

THE KIRK NEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2025



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Calendar Overview

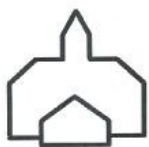
(Please note the new times of the Services)

July

- 6** **Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am**
- 13** **Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am followed by a Prayer Tree Service**
- 20** **Joint Worship in Balerno Parish Church at 9.30 am**
- 27** **Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am followed by Informal Communion**

August

- 3** **Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am**
- 10** **Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am followed by a Prayer Tree Service**
- 17** **Joint Worship with Balerno—Currie Kirk at 11.15 am**
- 24** **Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am**
- 31** **Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am followed by Informal Communion.**



Come and Join us.



Coffee Stop!

Every Saturday until the end of September

Currie Kirk

2-4 pm



Coffee/Tea/Delicious Home Baking

Great place to meet friends and make new ones



On Thursday 19th June 2025, there was a Service of Linkage for the Congregations of Balerno and Currie and the Introduction of Rev Roy Henderson as Interim Minister. We welcomed visitors to the service from Pollockshaws Church, Glasgow, where Roy has moved from.

Roy will be with us for the next eighteen months to two years to work with Balerno Parish Church and Currie Kirk to form a Union.

The name of the linkage will be known as

Balerno linked with Currie.

We will both continue with our own Kirk Sessions and Finances and will share joint worship once a month. Details of all the services are on Page 2—an easy format to cut out and keep handy. Until the end of August, and apart from the joint services, the service in Balerno Parish Church will be at 9.30am and Currie Kirk at 11.15am. Rev Roy Henderson will lead both services.

A message from Roy—“This is a time of change and new beginnings for us all. I am getting to know people and places in Currie and Balerno. You are adjusting to life as a linked charge. We have much to do together. As I catch my breath after moving from Glasgow, I want to say thanks to all who have given me such a warm welcome, and are introducing me to my new surroundings. We have interesting, challenging, and exciting times ahead. Let’s take things ‘one day at a time’ and see where the Good Lord is leading us.”

Roy is now living in the Balerno Manse, his details are as follows:

Landline Tel: 0131 449 3830

Mobile Tel : 07961 736061

E-mail: RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

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), Fiona Pigott (fpigott19@gmail.com).

So long, farewell.....

Dear Friends,

It is often said that time flies when you are enjoying yourself and I can certainly testify to that, as I have loved every moment of my time at you. I can barely believe that it has been ten months since I arrived at Currie Kirk for the first time, with an equal amount of excitement and trepidation, but from the moment I stepped through the doors I was welcomed by all of you and made to feel so at home.

It has been a real joy being your locum minister and being involved in the life of Currie Kirk. I have been privileged to enjoy fellowship with you leading worship each week, and the more intimate prayer tree services, as well as quiet conversations and pastoral visits or group discussions during the Advent and Lenten Bible studies. Some services will stand out for me as being particularly special, ordaining and admitting elders to Currie Kirk Session, presenting long service certificates marking the dedication of some of our elders and, of course, a triple baptism.

Just as memorable in different ways have been some of the less formal events, such as Messy Church. It has been wonderful to have the help and support of so many of you to make these successful. I don't think I shall forget the look on the children's faces at Easter when I cracked an egg on the head of our BB Captain! (it was of course empty - symbolising the empty tomb) or the wonderful sound of 90 school children in the Church during the Easter workshop, or the spectacle of all the families together, watching the dancing reindeer at our Christingle service. A most sincere and heartfelt thank you goes to you all, for being such willing, enthusiastic and creative volunteers.

As I come to the end of my time with you, I must thank you all for your kind words and encouragement, for your willingness to try new hymns, and also for your patience when perhaps my passion has tended to let me get carried away and my prayers and sermons have been longer than intended! Thank you too for such a fantastic send-off following my final service and to all those who attended, I was delighted and humbled to see so many of you. A most sincere thank you from the bottom of my heart for your good wishes and your gifts, I was very touched by your kindness and by your generosity.

As we, the church, face a period of change it can seem a little daunting, wondering what the future will hold for us and so I offer a verse from scripture which has always sustained me.

In Jeremiah 29:11 we read "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

Here we are encouraged to put our trust in God and look to the future and the wonderful opportunity that lies ahead, as you go forward linked with Balerno and with Roy Henderson as your Interim Minister, on your shared journey towards union.

There has been a wonderful feeling of community and unity during our recent joint services and other ventures, gatherings which allowed us to share fellowship and also helped us to see that we share more things in common than perhaps we realised and have paved the way for a strong and harmonious union of God's people.

As I take my leave, I do not say goodbye, but I wish all of you, that I have come to consider as friends, a very fond farewell. I look forward to the day when our paths cross again, when once more I may join with all of you in fellowship.

Wishing you every blessing for the future.

Susan



Susan and Anne on Sunday 15th June.



Friday 6th June 2025



Lots of children having fun, celebrating Pentecost.

Thanks to Rev Susan Galloway for organising Messy Church over the past year.





The Currie Kirk Guild



The Guild's Summer Outing this year took place on Thursday 15 May. The sun was shining and it was a wonderful day. Leaving the Gibson Craig at 10 am with a great driver from Hunter's of Loanhead—who also gave us a tour guide experience! Our first stop was at Caulders Garden Centre in Cupar where we enjoyed coffee/tea and home made scones and a good bit of retail therapy. Travelling onwards to Anstruther via St Andrews and another history lesson from our driver which was a surprise to many the breadth of his knowledge to those who were not fully aware of some of the historical buildings in St Andrews. Arriving at Anstruther and keeping away from the harbour (it was very windy) but cross the road and it was like the Mediterranean. We spent an hour looking round the little shops and some indulging in ice cream before making our way to our final stop at Pettycur Bay for our meal. This photo was taken at Pettycur Bay with great views over the Forth.

Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal

To make a shoebox easier to complete, we're looking for donations each month:

July—Men's toiletries

August—Socks (all ages)

September—domestic candles, small toys

October—Sweets (not chocolate)



Please leave in the box in the reception area of the Kirk or hand in to the Kirk office.

Hours of opening: Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 9.30–12.30.

Thank you for your continued support. MOF Committee

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)

CD Ministry



to

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 receive a copy. If this is you, please contact the office on (0131) 451 5141 or email admin@curriekirk.co.uk

Prayers

A
a



very important part of our church life is prayer. Bill Wood describes it as having chat with God, anytime and anywhere. 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.

65th Edinburgh Company—The Boys' Brigade

The BB Session ended on the 29th May when the Boys of the 65th—Anchors and Juniors entertained parents and friends with some games and crafts. They were assisted in their efforts by the Boys of the Company Section. The evening ended with the presentation of awards and prizes followed by tea and coffee.



Dylan Wylie received a number of well deserved awards and was promoted to the Company Section. Rory McGill (pictured left) was presented with his President's Badge and will hopefully go on to his King's Badge.

Anchors and Juniors enjoying a day at the Zoo.

The Company starts back in September for all Sections.
Anchors—Boys in P2-3; Juniors—Boys in P4-6;
Company Section P7—Seniors.



All Sections meet in the Gibson Craig Hall
Anchors and Juniors—Thursday 6.00-7.30 and Company Friday 7-8.30. For more information check out the website or telephone Bill Brown on 07878 377897.

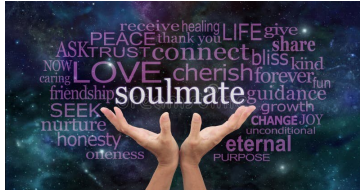


PALM Dementia café

The PALM cafe is held on the last Tuesday of the month (except July) 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



A big thank you for your kind donations of household items, linens and money.

You have helped to provide 18,000 starter packs, 350 vital white goods, 200 derelict rooms have been transformed into habitable spaces and 280 local households have access to fresh food.

Your support is much appreciated.

Christine Wilson



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

Office Hours: Tuesday, Friday & Saturday—9.30—12.30

Family News

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

3 May
23 May

Graeme McGowan, Currie
Judith McColl, Currie



Please pray for the families.

GRANT GORDON'S TRIBUTE TO JUDITH MCCOLL AT HER FUNERAL SERVICE ON 17th JUNE 2025

It is my honour and privilege to pay tribute to my friend of fifty years or more, Judith McColl, this very special person, a fine and thoroughly decent woman, a woman of dedicated principal, of undoubted honesty and supreme integrity, a gentlewoman in every respect of the word. While today we grieve the loss of a true friend, we also celebrate the life of a woman who over the years established a vast wealth of sustaining friendships in her work, in her Church and in the community. In one way or another, we all leave our mark on places and on people, so it's important that the impressions we leave behind are good ones. It would be nice to think that people would remember us for our kindness, our helpfulness and for our acts of love. All of these qualities epitomise Judith McColl.

While each of us will have our own special memories of Judith I think she will be best remembered for her loyalty to her God who she served with unstinting commitment and dedication in Currie Kirk, the Church she joined when she came to live in Currie all those years ago. Currie Kirk was her spiritual home, a place she loved, a place she cared for deeply, a place she cherished. She was spiritually strong with an impenetrable shield of faith; in short, she was an outstanding Churchwoman.

Judith's contribution to the life and work of Currie Kirk has been enormous; stretching back to her early involvement in Sunday School playing the piano there and ending with her oversight of the distribution of Bible Notes. In between she was a member of the Young Wives Group, prior to becoming a stalwart of the Guild. She was the first coordinator of the Currie Day Centre, having helped establish this outreach project as a joint venture between the Kirk and Social Care with whom she was the liaison person, and also the line manager of employees and volunteers. Judith was Clerk to the Congregational Board for many years during which time she dealt with all the correspondence related to the sale of the old Kirk Manse just across from this building and the purchase of a new one on Lanark Road West. She was ordained as an Elder in 1980, serving in this capacity until 2012 when due to failing health she became an Emeritus Elder. Judith had a deep sense of the place of prayer in our lives and was a member of the monthly Wednesday evening Prayer Group and a strong supporter of the Fig Tree Orchard, an ecumenical initiative involving local churches. She was also an active and inspirational member of one of the Kirk's House groups. What a life of service, and I feel I have only begun to scratch the surface, but I am in no doubt that Judith will have been responsible for bringing many people to faith in Currie.

Possessed of a sharp, analytical brain, Judith was a first class wordsmith. In her personal dealings she had a warm-hearted generosity of spirit and kindness. She always sought the goodness, the light, the Spirit in people, because, as she said, she was all too aware of her own frailties. Faith was at the centre of all that she did. She dearly wanted people to live a life of faith and to know God's love.

While I am blessed to have a huge treasure trove of happy and affectionate memories of Judith, there were times when she would frustrate me, none more so that on our shopping expeditions to the Tesco Supermarket in Oxgangs. Sadly, latterly illness meant she was unable to continue going out for shopping. But when fit, how she loved that store and would spend what seemed to me to be an inordinate amount of time going up and down the various isles pushing her trolley. I would have a coffee in the café and then check on Judith's progress, discovering that there were still seven more isles to go, so time for another coffee. Then as she approached the tills she might say to me "I couldn't find easy peel oranges, could you go and look for me?". I hadn't the heart to say "no".

Some of my most precious memories of Judith are of the regular visits to see her on Friday afternoons in the Western General Hospital. Because her stroke affected her speech, communication could be somewhat difficult but somehow we would manage. These visits developed into a pattern of a general chat, including

updating her on events in Currie Kirk, and then reading a Psalm from the 'Psalms Now' version, a present from Judith and her late husband Robin to Margaret and I on our Silver Wedding some thirty years ago. Judith would be totally focused on the reading, listening intensely, and then we would have a chat about what the Psalm was saying to us. The visit would always finish in prayer. Weak though she was Judith managed on one occasion to pray aloud. The last time we saw her, she held onto our hands as if she knew that this was indeed the final good-bye.

As I reflect on the life of Judith McColl, I am reminded of this little verse Robert Burns wrote in tribute to his friend, William Muir of Tarbolton Mill; it might well have been written for Judith. Apologies to the Bard for I have changed the language just a little:

An honest woman is now at rest
As e'er God with her image blest;
The friend of many, the friend of truth,
The friend of age and guide of youth;
Few hearts like her's with virtues warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so informed;
If there's another world, she lives in bliss,
If there is none, she made the best of this.



Now, Judith wouldn't have agreed with that last line for, as a Christian, she was unshakable in her belief that there is a God, and another world, and that that same God who kept her in her living, would be her pillow of peace in her dying and would be there to welcome her into His eternal presence.

There can be no finer way to sum up the life of Judith McColl than in words from the New Testament, crafted in the 4th chapter of 2 Timothy – "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

The torch Judith lit we now carry forward as others will also pass along ours, in the sure knowledge that the great gift of life flows ever onward. May the best that was in Judith be renewed in strength in us, and may we give to others the love we can no longer show Judith. For the lives we now lead are her honour, and her memorial. For Judith's family, may they know God's peace and for Judith, may she rest in peace and rise in glory.

"Adois amigo, adios our friend, the road we have travelled has come to an end."

July/August 2025 Flower List

July

- 6 Mrs E Patton
- 13 Mrs B Dow
- 20 Flower Fund
- 27 Mr A Forsyth



August

- 3 Flower Fund
- 10 Mr & Mrs R Barr
- 17 Flower Fund
- 24 Mrs W McLauchlan

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
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	Kate Pearson	kate.q.kate@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 10.30—11.30 am
Steady Steps	By referral		Thursday 9.30—11.00 am and 2.30—4.00 pm
Zumba Exercise Class	Tom Lowe	tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk	Thursday 10.15 —11.15 am.

Coffee and Conversation

Currie Library every Friday from 11 am



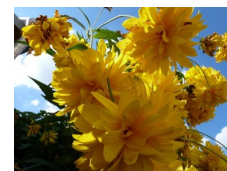
Transport Fund



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.



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	Tuesday 9.30 am—12.30 pm Friday 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
Life and Work	Shona Moyes	shona.moyes@btopenworld.com	
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	Moir 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 September issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to Fiona Pigott (Sub Editor) —fpigott19@gmail.com by Friday 22 August 2025.



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