

THE KIRK NEWS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026



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Calendar Overview—February/March 2026

February

- 1 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am—Town & Gown Service—Heriot Watt**
- 8 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—followed by a Prayer Tree Service**
- 15 Joint Worship with Balerno in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am—Grant Gordon**
- 22 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—Rev Roy Henderson with short communion.**

March

- 1 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—Rev Roy Henderson**
- 8 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—followed by a Prayer Tree Service—Rev Roy Henderson**
- 15 Joint Worship in Balerno Parish Church at 9.30 am—Rev Roy Henderson**
- 22 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—Rev Roy Henderson**
- 29 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—Rev Roy Henderson**

‘Strategy Group’

Currie Kirk and Balerno Parish Church are looking for volunteers from the Eldership and the Membership for the ‘Strategy Group’. A group that will develop, support and progress the union of both Churches in the months ahead.

The Remit for this group will include:

- ◆ Completing the Basis of Union document.
- ◆ Supporting the Joint Workings of existing Committees and Groups
- ◆ Employment Contracts
- ◆ Church Magazines
- ◆ Church Websites

For further information please contact the Rev Roy Henderson
email: rhenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Lenten Studies

Lenten Studies will take place in the Session Room of Currie Kirk at 3.00—4.00 pm on the following dates:

22 February; 1 March; 8 March; 15 March and 22 March

WhatsApp—we have created a Currie Kirk WhatsApp group where we can quickly send out information on Services and any changes. If you’d like to be part of this please send your mobile number to the office (admin@curriekirk.co.uk), or Fiona Pigott (fpigott19@gmail.com).



Highly Strung



In the comedy film 'The Odd Couple' starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, one of the characters remarks that the other 'you are so tense, even your hair is clenched,' or words to that effect. Well, as a nervous singer and performer I was very touched by the warm reception to 'Mary's Son'. A highly strung guitarist and singer indeed!

This wee song was written a few years ago for a Christmastide service at Pollokshaws Methodist Church on New Year's Day 2023. It is my attempt at a Christmas-themed song in a folk style that would be at home in a church or a folk- club. It is based freely on St. Matthew's nativity story.

The song is set to the tune 'O Waly Waly' known to many as 'The Water is Wide' as sung by The Seekers in 1964.

Mary's Son

*Were heaven's God
to walk this earth,
who'd mark the day,
what kind of birth?
With those born high,
with those we miss?
God with us, Mary's son.*

*Some search the skies,
some follow stars,
some think that power
is godliness,
until we meet
our infant kin:
the human one, Mary's son.*

*A little child
born one of us,
skin and bone
mortal flesh,
who lived our life*

*and leads the way:
Wisdom's child, Mary's son.
Infant Lord
lowly born,
found by the wise,
sought by the cruel,
whose parents fled
so warned in dreams:
a refugee, Mary's son.*

*His world like ours
both sweet and sour,
injured by hate
embraced in love,
where tears must fall
as justice waits:
from crib through cross, Sunday's child.*



Now we are on the way between Christmas and Easter, from crib to cross and beyond.

Interim Minister, Rev Roy Henderson—contact details:

Landline Tel: 0131 449 3830

Mobile Tel : 07961 736061

E-mail: RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk



Currie Kirk Guild



The Guild's Christmas party on 16 December was a joyful occasion. Good food from Mackenzies followed by entertainment from our very own Kirk Singers and a few glasses of bubbly made this a very special afternoon.



It is hard to believe that we are now into the second half of our programme. Looking forward in February to Roy Johnstone speaking on "Life in Scotland in the Good Old Days" followed by Sue Caton speaking on "The Life of Eric Liddle". Sue being one of Eric's descendants. Into March and Jackie Grant speaking on "Golden Threads", followed by Olivia Begbie giving a talk on "St Margaret's Chapel". On Saturday 21 March we have our very popular Daffodil Tea from 2-4 pm. Thanks for your support for our coffee morning and Daffodil Tea in 2025 we have been able to donate £1,200 to Crossreach.

Dates for your Diary

February 2026

- 3 Life in Scotland in the Good Old Days—Speaker: Roy Johnston at 10 am
- 17 The Life of Eric Liddle—Speaker: Sue Caton at 2 pm

March 2026

- 3 Golden Threads—Speaker: Jackie Grant at 10 am
- 17 St Margaret's Chapel—Speaker: Olivia Begbie at 2 pm
- 21 Daffodil Tea—Time: 2-4 pm



65th Edinburgh Company—The Boys' Brigade

The 65th is well into the new session with all Sections active. The Company Section attended the annual Christmas meal at Cosmos with Boys from across the Battalion. Our final night of the year was an outing to the Ten Pin Bowling at Chesser. The Anchors and Juniors also finished the year with a night at the ten pin bowling. The Boys had a fantastic time and the staff received lots of great feedback from the parents.

The Company entered the National Chess and Table Tennis competitions again. In the Table Tennis the Boys cruised through the early rounds with victories against West Lothian companies. In the 3rd round we were drawn against the 1st Overtown. This would be a revenge match of sorts. Our challenge came to an end at Overtown last year. Unfortunately one of the Boys took ill in the car park at the Gibson Craig so we travelled with just two boys who won all their matches so we won the tie 6-3. However the rules state that you must have three players so Overtown claimed the match by default. In our 3rd round Chess tie we were drawn against Strathaven BB again at home. After two very easy ties in the earlier rounds we were fairly confident. The Strathaven Boys however proved to be very good also and after a fantastic and very close match they triumphed 5-3 with one match drawn. Well done and the best of luck going forward. All the very best to all in the 65th for 2026.

**Anchors & Junior Sections—meet every Thursday—6—7.30 pm
Company Section meet every Friday—7.00—8.30 pm; and Sunday 6.30—8.30 pm**

Bill Brown
Captain

Mission, Outreach and Fellowship

Messy Church—28 November

A number of families joined us for Messy Church based on the theme of Wings.



Christine Wilson had the vision of an afternoon linked to Mission Aviation Fellowship. The children made wings out of recycled materials, then we spent some time discovering wings of all sorts—the angels carrying the Christmas message, wings on planes, animals, and much more. We sent £160 to Mission Aviation Fellowship.



Christmas Fayre—6 December

A great time was had by everyone who came along to the Christmas Fayre. The back hall was filled with many children enjoying all the various crafts and games. Thanks to everyone who helped out in the Tinsel Tearoom (Guide Hut!) and to Santa who made sure he had every child's list in time for Christmas Day!

Stockings for schools!

With a bit of help from a number of knitters, we packaged over 750 stockings with a sweetie for every child in the Currie Primary schools.

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long

Currie Kirk singers entertained at our Sing-a-Long Carol Service on 21 December. Those who came along enjoyed the singing followed by drinks and Mince Pies. Special thanks to Tesco who kindly donated the mince pies.



Christmas Eve services.

We had a small change this year in that we held a shorter service on Christmas Eve for families which included our Nativity. Thanks to all the children (young and old!) who dressed up and joined in the service.



Donations from this service and the Watchnight Service raised £261.84 for Bethany Christian Trust.

Going forward we plan to hold another Messy Church, Pop-Up Coffee Stop! and games afternoons. If you're interested please check out our Facebook page, and our website, www.curriekirk.org.

Fiona Pigott

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Congregation of Currie Kirk. With your generous gift of food support endowment, we hosted a special meal for our patients on 17 January 2026. (The day of the dedication of the New Church Hall in your Church). Our staff and patients conducted special prayers for your congregation. On behalf of the patients at our Leprosarium, we thank you once again for your loving kindness.

Haebus S Vethabothagam,
Medical Superintendent.



Currie Kirk Guild

Daffodil Tea

Saturday 21 March 2026

2pm—4pm

Gibson Craig Halls



Tickets £5—Tea/Coffee Home Baking

Daffodils will be on sale

Book Stall, Tombola



Proceeds to Guild Project



Saturday 7 March's Fairtrade Morning in Balerno, 10 am to 12 noon—St Joseph's Hall

There will be Fairtrade stalls, an exhibition of children's artwork from the recent Balerno Schools Fairtrade-themed art competition, at 11 am and a presentation of their prizes. The ever-popular Fairtrade Banana Smoothie Bike.

Children's activities are planned.

Hospital Transport

Do you have appointments at the hospital and are struggling to get there? Did you know we have a Hospital Transport Coordinator who can help you and organise transport for you. Please get in touch with Liz Potter (07769 684029)



Kirk Walking Group



We meet on 3rd Sunday of each month, walking approx 4 miles. Looking for some new members. We generally do local walks but in better weather go further afield either in cars or buses.

Check the Order of Service for walks. Please get in touch with Moira if you wish further information. Mob: 07853 228751



PALM Dementia café

The PALM cafe is held on the last Tuesday of the month from 3.00-4.30pm in the St Joseph's Centre, Balerno. The cafe serves the communities of Currie, Balerno and Juniper Green providing a space for people with dementia and their carers to meet others for support and social contact.

For more information please contact Clare Dow on palmcafebalerno@gmail.com



Soulmates

This is a monthly reflective Prayer Group. We meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Lounge at the Gibson Craig Halls from 2.00—3.00pm.

ALL WELCOME

In the last edition of the Kirk News it was stated that a fuller tribute would be published for Sandy Harper. However, Sandy's son has sent this poem written by Sandy as it is very apt for this time of year.

Decisions

Oh morning dear how cold you are
As you greet me now with fog and haar
The frosty paths and shimmering trees
A certain sign of morning freeze

The wind blows with its icy chill
Scattering the leaves on the windowsill
While early travellers hurry past
All wrapped up for winter's blast.

Dark and oppressive is the sky
Scowling down on passers-by
It really is so dark and grey
There is no chance of sun today.

I stand at the window half awake
Wondering what action, I should take
Should I go to work or stay indoors
And tackle some outstanding chores?

Some snowflakes soon begin to fall
Coming to rest on the garden wall
My mind made up I shook my head
And headed back upstairs to bed.



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 £5.00.

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 046014 or just call in.

Come and
join us for:



'Apple Messy Church!'

Friday 27th February, 2—4pm

Gibson Craig Halls, Currie.

All Welcome!

(Balerno Linked with Currie Kirk)



Plant



Nurture



Grow

2025 Hogmanay Charity Ceilidh—Thanks

DIABETES UK I am delighted to report that the 2025 Hogmanay Charity Ceilidh in the Gibson Craig raised the wonderful sum of £1,150 in aid of Diabetes Research. Such tremendous local support for a very worthy cause is much appreciated.

Many thanks to all those who attended the Ceilidh, donated money and raffle prizes and to Hall Keeper, Terry Maloney who helped to set up and clear away after a night of great fun and dancing at the Hall. We couldn't run such a successful Ceilidh without the lively and energising music from Iain MacPhail and his Band!

I have requested that Diabetes UK ensure that the funds raised be used in Scotland in memory of Fionna MacPhail, Iain's niece, who passed away aged only 44 from diabetic problems.

My own heartfelt thanks go to one of the hardest-working duos in Currie—Mick and Linda Crowe who were ably assisted this year by a new recruit to my team of helpers, Patricia Wilson from North Berwick. They smilingly never halted all evening, whether selling raffle tickets, making tea and coffee, serving food, washing up, sweeping up and ensuring that practically all of the rubbish was recycled thus helping to save the planet too!

With thanks for all the kindness and support. Best wishes to everyone for 2026!

Viola MacPhail
07806 806920



One Bar Rest

One Bar Rest, (Balerno Church Singers) ably led by John Burnside completed the year with a Carol Concert in the Grey Horse in Balerno. The concert was attended by over 70 and all proceeds went to CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young). The guys returned to the Grey Horse for their 'AGM' the following week. The sharp eyed among you may recognise a Currie member among the group and also a slight contradiction in terms as the sign above states "NO RIFF RAFF". A great finish to the year and best wishes for a swift recovery to missing member George Burt currently in hospital.

Bill Brown

Mission Aviation Fellowship



We have received a letter from MAF as follows.

"We are grateful for a gift of £160 from Currie Kirk following completion of an Advent Messy Church and a Christmas Fayre.

Your support allows us to bring the Gospel to many people. This year for the first time, the remote town of Dekai in Papua received the Bible in their own language.

You've helped to provide fuel to fly supplies to isolated communities like a school in Northern Uganda that allows 850 children to receive education and a daily meal. When 3 yr old Neema was ravaged by a hyena, MAF was quick to respond with medical aid and transport to hospital for vital treatment.

Thanks to all who bought raffle tickets and donated to Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Christine and Martin Wilson

Transport Fund

Do you have difficulty getting to church due to mobility issues or lack of transport? Then the transport fund is for you. All that is required is a receipt from the driver which you can hand to any Elder on duty and the money will be refunded. For journeys home from church just bring the receipt the following week or whenever you are next in church. You can also use it if you have difficulty getting to and from the Guild or any church organised events. Church postcode is EH14 6AL.



Fresh Start is in need of small electrical items such as lamps, irons, hairdryers, toasters, as well as the usual household linens including tea towels, cleaning materials, cloths and toiletries. Their Web site has the full list of items included in their starter packs. Freshstartweb.org.uk

Only spotlessly clean duvets are acceptable and please do not include ornaments or beer and wine glasses. Thank you for your ongoing support for this important cause, both by donating goods or monetary gifts.

Christine Wilson

Family News

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

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 30 November 2025 | Mrs Kathleen (Brenda) Thomson, Currie |
| 10 December 2025 | Mr Donald Murray, Currie |
| 15 December 2025 | Mrs Evelyn Andrews, Lorimer Nursing Home |



Please pray for the families.

Florence Kinnear—1931-2025

Florence has played the organ in Juniper Green since the early 60s when it was known as St Andrews, before becoming Juniper Green Parish and now Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church. Many will remember the Joint Valley Services which were held in Juniper Green. Florence's funeral took place on Monday 19 January 2026, the service being led by Rev Dr Rita Welsh.



Prayers



A very important part of our church life is prayer. We have a Prayer Covenant group who regularly pray for others who are in a situation where prayers can be helpful. If you, or someone you know, would like prayed for please pass their name to the office (email prayer@curriekirk.co.uk) in strict confidence and this will be passed on to the Prayer group. It is important that you seek permission from the person first.

Flower List—February & March 2026

February

- 1 Mr A Forsyth
The Macdonald Family
- 8 Mr A Forsyth
- 15 Mr and Mrs Collins
- 22 Mr A Forsyth



March

- 1 In memory of Mary Skinner
- 8 Mrs S Ramsay
Mrs M Falconer
- 15 Service in Balerno
- 22 Mrs M Douglas
Mrs M Fraser
- 29 Flower Fund

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 admin@curriekirk.co.uk

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

Details are available on the website—curriekirk.org

| | Contact name | Tel/email | Day |
|--|----------------|--|---|
| Balanced Life (Steady Steps) | By referral | | Monday 11.45 am—1.15 pm |
| Balerno Bridge Club | Anne Lovett | 07999 528524 | Monday 1.30—4.30 pm |
| Currie and District Local History Society | Douglas Lowe | douglaslowe51@btinternet.com | Monday 7.30—9 pm twice monthly, October to March. |
| Currie Community Council | | curriecouncil@gmail.com | 2nd Wed of the month 7.30— 9 pm, except July & December. |
| Currie Creatives (Music) | Shona Moyes | 07752 459203 | Tuesday 6.30—8.30 pm. |
| Parent and Toddler Group | Euan Reid | euanigreid@gmail.com | Friday 9.30 am—11.30 am (term time only). |
| Octagon Club | Claire Maloney | 07999 410721 | Wednesday 7.00—9.00 pm, September to June. |
| Pentland Ladies Probus | Marion Wallace | wmkwallace@aol.com | 4th Tuesday of month, 10am—12, from Sept to May. |
| Pilates | Ellen Foster | 07983 863143 | Saturday 9.30 - 10.30am |
| Zumba Exercise Class | Tom Lowe | tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk | Thursday 10.15 —11.15 am. |



CD Ministry

Are you sitting reading this Kirk News and would like to listen to our Sunday Service? We record each Sunday's service and deliver them to anyone who'd like to receive a copy. If this is you, please contact the office on (0131) 451 5141 or email admin@curriekirk.co.uk

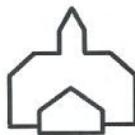


Donations for "Community for Food" can be dropped off at the Gibson Craig Halls, Kirk Office throughout the year.

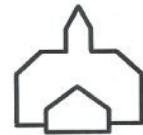
Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday—9.30—12.30

Coffee and Conversation

Currie Library every Friday from 11 am



WHO'S WHO



| NAME | CONTACT | EMAIL CONTACT/TIMES | TELEPHONE NO |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Interim Minister South and East Region | Rev Roy J M Henderson 3 Johnsburn Road, Balerno, EH14 7DN | RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk | 0131 449 3830 07961 736061 |
| Currie Kirk Church Office (Scottish Charity No. SC001554) | Gibson Craig Halls, Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5NY Email: Admin@curriekirk.co.uk | Wednesday 9.30 am—12.30 pm Thursday 9.30 am—12.30 pm Saturday 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 07702 784186 |
| Treasurer | Eddie Pigott | pigottsef@icloud.com | 07891 613360 |
| Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer | Eunice Stewart | eunicestewart48@gmail.com | 449 6832 |
| Data Protection Officer | Vanessa Martins | vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com | |
| Weddings/Funerals | Contact Church Office | Admin@curriekirk.co.uk | 451 5141 |
| Organist | Michael Wilson | Admin@curriekirk.co.uk | 451 5141 |
| Mission & Outreach Coordinator | Fiona Pigott | fpigott19@gmail.com | 07874-282480 |
| Gibson Craig Halls Bookings | Viola MacPhail | gibsoncraigbooking@gmail.com | 07806 806920 |
| Hospital Transport Coordinator | Liz Potter | lizpotter66@virginmedia.com | 07769 684029 |
| Kirk Flowers | Isobel Webber | isobelwebber@btinternet.com | 07702 784186 |
| Magazine Distributor | Currie Kirk Office | Admin@curriekirk.co.uk | 451 5141 |
| Boys' Brigade Captain | Bill Brown Anchors/Juniors Company/Seniors | Thursday 6.00-7.30 pm Friday 7.00—8.30 pm Sunday 6.30-8.30 pm | 449 4905 07878377897 |
| Fresh Start | Christine Wilson | | 538 2567 |
| Pastoral Visitors | Contact church office | | 451 5141 |
| Currie Kirk Singers | Gordon Cranford | Various | 07572 861123 |
| Guild | Isobel Webber | 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. | 07702 784186 |
| Walking Group | Moira McDonald | Third Sunday of each month. | 07853 228751 |

The Kirk News



 can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/Kirknews>.
 Articles for the April issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com by Friday 22 March 2026

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

