

THE KIRK NEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2023



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Calendar Overview

Church Services in Currie Kirk

JULY

- 2 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Grant Gordon
- 9 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Fiona Tweedie
- 16 Currie Kirk at 10.30am—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 23 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 30 Currie Kirk at 10 30 am—Communion with Rev Dr Easter Smart

Please note there will be No Sunday afternoon or reflective services during July and August

AUGUST

- 6 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 13 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am with Prayer Tree service—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 20 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 27 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am followed by informal communion— Rev Dr Easter Smart

Please note there will be No Sunday afternoon or reflective services during July and August

Other Dates for your Diary

JULY

- 1 Coffee Stop! - 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk
- 8 Coffee Stop! - 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk
- 15 Coffee Stop! - 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk
- 22 Coffee Stop! - 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk
- 24—28 'The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show' Holiday Club, 10—12.30 daily, Heriot-Watt
See Heather's article on Page 4.
- 29 Coffee Stop! - 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk

AUGUST

- 5 Wedding in the Kirk—No Coffee Stop!
- 12 Coffee Stop! - 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk
- 19 Coffee Stop! - 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk
- 26 Coffee Stop! - 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Guild restarts. See article on Page 5



Celebrating Family—A letter from the Manse

Allan Murray, Bryce Eunson, David Foggo, Ernest Smart.

Families can come in all shapes and sizes. During the Pandemic, we all learned not to take family for granted, whether living or departed, younger or older, round the corner or further away. Davina McCall hosts a current TV show in which long lost relatives are found, and after years of separation, the family reunions are very poignant. I felt very blessed to have enjoyed my own dear Dad here in Currie on Father's Day, and he even took the sermon in Currie for the occasion!

While some families are related by blood, there are others who make us feel like family- people to whom we know we belong, people who care for us or who have taught us, shaped us or adopted us. This is certainly true of our church family.

I know that whenever my dad, or my wonderful mother visited Currie, they were always assured of the warm welcome in our Kirk family friendship. So, Thank You!

The very idea of a family comes from God and is one of God's greatest gifts to our lives. Throughout the Hebrew Bible, the genealogies of families are listed, sometimes all the way back to Abraham. St Paul wrote, *"I kneel before the father from whom every family in heaven and earth takes its name."* (Ephesians 3:15)

And, as you know, our church family is expanding, as we grow our friendship with neighbouring Balerno Parish Church. On Sunday 25th June, we enjoyed a lovely summer worship followed by a BBQ on the lawn outside. The weather was kind, the singing was great, the food from Mark McGill was sumptuous, and the fellowship was very real.

As we approach the quieter months of summer, I hope you have time to rest and enjoy time celebrating your friends and loved ones.

With every blessing, Easter

Presbytery Plan — A very brief update (for more detail please check on our website—curriekirk.org)

The Presbytery Plan was approved on 25 April, and that means that the programme towards a Union between Currie and Balerno has moved to a new stage. So we know it will happen, even if we don't know quite when. First of all, neither Currie Kirk nor Balerno Parish Church are at imminent risk of closure. But we will have to up our game quite a bit since Presbytery are now looking at Currie and Balerno together as a Union. In addition Presbytery will come back to us in April 2024 and ask how our joint Mission Planning has fared in its first year, which dates from the approval of the Presbytery Plan. This means the congregations of Currie and Balerno have to agree what our aims and objectives will be as a Union. We also need to change and adapt not only to each other but also to what people will want in the future. To start this process off, the two Kirk Sessions have separately been looking at current aspirations in terms of Mission whilst Kirk representatives have also been holding joint discussions on the delivery of the Church's message, searching for imaginative ways of serving our communities together which will form the basis of a Joint Mission Plan.

Need someone to talk to? Vestry Hour

Easter will be holding a Vestry Hour every Friday from 10 am to 11am in her office which is situated in the Gibson Craig Halls.

Please feel free to drop in to see her or you can make an appointment by phoning the Kirk Office.

Heather's Ministry

May Madness!

On Tuesday 2nd May we welcomed 38 children to Juniper Green Church Hall for May Madness. That in itself was an incredible number, especially as a week beforehand we only had 15 signed up to come! There was a last minute scramble to find extra helpers and a few changes to the programme to ensure everyone would have the best experience possible. Among those 38 we had 10 children who had never been to one of our clubs or events before. They very quickly settled in and felt part of the ever growing group of children who return time after time. Our theme for the morning was kingship and we looked at the story of King Josiah from the Bible. Josiah became king at age 8, grew up seeking God and bringing about reform to the nation of Judah, who had long since turned their backs on God. We thought about how we can only discover the truth and treasure of the Bible when we pick it up and read it. We too can experience God's mercy through Jesus, and each of us are called to share God's word with others. We can make a difference for good in people's lives, just like Josiah did, when we choose to act with love and encouragement and focus on God's word.

Throughout the morning we had challenges, played games, made crafts and enjoyed each other's company. Each child and team member left smiling and I'm looking forward to our next club which is being planned for the summer. A huge thanks to the team who were amazing as usual. These events truly wouldn't be possible without them and I'm so grateful to and for them.

Recently I've heard of people being impacted by God's word through the smallest and shortest of interactions. While I do hope we see each of these children again, even if we don't I pray that what they heard and experienced of God that morning will remain deep in their hearts and minds for a long time to come. I pray that what they saw and heard will have sparked something inside of them that makes them want to find out more about our incredible God and seek to follow Him.

To finish a verse which happened to be verse of the day on the Bible app I use for the 2nd May: "O Lord, I will honour and praise your name, for you are my God. You do such wonderful things! You planned them long ago, and now you have accomplished them." Isaiah 25:1 A great reminder that we are a small part of God's much bigger plan to win people for Himself, and yet I'm humbled and grateful that God chooses to use us as part of His plan to reach out to those around us.



Holiday Club 2023

I'm delighted to be running our summer holiday club again this year from Monday 24th - Friday 28th July at Heriot Watt University. Our theme for this year is **The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show!** This resource has been produced by SU Scotland and is specifically designed for the outdoors. It tells of how the Bible is an epic unfolding story of God's boundless love for the world He has created. As His treasured people, He longs for relationship with us, for us to know He eternally loves us, and for us to live in response to His call on our lives. The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show will lead us on a journey through the big story of the Bible and has a garden show theme. It's for anyone in P1-P7, so if you know of anyone in that age group who would like to come then let them know about it!

We're still looking for more team members too so if you would like to know more about how you can be involved or what that might entail then simply get in touch with me.

Heather Merriman (familyworker_jvp@outlook.com)



The Guild

After a very successful outing to New Lanark in May, the Guild has been taking a summer break. However, the committee has been busy organising dates and speakers for the upcoming 2023/24 session and we are hoping to have an interesting programme of speakers.

We will restart on Tuesday 5th September at 10am in Gibson Craig Halls when we are expecting a speaker from our chosen project this session which is "Beat Eating Disorders". As usual we will be holding a Coffee Morning in October and a Daffodil Tea in March to fundraise for this worthy cause.

We are always looking for new members – both women and men – and they will be assured of an extremely warm welcome. Capitation Fees have had to rise to £15 this session, but new members do not have to pay for the first year. Meetings cost £3 per member including new members and visitors pay £4 per meeting. All meetings start with tea/coffee and biscuits with an opportunity to chat. Do consider joining us or just come along for one meeting to see how you feel about it.

For any further information, please phone me on 0131-466-3472 or email elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk
Meantime have a lovely summer and see you all in September.

Louise Lamont, Currie Kirk Guild President.



Enjoying the Guild Trip at New Lanark are
Isobel, Agnes and Allan.

New Chairs in the Gibson Craig Hall

Have you noticed the new chairs in the GCHall? These were made possible by a donation from the Kirk Minibus Fund when it folded.

We also received a donation for a Transport Fund—this is used for paying taxi fares to and from the Kirk on a Sunday and is open to applications for groups requiring to hire a bus. For more information please contact the Kirk office.





Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2023

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to Christian Aid—at the time of writing this we are able to send £486 to help farmers in Malawi. We still have some Gift Aid and late donations to add to this total. If you want to find out more about the work of Christian Aid please log on to their website – www.caweeek.org.

Fiona Pigott, Mission, Outreach and Fellowship committee.



From the Editor: As it's Summertime I hope you don't mind a little light-heartedness:

Why couldn't the pirate learn the alphabet?
Because he was always lost at C!



George Morrison saw an advert for a holiday:
—"Beach 5 minute walk from hotel"!!

Why was the broom late?
Because it overswept!



Coffee Stop! Open every Saturday apart from 5th August due to a Wedding in the Kirk.



Coffee Stop! reopened on Saturday 20th May and will be open until end of September 2023.

The café will be in Currie Kirk and will be open 2pm – 4pm with last orders at 3.30pm serving coffee, teas and cakes!
We look forward to welcoming old friends and new!

If you are able to help in any way (baking or serving) please contact
Fiona Pigott 07874-282480 (fpigott19@gmail.com)

65th Edinburgh Company

(Registered Charity No. SC034640)

On Friday, 2nd June, 2023 the 65th Edinburgh Company BB held their 60th Annual Display and Presentation of Awards at the Gibson Craig Hall in Currie. Honorary Captain Jim Webber inspected the boys and Mrs Isobel Webber presented the boys with their awards.



Whilst small in number, we have a happy and enthusiastic number of boys who have enjoyed a busy and successful year. The Anchor and Junior Sections have enjoyed a wide range of games and crafts with an emphasis on conservation. They also enjoyed a trip to the Crazy Golf at Chesser and joined other members of the Battalion at the pantomime at the Church Hill theatre.

A number of boys attended annual camp in North Wales during the Summer of 2022. During the session the boys enjoyed a varied programme of classes including another photographic masterclass delivered by Peter Tuffy. The Company entered National competitions in Badminton, Table Tennis and Master team with varying success. The boys also enjoyed an evening at the 10 pin bowling at Chesser and joined with other members of the Battalion at Cosmo Restaurant for a Christmas buffet.

The staff will now enjoy a well earned rest before planning the start of the new session which will very quickly involve the Junior and Company boys attending the September weekend at the Battalion Adventure Centre at Loch Tay, Perthshire.

Hopefully we will have many more members to join in the fun next session.

Bill Brown, Captain.

Kirk News

If you would like to donate towards the printing costs of the Kirk News please hand in or post your donation to the Church Office—marking on the envelope “Kirk News Donation”.

Thank you for your support.

Kirk Walking Group

Walkers meet after Church service or coffee. We meet on 3rd Sunday of the month and generally walk locally eg. Reservoirs, Water of Leith etc. When the weather improves we sometimes take the bus and go further afield or do car sharing, depending on where we are going. We take a picnic and flask to enjoy the countryside and the chat along the way.

Anyone interested in joining the group would be made most welcome. It's a very friendly group and I can guarantee you will go home with a good feeling and smile on your face. You don't need to come to every walk just whatever suits you.

Any enquiries please phone me or speak to me in Church.

Moira McDonald
07853 228751 or 0131 466 1115



General Assembly Updates

Life and Work has once again published a FREE four page General Assembly Special Supplement for 2023 summarising some of the key decisions, debates and speeches from the week. The full link:

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2023-special-supplement>

In addition to the supplement, a General Assembly report will feature in the July issue of Life and Work magazine. Anyone that is not a subscriber and interested in this particular issue can purchase a single print or digital copy from [www/lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org). The July issue is published on June 16 2023.

Now collecting china, cutlery, pots and pans. Bed linen—sheets, duvet covers, pillow cases etc.

NO duvets or pillows. NO furniture or bric-a-brac.

Donations may be handed into the Gibson Craig Hall. The office hours are published on page 12.

FreshStart
helping people make a home for themselves

An Update on Currie Community Council:

Hello, I'm Allister McKillop, the Chair of Currie Community Council, working alongside my esteemed colleague Allan Murray. Over the years, we have been fortunate to collaborate with numerous remarkable community groups and churches, collectively making a significant difference in our beloved village.

First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the exceptional work carried out by Currie Kirk. Its members have been a pillar of support for our community through thick and thin. Our annual Kirking of the flag, particularly with Easter, has solidified the close relationship between Currie Community Council and Currie Kirk, fostering mutual support and solidarity.

I am immensely proud of the accomplishments achieved during my tenure as Chair of Currie Community Council. Through our dedicated efforts, we have organised engaging fairs, provided support to local groups and charities, and advocated for improved infrastructure and safer streets. Notably, we have successfully secured funds to build an outdoor basketball court, introduced new rides to our play park, and played a vital role in saving our beloved High School.

Regrettably, over the past few years, several members have left, and our council faced the possibility of disbanding. However, I am delighted to share that thanks to a wave of new members, Currie Community Council has been revitalised! Community Councils serve as crucial conduits between the Edinburgh Council, elected members, police, schools, universities, and local groups. Knowledge is power, and our active membership, including Keith, Colin, and Kevin, are driving positive change!

However, our role as Currie Community Council is incomplete without your active participation. We are here to represent the community, but we rely on your input to address local issues effectively. We encourage you to share your concerns, suggestions, and ideas with us, allowing us to fulfil our responsibilities more effectively. YOUR COUNCIL, YOUR VOICE!

Contact us at curriecouncil@gmail.com, and rest assured, we respond to every email. Whether you believe we should investigate a matter further or involve the City of Edinburgh Council, we are here to act upon your concerns. Your voice matters, and together, we can shape a better future for our community.

Allister.

Balerno Church

INVITES YOU TO A CAFE
STYLE GATHERING



AT ST
JOSEPHS
HALL

SEPTEMBER 3 6:30 PM

ENJOY A LIGHT SUPPER AND A
SHORT TIME OF INFORMAL
REFLECTION AND FELLOWSHIP.

RSVP TO ANDRE 07588845814
FOR CATERING PURPOSES



What's On in Balerno Parish Church?

On Sunday 6th August (10am) the service will focus on the transfiguration of Jesus according to Matthew 17. 1–9.

“Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain where they see a vision of Jesus’ heavenly glory in the presence of Moses and Elijah, and they hear a voice that confirms Jesus’ identity as God’s Son. When we hear about the transfiguration of Jesus we may regret missing such an encounter. If only it would happen today! This week, we explore experiencing how close God does often come to us by being open to knowing He is near. And that this is something worth sharing!” (see Rootsontheweb.com)

Bathgate Brass Band Concert.

Save the date—Thursday 2nd Nov.
Gibson Craig Hall, Currie.
More details to follow.



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

	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.
EH Fitness Classes	Emma	emma@eh-fitness.co.uk 0771 333 5900	Monday 10.30—11.30 am. Monday 5.50—6.50 pm. Tuesday 6.45—7.15 pm. Thursday 12.15—12.45 pm. Friday 5.30—6.30 pm. Saturday 8.45—9.30 am.
Inna Pilates	Inna	07825 164927 inna@innafitness.com	Monday 9.30-10.15 am.
Nether Currie Baby and Toddler Group	Margaret Milton	07743 067588	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	Barbara Hannaford	0131 453 3012	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	DaleRoy@edinburghleisure.co.uk	Thursday 9.30—11.00 am.
Zumba Exercise Class	Tom Lowe	tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk	Thursday 10.15 —11.15 am.

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 Allan Murray on 07711 046014 or just call in.

Family News

Transfer In:

We welcome Mrs Norma Peacock, Currie, into our membership.

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



David Gilbert, Edinburgh
Professor Ian Donaldson, Balerno
Mrs Flora Grant, Edinburgh
Mrs Carole Ann Leishman, Currie

Mrs Mary Jamieson, Kirknewton
Mrs Rosemary Blaikie, Currie
George Weatherston, Currie

Flower Arrangers

Can you help—we are always looking for extra flower arrangers.

If you would like to join "The Team" it would be great to hear from you.

Please get in touch with Isobel or Fiona.

July/August Flower List

July

- 2 Mrs B Dow
- 9 Mrs E Patton
- 16 Flower fund donations
- 23 Flower fund donations
- 30 Mr A Forsyth



August

- 6 Flower fund donations
- 13 Mr & Mrs R Barr
- 20 Mrs M Barrie
Mrs W McLauchlan
Mrs R Milligan
- 27 Flower Fund donations

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 (currie_kirk@btconnect.com).



WHO'S WHO



NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL CONTACT/TIMES	TELEPHONE NO
Minister	Rev Dr Easter Smart	ESmart@churchofscotland.org.uk	449 4719
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	449 6832
Data Protection Officer	Vanessa Martins	vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com	
Weddings/Funerals	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Organist	Contact Church Office		451 5141
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	Jean Dick		451 5141
Boys' Brigade Captain	Bill Brown Anchors/Juniors	Thursday 6.00-7.30 pm	449 4905 07878377897
	Company/Seniors	Friday 7.00—8.30 pm	
		Sunday 6.30-8.30 pm	
Care Van	Fiona Pigott	Third Tuesday of the month	07874-282480
Fresh Start	Christine Wilson		538 2567
Pastoral Visitors			451 5141
Currie Kirk Singers	Gordon Cranford	Various	
Guild	Louise Lamont	Tuesday/elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk	466 3472
Family Worker	Heather Merriman	familyworker_jvp@outlook.com	
Walking Group	Moir McDonald	Third Sunday of each month	466 1115



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 September issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to fpigott19@gmail.com before or by Friday 25th August 2023**

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