

# The Kirk News

March 2022

## Open Every Sunday at 10 am



### In this Issue

Letters regarding the Presbytery  
Plan—pages 2-5

Have your Say—page 6-7

Church Notices—page 8

The Guild—page 9

Heriot-Watt—page 10

Flower List—page 11

The Boys' Brigade—Page 11

Who's Who—Page 12

## **WELCOME TO THE MARCH ISSUE OF KIRK NEWS**

**The Kirk Session wish to keep the congregation up-to-date regarding the Presbytery Plan**

**The following pages sets out correspondence received and comments**

**There is also a document on “Have Your Say” on pages 6 and 7 which please read and send in your comments.**

**Presbytery is listening to what congregations say but time is limited.**

**The following is a letter from Stewart Weaver, Convener of the Deployment Sub Group and Derek Henderson, Vice Convener of Deployment**

### **Presbytery Mission Plan Consultation (Edinburgh Congregations)**

To all Ministers, Deacons, OLMs, MDS, Readers, Session Clerks, Presbytery Representatives, and Members of Presbytery:

It was noted at the Presbytery Consultation meeting on 15 January that Congregational Representatives would be contacted to set out the proposed process for consultation leading to a revised proposal that can go to Presbytery for consideration in October.

This communication is addressed to Congregations, Sessions and/or Mission Districts of the former Presbytery of Edinburgh. A letter tailored for the Congregations, Sessions and/or Mission Districts of the former Presbytery of West Lothian has also been composed. The two former Presbyteries approached the first stages differently and, at this point in the process, need to address different issues before the two are woven together later in 2022.

Following the circulation of the draft Presbytery Mission Plan Consultation Document for Edinburgh in December, the first stage was the Consultation meeting on 15th January. The Deployment Sub Group (DSG) are immensely grateful for the numerous questions submitted ahead of the meeting and for the contributions made on the day. Both have helped inform how we proceed and careful note was taken of the points made.

We could not address all of the approximately 470 questions on the day. Some are specific to Parishes or Mission Districts. Some are matters for the Faith Nurture Forum or the General Assembly. Some relate to matters at a later stage. And some are very useful suggestions or observations on how we should proceed. Members of the DSG are working to respond to all the questions by the end of February.

At the meeting it was explained that we would be asking for consultation responses from Congregations and Sessions, or where preferred proposed Mission Districts, no later than **15 March 2022**. It is up to each respondent to decide how to gather views to inform their response, but we are looking for a considered response that has, where practical, involved a discussion at the Kirk Session. We also expect the responses to recognise the backdrop of the decisions taken at the General Assembly in 2021, and particularly the allocation of a maximum of 48.5 ministries posts to the former Presbytery of Edinburgh and the requirement to approve a Mission Plan by December 2022.

At the meeting, several Congregations asked for a way to highlight inaccuracies in the assessments of and commentaries on Congregations and Mission Districts or explain the wider context and range of activities and engagement undertaken. We recognise the measures used are of necessity indicative and broad brush, but cannot tell the full story. To that end we welcome responses that correct inaccuracies or offer clarifications.

We are particularly keen to receive suggestions on how to improve the Mission Plan, how proposed unions and Mission Districts can be helped to work together and share resources more effectively and how parish groupings, outreach teams and joint initiatives can be made to work or targeted best. The aim of the Mission Plan must be to ensure we use our finite resources to best effect and ensure the Church is properly equipped to deliver the Good News of Jesus Christ in a dynamic and sustainable way.

The issues facing each Congregation will be different. For that reason we are not posing a series of questions to be answered but leaving it to each respondent to decide how to respond. However, it would help the DSG if feedback was provided in separate sections as follows:

- fundamental, strategic or general issues with or improvements to the proposed Mission Plan;
- comments and suggestions relating to particular Parishes or Congregations, unions and/or Mission Districts;
- inaccuracies or errors in the proposed Mission Plan or further context that the DSG would find useful and relevant.

There is a lot to do by 15th March. But there is also a lot to do by October 2022 (the agreed timeline can be found as an appendix). To that end, we feel that a response date of 15th March draws the right balance of allowing due consideration and meeting the overall deadline set by the General Assembly. If responses can be delivered earlier, that would also be most welcome. We kindly ask that responses to this letter be sent to the Presbytery Office:

[EdinburghWestLothian@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:EdinburghWestLothian@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Once the DSG has had a chance to consider the consultation responses, the next stage is for DSG representatives to meet, listen, explore and engage with Congregational Representatives and Mission Districts. At the meeting we flagged that the DSG plans to offer help in facilitating an inclusive and positive dialogue between affected groups with a view to addressing concerns and finding agreed ways forward. Some Congregations will want external help and others may prefer to progress matters directly or bilaterally. We are here to try to assist and optimise the process and the draft Mission Plan. We expect the most intense period of DSG engagement will be between April and June but there is no one size fits all solution and priorities and timescales may depend on the issues raised in responses.

If some Congregations want to engage with their neighbours earlier than April, we are not seeking to hold them back. We would encourage early contact. It is never too early to start communicating and exploring how we can make proposals work. Equally, we are not asking those who have already been working towards unions to down tools and lose momentum. The draft Mission Plan provides a framework for taking forward that engagement as soon as congregations or Mission Districts are ready.

Following the engagement process of meetings and exploring options, the DSG will look at adjustments to the proposed Mission Plan so that a revised draft can be issued for consideration ahead of the October Presbytery. At that time we hope to bring together the plans for both Edinburgh and West Lothian into one document, for we recognise that the process adopted in West Lothian to date has differed from the approach in Edinburgh and taking matters forward needs to reflect where matters currently sit.

Given the challenges the Church faces, we all know change is a fact we have to face. How we shape the Church to deliver Mission effectively going forward is both difficult and crucial. It rests on all our shoulders to get it right. Our decisions will have consequences both for our future success and for our people. We would be most grateful if everyone could engage in this positively and undertake it willingly.

There is a great deal to do and limited time. We need to do it thoughtfully, carefully and progress it with prayer and in a spirit of collaboration, respect and neighbourliness to deliver our common goal of sustaining the Church's good work.

## Email to Stewart Weaver signed by Viola MacPhail on behalf of Currie Kirk Session

Sent 24 January 2022

Email to:- [SWeaver@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:SWeaver@churchofscotland.org.uk)

c.c. HHastie@churchofscotland.org.uk

### **Subject: Presbytery Plan Consultation Document**

Dear Dr Weaver

On behalf of the Currie Kirk Session, I have been asked that, in response to the Consultation Document, the Deployment Sub Group of the Resources Committee look favourably upon a request that Currie Kirk joins the South West Mission District rather than the Border Mission District. We would, however, wish to acknowledge that the Presbytery's Strategy Team had to deal with a difficult task which over the years was not helped by changes out with their control.

In light of our request, we would very much welcome a face-to-face discussion with representatives of the Deployment Sub-Group, if possible, at the next Currie Kirk Session Meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022.

Currie Kirk was unable to meet as a Session before the required deadline for responses on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. However, we held a special Session Meeting on Saturday 22 January devoted to the Consultation Document. It was agreed that, after full discussion of all the information now available to us, it would be much more appropriate for Currie Kirk to form part of the South West Mission District which contains Juniper Green and Colinton Churches together with Slateford Longstone Church.

It is strongly felt that Currie sits firmly within the three villages of Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green. All three have worked closely together for over 25 years and the Kirk Session feel that this strong relationship should continue and be further developed within the same Mission District going forward. We assumed that Presbytery would combine sets of Clusters to form larger groups thus making the best use of fewer ministry resources. However, on reading the Consultation Document we are surprised to find ourselves clustered with Churches in West Lothian with whom we have had no close contact nor any longstanding relationships.

We envisage great opportunities for the sharing of resources within the South West Mission District which would, in effect, become the Water of Leith and Canal Churches. There are distinctly different menus of worship on offer and a variety of personnel with different attributes all of which can be brought together to form a strong mission team focused on the advancement of the Kingdom. Pragmatically, and importantly, there would be a larger pool of lay people which could and would be trained to support the many different forms of ministry and mission.

We very much hope that you will be able to send a representative(s) of your team to our Kirk Session meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and I look forward to hearing from you.

**Re: Presbytery Plan Consultation Document**

**25 January 2022—Reply from Rev Dr Stewart Weaver**

Thank you for your email and sharing with me the thoughts and reactions from the Currie Kirk Session.

I responding to all that were included in the original email and have also cc'd Derek Henderson, the Vice Convener of the Deployment Sub Group (DSG), so that he is aware of the correspondence.

The DSG are looking into the best means of creating a structure and framework that will allow congregations to respond with considered thoughts, observations and ideas to the consultative document. We felt that this was important not only to allow a good consultative process to be undertaken, but also because of the number of requests received and the number of conversations that will need to be held.

The timeline sketched out on 15 January will be taken to Presbytery on 1 February for discussion and, hopefully, approval. We will then endeavour to take things forward as effectively as possible from there.

So, there will certainly be an opportunity to share in more detail some of your thinking regarding the consultative document and to meet with members of the DSG as well. Given the timeframe and the task ahead, I simply cannot make any promises about 22 February. However, full and fruitful conversations will certainly take place as the process unfolds and the DSG will be in touch.

I do hope that this provides a measure of reassurance that the voice of Currie Kirk will be heard and their opinions woven into the consultation process.

If you have any thoughts or questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Thank you for your time and patience, and thank you too for your understanding that this is indeed a difficult task we have all undertaken.

am

Sincerely yours,

Stewart Weaver

Rev. Dr. Stewart G. Weaver  
Minister  
Portobello and Joppa Parish Church

# Church of Scotland Presbytery Planning 2022-2025— Have Your Say

Following on from the article in last month's Kirk News there has been an overwhelming sense of loss and worry about "Where do we go from here?"

As a Session, and with limited time, we wrote to Edinburgh Presbytery voicing our alarm and fears and we have had a response from them (*see letters on pages 2—5 in this issue*). The next step is that we will have a visit from a Facilitator from the Church's Deployment Sub-Group to listen and discuss our thoughts, ideas and concerns. This meeting is likely to be with Session and be held sometime between April and June (often a busy time for holidays!)

In order to get some feedback, questions and thoughts, it would be helpful if we prepare in advance of this meeting. The Deployment Sub-Group have asked for questions to be submitted within the framework of the Five Marks of Mission as agreed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

## **Five Marks of Mission**

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The Water of Leith Cluster Group (Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green Churches) used these to compare our communities and how we use them within our churches. An alternative way of expressing these essential ideas is:

- Witness to Christ's saving, forgiving, reconciling love for all people
- Build welcoming, transforming communities of faith
- Stand in solidarity with the poor and needy
- Challenge violence, injustice and oppression, and work for peace and reconciliation
- Protect, care for and renew life on our planet

These became a bit clearer to us when we started to map what we do in Currie against the Five Marks of Mission:

- Witness to Christ's saving, forgiving, reconciling love for all people – Sunday worship (including music and prayers), Welcome teams at each service, Service recording, Offerings, Messy Church and holiday clubs, Boys Brigade, Kirk News, Advent cards to every home, Shoebox appeal, community foodbank
- Build welcoming, transforming communities of faith—Sunday worship, office bearers, Guild, The Boys' Brigade, Messy church and holiday clubs, prayer covenant
- Stand in solidarity with the poor and needy – Pastoral care teams, bereavement counselling, flower ministry, outreach through Bethany Christian Trust, Fresh Start, offerings for others, hospital transport, prayer covenant

- Challenge violence, injustice and oppression, and work for peace and reconciliation – Pastoral care, Fairtrade, Christian Aid, children’s ministry
- Protect, care for and renew life on our planet – Fairtrade, offerings for international disaster funds and overseas aid, The Guild; and The Boys’ Brigade.

It’s clear to see that Currie Kirk is integral to our community as a Kirk on its own as well as being part of our proposed Water of Leith and Canal District which will build on our existing working together with Juniper Green in sharing the school chaplaincy and our shared Family Outreach worker, Heather.

If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch with one of our Cluster Team below who will then form the questions in readiness for the visit from a facilitator. Questions could be based on:

- fundamental, strategic or general issues with or improvements to the proposed Mission Plan;
- comments and suggestions relating to particular Parishes or Congregations, unions and/or Mission Districts;
- inaccuracies or errors in the proposed Mission Plan or further context that the Deployment Sub Group would find useful and relevant.

**Note: OUR QUESTIONS NEED TO BE SENT TO EDINBURGH PRESBYTERY BY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022**  
**PLEASE SEND YOUR POINT TO KIRK OFFICE BEFORE 12 MARCH**

Fiona Pigott, Viola MacPhail, Krys Hume  
 Currie Kirk Representatives on Water of Leith Cluster Group  
 Currie Kirk Office currie\_kirk@btconnect.com  
 Gibson Craig Halls

Your Question or Comment
Name (this will not be published)
Email address (this will not be published)
Contact phone number (optional)

## Church Notices

6	March	Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie
13	March	Heriot-Watt Founder's Day Service
20	March	Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie
27	March	Rev Dr Easter Smart
27	March	All Age Service @ 4 pm, Gibson Craig Halls

All age service  
Gibson Craig Hall  
4-5pm last Sunday of every month from  
27th February 2022

Join us for a more informal time of  
worship. This service will include  
opportunities to engage in a more  
creative and interactive way. No matter  
your age or stage, everyone is welcome!



## Kirk News

Dear Distributors, The Session wishes to keep members informed of developments and hope that you are able to distribute this magazine monthly at present.

The April issue of Kirk News will be available on Sunday 3 April for distribution





## The Guild

On Tuesday 15th February the Guild hosted the AGM of Edinburgh Guilds Together with an attendance of approximately 70 people. The guest speaker was Julia Wiley who is the Presbytery Moderator for the new joint Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery. She showed us her accoutrements of office—a ring and her new stole which is embroidered with the flames of Pentecost to symbolise new beginnings. Her talk focused on keeping up some traditions of the past but also being prepared to look to the future. After the business of the day had been concluded we enjoyed an afternoon tea prepared by the Guild—not up to our usual home baking standards but very good nonetheless.

As we move into our March our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st March at 10am when our guest speaker will be talking about “The Friends of Saughton Park”. This will be followed on Tuesday 15th March by our annual Daffodil Tea. Tickets are now on sale for £3 and can be purchased at the next Guild meeting or any Sunday after worship. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. As usual there will be daffodils on sale and we are hoping to have a raffle and a tombola. Again we may not be able to supply home baking.

Please support us as all monies raised go to our project “Home for Good”.  
If you require any further information, please contact me on 466-3472 or email [elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk)

Louise Lamont          Guild President



**DAFFODIL TEA**

**In aid of the Guild project  
Home for Good  
on  
Tuesday 15 March 2022  
from 2 pm—4 pm  
in the Gibson Craig Hall**

**Admission £3.00**

**Daffodils on sale**



## Heriot-Watt University Annual Chaplaincy Lecture - 14 March 2022

The Reverend Dr Alistair Donald, Chaplain of Heriot-Watt University, invites you to attend the Heriot-Watt University Chaplaincy Annual Public Lecture.

Following last year's online Annual Chaplaincy Lecture, we are pleased to invite you to this year's lecture on Monday, 14 March at 7.30pm, which you can attend either in person or online.

The lecture on THE POETRY AND MUSIC OF SCIENCE will be given by Tom McLeish FRS—  
[<https://www.york.ac.uk/physics/people/mcleish>],  
Professor of Natural Philosophy in the Department of Physics at the University of York.

We are delighted that Professor McLeish has agreed to join us as part of Heriot-Watt University's continuing bicentenary celebrations, marking the 200th anniversary of its founding in Scotland. Its roots can be traced back to 1821 when the world's first institute for the education of mechanics was founded as the School of Arts of Edinburgh, to give access to education in science and technology.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

To attend in person, please register via Eventbrite by Thursday 10 March  
The Poetry & Music of Science (Heriot-Watt University Chaplaincy) IN PERSON Tickets, Mon 14 Mar 2022  
at 19:30 | Eventbrite

Date and time  
Mon, 14 March 2022  
19:30 – 21:00 GMT

James Watt Centre, Heriot Watt University

# March Flower List



## March 2022

- 6 Flower Fund Donation
- 13 Mrs S Ramsay
- 20 Mrs M Douglas
- 27 Flower Fund Donation



The flowers are enjoyed and appreciated by so many. If you are attending Church on any given Sunday can you let me know if you are able to deliver flowers after the service. Thank you.

Should anyone wish information regarding donations to the Flower Fund please contact Margaret Matheson: [m.matheson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:m.matheson@blueyonder.co.uk); or telephone 075190 45866



## 65th Edinburgh (Currie) Company

(Registered Charity No. SCO34640)

After a very difficult two years it is great to get all Sections of the Company meeting back in the Gibson Craig Halls.

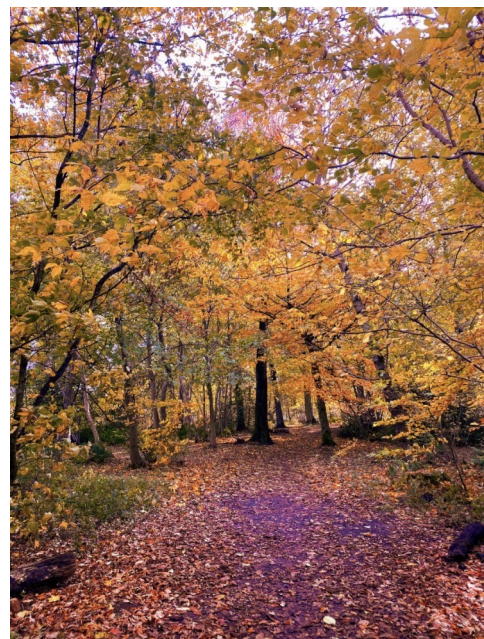
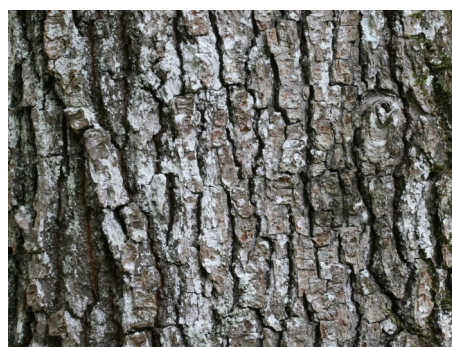
While many Companies have struggled to keep meeting, the staff of the three Sections have been proactive in keeping the boys involved with Zoom meetings, meetings in local parks and using the Currie Community Centre.

Anchors and Junior Sections have attended the light show at the Zoo in December 2020 and the theatre the following year. Bird feeding and flower growing packs have also been delivered to homes when meeting up was not allowed.

The Company Section, among other things, took part in a photography class with the assistance of professional photographer and lecturer Peter Tuffy. Some of the pictures taken by the boys are included below.

Hopefully, as restrictions continue to ease we will see numbers improve.

Bill Brown,  
Captain





# WHO'S WHO



NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL CONTACT/TIMES	TELEPHONE NO
Minister	Rev Dr Easter Smart		451 5141
Currie Kirk Church Office (Scottish Charity No. SC001554)	Gibson Craig Halls, Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5NY Email currie_kirk@btconnect.com	Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am— 12.30 pm	451 5141
Joint Session Clerks	Louise Lamont Isobel Webber	elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk Isobelwebber@btinternet.com	466-3472 451 5112
Treasurer	Eddie Pigott Email: pigottsef@icloud.com	pigottsef@icloud.com	466 1459
Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer	Eunice Stewart	eunicestewart48@gmail.com	
Data Protection Officer	Vanessa Martins	<a href="mailto:vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com">vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com</a>	
Weddings/Funeral Officer	Sandy Harper		451 5141
Organist	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Gibson Craig Halls bookings	Contact Office		451 5141
Gibson Craig Halls Caretaker	Vacant		
Hospital Transport Coordinator	Vacant		
Kirk Flowers	Margaret Matheson	m.matheson@blueyonder.co.uk	
Life and Work	Shona Moyes	shona.moyes@btopenworld.com	
Magazine Distributor	Jean Dick		451 5141
Boys' Brigade Captain	Bill Brown      Anchors Juniors Company/Seniors	Thursday 6.00-7.00 pm Thursday 7.00-8.30 pm Friday & Sunday 6.30-8.30	449 4905 07878377897
Banner Group	Janet Robertson	Tuesday	
Care Van	Fiona Pigott	Once a month	
Pastoral Visitors	Gordon Clephane	Gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk	449 2313
Currie Kirk Singers	Gordon Cranford	Various	
Guild	Louise Lamont	Tuesday/elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk	466 3472
Family Worker	Heather Merriman—Email: familyworker_jvp@outlook.com		
Walking Group	Moira McDonald	Third Sunday of each month	



## 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. Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**