

# THE KIRK NEWS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023



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# Calendar Overview

## February

|    |               |  |
|----|---------------|--|
| 5  | Sunday        | <b>Heriot Watt Service, Currie Kirk, 10.30 am</b>                                    |
| 5  | Sunday        | BB Company night—Gibson Craig Halls—6.30-8.30 pm                                     |
| 6  | Monday        | Heriot-Watt's Annual Chaplaincy Lecture—Heriot-Watt—7 pm                             |
| 7  | Tuesday       | The Guild—10 am—Gibson Craig Halls—Kathleen Patrick "A Trip to Sri Lanka"            |
| 9  | Thursday      | Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls  |
| 9  | Thursday      | BB Anchor and Junior Section 6 pm—7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls                         |
| 10 | Friday        | BB Company Section games night 7.15—9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls                          |
| 12 | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Worship—Currie Kirk—10.30 am</b>  |
| 12 | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Afternoon Worship—Gibson Craig Halls—4-5 pm.</b> Refreshments served from 3.30 pm |
| 12 | Sunday        | BB Company night—Gibson Craig Halls—6.30-8.30 pm                                     |
| 16 | Thursday      | Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls  |
| 16 | Thursday      | BB Anchor and Junior Section 6 pm—7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls                         |
| 17 | Friday        | BB Company Section games night 7.15—9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls                          |
| 19 | Sunday        | <b>Worship—Currie Kirk—10.30 am</b>  |
| 19 | Sunday        | BB Company night—Gibson Craig Halls—6.30-8.30 pm                                     |
| 21 | Tuesday       | The Guild—2 pm—Gibson Craig Halls—Rev Bill Wishart "Ministry of Magic"               |
| 22 | Wednesday     | <b>Ash Wednesday Reflective Service—2 pm—Currie Kirk</b>                             |
| 23 | Thursday      | Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls  |
| 23 | Thursday      | Cheese & Wine—Gibson Craig Hall—7 pm—All Welcome                                     |
| 26 | Sunday        | <b>Worship—Currie Kirk—10.30 am</b>  |
| 26 | Sunday        | BB Company night—Gibson Craig Halls—6.30-8.30 pm                                     |

## March

|    |                  |  |
|----|------------------|--|
| 2  | Thursday         | Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls  |
| 5  | Sunday           | <b>Worship Currie Kirk—10.30 am</b>  |
| 7  | Tuesday          | The Guild—10 am—Gibson Craig Halls—John Dods "Cramond Island"                        |
| 9  | Thursday         | Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls  |
| 9  | Thursday         | BB Anchor and Junior Section—6 pm-7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls                         |
| 10 | Friday           | BB Company Section club games night—7.00-8.30 pm—Gibson Craig Hall                   |
| 12 | Sunday           | <b>Worship Currie Kirk at 10.30 am</b>   |
| 12 | Sunday           | Fair Trade Lunch—Gibson Craig Hall   |
| 12 | Sunday           | <b>Afternoon Worship—Gibson Craig Halls—4-5 pm.</b> Refreshments served from 3.30 pm |
| 14 | Tuesday          | <b>Kirk Session Meeting—Gibson Craig Halls—2 pm</b>                                  |
| 16 | Thursday         | Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls  |
| 16 | Thursday         | BB Anchor and Junior Section 6 pm—7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls                         |
| 17 | Friday           | BB Company Section games night 7.15—9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls                          |
| 19 | <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Worship—Currie Kirk—10.30 am</b>  |
| 19 | Sunday           | BB Company night—Gibson Craig Halls—6.30-8.30 pm                                     |
| 21 | Tuesday          | Guild Meeting—2 pm—Gibson Craig Halls—Angus Moyes "Scripture Union"                  |
| 23 | Thursday         | Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls  |
| 23 | Thursday         | BB Anchor and Junior Section—6 pm-7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls                         |
| 24 | Friday           | BB Company Section club games night—7.00-8.30 pm—Gibson Craig Hall                   |
| 25 | Saturday         | <b>Daffodil Tea—2—4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls (in aid of Guild Project)</b>              |
| 26 | <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Worship Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Communion</b>                                     |
| 26 | Sunday           | BB Company night—Gibson Craig Halls—6.30-8.30 pm                                     |
| 29 | <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Reflective Service—Currie Kirk—2 pm</b>   |
| 30 | Thursday         | Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls  |
| 30 | Thursday         | BB Anchor and Junior Section—6 pm-7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls                         |
| 31 | Friday           | BB Company Section club games night—7.00-8.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls                  |

# A Letter from Easter

*Go in peace, for we have a sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord!  
(1 Samuel 20 verse 42)*

What a difference a year makes!

This time last year we were still reeling from the Covid crisis. The church had been closed for Christmas. By February, every congregation in Edinburgh was trying to cope with the uncertainty posed by the drastic Presbytery Plan which meant that the very future of our churches and parish communities was thrust into grave doubt.

Yet here we are, still standing strong in 2023! We have the Good News of the Gospel Story and great news that our buildings are not closing and, unlike many other churches in Edinburgh, our own congregational family is now safe from the cull. Even better—the culmination of negotiations means that we will work much more closely with our neighbouring Balerno Parish church in a partnership called a 'deferred union.'

We already have strong bonds of friendship with Balerno and these have been enhanced by cluster group meetings, shared musical events and even a recent joint Session social. We will continue our joint Advent carol service. At the end of January we celebrated the week of Christian Unity in Balerno and on Palm Sunday, Balerno congregation will be welcomed in Currie Kirk. Watch this space for more dates.

As our nation and communities embrace new crises like strikes and cost of living, I am confident that we are, 'better together' and the gifts of faith and friendship shared with Balerno will help us all in the year ahead.

God bless you and yours in 2023!

## **Advance Notice**

### **Easter Services**

**2 April—Palm Sunday—Currie Kirk—10.30 am**

**6 April—Maundy Thursday—Balerno Church—7 pm**

**7 April—Good Friday—Currie Kirk—7 pm**

**9 April—Easter Sunday—Currie Kirk—10.30 with formal communion**

## Heather's Ministry

Another Christmas had been and gone but what a delight it was to see some of the “normal” things return after the past two years of restrictions and online services. On the 10 December we held a Christmas craft drop-in at the Gibson Craig. Unfortunately that was the day the snow arrived!

Nevertheless we had a lovely time chatting and being creative with the few families who did venture out to join us and we were able to give out some craft bags at other points throughout the season. We kicked off our Currie Kirk Sheep Trail that day too—12 sheep that went wandering to local shops and businesses. Each place got to name their sheep and the task was to visit each location and find out the name of the sheep hiding there. Thank you to each business who took part and well done to anyone who found all the sheep!

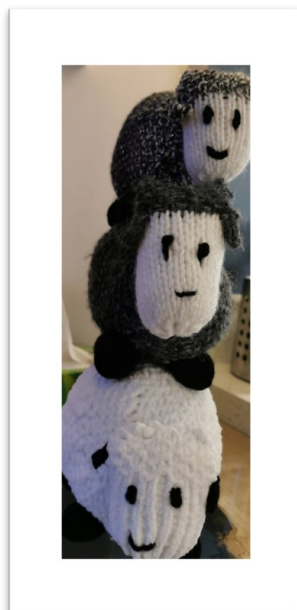
On the 18 December we held a joyful Nativity service in the Kirk and welcomed local children and their families to help us retell the story of Jesus' birth (alongside some wonderful wise men from within the congregation!). It was lovely to see families from a variety of places—The Boys' Brigade, the Friday toddler group, Messy church, grandchildren, baptisms and I'm sure other places too. It was wonderful to share and celebrate together the real reason for the season.

I was also privileged to be invited to attend Nether Currie Primary's Christmas Carol Concert. A heart-warming occasion that saw every year group involved in retelling the Christmas story through tableau and song. A joy to spot familiar faces on the stage and a huge well done to all of them as there must have been a lot of hard work put into it.

We were also able to continue on our tradition from the last two years in handing out Christmas cards and a small gift to each pupil and staff member in the two local primary schools. A grand total of nearly 1000 mini knitted stockings and cards were given out! An incredible number and a big, big thanks must go to those who helped knit mini stockings. My hope is that this small token will have brought a smile to those who received them.

Finally, one of the classes at Currie Primary had made Christmas cards which they wanted to give out in the local community. We were able to put together a list of people they could go to and I collected them from the school and delivered them round our community (adding an extra stocking to each envelope as I went!). Thank you to the pupils who made each lovely card, it was very thoughtful of you to give them out locally and I'm pleased we could partner with you to help make that happen.

And so a New Year begins! I look forward to all that God has in store for 2023 and sharing that with you.





## The Guild

**I**t is hard to believe that we are already a month into 2023. Christmas and New Year celebrations seem but a distant memory. Hope you all had an enjoyable time and were able to meet up with family and friends.

However, the Guild has a great deal to offer in the coming months. On 7 February at 10am we have Kathleen Patrick speaking to us about "A Trip to Sri Lanka". This will be followed on 21 February at 2pm by Rev Bill Wishart and his "Ministry of Magic" which sounds most intriguing. Into March and John Dods will be with us on 7 March at 10am to tell us about "Cramond Island". Our final speaker on 21 March at 2pm is Angus Moyes whose talk is on "Scripture Union".

We round off March with our Daffodil Tea on Saturday 25 March from 2-4pm. This is to raise funds for our chosen project "Starchild". As well as some wonderful home-baking, there will be a tombola and a book stall. Please come along and support us.

All are welcome at any of our meetings whether you are a member or not. Perhaps you have decided to do something new in 2023 so why don't you give us a try. No hats required and not necessary to be able to knit or make jam!

If you would like more information, please contact me on 0131-466-3472 or email [elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk)

Louise Lamont, Currie Kirk Guild President

**Stalls**

**Tombola**

**Books**

**Home baking**

**Proceeds to  
Guild Project  
"Starchild"**

### **Daffodil Tea**

**Saturday 24 March at 2—4 pm**

**Gibson Craig Hall**



**Tea/Coffee  
Home Baking  
Entrance £4**

**Tickets on sale from  
Guild members  
or  
Pay at the door.**

**ALL  
WELCOME**

The 65th entered the following BB National competitions: Master Team, Badminton and Table Tennis. As previous winners of the Master Team and Badminton we had some high hopes. The Master Team turned into a bit of a damp squib as we were eliminated without taking part due to transport and then IT issues.

In the badminton we were drawn against the 1st West Linton. The match was played at Penicuik High School with the Currie team being the McGill and Cheung brothers. Unfortunately for us West Linton had arguably the best Midlothian schools badminton player who at 6' 4" presented quite a challenge. West Linton proved to be excellent hosts and our boys had a great time but lost all their matches. All the best to West Linton in the next round.

On Friday, 20th January we hosted the 1st Tulliallan in the table tennis. Our team consisted of Tony and Conrad Cheung and Connor McGill. It just so happens that the Cheungs are rather good at table tennis and we coasted into the next round. Tony won all his matches 3-0, Conrad, having won his first two matches 3-0 was 2-0 up in his final match but I think felt sorry for his opponent and succeeded in losing the next three games. Connor did very well in supporting our two experts winning 1 of his 3 matches. The evening finished with everyone enjoying pizza, crisps and chocolate.

Well done to all and hopefully we will do well again in the next round.

Bill Brown

Captain



**Meet and Heat and a Chat**  
**Every Thursday—Gibson Craig Hall**  
**2-4 pm**

We are presently small in numbers but not small on "chat". Cosy afternoons can be found in the Gibson Craig Back Hall where we are open every Thursday from 2-4 pm.

Enjoy a chat over a cup of tea/coffee with biscuits.

This afternoon meeting point will continue until Easter.

**2022 Hogmanay Charity Ceilidh**

The 2022 Hogmanay Charity Ceilidh in the Gibson Craig raised the wonderful sum of £1,385 in aid of Save The Children Ukraine which is now being increased to £1,885, thanks to the generosity of a £500 donation from the Currie & Balerno News, their maximum for matched funding.

Many thanks to all those who attended the Ceilidh, donated money and raffle prizes or helped to set up and clear away on a night of wild weather but great warmth and laughter inside the Hall!

Iain and Viola MacPhail

## Transport Fund



Please note if you wish transport to Church your taxi fare will be refunded from the Transport Fund. Please ask for a receipt and hand to an Elder on duty.

Therefore, please don't be afraid to call one. I know that some of you are missing our minibus but, unfortunately, it was not a viable proposition to keep it on the road.

Central Taxis 0131 229 2468

City Cabs 0131 228 1211

By the time the next magazine is printed we should be able to let you know how church groups/members can apply for funds.

## Kirk Walking Group

**W**alkers meet after Church service or coffee. We meet on 3rd Sunday of the month and generally walk locally eg. Reservoirs, Water of Leith etc. When the weather improves we sometimes take the bus and go further afield or do car sharing, depending on where we are going. We take a picnic and flask to enjoy the countryside and the chat along the way.



We are in process of discussing Sunday walks or midweek. Anyone interesting in joining the group would be made most welcome. It's a very friendly group and I can guarantee you will go home with a good feeling and smile on your face. You don't need to come to every walk just whatever suits you.

Any enquiries please phone me or speak to me in Church.

Moira McDonald  
07853 228751 or 0131 466 1115

**Cyrenians are working in partnership with Currie Community Centre & Big Hearts to invite people who are sixty years of age and older to come along to our Community Meal in Currie Community Centre.**

*We are particularly interested in connecting people living in Juniper Green, Currie & Balerno, who may be or are at risk of becoming socially isolated. We are offering a warm welcome, some fun activities, and a healthy meal in a welcoming local space.*

**We get together every Friday from 11am onwards for tea and coffee. Lunch is served from 12 to 1pm and we finish up about 2pm.**

*Activities include dominos, cards, seated dance, invited speakers, and anything and everything people would enjoy or like to suggest. We are also planning to have a tea dance and musical entertainment from 1-2pm on Fridays from February onwards.*

**The 44 bus stops outside our door. We ask that you get in touch and let us know if you or yours would like to join us so that we don't disappoint.**

*We cannot provide any personal care or support but carers are welcome to come along.*

*Further information from Rene O'Reilly, Community Groups Builder Direct Dial: 07918975608*

## Update : Edinburgh Direct Aid in 2022

### EDA in Ukraine

Beginning in March 2022, EDA volunteers have frequently visited Ukraine, charged with helping those who are living in conditions of shortage and extremity in hard-to-get-to places. To do this our people, acting on the advice of local contacts, use money donated by supporters like yourself to hire vehicles and buy supplies, and then distribute them in person (insofar as possible). This has taken Edinburgh Direct Aid to many parts of Ukraine ranging from Lviv to some in-the-news trouble spots such as Mikolaev, Chernobyl and Kramatorsk, in and around which our volunteers have distributed much-appreciated aid. The war and the hardship continue. The help which we provide can meet only a tiny fraction of the need, but fortunately there are many other NGOs and informal groups whom we work alongside. This collective effort makes a difference, perhaps even more because of the effect that personal support by people from far away has on morale, than because of the material aid delivered.

### Lebanon:

In Lebanon there is not a fighting war, but the woes of this country of 3½ million Lebanese and 2 million refugees are extreme. This is due mainly to a continuation of the hyper-inflation which started three years ago. The Lebanese pound is now worth only a fraction of what it was then, but salaries and refugee allowances have not kept up, or even close. As a result, most Lebanese and refugees alike can hardly afford to buy food, and winter fuel is also almost beyond reach. About 1/3 of the 50,000 Syrian Refugees in Aarsal (the hill-top border town where we work) live in makeshift rented housing and shacks rather than tents. But many now are unable to afford the rent as landlords seek to cover their losses: and many become homeless. Working with other NGOs, EDA helps to find shelter for these families, providing them with tented structures with kitchen, sleeping, and living areas and a small toilet. In 2022 we helped to re-house nearly 50 families in this way, in addition to providing emergency help to those who lost their tents and all their possessions due to several recent fires in the camps.

But all has not been gloom: in our primary school now styled “The Scottish Training Centre”, we have continued to look after 150 pupils and have succeeded in providing certificates to enable many of them to proceed to Lebanese secondary schools. Brighter still is the music teaching we now provide at the school and therapeutic music at the Balsam centre for children with special needs (which we also support). This programme was started by Nigel Osborne and Clea Friend from Edinburgh, and other experts, from Croatia.

A musician from Beirut, with local help in Aarsal, conducts lessons and therapeutic sessions two days a week, bringing both relaxation and joy to children who are in sore need of both. In addition, following discussions extending over a number of years, we held the first of a proposed series of festivals of music and sport aimed at bringing together children from different communities: refugees and Lebanese, Shia, Sunni and Christian. The first such festival was held in Baalbek (not far from Aarsal) in May. With an attendance of over 3000 children, it was judged a success by all concerned, including the provincial Governor whose future support is now guaranteed.

Other highlights of the year include bringing into full operation a solar powered system to replace the now unaffordable diesel electric system, to pump water from a borehole for irrigation in a group of farms overlooking the town. This solar power now also powers fresh water to many Lebanese houses and refugee tents. Solar power was also installed at number of schools, including our own; and even the local police station (funded by the Scottish Police Federation). In addition we have set up a number of children’s libraries and reading centres in the camps around Aarsal, which has done wonders for the literacy, and enjoyment, of the many children involved.





Finally, our support on a loan basis for a project to turn currently waste sheep fleeces into thermal insulation and quilts is showing signs of real success.

### **Warehouse deliveries**

During the year we have despatched to Lebanon from our Granton warehouse two 10-ton shipping containers, filled with clothes, footwear, toiletries and educational goods, for distribution to refugees and poor Lebanese alike, in Aarsal and other locations.

### **Donations**

Should you wish to lend your support to any or all of these projects, please, either go online to [www.edinburghdirectaid.org/donations](http://www.edinburghdirectaid.org/donations); or make a bank transfer to Edinburgh Direct aid International (acc 23620465, sort code 80-22-60); or simply send a cheque made out to Edinburgh Direct Aid at 29 Starbank Road, EH5 3BY (but if you use either of the latter 2 methods please also drop us an e-mail or include a note saying who you are and whether we may claim gift aid.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Yeomen of the Guard—at the Festival Theatre—EDA Gala night—**Thursday 23rd February**; 6pm. Tickets at £25 each are available from EDA ([HQ@edinburghdirectaid.org](mailto:HQ@edinburghdirectaid.org) Tel: 0131 552 1545)

Denis Rutovitz, Chair, on behalf of all in Edinburgh Direct Aid

## **Heriot-Watt's Annual Chaplaincy Lecture—Monday 6 February 2023 at 7pm— "From Peru to Mars: New Worlds and Jesuit Science"**

This year Heriot-Watt has the Vatican Astronomer, Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, whose lecture is entitled "From Peru to Mars: New Worlds and Jesuit Science."

What happens when political and social pressures mix with science? Is there a particular "Jesuit" form of science? From Acosta's work in the New World to modern research at the Vatican Observatory, Brother Guy Consolmagno will look at the work of a number of Jesuit scientists through history and see what they did, and why they did it.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served from 18.15.

The lecture will be interpreted into British Sign Language (BSL).

Tickets may be booked via Eventbrite at:

[rb.gy/1xdbcy](https://rb.gy/1xdbcy)

## Mission, Outreach and Fellowship

Are you willing to give some time to Currie Kirk?

**N**ow that Covid is behind us and our worship is back to normal, the Mission, Outreach and Fellowship team need your help in promoting our activities in our wider community. You are therefore invited to a **Cheese and Wine on Thursday 23 February, 7pm in GCHall**

Come and give us your ideas of what's needed within Currie Kirk and what we can achieve together!

We have put some dates in the diary already:

- ◆ Fairtrade Lunch - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in March
- ◆ Saturday 15 April –Tricky Ricky am, Easter Fun pm with Kirk singers and afternoon tea
- ◆ A family Quiz Night – a Friday in March (date to be finalised)
- ◆ Saturday Café—Every Saturday between May and September in the Kirk. This proved very popular last year.
- ◆ Harvest Soup Lunch – 1 October
- ◆ Poppy Display—we're keen to set up a team to create poppies.
- ◆ Christmas ideas—for the past two years we've knitted over 1000 stockings each year for every child in Currie schools! An amazing feat but maybe this year we could knit other shapes—a pom-pom hat or a cracker?

Whilst enjoying a glass of wine let's chat about what we can do together to enhance fellowship within Currie Kirk and our community. You are very welcome to join our committee, however if you'd prefer to help out at an individual event we would greatly appreciate your help.

Fiona, Christine, June, Heather, John and Shona look forward to catching up with you on 23 February.

### A Letter received from St Luke's Leprosarium, Peikulam

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Congregation of Currie Kirk, Greetings from St. Luke's Leprosarium, Peikulam.

With your kind gift of food support endowment, we hosted a special meal for our leprosy patients and the children on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022, under the banner 'The Congregation of Currie Kirk', the Church of Scotland, U.K. Our staff, patients and children conducted special prayers especially for you, your family and the church members.

On behalf of our Leprosarium's patients and the children, we thank you once again for your loving kindness. Enclosed herewith is a copy of the partakers list along with our prayer request for the month of December 2022.

(If you would like to receive a copy of this list please email the Editor—[isobelwebber@btinternet.com](mailto:isobelwebber@btinternet.com))

Yours sincerely,

Haebus S.Vethabothagam,  
Medical Superintendent.

## Jim Ure

Jim was born on 14 May 1941 in Edinburgh. He was the first child of Bill and Violet. His father had just been called up to the home guard and Jim, Violet and his granny moved in together to 10 Watson Crescent. After the war, the family moved to 55 Magdalene Drive, where Jim's brother Bill was born in 1947. Jim attended Parsons Green Primary school. His most memorable day at school was when he was 8 years old, when he arrived home after a long tiring day to find out he had a baby sister Davena.

After going to Portobello High school, Jim briefly studied Applied Physics at college before Rheumatic Fever forced him to change direction. Those early studies sparked a curiosity in science, engineering and mathematics which he passed on to his children. He later joined the Met Office at Leuchars airport.

Jim met Maureen in 1963 at Bristo Technical College. He moved shortly to London for work, Maureen followed him down later and married on the 14 September 1968 in Edinburgh at St John Vianneys.

Jim was working at Leuchars and the family moved to Newport-on-Tay, where Kirsty was born. Another career change into Finance and Insurance brought Jim back to Edinburgh. They bought their house at 3 Pentland Crescent and Cameron was born in 1972. After a couple of years back in Edinburgh, the family moved to Juniper Green and then Balerno. In 1987 the family moved to Currie. With the move to Currie, Jim and Maureen became involved with village life and Jim joined the Pentland Players. His portrayal of some of his stage characters and, in particular, the soldier in "Fiddler On the Roof" had the audience in stitches, with Jim, arms folded, doing a traditional Russian dance. Jim was always very busy at Christmas time—being called on to play Santa—his favourite time of the year.

Jim retired from Financial Services in 2001 and rather than resting, he joined the Patient Transport Service for a further five years—a job he loved. He would always proudly tell everyone he was an ambulance driver! He was very proud to be a Freemason and member of Lodge Colinton and Currie. He was a very active member of Currie Kirk, becoming an Elder. He drove the mini bus collecting the parishioners to take them to and from church and the day-care centre. He helped out the Bethany Christian Trust and went out with the Care Van around the streets of Edinburgh handing out soup and warm clothes to homeless people. Always going the extra yard, Jim would often take a flask of soup and a torch and go through the graveyards in Edinburgh looking for homeless to ensure no one was missed.

Jim has made so many friends, lifelong friends that are sadly no longer with us and friends through his time in Currie and working at the hospital. He is remembered by everyone for his kindness, helpfulness and sense of humour. This has been reflected in the messages Maureen and the family have received.

*"Jim will always be remembered for his sense of humour and willingness to undertake many tasks especially within the church family"*

*"Jim was a unique character, full of quirky fun and unafraid to give his opinions to help sort matters out"*

*"We'll remember Jim as a very kind, caring friend with a wonderful sense of humour"*

An Extract of the Eulogy given at Jim's funeral by his son Cameron Ure

*Jim endured and weathered cancer treatments for many years and he did so with great perseverance and immense support from his family, especially Maureen. He was blessed in his last days to remain at home as was his wish, surrounded by his loved ones who were grateful to the Marie Curie nurses.*

*Jim was a character. But he was not only a fun person, but a faithful person. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and friend. He had a long hard battle with cancer. He laughed and smiled, but it was a hard and brave fight. We gathered in the Kirk which meant so much to him to honour his life and commend him to God's care and keeping. - Easter*

# Catherine Crawford

## Eulogy by Margaret Gordon

Catherine Crawford was born in Dunfermline on 2 July 1941, younger daughter of Jemima and Eddie Lambert, and died unexpectedly on 14 November 2022. The family moved to Edinburgh when Janette and Catherine were young and lived in Polwarth Terrace. Catherine attended Tynecastle High School.

On leaving school Catherine worked in the Post Office, a job she enjoyed until her marriage. In those days she could not continue her work once she was married.

From a young age Catherine attended the Marjory Middleton School of Dance in the city where she excelled, enjoying ballet, ballroom and tap. Catherine met George, her husband to be at Afton Dance Hall in Niddrie Street and in 1961 they were married in Pilrig Church in Edinburgh. Married life began in Academy Street in Leith. It was there that twins Stuart and Neill and later Susan spent their first years.

In 1971 the Crawford family moved to Balerno and Mallyen Avenue, Catherine's home for the remainder of her life. Catherine returned to work in the early 70's, firstly part time unsocial hours but shortly afterward began working for Manpower Services in St Andrew Square then Corstorphine and latterly at the Job Centre at Wester Hailes from where she retired in 2001.

Sadly, George died some thirty years ago in the Marie Curie Hospice. Catherine never forgot the care he received there and after her retirement spent many years volunteering there three days a week, driving folks mainly to the day hospice but also helping out at the Centre. A job she undertook until lockdown.

Catherine was ordained as an elder in Currie Kirk in 1999. She was a member of the Guild, the Walking Group, the Prayer Group and the Minibus Committee. She joined the groups from the Church to Israel and Iona. She also served on the Parents' Committee of the 65<sup>th</sup> Boys' Brigade Company.

A prayer well known and loved by Catherine:

In our darkness come as light  
In our sadness come as joy  
In our troubles come as peace  
In our weakness come as strength  
Lord  
Open our eyes to your presence  
Open our minds to your grace  
Open our lips to your praise  
Open our hearts to your love  
Open our lives to your healing.  
Be with us now .....

## Captain Magnus Polson

*Eulogy delivered by Grant Gordon at the church service on 5 January 2023.*

When people heard of the news of Magnus's death invariably the phrase on their lips was 'He was a lovely man'. Born on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1934, Magnus died on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

The sea coursed through the blood of generations of Polsons and it was therefore natural that, following his education at Leith Academy, the young Magnus should feel its call. He gained his Master's Certificate in June 1962, becoming a Captain in 1976 and worked for several different shipping companies before retiring in December 1993.

Following retirement Magnus devoted considerable time to the activities of Trinity House in Leith and Currie Kirk. He served in the prestigious post of Master of the Corporation of Leith Trinity House and had a key role in the establishment of a memorial in Leith dedicated to the 6,500 seafarers who lost their lives during the two world wars and various other conflicts. He also was instrumental in securing the future for Trinity House through the sale of seven paintings including four by Sir Henry Raeburn. Over the years Magnus represented Trinity House at many civic functions.

Magnus's service to Currie Kirk is legendary. For many, many years he served on the Congregational Board as Property Convener with responsibility for the buildings at the Church, the Gibson Craig Halls and the Manse. Nothing was too much for Magnus resulting in one of our Ministers christening him Saint Magnus because he always seemed to be on hand to deal with whatever property issue arose. When the Gibson Craig Halls were being extended in 2003 Magnus took it upon himself to visit the site every day to make sure that everything was going to plan. The project was completed on time and within budget thanks in no small way to Magnus's dedication. The creation of the Reception Area in 2015 was another project in which Magnus made a significant contribution within the team charged with its development. He acted as Covenant Treasurer for a short period, was involved for many years in the recording of services at Currie Kirk, was a Team Leader in the ecumenical weekly snack lunches in the Gibson Craig Halls with the reputation of his homemade spicy carrot and lentil soup being way above Master Chef standard. Time didn't seem to matter to Magnus for when the clock had to be changed at the church in the spring and autumn, he would attend to this—but at two o'clock in the morning.

Captain Magnus Polson was a one off, someone I have been proud to call my friend. There can be no finer way to sum up the life of Captain Magnus Shearer Polson than in words from the New Testament, crafted in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of 2 Timothy:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Rest well Captain.



# Community Activities

The Gibson Craig Hall is available to hire. The Booking Co-ordinator is Viola MacPhail

Contact Details: gibsoncraigbooking@gmail.com  
Tel: 07806 806920

|  | Contact name      | Tel/email                                 | Day  |
|--|-------------------|---|--|
| Art Class                                    | Katie Hunter      | 07815 506520<br>katiehunter85@hotmail.com | Wednesday 5.45—7.15 pm<br>Thursday 9.45—11.15 am   |
| Currie and District<br>Local History Society | Douglas Lowe      | douglaslowe51@btinternet.com              | Monday 7.30—9 pm twice<br>monthly from 3/10/22-<br>20/3/23   |
| Currie Community Council                     |                   | curriecouncil@gmail.com                   | 2nd Monday of each month<br>7.30-9.00 pm—not July or<br>December   |
| EH Fitness Classes                           | Emma              | emma@eh-fitness.co.uk<br>0771 333 5900    | Monday 10.30—11.30 am<br>Monday 5.50—6.50 pm<br>Tuesday 6.45—8.15 pm<br>Friday 5.30-6.30 pm<br>Saturday 8.00—9.30 am |
| Nether Currie Baby and<br>Toddler Group      | Margaret Milton   | 07743 067588                              | Friday: 9.30 am—11.30 am<br>(term time only)   |
| Octagon Club                                 | Claire Maloney    | 07999 410721                              | Wednesday 7—9 pm from<br>7 September   |
| Pentland Ladies Probus                       | Barbara Hannaford | 0131 453 3012                             | 4th Tuesday of Month from<br>September to May  |
| Pilates                                      | Ellen Foster      | 07983 863143                              | Saturday 10.30—11.30 am  |
| Zumba Exercise Class                         | Tom Lowe          | tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk                   | Thursday: 10.15 am—11.15<br>am   |

## The Meeting Place

The meeting place is held every Monday for the over 65's and their carers, in the Scout Hall Forth View Crescent, Currie, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Lunch is served for a modest £4.00.

Our main focus is offering a place to all our residents looking for companionship in a safe friendly environment where they can enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

For more information phone 07711 046041 or just call in.

Allan Murray.

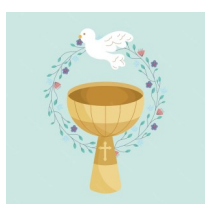
# Family News

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

Gillian Brown, Currie  
Margaret Innes, Currie—Member of Currie Kirk  
June Lawrie, Currie  
Andrew McFarlane, Currie  
Kate Miller, Colinton  
Magnus Polson, Currie—Member of Currie Kirk  
David Thomson, Currie  
Jim Ure, Currie—Member and Elder of Currie Kirk



*Please pray for the families*



**Baptism:** *Jesus said "Let the children come to me"*  
(Luke 18:16)

On Sunday 4 December—Hanna Grace Jansson—daughter of Rebecca and Rob Jansson

## Confirmation into Membership of the Church

Mr Burmoint McKrill (Monty) was confirmed into Membership on 22 January 2023  
at a service in Currie Kirk.

## Mission Outreach & Fellowship Update

Viola has decided to resign from the Mission, Outreach and Fellowship committee. She has put in many years of support and effort into the committee and we are all very grateful for everything she has guided us through! This also means that the MOF are now in charge of the refreshments after Sunday worship and soup lunches (which for now will not be going ahead).

Viola—You'll be missed but we hope we can still call on your advice! Thank you

## February/March Flower List

### February

- 5 Mr A Forsyth
- 12 Mr & M Mrs Collins
- 19 Mrs B Chambers
- 26 Flower Fund



### March

- 5 The Guild
- 12 Mrs S Ramsay
- 19 Mrs M Douglas
- 26 Mrs M Fraser

The flowers are enjoyed and appreciated by so many. Thank you to those who have donated. If you wish to dedicate flowers on a particular Sunday please get in touch with Isobel Webber or the office.



# WHO'S WHO



| NAME   | CONTACT  | EMAIL CONTACT/TIMES  | TELEPHONE NO            |
|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| Minister   | Rev Dr Easter Smart  | ESmart@churchofscotland.org.uk   | 449 4719                |
| Currie Kirk Church Office<br>(Scottish Charity No. SC001554) | Gibson Craig Halls, Lanark Road West,<br>Currie, EH14 5NY<br>Email currie_kirk@btconnect.com | Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am—12.30 pm   | 451 5141                |
| Joint Session Clerks   | Louise Lamont<br>Isobel Webber   | elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk<br>Isobelwebber@btinternet.com                                   | 466-3472<br>451 5112    |
| Treasurer  | Eddie Pigott<br>Email: pigottsef@icloud.com  | pigottsef@icloud.com   | 466 1459                |
| Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer                               | Eunice Stewart   | eunicestewart48@gmail.com  | 449 6832                |
| Data Protection Officer                                      | Vanessa Martins  | <a href="mailto:vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com">vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com</a>                 |                         |
| Weddings/Funerals  | Contact Church Office  |  | 451 5141                |
| Organist   | Contact Church Office  |  | 451 5141                |
| Gibson Craig Halls Bookings                                  | Viola MacPhail   | <a href="mailto:gibsoncraigbooking@gmail.com">gibsoncraigbooking@gmail.com</a>               | 07806 806920            |
| Hospital Transport Coordinator                               | Liz Potter   | <a href="mailto:lizpotter66@virginmedia.com">lizpotter66@virginmedia.com</a>                 | 07769 684029            |
| Kirk Flowers   | Isobel Webber  | <a href="mailto:isobelwebber@btinternet.com">isobelwebber@btinternet.com</a>                 | 07702 784186            |
| Life and Work  | Shona Moyes  | <a href="mailto:shona.moyes@btopenworld.com">shona.moyes@btopenworld.com</a>                 |                         |
| Magazine Distributor   | Jean Dick  |  | 451 5141                |
| Boys' Brigade Captain  | Bill Brown      Anchors<br>Juniors<br>Company/Seniors  | Thursday 6.00-7.30 pm<br>Thursday 6.00-7.30 pm<br>Friday 7.00—8.30 pm<br>Sunday 6.30-8.30 pm | 449 4905<br>07878377897 |
| Care Van   | Fiona Pigott   | Third Tuesday of the month   | 07874-282480            |
| Fresh Start  | Christine Wilson   |  | 538 2567                |
| Pastoral Visitors  |  |  | 451 5141                |
| Currie Kirk Singers  | Gordon Cranford  | Various  |                         |
| Guild  | Louise Lamont  | Tuesday/elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk  | 466 3472                |
| Family Worker  | Heather Merriman   | <a href="mailto:familyworker_jvp@outlook.com">familyworker_jvp@outlook.com</a>               |                         |
| Walking Group  | Moira McDonald   | Third Sunday of each month   | 466 1115                |



## The Kirk News

Can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/>  
Kirknews—why not mark it as a favourite. **Articles for the April issue should be sent—using a  
Word attachment—by email to [isobelwebber@btinternet.com](mailto:isobelwebber@btinternet.com) before or by Friday 25 March 2023**  
**Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**