

# ST NINIAN'S CHURCH

Corstorphine

Minister: Rev. James Aitken



'One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see...'  
(John 9: 25)

**Order of Service**  
**15<sup>th</sup> of March 2026**  
**10:30am**

Find us: <http://www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk> on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stninianschurch/> & live on [YouTube](#)

Good morning and welcome to everyone who has joined us at St. Ninian's this morning. We hope you will enjoy our worship of God together today. As a congregation our mission is to **'Worship God together, encourage personal faith and prayer, spread the Good News about Jesus Christ, and love and care for others in our community.'** If you are a visitor, there is a **visitors' book** at the front door, please sign it.

Before the service there is weekly a **Prayer Group** that meets in Room 6 (the Alpha Room) from 10:00am – 10:15am. Everyone is welcome, please ask a steward for Room 6, the Alpha Room.

There is both a **crèche** and a **Sunday School** for primary aged children this morning. The organist is **Anne Kirkpatrick**. The readers this morning are **Sheonagh Richards, Suzanne Hope, Bob Brewster and Alec Miller**. Leading worship is the **Rev. James Aitken**.

This Sunday is the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the season of Lent**.

We are in the season of **Lent** when we make ourselves ready to commemorate Jesus' Passion and celebrate his resurrection. Lent lasts forty days (not counting Sundays), and this year it began on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February (Ash Wednesday). It ends on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April (Good Friday). Lent represents a sacrificial journey of suffering. We travel with Jesus from Galilee, where he ministered, to Jerusalem, the place of his crucifixion. This journey is an opportunity for us to prepare for the events of Holy Week and then for the transformative event of Easter that transcends the sacrifice and sufferings of Lent. We reflect on what needs transformed in our lives and in the world, what is separating us and the world from God, and what holds back the people of the world from living life in all its fulness. As we do so we look forward to living new lives beyond Easter as people who believe in the hope contained in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

Following worship there is **fellowship, friendship, and refreshments** in the Martin Shields' Hall. Please join us.

St. Ninian's uses the Revised Common Lectionary which is an approved week-by-week three-year cycle of biblical readings. In 2026 we are in Year A and the principal Gospel readings come from the **Gospel of Matthew**. The readings lead us from Advent through the Christian year, the Bible, and Jesus' life through birth, baptism, his public ministry, his death, resurrection and ascension.

## ENTRANCE

The service begins with a **sentence from the Bible** (Psalm 43: 3), a **call to stand** (please do so if you are able to), an **introit** from the choir, and the **entrance of the Bible**. For the rest of the service the words in bold are read or sung by everyone. We sit to pray and stand to sing.

## INTROIT

WELCOME, INTIMATIONS and SHARING OF THE PEACE  
*We welcome one another with Christ's words 'Peace be with you'.*

## APPROACH TO GOD

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: From the dry wilderness of our lives, we come.

**Congregation: We are thirsty, O Lord, and we need your water.**

Minister: The Lord is our Rock, the Source of Life.

**Congregation: We come to listen to God's voice, not harden our hearts.**

Minister: Come and see the Saviour of the world.

**Congregation: We come to worship, and drink, and live.**

## HYMN 16 (Psalm 23) The Lord's my Shepherd

### PRAYERS OF ADORATION, CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

*We continue our worship celebrating what God has given us while apologizing for what we have done to harm God, his creation, and his people.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE

John 9: 1 – 41

(Pg 882)

Narrator: As Jesus walked along he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus said;

Jesus: Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Narrator: When he had said this he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him:

Jesus: Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.

Narrator: Siloam means 'sent'. Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask...

**Neighbours (whole congregation):** **Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?**

**Neighbours (only women & girls):** **It is he.**

**Neighbours (only men and boys):** **No, but it is someone like him.**

Man born blind: I am the man.

**Neighbours (whole congregation):** **Then how were your eyes opened?**

Man born blind: The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me: 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight.

**Neighbours (whole congregation): Where is he?**

Man born blind: I do not know.

Narrator: They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight.

Man born blind: He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.

Narrator: The Pharisees said:

**Pharisees: This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath. How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?**

Narrator: And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man:

**Pharisees: What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.**

Man born blind: He is a prophet.

Narrator: The Judeans did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them:

**Pharisees: Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?**

Mother: We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes.

Father: Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

Narrator: His parents said this because they were afraid of the Judeans; for the Judeans had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time, they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him:

**Pharisees: Speak the truth before God! We know that this man, Jesus, is a sinner.**

Man born blind: I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

**Pharisees: What did he do to you?  
How did he open your eyes?**

Man born blind: I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?

**Pharisees: You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.**

Man born blind: Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.

**Pharisees: You were born entirely in sin, and are you trying to teach us?**

Narrator: And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said:

Jesus: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

Man born blind: And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.

Jesus: You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.

Man born blind: Lord, I believe.

Jesus: I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.

Narrator: Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him:

**Pharisees: Surely, we are not blind, are we?**

Jesus: If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

## CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

**HYMN 566** When I receive the peace of Christ

**Children leave for Sunday School. Visiting children are welcome to join in.**

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5: 8 – 14 Pg 972

**ANTHEM** 'Locus Iste' Bruckner

## SERMON

### OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

**HYMN 465** Be thou my vision

## OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Freely given, our offering supports the work of Christ's church and symbolises our spiritual dedication to the building-up of the Kingdom of God. We remain seated to sing our dedication (CH4 402) -*

**'Take up your cross,' the Saviour said,  
'if you would my disciple be;  
Take up your cross, with willing heart,  
And humbly follow after me.'**

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

*We give thanks for our blessings, and cry out for help for others and ourselves. During the prayers this response is sung periodically:*

**HYMN 776** Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison  
(*trans: Lord, have mercy*)

## SENDING OUT

**HYMN 182** Now thank we all our God

## BENEDICTION

## RECESSIONAL

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.  
Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**