

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
**CURRIE KIRK**  
WHERE FAITH AND LIFE CROSS PATHS

# *Joy to the World*

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# CLIPBOARD

The Magazine of Currie Kirk

December 2011 / January 2012

# A Letter from The Manse



Dear All,

I wonder if you have a favourite Christmas hymn or carol? Mine is “In the bleak mid-winter”. You might not think this is the cheeriest of choices, but I just think it is a wonderful hymn. It has such a beautiful tune and sentiment – “What can I give him? Give my heart”. I like singing all the jovial hymns and carols too, but this one always reminds me of what Christmas is all about. I hope you will enjoy being part of our Christmas services and celebrations this year – you’ll find all the details within these pages.

But Christmas isn’t always a happy time, often for many different reasons, and so in the midst of our celebrations there is also time for personal reflection in the Quiet Day and the Blue Christmas Service which is part of that. During the service names are written on tree decorations, which are then placed on the Kirk Christmas tree to be part of our prayers and remembrances over the Christmas period. If you can’t make the Blue Service but would like someone to be remembered in this way, there will also be an opportunity on the Sunday following, or by contacting myself or Margaret.

If you want to wish your friends in Currie Kirk a “Happy Christmas” without writing lots of cards, then there will again be a Currie Kirk Christmas Card available this year to sign, with donations being received for Bethany Christian Trust. Even though I don’t send cards within the church, I appreciate the ones I receive, so I take this opportunity to wish you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

*“In him was life and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:4,5).*

May you know the light of Christ around and within you this Christmas time.

God Bless,  
Lezley J. Stewart

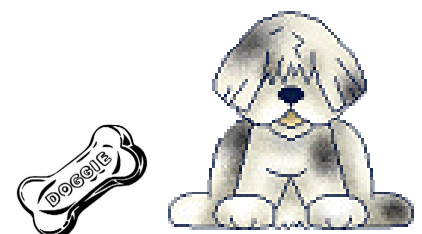


## Paws for thought! [by Molly]

Christmas is coming again ... I heard mum say something about how quickly it creeps up on her, which makes it sound like it’s going to jump out and bite you! I’ve seen Her getting ready though – buying and ordering things, inviting the family and planning services, but for me and for lots of others I’m sure, it can feel like just another day! I’ll certainly hope to wake up as normal in my nice warm bed, and have a simple day of sleeping and eating and a few extra pats and strokes from the family.

I had a wee stroke of the different kind the other week, so I’m recovering from that now and have even more pills to take – I’m sure I rattle when I wag my tail! Still, despite my droopy eye, that nice vet said I was looking good for my age. I think mum sometimes wishes people said that about her!

So I’m not looking for any special gifts this Christmas – I have all that I need and I’m wise enough to realise that. I’m going to put my paws together and say a wee prayer for the lost, abused and abandoned of my kind though, and hope that the new pups given as presents are looked after for life and not just for Christmas. And as mum says, the whole message of Christmas is for life and not just for one day, so maybe we all have everything that we need really—God with us.



# Forthcoming Services

## **Sunday 27th November**

10am Advent Sunday—Service in Currie Kirk with Short Communion following

## **Sunday 4th December**

10am—First Service in Currie Kirk including Baptism

## **Sunday 11th December**

10am—The Boys' Brigade 50th Anniversary Celebration Service in Currie Kirk

## **Saturday 17th December**

10-3pm Quiet Day – Currie Kirk open for reflection

[12-12.30pm—A Blue Christmas Service is held for those who find Christmas a difficult time.]

## **Sunday 18th December**

10am—Christmas Carol and Nativity Service in Currie Kirk with Festival Choir

## **Saturday 24th December**

6.30pm—Family Pyjama Service in the Gibson Craig Hall  
[Children can come ready for bed – teddy bears welcome too!]

11.30pm—Candlelit Watchnight Service in Currie Kirk  
[Carol Singing from 11pm]

## **Sunday 25th December**

10am—Christmas Day Family Service in Currie Kirk  
Children [and adults!] can bring one of their gifts to show.

## **Sunday 1st January 2012**

10am—New Year's Day worship in Currie Kirk

## A Blue Christmas Service—17 December

Christmas is fast approaching and brings lots of mixed emotions with it. At what is “supposed” to be a happy time, and a family time, many folk find it to be less than happy and can dread the approach of Christmas Day. It may be that this is a first Christmas without a loved one, or a time when family is separated by distance, or this is a difficult Christmas because of financial, work or home issues. Whatever the circumstance, Christmas can heighten the emotions that we are already feeling.

As last year Currie Kirk is offering a Blue Christmas Service as part of its Christmas Quiet Day. This will allow space for reflection and contemplation for those who are feeling “blue” as Christmas approaches. It is a chance to share with others who find Christmas a difficult time. The Blue Christmas Service will take place at 12 Noon on Saturday 17th December, for around 30 minutes as part of the Christmas Quiet Day, where the church is open for private reflection from 10.00 am—3.00 pm. Refreshments will also be available in the Kirk House, Kirkgate during this time. All are welcome throughout the day, and/or to the service at 12 Noon.

# Christmas Prayer

We pause, O God, with aroused expectation as Christmas approaches.  
Make us sensitive to the sights and sounds of the season of anticipation.

May the bustle and congestion of shopping centres make us aware of the crowd that filled the streets of Bethlehem and stretched accommodation to the limit.

May the hospital emergency signs prompt us to recall the gift of the child Jesus in poverty and lowliness into a world of war and unnecessary suffering.

May the decisions we must make which will determine our futures, remind us of the shepherds returning to their sheep and the wise ones going home another way.

Gracious and generous God, hear our prayer for:

Those who believe themselves to be no more than digits in a census.  
The men and women who are walking through the darkness alone, without a star to guide them.  
The self-sufficient who believe themselves to have no room for Jesus in their lives.

In the season of preparation, we plead for the awakening and renewal of the conscience of our world.

Challenge us to cast off the tinsel ornaments of sentimentality and make this a celebration of the coming of light and truth.

Enable us to scatter the seeds of reconciliation and goodwill across this quarrelsome world.

Strengthen our resolve to wait confidently and know the difference between:

Hoping and hallucinating  
Waiting and escaping  
Praying and dreaming  
Anticipating and fantasising.

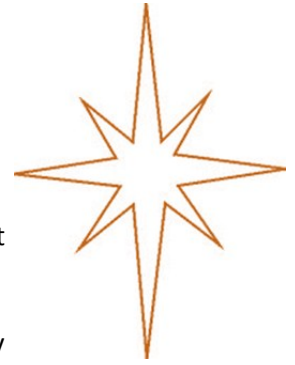
Inspire us to speak for the forgotten and the poor.

Enable us to stand against the citadels of power and privilege.

Work for a society that is compassionate and imaginative, and strive for a way of living that is generous and gracious.

In the manner and name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,—whose birth we anticipate once again.  
Amen.

**FIRST PRINTED IN THE DECEMBER 2009 LIFE AND WORK**



# Love

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family,  
I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas goodies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family,  
I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata,  
but do not focus on Christ,  
I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.  
Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.  
Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.  
Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.  
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

**Merry Christmas** to you and yours!

Author Unknown

## Christmas Fair—3 December—Gibson Craig—2 pm—4 pm

The Fair will be opened at 2pm by a well known and respected member of our community so please come along and enjoy this occasion.

Donations for all the stalls are needed and baskets will be placed in the LINK building during November for you to put in anything you can spare.

Tickets costing £2 per adult (children free ) will be available at the door and include mulled wine/tea/coffee/juice/shortbread & mince pies. Stalls at the Fair will be Cake Candy Jam & Preserves, Christmas Cakes, Books/CDs/DVDs/Jigsaws,£1 Surprise Parcels, New or in good used condition Toy Tombola, New Goods Stall & Tombola. There will also be a Handicrafts section for the children to make items using their own imagination. Numerous other stalls will be in the Hall so it is hoped that you will all come along and enjoy the afternoon. Quiz sheets will be in all the usual outlets, so be sure to pick one up and be challenged!

The Christmas Fair would not succeed without your valuable support and your generosity is much appreciated. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has already given of their time and talents to help make this day a success and to my committee who give of their time so willingly.



**NEWS FLASH FROM THE NORTH POLE:**  
Santa Claus is going to be with us this year.





# The Good Book Group

My heart sank when it was decided that our next book should be a “classic”. Thoughts of plodding through Dickens, Scott or the like did not enthrall! However the book chosen was Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mocking Bird” which appeared on both my sons’ school reading lists and which had in fact been read by a number of the book group when at school and was now being reread by them. Some of us, however, were reading it for the first time as it was not prescribed reading when we were at school, no doubt because it hadn’t yet been written!

(Nelle) Harper Lee was born in 1926 and this, her only book, was published in 1960. Much of the detail appears autobiographical and the book is set in her home state of Alabama. The story is told by a young girl nicknamed Scout who, like the author, is the daughter of a respected small-town attorney, Atticus Finch. Along with her older brother Jem and their friend Dill, they spend their days exploring their locality and, in particular, are fascinated by a mysterious and reclusive neighbour, Boo Radley, whom they try to entice out of his house by all sorts of ruses. We very quickly become aware of racial difference and how black and white people lead completely different and often separate lives. This prejudice comes to the forefront when Atticus defends a black man accused (almost certainly falsely) of raping a white woman and attitudes in the town quickly become polarised and dangerous.

The book generated a lot of discussion and most of us found it a good read and well written, although some of us thought it was a bit slow at the start. Despite one really low score, the overall average came out at 7.6 out of 10, one of our higher scores.

# Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 13th November the Wreath of Remembrance at the Currie Kirk War Memorial was laid by Betty Smith (nee Harper). Betty joined the WAAF in 1945 and served at various Air Force bases throughout the UK before being demobbed in 1948. Betty, who is from a well-known Currie family, served in civilian life for 22 years in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and was awarded the B.E.M. in 1970 for services to that organisation.





# 1961 - 2011

## Celebrating 50 Years in Currie

A Board with the names of ALL the 65th's Queen's Men will be unveiled on 11 December after the Company's Dedication Service.

Refreshments will be served in The Gibson Craig and it will be a good time for all ex-members to come along and catch up with friends . An invitation is extended to the Congregation to join the 65th on this special day.

The Company once again entered the Masterteam National competition which is open to all companies in the Brigade with the questions based on BB & Bible knowledge as well as general knowledge—one category being the capitals of each State in America and their nicknames. Congratulations to the Boys for qualifying through to the next round. The next round will take place on the 14 January—when one of the rounds will be on the American Civil War. Not a quiet Christmas holiday for the team.



## The Guild

Last month the Guild enjoyed an open evening when we were entertained in style by Walter Thomson and Co. singing Showstoppers.

We are now approaching Christmas and our first meeting in December is on the 6th at 10am when our guest will be Nick Paul talking about Farmers' Markets. We will then be looking forward to our Christmas Party on the 20th December.

Our first meeting in the New Year is on January 17th at 7.30pm when the speaker will be Jane Freshwater from the Botanic Gardens.

At this time of year it is appropriate to thank you for your support and to wish you and your families the warmest of wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Margaret Ullathorne  
 President

## Currie Kirk Mini Bus



If any one would like a lift to Church please contact Jean Pringle on 449 7716. The Kirk Bus will be delighted to pick you up and take you home after the service.

No charge and you don't even have to show your bus pass !!



# Favourite Christmas

## Joy to the World

'It is such a positive and uplifting carol with a lovely melody. It reminds me of the true meaning and of course joy of Christmas.'

*Helen Galway*

## In the Bleak Midwinter

'Makes me think of my much loved Mum. It was a favourite of hers and it unites me with her over the years and reminds me of my childhood church Bristo Memorial, Craigmillar.'

*Christine Wilson*

## Oh Holy Night

'Chosen for its love, warmth and promise'

*Hazel Marshall*

## Once in Royal David's City

'It is very moving when first verse is sung by a choir boy'

*Margaret Ullathorne*

## Still the Night, Holy the Night

'Lovely tune with meaningful words.'

*Bill Porteous*

## Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht

'I think it is lovely to be able to sing the carol in the language in which it was written'

*Sheila Johnstone*

## Brightest and best are the sons of the morning

'Especially when sung by the Guild choir to the tune Epiphany'

*Meg Watson*



# as Carols and Why



**From Heaven you came, helpless babe**  
'Although perhaps not strictly a Christmas carol I love this hymn because the whole Christian gospel is encapsulated in a few lines.'

*Robin McColl*

**It was on a Starry Night**  
'Always reminds me of carol singing with the Youth Club and the last line of the verse says it all—A Boys was born, King of all the World.'

*Sheena Ramsay*

**Little Donkey**  
'I like it because it's about animals and I like animals'

*Nicholas Reid (Age 7)*

**Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

'I like it because "it's a belter"'

*Peter Sawkins (Age 11)*

**Silent Night**

'Good melody and I have many happy memories of playing it with the kids I teach'

*Kirsty Miller*

**Come and Join the Celebration**  
'This is my favourite Christmas carol because it is a very jumpy song and I love to dance to it'

*Rhona Duncan (Age 8)*

**Love came down at Christmas**

'Lovely tune and words'

*Cathie Inglis*



## The Fucellas' Current Update on the Situation in Thailand

Following on from last month's newsletter update on the flood situation in Thailand, Mike and Jane have put pen to paper and produced below the edition of the Fish Wrapper. It's one of the longest Fish Wrappers ever, so please take the time to read all that has happened and all that is about to unfold over the next year for this intrepid family. Some parts are sad, some happy, a lot of it is exciting – nothing is boring. By the summer of 2012 they could, God willing, be back in Scotland.

Gordon Clephane

### The FishWrapper November 2011

Thank you to everyone who has made contact with us concerned about the devastating flooding that has engulfed Thailand in recent months. As I write the crisis is continuing – in fact getting worse. Figures are astounding. One third of the country under water (the size of Kuwait), 8 million people directly affected, nearly a million sick or injured directly due to floods, well over 500 dead (drowned, electrocuted, bitten by snakes, disease from flood waters), thousands of factories closed and so production of key goods effected not to mention the hundreds of thousands put out of work. Many of our friends have been evacuated from their homes because the flood water is chest deep in their communities and houses – and has been for 3-4 weeks already. The government says it could take over a month to drain in some places.



*Not someone you want to come calling for lunch!*

We have been involved a little with packing relief supplies and encouraging and helping friends and colleagues whose homes are flooded where we can. The school closed on the 20th of October and we were told it would not open until November 15th. The kids have been doing online learning and eventually last weekend (November 5th) we took the opportunity to escape and come to Chiang Mai for a short break. It is strange how stressful the situation has been even for those of us 'still dry'. School is now planning to open on the 9th – for who knows how long. The flood waters are getting closer. The girls and I have therefore decided to stay in Chiang Mai until the 13th at least and will then assess whether or not to return depending on where the water is. Mike will return to Bangkok as he and the child protection team have their first children's workshop planned in an evacuation centre on Thursday. They have, in the last four days, produced some amazing resources and activities to help children process what has happened to them and to keep themselves safe.

We have had several letters from people recently asking why they have been dropped from our Fish Wrapper list. We have not dropped anyone – we just have not written a FW since March. You will be glad to hear I am not going to try to report everything that has happened since March. However there are some key things we would like to tell you about.

We had eight weeks in the UK over the long school summer break. It was fantastic to be back again and we managed, as usual, to fit a lot in. Aylie attended her first Scripture Union camp with Rachel and they both had a wonderful time. One of our key objectives for the visit was to try and get a sense of God's direction for the future. We met lots of people and did a lot of talking and praying and returned to Thailand with a strong sense that we should be moving to Scotland for the long term in June 2012. However for Mike particularly, with his huge workload and responsibility within the CCT, this was a very hard decision. Well, a month after returning here things

changed in the Ecumenical Office and as a result Mike is no longer working there. He has plenty to keep him occupied with the child protection work, but it means there is far less pressure than before, and in many ways has helped to 'loosen the ties' and make it easier for him to think about leaving.

In order to be able to return to Scotland and work in a church Mike had to apply to the Ministries Council of the Church of Scotland. He returned to Scotland for three weeks in October and had an interview, as a result of which it has been recommended to the relevant working group that he be given a certificate of eligibility as a Church of Scotland minister. The committee does not meet until December but it seems pretty likely that it will go through. Once we move to Scotland in June Mike will then have to do a 'familiarisation' year under the supervision of another minister. One of our partner churches has already shown an interest in having us and so now conversations need to happen about whether he could 'get familiar' in that church. Please pray for the right doors to open and for us to have a clear sense of where we should be. We would prefer to be able to go somewhere and stay there beyond the year so that we do not have to move Aylie from one new school to another after the first year.

By the time we leave here it will be 26 years since Mike first came to Thailand, 25 years since we met here and 22 years since we moved here together as a couple. It's a long time! We are all very excited about what God has for us in the future and are enjoying planning things like what breed of dog we will get (the highest priority for some in the family!). However there will obviously be some hard farewells.

One of the most difficult farewells will be with Noi, Kiwi and baby Dave who was born on April 29th. Jane was there for the birth and we have seen them almost every week since. Dave is a very adorable 6 month old surrogate grand child/nephew for us. They have started saving so they can come and visit us in Scotland. Another baby who we have been talking to a lot – but on skype, is Sophie born 5th October to Ta and Jonathan. For long time FW readers you may remember that Ta and her mum Ngo came to live with Jane's family in 1989 when Ta was six years old. We went to their wedding a couple of years ago and Rachel was a bridesmaid. Ta is now a doctor in London – but enjoying maternity leave. Sophie is, of course, gorgeous.

Leaving behind the ministries we have been so involved with will also be difficult. Mike's child protection team will also be losing Al Muir (along with Chrissy, Rhian, Kirsty and Isla) who will return to Scotland at the same time as us. Yuki and the team do an amazing job but there are changes ahead for the project. Please pray for them as they prepare to lose Mike and Al – but also hope to gain Dan and Rachel – a great couple from Australia planning to come and join the team sent by Interserve.

It will be particularly hard for Jane to leave Dodo and the AIDS project on the border. Dodo does such an amazing job but relies a lot on Jane for emotional support, not to mention looking for funding. Not only does Dodo run the AIDS project which currently supports close to 90 people with AIDS and their families, but she also runs the 'family home' caring for several children who see her as Mum. Sadly just as we were returning to Thailand in the summer one of these dear children died. Pupa was 14 and had been with Dodo for six years. She had cerebral palsy and died of pneumonia. Her picture was on the last Fish Wrapper. It has really hit Dodo, May (her husband) and the other five children (Beng, Tat, Nat, Bob and Chanapai) very hard. On a practical note next year we will lose one of our major donors for the AIDS project (an NGO that had a time limited commitment), which means we will lose half our annual income. Whilst we hate asking for money, if anyone who has been supporting us personally financially and would like to support the AIDS project after we no longer need your gifts then please get in touch with Jane.

In early October we had the privilege of being invited to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the arrival in Thailand as missionaries of Joan and Allan Eubank. We have known the Eubank's almost the whole time we have been here. They established the Christian Communications Institute at Payap University and in the early 90's brought a team to Sivilai to perform traditional ligo (I think its like a combination of opera and pantomime and the Thai love it). They performed stories that included both a Gospel message and also teaching about HIV and AIDS. The church hosted it in conjunction with the local hospital and public health department. It was the beginning of the community based AIDS project which we started in Sivilai and is still going on today. Since then we have got to know and love the extended Eubank family well. David and Karen founded and lead Free Burma Rangers – an organization very close to our hearts. ([www.prayforburma.org](http://www.prayforburma.org)) So it was wonderful to be at this party and meet up with friends from over our time here, many of whom have been great mentors to us.

On our return to Bangkok from the UK in August we rushed straight to the bedside of our good friend Harold. He had become very ill whilst we were away and we didn't really expect to see him again. It was wonderful that he waited for us and that first evening back we spent about three hours with him as he outlined his

plans for his funeral and his will. He was really animated and we left, as usual, feeling blessed. However, after that he went downhill quite quickly. Jane stayed with him in his hospital room for the last 3 or 4 days and he died at 9pm on the 18th of August with Jane and two other close friends beside him. Harold was 85 years old and the 17th of August, the day before he died, was the 40th anniversary of his arrival in Thailand as a missionary. Mike was closely involved with arranging services on two separate evenings at the CCT, as well as a committal service and cremation. The services were attended by well over 100 people, some of whom had been students of Harold's 38 years ago. A month later Harold's ashes were placed behind a stone in the memorial garden at Christ Church, and we held the memorial service that he had planned in detail with Peter, the vicar. Mike preached and the words from his text are engraved on the stone – "Well done, good and faithful servant."

For the last 38 years Harold has produced a monthly publication called Echoes which was sent to all missionaries, past and present. It kept people in touch with the CCT, with Thailand and with each other. His last issue was number 376. It has only been since Mike has worked with Harold that Echoes has been stored electronically. We felt for a long time that somehow they needed to be digitalised but no-one ever has time for this laborious job. Well 38 years ago exactly (just as the first Echoes was being written) another Harold – Jane's Sunday school teacher at St. Ebbes in Oxford, led Jane to Christ. He has always been a very special person in our lives and has had a passion for missions. Several months ago this Harold also died. In his will he left a sum of money for the St. Ebbes missions committee to use to enable someone to go overseas and do something to support the work of a St. Ebbes missionary. In April we were asked if Debbie could be of use to us in August. We said yes, but with no idea of what she would do. Debbie arrived a week after Harold died. She came with experience in archiving and publishing! She was with us for seven weeks and worked solidly scanning, proof reading and formatting 38 years worth of Echoes. The plan is to get them online as soon as possible and maybe, if the CCT decides to go ahead, to produce a book. They are an incredible historical resource for the church in Thailand. Thank you Debbie, Harold and St. Ebbes!

Once again we apologise for the long gap between Fish Wrappers. Thank you to those who noticed and were concerned about us! Please continue to pray about the terrible situation here in Thailand. It is difficult to imagine how long it is going to take for life to return to any semblance of normal for the many affected by the floods.

We will endeavor to be better about keeping in touch, particularly in relation to our plans for the future. In the meantime we want to be the first to wish you all a very Happy Christmas! Christmas here starts for the Karen on November 30th with 'Sweet December' so we are not too outrageously early with our greetings!!

With love

*Mike Jane  
Rachel + Kylie*



## Used Postage Stamps

We have now established that Christian Aid can benefit financially from receiving used postage stamps. Anyone who would like to help, please give your used stamps to the Church Office for passing onto Christian Aid.



# So You Think You Know—Val Reid

**M**y name is Val Reid and I was born on 31 December 1969 in the Western General hospital in Edinburgh. I was brought up in Bonnyrigg in Midlothian where I attended Lasswade Primary School and Lasswade High School.

I went to Sunday School and then a youth group called C&C, both at Bonnyrigg Parish Church. I was also a very keen member of the Guides for 6 years and after I left guiding I became a helper in the Junior Section of the local Boys' Brigade, where my Mum was an officer.

After leaving school I went to study Primary School Teaching at Moray House College in Edinburgh. During my time as a student I worked as a tour guide at the Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre in Edinburgh, which stood me in good stead for my later employment at the Glenmorangie Company! I also spent my final summer as a student working in Toronto for the British Tourist Authority. My student days gave me a lot of opportunities to try new sports and experiences, including parachuting which I took up as a hobby for a while as a member of the Border Parachute Centre. However after jumping out of planes over 30 times I decided that I preferred my feet being on *terra firma*, much to the relief of my poor parents!

I met my husband Peter whilst in my final year of studying, and we married in 1995. We lived in Colinton until 2003 when we moved to Currie. We have two boys, Nicholas who is 7 and Christopher who is 4. They both attend Currie Primary School, where I am a member of the PTA.

Employment wise, I worked for a good number of years before the arrival of my children at The Glenmorangie Company first in UK Sales – during my time here I spent a year selling whisky to pubs and hotels in the north of Scotland, a bit like coals to Newcastle! I then moved over to the international side of the business where I was the contact for the Asia Pacific Region. This meant that I was able to travel to some wonderful locations.

I now work part-time as an adult education tutor for Midlothian Council teaching computing, based at Penicuik High School. I also do the odd stint teaching cookery for them during the school holidays and for a Midlothian based charity called Surestart who help families with children aged 0-3. And of course, I have just started in the role as Currie Kirk Church Secretary! I am still 'finding my way' round this, and am trying my best to remember who does what. I am indebted to Mary for being an excellent teacher and for having the patience of a saint in answering my 101 questions over the last few weeks. I hope that I can follow in her footsteps in being as capable as she has been in the role.



## Dates for the Diary

### 2011

Saturday 3rd December	Christmas Fair 2—4pm G.C.H.
Monday 5th December	Good Book Group 7pm G.C.H
Tuesday 6th December	Guild 10am GCH (Farmers Market)
	Last day for Snack Lunches—12noon—1.30pm
Thursday 15th December	E100 Study Group 7pm G.C.H
Tuesday 20th December	Guild Christmas Party 7.30pm

### 2012

Tuesday January 10th	Snack Lunches restart 12noon—1.30pm G.C.H.
Tuesday January 17th	Guild 7.30pm G.C.H. (Botanical Gardens)



# Community Activities

The Gibson Craig Hall is used by various groups during the week and, if anyone is interested in joining a group, please telephone the contact noted below.

	Contact name	Tel No:	Day
Baby Ballet	Claire Robertson	336 5982	Wednesday
Balerno Bridge Club	Ron Dow	538 2313	Monday
Blue Sky Pilates	Claire McDonald		Thursday
Children's Dance	Carol Campbell	339 2315	Friday
Currie and District Local History Society	Peter Cowlshaw	449-2520	Monday Evenings twice monthly October to March
Day Care Centre	Elspeth Frame	449 3603	Friday by referral
Judo	Jo Imrie	01506 884633	Tuesday 4-6 pm
Octagon Club	Alastair Hardie Iain Grant	453 3556 332 3413	Wednesday
Parents & Toddlers	Hazel Lumsdaine	449 7798	Friday
Sequence Dance	Tom Masson	449 2561	Thursday
Senior Citizens	Jean Smith	449 5596	Monday
Snack Lunches	Viola MacPhail	449 4664	Tuesday
Tai Chi	Denise Cunningham	449 3468	Tuesday
Zumba Exercise Class	Tom Lowe	07980 692929	Thursday

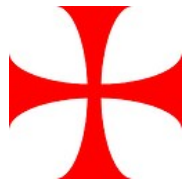
## Currie Kirk Website

Please, please have a look at our new website on [www.curriekirk.org](http://www.curriekirk.org) or simply Google Currie Kirk. You can read all sorts of information there about the life and work of Currie Kirk ranging from services, groups to join, how to arrange for weddings/baptisms and much, much more. A huge thank you to Steve Galway who developed the website for us.

And now you can even get the latest Clipboard edition in glorious colour on the website – and if you want to look back at some earlier editions they are there as well. In fact, you can see the latest Clipboard on the website before it is even printed! **If you would like to do this and stop taking the paper version of Clipboard please advise the Church Office.** We would very much encourage you to do this as it reduces paper and printing costs and is good for the environment. Each month you will be advised by email that the latest Clipboard is available on the website. **So why not just advise the Office now?** Email address [currie\\_kirk@btconnect.com](mailto:currie_kirk@btconnect.com) telephone no 0131 451 5141.



# Family News



**Obituary:** *Jesus said: "I am the Resurrection and the Life"*  
*(John 11:25)*

Ida Robb, Lorimer Nursing Home  
Jim Dixon, Braeside Nursing Home



## Transference of Certificate

John Henderson to Balerno Parish Church.

## Happy Birthday

Congratulations to Florence Thomson who celebrated her 90th birthday on 14th November.



## December/January Flower List

### 4th December 2011

Mrs M Bradley, 24 Easter Currie Crescent  
Mrs S Law, 110 Lanark Road West

### 11th December

Mrs S Robertson, 382a Lanark Road West  
Mrs A Montgomery, 72 Crosswood Crescent  
Mrs Temperley, 67 Riccarton Mains Road  
The Robert Family, 33 Riccarton Grove

### 8th January 2012

Mrs J Inglis, 38 Woodhall Terrace  
Mr G Hodge, 78 Weaversknowe Crescent  
Mrs M Davidson, 12 Thomson Road  
Mrs J McColl, 34 Easter Currie Terrace

### 15th January

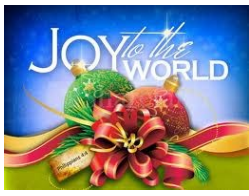
Mrs J Murray, 12 Pentland Place

### 22nd January

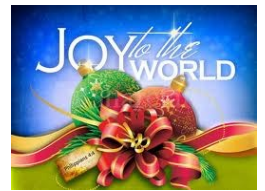
Mr J Fraser, 72 Crosswood Crescent  
Mrs E Smith, 20 Riccarton Crescent

**T**hank you to all who have made donations to the Flower Fund during 2011. As well as the flowers giving pleasure to the congregation each Sunday, members who receive them after the service may be ill, bereaved or celebrating a special occasion and are very appreciative knowing that they are in the thoughts of our church. It would be helpful to know of any changes you may wish to make. Perhaps there are those of you who would like to change a date for dedicating flowers or feel it is now time to cancel their giving. Whatever the reason, please do not hesitate to get in touch at any time.

Donations for flowers may be sent to Mrs Erica Porteous, 2 Pentland View, Currie, or left at the Church Office or in the Elder's Box of Bill Porteous in the Link Building, and any cheques made payable to Currie Kirk Flower Fund. Erica can be contacted on 449 6894 for any further information regarding donations.



# WHO'S WHO



NAME	CONTACT	MEETING DAY	TELEPHONE NO
Minister	Rev Lezley J Stewart, The Manse 43 Lanark Road West lezleystewart@btinternet.com		449 4719
Pastoral Associate	Margaret Gordon		449 2554
Currie Kirk Church Office (Scottish Charity No. SC001554)	Gibson Craig Hall, Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5NY Secretary: Val Reid e-mail currie_kirk@btconnect.com	Monday 12 Noon—2.30 pm Thursday 9.00— 11.30 pm Friday 12.15– 2.30 pm	451 5141
Session Clerk	Grant Gordon email: gggordon@btinternet.com		449 2554
Treasurer	Neil Beattie 38 Newmills Crescent e-mail N31LBT@blueyonder.co.uk		449 2792
Gift Aid Treasurer	Ron Dow 48 Thomson Drive ronedow@blueyonder.co.uk		538 2313
Weddings/Funeral Officer	Sandy Harper 16 Pentland View		449 4258
Organist	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Gibson Craig Hall Caretakers & Bookings	May and Bill Sutherland 56 Thomson Crescent		449 7747
Hospital Transport Coordinator	Elizabeth Wood		538 0363
Kirk House Bookings	Catherine Crawford		449 4312
Life and Work	Alastair Hardie		453 3556
Magazine Distributor	Jean Dick		449 6374
Boys' Brigade Captain	Jim Webber : Anchors/Juniors Company/Seniors	Thursday 6.00/7.00 pm Friday 7.00-9.15/10.00 pm	451 5112
Mini Bus Sunday lift organiser	Jean Pringle		449 7716
Mini Bus Bookings	Isobel Webber		451 5112
Banner Group	Janet Robertson	Thursday	441 1499
Care Van	Fiona Pigott	Once a month	466 1459
Pastoral Visitors	Sandra Cranford		449 4639
Currie Kirk Singers	Tom Masson	Various	449 2561
Festival Choir	Margaret Douglas	As Arranged	449 2092
Guild	Margaret Ullathorne	Tuesday	449 3665
Kidz@Currie	Norma Beattie	Sunday	449 2792
Walking Group	Rena Milligan	Last Sunday of each month	449 2017

## Clipboard

Clipboard can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/clipboard/> - why not mark it as a favourite. **Articles for the February issue with the theme being New Beginnings, using a Word attachment, should be sent by email to [isobelwebber@btinternet.com](mailto:isobelwebber@btinternet.com) by Thursday 19 January 2012**

Currie Kirk is a registered Charity (Scottish Charity No. SC001554)