

## Sunday 10 October 2021—Guild Rededication Service



It is with great sadness that we have to intimate the deaths of

Anne Grant, ex 35 Bryce Crescent before moving to Dunfermline in 1981. Anne's husband the late Alistair Grant was Session Clerk in the 70's. Anne's funeral will be held in Currie Kirk, date and time to be confirmed.

John Lindsay, 19 Corslet Road died on 20 October aged 97 years. John's funeral will be held at Mortonhall Crematorium on Wednesday 20 October at 2.30 pm.

### Call to Worship

A tiny jewel of light  
Dances on the edge of the horizon:  
A solitary star before sunrise  
Glimmers a promise of dawn  
At the end of the world's blight  
It is the light of the World.  
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us  
The light and life to all  
His light always shines in the darkness  
And the darkness shall not overcome it  
O God, lift the light of your countenance upon us  
And be gracious unto us  
Let us worship our Lord and Light

## Opening Prayer—Margaret Ullathorn

O God our Father, we come to give thanks for all your goodness to us. For the world of nature, the loveliness in forest and field, mountain and dale, sea and stream to cheer our hearts.

Help us to trust always in your goodness that, walking in faith with you, we may possess quietness and contentment of mind, and cast our worries into your care.

We thank you for the opportunity to be part of this great movement that is the Church Guild.

For the fellowship and the ability, through our Projects, to do your work both at home and abroad.

Forgive us the wrongs we do and the good we have left undone.

Make us generous in our thoughts of others, quick to praise and slow to condemn and help us to live as followers of Jesus.

May we know your healing power and grace, your spirit of comfort and your spirit of hope.

We pray together now in the words Jesus taught his disciples:

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

## Guild Update—Louise Lamont



First let me say how wonderful it is to be with so many of you in our beautiful church to celebrate our rededication.

The past 18 months have been hard on all of us, but it takes more than a pandemic to stop the Guild. We continued *via* Zoom which caused much hilarity at times, but gave us a way of sharing time together.

Ladies, you have been marvellous in jumping in at the deep end with unknown technology. We continued to fundraise through it all.

We are now into a new session and have had three meetings so far in GCH all of which have been really well attended. Even with CofS regulations we have managed to have a chat, share refreshments and listen to some great speakers. Our project this session is “Home for Good” which is concerned with finding foster homes for children. You will learn more about it later in the service.

There will be a slimmed down Coffee Morning on Saturday 23rd October. No home baking, I’m afraid, and numbers restricted. More information will be sent out about that at a later date.

So thank you all for being here and enjoy the rest of the service.

## The Scriptures—read by Mary Thomson

### Genesis 1: 1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light.

God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

### Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

### Luke 11:33-36

'No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.

Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness.

See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness.

Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.'

## Sermon



We do not have to be experts in science to recognise that light is a necessity of life. Almost every life form of life on our planet needs the light of our Sun to survive. The Sun, at the centre of the solar system is about 93 million miles away and every plant, every animal and each human being is dependent upon it's light for life and warmth.

Since the beginning of human time, those with any religious sensitivity have acknowledged a dependence upon light. In primitive religions it was believed that the Sun was a God. In the northern provinces, because the daylight hours became shorter when temperatures fell to freezing in winter, people believed that the heavens must be displeased.

And so, it is not too difficult to draw direct parallels between light with its blessings of goodness, and growth with darkness and its curse of coldness, cruelty and the realms of fear and death.

When I was in Aberdeen, working at the University, we held an inter-faith event every November on National Inter-faith Day. Usually, we picked one theme upon which each faith could present something meaningful from their own faith perspective. We chose different themes like 'Charity', or 'feasting and fasting', 'teaching and learning' each year. The year we chose the theme of light, we recognised how much our need for light resonates with all of us, and connected us together across our different faiths.

And so, it is with our faith as Christians. From the ancient Jewish faith through to Christ's teachings, we are called to seek the direction of life-giving light.

Walking in the 'Light of the Lord' is a recurring theme in the Old Testament. When God said, 'Let there be Light' God enabled creation to begin, and the creation of life began. And so we read in scripture that God enabled Noah to walk in the light of God's ways and God's love, as also did Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and so many of the prophets like Amos, Elijah and Ezekiel . . . these descendants of each and every generation followed a faith that was in accord with and drew them towards the light of the Lord.

This is why scripture is sometimes described as a "lamp unto our feet." When we lose our way in life or feel lost about a situation—the sacred wisdom of the ancient passages and through prayer, we can often find our way ahead. This is no small thing in our world of fake news and social media. How much we need to find truth under our true freedom in the wisdom of our forefathers and foremothers, their teachings, their hard lived yet faithful and prayerful lives which are testimony to the light.

John Bright, a great biblical scholar, wrote, "We can look to the people of the Bible as reflections of ourselves, and since human nature has not really changed over the centuries, we can feel an affinity with so many Biblical personalities, to experience God's message in our own lives—both in the Old and New Testaments."

Recently the Guild hosted a speaker named Canon Mike Parker who is a great supporter of the Bible Society. He reminded us all that a Church without the Bible at the centre is like having an expensive car without a Motor in it to run. The Bible is our teaching, the source of our faith and our identity as followers of Jesus.

There are many modern-day stories of saints who have drawn humanity to the light. People who have overcome great difficulties and fought great wars against injustices.

When we talk about life and light, there is an urgency within our generation that affects everyone. It was heartening to know that faith leaders from every different and diverse faith met recently in Rome to explain that there should be no strife between faith and science. These two things do not contradict when it comes to facing up to real global problems that require partnership, cooperation and work of scientists, politicians as well as people of faith who care about humanity and creation. Faith leaders are all working to do their bit towards saving our planet, saving life, and stemming the end of catastrophic climate change. Scientists, politicians, and faith leaders can come together on this. It is an area where the youth, the young are the champions of the cause, calling our world to seek light and to be accountable.

When the light is shining upon us, our actions are metaphorically visible. The light reveals what people try to keep in the dark—the corruption, the deception. And so, in this way Divine light elevates us to be released from dark behaviours, or untruths.

Our need for light to live and our need for light to survive is so important. The greenhouse effect, pollution, genocide, dictatorships. Corruption, prejudice . . . the list seems to go on. But we as people of faith need not despair. The light of the Lord enables us to keep our vision clear. Together we can uphold a vision for a better world. A world where children are protected and cared for, educated and safe. A vision of global peace and justice. A vision of human dignity and human rights. This vision cannot ever be allowed to become blurred by powers of darkness.

I read through the Guild themes for this year, and one other thought came to light. Helen Eckford, Guild Vice Convenor reminds us that each one of us has the God-given ability to shine a light. We each have gifts, some inherited, others learned, and we have talents and personalities, and we are all unique but each of us is called to shine light in the world and not to hide our gifts. Because God has confidence in us and even when there are periods of darkness from time to time in life, we are invited to walk with Jesus through the future with the lamp of God's word undergirding our path and with the Light of the World illuminating every step of the way.

## **REDEDICATION OF THE GUILD**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve.  
To give and not to count the cost  
To fight and not to heed the wounds.  
To toil and not to seek for rest.  
To labour and not to ask for any reward  
Save that knowing that we do Your Will. Amen

### **Liturgy for the Dedication of the Bench for Pat Murray Prayer**

Lord of heaven and earth,  
Every good and perfect gift comes from you  
By the power of your Spirit  
All things are sanctified, enlightened,  
and made perfect by your love and power.  
We ask you to bless us and all good gifts  
Cause your face to shine upon us  
So that in dedicating this beautiful memorial seat  
We may show forth the honour of your Name. Amen

### **Words of Dedication**

On behalf of this congregation and in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ  
We dedicate the Memorial Seat to the Glory of God  
And in memory of his beloved servant Pat Murray  
Who gave much to this community, to the Guild and our Choirs  
To be dedicated for this community and set apart for the benefit of all people and this Holy Place.  
We ask you to receive this gift and to comfort all who remember Pat  
And all whom we have loved and lost from the Guild and this Congregation

## **Congregational Response**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him all creatures hear below  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving—Louise Lamont**

Heavenly Father,

Our precious time with you is nearing a close and we thank you for assisting us in putting together this special service. We ask your blessing on the Guild as we start a new session of meetings and opportunities to raise funds for “Home for Good”. Enfold your arms around all the children who are living in difficult circumstances, those that have been abandoned or abused. Let them know that there are many people willing to help them and to find them warm, safe, loving homes.

We pray for all Guild members both here in Currie and world-wide particularly those who are in pain or are suffering loss. As a Guild we are here to help and give them comfort. Just pick up the phone and we are there. Our thoughts turn to Allan as we dedicate his beautiful bench in memory of Pat. I’m sure many of us will be grateful for a seat with you beside us as we remember Pat and others we have lost.

In the wider community we pray for those in Currie who will benefit from the monies raised last weekend at the National Giving Day.

World-wide we are aware that the pandemic is still with us. Assist our scientists and others on the front line who are working hard to ensure that we can all be made safe and able to resume as normal a life as possible. Our thoughts and prayers go to those in war torn parts of our world and those who are suffering after natural disasters. May your shining light lead rescue teams to the areas which are most in need. Keep them safe as they struggle to keep others safe.

Finally let us remember those who are dearest to us and that we carry in our hearts. In a moment’s silence we turn our minds to them.

We in the Guild remember our motto “Whose we are and Whom we serve” as we offer up these prayers in the name of our Lord and Saviour, your beloved son, Jesus Christ

Amen

## **Blessing**

May the Creator of Light, the Light of the World, the bright flames of the Spirit  
Illumine your path and dispel any darkness  
That you may go forth bathed in the light and love of Christ.

Amen

Please get in touch with Gordon if you are able to help with transporting those who require a help to get to Church.

It would be greatly appreciated.

## 2021 Shoebox Appeal.

We are going ahead with our annual Shoebox project which brings joy to many in need at Christmas throughout Eastern Europe. Similar to last year, if you do not have a box then a shoe bag can be used (12" by 15"). If you'd like a leaflet there are some outside the office, some in the Gibson Craig Halls, contact Nina in the office or any member of MOF—Heather Merriman, Viola MacPhail, Christine Wilson, June Deuchars, John Macaulay, Hamish Leal, Catherine Clephane, or Shona Moyes.

The essential items are toothbrush and toothpaste, underwear, soap, sweets, toy/gift, scarf, hat and gloves. Other items can be added to complete the box/bag depending on who you choose to complete the gifts for.

Please remember to wrap the lid and the box separately to allow Customs to make any necessary checks. The deadline for handing these boxes in is **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October**. Please contact any of the above people if you are unable to hand in to the office.

Thanks, Fiona Pigott

## Fresh Start

We are collecting items once again:

Dishes and Cutlery  
Tea towels and cleaning materials.  
Pots, pans and utensils  
Curtains, bed linen and Towels



**No duvets , cups and saucers or bric-a-brac please.**

I can pick items up from your home or you can take them to the Gibson Craig .

Please contact Christine Wilson 538 2567  
or Nina 451 5141 to arrange.

## NO BOOKING REQUIRED FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

### LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU ON SUNDAY

Current regulations require:

- ◆ face masks must still be worn.
- ◆ worship still requires that we stick to the one-metre social distance rule.
- ◆ There will be sanitizing stations.

## URGENT

**The Kirk is urgently in need of CLEANERS. Can you join the rota? Please give it your urgent attention. The more cleaners that volunteer the less onerous the task.**

**The Kirk is also having a deep clean by professionals which should make the work-load lighter.**



**All equipment is provided.**

**Please get in touch with Agnes on 449 5822  
if you are able to “lend a hand”**



## SUNDAY SERMON SHEETS

Please note that as from Sunday 17 October the Sermon Sheets will no longer be produced.

The Service will be available on YouTube.

If you are unable to access YouTube please contact Nina who will arrange for a CD disc to be delivered.  
If you require a CD player the church will provide one—contact Gordon or Nina.

## Kirk Contacts

Minister: Rev Dr Easter Smart—Tel: 449 4719 email: [esmart@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:esmart@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Family worker: Heather Merriman email: [Familyworker\\_JVP@outlook.com](mailto:Familyworker_JVP@outlook.com)

Pastoral Coordinator: Gordon Clephane—449 2313

Nina at the Kirk Office—451 5141

email [currie\\_kirk@btconnect.com](mailto:currie_kirk@btconnect.com) if you need anything.

Website: [//www.curriekirk.org/](http://www.curriekirk.org/) or [//www.facebook.com/CurrieKirk/](https://www.facebook.com/CurrieKirk/)

All sermons from Currie Kirk can be found on the Kirk's website and on YouTube—search Currie Kirk