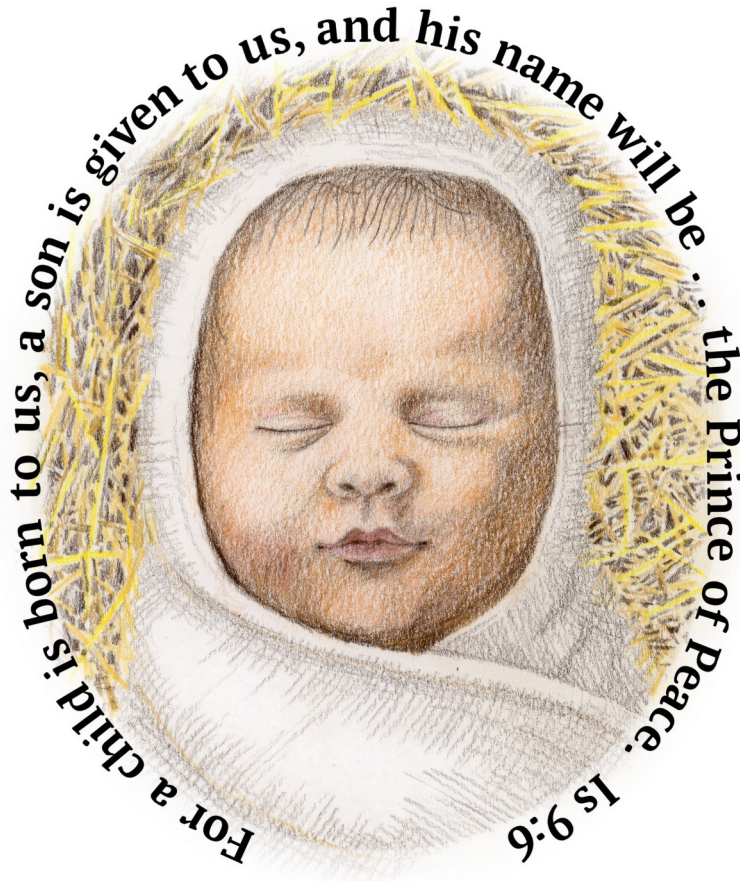


St Ninian's Church

www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk

In the heart of Corstorphine



Quarterly Magazine
Winter 2024





Dear Friends

"My soul glorifies the Lord ...

***He has filled the hungry with good things, but has sent the rich away empty."* (Luke 1: 46,53)**

***"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1: 5)**

In October, I listened to a series of programmes on the radio about children's literature. The presenter, Katherine Rundell, is a children's author herself. Both Aidan and I have enjoyed her books; *The Explorer* and *The Golden Mole* were favourites. Ms Rundell teaches at Oxford University and has also written books for adults. Her biography of poet and priest John Donne, *Super-Infinite*, won the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction in 2023. So, when Ms Rundell described Eeyore of *Winnie the Pooh* fame as "one of the finest characters in literature" my ears pricked up for Eeyore has always been a favourite of mine, and Ms Rundell clearly knows what she is talking about.

Great literature isn't just found in children's stories. The Bible has its fair share as well. This year we have read some of its greatest literature. We've heard extracts from the books of Esther, Job, and Ruth; short stories wonderfully crafted with intriguing characters, stimulating plots, and much drama. Over the summer we read the compelling literary history of the kings of Israel – Saul, David, and Solomon.

Not only can the Bible be read as literature, but it can be read alongside other literature. In 2023, I went to the *Church Times Festival of Faith and Literature*, and this year the University of Edinburgh held a *New College Festival of Books and Belief*. Both explored the ways fiction and

non-fiction throw light on the ways we understand the Bible, faith, and belief.

Every year at this time of year we celebrate one of best-known stories of all time, the account of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. We tell it in different ways: in Bible readings on Sunday mornings; in drama at the children's nativity play; in music and song at the Nine Lessons and Carols Service; with poems on Christmas Eve; with gifts on Christmas Day. These are just some of the ways that it can be told, and they testify to the quality of the story as it appears in the Gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John.

Reading the accounts of Jesus' birth as 'literature' – that is, as if they were stories rather than history – can be revealing. For example, the accounts in both Luke and John are written in a different style of Greek to the rest of their Gospels in order to mark out their accounts of Jesus' birth as prologues to the Gospels as a whole. As literary prologues, they set us up for the main themes of Jesus' life that will appear throughout the rest of the Gospel accounts: light and love transforming human lives (John's prologue); the last shall be first and the first last (Luke's prologue); the beginning of a new chapter in the salvation of Israel (Matthew's prologue).

This year, why not put aside thoughts of the historical likelihood of the Christmas story and instead read it as a story – a prologue to the rest of the Gospel. What does it tell you about what you should expect the longer Gospel narrative of Jesus's to be about? Also, why not read a good Christmas story alongside it. I can recommend Katherine Rundell's *One Christmas Wish* for both children and adults.

Best wishes,

James



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 1st December, 10:30am & 3:00pm

1st Sunday of Advent - Communion

Sunday 8th December, 10:30am

2nd Sunday of Advent - Gift Service

for children who won't otherwise receive a Christmas gift

Sunday 15th December, 10:30am

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22nd December, 10:30am

4th Sunday of Advent - Family Nativity Service

Sunday 22nd December, 6:30pm

(Mulled wine & mince pies following the service)

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Tuesday 24th December, 4:00pm

Christingle Service at St. Anne's Parish Church

Tuesday 24th December, 8:00pm

(Christmas Songs and Carols from 7:30pm.

Tea & Coffee following the service)

Worship for Christmas Night

Wednesday 25th December, 10:30am

(Hot chocolate from 10:00am)

Family Worship for Christmas Day



We must always remember

THIS month we remember and give thanks.

Remembrance calls us to pay respect to the brave men, women and children – living and dead, who have fought to preserve the nation. But in doing so we are compelled to count the cost of our heritage in terms of the lives lost and forever changed. Every November, we say 'thank you' to all those who have placed their lives in jeopardy for us, and to acknowledge and say thank you to their families whose lives have also been forever changed.

The Rev George MacLeod, the Gorbals minister who organised the rebuilding of the abbey on Iona, gave an account of a regimental boxing match during the Second World War. Between rounds, a soldier who had been wounded and had lost his memory entered the ring holding a large piece of cardboard carrying the question, "Can anybody tell me who I am?" Having lost his memory, he had no identity. He had no name, no past, no roots, no history, and little sense of himself. To have found a memory would have been to recover a person – not only a past but a present and a future.

It is right and proper that we respond to the call to remember every year; if we didn't we would lose our past, our roots, our history. Without the memories of our past, part of who we are would be missing.

He had no name, no past, no roots, no history, and little sense of himself.

For many of my generation and younger, our minds are to a large extent educated on historical events by the movies. There are some old favourites like *The Great Escape*, *The Bridge over the River Kwai*, *The Dambusters*, *Sink the Bismark*, to name but a few... and there is an inherent problem.

Many of the war films tell a tale with a bit of poetic licence and stretching of what actually happened. As the tale unfolds, the allies are victorious and in the main (admittedly with a few exceptions) they end with a sense of being victorious and 'they all lived happily ever after.'

Yet, for those who experienced war and conflict there could be, and can be, no 'and they all lived happily ever after' such was the effect of their experiences.

We must always remember. We owe it to those who suffered and died, and to those who suffered and lived – lived a life with the physical and mental consequences of what they endured. As we remember we pray for a day when nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. This world of ours needs to learn from the past and it needs to learn to love one another.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.

The Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson is Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2024/25 and minister of Strathaven: Trinity.

Reproduced by Kind Permission of Life and Work November 2024





Mission Committee

A huge amount of goods were delivered to Ferry Road Drive following the collection on September Communion. We look forward to a visit from Jen McQuisten on behalf of Fresh Start on Sunday 24th of November, when Jen will give us an insight into the work of Fresh Start. Our next collection will be on Communion Sunday 1st December when we will be looking for dishes and cutlery, further details will be in the Orders of Service nearer the time.

An amazing amount of food was received for the Edinburgh Food Project. Over 32 stone of food, equivalent to the weight of a melon headed whale or 22 koalas was duly delivered to the Broomhouse store. The staff there wish to pass on their sincere thanks.

The Mission Committee look forward to receiving entries for our Christmas Card competition. We look forward to seeing the winning entry.

Once again we will be delivering 'Bags of Hope' to members who are no longer able to join us for worship in the Church. If you are interested in

helping to deliver these please contact Margaret Hunter.

On Sunday 10th November there will be a retiring offering to provide Christmas hampers for refugees living in Edinburgh.

A date for your diary Sunday 19th January 2025, when we will be holding our Annual Congregational Lunch after morning worship. The Mission Committee would like to thank the Minister, Kirk Session and Congregation for their on-going support.

Margaret Hunter





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 8th December when Barbara Wells from the Salvation Army will be present to collect the gifts and money.

Diana Fairgrieve

**Gift Service on
8th December**





ADVENT STUDY SERIES

'Unexpected Jesus'

Mondays

7:30pm – 9:00pm

at St. Ninian's

25th November, 2nd December,
9th December, 16th December

Wednesdays

10:30am – 12:00noon

at St. Anne's

27th November, 4th December,
11th December, 18th December

ALL WELCOME

More information:

Rev. James Aitken: jaitken@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rev. Jamie Griggs: jgriggs@churchofscotland.org.uk





Primary Sunday School

We have continued to have a good cohort of children coming along to Sunday School, but not necessarily all at the same time. So far, we have managed this term to cover holidays, but we might need to ask for volunteers in November to help. Ollie Loudon has continued to come along and it's great to have an extra pair of hands with some of the activities and clearing up at the end of our session.

At the start of the term, we were following the lectionary and learning through the book of James about actions speaking louder than words, what happens when we are squeezed and choosing God, choosing wisdom. The activities ranged from dancing the Conga to making a "Good fruits jar" with words of encouragement about each other.

We had our traditional Harvest Lesson where we talked about what makes a good Harvest and sharing what we have, we then went onto plant some bulbs and make potato people, the children always have fun with this activity and it's interesting to see what they produce, it's different every year.

We look forward to the remainder of the term and have a date for our Christmas party.

Barbara Mackie





Our Guild @ St Ninian's

Sorry if you missed the start of the Guild.....never mind! There are many more meetings through to April 2025.

We are enjoying a really interesting programme with talks and presentations on a variety of topics.

The Guild theme for 2024-2025 is "Sure Foundations" and we have looked at the way that these have set us on different pathways through faith, homes, careers, relationships and more.

Several of our members have offered presentations and we have enjoyed hearing about research done by Maurice McIlwrack and travel by Andrew and Katherine Broom.

We have welcomed four new members but have sadly lost, Ella Loudon, our oldest member who gave over 45 years service to our Guild. She leaves many memories. We remember too those whose ill health prevents them from being with us.

Dip in to our programme....it is on the Guild noticeboard in the Crush Hall corridor and come along at 2.15pm on Tuesday afternoon to share faith, fellowship, friendship and fun with us.

All are welcome! Yes, all are welcome to our Guild!

Valerie

Guild contact: valthomson@btinternet.com





Christian Aid and Kiltwalk 2024

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 represented St Ninian's on the Edinburgh Kiltwalk, walking 11 miles in the 'Big Stroll' on Sunday 15th September 2024.

Susanne raised the superb total of £1,448.00 from her walk plus Gift Aid

A big thank you to Susanne and to all those at St Ninian's who donated.

There continue to be emergency appeals around the world such as the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

The next event at St Ninian's will be a retiring offering for the DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal on 24th November 2024.

Alec Millar, Christian Aid Co-ordinator

Tel: 0773 800 7302

alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk

Edinburgh Kiltwalk 2024

Thank you for raising £1448 Susanne!

Monday 21 October 2024

Thank you Susanne for joining the Edinburgh Kiltwalk 2024 with Christian Aid, and together with and everyone at Corstorphine St Ninian's Church raising a fantastic £1448.00!
Your efforts will help care for creation and empower communities worldwide to lift themselves out of poverty.

Step-by-step we can help change the world

Christian Aid is a key member of the UK Alliance of Faith and Values Charities (no. 110881) and Charity (no. 322210) Company (no. 207522). The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid.
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Quarterly– a message from the Minister

You'll notice that this edition of the Quarterly looks very different from other recent editions. It has been published in black and white rather than colour, although the superb content continues to be as good as ever. Thank you for all your contributions, and to Simone for all she does to encourage them and produce such a good magazine.

However, recently, the Finance Committee has noticed that the cost of printing the Quarterly has increased significantly. It now costs approximately £3.00 a copy to print, which means that every quarter St. Ninian's spends over £1,000, almost £5,000 annually, printing the Quarterly.

To keep costs under control, the Finance Committee is looking at ways of cutting this cost. One way to do so is to publish the Quarterly in black and white rather than colour, as it is this quarter. Doing so this quarter will help us understand better the costs of the Quarterly, but we would also like to know what you think.

The Quarterly is part of the 'face' of St. Ninian's. A bright and engaging magazine is one way by which we engage, advertise, and inform our congregation and others about the worship on Sunday mornings, activities at other times, and the people who make up St. Ninian's. How much do you think printing in black and white detracts from that?

One other suggestion to help keep costs down is for people to ask for an electronic copy rather than a printed one. Electronic copies are free to produce, but of course they are less likely to be passed around, browsed through, or returned to. For example, recently, I have begun receiving an electronic copy of *Life and Work*, the Church of Scotland's monthly magazine, but I have found that although an electronic copy is better for the environment, cheaper to produce, and reduces clutter, now no one else in my family reads it, and I rarely read most if what is in it.

What do you think? Is a colourful Quarterly important to you? Would you like to receive an electronic copy?

Let us know. You can drop Simone and I an email on simone_hislop@blueyonder.co.uk and james.aitken2@btinternet.com, or speak to us on a Sunday morning.

Best wishes,

James



rock trust

ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

At the service on 13th October when we were highlighting World Homelessness Day, Eilidh Gardner, the new Supporter Engagement Fundraiser at Rock Trust, visited St Ninian's to thank the congregation for its ongoing support. She gave an enlightening talk on the work of Rock Trust in its fight to end youth homelessness in Scotland. From small beginnings in Edinburgh, the Rock Trust is now established in East, Mid and West Lothian, Perth and Glasgow as well.

In addition to food provision, Rock Trust offers support with physical and mental health and wellbeing and advice on housing, benefits, employment and budgeting. Help is also given in finding accommodation with rent deposit schemes and move in grants available.

In 2023, an innovative schools-based prevention programme was introduced which aims to identify and support students at risk of homelessness before they reach crisis point.

St Ninian's has been supporting Rock Trust for 21 years now and what started in a modest way as the offshoot from a Guild Project in 2003 has grown to include the whole congregation. We currently deliver over 100 items of food and toiletries each month to the headquarters in Albany Street and indeed in the two weeks since Eilidh's talk, the weekly contributions arriving in the dedicated cupboard in the vestibule of the church have increased significantly. Many thanks to everyone for your continuing generosity which is greatly appreciated by all at Rock Trust.

All kinds of non-perishable foods are welcome including packets of soup, porridge pots and noodle and pasta pots which are invaluable to those who have access only to a kettle. Toiletries and other little luxuries are also appreciated, as is any form of financial support. If you would like to help but are unable to bring items to church, please get in touch with me.

More detailed information on the work of Rock Trust may be found by visiting www.rocktrust.org

Susanne Hope

(07834 071916 or 0131 334 2489)



Introducing our new Ministry Student, Emma McMillan

Hello from Emma!

I'm excited to be undertaking my first placement as a Ministry Candidate at St Ninian's Church, worshipping here, and getting to know everyone, over the next 25 weeks.

In September 2024 I began studying a Master of Divinity (MDiv), an accelerated Honours degree, at New College, at Edinburgh University, following a year undertaking the Church of Scotland's Discernment Process.

I've previously studied History of Art and Decorative Arts and worked for many years as a jewellery and silver valuer, within auction houses and as an independent consultant. Following redundancy, in 2009, I became self-employed and, alongside valuing, sought other, less commercial, ways to use my gifts and talents.

Teaching dance fitness and seated exercise classes, singing, and facilitating arts and crafts activity sessions, led to my employment as a care home Activities Coordinator.

My love of pastoral work, and a growing sense of a call to Ministry, encouraged me to begin the Church of Scotland's Discernment Process and now to study at New College.

I previously studied in Aberdeen and Glasgow, and lived in the West Midlands, for a few years, when I first started working. Having grown up just outside Edinburgh, near Dalkeith, I was delighted, in 2004, to return to living and working here.

Despite growing up attending Sunday School and church, when I first started working, and moved south, my dedication declined. Then, on moving back to Edinburgh, I searched, for some time, for a local church I was keen to regularly attend.

My love of singing, and an organist's invitation, encouraged me to commit, first to Greenside Parish Church and then to Cramond, now Edinburgh Northwest Kirk. I'm incredibly grateful for the strength, support, and opportunities I've received over the years from these congregations, and I sincerely hope to meaningfully contribute to worship, here at St Ninian's Corstorphine, during my placement.

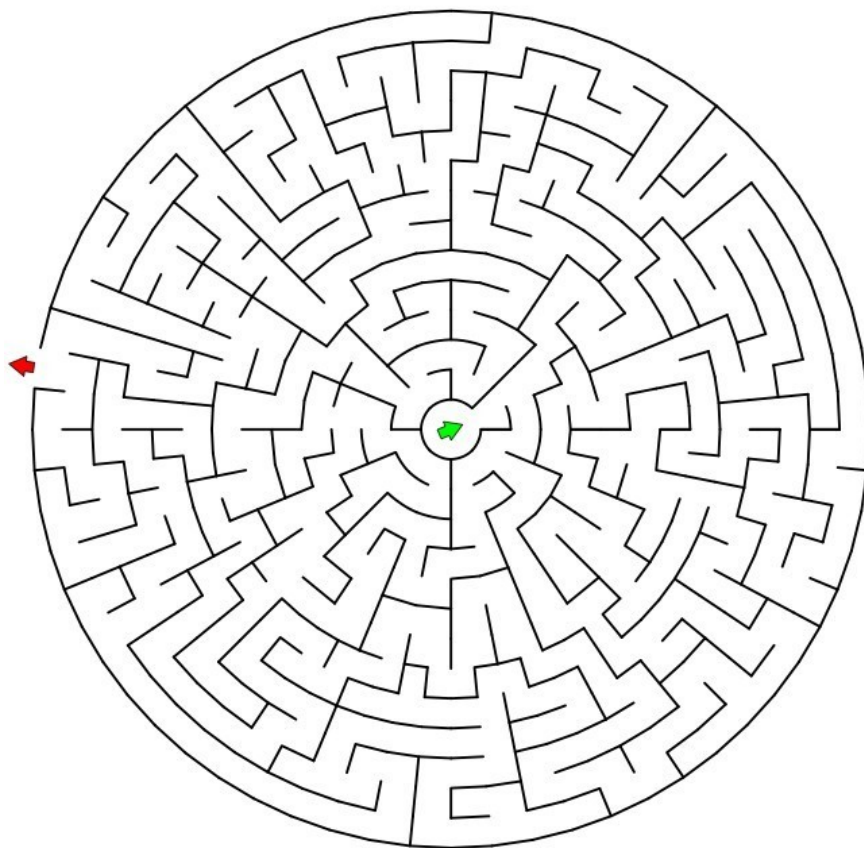




Sudoku

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

Puzzle Answers
Page 18



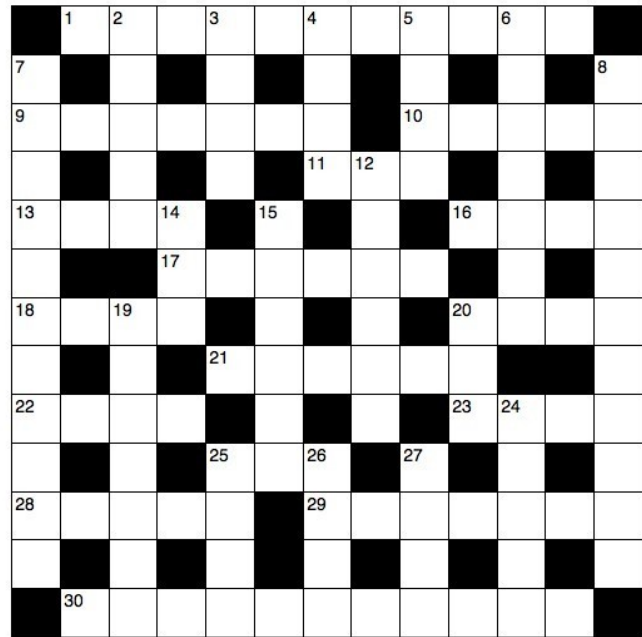
Maze



Crossword Time

Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No —, impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always —, nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1-2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)



Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to —' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across



Past Times in St Ninian's



1999

Food Hygiene"

"As we all know, there has been increasing concern recently for food safety in public places, including churches, where numbers of people are catered for at functions. With these concerns in mind, the Deacons' Court agreed that a Food Hygiene course should be held in St Ninian's during the autumn. We were very fortunate indeed to engage the services of Fiona Cameron, who agreed to conduct such a course.

"Fiona is fully qualified in this area of expertise and so, in October, six members of the congregation, Lesley Aitken, Mary Gillespie, Norma Gilmore, Moyra Lumsden, Gillian McDonald and Morag Small duly sat and passed the exam set by Fiona. They have each gained the Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate awarded by the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland. This means that these ladies are now qualified to supervise the preparation of food in the church kitchen. Congratulations ladies!

"Many thanks once again to Fiona for giving her time and expertise to this worthwhile exercise."

"DTR" [Douglas T Ramsay]

[At the time of the above article Fiona Havill (née Cameron) was Catering Controller of Jenners.]



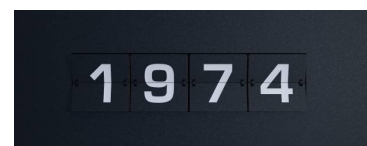
50 Years Ago, from the Quarterly dated Dec 1974

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

"I am writing these notes with Christmas still ahead of us – and the signs are that it may be a more austere Christmas than we have known for some years. . .In our own country, the 'Merry' side of Christmas struggles with the evidence of economic malaise in terms of inflation, strikes, disputes, threats and counter-threats; social disease in terms of indiscriminate violence, vendetta and vandalism; and moral weakness in terms of permissiveness, promiscuity and sheer self-centredness.

"Maybe one of the happier and more hopeful signs is that more and more people are at least beginning to identify the problem, though they may be slower or more unwilling to recognise either its causes or its antidote. In the Gospel of Jesus Christ we have the answer to the ills which beset world society today – for it is a Gospel of healing, reconciliation and redemption. I believe that the truth of this Gospel and the acknowledgement of the world's need of it is being and will be increasingly borne in on men and women who see how powerless all our material affluence and selfish striving are to meet the needs of the times. Perhaps, in God's Grace, this Christmas may see an increased recognition of the Lord of Christmas rather than just the trivia of Christmas . . ."

[Has the present situation changed all that much for the better since 50 years ago?]





Corstorphine Community Council

Recent Reports from Corstorphine Community Council - 29 October 2024

Corstorphine Connections Update (Low Traffic Neighbourhood- LTN)

The Bus Gate at the top of Manse Road is to be removed.

Other parts of the LTN are being recommended to be made permanent.

Councillor Reports

A number of works in the Corstorphine area await funding.

Other

The Chairman of Corstorphine Community Council has resigned. As he was the last remaining Office-Holder (the Secretary having previously resigned), it is suggested that Corstorphine Community Council is now closed pending the Elections at the turn of the year.

Ian Kirkpatrick

Member of Corstorphine Community Council representing Corstorphine Churches Together

Prayer Group

To the best of my knowledge, for at least the last thirty years, St Ninian's have never had a Prayer Group.

During the summer, Andrew Carter our then ministry student, started up a Prayer Group and it has continued ever since. We meet in the Alpha Room (Room 6) on a Sunday Morning from 10am until 10.15am.

The format is as follows: Saying the Lord's Prayer together: a Bible Reading: A Prayer led by the Group Leader: then a couple of minutes of silence for reflection. Thereafter, we have around five minutes or so for personal prayers which can either be prayed quietly or shared with one another if you wish, and finally a short closing prayer led by the Group Leader.

I am assuming that many people in our congregation will never have experienced a Prayer Group and will understandably be unsure about it and perhaps a little apprehensive in case it may take them out of their comfort zone. Why don't you come along some Sunday morning and see for yourself what our Prayer Group is like? We are a small group and will be delighted to see you and have your support.

Moira Mather



Parish People : Christine Millar

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

My parents moved to Corstorphine in 1961 when I was 11 and my Mum (Lily Bain) and I started attending St Ninian's then. At that time Rev. Martin Shields was the minister. I became a Member of St Ninian's in 1969 when Rev. Colin Martin was the minister. Under Rev. Alex Stewart's ministry, I became a Deacon and then an Elder in 2014.

Over the years at St Ninian's I have been in the Youth Fellowship, a teacher in the Beginners Sunday School, served on the Social Committee, was secretary of the Young Women's Group, helped with Step Inside and was on the creche rota and morning coffee team for many years. At present, as well as being an Elder, I am involved with stewarding, reading at morning worship, flower delivery, Silver Belles (we clean the silver and wash the cups in preparation for Communion) and Christian Aid.

I also attend other activities which are held in the Church halls – Ladies Badminton, Pilates and Corstorphine Ladies Probus, so St Ninian's has an important role in my life.



Any special memories of the Church?

Our Wedding on 4 August 1973 when Alec and I were married by Rev. Colin Martin.

Do you have a favourite Hymn?

'All thing bright and beautiful'. I have always loved gardening and nature, and this hymn reminds me to be grateful for all the wonderful things which God has created.

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

Not really advice as such, but I attended Leith Academy Primary School, and the school motto was 'Persevere'.

Something People don't know about me

While sitting my driving test I had to do a REAL emergency stop. I was approaching a junction, and a car came through the junction on the wrong side of a Keep Left Island straight towards me. We avoided a collision, but I was a nervous wreck for the rest of the test - I did pass though!



St.Ninian's Church, Corstorphine

General Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 30th September 2024

General Fund - Summary

	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	Variance
Total Receipts	142,767	137,014	● 5,753
Total Ordinary General Expenditure	(137,422)	(129,974)	● (7,447)
General Fund - Surplus (Deficit)	<u>5,345</u>	<u>7,040</u>	● (1,695)
Legacies Received	10,000	-	● 10,000
TOTAL	<u>15,345</u>	<u>7,040</u>	● 8,305

General Fund - Analysis of Receipts & Payments

Receipts

Congregation Offerings (inc. Gift Aid)	97,427	100,931	● (3,505)
One-off Donations	633	184	● 450
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	1,572	1,345	● 227
Contributions from outside organisations for use of halls	29,062	24,414	● 4,647
Bank Interest and Investment Income	7,646	5,189	● 2,457
Other Receipts	6,428	4,951	● 1,477
	<u>142,767</u>	<u>137,014</u>	● 5,753

Expenditure

Giving to Grow contributions / Presbytery Dues	(67,530)	(67,194)	● (336)
Local Salaries, Social Security & Pension Costs	(29,078)	(25,981)	● (3,097)
Office / Administration Costs	(5,796)	(4,376)	● (1,420)
Fabric Expenditure	(12,414)	(12,040)	● (374)
Premises running costs (halls & manse)	(19,113)	(14,586)	● (4,527)
Other Local Costs	(3,490)	(5,797)	● 2,307
	<u>(137,422)</u>	<u>(129,974)</u>	● (7,447)

COMMENT

As at 30th September 2024, there was a surplus on the General Fund of **£5,345** which is a decrease of **£1,695** on the position for the same period in 2023. This difference can be explained as follows:

Higher Income = Increase in surplus of £5,753

There were increases in Contributions from Outside Organisation for Use of Halls of **£4,647** and increases in Bank Interest & Investment Income of **£2,457**.

There was a decrease in Congregational Offerings and Gift Aid Reclaim of **£3,505** due to an overall reduction in offerings so far in 2024 which was offset by increase in one off donation of **£450**.

There was an increase in Other Receipts of **£1,477** due to a one-off insurance claim receipt of **£3,560** for repairing the car park wall. These funds will be used to pay for work scheduled for October 2024.

Higher Costs = Decrease in surplus of £7,447

The main areas of higher costs were:

Local Salaries, Social Security & Pension costs of **£3,097** due to 2024 salary increases and new book-keeper position.

Premises costs of **£4,527** mainly due to increase in electricity (**£2,613**) and gas (**£487**) costs because of new contract with higher rates.

Office & Administration costs of **£1,420** due to higher printing and stationary costs (**£204**), new office equipment and photocopier maintenance contract fees (**£949**).

However, the above higher costs were offset by cost reductions in Other local costs of **£2,307** due to lower miscellaneous expenses compared with 2023.

Taking account of the **£10,000** legacies received in the quarter the final position was a surplus of **£15,345**.



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