

# Corstorphine Old Parish Church

Registered Charity No: SC016009

[www.corstorphineoldparish.org.uk](http://www.corstorphineoldparish.org.uk)



**Summer 2023**  
**(June, July and August)**



## Diary Dates for the summer



6th June (Tues)	Tuesday Club at 2pm in the Hall
7th June (Wed)	Holy Communion Service at 1.30pm in the Church
7th June (Wed)	Kirk Session meets at 7.30pm in the Session Room
11th June (Sun)	9.40am : Wee Service in the Hall for families with young children 10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
18th June (Sun)	9.40am : Wee Service in the Hall for families with young children 10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
25th June (Sun)	Anniversary Sunday 9.40am : Wee Service in the Hall for families with young children 10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
2nd July (Sun)	10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
4th July (Tues)	Tuesday Club in the Hall at 2pm
9th July (Sun)	10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
16th July (Sun)	10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
23rd July (Sun)	10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
30th July (Sun)	10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
6th Aug (Sun)	9.40am : Wee Service in the Hall for families with young children 10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
8th Aug (Tues)	Tuesday Club in the Hall at 2pm
13th Aug (Sun)	9.40am : Wee Service in the Hall for families with young children 10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
20th Aug (Sun)	9.40am : Wee Service in the Hall for families with young children 10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
27th Aug (Sun)	9.40am : Wee Service in the Hall for families with young children 10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
3rd Sept (Sun)	9.40am : Wee Service in the Hall for families with young children 10.30am : Morning Worship in Church
6th Sept (Wed)	Kirk Session meets at 7.30pm in the Session Room
10th Sept (Sun)	9.40am : Wee Service in the Hall for families with young children 10.30am : Morning Worship in Church

**Tea and Coffee each Sunday after the service in the Hall,  
come and enjoy a coffee and a blether.**

**Please note there will be no '9.40am Wee Service' during July.**

**Our minister will be on leave during the month of July, during this time,  
please contact the Rev William Watt.**

**The Church is open to visitors every Wednesday 10.30am-12noon, followed by a  
Short Service of Quiet Reflection at 12noon. During July and August the church is also open  
to visitors from 2pm-4pm. All welcome.**

**We have Online Reflections available after each service on our Website and Facebook Pages.**

# Letter from our Minister

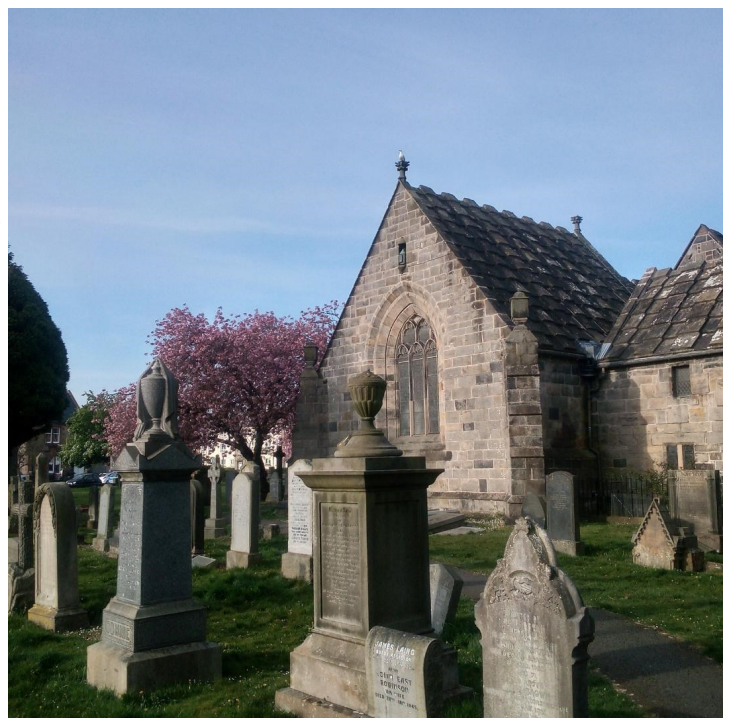
Dear Friends

This month sees the last few days of Christine Mill being our church secretary before she retires at the end of the month. Christine has been a constant of church life for over 20 years and has brought to her role a cheery smile, a quiet efficiency and a sense of humour that has seen her through three ministers, two vacancies, her own family growing up and most recently the pandemic, lockdown and reopening. Christine has always been willing to go the extra mile, taking on printing or designing to help people out, compiling lists at short notice, reminding convenors (and ministers) what is needed and when, and in my case writing beautifully worded emails gently asking - again - for whatever report or order of service or contact name she asked me for last week! Her door is always open to visitors and coffee and a blether offered to all. We will miss Christine's knowledge and stories, especially her tales of her travels, but we wish her a very long and very happy retirement with her husband Gary. You will find details later in the magazine of a couple of open mornings Christine has organized in the office, so do pop in and say cheerio, although we will continue to see her around and about in Corstorphine as she goes line dancing or walking, and picks up grandson Blair from play-group.

When there is a goodbye there is often a hello, and we are delighted to share the news that our own Carol Christie, elder, former Sunday Club teacher, one time Session Clerk, convenor of our Mission Committee, published author and knitter extraordinaire will be replacing Christine as church secretary. Carol will no doubt bring her own stamp to the role, and get to know the different characters and habits of office life. She and Christine are working together in June to familiarize Carol with equipment and procedures and Carol will be just as happy to see visitors and help out and support, and no doubt will still need to send beautifully worded emails to me about something I haven't done but should have. Good luck Carol!

As I write, we are about to celebrate Pentecost, the time of the disciples being sent out into new places among new people to speak of God through words and healing and change. Whatever the summer months bring, I pray that we all know the peace and companionship of God in our lives, and enjoy the newness and the known-ness that comes with each day.

Maria



## ***Sponsored Walk for Young Lives Versus Cancer- Port Seton to Craigsbank***

Following on from the fund raising concert last year I am once again raising funds for Young Lives Versus Cancer.

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June I will do a sponsored walk, copying William's journey from Port Seton to the Old Parish, then continuing on to finish at Craigsbank. The total distance will be 15 miles. Donations can be made via my Just Giving page ([Just.Giving.com](https://www.justgiving.com) and then search Graeme Allan), or I am happy to take donations also. All money raised will be gratefully received and hopefully the weather will be dry on the day too.

[GRAEME ALLAN is fundraising for Young Lives vs Cancer \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com)



### **Black History Walking Tour**

The youth group was given a grant from Edinburgh Council to go on a walking tour with Lisa Williams from the Edinburgh Caribbean Society. Read Rebecca's words below:

*We went on a black history walking tour of Edinburgh. We learnt so much. We learnt about the roles people of colour played in the royal court. Some of the history was sad, some was happy. It was an amazing experience and so much to learn. I highly recommend it.*

*Rebecca, age 13*



*The black history tour was really great as I saw loads of parts of Edinburgh's history that I haven't heard before. It was really interesting and hard to explain but incredible!*

*Jessica, age 9*

We were also given a grant to go for something to eat after and we enjoyed a meal at Nando's.

The church is open for visitors right through the summer every Wednesday from 10.30am-12noon. During July and August the church will also be open for visitors every Saturday afternoon from 2.00pm-4.00pm. Everyone welcome.

## William's Ordination

Congratulations to the Rev William Watt who was ordained at Corstorphine Old Parish Church on Thursday 27th April, followed by refreshments in the Hall.



(photographs courtesy of Victoria Elliott)

## Church Duties for July

### Sunday Beadles

2nd D Pearson      9th A Thom      16th J Gorrie      23rd R Allan      30th A Thom

### Bell Ringers

2nd P Carnie      9th K Walker      16th A Hay      23rd R Ingle      30th H Edwards

### Welcome Team

2nd Team 3 : A Christie      9th Team 4 : M Stewart      16th Team 5 : K Walker  
23rd Team 6 : S Bryson      30th Team 7 : L Allan

### Tea and Coffee Rota

2nd J & A Thom      9th L Allan/G Smith      16th B Russell/C Calder  
23rd D Drummond/K Aitchison      30th M Robertson/ A N Other

### Wednesday Church Opening

5th G Stewart      12th D Cameron      19th D Drummond      26th D Zuckert

### Readers

2nd B Black      9th C Karacaoglu      16th C Calder      23rd A Strathdee      30th A Christie



## Church Duties for August

### Sunday Beadles

6th D Pearson      13th J Gorrie      20th R Allan      27th A Thom

### Bell Ringers

6th P Carnie      13th K Walker      20th A Hay      27th R Ingle

### Welcome Team

6th Team 1 : H Edwards      13th Team 2 : I Gordon      20th Team 3 : A Christie  
27th Team 4 : M Stewart

### Tea and Coffee Rota

6th J Walker/L Gorrie      13th M Gordon/M Watt      20th J & A Thom      27th L Allan/G Smith

### Wednesday Church Opening

2nd K Walker      9th S Murray      16th G Stewart      23rd D Cameron      30th D Drummond

## Church Duties for September

### Sunday Beadles

3rd D Pearson                      10th J Gorrie                      17th R Allan                      24th A Thom

### Bell Ringers

3rd H Edwards                      10th P Carnie                      17th K Walker                      24th A Hay

### Welcome Team

5th Team 5 : J Walker                      10th Team 6 : S Bryson                      17th Team 7 : L Allan  
24th Team 1 : H Edwards

### Tea and Coffee Rota

3rd B Russell/C Calder                      10th D Drummond/K Aitchison                      17th M Robertson/A N Other  
24th J Walker/L Gorrie

### Wednesday Church Opening

6th D Zuckhert                      13th K Walker                      20th S Murray                      27th G Stewart

## Pauline's Tree

*Pauline Baber requested, and made provision for, an Amelanchier tree be planted, in her memory, preferably near her grave in Corstorphine Hill Cemetery. The City of Edinburgh Council wouldn't permit this, but were happy for it to be planted in the village green to the south of the Church.*

*I chose the gap site at the north end of the line of trees surrounding the green. In the 19th century, the south west side of Kirk Loan was lined by cottages, culminating in "Irish Corner" at the High Street. The 3rd from last building was the smiddy. The ground, indeed, proved to be remains of a building site and I had to dig through 18" of rubble and cinders to reach the clay.*

*Amelanchier (Juneberry, Shadbush, Snowy Mespilus) is usually grown as a multi-stemmed shrubby tree (e.g. the copse in front of the Zoo entrance), but I found one called "Rainbow pillar" which may be more in keeping with the adjacent trees. The name purports to be its autumn appearance. Time will tell! Trees take from 2 to 3 years to become established, so don't hold your breath.*

*Next time you're in and out of the library, pause to admire the Amelanchier, and think of Pauline.*

**Hugh Edwards**



## 2022 – A busy year!

2022 saw us begin to emerge from a 2 year period of COVID restrictions which altered our way of life and worship in the church and local community activities. The one thing it did prove was that as a congregation we are flexible and adaptable.

As Ramsay stated in his article in the March magazine, Kirk Session is very grateful for the support of the congregation in our response to the changing guidelines as we all felt our way through these challenging times.

It has been an impressive year for Moira, our Minister, has it not? You will have read in the annual report, that Moira continues to contribute at a number of levels at Presbytery. And in December she was nominated to be the Moderator of Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery for 2023. In the spring of last year Moira was invited to join the Chapel Royal in Scotland and was installed in August, along with 3 others, here in the Old Parish. This appointment is a great honour for Moira and her family, but it is also a great honour for us as a congregation and church family.

It has been a pleasure to have William Watt among us during the past year and congratulations are extended to William on passing his final report in July. Williams's ordination took place in the Old Parish on 27th April and you will see some photographs in the magazine.

Our Minister continues to deepen our involvement with local schools, leading regular assemblies, and periods of reflection and also in a number of other activities which help to strengthen and broaden relationships with pupils, staff and parents.

The Presbytery Plan Consultation Document was published in December 2021 with proposals that the Old Parish and Craigsbank church become a new enlarged parish served by one Minister, and that a pioneer Minister is located in the new housing development at the western edge of the city. The plan is yet to be fully approved but during past year Elders from both congregations have met socially to get to know each other better. There will be challenging times ahead for us all but I know we will meet them with fortitude and grace.

Dr Esther Elliott, Community Chaplain, has continued to provide support and care to a number of workplaces in the Gyle and Corstorphine areas which have deepened relationships in the local community. Working with the owners and management team at the Gyle shopping centre, Esther has developed an onsite community space for local people to access support, training and advice. This facility will be referred to as Space to Be and the aim is to provide a hub which can be used by groups and individuals for a number of activities. The licence to operate transferred from Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland to the Old Parish in January this year.



Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland ceased to exist in October 2022. At this time Kirk Session agreed to continue supporting the work previously undertaken on behalf of Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland and have created a Community Chaplain. Esther has agreed to take on this role. She will cover Corstorphine and the area to the west of Edinburgh. Her involvement with the old Parish and a network of individuals provides opportunities to strengthen our witness and enjoy events together.

The Mission Committee continues to inform the community of our activities in local publications. 2022 saw the return of the Corstorphine Fair. In partnership with local churches, volunteers distributed over 3000 packets of wildflower seeds. The church building was open to visitors on the day and has been on Wednesday mornings throughout the year. At Easter time a group of volunteers distributed flowers to shoppers in the Gyle shopping centre. In partnership with Craigsbank church Toastie Thursday has been introduced providing a space for pupils to buy lunch and receive a warm welcome from church members.

Our charitable donations last year supported a range of charities including the RAF Benevolent fund, St Andrews Clinic, Sailors Society, Poppy Scotland and Christian Aid. Locally we continue to support St Salvador's Food Bank. Events have taken place to support Macmillan Cancer Care and support New Scots.

Dr Archie Ewing continues to lead praise during our services and we enjoy the reflective pieces played by him. The choir participate at Communion and special services which is very much enjoyed and appreciated.

The Church Roll has dropped to 344 members, however, we welcomed 7 new members by certificate of transference last year.

The Fabric Committee continues to be convened by Ramsay Allan and ensures that all our properties are kept in good order and the necessary servicing takes place. During 2022 repairs were carried out on the High Street hall roof, and in the Manse the downstairs windows were replaced. The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial affairs of the congregation. It has been a difficult year due to the rising cost of energy, the committee have met regularly and ensured that controllable expenditure has been kept to a minimum.

In conclusion 2022 has been a busy year as we have taken opportunities to respond to local needs and prepare for changes yet to come. On behalf of Kirk Session I would like to take the opportunity to thank our Minister for her hard work and special achievements during the past year and to extend our appreciation to Esther and William for their support, for which we are most grateful.



Thanks also go to all those who contribute in so many ways to the life of our congregation.

### **Stated Annual Meeting Report by Session Clerk**

## ***Lost Property***

*The summer term is coming to an end and once again, we have a selection of lost property and items that have been left over the past year in the hall. Items include, a small pair of wellie boots, hats, jackets and a cosy jumper. If you think you have left anything behind please email the church office on corold@aol.com.*

## The Tuesday Club

At the first of our Summer meetings on 2nd May we all had an enjoyable afternoon to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. We had a special cake and Keith Walker provided another excellent quiz with David Drummond as our official photographer. We do appreciate their continued support to The Tuesday Club.



A reminder of our summer meetings on 6th June, 4th July and on 8th August when we will distribute the new 2023/24 programmes.

We are planning to start on 12th September at 2pm with an Afternoon tea.

The team wish you all a lovely Summer and hope you continue to come along and enjoy the fun and fellowship at the Tuesday Club. Everyone is very welcome.



### Church Office

2A Corstorphine High Street, Edinburgh EH12 7ST

**As of July 2023**

Administrator: Carol Christie

Church Office hours:

Tuesday 8.30 am - 1pm

Wednesday 8:30 am - 12 noon

Friday 8.30 am - 1pm

email: corold@aol.com Tel: 0131 334 7864

## Chancel Window connected with a Campaigner for Women's Equality

As you may know there is a 'Hall of Scottish Heroes' at the Wallace Monument in Stirling containing the busts of 14 men. In 2017 there was a public vote to choose an equal number of women from a list of over 200 names. While many Edinburgh people have heard of the lady surgeon Elsie Inglis, perhaps few in our congregation noticed Chrystal Macmillan, 1872-1937, had been chosen for inclusion too. So what is her connection with Corstorphine Old and why is she so important?

The stained glass window (made by A Ballantine & Son) above the priests door in the chancel was installed in 1905 by the Macmillan family in memory of John Macmillan & his wife Jessie Chrystal Finlayson, who died respectively on January 8th 1901 aged 57, and June 12th, 1894 aged 50. The image is of Christ's crucifixion with olive & cyprus trees + Jerusalem in the background. It is halved by a stone mullion with on the left, Jesus carrying the cross and either Mary Magdalene or Martha at his feet - and on the right, Mary the mother of Christ being comforted by either her other son James or perhaps John (cleanshaven). There's a possibility the kneeling figure also represents Jessie Finlayson (see photograph of memorial window).



Although John & Jessie Macmillan had eight sons, their second child was a daughter Jessie Chrystal Macmillan, known by her middle name. There will be a further article on the talented Macmillan family who lived in Corstorphine Hill House, but as Chrystal Macmillan outshone them all becoming well known nationally & internationally for her campaigning on behalf of women, she is the focus of this one. However the following is but a summary of Chrystal's remarkable achievements - and if any readers wish further details, the church office holds extensive notes kindly provided by Macmillan descendants of her brothers. The life of her father John Macmillan, who very successfully ran Andrew Melrose & Co, tea merchants in Leith, will be covered later.

Although Chrystal Macmillan (CM) being latterly brought up in Corstorphine is likely to have attended Corstorphine Old, certainly family funerals took place there. And when CM's mother sadly died, she had responsibility for the upbringing of her younger siblings. She entered Edinburgh University in 1892 with the initial intake of women. Notwithstanding family demands on her time, she was the first woman to graduate in Science (Mathematics, Astronomy & Chemistry) on April 11th 1896 with a BSc (with special distinction). The photograph of CM overleaf in graduation gown maybe suggests an undaunted character. Being black and white it doesn't show the reddish hair the Macmillans seemingly inherit from her maternal grandfather, Rev Thomas Finlayson first minister of Palmerston Place Church.

Then she took an MA course in Moral Philosophy, Political Economy & Greek at Edinburgh University graduating again in 1900. In much later recognition the university building in the north-west corner of George Square was named in her honour (it accommodates the School of Social & Political Science). During her academic studies she played a major role in the Women's Debating Society. Also she worked for the Scottish Women's Suffrage Society and was an active campaigner of the National Union of Women Workers. In 1906 she became Secretary & Treasurer of the Committee of Women Graduates - and brought a court action against Edinburgh University re women's right to vote at general University Councils. This failed, but she led a remarkable appeal to the House of Lords held in 1908 addressing them in person. Although this was rejected her admirable presentation did no harm to the wider cause of women's suffrage.

*continued overleaf*

Chrystal continued being active for women's franchise in Scotland visiting many groups around the country. And she took part in a march in Princes Street, Edinburgh in October 1909 for women's right to vote. Then in 1912 she moved to London to carry on the fight for women's rights and in 1913 was elected Secretary of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance (IWSA), but was at no time a member of the Women's Social & Political Union founded by Emmeline Pankhurst which favoured public violence to win the vote. On campaigning CM definitely took the Suffragist rather than Suffragette approach.

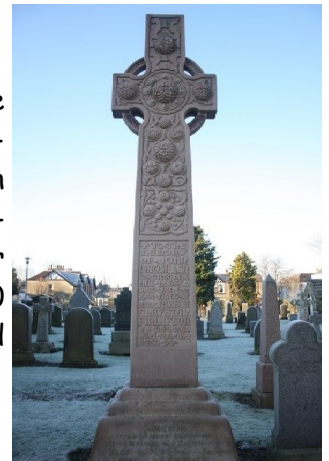
In 1914 CM worked with Millicent Fawcett & Rosika Schwimmer in writing the International Manifesto of Women on promoting peace, which stated: "We, the women of the world, view with apprehension and dismay the present situation in Europe, which threatens to involve one continent, if not the whole world, in the disasters and the horrors of war....." It refers to the object "of obtaining political means of sharing with men the power that shapes the fate of nations" and promotes conciliation & arbitration for settling international differences (-still relevant today). Throughout WW1 CM was active in promoting peace writing two books, travelling abroad (eg to The Hague & Oslo), attending the International Congress for Permanent Peace, and was on the Executive of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. This is very condensed so interested readers should refer to the Macmillan family research and other records to do it fuller justice.



In the immediate post-war period CM & five other women were deputed to carry a resolution on peace terms from the International Congress of Women to the Peace Conference in Paris. This included detailed comments on the then proposed League of Nations. Looking into all of this would make an excellent senior schools project. I don't remember much about it being mentioned during history classes in the 1950's - it was more through geography, stamp-collecting & family opinion that I picked up the significance and limitations of the Treaty of Versailles. Anyway, Chrystal can certainly share in the credit of achieving the right to vote in UK for women, albeit over the age of 30, passed by Parliament in February 1918.

She now turned her attention to dealing with injustice regarding other moral, social health & work issues. To aid this she decided to qualify as a barrister in the 1920's and was called to the bar in January 28th, 1924. Then at a meeting in her London house on May 5th, 1926 an Open Door Council was set up to address the equality of women's rights in the workplace. Chrystal's last major area of political & legal work was on the Nationality of Married Women as then the law was women marrying foreigners would lose their British nationality. This was righted by the passing of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1933.

On June 12th, 1937 CM sadly died aged 65 and her name is incised on the west facing back of the base of the gravestone to her parents behind Corstorphine Old. That is the attractive tall Celtic cross in pink granite within the northern part of the kirkyard. Even today you can still see how the position of women in some other countries can be very unsatisfactory. However just think back to their position in Britain & Europe little more than 100 years ago - and thank God for the life of Chrystal Macmillan, MA BSc and other likeminded women of that era.



**David Cameron**

## Church Flowers for June, July and August

*(The name of the team member arranging the flowers is in brackets)*

4th June	In memory of Bert Clarke from Marion and Stuart. (Salle Bryson)
11th June	Brenda Russell (Linda Gorrie)
18th June	In memory of Alison Edwards. (Sheena Crisfield)
25th June	Rasmussen-Pennington/McAdie Wedding (Sallie Bryson)
2nd July	Margaret Borthwick and Family in memory of Tom (Margaret Price)
9th July	For Walter Naish and Ruaridh Webster from Katherine (Linda Gorrie)
16th July	With loving and treasured memories of our son, Alan, from Nan and Ian Stirling and Family. (Nan Stirling)
23rd July	Norval and Sallie Bryson (Sheena Crisfield)
30th July	In memory of Phil Drummond from David and the Girls. (Margaret Price)
6th August	Flower Fund (Linda Gorrie)
13th August	A member of the Congregation (Margaret Price)
20th August	Aithie/Harper Wedding (Sallie Bryson)
27th August	For Heather Robertson on her birthday with love from Sheena Crisfield and family (Sheena Crisfield)



Thank you to everyone who donated money for church flowers in May. If you wish to have flowers arranged in the church in memory of someone, or just for yourself, then please contact me.

**Sallie Bryson**

**Tel: 334 2614**

**email: [sallie.bryson@btinternet.com](mailto:sallie.bryson@btinternet.com)**

## The Music for Summer

### Sunday 11 June

Voluntary: Andante con moto in E flat major Op.58. No.4

Alexandre Guilmant

Reflection: Organ Concert No.2 in B flat [ Allegro ma non presto ]

G. F. Handel

Postlude: 'A Postlude for Organ' from An Album of Praise

Healey Willan

### Sunday 18 June:

Voluntary: Folk Tune No.2 from Five Pieces for Organ

Percy Whitlock

Reflection: Organ Concerto in C minor 'Andante affetuoso'

John Stanley

Postlude: 'Epilogue' from An Album of Praise

Norman Gilbert

### Sunday 25 June [ Church Anniversary Day ]

Voluntary: Master Tallis's Testament from Six Pieces for Organ

Herbert Howells

Reflection: Variations from Organ Concerto Op.4 No.1

G F Handel

Postlude: 'Festal Flourish' from An Album of Praise

Gordon Jacob

**NB: The Music Lists for July and August can be found on the Church Baptistry Notice Board**



**Moving Forward**  
One step at a time

A supportive group for widowed  
 men  
**Get out of the house**  
**Chat with men in a similar**  
**situation**

Outings, quizzes, conversation  
 guest speakers & lots more

For more info & to register  
 Contact Fiona :  
[development@ccchub.online](mailto:development@ccchub.online)

Group runs on Wednesdays  
 from 10.30am-12.00 noon  
 at CCC, 5 Kirk Loan

in collaboration with W.T Dunbar & Co-op

## The 'Lady Margaret' Stone

This stone was originally located upside down in the external west wall of the South Transept of the Church (Milligan, 1929, p.53). Similar to the stone possibly commemorating Adam Forrester's grandson in the North Transept (*see May issue of the Church Magazine*), it may also have formed part of the post-Reformation reconstruction. Additionally, we could also argue that this one relates to the first Sir John Forrester.

Thanks to previous research, we know that the first John had three wives. The second and third wives are known to us by their names: Jean of St. Clair of Orkney; and Marion Stewart of Dalswinton, widow of Sir John Stewart of Garlies. Of John's first wife, Margaret, we know little; only that she was dead by July 1424 (Cowper, 1992a, p.7)

The text that can be read doesn't have the formal lettering of that which may be found on the tombstone allegedly commemorating Adam Forrester's grandson. Additionally, it is fragmentary; and may have formed part of a larger stone that has been cut. For example, if it is part of a tombstone, there is no text such as "Hic Jacet..." ('Here Lies...'). Milligan, the then Parish Minister of Corstorphine, writing in 1929, claimed that the text read "*Roman A Caretada (D)omini Ioann (de) (e)odem et Domi*" (1929, p.53). However, an extract from the archives of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland that same year informs us that the text reads "(M) A(R)GARETA DA...DOMINI IOHANNIS...EODEM ET DOM...CSTO...IN(I)" (HES, 1929/2023). With assistance from Dr. Morvern French, Properties Historian, Historical Environment Scotland, the translation offered is (approximately) "...Lady Margaret and Lord [or 'Sir'] John, in the same (place) and lord (and lady) of Corstorphine...". This is assuming that the 'or' in Corstorphine has been contracted.

There also appears to be the letter 'U', which, as yet, has not been explained (French, 2023). Although the translation of 'domini' can be understood as 'lord', it can also be translated as 'sir'. This avoids confusion with George, the first Lord Forrester.

Interestingly, there is an argument that the stone may not actually refer to Sir John's first wife; but Adam Forrester's second, who also had the name Margaret (Cowper, 1992b, pp.47-8). Yet, if this stone does relate to Margaret Forrester, first wife of Sir John I, it may be (at time of writing) the only physical evidence that could identify her. The stone can presently be found at floor level just beyond the north side of the Chancel Arch, next to the effigy of Sir John Forrester I. The text faces the Chancel window.

Possible commemorative stone of Margaret, first wife of Sir John (I)



*continued over*

## References

- Milligan, O.B. (1929) *Corstorphine and the Parish Church*, John Orr Publishing, Edinburgh (1929)
- Cowper, A.S. (1992a) *Historic Corstorphine and Round About, Part 3, Lords and Lairds*, published by the author (1992)
- Milligan, O.B., (1929, *op. cit.*)
- Historic Environment Scotland/Scotland's Places (1929) *Inventory of Monuments in Midlothian*. Available at <https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/rcahms-archives/inventories/midlothian-and-west-lothian-1929/85> (accessed 19 March 2023)
- French, M. (Dr.), Properties Historian, Historic Environment Scotland (2023). E-mail to Stephen Murray, 16 March.
- Cowper, A.S. (1992b) *Historic Corstorphine and Round About, Volume 1, Church and Parish Life* (Second Edition), The Corstorphine Trust, Edinburgh (2003)

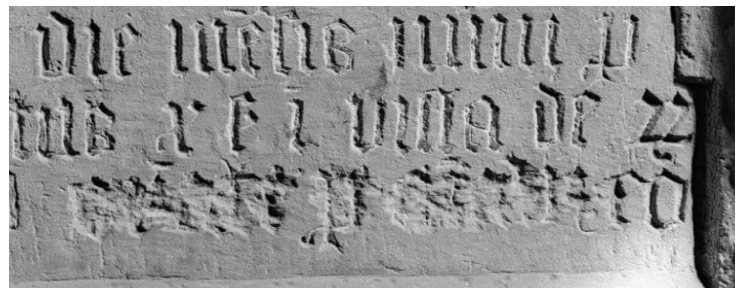
**Stephen Murray**

## Update to the Founders Stone

Following on from the information of the Bannatyne Stone, foundation stone to the formation of the Collegiate Church in 1429, more exact information has become available re the defaced part of the stone. (Photo shows a close up of the defaced line).

Many authors, [Milligan (1929), Thomson (1946), Cowper (1992 & 2003) and others], reported the defaced part as "Pray for the Pope and him (Nicholas Bannatyne)". Selway (1890) acknowledges this interpretation, and also refers to the New Statistical account (Corstorphine) by Rev. D. Horne (1839) that Mr Thomson's translation was also "Pray for the Pope and him". Selway however reads the stone in 1890 as "Orate p. a(ni)mis eo" - "Pray for their souls".

Norah Carlin, Corstorphine born, and now residing in Cramond (Convenor of the Cramond Association History Section), retired lecturer and researcher who is an expert and has read many Latin manuscripts over her career, has looked at this stone with her professional expertise. "Pray for the Pope" version both does not fit and would be



wrong on many levels - without going into many ecclesiastical and theological reasons why the early Protestant Church would not be praying for the souls of the dead. This explains why the words were scratched out, either by the early Protestants, or Cromwell Soldiers - we will never know!

Norah did find a modern photo of a stained glass window text from around this early era on a modern website, but I'm not sure if we could print it without copyright issues - it had "Orate pro animabus - Pray for souls". I'm happy to discuss with others personally and I'm sure Norah would be happy to expand, but the bottom line is the defaced line is something along the lines of "Orate p.a(ni)mis eorum" - "Pray for their souls". The mason also misjudged his carving and the extra bit at the end was carved continued uphill and into the "stone frame".

As we head to the churches 600<sup>th</sup> it's good to record where we have come from for those that follow.

**Kevin Aitchison**

Selway reference - "A Mid-Lothian Village" G.Upton Selway (1890, private subscription), (1984, Edinburgh City Libraries Facsimile Reprint) p11"

## Parish Records

### Deaths

Neina Reid  
 Ronnie Black  
 Agnes Cunningham  
 Charles McCurdy

### Leaving our Parish

Kirsty Hutchon was at Manse Road and has moved to Hawick. We wish Kirsty all the best in her new Parish.

*Officebearers, Elders and Magazine Distributors are asked to note these announcements*

## Retiring

For those of you who haven't yet heard, after 24 years of working as church secretary at the Old Parish, I am retiring at the end of June. I have loved the whole time I have worked here, there has never been a dull moment and have had lots of laughs along the way! I've enjoyed all aspects of the job and have also been lucky to have worked with so many lovely people, starting off in 1999 with the Rev Ian Brady and of course now with Moira and everyone else in any way connected with the Old Parish or in the congregation, far too many to mention.

After retiring, Gary and I plan to enjoy even more holidays including probably one more long haul trip, Europe (particularly the Balkans) and to spend time exploring more of Scotland with our bus passes! Our grandson Blair is also going to keep us busy with nursery and school pick-ups.

I will have so many happy memories of my time at the Old Parish and if anyone would like to pop into the church office to say goodbye, you would be most welcome. I'll be here on Thursday 22nd, Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th June in the morning (anytime between 9-11.30) with lots of cakes!

Hope to see some of you then.

**Christine**



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