

CURRIE KIRK

PARISH PROFILE



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Edinburgh Currie Kirk (Church of Scotland) Charity No. SC001554

OUR HISTORY IN BRIEF

“We love the attractive old building in a country setting, the fellowship and friendliness of the members”



Currie Kirk is an attractive “A” listed building in what historically was the village of Currie but is now essentially a commuter suburb of Edinburgh. We can trace the Kirk’s origins back to the 12th century though the present building is just over 200 years old.

Currie Kirk is the Parish Church serving an ecclesiastic parish of 7,800 people. There is also a Roman Catholic Church and a Baptist Church in Currie. Heriot-Watt

University lies within the Parish bounds and it has its own chaplain for the 7,000 students on campus.

ABOUT OUR LOCAL AREA

Currie is a distinct community, situated in a rural area, six miles south west of Edinburgh City Centre. It has close links with the other nearby ‘villages’ of Juniper Green and Balerno, especially with their respective Church of Scotland parishes.

The majority of Currie’s working residents commute to Edinburgh. The community is well served by a wide range of local amenities, including two Primary Schools and a Community High School. There are also a number of playgroups and private nurseries for pre-school children, and the local Pentlands Health Centre provides a range of ancillary treatments as well as GP services.



The 2011 Census records that there are 2540 households in Currie with around 50% of the population in the young/mature adult workers category. The Census also showed that 40% of the parish have no religion with a further 6% not stated. Further information about our Parish can be found on the Church of Scotland website.

The available evidence suggests that the age profile of our congregation gives a higher percentage in the 65+ category compared to the Parish. This creates a challenge for us in working with those under age 45 in the development of outreach programmes attractive to this constituency within our Parish.

As a church we also need to keep abreast of progress in terms of approval, or otherwise, of the Murray Estates plan for the Gogar, Gogarbank and Riccarton areas which involves the development of 4,000 housing units with a completion rate 200–300 units/per annum possibly beginning in 2015 and scheduled for completion in 2032. Much of the proposed area for development falls within the Currie parish and would represent a serious, but exciting challenge on how to be church to this new community.

WORSHIP

In worship our aim is to share the good news of God's love, revealed through the ministry of Jesus Christ, vibrantly present in the Spirit.



The main service of worship takes place on a Sunday at 10am with an average attendance of around 120. The format is one hour in length with a mix of hymns ancient and modern. While the format is quite traditional, the content is less so with interaction, reflection, responses, and a relaxed atmosphere. Children are usually present for the first part of the service before going to Kidz@Currie (Sunday School) and Creche. There is a

large rota of readers from the congregation, and a Worship Team of 7 who contribute weekly and take the whole service in the minister's absence.

Worship also takes place in other formats – monthly at Messy Church, the summer Holiday Club and during occasional groups such as Lenten Study, and jointly with other local Church of Scotland congregations and the Roman Catholic Church during Holy Week.

There are special services throughout the year including the rededication of both the Guild and Boys' Brigade.



Communion is celebrated monthly; 4 times a year as part of the main service and for the other 8 months as an informal communion following worship.

A monthly Prayer Tree Service also takes place for prayer for healing and intercession. Members help to lead this service.

Music is mainly played on the organ, but also on the piano as appropriate. There is a Festival Choir who sing at Christmas, Harvest and Easter.

An annual Blue Service is held during the Christmas season for the bereaved and those who find Christmas difficult. Christmas Eve is celebrated with a Pyjama Service (bring your own teddy) and a Watchnight Service.

The Church hosts the annual Town and Gown Service for Heriot-Watt University when the University Chancellor, members of the University Court and students join the congregation for a Ceremonial Service of re-dedication in the Kirk.

There is also an annual Kirkin' of the local Community Council.

AREAS OF MINISTRY



SCHOOLS' CHAPLAINCY

The Minister is chaplain to the two local primary schools, Woodlands Special School and also a member of the team of Chaplains serving the Currie Community High School.

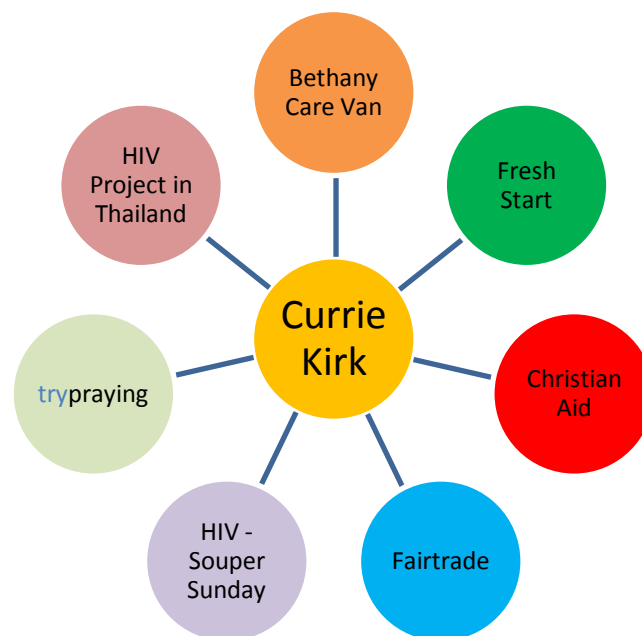
ENGAGING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY

Outreach to the local community is an important part of our Church life, enabling us to engage with many people who have no other contact with the Church. The Gibson Craig Halls, owned by the Church, are centrally situated and are heavily used by many community based groups. The complex comprises the church office, a main hall with a fully functioning stage and under-stage storage, a smaller hall, a lounge, a small office and a well-equipped kitchen.



We also rent Kirk House, a three-roomed cottage with kitchen and toilet facilities, situated next to Currie Kirk. It is used currently for refreshments after worship in the Church, church meetings and is sub-let to community groups or for private functions.

ENGAGING WITH WIDER WORLD



MINIBUS



A separate Charity, the Currie Kirk Minibus is frequently used by Church organisations and certain designated charities.

ADMINISTRATION

- Governed by the Unitary Constitution with committees covering, worship and education, pastoral care, mission and outreach, hospitality, asset management and communication;
- Employ one part-time Church Secretary, working 10 hours per week, organist, part-time church cleaner, part-time halls' caretaker, part-time halls' cleaner.

SOME STATISTICS

	Numbers
• Members on Communion Roll as at 19th August 2014	573
• Kirk Session (20 men, 20 women)	40
• Guild	60
• Prayer Covenant	34
• CD Ministry	15
• Boys' Brigade	54
• Kidz@Currie (Sunday School)	10
• Teen Café	15
• Messy Church	40

FINANCE

- Annual contribution to Church of Scotland for Ministries and Mission in 2014 amounts to £93,557; (2015 figure £93,172);
- Offering income in 2013 amounted to £156,522, including Gift Aid. A further £20,888 was generated from other sources, mainly from letting the Gibson Craig Halls;
- The General Fund balance at 31st December 2013 was £57,227; and
- We are taking part in the National Stewardship Programme and in 2015 the emphasis will be on money.

KIRK REDEVELOPMENT

The Quinquennial Property Report of 2008 highlighted a number of issues which detracted from the sense of wellbeing in the Church buildings (excluding the Gibson Craig Halls). We engaged a firm of Architects to work with us in the development of a plan to address these issues and work commenced on 16th September 2014 on a £210,000, inclusive of VAT, project to:

- comply fully with the spirit of the Disability Discrimination Act (wheelchair access/toilet facilities accessible to wheelchair users and creation of a wheelchair area within the sanctuary);
- install an audio visual system;
- improve the heating/lighting throughout the buildings;
- create kitchen/pantry facilities which would enable greater flexibility in the use of the Session House; and
- extend the Link Building northwards creating a spacious, flexible area for fellowship.



Finance is provided through £137K from local funds, grants of £10K and £2K from the Central Fabric Fund and the Presbytery of Edinburgh Fabric Loan Trust respectively, with the balance in the form of a loan from the General Trustees drawn down as and when required.

Following completion of the redevelopment, Kirk House will be used solely by Kidz@Currie with refreshments after worship served in the Session Room and extended Link Building.

The whole ethos underpinning the redevelopment is to create a welcoming and user-friendly environment, used to advantage for the church and the community.

MANSE



- Situated at 43 Lanark Road West, some three-quarters of a mile from the Church;
- Well-appointed traditional stone-built house, approximately 100 years old, with an adjacent garage and an attractive garden to the rear, leading to the wooded edge of the Water of Leith;
- Downstairs, comprises two public rooms, bedroom, study (sometimes called garden room), kitchen, utility room and toilet; upstairs, three bedrooms and a bathroom;
- Fully double-glazed, with gas central heating;
- In excellent condition with a rolling redecoration programme in place.

We will liaise with the new minister on any additional refurbishment required prior to his/her induction.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT – WHERE WE ARE GOING

Currie Kirk seeks to be an outward looking community of faith, centred on worship, growing spiritually and living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ to build up God's Kingdom in Currie and the wider world. This is a real challenge, and our Local Church Review undertaken in the autumn of 2013 helped us identify a number of priority areas including:

- Worship – Traditional worship appears unattractive to the missing generations of 20 – 40 year olds and a menu of worship might be more fruitful;
- Pastoral Care – The effectiveness of replacing elders' districts with a Pastoral Team may have led to communication issues and a blurring of the role of the elder. (Review now underway.)

- Leadership - Developing leadership is a challenge, one which we need to find solutions for in order to continue our current work as well as looking to develop that for the future.

Our Local Church Review documents are to be found on our website curriekirk.org.

OUR NEW MINISTER

We are prayerfully seeking a minister who will:

- Inspire us with their preaching;
- Nurture our faith;
- Be open to developing a menu of worship;
- Personally provide strong, enabling, inclusive leadership while at the same time developing leadership from within our own membership;
- Help us develop new approaches in reaching out to the under age 45 in our parish; and
- Have a passionate vision of how the future could be, and can enthuse and encourage people to grasp that vision.

This is an exciting and challenging appointment for someone with vision, energy and a sense of humour. We look forward to working with our new minister in responding to the many challenges and opportunities for the future outlined in our recent Local Church Review.

CONTACTS

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