

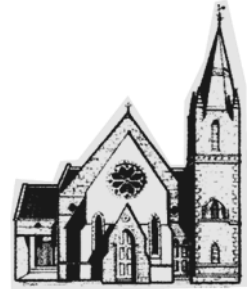
St Ninian's Church Corstorphine

www.corstorphinestnilians.org.uk



**Quarterly Magazine
Winter 2023**





Winter 2023

Dear Friends

Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath, that is Bethlehem. Jacob set up a pillar over her grave; that is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day. (Genesis 35: 19 – 20)

Thus says the Lord, "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted because they are no more." (Jer 31: 15)

As I write this winter letter at the beginning of November, I am asking myself how can we celebrate, this Christmas, the birth of the Prince of Peace in Bethlehem when the Holy Land – the land of the Holy One – is convulsed by war, terror and suffering; where parents like Rachel lament and weep for their children; where peace seems so far off? What can we do, what should we think, how should we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ?

When we are confronted with wars, and such terrible situations that appear unresolvable; when we feel powerless and confused; when we feel overwhelmed, it is easy to fall into despair. Nevertheless, as hard as it is, we must confront our despair with faith; faith in our belief that pain and suffering, and events like those in Israel and Palestine this autumn, are precisely the reason why we must celebrate the birth in Bethlehem of Jesus of Nazareth. Through his life, death, and resurrection Jesus became for us, the Christ. He is our saviour because of the world he was born into, the life he lived, the death he suffered, and the resurrection that inspired his first followers to keep alive the memory of his love, peace, and merciful justice. That is a statement of hope, which tells us that no matter how dark the world becomes there is always a light shining, sometimes just flickering, that illuminates the path towards salvation. Over the past two thousand years since the first Christmas, that light has never been extinguished, and it won't be extinguished this

Christmas. The Light of the World, Jesus Christ, God's son, illuminates our hope by showing us the way he lived his life with love, peace, justice, and mercy.

We are called to pray, demand, and campaign for mercy particularly for the victims of these events, and whenever we see innocent people slaughtered. We are called to pray, demand, and campaign for love when we see the grasping fingers of antisemitism or racism hoke our world. We are called to pray, demand, and campaign for justice when we learn about the indignities and tragedies that the Palestinian people have suffered for the past one hundred years, and which the Jewish people have suffered for the past one thousand years. We are called to pray, demand, and campaign for peace: a peace that ensures Israelis feel safe; Palestinians receive justice; and our world is stable enough that everyone can confidently plan, build, and grow a future full of life lived in all its fullness.

We, today, as people of God, members of Christ's body, must keep that flickering light shining. For if people of faith in Jesus Christ allow it to go out, then truly the world will have no hope. So, this Christmas, don't despair, take inspiration from the 14th century mystic Julian of Norwich who reminded us that,

"God showed two kinds of sickness of soul that we have: the one is impatience (for we bear our labour and our pains gloomily); the other is despair And these two are those which most trouble and tempt us, from which God wills that we be put right..."

Don't despair, and with resolute patience pray, demand, and campaign for peace, love, justice and mercy, that is the life of the Lord of Light, born in a manger under the sword of King Herod, Jesus Christ.

Best wishes,

James



Christmas at St Ninians

Sunday 3rd December,

10:30am & 3:00pm Communion

Sunday 10th December,

10:30am Gift Service

for children who won't otherwise receive a Christmas gift

Sunday 17th December,

10:30am Family Nativity Service

6:30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Friday 22nd December,

6:30pm Christingle Service

Sunday 24th December,

10:30am Morning Worship

8pm Worship for Christmas Night

Monday 25th December

10:30am Family Worship for Christmas

Welcome to our New Ministry Candidate



My name is Elliot, I am 28 years old and I am a first-year candidate in training for Full-time Ministry of Word and Sacrament with the Church of Scotland. I was born and

raised in Glenrothes (in Fife), where I grew up with my mum, brother and twin sister. Two of my biggest passions are music and maths so after high school, I moved to Glasgow for 4 years where I graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science (with honours) degree in Audio Systems Engineering. I then returned to Fife where I worked self-employed as a Mathematics Tutor.

I came to faith, just before the COVID pandemic, through a difficult and tragic moment in my life - the death of my father from terminal cancer. I never went to church and I didn't have faith growing up but me and my family would openly discuss faith around the living room table. It was only when my world was turned upside down that I started to change my perspective

and curiosity about life's biggest questions. I needed to receive Jesus' comfort, especially after a very sad time. Ever since then, my faith has grown and I have continued to journey with God through life's biggest adventures. He has now opened a new and exciting chapter in my life - a calling to the ministry. This calling has now led me to move to Edinburgh for the first time and return to university to study at New College.

It is a real pleasure and privilege to journey with you for the next 25 weeks through my first placement here at St Ninian's and I look forward to getting to know all of you and working alongside you. Thank you all for your warmest welcome!



Elliot Mitchell

Gift Service

As in previous years we shall be collecting gifts of toys which will be passed on to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy families. If any member of the congregation would like to contribute, we would be very happy to receive new toys, games, or books for children of all ages, but we request no furry toys or those requiring batteries.

Gifts of toiletries are also very welcome for teenagers. Please bring them along to the service. As parcels have to be opened so that gifts

can be suitably allocated, using a gift bag would save wasting paper. Donations of wrapping paper etc., are always gratefully received.

Alternatively, donations for the purchase of gifts for older teenagers may be given to Diana Fairgrieve up to and including 10th December when

Barbara Wells from the Salvation Army will be present to collect the gifts and money.

Diana Fairgrieve

Sunday School Co-ordinator.

*Sunday
10th
December*



Corstorphine Literary and Geographical Society

Just in time! You can catch the December 4th event when we welcome The Rolling Hills Chorus to the Lit in the Burns Hall at 7.45 pm but come early! Visitors pay just £4.

The second half of the Lit programme continues on the first Monday of each month from March through to June with a talk by the author of "The Maiden",



"Adventures from the Arctic to the Mediterranean", "Duncan Napier herbalist" and finally "how the Astoria Organ was brought back to Corstorphine." These will be publicised on posters around Corstorphine, on Facebook sites and by e-mail to all people who have contacted the Lit

previously.

Help is welcome from anyone who can support the Lit in any way; have no fear, no need to be on a committee!

Please contact the secretary,

Valerie Thomson, with any queries or comments. (339 6115).

Christian Aid



We at Corstorphine 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.

Susanne Hope again represented St Ninian's on the Edinburgh Kiltwalk, walking 15 miles in the 'Big Stroll' on Sunday 17th September 2023.

Susanne raised the superb total of £2,025 from her walk plus Gift Aid

A big thank you to Susanne and to all those at St Ninians who donated.

WELL DONE SUSANNE!

There continue to be emergency appeals around the world such as Ukraine Humanitarian, Libya Flood, Middle East Crisis, Turkey & Syria

Earthquake appeals to name but a few.

The next event at St Ninian's will be the retiring offering at the Christmas Eve Service for our Christmas Appeal.

Alec Millar

Christian Aid Co-ordinator

Tel : 334 1471 or

alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk



Primary Sunday School

We have had a good start to the term, although our numbers have been a bit down compared to last year. The teachers/helpers have remained the same with Penny & Laura stepping in to help cover holidays. Anna Loudon has stopped her volunteering after achieving her Silver Duke of Edinburgh however her younger brother Oliver has joined, and we welcome him.

We have had two Harvest Services this year, the first one at Craigie Farm where we joined South

Queensferry and Dalmeny. Derek Munn led the service with song, prayers and a talk, we were then able to wander round the animal barns and finished off with a hot drink and a bacon roll. Our second Harvest service was special because it was also Thomas Walker's Baptism. In Sunday School we planted bulbs, made Grace plates to remind us to thank God for all that he provides for us and had fun through active worship and a Harvest Shuffle.

We look forward to the remainder of the term and have dates for our Christmas party and Nativity service.

Barbara Mackie



Childrens and Families Ministry

It's been an exciting time since my ordination just over a year ago and one of the highlights has been having an opportunity to explore new ways of doing children and families ministry.

As well as working with children and families at Dalmeny and Queensferry Parish Church it has been a privilege to work with James at St Ninians to try new things, and transfer the experiences and lessons learned to each church.

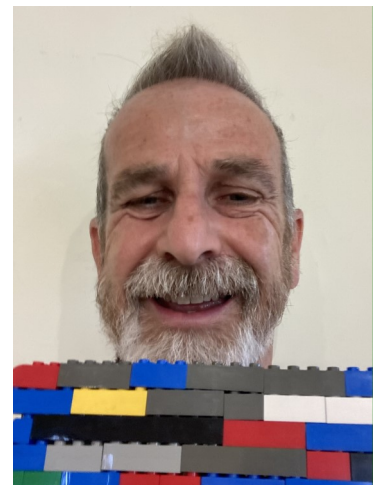
As weekends have become busier for families and with numbers attending church since the pandemic reducing, it has become clear that we need to do church differently if we are going to encourage all ages to attend. If families don't feel part of our worshipping community our churches will cease to be relevant and eventually die. We need to be an intergenerational church to survive and we need to be bold. Holding event-type services and activities is proving to be successful. If they are well-advertised locally and through social media, they can attract sizeable numbers. There is a willingness to hear the Christian message, delivered in an accessible way to all the generations attending. If we follow up an event with another soon after we have found we can build up momentum and encourage regular attendance.

Lego church has proved really popular. At Dalmeny this was run over two mornings, with 40 different children attending each day. After trialling this, St Ninians are now hoping to make this a monthly event. It's an opportunity to share a bible story filmed in Lego and then have fun building what has been learnt. We've also held ice cream Sunday services, had a successful holiday club, pet blessing services, art attack craft mornings, to name a few.

It was also exciting to work jointly with St Ninians to run an alternative harvest service at Craigies Farm. After a short service where we sang some songs, heard a harvest message, read some scripture, met Youravna, the Giraffe we enjoyed breakfast rolls in the café and visited the animals and the playpark. It was a real intergenerational collaborative event that was enjoyed by all. As ever, I'm so grateful from all the ongoing support from the St Ninian's family.

Rev Derek Munn

OLM, Dalmeny and Queensferry Parish Church.



Lego Church
19th November
@2pm

Mission Committee

The Fresh Start collection for September was delivered to Ferry Road Drive, the Mission Committee were overwhelmed by the amount of goods donated. The staff at Fresh Start were delighted to receive such a large delivery from St. Ninian's and expressed their thanks for our continuing support.

Over the last two years we have had a food collection for the Edinburgh Food Project at Broomhouse. This year we collected 143 kg - the weight of a Giant Panda! The Food Project said, "We are very grateful to have received your continued support, without gifts like yours we wouldn't be able to be there for people with emergency food provision when they need help the most. With the cold weather approaching people will be starting to make the hard choice between food and heating, and we

anticipate being even busier. So, your support has really come at a time when it is most needed. Thank you."

Our Congregational Christmas Card has gone to print, we will be looking for volunteers to help deliver the Parish cards. Further information nearer the time.

In previous years we have delivered 'Bags of Hope' to members who are unable to attend Church. Our intention is to repeat this again prior to Christmas. If anyone would like to help deliver the bags please let me know.

There will a retiral collection on Remembrance Sunday, 12th November, to raise funds to purchase hampers for refugees living in Edin-

burgh. We will be looking for volunteers who would wish to deliver hampers. If you are interested please contact Fiona or Brian Coutts or myself. We are hoping that members of the Congregation will help to deliver these gifts, thank you.

Finally, a date for your diary Sunday 14th January 2024 when we will be holding a Congregational Lunch in the Martin Shields Hall after morning worship. The funds raised will go to a charity yet to be decided.

Margaret Hunter



Harvest Service

Fabric Committee

Over the summer months roof repairs were carried out to the Manse garage. Bob Brewster repaired a broken step at the Church rear entrance and repainted the edges of the steps.

In the Church a loose oak seat on the church dais was re-secured and in the roof of the Burns Hall metal grilles have solved the pigeon problem.

We are continuing to progress the defects listed in Presbytery's Quinquennial Inspection Report.

The east guttering of the Burns Hall has been repaired and repainted and rotted guttering at the West Transept has been replaced with new cast iron gutters. Masonry joints will shortly be repointed at the top of the north nave.

Inspection of the record drawings of the construction of the Church and Halls does not indicate the use of any aerated concrete (RAAC)

All our church fire detectors have now been upgraded to ones which

recognise live fire and will automatically call out fire appliances.

Alister McGlashan

St Ninian's Guild

Our Guild started at the beginning of October still with the strategy of "Look forward in faith" but with the new theme of "New wine, new wineskins". This was introduced by James making us aware that, although there are many things that were useful in their time, there is also the need to introduce new ways of undertaking things. This is running true in the way that we are taking our Guild forward and will be necessary as the Church moves on to new ways of working in proposed unions on their journey forward.

What have you missed? There have been adventures under the city, inspiring tales about our chosen project Starchild Uganda, singing along to the music of the Swinging 60s and then the "saints came marching in" with Saints Margaret, John Scotland, Ninian's war hero and Andrew our patron saint, all amazing.

What is still to come? The new year will bring more inspirational talks until we come to a cluster of four presentations about experiences in other countries: teaching in Zambia, wanderings in the Himalayas, Scottish - Caribbean connections and an Israel experience by well known people: William Watt, Derek MacGillivray, Sir Geoff Palmer and James Aitken. This grouping of talks has been chosen with care so that some of our male church members/friends may be encouraged to attend. (I wonder if any realise that since 1997 men and women are welcome in the Guild). It would give us great satisfaction if you would come to hear these outstanding speakers.

We continue to reach out to support others. We have our nonagenarian group of whom quite a few are able to come to our meetings each Tuesday afternoon while the others are remembered in our prayers, with phone calls and visits....and flowers on their birthday. Reaching further afield we still send support to

Ukraine, more recently answering their request to help elderly people who have lost their homes in their house or in an institution and are sheltering in any place they can find. They seek soap powder, incontinence products and skin cream/lotion. Also, we have discovered a local group who are making camouflage to be sent to the front line. They have netting but require thin material, e.g. old curtains, sheets, table cloths, shirts, etc in beige, brown, green and grey colours and also white for winter time which can be ripped into strips and woven through it.

You are welcome to join us in these efforts but equally, as we share faith, fellowship, friendship and fun, you are welcome to be with us at any or all of the meetings at our Guild. They are held in the Martin Shields Hall at 2.15 pm each Tuesday and the syllabus is on the Guild notice board near the Crush Hall.

Valerie Thomson

***Tuesday afternoons
at 2.15pm between
September and April***



Advent Study Group

ADVENT STUDY SERIES

God, Jesus, Worship, and the Christian Life

Monday 27th November, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

Who is the God of the Christians?

(an introduction to books & films about Christianity, & a discussion about God)

Monday 4th December, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

Jesus Christ and the Church

(a theological tour of the church sanctuary)

Monday 11th December, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

How do we worship?

(a close look at Sunday morning worship)

Monday 18th December, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

How should we live?

(a discussion about living life as a Christian)

ALL WELCOME

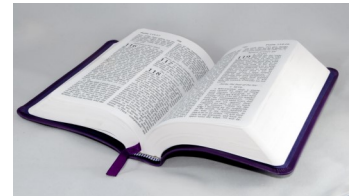
This study series is particularly suitable for anyone wishing to join the church or anyone who would like a refresher course on the Christian faith.

If you would like to come along to this group, let the minister,

Rev. James Aitken, know on:

0131 334 1324 or

JAitken@churchofscotland.org.uk



Congregational Register

New Members by Profession of Faith:

Cara Short, 8 Featherhall Crescent North

Eleanor Gordon, 3 East Craigs Wynd

Hannah Waugh, 20 Kinacres Grove, Bo'ness

New Members by Transference Certificate:

Eleanor Black, 136/9 Gylemuir Rd

Baptism:

1 October 2023 Thomas Wolfgang Walker,
14 St Ninian's Road

Funerals:

30 August 2023 Mrs Mary Aitchison, Murrayside Care Home

7 September 2023* Mrs Cathy Conway, Barnton Park View

13 September 2023* Mrs Evelyn Reid, 1 Cruikshank Gardens

5 October 2023 Mr Alex Maltman, Barnton Park View

18th October 2023 * Mrs Vivienne Stirling, Dunbar

25 October 2023* Mrs Anne Hogarth, 32 Broomhall Park

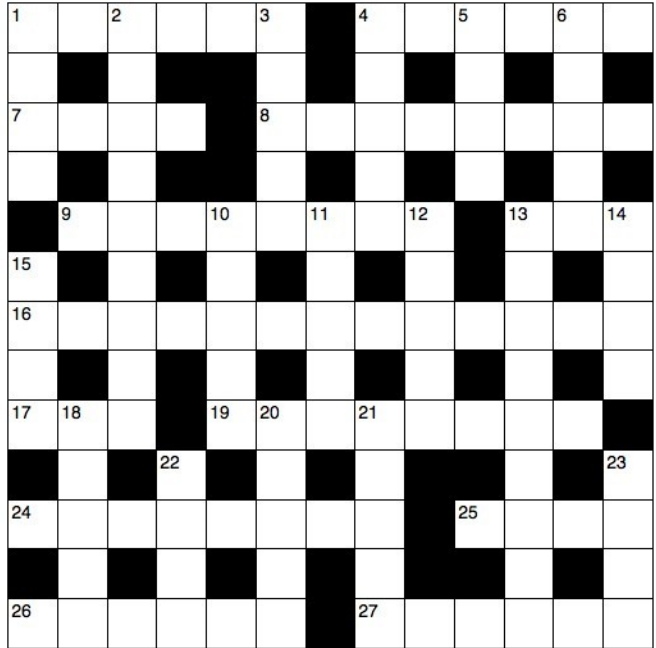
* Denotes member

Crossword Time

Crossword clues

Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)
- ### Down
- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)



Answers Page 15

Parish People

Each Edition we will meet a different member of the congregation to find out a bit about them.

First out of the starting Blocks, our brand new Elder, Clare Darling



How long have you been involved in St Ninians and in what ways?

I have been in St Ninians since I was 12 years. Which is 50 years, there was a few years break as I moved my membership lines to the Parish in Melrose and was there for 23 years. St Ninian's was where all my family my parents, grand parents, Aunts and Uncles and cousins came to. Unfortunately my parents aunts and Uncles are now deceased. My cousins are not in the church area. So I was regularly at many services when I was up visiting my parents. I was a Sunday School Teacher for 13 years in the primary dept which was the 5 to 7 year olds. I had to leave when my husband at the time got promotion in the bank and moved down to Melrose as Manager.

Any special Memories of the Church?

I have lots of fond memories, I have built up many loving friendships. I

was in the church youth fellowship which met Sunday evenings for 17 plus years, we usually finished up in the pub for couple of drinks before they shut at 10pm as it was then before changing to 11pm. I was married in St Ninian's also my first child my daughter was christened there. Both ceremonies were carried out by Rev Colin Martin.

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

Always be a good listener listen to advice but make your own final decisions. Also keep a good positive mind, look at everything positively and keep smiling. Be there for your friends you never know when you may need them and they can repay any favours.

New Testament In Numbers

Some of you may have read in the press recently that the last of the towers dedicated to the four evangelists in the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, that of Saint Matthew, was completed on 27 September. The Tower of The Virgin Mary was completed in 2021 and the final 'Tower of Jesus Christ', 172.5 metres high, is scheduled for completion in 2026, marking the anniversary of architect Antoni Gaudi's death and the completion of the largest, most prominent and most symbolic elements of the basilica. However, given the history of the project so far (the cornerstone was laid in 1882), no one is holding their breath on hitting that date and the decorative elements could easily take another decade!

However, of all the symbolism embedded in this incredible structure, the bit which tickled my fancy the most, when we were on holiday in Barcelona this Summer, was the relatively inconspicuous but magic 4 x 4 square on the wall of the left hand side of the Passion facade.

I enjoyed doing 'magic squares' in maths in school (described as 'a fascination with no known use'), but this one is a bit different, try it.

Add the four numbers in any row, column, diagonal or 2 x 2 sub square (the four corners).

Whichever way you look at it, the total is 33.

There are various other combinations which arrive at the same total - the four centre numbers, 'broken rows', 'alternating rows', 'four in checker board' and two more, very special, in the shape of the cross - 14, 11, 6, 2 and 14, 7, 9, 3.

Finally, there is a sort of hidden, subliminal signature (which I certainly didn't work out at the time!) Adding up the numbers which repeat (14 + 14 + 10 + 10 = 48) and looking at their correspondence in the Roman alphabet:



I=9, N=13, R=17, L=9, total 48, gives INRI: Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum - Jesus of Nazareth King of The Jews. See how many combinations you can spot - you have until Easter to work out the significance of the answer!



Past Times in St Ninians

25 years ago, from the Winter edition of the Quarterly

From the Pastoral Letter by the Rev Alex T Stewart

“ . . . The Kirk Session has resolved to try an experiment next summer during the school holiday period. In July and part of August, when numbers attending church are notoriously low, we feel that it would be beneficial to bring our two congregations together and hold only one service at 10.30am. It is certainly not intended that this should be a permanent arrangement; it applies only to the peak holiday period.

“We hope our half-past-niners will enjoy meeting their eleven o’clocker neighbours and vice-versa, if only for a few weeks once a year. Perhaps the atmosphere of worship engendered by one large congregation will be more uplifting and inspiring than that of two smaller groups. This experiment will be reviewed in the Autumn. Please try to make it an enjoyable and successful experience. . .”

The Junior Sunday School Penny Jar

“Last session, in addition to their weekly offering, the children of the Junior Sunday School continued to collect ‘coppers’ in their ‘Penny Jar’. By the end of the session we were able to send a cheque for £40 to The Children’s Hospice Association of Scotland - that’s an average of over a pound per child. Yet again we received a nice thank you letter from CHAS, who continue to be very appreciative of the children’s efforts. . . It costs over £1 million per year to run Rachel House - how do they raise all that money? Well in our case at least it was by sticking to that old adage - ‘Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves.’”

Young Wives

50 years ago, from the October 1973 edition of the Quarterly

“This season we enjoy a varied and interesting syllabus which includes a film on Leukaemia Research, a Records Evening, talks on topics as wide-ranging as Toymaking and Marriage Guidance, and outside visits which include a sedate trip to the Dovecot Tapestry Studio and a rather less sedate outing to Usher Vaux, which has been fully booked since our first meeting! We continue to sponsor 10-year-old Jackie in Dr Graham’s Homes, Kalimpong, subscribing £5 annually towards her upkeep, and send birthday and Christmas gifts to her with the good wishes of our members. At the time of writing, we are all working hard in



preparation for the Christmas Fayre. I feel confident that the Young Wives will once more do their best to help make this a happy and successful day.” *[Unsigned]*

Corstorphine Community Council



CORSTORPHINE CONNECTIONS UPDATE (LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOOD - LTN)

Shortly after Ian Kirkpatrick joined Corstorphine Community Council, a public meeting was held in October 2017, with Alex Cole Hamilton, MSP, Councillors, Community Councillors, and Community Police representatives to discuss the issues in the area. The major concerns were traffic, parking and pollution. Potential solutions have been talked about for a long time and the current project (LTN) is a trial up to 18 months. It could have been amended in the first 6 months but this now appears unlikely. The LTN has been implemented under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) from 24 May 2023.

Since 2017, there have been a number of concerns referred to the Community Council including -

- Parent groups at Corstorphine Primary School concerned at parking round about the school and traffic congestion in streets around the school resulting in air pollution.
- A Some residents in the Featherhall Crescents, have been agitating for some years to have the junction with Meadow Place Road closed; on learning that the flats being built in Meadow Place Road and Gylemuir Road will have fewer parking places than the number of flats, other residents have expressed concern that residents in the flats would park in the Featherhall Crescents.

Market Research, commissioned by CEC showed that 66% of respondents were concerned about safety and travel. Edinburgh is the most congested city in the UK. The Scottish Government has a target to reduce car miles by 20%. CEC has a target 30% - this is whilst the city continues to grow.

Martyn Lings, (Project Manager, CEC) has been attending meetings of Corstorphine Community Council, taking and acting on concerns for the proposed LTN. Amongst alterations made have been -

In phase 2 of the project, footways are being widened at various locations within the LRTN.

There have been issues with vandalism of the bus gate camera in Manse Road. Ant-climb paint has been applied and a CCTV camera installed.

The following are being monitored before and after the trial - traffic counts and speeds, pedestrian and cycle counts, air quality surveys, noise surveys, community feedback and business feedback.

If approved under a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), it would be made permanent in Winter 2024/Spring 2025

Refer to

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/corstorphineconnections

Comments to

edinburgh.Consultation@projectcentre.co.uk

POLICE REPORTS

Some houses have been broken into to get car keys to steal cars. However, Corstorphine remains a very safe area.

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 EdinburghCPTNorth-West@scotland.pnn.police.uk

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Some flooding issues in the area are unresolved.

Further Planning Applications are being made for houses in West Craigs and on Turnhouse Road.

The Bowling Green in St. Margaret's Park will be refurbished, Suggestions are sought on possible uses.

The Developers of the Site of Corstorphine Public Hall will be applying for Planning Permission for flats. Duart Crescent Post Office has now closed, but the Post Office is looking into relocation options so that the area will have a service - similar to St John's Road Post Office moving to Broomhall.

OTHER

Corstorphine Community Council is giving financial support to Corstorphine Christmas Support Project led by Tommy Mclean with assistance from St. Thomas' Church to provide food, etc to needy families in seven out of eight Primary Schools in Corstorphine. Ian Kirkpatrick has previously informed the Project that St. Ninian's Church will be giving hampers to refugee families this Christmas.

Corstorphine Community Centre has received a grant of £960 from the Scottish Land Fund in order to buy Westfield House. The money will also enable a start to be made to internal improvements.

A new Corstorphine website is being developed by an individual. It will provide pointers to other websites.

Ian Kirkpatrick

Member of Corstorphine Community Council representing Corstorphine Churches Together

Finance Update

St.Ninian's Church, Corstorphine General Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 30th September, 2023

General Fund - Summary

	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	Variance	
Total Receipts	137,014	134,272	2,742	●
Total Ordinary General Expenditure	(145,781)	(132,076)	(13,705)	●
General Fund - Surplus (Deficit)	(8,767)	2,196	(10,963)	●
Legacies Received	-	19,214	(19,214)	●
TOTAL	(8,767)	21,410	(30,177)	●

General Fund - Analysis of Receipts & Payments

Receipts

Congregation Offerings (inc. Gift Aid)	100,931	109,955	(9,024)	●
One-off Donations	184	542	(358)	●
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	1,345	-	1,345	●
Contributions from outside organisations for use of halls	24,414	19,326	5,088	●
Bank Interest and Investment Income	5,189	2,446	2,743	●
Other Receipts	4,951	2,003	2,948	●
	137,014	134,272	2,742	●

Expenditure

Giving to Grow contributions / Presbytery Dues	(67,195)	(70,910)	3,715	●
Local Salaries, Social Security & Pension Costs	(25,981)	(28,348)	2,367	●
Office / Administration Costs	(4,376)	(5,275)	899	●
Fabric Expenditure	(27,846)	(9,477)	(18,369)	●
Premises running costs (halls & manse)	(14,586)	(13,260)	(1,326)	●
Other Local Costs	(5,797)	(4,806)	(991)	●
	(145,781)	(132,076)	(13,705)	●

COMMENT

As at 30th September, there is a deficit on the General Fund of **£8,767** which is a decrease of **£10,963** on the position for the same period in 2022. The difference is explained as follows:

Higher Income = Increase in surplus of £2,742

The main areas of increase were: Contributions from Congregational organisations **£1,345** (includes donations for use of halls and Sunday morning tea and coffee); Hall Rental **£5,088**; Interest & Investment Income **£2,743** and Other Receipts **£2,948**.

The decrease in Offerings and related Gift Aid of **£9,382** is due to some large donations made in 2022 and a reduction in the number of regular donations made in 2023.

Higher Costs = Reduction in surplus of £13,705

The main areas of increase were: Fabric expenditure **£18,369** due to major projects and continued maintenance of the halls and manse; Premises running costs **£1,326** which includes cleaning costs previously reported under salaries; Other local costs **£991** due to an increase in regular fees & charges.

There were cost savings in the following areas: Giving to Grow contributions & Presbytery dues **£3,715**; local salaries (which now excludes cleaning costs) **£2,367** and Office Admin costs **£899**.

Taking account of legacies received the decrease on the position as at 2022 is **£30,177**.

Janice Reynolds (Treasurer)

Website Update

The St Ninian's website was originally set up nine years ago, and has been redesigned once during that time. Technology and website design has continued to evolve and improve leaving the design of our website looking old fashioned and in need of improvement. This coincided with our website provider upgrading their operating system forcing top to make some changes in the background. This change also presented us with the opportunity to improve and modernise the design of our website.

Perhaps one of the major changes that is noticeable is the division of the home page into four distinct sections. Below the header, the top section contains our welcome message and the calendar of events for the next seven days. As one of the main purposes of the website is to provide information on the various events and activities that are held in the Church, we have given more prominence to the calendar.

The second section of the home page contains information about our services and links to the order of service and intimations. Our notice board is also contained in this section. The notice board contains more detailed information on notices, main events or activities that are coming up.

The third section is focused on information on our worship and mission. We are working on the content of this section to improve the information available, particularly the resources that are mentioned in the Mission News section.

The final section of the home page is devoted to information on the Halls that are available for hire and the Sunday School.

One of the most notable changes that has been made is the change of colours that have been used on the webpages. These are designed to optimise the accessibility of the website for people with impaired vision. The website design and colour scheme is now consistent across all webpages presenting a more up to date impression.

The new design also allows us to make greater use of photographs, audio and video and we will be developing these over the coming weeks.

As with all websites it is really only as good as the information that it contains. Therefore if you want an event or activity to be included in the website or notice anything that needs to be updated please let Andrew Job know.

Andrew Job



Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

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Our Contacts

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