

St Ninian's Church

www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk



Quarterly Magazine Autumn 2025

In the heart of Corstorphine





Dear Friends

*And God said, "Let us make a human in our own image, by our likeness, to hold sway over the fish of the sea and the fowl of heavens ..." and God said, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and conquer it, and hold sway over the fish of the sea and the fowl of the heavens and every beast that crawls upon the earth..." (Gen. chap. 1, vss 26, 28, 29
trans: Robert Alter)*

This year the manse family were on holiday on the Isle of Eigg, an hour by CalMac from Mallaig. We had a lovely time, thank you. We were blessed with no midges! Nor were there any ticks where we were staying, but we saw dolphins, minke whales and a golden eagle. What more could anyone want from a Scottish holiday on the west coast? Sun, of course, and when we arrived there was lots of it. The temperatures soared to thirty degrees centigrade. We swam in the sea.

There are many reasons to visit the Isle of Eigg. Not only are there lovely beaches, great walks, beautiful views, and teeming wildlife, but there are also people, and the people who live on Eigg own Eigg. Because Eigeachs own their island, they show much ingenuity and responsibility for its wellbeing. The economy is diverse and flourishing. Alongside crofting and tourism, Eigeachs brew their own excellent beer (but they are missing a trick, in my opinion, by not distilling their own excellent whisky). There is a fantastic community shop, and, amazingly, 100% of the island's electricity is generated on the island itself (it is not connected to the National Grid). All this electricity is generated naturally from solar, wind, and hydro sources. This is a very green island.

I would recommend the Isle of Eigg for a holiday, but I can't guarantee the sweltering summer sun. But, perhaps in fact, I can. Elsewhere in the Quarterly you will read a super article that reminds us to pay attention to climate change. A sweltering summer in Scotland is all very well,

but it is not normal, or right.

When God created the world, God gave human beings many blessings, and a great responsibility. We occupy a distinctive place on God's world. We can do awesome things like reach for the stars, but we also have an awesome responsibility to steward God's creation, which we have mastery over. Sadly and, for many years, unbeknown to us, we harmed rather than helped creation. Now we know better, and we must act. The article offers some helpful suggestions of what we can each do. For example, when I tour a whisky distillery, I always ask the tour guide a wee question – what does the distillery do with their CO₂ (when yeast eats malted barley it excretes two things, alcohol and carbon dioxide)? Sometimes tour guides are delighted to answer; one or two Scottish distilleries are investing in carbon capture. But, most tour guides are slightly embarrassed by the question because most distilleries simply expel this climate changing gas into the environment. It may be an awkward question, but it is one that people must keep asking if we want to enjoy a dram responsibly.

Wee questions and small changes can have big consequences. If we want to continue to live on a stable planet and enjoy its seed-bearing plants, trees that have fruit, beasts of the earth and fowl of the heavens, not to mention the beauty of the West Highlands, then along with the blessings we have been given, inherent in the way God made us, we must also take seriously the responsibilities that God laid on us to steward His creation.

Best wishes,

James

In the heart of Corstorphine





Congregation Register

Baptism:

15 th June 2025	Reign Remi Akinibosun
23 rd August 2025	Ho Shun Kwan (Quinton)

Funerals:

9 th May 2025*	Mrs Kathleen Paulin, Bughtlin Drive
2 nd July 2025	Mrs Mary Ainslie, Clermiston Avenue
4 th July 2025*	Mrs Anna Findlay, Barnton Park View
4 th July 2025*	Mrs Joyce Dalziel, Wester Broom Terrace
21 st July 2025*	Mr Alexander (Sandy) Anderson, Corstorphine Hill Crescent
25 th July 2025*	Mr Graham Balfour, Victor Park Terrace
31 st July 2025*	Mr Ian Hunter, Dovecot Road
6 th August 2025*	Mr Andrew Sim, Clerwood Loan

* Denotes member

Care Van– Reminder

As we move into the Winter months we need your help with more donations especially of men's clothes. Financial donations are also appreciated to purchase needed supplies. If you think you can help please get in touch

Cheryl Lawrence

In the heart of Corstorphine



Our Guild @ St Ninian's



Summer suns are glowing and what a boost for our wellbeing! We have held one summer meeting when the focus was on tracing the names of flowers from texts in the Bible, finding them in a wordsearch and then organising the remaining letters to reveal a phrase. Tricky in some respects but even harder for those who found that the print in the bible was too small for the limitations of their eyesight.

The days are shortening and soon it will be time to consider our autumn/winter activities. We hope that you will find time to come to our Guild when we meet at **2.15 pm each Tuesday** afternoon in the Martin Shields Hall. You will be very welcome. Do you know that you pay no membership fee for your first year and furthermore we have no committee and so you will not be asked to commit to anything!

Each three year period there is a strategy presently "We shall build a house" and yearly a theme. The first was "Sure Foundations" and now we shall consider "Living Stones" exemplified by members of our congregation whose role is important, and necessary to provide the building blocks for our work here in St Ninian's.

Our **first meeting is on Tuesday 30th September and each week until 9th December**. In 2026 we shall start on **Tuesday 13th January and continue until Tuesday 28th April**.

We have a very full and varied programme of talks, presentations, an anniversary event and probably two afternoon teas and we would be delighted if you would join us to share faith, fellowship, friendship and fun at our Guild @ St Ninian's. Information is on the board in the Crush Hall corridor or from Valerie on 339 6115 or Email valthomson@btinternet.com

P.S. we have our second summer meeting **on Tuesday 26th August** and we should love to see you there. Please come for an activity and tea and biscuits. No afternoon tea this time as we shall have one at our opening meeting!

Valerie Thomson

Like everyone else I have been enjoying the wonderful weather this year. Back in April when the Guild stopped for Summer I decided to hang up my apron after many years in the kitchen. The Closing meeting was an Afternoon Tea which everyone enjoyed including James, he always appears when food is involved! We are always happy to see him.

I was given a gift card for Marks and Spencer which I am happy to say was spent quite quickly—who does not like wandering around with extra cash to spend.

Over the years we have provided for Coffee mornings, lunches, Guild meetings on a large scale and most of all many friendships have formed.

I joined the Guild way back in 1980 or 1981, I don't want to tell you how many pots of tea and coffee that would entail.

In the heart of Corstorphine



I just want to say thank you to all the previous Presidents and at the moment Valerie Thomson who does a sterling job of keeping us altogether and up to date in whatever is going on in this topsy turvy world involving our Guild.

I shall find it very strange when the meetings start in September not to be in the kitchen. However we have new custodians of the Teapots and I can sit back and be served by the ladies who have the keys to the cupboard. Many Thanks to everyone involved.

Norma Gilmore

Christian Aid



For 80 years, Christian Aid has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights.

The final amount raised by St Ninian's during Christian Aid Week 2025 was £4214.40 with the breakdown for each activity being:

Forth Road Bridge Sponsored Walk (including the Sunday School)	<u>£2324.60</u>
Soup & Sweet Lunch/Coffee Team	£346.00
Christian Aid Quiz	£78.50
Retiring Offerings	£1200.00
Sunday School Bake Sale	<u>£265.30</u>
Total	<u>£4214.40</u>

We reinstated the Forth Road Bridge Walk for the first time since COVID and, together with our friends at St Anne's who raised a further £870, this raised (£2324.60 + £870) a total of £3194.60.

A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to all the children and teachers for the Sunday School Bake Sale -the Crush Hall certainly lived up to its name and the noise and excitement of the children was incredibly inspirational.

Thank you to all took part in and donated to Christian Aid Week 2025.

Alec Millar Christian Aid Coordinator
Mobile: 0773 800 7302 alec.w.millar71@outlook.com

In the heart of Corstorphine





Hope is easy

Hope is easy
when we know
the end
from the beginning.

We savour familiar endings:
Unrelenting abuse ends in unrivalled success
When Joseph beaten, abandoned,
sold and imprisoned
emerges as chief of staff amid a national crisis.
Unrelenting evil ends in
unforgettable freedom when
a national genocide
against male infants ends with
Moses triumphantly parting the Red Sea.
Undeterred by grief Ruth
pledges unending loyalty.
Unafraid, David faces his giant
with undeniable grit.

And yet we are found undone, up ended
cowering and afraid, bitter and unforgiving
confused and unintelligible
spouting hurt and pain
full of regret and shame
name-calling, arm-twisting
lie-spreading, harm-continuing
ear-slicing cowards and conspirators.

When did we forget that our name is
written in the book of eternity
names graven on his hand.
Eternity bound, receivers of all authority
supernatural-healers, grace-givers
beauty-creators, wall-rebuilders
faith-restorers, truth-proclaimers
proactive not reactive
prisoner-releasers.
Did we lose the key?

Did we forget how the story ends?
Victory is ours! Unending grace
Our destiny secured. Christ is risen!
Death holds no curse. Eternity beckons
Good has triumphed. Mercy reigns
God is shaking us and waking us
"Do not be afraid for I am with you"
We know how this story ends
but we're battle weary.

When we know
the end
from the beginning
Hope is easy
Take up your swords!
Hope is ours to believe and defend.

Penni Brown

Our ministry student Penni wrote this poem
and used this as a Communion 'sermon'.

In the heart of Corstorphine



Thanks to Suzette Bell for sourcing this very different poem from a departing parish priest in Coventry.

Not I Lord Surely

What makes people not come to church?
Could it be the people who already go?
The righteous, the clique, the worthy,
the disdainful look given, the thought you're in my seat
the unfriendly, so that the stranger remains so.
Gossip flows from holy lips,
a hobby to talk about so and so, you know?
A mix of disgruntled, unlikeable,
entitled offended, who don't want to know
Better than you, holier too,
tutting for a living, whispering about you know who...
Did you ever go inside and wish you hadn't arrived
The words of love conveniently ignored
A plethora of benches occupied by the weekly bored
What makes people not come to church?
The cold indifference and quiet disdain of those who already go.
If your first instinct when you hear the words "Go in peace" is time for war
Then think again, ask am I the reason people flee, am I to blame, is it me?
Not I surely?
So not quite the whole story.
Just don't make it so
Continue to go, but in Christ's likeness grow.
Rejected... this is how for some it can feel.
Yet each person who steps inside should be...
Welcomed, accepted, loved, forgiven, this is the mark of the Lord's own seal.
What makes people stay and not run away?
Hearing Christ's command to love and allowing those words in our heart to stay.

Father Pat Brennan

In the heart of Corstorphine



Sudoku

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

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In the heart of Corstorphine



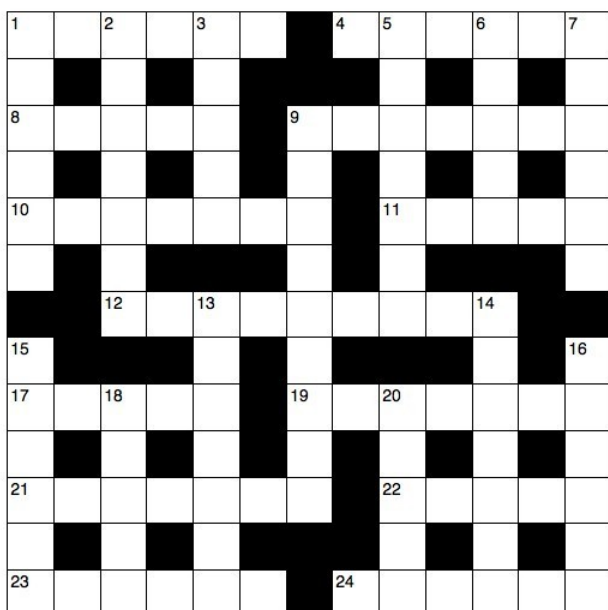
Crossword Time

Across

- 1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
- 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
- 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
- 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
- 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
- 11 '— thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)
- 12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)
- 17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)
- 19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)
- 21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
- 22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
- 23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)
- 24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

Down

- 1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
- 2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
- 3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
- 5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)
- 6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)



- 7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
- 9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
- 13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them —, that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)
- 14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)
- 15 See 12 Across
- 16 Rioted (anag.) (6)
- 18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)
- 20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

In the heart of Corstorphine



Parish People : Christine Waugh

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

I'm Christine Waugh, and along with Scott, we have been attending St Ninian's for 25 years. We moved to the area from Larbert and after "trying out" various local churches we arrived at St Ninian's. We were immediately welcomed by Alex and Liz Stewart and quickly discovered that Alex had previously ministered in the adjacent parish to my father, and Liz had taught me briefly at primary school. We decided to stay. In 2007 we moved out of Edinburgh, to Scott's hometown of Bo'ness, but having put down our roots in St Ninian's and made many friends here, we decided not to move churches.

After Hannah came along in 2005, and Rebekah in 2009, I became involved in creche and subsequently Sunday School for a number of years. I served as a Deacon until the dissolution of the Deacon's Court. I have also been grateful and humbled to be part of the Care Van team since St Ninian's joined the project. Through the care van I have worked alongside many great people, and it has been a privilege to meet so many service users and hear their stories. I have also been part of the GIFT group, since its inception and have made new friends and enjoyed sharing fellowship through various events, including the Bollywood night, film nights and the recent St Ninian's does Strictly afternoon tea.

Any special memories of the Church?

Special memories at St Ninian's include having our families join us in St Ninian's for the baptisms of Hannah and Rebekah. We were very grateful that my dad was able to baptise both girls. At that time St Ninian's put together a nativity with adults taking the main roles – Hannah was probably the oldest "baby" to play the infant Jesus, at 14 months old (with Scott and I taking part alongside her).

Do you have a favourite Hymn?

I had to give this some thought. Top of my list is definitely "Be Thou My Vision", and while I'm no singer, I do love some of the old classics such as "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and (as a one time BB leader) "Will Your Anchor Hold". During my teenage years, the Mission Praise books were published, and many of the Graham Kendrick songs from them remain favourites now.

Something people don't know about me?

Outside of work and family commitments, in my spare time I play badminton twice a week with my local club, and I have a keen interest in family history – having traced one line back as far as the 1650s. Scott and I enjoy caravan holidays across the UK, and most recently the Netherlands and Belgium. The rest of my time seems to be taken up fulfilling my role of treasurer for Linlithgow Netball Club, of which Rebekah is a very active member – having given netball a brief try, I reverted to badminton!



In the heart of Corstorphine



Primary Sunday School



We had a good last term before summer with the highlight being our Christian Aid activity where this year we held a bake sale in the Crush Hall and raised £265.30 which when added the money raised through our Just Giving page for the Forth Road Bridge Crossing meant that we raised a total of £575.30, which was great. The children had great fun decorating cakes, baking biscuits, making top hats, decorating the cake boxes, and then of course running the stall. We had some extra helpers on the day Christine, Hannah, and Rebekah Waugh, Aidan and Mary Brotherton which was much appreciated. As always, we are very grateful to everyone who supported us, family, friends, and of course the congregation.

On the last Sunday of the term the children were presented with books and Tyler who was moving from P3 to P4 received a copy of the Good News Bible as did Quintin. It was a busy last Sunday with the Baptism of Reign, so the children made beautiful cards for her and handed out sweets to the men in the congregation.

We will continue to follow the Roots resource next term and from what I have seen there are several great activities, we look forward to welcoming the children back on Sunday 24th of August.

Barbara Mackie

In the heart of Corstorphine





"**Strictly Come Dancing** came to St Ninian's on Saturday 10th May and it scored a 10 out of 10 from the audience and was **FAB U LOUS!**

The GIFT girls decided a few months back that we were well overdue hosting an event for the church community to enjoy and luckily managed to secure a booking with Hilary and Tibor who offered a demonstration of ballroom and Latin American dancing. We couldn't have been happier, Hilary and Tibor were absolutely lovely and delighted everyone with their costumes, dance routines and personality and were so engaging with the audience when they were invited to ask questions. They also very kindly refused the fee agreed for their time and asked that this be donated to the church.

Around 60 people came along on the day and those with itchy feet were able to join Hilary and Tibor for some audience participation and follow them in an upbeat dance routine.

The dancing was followed by a wonderful Afternoon Tea prepared and hosted by the GIFT girls. It was lovely to see so many happy faces, enjoying the sandwiches, scones and cakes, lots of tea and coffee, but more importantly the conversation and fellowship.

We would like to say a massive, heartfelt thank you to everyone involved behind the scenes, setting up, clearing up, baking and making including our honorary GIFT girls for the day.

A huge thank you to everyone that came along and supported us. We couldn't have done it without you!

We've had such lovely feedback since the event and lots of asks for when's the next one? We'll get back to you on that one, but promise not to wait so long this time. In the meantime keep dancing!"



In the heart of Corstorphine





In the heart of Corstorphine



Past Times in St Ninian's

Quarterly, Summer 2000

"In 1966 I was President of the St Ninian's Badminton Club. At this time the Club always had an Annual Dance in the Church Halls, to which the Minister and wife got an invitation. The Rev Colin R Martin had just come to St Ninian's [*from a Church of Scotland charge in Argentina*] and I decided to write a poem in welcome which I read after the tea, sandwiches and cakes."

"My Welcome

<i>You came to us from far-off lands,</i>	<i>Our children all do love you dearly,</i>
<i>Tanned your face and brown your hands,</i>	<i>Their love's returned you show so clearly,</i>
<i>You're paler now, ye puir wee soul,</i>	<i>With babe in arms you walk the aisle,</i>
<i>Ah doot ye find Auld Reekie cool.</i>	<i>Your face just one big radiant smile.</i>

<i>We bid you welcome to our dance,</i>	<i>These sentiments tho' rude expressed,</i>
<i>An' hope that you will take the chance</i>	<i>Are meant to wish you all the best,</i>
<i>To take the floor wi' Mrs Martin</i>	<i>So never think o' e're departin'</i>
<i>Afore the time comes for departin'.</i>	<i>Our dear beloved Mr. Martin."</i>

"It took me months to come up with the above four verses of doggerel, and Colin was, of course, suitably impressed, or at least he said so. Imagine my chagrin when he disappeared into the Vestry and reappeared five minutes later and spouted the following four verses back at me."

"His reply

<i>Your words so aptly framed for me</i>	<i>Although with child I walk the aisle,</i>
<i>Despite the reference to "wee"</i>	<i>And much enjoy myself the while,</i>
<i>I take with gratitude in heart</i>	<i>I fear you don't enjoy it more</i>
<i>And seek to answer for my part</i>	<i>When you with child must walk the floor</i>

<i>For one who comes from Western Glasgow</i>	<i>And so, again, my heart o'erflowing,</i>
<i>I find your rhyming words, alas, do</i>	<i>My gratitude I must be showing</i>
<i>Expose the fact that you must be</i>	<i>A stranger from another land</i>
<i>Indebted to a poet from Dundee.</i>	<i>I thank you, Mr. Sutherland."</i>

Ian Sutherland



In the heart of Corstorphine

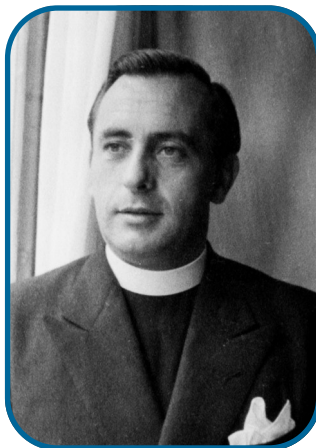




From "Minister's Notes" by the Rev Colin R Martin

"Things will be a good bit easier for you now, Mr Martin, with the summer months now here.' How often have I heard that during my Ministry! There seems be a fairly wide-spread belief that during the summer people don't become ill, that pastoral problems don't arise, that shut-in and invalid members don't need to be visited, that Services don't have to be prepared. And one of the sad spin-offs from that attitude is that Church attendance and Church support suffer, as if there was less need to worship between June and September than during the rest of the year. . . I sometimes wonder what little children think when they and their parents suddenly stop going near the Church for a couple of months – is God on holiday?

"I hope you all enjoy your holidays. I hope we all benefit from some decent weather over the summer months. I pray we may also remember that we did not promise God some kind of nine-months-only commitment"



Rev Colin R Martin photographed shortly after his arrival as our Minister in 1966."

Puzzle Answers

R	E	S	S	E	L	E	H	A	T	L	O	A	L
O		U		S				S		D			U
T		S	E	T			H	S		O	L		F
I		E		B	T			B		H			E
D		E	H	A	S	B	A	B	U	B	S	H	R
E		P					H		U				U
			E	R	E		P	I	C	R	S		
L					A		E				K		L
E	U		D	E	N	E	R	S	E	C	U	C	A
K		E		L			A		N		A		E
E	E	E	D	E	B	E	Z		R	E	T	E	P
H		N		A					A		T		P
S		E	R	S	O	T	H	E	R	S	A	M	A

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

In the heart of Corstorphine



Community Council

The previous Community Councils in Corstorphine have been reorganised into three new Community Councils – Corstorphine and Clermiston Community Council, Corstorphine East and West Craigs Community Council and Corstorphine Gyle Community Council.

The boundaries for the new Corstorphine and Clermiston Community Council are the Edinburgh to Glasgow Railway line, Meadow Place Road, Drum Brae South, Drum Brae North, Queensferry Road, both sides of Clermiston Road North, both sides of Clermiston Road, Cairnmuir Road, the grounds of Edinburgh Zoo, Pinkhill and the eastern edge of Carrick Knowe Golf Course to Balgreen Road.

The Churches within this area are Corstorphine Old Parish, St. Andrews Clermiston, St. Anne's, St. David Carrick Knowe, St. John the Baptist, St. Kentigern's and St. Ninian's.

Craigsbank and East Craigs are in the East and West Craigs Community Council area and St. Thomas' is in Corstorphine Gyle Community Council.

Ian Kirkpatrick is currently the Nominated representative for Corstorphine St. Ninian's Church of Scotland. He will continue to issue Newsletters of what he deems useful information to Churches in Corstorphine.

Nominated representatives are appointed to represent the interests of their group on the community council and to reflect the views of the community through the Community Council.

Corstorphine and Clermiston Community Council is currently meeting in the Beith Hall of St. Ninian's Church on the **third Tuesday of each month at 1900**. Members of the Public are welcome to attend - enter from St. Ninian's Road.

Ian Kirkpatrick,

Ian_g_kirkpatrick@hotmail.com



In the heart of Corstorphine



Prayer Group/ Quiet Space



Our Prayer Group meets each Sunday, before our morning service, in Room 6 (Alpha Room) between 10am and 10.15am.

Recently, for four Sundays, instead of the Prayer Group meeting as a group, Room 6 was a quiet space for anyone who wished to use it for their own personal prayer time, to unwind, or merely to have a few minutes of peace and quiet before Sunday worship.

It is the intention that periodically we will have Quiet Space Sundays, and these will be intimate from time to time.

We would appreciate your support for the Prayer Group/Quiet Space.

Everyone is welcome to Room 6, on any Sunday, from 10am.

Moirra Mather

Mission Committee

Our next collection for Fresh Start will be on Sunday 7th September when we will be looking for linen items, bedding etc. A list will be in the Orders Of Service toward the end of August. However we will be happy to receive any other goods in the condition of wish you would be happy to use.

Bags of Hope were delivered in May to those members no longer able to attend Church Services. A big thank you to everybody who helped to deliver these.

As in previous years we will be having a collection of groceries etc to support the Edinburgh Food-bank Project. Buckets will be at the doors of the Church on Sunday 5th October at our Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

On Remembrance Sunday 9th November we will once again hold a retiral collection for the New Scots Christmas Appeal to support refugees living in Edinburgh.

The Mission Committee look forward to planning new projects for the new year. We would like to thank the Minister, Kirk Session and Congregation for their on-going support.

Margaret Hunter

Convenor

In the heart of Corstorphine



Is the story of David and Goliath, a David and Goliath Story?

Went to Nottingham to watch Zimbabwe play England at cricket. My mother-in-law is from Zimbabwe. Four of us took a trip South to cheer on the 'Chevrons'. It was their first UK test match in a long time. Every time Zimbabwe play cricket the same phrase is used by the press. Zimbabwean cricket has had all sorts of problems. Every match against South Africa, Australia and England is usually described in the press as a 'David v Goliath' contest.

The match was a great occasion and a large number of Zimbabwe flags were waved. They were back on a map playing a test match in England. It was a shame about the result but, although they were beaten they were not disgraced.

Being in Nottingham made me think about David and Goliath a little bit more.

Nottingham is famous for its cricket (Trent Bridge) Football (Forest and County) and a fictional champion archer (Robin Hood). There is a Robin Hood statue in front of the castle and a Robin Hood trail for tourists to follow.

When I was a boy one of my favourite films was 'The Adventures of Robin Hood' starring Errol Flynn. It features the hero winning an archery competition by splitting his competitors arrow. There is also a classic swordfight sequence with Robin taking on Basil Rathbone as Sir Guy of Gisborne. The swordfight scene lasts several minutes and both men are portrayed as master swordsmen. There is a problem with this story.

I later discovered that this aspect of the Robin Hood story was highly unlikely. Historians began writing articles pointing out that the original stories about Robin portrayed him as an ordinary man who redistributed money from the rich and gave it to the poor. An ordinary man would be taught how to use a bow and arrow. In the event of war he would be used as an archer. He would never have touched a sword.

Later stories were added about him being a nobleman who was dispossessed of his lands. If he had been a nobleman he would have been trained to use a sword and not a bow and arrow. This meant that fictional accounts of Robin Hood being as adept with a sword as well as archery are unconvincing to anyone who knew how medieval society was structured.

Had the film been true to original stories of Robin Hood they would not have taken part in a swordfight. He was unlikely to have been trained in how to use it. What use is a sword to a champion archer.

He is more likely to do what Harrison Ford did in 'Raiders of the Lost Ark'. When faced with a master swordsman Indiana Jones pulls out a revolver and shoots him. Robin is more likely to have shot Sir Guy, with an arrow, long before he got near him with a sword. To coin a phrase used by Sir Sean Connery 'you don't take a knife to a gunfight'.

We all know the Bible story where this phrase could also be used. Raiders finishes with the Ark of

In the heart of Corstorphine



has the same plot line as 1 Samuel but in reverse order.

In 1 Samuel 5 the Philistines captured the Ark and placed it in the temple of their god (Dagon). This was a big mistake. When the Philistines got up the next morning the statue of their god had been toppled. All sorts of other bad things happened to the Philistines so they returned the Ark with golden gifts.

The story of Dagon being toppled foreshadows the toppling of Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. The problem that I have is that David's victory is not all that unexpected. A challenge was made by Goliath for someone to fight him. We know that Goliath had a bronze dagger, an enormous spear and a sword. He also had heavy bronze armour.

David refused to wear armour which meant that he stayed mobile. With all that armour and these heavy weapons Goliath was unlikely get near him.

David was also skilled in the use of a deadly weapon. Throughout the ancient world slingers were thought to be as good as archers if not better. The Roman army used slingers from the Balearic Islands. There is also mention of slingers in Judges 20. It says that there were seven left-handed men from Gilbeah who could sling a stone and not miss by a hair's breadth. In those days slingshots were thought to have a greater range than arrows and, if you ran out of ammunition, you could always get more with a visit to a river bed.

We all know what happened next. David chose five stones from the brook and went out to meet Goliath.

Goliath had no chance of getting near him and David was able to fire off a shot with fatal consequences.

Is this really a David and Goliath story or is it an ancient variant of taking a knife to a gunfight?

Graeme Henderson



Goliath cleaned bowled

In the heart of Corstorphine



Take up your bed and walk

St Ninian's has expended significant resources this year (time, effort, money and some head scratching) to ensure that, in addition to the congregation being able to both see and hear the service in the sanctuary, the same opportunity can be afforded to those unable to get to church on a Sunday morning. This has

been facilitated by the use of modern technology, including a new, sophisticated camera system to 'live stream' the service over the internet to members' computer screen or tablet in their home.

A slightly different approach was taken to solving a similar challenge in the nineteenth century. Eileen and I spent the whole of June in Canada on holiday with our daughter Riona and husband Mikey. After a week in Toronto, visiting Niagara Falls, dining at the top of the CN Tower and so on, we embarked on a tour of the Maritime provinces, including New Brunswick, Cape Edward Island, Cape Breton (Scotland abroad, including road signs in Gaelic !) and back to Halifax in Nova Scotia. With limited time in Halifax, we had to decide whether to take a day trip to Peggy's Cove ("the most photographed light house in the World"), or embark on the alternative 'three centre tour' recommended by the locals.

Being true Scots, we wanted maximum bang for our buck and so after stops in the beautiful resort of Chester, on the way to Lunenburg, we found ourselves in the village of Mahone Bay, population 950, but boasting five churches!

Settlement in the early 1800's along the Atlantic coast here was primarily centred around Lunenburg, though by about the third generation, a growing population began migrating outward. The relocation of residents sparked the need for places of worship to serve the people of Mahone Bay and area.. Beginning in 1833, trustees from four denominations (Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian) jointly built the *Union and Harmony Meeting House* with room for each denomination to worship until they could afford to build their respective churches.

Not included in the *Union House*, the Anglicans had state support in the 19th century, which allowed them to build their own church.

The growing population in Mahone Bay led to the construction of individual churches.

While St John's Evangelical Lutheran and St James Anglican initially had pride of place on the waterfront, beginning in 1861, the Presbyterians decided to build their own church on the hill. (Nearer, My God, to thee?)

However, in 1884, the Presbyterian Church received requests from seniors in the congregation, struggling to make the journey up the hill. In 1885, the wooden building was lifted two feet from its foundations, placed on rollers and over a period of ten days was hauled about a quarter of a mile down the hill to its present location!



In the heart of Corstorphine



As if that wasn't enough, later renovations in 1894 included raising the church again to accommodate a basement and a church hall! A radical, but effective approach to bringing the church to the people, literally, using the available technology of the time.

Derek McGillivray

Don't Step on a Bee Day – 10th July

Have you ever wanted to step on a bee? Hopefully most of us haven't – but the eye-catching name of this annual event aims to remind people of how important bees are in our ecosystem, and of the need to promote their protection.

Don't Step on a Bee Day highlights the crucial role bees play in pollination, and also that their populations are declining, because of habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change.

If you want to help the bees, here is what you can do:

Plant Bee-Friendly Flowers: Grow a variety of flowers in your garden that attract and support bees, such as lavender, sunflowers, and marigolds.

Avoid Using Pesticides: Reduce or eliminate these in your garden, to create a safer environment for bees.

Support Local Beekeepers: Purchase honey from local beekeepers, to help support sustainable beekeeping practices.

Create a Bee Bath: Place a shallow dish of water with stones in your garden to provide bees with a safe place to drink.

Educate Others: Share information about the importance of bees and how you protect them with friends, family, and on social media.



In the heart of Corstorphine



What is the truth?

Addressing the General Assembly this year, an elder from a church in Perth said, "We are living in increasingly challenging times, when truth is hard to find. Increasingly we hear of climate change deniers, those casting doubts about vaccine safety, the blaming of Muslims and asylum seekers following the Southport attacks, to name but a few examples where truth is challenged and dangerous opinions are presented as fact." A motion was agreed which encouraged the Church to uphold truth and to challenge misinformation.

So let's look at the inconvenient truth about climate change.

Serious Storm damage in Corstorphine, the photos in the Spring Quarterly depict. In May the term 'whiplash' took on a new meaning – to describe the sudden extremes of weather. According to Climate Scientist Dr Matt Patterson, "we can expect to see more periods of variability in weather. It's often been called 'weather whiplash', the idea that we have some very prolonged dry periods, but then also when it rains, it rains more heavily".

BBC News report 27 May 2025 Christopher Blanchett

After weeks of dry, sunny conditions in Scotland, torrential downpours over the bank holiday weekend marked a sudden change in weather. Barely a drop of rain was recorded over almost the entire month. March and April were far drier than normal, with May seeing only 4% of the normal rainfall by the middle of the month.

Certainly April and May were warmer and drier than usual – to the point when farmers and gardeners wanted rain! But when it rained, it was, indeed, torrential! There can, surely, be no doubt the climate *is* changing. Earth is experiencing more and more frequent extreme weather events with heatwaves, floods, storms, wildfires, droughts.

According to WHO, Climate Change is the single biggest health threat to humanity. It impacts people's lives and health; threatens clean air, safe drinking water, nutritious food supply and safe shelter.

Last summer we heard about the excessive heatwaves in Greece and Spain. People were advised to stay indoors, thousands died. In Morocco the July temperature reached 48°C with at least 21 deaths. Yet in October Spain experienced severe floods due to torrential rain with 217 people proclaimed dead. No doubt, in February, you heard of the plane which overturned as it landed at Toronto airport due to wind and ice. Canada was experiencing high winds and heavy snowfall, particularly in Montreal and Toronto.

In the heart of Corstorphine



This April, while we were basking in warmth, Central and Southern US suffered violent storms, tornadoes and heavy rain. Buildings were damaged, trees uprooted, vehicles overturned, 17 people died, 110,000 people were without electricity.

This summer has been a similar story, with heatwaves and wildfires affecting even Scotland! In London the temperature reached 35° C, leading to 260 heat related deaths, two thirds more than would normally be expected. It is predicted that climate change will mean heatwaves like this will occur every 6 years as opposed to every 60 years in the recent past. And the list goes on. Scientists at Imperial College, London, have found that, over the last two decades, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events over Western Europe has, as predicted, increased.

What is causing this? People! The Industrial Revolution has had its drawbacks! The CO₂ and methane released into the atmosphere has destroyed the ozone layer allowing UV radiation from the sun to enter Earth's atmosphere. These gases also create a layer whereby heat emitted from the earth is trapped, which is why, unlike Mars, there is life on Earth. However, the more we emit the warmer the planet gets! Yet we continue to use fossil fuels, plastic, despite the warnings.

The Polar Regions suffer the consequences most. In Antarctica, great blocks of ice have been calving due to warming of the atmosphere. This affects the wildlife. Krill live under ice and are the mainstay of the food supply chain. Less Krill means insufficient food to sustain creatures which depend upon it, e.g. whales. Adele penguins once inhabited Petermann Island because they prefer colder areas. Now none live there. If warming continues, they might disappear altogether.

The Arctic is warming 4 times faster than the rest of the world. The Inuit in Greenland and Northern Canada depend on sea ice for transport and their livelihoods. There are no roads – people travel by snow mobile or dog sled; enabling them to hunt for their food. The melting of the ice also has an effect on the mammals and plants which survive in these regions. Polar bears rely on the ice for hunting and increasingly, due to lack of ice, they are moving further south into communities in search of food. All this is causing problems and dilemmas for people and polar bears.

Melting of ice will also cause rising sea levels which will undoubtedly affect Britain and many other countries. Low lying areas will become part of the sea; river mouths will recede up stream affecting communities up river; coastal erosion is already occurring. Apart from rising sea levels, the cold melt water penetrating southwards from the Arctic and northwards from the Antarctic, is likely to affect the oceans' currents. Think about the Gulf Stream, which gives Britain a Temperate climate. If it is diverted south could we enter another ice age? It could certainly get a lot colder.

In Siberia, great craters have appeared due to the thawing of the permafrost. A few years ago, you may remember, a woolly mammoth was revealed. Exciting though this may be, it prompts the question, what else from long ago might emerge? Some scientists suggest bacteria and viruses, like black plague or bubonic plague, could be released into the atmosphere. How would that affect the world's population?

So can we help avert this destruction of the Earth? Some people argue “the planes are going anyway”. The planes won’t go if folk don’t use them! We need to limit our flying. Others argue “China is producing more CO₂ than we are so why should we stop?” In actual fact China has produced less CO₂ per person than we have since the 1800s. And at least 70% of cars now manufactured are electric. 48% of new cars bought there are electric, compared to 28% in the UK and 92% in Norway. The Industrial Revolution and intensive farming started in the west but we seem to be lagging behind tackling the consequences!

Individuals may not be able to make the decisions required to reduce emissions, but if we believe we are Stewards of the Earth we surely have a role to play. We must speak out and challenge comments that deny the reality of climate change. We must lobby our politicians to do more and stop postponing targets. We must accept being inconvenienced by policies which may adversely affect us personally. It is no longer about Climate Change; it has become a Climate Crisis.

“What is Truth?” the Minister asked one recent Sunday. Truth is not about having Power. The truth is the climate is changing; humanity will have to change and adapt if it wants to survive. We must help that happen.

This Church of Scotland website offers some information

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-views/addressing-climate-change>

Suggestions for some personal changes:

- * *Buy as many loose goods as possible, not pre-packed in plastic*
- * *Reduce meat intake, especially beef.*
- * *No plastic cups!!*
- * *Recycle as much as possible*
- * *Use public transport where possible*
- * *Electric cars are better for the environment. And they are coming down in price!*
- * *Promote renewable energy – gas and oil will run out*

In the heart of Corstorphine



Teddy Bears Picnic

St. Ninian's's ministry students all bring something special of themselves to our congregation. During May and June this year we enjoyed the company of Penni Brown. Her placement was a full time, ten-week, summer placement, which allowed Penni to take part in the life of the congregation much like Andrew Carter did last year when he helped establish the Sunday morning prayer group and Open Church.

Early on, Penni thought that it would be terrific to bring together the generally younger-aged people that come to the parents and toddlers' groups at St. Ninian's with the more-likely-to-be-somewhat-older group of people who come to Friendly Corner. Her idea was to hold a Teddy Bears' Picnic outside in the front garden one Thursday morning between 11:00am and 1:00pm when Friendly Corner is on.

When the morning came on Thursday 22nd June, the sun shone brightly, the church was open, and over eighty people came – some younger than nine months and some older than ninety years! Andrew Carter, last years' summer student, also came to help and support Penni, and, of course, many teddy bears came too! There was plenty of picnic food, fun, games, and laughter, for every one of every age. There were also members of Corstorphine Community Council Parents' Group there.

Many people said that this was the first time they had ever known St. Ninian's front garden used in this way. People walking by on the street turned their heads and noticed St. Ninian's.

Penni was the instigator and the motivator for the event, but the volunteers from Friendly Corner were there to help make it a success. It was also the first time that Friendly Corner had made use of its outdoor furniture, which was bought with a Council community grant, to help take Friendly Corner outside when the sun shines.

Thank you everyone for helping St. Ninian's reach out to its community. Don't forget you can come to Friendly Corner every Tuesday and Thursday 11:00am – 1:00 pm, or pop in to Open Church on a Tuesday to enjoy a place of peace and prayer any time between 11:00am. And 1:00pm.



In the heart of Corstorphine



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In the heart of Corstorphine

