

St Ninian's Church
Corstorphine

Quarterly



Winter 2022



Edinburgh, Corstorphine St Ninian's Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
144 St John's Road, EH12 8AY
Scottish Charity Number SC016557

MINISTER: Rev James Aitken
17 Templeland Road, Edinburgh EH12 8RZ
Tel: 334 1324; Email: JAitken@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Telephones: OFFICE (and Voicemail): 316 4777;
CRUSH HALL (Church Officer): 334 8615
e-mail: office@st-ninians.co.uk
Office Hours: Tue/Wed/Thurs - 9.00am to 12 noon; Fri - 9.00am to 1.00pm
website: www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk

**If you are a visitor to St Ninian's or are reading this magazine for the first time,
the following information may be useful:**

Our SUNDAY SERVICES are held at 10:30am and are followed by fellowship with tea and coffee in the Martin Shields Hall.

COMMUNION SERVICES are at 10:30am on the first Sundays in March, June, September and December.

During term time PRIMARY SUNDAY SCHOOL is held every Sunday and SECONDARY SUNDAY SCHOOL meets two-weekly, both at 10.25am. A CRËCHE is available for pre-school youngsters.

The CHOIR leads the Praise under the direction of our Organist, Anne Kirkpatrick, and choir practices are on Thursday evenings from September to May.

The GUILD meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons between September and March, with interesting speakers, teas, and outings.

Volunteer drivers offer a CHURCH TRANSPORT SERVICE for our less able members - see the back page for contact details. Reserved car parking is also available at the rear of the church for anyone who cannot walk far or who prefers to avoid steps - access the church by the path to the right of the buildings.

Many Church and non-Church organisations use our premises throughout the week and contact details can be found on the back page.

Dear friends,

*Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labour:
If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.
Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
(Ecclesiastes 4: 9 - 11)*



When the days turn dark and the air feels cold; when we open doors of a calendar or burn a candle; when lights twinkle and carols are sung; when we feel busy but expectant; when we plan and organise; when we write cards, wrap presents, set-up a nativity set, buy a poinsettia, and remember the past, then the spirit of Christmas fills our souls - at least a little - and binds us together in a shared tradition. It is the Christmas spirit.

For some this year, a cold frost will cover the spirit of Christmas, perhaps even more than the recent cold Covid Christmases many endured. The cost of living and the energy crisis might mean that the Christmas spirit will have less rejoicing about it than it has in the past.

However, the spirit of Christmas isn't the only thing that binds us together through the winter months. We are also bound together, as we always are, by a spirit of holiness. That Holy Spirit, within which grow congregations and communities of love, and peace, and justice and mercy, can help us to feel warmer than we would otherwise feel if we were on our own at this time of year. That is why, over the coming months, St. Ninian's has opened Cosy Corner in the Beith Hall. Cosy Corner offers a warm room and warm welcome to anyone who is feeling the cold this year, whether cold and lonely or cold and shivery.

When Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, Luke the Gospel writer recorded that he was born in a busy town filled with people gathered for a census - *'All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem.'* Even amidst the busy-ness of that place, the family was alone, there was no room for them at the inn. Nevertheless, there was a spirit of holiness in the air - *'And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host'* - that brought people together with the warmth of peace - *'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours'* - love - *'Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart'* - and justice - *'He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.'*

Over these colder months of the year, let us celebrate the festive season in each other's company: praying in holiness for those who are lonely; gathering in church with those who celebrate the wonder of Christ's birth; opening the doors of our church to those who seek the warmth of a place, of company, and the warmth of justice.

Best wishes,

James

Dates for your diary

Kirk Session Meetings

2022 - 9th November
2023 - 8th February; 10th May; 6th September; 8th November

Deacons' Court Meetings

2022 - 23rd November
2023 - 22nd February; *(and refer to Andrew Job's article on the adoption of a Unitary Constitution)*

* * * * *

Congregational Register

New Members by Profession of Faith:

Arwen Richards, 9 East Craigs Wynd
Lee Gulland, 3A South Gyle Mains

New Members by Transference Certificate:

New Members by Resolution of Kirk Session:

Baptisms:

Marriages:

Funerals:

26 August 2022 Mr Alister Laing, 5 Drum Brae Park
26 September 2022 Mr Charles Adamson, 123 Carrick Knowe Avenue
9 November 2022* Mr Robert Winn, 91 Caroline Terrace

* Denotes member

* * * * *



St Ninian's Community Christmas Fair

at ST. NINIAN'S CHURCH
Saturday 26 November
11-2pm

Enter from St. John's Road or St. Ninian's Road
opened by Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP at 11am

Christmas wreaths, books, tombola,
homebaking, water and wine,
kids' entertainment

Tea, coffees, homebaking and lunches

Funds raised to be shared between
The Jubilee Club and Broomhouse Food Bank

Moving to a unitary constitution

St. Ninian's is currently governed by two bodies, the Kirk Session and the Deacons' Court. Elders serving on the Kirk Session have responsibility for the congregation's spiritual affairs while Deacons have responsibility for its temporal affairs. Together, Deacons and Elders make up the trustees of the congregation and have responsibilities under civil law. Working through their Clerks, Elders and Deacons are also the executive branch of St. Ninian's responsible for implementing the decisions of the Kirk Session and Deacons' Court.

Over the years, fewer and fewer Elders and Deacons have been available to be ordained such that maintaining the membership of these bodies has become a challenge. In addition, the November meeting of the Deacons' Court will be the last meeting for the current Clerk, Anne Bryce, who has served the Court as Clerk for three years. Following that meeting the Deacons' Court will have to elect a new Clerk. No one is willing to serve as Clerk to the Deacons' Court, which poses the question as to how the Court will be able to continue to fulfil

its responsibilities and execute its decisions.

As you know, the Church of Scotland is going through a period of major re-organisation both nationally and locally. Under this re-organisation, should a parish form a union with another parish the new parish will be governed using a unitary constitution. Whilst a union with St Andrew's and St Anne's is some time away this is also a factor that has to be taken into consideration.

After a detailed discussion at its meeting in September, the Deacons' Court decided to proceed with the adoption of a unitary constitution. This proposal will now be discussed at the next Kirk Session meeting in November and, if agreed, a congregational meeting will be called in January to make the final decision. Again, if approved, an approach will be made to Presbytery to support our request to change our governance arrangements. Once Presbytery approval is received our request is then considered by a delegation of the General Assembly who have the authority to agree to our request.

What is a unitary constitution?

A unitary constitution is the General Assembly's preferred governance structure for Church of Scotland congregations. Under this structure the governance of both temporal and spiritual affairs of the congregation falls to the Kirk Session, and a Deacons' Court does not exist. The Moderator of the Session is normally the minister.

The Kirk Session appoints a Session Clerk to carry out the duties of the rôle of Session Clerk as defined in the constitution. Additionally, the Kirk Session elects a Treasurer, who need not be a member of the Session, to carry out the duties of a treasurer in line with the constitution. The Session may remit any aspects of its work to a committee whose rôle is specified by the Session and reviewed regularly thereafter by the Session. For example, it is recommended that a Finance committee and a Fabric committee be set up, as a

minimum. It is likely that other committees will be required, but the Session is always the responsible body for all decisions made on its behalf.

At St Ninian's, Deacons are ordained for life. Therefore, despite the dissolution of the Deacons' Court, Deacons will continue to hold the office of Deacon. All Deacons will have the opportunity to become Elders if they wish to do so. If any Deacons do not wish to become Elders they can continue to participate in activities that are essential to the smooth running of the Church, as before.

Both the Kirk Session and the congregational meeting are open to all and if you have any questions or comments they can be raised at these meetings. In the meantime, should you have any questions please contact either Anne Bryce, the Session Clerk team or the minister.

Presbytery plan update

Over the summer several meetings were held with St Andrew's and St Anne's to discuss the possibility of forming a three-way union under the proposed Presbytery plan that is currently being consulted on. As agreed by our respective Kirk Sessions, an approach was made to the Presbytery deployment sub-group (DSG) who are managing the Presbytery plan, to seek a change to the plan to include a three-way union between ourselves.

A revised version of the plan was published which included a proposal for a three-way union between St Ninian's, St Andrew's and St Anne's. A further revision to the plan has subsequently been published which included the proposals for the future retention of church buildings. It is pleasing to note that all three church buildings at St Ninian's, St Andrew's and St Anne's have been designated for retention. However, the allocation of ministerial resources to the proposed combined parish is disappointing. At one minister plus half a mission development staff, this is, in our

view, insufficient to meet the needs of the combined parish.

In light of this unsatisfactory proposal, a meeting was held recently with the convener of the DSG to discuss the resource allocation and any options that may be available to improve our resource allocation. Several questions have been raised with the DSG as a result of this meeting and we await the outcome.

This means that any union between St Ninian's, St Andrew's and St Anne's will be deferred until the allocation of resources question has been resolved. However, we continue to look at how we can develop our relationship with St Anne's and St Andrew's in the interim period.

We will continue to keep you up to date as matter progress.

*Andrew Job
Session Clerk Team*

* * * * *



The Guild started on Tuesday 1st November, and it will meet at 2.15pm in the Martin Shields Hall every Tuesday up to and including 6th December. After the break it will restart on 10th January 2023. There you will be very welcome to enjoy a variety of talks, musical items, humorous interludes and more, and to share fellowship with each other.

As a member of our Guild you become with its 15,000 members part of one of the biggest voluntary organisations not only in the Church of Scotland but also in Scotland. Through it we share faith, fellowship, friendship and fun.

Our Guild has strong roots and with 40, 50, 60+ years of service many of our members have a strong bond to it. Following the new theme "wee seeds, big trees" we shall continue to grow and flourish.

Valerie Thomson

Primary Sunday School

We have had a good start to the term with the same children that joined us last year coming back, and we have also had someone new join us which is encouraging. Christine Waugh stood down at the end of last term, but we are pleased to have Fiona Knapp join us, which is great as with the wide age range we do need the extra pair of hands. Anna Loudon is also volunteering with us as she works towards her Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

So far this term we have decorated friendship cakes, built towers on unsound foundations, celebrated harvest and tantalised the congregation with the smell of fresh baking on Sunday 23rd of October. We have continued to use the Roots resources which provide a good framework for our lessons although we sometimes need to adapt to suit our wide age group. The cupcakes that we made were to demonstrate that we need each other and how working together creates the best outcome and I have to say the cakes that girls made were delicious.



For Harvest we planted bulbs, made sandwiches to reflect the principles of Christianity, spreading God's love and then sharing what we have. We also made our potato people which the children always enjoy.



We look forward to the remainder of the term and to the family services that Rev Derek Munn is planning.

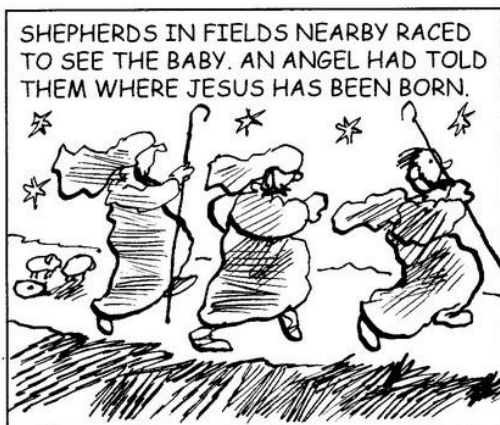
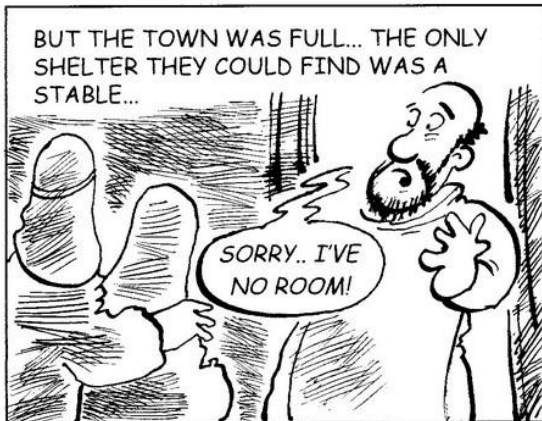
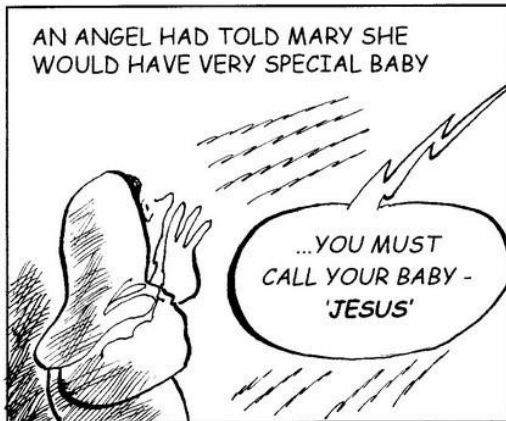
Barbara Mackie

* * * * *

Location of 1973 Sunday School Picnic

In the Autumn issue of the Quarterly, we asked in *Past Times in St Ninian's* if anyone could recall the venue for the 1973 Sunday School picnic. The Sunday School Superintendent at the time, the late James Arthur, had noted in 1972 that the Sunday School would be "breaking new ground, geographically" in the location for the 1973 picnic, but gave no further details. The answer was found in the congregation's Annual Report for 1974, stating that the location had been the park at Howden House, Livingston. Many thanks to Isobel Govenlock for her assistance in tracing this information.

The First Christmas



(from resources on the website 'Parish Pump', as are the Wordsearch and Crossword which appear on later pages)

Alpha Sunday School

The Alpha Sunday School have been meeting every two weeks with a group of eight regular attenders. They are a lovely enthusiastic bunch who are sociable and participative, and it's a pleasure for us as leaders to spend time in their company.



We devote a lot of our time to fund-raising activities. Pat Gibb came and led the group in planting seeds early in the year which she kindly took away to water and care for until they were ready for sale after a service in the spring time.

In June the children ran a home baking and craft stall. The crafts were all made by the children on Sundays leading up to the event as well as loads of home baking which can be seen in the photos.

We were very proud to donate £500 to the Rock Trust from the proceeds of both of these sales. At the moment we are busy with Christmas craft on the run up to the Christmas Fair.

Gillian Higgins

* * * * *

Wordsearch

Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and bestow on his people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all - His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.



Messiah	Beauty	Broken	Ashes	Heart
Son	Freedom	God	Darkness	Jesus
Favour	Father	Prisoners	Whoever	Comfort
Longing	Mourn	Thousand	Bestow	Crown

Fabric Committee

The last few months have been quite busy:

- The traditional lantern over the front entrance was refurbished and has now been refitted.
- In the Kitchen a commercial dishwasher was installed, and a new worktop fridge supplied before the Kitchen was redecorated.
- The Choir Room has suffered from damp for many years, so a waterproofing system was installed along the east wall.
- Following a report of rainwater dripping into Room 2, we found that a fan cowl on the roof above had been pulled off by vandals. This has now been securely refitted.

The Manse also required urgent repairs:

- A section of the main drain had sunk and had to be replaced to the correct alignment.
- Defects were also found at the flat roof deck so new feltwork was dressed around the perimeter to resolve the problem.

The Presbytery's Asset Management & Building Audit has been completed for all church properties and I was pleased to note that our buildings have been rated as 'good' in terms of condition and upkeep.

Alister McGlashan
Convener



The front signboard has now been updated, thanks to Rev Derek Munn.

* * * * *

Missing issues of “Let’s Talk . . . About Corstorphine”

In the last issue of the Quarterly, I asked for the congregation’s assistance in tracing two issues of “Let’s Talk” which were found to be missing from the set recently deposited in the Memorabilia by its former Editor, Ian Kirkpatrick. Valerie Thomson came to the rescue by offering the two missing items from her own set of the magazine. I am most grateful to Valerie for enabling us to complete our holding of all the published magazines.

Andrew Broom

Mission Committee

On the 21st of August the Mission Committee, along with the Hospitality Committee, provided a Summer Lunch. We hoped it would be an opportunity to bring members of the Congregation back together again after Covid. The Hospitality Committee provided a wonderful finger buffet for the 80 or so members and friends attending. A big thank you to Georgie and her team. Definitely a date for your diary next year.

For a second year, we have collected food items at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service to support the Broomhouse Road Edinburgh Food Project. They were very appreciative for the large quantity which we delivered.



Donations for the food bank

We have been collecting for Fresh Start for almost 20 years and over this time the Congregation have consistently been generous in their support for this amazing venture. The September donations were delivered to Ferry Road Drive where the staff have again asked for their sincere thanks to be passed on.

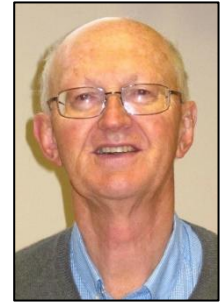
For the last 2 years we have had a retiring offering to raise funds to provide hampers for refugees in Edinburgh. This year there will be a collection on Remembrance Sunday, 13th November, to raise funds again. Some of our members delivered hampers last year. If you would be able to deliver a bag to a refugee family please let me know.

As mentioned last quarter, the Mission Committee are hoping to deliver pastoral bags to members of the Congregation who are not managing to come along to Church. These bags will include a small plant, tablet, shortbread and chocolate.

Our Congregational Christmas Cards have gone to print and the committee would like to thank Rev Derek Munn for all his guidance and help.

We hope to be able to hold our annual Congregational Lunch in January. Please look out for more information nearer the time.

Margaret Hunter
Convener



We at Corstorphine St Ninian’s Church continue to support Christian Aid by fundraising within the Church and Parish enabling Christian Aid to help communities in the developing world. However, COVID-19 continues to restrict our fund raising.

Susanne Hope represented St Ninian’s in the Kiltwalk, walking 13 miles in the ‘Big Stroll’ Edinburgh Kiltwalk on Sunday 18th September 2022. [See Susanne centre stage in the photo below]



Susanne raised the superb total of £1,000 from her walk to which Tom Hunter and the Hunter Foundation donated a further 50% so that Christian Aid received a total of £1,500.

A big thank you to Susanne and all those at St Ninian’s who donated.
WELL DONE SUSANNE!

Alec Millar, Christian Aid Co-ordinator
Tel : 334 1471 alec.w.millar@blueyonder.co.uk

* * * * *

News from Corstorphine Community Council

1) CORSTORPHINE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Corstorphine Community Centre has leased Westfield House pending an asset transfer from City of Edinburgh Council, and a variety of activities is envisaged within Westfield House.

The site of the fire-damaged Corstorphine Public Hall site has been sold. Seven bids were received, and the one chosen was deemed to be in keeping with the area rather than being the highest bid.

It is not in the plan for Corstorphine Library to co-locate to Westfield House, but the library service may use Westfield House as extra space for events.

2) POLICE REPORT

“As at August, Crime figures for North-West Edinburgh, compared to 5-year averages, are down 7.6% for Serious Crimes of Violence, down 21.1% for Hate Crimes, down 29% for Anti-Social Behaviour, down 61.8% for Housebreaking in Dwellings and down 26.7% for Housebreaking in Non-Dwellings. Housebreaking to a business in Corstorphine High Street has been solved and a person charged.

“As part of the Community Alcohol Partnership being launched across the city, the “It’ll cost you” campaign is targeting proxy sales of alcohol by adults to persons under 18. Any intelligence of premises or persons taking part in proxy sales is sought. Either 101, email, or anonymously via crime stoppers.

“There have been reports of sporadic youth anti-social behaviour; please do contact us if this behaviour is witnessed. Or contact by email (see below) with any areas you believe there is a problem forming.

“Don’t get work done by someone who is just passing by or ‘cold calling’. Use the Trusted Trader Scheme <https://trustedtrader.scot/Edinburgh> 0131 513 9921”

The Police may be contacted on 999 (for emergencies), 101 (for non-emergencies) and by email on EdinburghCPTNorthWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk

3) COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) voted to progress the Central Edinburgh Low Emission Zone despite objections.

The proposal for speed reduction (40->30mph) on Glasgow Road and South Gyle Broadway passed at TEC in January but an implementation date is awaited.

Some bus stop bins have been removed and replaced with larger bins at various points along streets. Some residents are now having waste being thrown into gardens. The situation is being monitored.

The Council is liaising with Friends of Gyle Park about improving safety for park users around the road to David Lloyd to reduce parking and speeding.

Cars, lorries and vans that park on double yellow or red lines can be reported to City of Edinburgh Council at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/incorrectlyparked> but if a vehicle is causing an obstruction, it can be reported to the Police.

Implementation of the Corstorphine Connections Low Traffic Neighbourhood, (LTN), scheduled to start at the end of June, has been delayed due to difficulty in getting a Contractor; it may be linked to other tenders. Hedges have been cut back in 15 locations to improve access, particularly for prams and wheelchairs.

Taylor Wimpey was scheduled to construct the changes to the Craigs Road/Maybury Road junction in Q3 2022.

Improvements to the Maybury and Barnton junctions are scheduled for 2024 but there are insufficient funds for complete implementation.

The need for a new Edinburgh West High School in the next 10 years has been identified. Craigmount High School will be used in the meantime.

4) PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There has been a pre-application consultation relating to the proposed development at West Town, Edinburgh which is a 205-acre site located between the airport and the tram depot. The Edinburgh City Plan envisages 7,000 houses. You can find out more at <https://www.west-town-edinburgh.com/>

A Change of Use application from class 4 (office) to Class 2 (health centre) at 2 Redheughs Rigg, South Gyle has been made. There are no further details.

There have been housing development applications for sites at Turnhouse Road and Craigs Road.

A Retrospective Change of Use application has been made for a flat at South Maybury from residential dwelling to short-term let. Possibly the first of many!

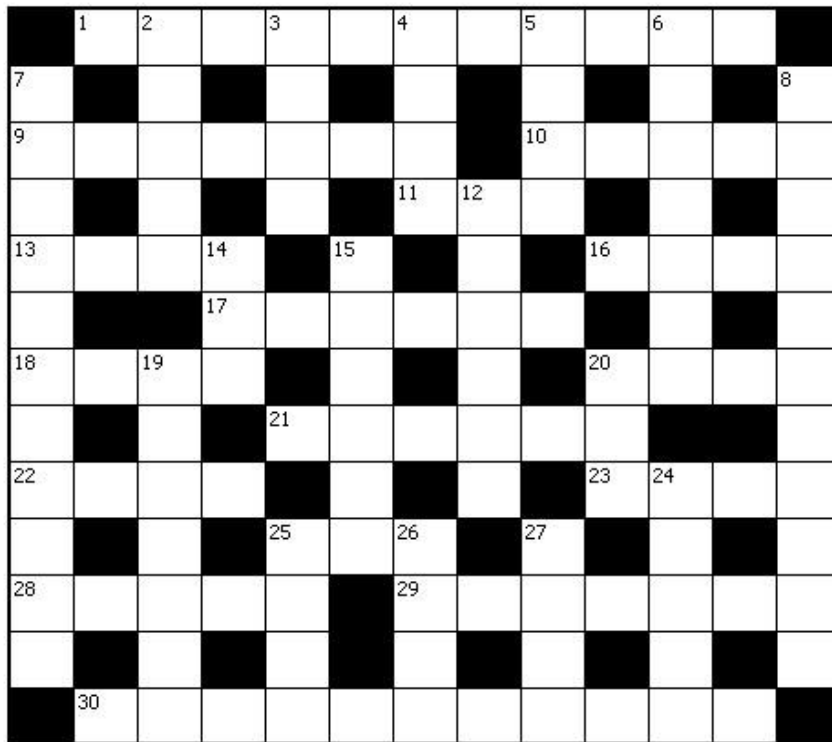
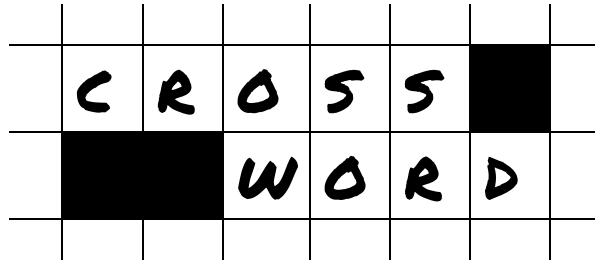
A Planning Application has been made for various changes within the Toby Carvery in St. John's Road and the adjacent Car Park.

5) OTHER

The Corstorphine Market will progress after the recruitment of a Staffing Manager.

Demolition of the block formerly containing Woolworths has commenced. Seven or eight parking spaces will be lost during demolition. (The developers have not been involved in discussions about the LTN.)

*Ian Kirkpatrick
Member of Corstorphine Community Council,
representing Corstorphine Churches Together*



ACROSS

- 1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all __, Lord of all __, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
- 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you __ your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline __ (2,3)
- 11 'At even __ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
- 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but __ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must __ God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, __ Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat __ __ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25 Tree (3)
- 28 'No fear of me should __ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
- 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
- 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

DOWN

- 2 'O Jerusalem, how _ I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
- 3 Way out (4)
- 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5 Done (anag.) (4)
- 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
- 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
- 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
- 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
- 14 Frozen (3)
- 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
- 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
- 20 See 1 Across
- 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
- 25 Time (anag.) (4)
- 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
- 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

* * * * *

The Lord's Prayer in Doric (to counterbalance the following story ...)

Oor Faither, fa bides in hivven,
We'll aye hae a geed conceit o ye.
Yer croon winna be ill tae fit,
sae yer wye o it maun be the wye o it doon bye,
nae less nor the wye o it in hivven.
Gie us oor mait an a puckle loaf the day, and ilka day.
An dinna haud it agin us nor we mak a cuddy o things,
Jist as we widna skelp fowk fa chunce their haun agin us.
An dinna scunner us wi wyes tae swick,
Bit ding doon ony o Aul Nick's coorseness.
Michty me, bit ye've a haud o aathin,
Sae it's michty you an aa,
An aat's jist rare,
Ivnoo an fir ivvermair.
Fairly aat, min.

*by Pete Fraser, on a prayer card from
the Cathedral Church of St Machar*

A tongue-in-cheek story: perhaps the internet isn't as recent as we think!

In ancient Palestine, a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dorothy.

Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder, long of leg and, indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a Camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?" And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed, he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known.

He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"YAHOO," said Abraham.

And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

So it came to pass that is how it all began
And remains unto this day!

*With apologies from Derek MacGillivray,
who insists this came from a friend*

Past Times in St Ninian's

Twenty-five years ago from the Quarterly, Winter 1997

“The death on 16th October (1997) of Mr William Gordon Dey FRIBA, FRIAS, at the age of 86, has severed a long-standing connection between this noted architect and St Ninian's. Born and bred in Corstorphine, Mr Dey was an Elder and life-long member of St Anne's where he took a very active part in congregational affairs, including at different times the rôles of Session Clerk and Superintendent of the Sunday School. His widow, Elizabeth (nee Corrigall) was, before her marriage, a member of St Ninian's and the young couple were accordingly married in our church. Perhaps for this reason Mr Dey always had an almost equal affection for St Ninian's; and when, after the Second World War, the congregation decided to make alterations and improvements to the church buildings, it was a singularly happy decision that he should be appointed architect and adviser for these important works.

“The congregation had identified four requirements: the need for extra hall accommodation; the removal of a disused cottage and small shop at the front of the church which blocked a clear view of the frontage; the need for some part of the renovations to be associated with the name of the Rev Peter Beith, minister from 1901-39; and an improvement to the layout and décor of the church itself.

“Between 1949 and 1953 work proceeded under Mr Dey's expert guidance. The cottage and shop were removed, the Session room was doubled in size to become what we now know as the Beith Hall; and above all, the interior of the church was completely renovated and refurnished. Apart from the beautiful new oak furnishings, perhaps the most notable feature was the removal of the windows from the apse and their replacement by a wall bearing the simple sycamore cross which is still the commanding feature of the church. Mr Dey insisted on sycamore for the cross notwithstanding the difficulty of obtaining this wood in a time of post-war shortages, as a visible link with, and reminder of, the historic 300-year-old Corstorphine Sycamore which stood at the corner of Dovecot Road.

“As the 1993 printed history of our church records, ‘We owe much not only to Mr Dey's professional ability and experience, but to the keen personal interest he showed throughout the protracted negotiations and in the execution of the work.’”

Fifty years ago from the Quarterly, Jan 1973

From *Minister's Notes*, by the Rev Colin R Martin

“I have to mention two unhappy decisions we had to take recently, both of which may be traced to the same problem. We had to cancel a proposed concert by the Telephone Choir, and also the Men's Club Social Evening - in both cases because of lack of support. This is a really sad state of affairs in a congregation like ours. We simply cannot ask groups and speakers and entertainers to give up considerable time and talent to a negligible support. I realise that every organisation run by Church and Community these days has the unenviable task of competing with the square-eyed monster which sits by our firesides. But surely it must be a sad day for our society if the TV set rules our every movement . . . Why don't you try to break the habit? Like giving up smoking it requires will-power - but you certainly feel the benefit of it once the break is made! . . .”

St.Ninian's Church, Corstorphine
General Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 31st October, 2022

General Fund - Summary

	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	Variance	2022 Budget
Total Receipts	147,949	146,177	1,772	142,045
Total Ordinary General Expenditure	(143,760)	(131,798)	(11,962)	(143,675)
General Fund - Surplus (Deficit)	<u>4,189</u>	<u>14,379</u>	<u>(10,190)</u>	<u>(1,630)</u>
Legacies Received	19,214	2,500	16,714	0
TOTAL	<u><u>23,403</u></u>	<u><u>16,879</u></u>	<u><u>6,524</u></u>	<u><u>(1,630)</u></u>

General Fund - Analysis of Receipts & Payments

Receipts

Congregation Offerings (inc. Gift Aid)	120,147	121,860	(1,713)	119,934
One-off Donations	542	6,682	(6,140)	0
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	-	600	(600)	0
Contributions from outside organisations for use of	22,711	9,146	13,565	20,000
Bank Interest and Investment Income	2,446	2,607	(161)	1,694
Other Receipts	2,103	5,282	(3,179)	417
	<u>147,949</u>	<u>146,177</u>	<u>1,772</u>	<u>142,045</u>

Expenditure

National Ministry & Mission & wider work	(78,420)	(77,302)	(1,118)	(78,621)
Local Salaries, Social Security & Pension Costs	(31,356)	(26,276)	(5,080)	(31,526)
Office / Administration Costs	(5,804)	(3,905)	(1,899)	(5,417)
Fabric, Repairs, Renewals & Regular maintenance	(9,954)	(7,627)	(2,327)	(9,791)
Premises running costs (halls & manse)	(12,490)	(12,250)	(240)	(14,367)
Other Local Costs	(5,546)	(4,438)	(1,108)	(3,953)
	<u>(143,760)</u>	<u>(131,798)</u>	<u>(11,962)</u>	<u>(143,675)</u>

COMMENT

As at 31st October, there is a surplus on the General Fund of £4,189. Compared to the position for the same period in 2021 (£14,379) this is a decrease of £10,190. This can be explained as follows:

Higher Income = Increase in surplus of £1,772 - as analysed below

- An increase in Hall income of £13,565 reflecting the return to normal levels of usage following Covid-19
- A total reduction in all other areas of income of £11,793. The main areas of increase are:
 - Congregational Offerings (1,713) - fall in regular payments offset by increase in Open plate offerings
 - One-off donations (£6,140) - large donation received in 2021
 - Other receipts (£3,179) - Government Job Retention scheme income received in 2021

Higher Costs = Reduction in surplus of £11,962 - as analysed below

- Costs have increased in all areas. The main areas of increase are:
 - Local salaries - these were lower in 2021 due to savings during lockdown
 - Office administration costs - increased printing costs and purchase of computer equipment in 2022
 - Fabric costs - increases in both repairs & renewals and regular maintenance costs in 2022

Taking account of legacies received the surplus is £23,403, an increase of £6,524 on 2021 (£16,879)

Janice Reynolds (Treasurer)