

St Ninian's Church

www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk



Quarterly Magazine Winter 2025

In the heart of Corstorphine



Dear Friends

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

(Luke 1: 47 - 48)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

(John 1: 1 - 4)

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. (Matthew 1: 1)

As a supervisor of students entering the ministry, I have been very lucky. The students I have supervised have been excellent candidates for the ministry. On more than one occasion I have watched a student, and thought, 'This student is already better than me at that!'

How the Church picks such excellent candidates is something that has interested me. Now, over the coming months, I will train to become a National Assessor. National Assessors assess applicants for ministry and choose who goes on to become candidates. The training for this role is thorough and demanding, as is the role itself – lots of paperwork! But, if I am chosen to be a National Assessor, I think I will enjoy discovering why some applicants are assessed as having a call for ministry, and others not.

Jesus was called into ministry. How did His Father assess Jesus' call? During this Christmas season we find out. In Matthew's, Luke's, and John's Gospels, before we hear the story of Jesus' birth, we first hear how Jesus was called.

Matthew begins with a genealogy. Genealogies mark new beginnings in the Old Testament. They tell the reader they are about to read a new story that has its roots in an old story. Jesus' genealogy tells us that we are going to read about something new that God is doing in Jesus, but that Jesus has an ancestry stretching deep into Israel's past. Jesus' ministry has ancient

roots. Luke begins with songs of prophecy from Mary and Zechariah. Prophecy is a promise that God will uphold His side of His covenants. Jesus' ministry is something promised. John begins with a retelling of creation. Jesus, John tells us, is not just someone who influenced the world in which he lived, and lives that would follow his. His ministry is fundamental to how we should understand the nature of life in the universe.

The past – ancestry, promise and creation – influence the future. We know this, and this Christmas we will have the opportunity to bring before God those people and events from the past – the recent past or the long past – that make Christmas, with its relentless celebration, a troubling, sad, or confusing time for some people. The Blue Christmas Service on Sunday 14th of December at 3:00pm is an opportunity to bring before God those feelings and thoughts brought about by bereavement or some other loss or pain that make the Christmas season difficult to fully appreciate. Of course, we will also be enjoying our usual Christmas celebrations as well, and you may appreciate both types of service.

Whatever Christmas brings, I pray that it will be filled with the promise of something, the joy of a promise kept, and the hope that comes from a season that has ancient roots stretching all the way back to the words the angel Gabriel said to Mary, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'

Best wishes,

James

In the heart of Corstorphine





Congregation Register

New Member by Resolution of Kirk Session:

17th September 2025

Mr James Henderson, Lampacre Road

Funerals:

14th August 2025*

Mrs Hannah Murray, Broomhall Drive

29th August 2025*

Mr Robert (Bob) Paton, North Gyle Drive

15th September 2025*

Mrs Joyce Gladwin, Wester Coates Gardens

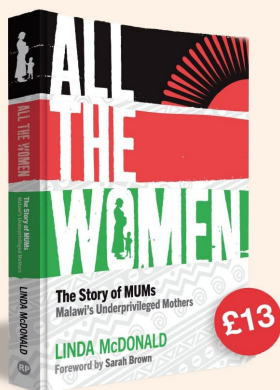
24th September 2025*

Mrs Frances Byers, Craigmount Gardens

1st October 2025*

Mr Ian Sutherland, The Paddockholm

* Denotes member



All the Women is the story of MUMs (Malawi Underprivileged Mothers). Prompted by a few photographs of mothers and babies in a maternity unit in Malawi, the charity began in the spring of 2005 and grew beyond any expectation. The first MUMs recipe book was published at Christmas that same year and over 55,000 books were sold in 12 years.

The journey described in this book shows what can be done when working together for women and children in most need. From Scotland to Malawi, all the women in this story are striving for the same goal, to make a positive difference. How the money was raised and accounted for is described in detail – along with the challenges faced, the inspirational people met and the heartbreak and joys experienced.

In the heart of Corstorphine



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, 30th November, 10:30am

1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday, 7th December, 10:30am & 3:00pm

2nd Sunday of Advent – Sacrament of Communion

Sunday, 14th December, 10:30am

3rd Sunday of Advent – Gift Service

For children who won't otherwise receive a Christmas gift.

Sunday, 21st December, 10:30am

4th Sunday of Advent - Family Nativity Service

Sunday, 21st December, 6:30pm

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Mulled wine & mince pies following the service

Wednesday, 24th December, 4:00pm

Christingle Service at St. Anne's Parish Church

Wednesday, 24th December, 8:00pm

Worship for Christmas Night

Christmas Songs and Carols from 7:30pm, tea & coffee following the service

Thursday, 25th December, 10:30am

Family Worship for Christmas Day

Hot chocolate from 10:00am



In the heart of Corstorphine





Corstorphine, St. Ninian's Parish Church, 144 St. John's Road EH12 8AY, Registered Charity SC16557

BLUE CHRISTMAS Service



Maybe your year has felt hard:
a bereavement, an illness,
an estrangement, a worry,
and the Christmas season
just makes you feel more blue
than joyful.

Whatever the reason,
whatever the need:
in prayer, in silence
with light and love
come and find peace and hope
in the story of Jesus' birth.

**Sunday 14th December
3:00pm**

**St. Ninian's
Parish Church**

Service lasts approximately
35 minutes.

**Tea and Coffee served
afterwards**

In the heart of Corstorphine



Christian Aid



Following on from Christian Aid Week 2025, we held a Christian Aid Harvest of Hope retiring collection on 12th October 2025 which raised the amazing total of £1,500.00

In Sierra Leone, unpredictable rainfall causes devastating floods that wash away crops, start landslides and destroy roads. In the dry season, scorching heat sparks drought that withers plants. Even experienced farmers struggle to cope. After floods damaged her crops and income, Maryama joined a Village Savings and Loans Association supported by Christian Aid. With a small loan, she was able to pay her children's school fees, secure her farm and invest in their future. What can our donations do: £33 could pay to train 10 community members on how they can adapt their farming to deal with the climate crisis. £60 could provide farmers in Sierra Leone with sweet potato seeds and farming equipment to grow food more successfully. £1,000 could fund setting up and installing a rain gauge to provide data on weather insights, empowering farmers to sow and harvest at the optimum time.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Alec Millar

Christian Aid Coordinator

Mobile: 0773 800 7302

alec.w.millar71@outlook.com

Our Guild @ St Ninian's

Our Theme for 2025-2026 is "Living Stones" and we are interpreting it by including talks from members of our congregation who are involved in various ways in their support to strengthen the situations already in place within our church and to reach out to create and develop new initiatives.

First up James based his talk on actual stones not as inanimate objects but serving a purpose as living stones. Perhaps like me you have collected a stone from a special place; recently I took one from Iona to Margaret Alexander now in care so that she could hold it and relive memories that she created from her visits to a well loved island.

Next Andrew Gibb may take us back in time but his talk will involve Steeples and People. It may not be all bricks and mortar but also about the people who lived and worked in them. More will follow throughout our programme.

In the heart of Corstorphine



Do you ever look at the list on the Guild board and think about dipping in? We sent out an invitation to a talk which might have been of special interest to the male members of the congregation but alas to our disappointment none turned up. This talk was titled Blood Bikes Scotland; did that not appeal; were you backward about coming forward to a meeting of the Guild? Alas you may not have noticed that men are members of the Guild and have been since 1997; some are even on area committees and not frightened to air their views!

What did you miss? The speaker was excellent and the talk was probably one of the best that we have had, informative, inspiring, showing the generosity of volunteers, their incredible commitment, giving support in vital situations, an invaluable service to the NHS, done on donations and more. Our members donated £196 on the day. Take a leaflet from the Guild Board and you will learn about this amazing organisation. The bike came too but unfortunately it was too large and too heavy to bring it down the ramp and manoeuvre it round the bend at the bottom. Some were able to view it in the carpark; each bike has a name a much easier identification than trying to check in to the controller with a long registration number. There are 16 bikes and 6 cars operating in the area covered by Lothian, Fife and part of Angus and west to Forth Valley. They link with bikes from other areas to relay something, e.g. from Dundee to Newcastle and even much further to Bristol or London. They carry many kinds of body fluids, never parts for transplant, equipment including surgical items, records and more all required in an emergency situation and transported much faster than by other means. What a vital service they provide.

Perhaps you may spot one of these bikes with fluorescent stripes and "blood" emblazoned on it. I did as one came recently to collect a monitor from me and return it to the Western General. It seemed such a coincidence to have a practical demonstration after their recent talk here.

Yes, you should be dipping in to our varied programme. We do not want you to miss out on such excellent presentations.

You will be very welcome at **2.15pm any Tuesday**.

Valerie Thomson

Guild contact



In the heart of Corstorphine



Saint Ninian Declaration

The signing of the Saint Ninian Declaration between the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Catholic Church in Scotland will take place in Edinburgh on Tuesday 16 September 2025 – the Feast of St Ninian.

The Declaration supports a deepening relationship between Episcopalians and Roman Catholics in Scotland, allowing both to work more closely together while acknowledging that there are distinct differences between the two churches.

The historic declaration of friendship will be signed at the capital's two 'St Mary's' cathedrals. The first part of the signing will take place at St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in York Place, and the second part at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Palmerston Place.

The day will include a Symposium on the history of the relationship between the Catholic and Episcopal churches in Scotland. This event will start at 2pm at St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, and the participants will be:

Professor Gerry Carruthers, Francis Hutcheson Professor of Scottish Literature at the University of Glasgow, who will be in the chair;

Michael Russell, Honorary Professor at the University of Glasgow and a former Cabinet Secretary for Education in the Scottish Government;

Scott Spurlock, Professor of Scottish and Early Modern Christianities at the University of Glasgow and President of the Scottish Church History Society;

Rev Canon Charlotte Methuen, Professor of Ecclesiastical History at the University of Glasgow and Scottish Episcopal Church Inter-Church Relations Convener.

At 4pm, the Declaration will be signed at St Mary's Catholic Cathedral by Archbishop Leo Cushley on behalf of the Conference of Bishops of the Catholic Church in Scotland and by the Most Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The Archbishop and the Primus will then move on to an Evensong service at 5.30pm at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, where the second signing will take place.

Archbishop Leo Cushley said: "This declaration is not only for us, but for the people of Scotland whom we are called to serve. By deepening the friendship, we strengthen our common witness to the Gospel in a world that longs for hope and reconciliation. True friendship does not demand uniformity, but grows through honesty, trust, and love.

"As we sign this declaration, we are saying to our people: let us walk together as brothers and sisters in Christ. Let our unity in Christ be a sign of God's love for all. May this moment encourage us to look outward, shoulder to shoulder, as friends and partners in mission."

Bishop Mark Strange said: "We sign this declaration on the feast day of St Ninian remembering the saint who first carried the Gospel to this land.

"Through this act we in the Scottish Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches are committing to walk forward together as friends, on the same journey of faith that Ninian started over a thousand years ago.

"It gives us an opportunity to focus on what we share, and to trust that Christ calls us all to listen, to learn, and to serve this land as descendants of Ninian, side by side."

All are welcome to attend the signings.

In the heart of Corstorphine





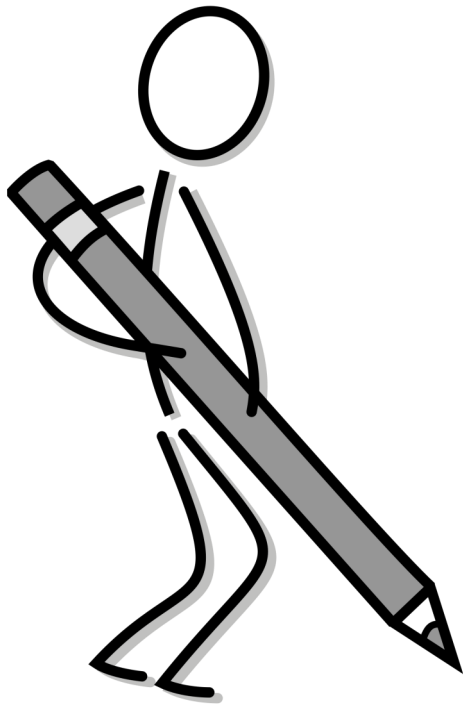
Before the service began we were told that it was a happy and joyful occasion and that we were present at a historical event and should clap when the document was signed!
Glad I went, and afterwards I shook hands with them both at the door.

Suzette Bell



In the heart of Corstorphine





Sudoku

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

In the heart of Corstorphine



Crossword Time

Across

1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)

7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)

8 Relieved (5)

10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)

11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)

13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)

15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)

17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)

18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her —' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)

21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an —, — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)

22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)

23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)

2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)

3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)

4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)

5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)

6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)

9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)

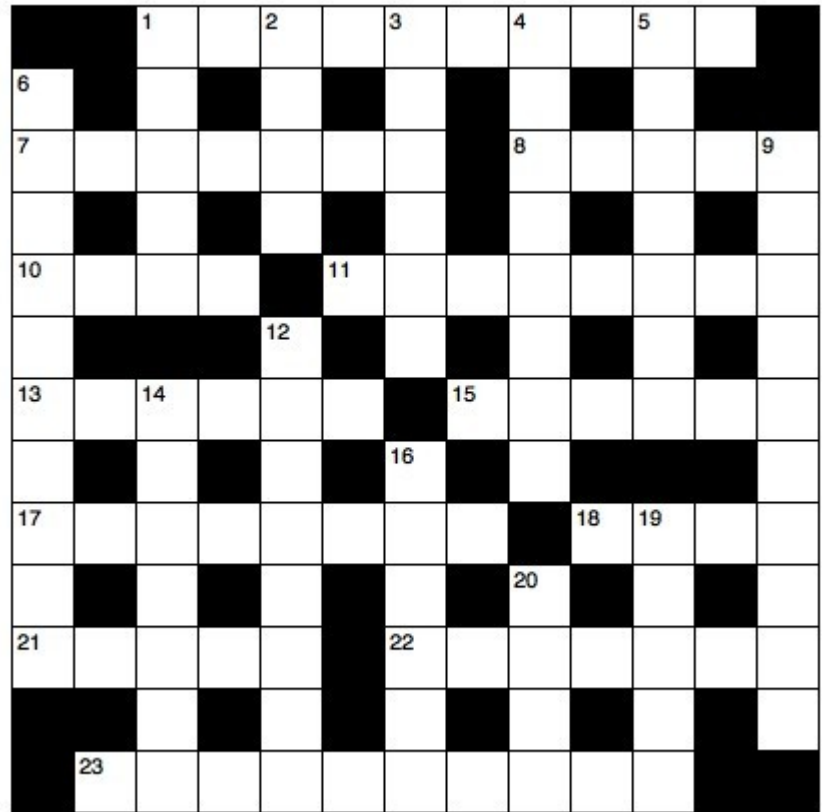
12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)

14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)

16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)

19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)

20 See 18 Across



In the heart of Corstorphine



Parish People : Andrew Little

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

As a family we moved from East Lothian to Corstorphine in 1966 and some time later, after visits to three local churches, joined St Ninian's which was not our nearest church. Our next door neighbour was at that time their Session Clerk but I cannot recall how much influence that had. We were not the best attendees at the Church due to previous interests. I can't recall ever entering or leaving the Church by the front door - we always used the back door to St Ninian's Road.

Any special memories of the Church?

Having stayed in a flat over my place of employment with no garden and two boys to bring up, we bought a caravan in 1958 which was well used at weekends. After joining the Caravan Club we attended many Club Rallies where a service was normally held on the Sunday morning by a local minister or club member. Together with friends we once booked in for a Mystery Rally. At the time we lived in Tranent and, after starting the Mystery Rally at Musselburgh, ended up in a Rally Field just outside the town. Our own minister from Tranent Old Parish Church appeared on the Sunday to take the Service and he got my chum and I to take the collection.

I was brought up in Balerno where my Father was the Church Session Clerk and I can remember the family paying an annual Pew fee which sort of reserved your seat with your name card at the end of the pew.



Do you have a Favourite Hymn?

I like all the old favourites; if I have to name one it has got to be Abide With Me.

Something people don't know about me.

I am now a centenarian and have not been active for a few years now, but I played Badminton and Bowls for most of my life, both of which I enjoyed very much. When I retired, I joined the COFFEE Set (Corstorphine Over Fifty Fives Fit Enthusiastic & Energetic Set) and was secretary for six years. We were forty good friends but sadly only five still remain. I also attended the Lit and Probus in the St Ninian's Church Halls. I enjoy watching the Sunday Service online as well.

In the heart of Corstorphine



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. Our first Sunday back after the holidays was very special with Quintin's Baptism, Margaret Hunter had organised a cake and Suzanne decorated it. This was Quintin's last Sunday with us as he's now moved up to join Alpha.

On that first Sunday the children created a new Welcome poster which is now on display, and they created from Lego something that they were thankful for from over their holidays.

The Roots resource that we use has been exploring Paul's letters and his time in prison. We learnt about treasuring generosity and had a visit from Fiona Coutts and Moira Mather who talked to the children about Friendly Corner and the open Church, a bit about the number of people that come along and what they do. The children then made some cakes which we gave to Friendly corner to enjoy and to say thank you to the volunteers, you can see Luke and Thomas busy making the cakes while Luke was "licking the bowl".

We had our traditional Harvest Lesson where we played the creation game running around the hall for each fruit, vegetable, tree, and flower that the children named, remembering to say thank you to God for his Creation and all that we have. We planted some Paper White bulbs, created Grace Plates, and made potato people, although we didn't have Daina guidance this year and the veg that we used was a bit different, the children had fun, and so did Fiona and I.

We look forward to the remainder of the term and have a date for our Christmas party, Saturday 13th of December.

Barbara Mackie



In the heart of Corstorphine



Past Times in St Ninian's

EXHIBITION

TIMES PAST and **COFFEE MORNING**

in aid of 'Fresh Start'
in
St. Ninian's Church Halls
Corstorphine
on

SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER 2000

10am-1pm

ADULT £1

CHILD 50p

QUIZES

NATIONAL REGISTRATION IDENTITY CARD

RATION BOOK

HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN F.C.

LANTERN SLIDES



From the Quarterly, Winter 2000

"Times Past Exhibition" [held in the Church halls in aid of "Fresh Start" 7 October 2000]

"This was very interesting and well worth the visit.

"In the Burns Hall there were various games that people used to play, like the steel hoop, diabolo, chalk beds, and even I joined in with the skipping. My children were amused to try out the pen + ink, and chalk blackboards that were used at school.

"In the room with wartime memorabilia my mother explained to her grandchildren that children had to carry their gas masks in little boxes to school every day in case there was an air raid, and how sweets and food could only be bought with coupons from their ration books.

"There were exhibitions in all rooms, old wind-up gramophones, 78rpm records, radio, and information from the Corstorphine Trust and a quiz to identify where certain photographs had been taken in Corstorphine. There was one room with clothes dating away back, and it was surprising how many dresses had come back into fashion.

2000

In the heart of Corstorphine



"My favourite exhibition was in the church which looked so beautiful as it had been decorated with floral arrangements ready for the Harvest Thanksgiving the next day. The wedding dresses from 1906-1990s and the christening gowns on display were lovely.

[In the Martin Shields Hall] "Anne Kirkpatrick the organist played old-time music on the piano while everyone enjoyed their coffee and this created the atmosphere of the old days.

"Everyone who was involved should be thanked for their contribution to the Times Past event."

"E.B." *[Thanks to Susanne Hope, the exhibition organiser, for identifying E.B. as Eileen Barnwell]*

From the Quarterly, October 1975



"The Quiet Moment – Today's Prayer"

"These are the things for which to pray:

"Sufficient strength to meet the day;
Sufficient heart to cope with cares
And snags that take us unawares;
Sufficient patience to be found
To keep the peace with those around.
A sense of humour all day long
To turn a sigh into a song;
Sufficient joy of life and health
To live with zest if lacking wealth;
Eyes that see the inner grace
The beauty of the commonplace."



Janet Mackay, Elder, and
Sunday School Superintendent
1930-1998

"JMM" [Janet Mackay

In the heart of Corstorphine



Adventures in the Land of Giants

Have you ever visited a Scottish Castle recently? If you have you will have probably noticed that many of the tourists are not that interested in the history of the castle. They are more likely to be there because that is where their favourite film or TV show was shot.

When you visit the souvenir stall you are likely to find a large number of items relating to 'Outlander'. The Outlander effect has been dramatic.

In 2014 Newhailes House had 4,831 visitors. This increased to 304,111 in 2024.

Blackness Castle has also seen a significant rise in the number of visitors. In 2014 it had 16,559 in 2024 it had 77,326.

The Castle which always seems to attract location scouts is Doune Castle. It was used for the 1952 production of 'Ivanhoe' and was the main location for 'Monty Python and the Holy Grail'. More recently it featured in both 'Game of Thrones' and 'Outlander'. It too has seen an increase in visitor numbers thanks to screen tourists. As well as selling Outlander products Monte Python fans can pick a cans of spam to take home.

During a break in Belfast ,we became 'screen tourists' for the first time. It happened by accident.

We decided to watch Ice Hockey the night after the rugby. The local team is known as the Belfast Giants. They are named after Finn McCool – a local giant who is said to have built a causeway between County Antrim and the Island of Staffa.

Having watched the Giants, it seemed like a good idea to visit the Giant's Causeway.

The only drawback I foresaw about visiting the Giant's causeway was the remark attributed to Dr Johnson:

"Worth seeing– but not worth going to see"

If he did make that comment, it was not from his personal experience. Dr Johnson never visited Ireland. In the 18th Century a journey to see the causeway would be likely to take a long time. A journey by coach would be long and just as rough as traveling by sea.

Nowadays the journey from Belfast to the Causeway will take just over an hour by road. This means that tour operators will have to plan other stops, during the excursion, to make the day trip last a day. As a result, we ended up seeing a number of locations where they shot 'Game of Thrones'. We were roped in to becoming screen tourists for a day.

We visited a harbour where steps, down to the water, were used but nothing else.

We also stopped to take photographs of Dunluce Castle. The Castle is a ruin but exterior shots were used as the Great Castle of Pyke – the Seat of the House of Greyjoy. Its appearance was greatly modified by CGI.

Having visited the Giant's Causeway our return trip took us to the 'Dark Hedges'. It is said that this has become one of the most photographed locations anywhere in Ireland. It is a road which has two rows of beech trees. Over 150 trees were planted in the 18th Century

In the heart of Corstorphine



but only around 86 remain. There is now a ban on vehicles using the road. Before that there were so many visitors that it was the road was regularly blocked and it was not possible to take a decent picture. There also was a concern that there would be further damage to the trees. Visitors now have to go to a nearby car park and walk to the road following the signs. We did and were underwhelmed.

Filmmakers have a number of tricks that they use to change the appearance of anything that is front of the camera.

My experience in Northern Ireland led me to wonder if there was any part of Corstorphine that could be used to attract screen tourists. A coachload of enthusiasts would provide a further boost the local economy.

So far as I am aware the only major film, which had a scene in a Corstorphine location, was 'Chariots of Fire'. It won four Oscars – including best picture. There is a famous opening scene where athletes are running on the West Sands Beach although a caption crops up saying that it is Broadstairs Beach in Kent.

The scene with a Corstorphine location is less obvious. At around the 22nd Minute Eric Liddle is conducting a prayer meeting. The interiors of this meeting were shot in Corstorphine Public Hall which was latterly run by the Corstorphine Youth and Community Centre.

I remember being in the area around the time when this scene was shot. I had been to the nearby Library, and there were rails full of costumes parked at the entrance to the Old Parish Church waiting to be collected.

However, there is an obvious problem with trying to persuade busloads to stop at this location. In 2013 the building was gutted by a fire. The Community Centre has moved its activities to 5 Kirk Loan and there are no plans to return the old hall back to its original condition. There is now nothing to see.

It looks as if my attempts to boost screen tourism in Corstorphine will not get off the ground unless someone can point to a place where anything famous was shot.

Graeme Henderson



In the heart of Corstorphine



On the 4th of November the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian agreed that our neighbouring brothers and sisters in Christ who are members of Corstorphine Old Parish Church and Craigsbank Parish Church should unite their congregations. So, from the 1st of January 2026 there will no longer be a Corstorphine Old or a Craigsbank, but a new congregation, which will be called Corstorphine Old and New.

The current ministers, Rev. Alan Childs and Rev. Moira McDonald, will become the ministers of the new charge, and will work together in a Team Ministry. Within that team, Alan will be designated as a Pioneer Minister with responsibility for ministry, mission, community development, and worship in the developing communities to the west of Maybury Road. Moira will be the traditional parish minister to the east of the Maybury Road. She will be responsible for pastoral care, leading worship, school chaplaincy, and will moderate the Kirk Session amongst other traditional duties.

Puzzle Answers

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

[illegible]

Mission Committee

Fresh Start

Each quarter the Mission Committee tries to highlight goods for our quarterly collections. These are for March we have pots, pans and kitchen equipment, June is cleaning materials, September bedding and linen, finishing with dishes and cutlery in December. However, over the past two years due to your generosity we are finding that we have to visit Fresh Start at least twice each quarter. The Mission Committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at St. Ninian's for their ongoing support to this worthwhile cause. The staff at Fresh Start are always delighted when we deliver the goods to Ferry Road Drive from St. Ninian's Church Corstorphine!

Edinburgh Food Project

Once again we held a collection for the Edinburgh Food Project based at Broomhouse. Your donations from our Harvest Festival Service meant we delivered goods to the equivalent weight of a large Silverback Mountain Gorilla. The staff at the project were extremely grateful for the timing of our delivery as their stocks were very low. (please see thank you letter on the Mission Committee board in the Crush hall)

Remembrance Service

As usual on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, we will have a retiral collection for New Scots Christmas Appeal 2025 to raise funds for gifts for refugees living in Edinburgh.

Bags of Hope

We will be looking for help to deliver Bags of Hope to members who are no longer able to attend worship in St. Ninian's. These bags will be ready for collection on Sunday 7th December in the Crush Hall.

Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards for delivery to all homes within the Parish have been printed and will be available shortly. Please look out for further information in the Orders of Service. Your help with delivery will be much appreciated.

Congregational New Year Lunch

A date for your diary 2026, our annual **Congregational lunch** will be on **18th January 2026**.



The Mission Committee would like to say a huge thank you to Members of the Congregation, Minister and Kirk Session for all the support and generosity over the past year.

Margaret Hunter

Convenor

In the heart of Corstorphine



Trying to make sense

"What is the Point?"

someone, teetering on the precipice, asked me several years ago. "What is the point?" How would you answer that person?

I have often asked myself that same question since. We are born, we live, we die. Life can be a struggle – depression, ill health; poverty; finding a job; redundancy; relationships; misunderstandings; and on the wider scale – famine; floods; storms, wars. My Mother attended church all her life until mobility prevented her. She was an active member, helping with the coffees, delivering the monthly church magazine, walking miles to do so, and many other things. Once she was unable to go, she began to doubt. Was it just a ritual? To meet friends? Well yes but is there more? She was always quite positive, had a sense of humour and a great rapport with her carers. About 5 years before she died, she said to me, "But I have to believe now." I hope she's found peace.

Life is fragile. One never knows what is in store. And the smallest of errors can be fatal. Sometimes, though, we escape. Have we been lucky or have we been looked after?

The Vikings had Gods, the Greeks too and the Incas and Egyptians. We do not know if Neolithic People had Gods but they built stone circles and they placed their dead in tombs with their belongings to help them on their journey to the next world. Why?

Imagine living in those times. The seasons change; darkness and light change dramatically throughout the year; the moon waxes and wanes, and moon rise and moon set vary from day to day; the stars shine brightly and move across the sky like the moon and sun. Nowadays with knowledge and the development of science we know it's the Earth that rotates, and also moves in an ellipse around the sun. But what did the peoples from the ancient past think seeing all these changes in nature? There is no doubt they studied them, they navigated by them, and they learnt to adapt their way of life to them. Like us, they tried to make sense of their world, they looked for a purpose, a reason for existing. Are their stone circles like our churches – a place to go to meet, to worship and give thanks? A place to help us understand and give meaning to our lives? Were their tombs like our graveyards, a special place for our dead?

A young person some time ago was lost. He thought religion was a lot of nonsense but once he found a purpose, a belief, life became brighter. It seems that what is crucial is having a sense of purpose, and to have humanity and the environment at the heart of it.

I was reminded of this when a few weeks ago the Minister began his sermon "What is the point?"

Have faith and show gratitude. We need to look after one another, care for others and, as Stewards of the Earth, do all we can to stem the climate crisis.

So how did I answer the question? Certainly not as wisely as the Minister. I sat beside the person and thought for a minute. "I don't know, but we're here and we must try to make the best of it." It was the only honest answer I could give.

In the heart of Corstorphine



Update from Emma McMillan

Some of you will remember Emma McMillan, our ministry student before Penni Brown. Her next placement was in Orkney, which has been quite a different experience to one in the city! Here Ministers have more than one parish to look after! Emma started in South Ronaldsay and then flew to the Island of Westray, though her accommodation was a ferry journey on Papay Westray! As well as this she held zoom Meditation meetings, was at St Magnus Cathedral and helped with the Chaplaincy tent at the week long Island Games. Here's Emma in the local paper, the 'Orcadian', with the Games mascot, Ola the Orca!! 24 islands meet every 2 years to compete in various sports and it was Orkney's turn this year. And what a week of excitement and friendship. The weather was unusually hot, though everybody was expecting wind and rain!!

Coincidentally, Penni, who is from Orkney, happened to be in Westray with her extended family, the Sunday Emma took the service. The church (about half the size of the Burns Hall) was packed. Flying back to Mainland Orkney just as Storm Floris arrived, she returns to Edinburgh mid August, after attending the Agricultural Shows! She seems to have enjoyed her stay in Orkney!

Rona Craig



In the heart of Corstorphine



144 St Johns Road
Edinburgh
EH12 8AY

Minister Rev James Aitken
17 Templeland Road
Edinburgh
EH12 8RZ

Tel Office and Voicemail 316 4777
Crush Hall 334 8615
email office@st-ninians.co.uk

Scottish Charity Number SCO16557



www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk

Our Contacts

Joint Sessions Clerks Fiona Coutts/ Andrew Job/ Mark Richards/ Scott Waugh session-clerk@st-ninians.co.uk	Treasurer Philip Tang churchtreasurer@st-ninians.co.uk	Roll Keeper Jim Hunter 339 6262	Organist & Choirmaster Anne Kirkpatrick 334 5951
Sunday School Co-ordinator Diana Fairgrieve 339 5146	Church Officer Gillian McDonald 334 8615	Freewill Offering Treasurer: Brian Coutts 334 4537	Quarterly Editor Simone Hislop simone_hislop@blueyonder.co.uk
Care Van Co-ordinator Cheryl Lawrence 07958 645177	Christian Aid Alec Millar 07738 007302	Church Transport Sarah Aitken 334 1324	Conversazione Douglas Ramsay 334 5599
Fabric Convener Alister McGlashan 334 6438	Flower Convener Norma Gilmore 07816 789750	Flower Delivery Anne Kirkpatrick 334 5951	GIFT (Girls in Fellowship Together) Penny Gordon 334 5929
Guild contact Valerie Thomson 339 6115	Hospitality Georgie Wallace 539 4610	Mission Committee Margaret Hunter 339 6262	Safeguarding Co-ordinator Mark Richards 339 8022
Website Group Andrew Job 339 6723	Cradle Roll Isobel Govenlock 334 4525	Crèche Val Blair 334 0626	Sunday School – Primary Barbara Mackie 334 2964
Sunday School – Secondary Campbell Gray 467 1262	Toddlers (Tue & Fri) Church Office 316 4777	Badminton Christine Millar 07804 794 384	

In the heart of Corstorphine

