciate and value its eldership,” says the Rt Hon Baron Wallace of Tankerness QC (the name is taken from a peninsula a few miles south of Kirkwall in Orkney), better known as Jim Wallace, the former Deputy First Minister of the Scottish Parliament, the former Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats for 13 years and a Liberal Democrat MP and MSP for Orkney and Shetland for many years before taking his seat in the House of Lords in 2007.

His nomination as Moderator has temporarily halted his political business. He will not be taking part in this election campaign for the Scottish Parliament - the first campaign he has missed since 1973. He moved to the non-affiliated benches of

historically a very cherished part of the Church's tradition."

His passion for politics, however, remains undimmed and he plans to focus on issues of justice during his year in office. "It is about following Jesus who offers us 'life in its fullness' - yes that means spiritual fulfilment but must surely also be a challenge to us to meet the needs of others in body and mind. My background in justice issues means I want to focus on it in so many ways - there is the criminal justice system, economic justice and social justice. We will be well reminded that there is the whole question of environmental justice in November (when the COP26 climate conference will be held in Glasgow) and moving to a green future I

think will be important. The Church must be seen to care for God's creation."

"When we get together for the General Assembly we will be hopefully looking at a country that is emerging from months and months of a pandemic. During that time families will have lost loved ones and lost livelihoods. There will be uncertainty about jobs and tremendous pressure on the health service. There is a job of healing and renewal, not just for the Church but for the country. I would like to see the Church of Scotland not only play a part in the country that is to come but to help shape it."

*(Extract from an article that first appeared in the May 2021 edition of 'Life and Work'.)*

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## Church News from around Edinburgh

### COMMUNITY PROJECT BOAT PURCHASE

An Edinburgh charity and a local church working in partnership have announced the purchase of a canal boat which will be used to help improve community wellbeing.

The All-Aboard canal boat, to be run by People Know How and Polwarth Parish Church, will be docked at the Polwarth Parish Church's pontoon on the Union Canal.

Currently being built by New and Used Boat Co, the boat will serve as a safe space to gather, socialise and improve wellbeing. It will also host People Know How's projects supporting children, young people, families and adults, while providing work or volunteering experience for the people who maintain it.

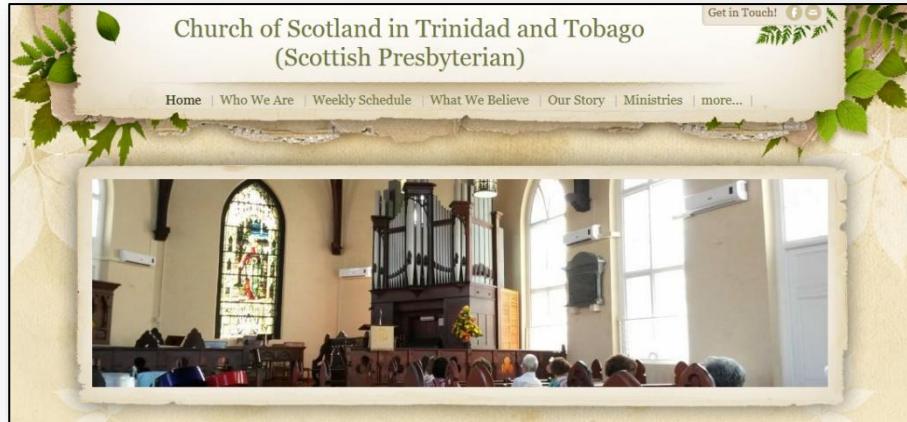
The boat will launch in the spring, with socially distanced plans for running it outside of lockdown already in place.

*(This article first appeared in the April 2021 edition of 'Life and Work').*



A canal boat moored at the church in 2019 to test the idea

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



## Trinidad & Tobago, Part 3:

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

*In Part 2, I described how a union with the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago had been proposed. Now for the Committee Meeting, to which I had been sent as an advisor!*

We met for the Committee meeting on the Sunday evening. The white-haired lawyer was there.

First, though, just a few further facts to understand the background. In the 1840's, according to the History of Greyfriar's, the population of Trinidad was 45,000. According to Mr Google, the population of Trinidad and Tobago is now 1,395,000. Some 39.5% of the population are indigenous Trinidadians, 40.5% of the population are of East Indian descent (remember, they started coming in the 1840's when the slaves were emancipated), 18.4% of the population are of mixed race and 0.2% are of European descent. The 1995 General Election had produced a hung Parliament with 49% voting for each of the main parties and, for the first time, the Prime Minister was of East Indian descent. It is said that, while there was no love lost between the indigenous Trinidadians and those of East

Indian descent, they tolerated each other. However, the Presbyterian Church was basically run by the East Indians; Greyfriar's was basically run by the indigenous Trinidadians with a small core of Europeans - do you see the problem?

Well, it was more of a problem than I thought. In Greyfriar's, there was a deep antipathy towards the East Indians. The trouble was that the East Indians were very influential in the Presbyterian church of Trinidad and Tobago. The antipathy bordered on hate.

Plans were made for the Congregational Meeting on the Wednesday evening. This involved bussing in many members "who had not darkened the door of Greyfriar's for many years." The Committee were advised that proxy votes were not competent. I was asked to be in the team of tellers for the meeting.

The Kirk Session had been advised that the Vice Convener of the Board of World Mission would chair the meeting on the Wednesday evening. It was, I recollect, due to start at 7 p.m. On the Monday, I was advised that the Chairman would like to meet with me on the Tuesday morning to discuss plans for the meeting on the Wednesday. We had another Committee meeting fixed for the Tuesday evening to

discuss final preparations. I duly met the Chairman on the Tuesday morning. He told me (rather ill-advisedly, I thought) that he was booked on the return flight to Heathrow on the Wednesday evening at 10 p.m. Knowing the way "kirk meetings" can go, I thought his plan somewhat optimistic! I felt obliged to report this to the Committee and they were not impressed! The word "filibuster" was mentioned!

Now to the meeting! Needless to say, the Church was "hoaching"! The meeting started at 7 p.m. The Chairman indicated that he would control the meeting, that there would no doubt be many who wished to make a contribution. He indicated that speakers would be limited to 5 minutes, and at that point he would ring a bell to indicate they should bring their contribution to a close. If that did not happen, after 7 minutes he would ring his bell and ask the speaker to stop. Aye, but! The first speaker was the finance director of the hotel I was staying in, which coincidentally was just down from Brian Lara's mansion. He was the most famous West Indian cricket player! Well, she didn't hold back. I recall her referring to the East Indians as being "termites". She

was in full flow. After 5 minutes, the Chairman rang his bell. She kept going! He rang his bell after 7 minutes! She kept going! After 10 minutes he intervened and told her to stop. You will remember the indigenous Trinidadian lawyer with a shock of white hair, in the front row. He would have none of it and told the Chairman to sit down and be quiet - which he did!

It was clear as time went on that there was little support for the Union with the Presbyterian Church. The vote was overwhelmingly against. The meeting finished in ample time for the Chairman to get his flight back to Heathrow! There have been many congregational meetings to do with what I knew historically as Union and Readjustment in Scotland but none like this!

Well, what has happened since? You will hear in my final instalment.

To be continued . . .

*Andrew Gibb*

\* \* \* \* \*

## And, for a(nother) quiet smile . . .

### SPELL CHEQUER

Eye have a grate spell chequer  
It came with my pea sea  
It plainly marques four my revue  
Miss steaks I can knot sea

Eye strike a quay and type a word  
And weight for it to say  
Weather I am wrong or write  
It shows me strait aweigh

Whenever a mist ache is maid  
It nose bee four two long  
And eye can put the error rite  
It's rarely ever wrong

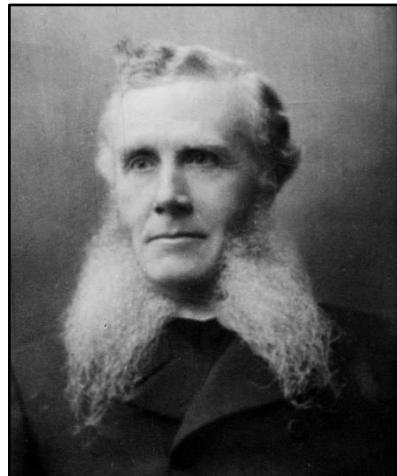
Eye ran this poem threw it  
And I'm shore your pleased two no  
It's letter perfect awl the weigh -  
My chequer tolled me sew!

*Anon*

## Past Times in St Ninian's

### The Rev James Morrison (1830-1912)

Our second Minister, the Rev James Morrison, was born on 24 October 1830 to James Morrison and his wife Margaret m.s. Colquhoon at Maxwelltown in the parish of Troqueer, now Dumfries and Galloway but at that time in the County of Kirkcudbright. We have no information about his family and upbringing, but he clearly was a "lad o' pairts" (a promising boy) because the next time we hear of him he had studied at Glasgow University and New College, Edinburgh, before being ordained in the Free Church Corstorphine in 1865 at the age of 35 as assistant to Dr George Burns, our first Minister who by then was aged 75 and in need of a younger colleague. At the time of writing we have no knowledge of James's life up until his ordination, but it is clear that he soon endeared himself not only to Dr Burns but to our Free Church predecessors as a whole and was the obvious candidate to succeed Dr Burns on the latter's retirement.



In 1866 Mr Morrison married Jamesina Ranald Martin Stewart in the parish of Sccone, and the 1871 Census shows the couple residing at 2 Melville Terrace, Corstorphine, an address soon to be lost to Broomhouse Road (now Ladywell Road) of which it formed a tiny part. The modest terraced house was in fact next-door-but-one to the Manse, so the new assistant could hardly have acquired a more convenient residence so close to his "boss" Dr Burns. (The former Manse and the two terraced houses which used to form Melville Terrace are still there, in Ladywell Road.)

Until he had fully retired, Dr Burns continued to occupy the Manse (Estherville, named after his wife) in what is now Ladywell Road which he had had built at his own expense in 1847 and which the Kirk Session later purchased from him to be the permanent Free Church Manse. The 1873 Valuation Roll shows that by that year Mr Morrison and his family were now resident in the Manse. Dr Burns had moved out to a house at 4 Osborne Terrace in West Coates opposite Donaldson's School, where he died only 3 years later aged 86, his wife Esther having predeceased him in 1870.

The Morrisons had a daughter, Margaret, and sons Charles and Norman, during the early years of James's ministry in Corstorphine. Sadly, Charles died from diphtheria when he was 7, a reminder of the high childhood mortality rate in those far-off days. Margaret and Norman survived to maturity. One of Norman's boyhood chums was James Bertram who lived in the nearby High Street, and who went on to be secretary and confidant of Dunfermline's most famous son, Andrew Carnegie. It was of course James Bertram's influence which induced Mr Carnegie to donate a pipe organ to our church in 1902. The original organ has long since been replaced but the Carnegie pipes are still to be seen in the east transept.

In her booklet of the history of our Church covering the years 1843-1993, the late Eileen Wilson wrote: "Over the next thirty years the congregation prospered under the devoted ministry of Mr Morrison and continued to grow", drawing its members not just from Corstorphine but from places as far afield as Gogar Bank, Saughton Mains, Stenhouse Mills and Sighthill. The steady growth in membership led to two separate developments of the church during these years, the first in 1870 effecting the conversion of the first modest flat-roofed building into a fine stone-built edifice with a high 'A' pitched roof, a gallery, an elegant portico and (above all) a bell-tower; and the second in 1889 when the rather square-looking body of the kirk was lengthened by about 35 feet and the apse area we are familiar with today was added. These two developments enabled a total of 460 seats to be available for the steadily growing membership.

The Hall development in 1888 (now known as the Burns Hall) also happened during Mr Morrison's ministry thanks to a bequest by a Mr John Horn.

Mr Morrison oversaw in 1873 the increase of statutory communion services to four times a year in place of the previous two, and also division of the congregation into districts in 1876, to each of which an elder and deacon were appointed, and elders became responsible for distributing communion cards to members, arrangements which still continue today. Mr Morrison was also responsible for inviting (or at least allowing) the "the Grand Old Man" of British politics, William Ewart Gladstone, to give a public meeting in the church in 1880 during the election campaign when he famously won the safe Midlothian seat from the Conservatives. Mr Morrison actually sat with the welcoming platform party in the church, suggesting that he was definitely not one of the dour Free Kirk Ministers who we are inclined to think were the norm at that time.

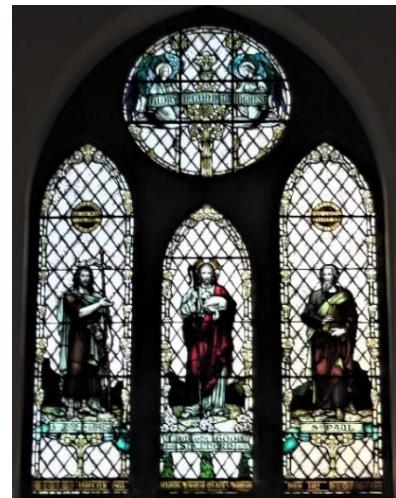
Indeed, the image we have of the Free Church in the 19<sup>th</sup> century is one of stern, unbending principle, with scant toleration of any members' shortcomings, spiritual or otherwise. The birth of a child outside of marriage was especially scandalous to Victorian society (not only in the Free Church), a stigma which continued until well within living memory in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It is pleasing therefore to be able to record that in 1887 Mr Morrison saw fit to officiate at the marriage of Joan Shade aged 21 who in the previous year had given birth to an illegitimate son, a grandson of the Free Church Beadle, John Shade.

Mr Morrison, himself a devoted family man, must have felt compassion for Joan and her family, even although he would know that by doing this he would invite serious criticism from many of his flock, which was probably only partly avoided by performing the ceremony at a house in Saughton Road and not in the church. It is ironic now that the name of the illegitimate son, George Smith Shade, confronts us on our War Memorial at every Service, he having volunteered to enlist on the outbreak of World War I before conscription came in. He was the first of our church's young men to give his life for his country, at Ypres in November 1914. Heaping coals of fire on those who had abused and shunned him?

It should be mentioned that James Matthew was an invaluable Session Clerk during almost the whole of Mr Morrison's tenure. As he was also the local Schoolmaster and Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages for Corstorphine, he must have been a major asset to Mr Morrison in keeping tabs on all that was going on locally in the parish throughout this period.

Owing to declining health, Mr Morrison retired in 1901 to universal regret after 36 years' devoted service as assistant and full-time Minister. He died in 1912 and is remembered in the fine stained-glass memorial window installed in the west transept when the transepts were added during the major re-development of 1912-14. Images of the window have been regularly viewed by a potentially world-wide audience on YouTube as part of the on-line Services produced and transmitted by James (our James!) during the Covid-19 pandemic (current at time of writing).

*Andrew Broom*



*The Morrison Memorial Window*

**St.Ninian's Church Of Scotland, Corstorphine**

**Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Period ended 30 April 2021**

	Actual 2021 £	Actual 2020 £	Variance £
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
<b>Ministry and Mission</b>			
National Stipend and Mission and Renewal Fund	29,533	33,486	3,953
<b>Congregational expenses</b>			
Presbytery Dues	2,088	3,120	1,032
Pulpit Supply	120	0	(120)
Minister's Travel and Expenses	480	240	(240)
Local Salaries	9,163	12,152	2,989
Fabric - Renewals, Repairs and Maintenance	2,322	4,380	2,058
Hall Running Costs	2,704	4,929	2,225
Property Insurance	2,002	2,188	186
Manse Council Tax	673	659	(14)
Office Expenses	2,074	2,409	335
Other Expenses	1,484	1,750	266
	<b>23,110</b>	<b>31,827</b>	<b>8,717</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>52,643</b>	<b>65,313</b>	<b>12,670</b>
<b>RECEIPTS other than Offerings</b>			
Use Of Church Halls	0	14,603	(14,603)
Investment Income	320	400	(80)
Other Receipts	4,738	2,263	2,475
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,058</b>	<b>17,266</b>	<b>(12,208)</b>
<b>Amount to be met from Offerings</b>	<b>47,585</b>	<b>48,047</b>	<b>(462)</b>
<b>Offertory and Tax Recoveries</b>			
Congregation Offerings	40,518	39,684	834
One Off Donations	6,133	50	6,083
Tax Recovery on Gift Aid	8,556	8,426	130
	<b>55,207</b>	<b>48,160</b>	<b>7,047</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) to date</b>	<b>7,622</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>7,509</b>
<b>Before Legacies Received</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,500</b>

**COMMENT**

As at 30th April, before taking account of Legacies received, there is a surplus on the General Account of £7,622. Taking account of legacies received results in a **Surplus of £9,122**. Compared to the position at April 2020, this is an increase of £7,509 before legacies received (£9,009, inc legacies). The increase in surplus is explained below:

**Lower Costs = Increase in surplus of £12,670**

- ~ Ministry & Mission and Presbytery Dues - lower than last year by £4,985 in recognition of the difficulties faced over the past year
- ~ Salary costs - lower than last year by £2,989 due to reduction in salary costs during lockdown from January to April
- ~ Repairs & Maintenance - lower than last year by £2,058 as a result of reduced activity during lockdown
- ~ Hall Running costs - lower than last year by £2,225 mainly due to lower energy costs

**Lower Income = Reduction in surplus of £5,161**

- ~ Income from Hall Rentals - lower than last year by £14,603 due to halls being closed during lockdown from January to April.
- ~ Offerings & Tax Recoveries - higher than last year by £964 due to the continued support of the congregation despite lockdown
- ~ One-off donations - higher than last year by £6,083

**Legacies Received = Increase in surplus of £1,500**

*Thank you to everyone for your continued support, it is much appreciated*

*Janice Reynolds*

*Treasurer*