

THE KIRK NEWS

OCTOBER/
NOVEMBER 2025



		In this Issue			
2	Calendar Overview;	6	Dementia Friendly Pentlands	9	Coffee Stop
2	Coffee Stop!	6	Soulmates	9	Benches
3	Rev Roy Henderson.	6	Prayer	10	Family News
4	The Guild	6	Messy Church	10	Blythswood Appeal
4	The Boys' Brigade	6	Fresh Start	10	Flower Fund
5	Harvest Lunch	7	Christmas Fayre	11	Community Activities
5	Session	7	MAF	11	CD Ministry
5	Kirk Walking Group	7	Mission & Outreach	11	Community for Food
5	Hospital Transport	8-9	The Arboretum	12	Who's Who

Calendar Overview

October

- 5 Harvest Thanksgiving Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am followed by soup lunch in GCH
- 12 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am followed by a Prayer Tree Service
- 19 Joint Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am
- 26 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am with Communion

November

- 2 Joint Service in Balerno Parish Church including full Communion
- 9 Remembrance Service in Currie Kirk at 10.30 am
- 16 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am
- 23 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am
- 30 First Sunday in Advent—Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am with Communion

THE GUILD

- 7 October—Holyrood Rangers Service at 10 am
- 21 October—Bridgend Farm at 2 pm—Speaker: John Knox
- 25 October—Guild Coffee Morning—GCH—10 am to 12 Noon
- 4 November—Scots Women Who Chose to Challenge at 10 am—Speaker: Jackie Sangster
- 18 November—Nature Closely Observed at 2 pm—Speaker: George Anderson

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

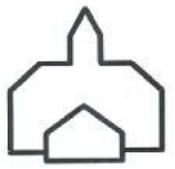
Anchors & Junior Sections—meet every Thursday—6—7.30 pm
Company Section meet every Friday—7.00—8.30 pm; and Sunday 6.30—8.30 pm

Other Dates for the Diary

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 9 | October | Soulmates—Gibson Craig Lounge—2.00—3.00 pm |
| 12 | October: | Jazz Party—St Joseph Hall 7.30—10.30 pm. Tickets £20 from Balerno Church office |
| 19 | October | Walking Group—see time and place in Order of Service |
| 24 | October | Games Afternoon—GCH—2—4 pm |
| 13 | November | Soulmates—Gibson Craig Lounge—2.00—3.00 pm |
| 16 | November | Walking Group—see time and place in Order of Service |
| 28 | November | Messy Church—GCH—2– 4 pm |



Balerno linked with Currie



Autumn is here

Autumn is here once more, the time of year when our thoughts turn to Harvest Thanksgiving, gratitude for those who work the land and the well-being of creation. These are times of Harvest services, lunches and donations for food banks. November is soon around the corner too, with the annual season of Remembrance when many will come together in to remember. Memorials in Currie, Balerno and across the country attest to the lives of those fallen in war and hold in stone the memories of the living. Autumn is here.

Since August, I've been hearing people say that the tell-tale signs of autumn came earlier than usual this year. Perhaps you too noticed how early the leaves turned from verdant summer greens to autumnal reds and browns? This struck me while looking out at the trees from my window and walking along the Waters of Leith.

According to the Met Office, we have been witnessing 'what experts call a 'false autumn', a phenomenon where the stress of extreme summer conditions prompts trees and plants to behave as if the season has changed, even though it is still late August."

- (1) At the time of writing, numerous news sources say that 'Climate-fuelled heat has caused thousands of excess deaths over the past three summers, which were the three hottest on record'.
- (2) Some of our hymns reflect a grateful sense of the orderly nature of creation and the rhythm of the seasons. These hymns express a confidence that everything is in its place. We might think of Cecil Frances Alexander's words in *"All things bright and beautiful"*:

*"The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one."*

Or, as another hymn echoing scripture, puts it:

*"While earth remains,
there will be seed time and harvest,
summer sun and winter moon,
the dead of nights the bright of day."*

On one hand we celebrate the order of nature. The good order that we depend upon for our life and well-being. The order of 'seed-time and harvest' and so on. On the other hand we observe that things are somehow 'out of order'—for example, an early or false autumn, and worse.

On one hand we have the homeliness of 'All things bright and beautiful'. On the other hand, the uneasy sense that something is somehow disordered.

During the October-November season of Harvest Thanksgiving and Remembrance we can sense both the order and beauty of the world and its disordered tragedy as well. How might we make some sense of this? Another hymn, this time by the writer Brian Wren, says:

*"Let all creation dance
in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance
unfolding space and time;
For nature's art
in glory grows
and newly shows
God's mind and heart"*

Wren imagines nature or creation as an unfolding dance, rather than fixing everything in its place. In an unfolding dance there may be missteps!

Be it climate change, war or conflict, we know that all is not bright and beautiful, yet as the Afro-American spiritual affirms, "he's got the whole world in his hands'. The late Walter Brueggemann described the creator God of Genesis chapters 1 and 2 as 'a God whose hands are in the dirt'. A God who is deeply and personally involved in the messiness of creation and must work with human fallenness. In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul paints a dynamic picture of creation crying out:

"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8)

In other words, a creation that is straining on a leash, champing at the bit for healing at the hands of a redeemed humanity. We humans fall short of what we could be and the results are often tragic. Along with creation, we long to be the redeemed, we yearn for the 'freedom of the glory of the children of God'. In other words for 'Kingdom come' as we say in the Lord's prayer. More than escape *from* the world, Christian hope is for the redemption and healing of all things. This may be a false autumn, but I trust ours is not a false hope.

Roy Henderson



The Currie Kirk Guild

Currie Kirk Guild held its first meeting for this session on Tuesday 2 September when our speaker was the Rev Moira McDonald from Corstorphine Old Parish Church. Moira became a Chaplain to the Queen in June 2022 just three months before Her Majesty's death. Moira was immediately involved in the Holyrood Garden Party that year and met some members of the Royal family.

Sadly the death of our Queen thrust Moira in to all the pomp and ceremony of the Queen's lying in state in St Giles and while this was interesting to be part of it was a very sad occasion. Moira proved to be a very natural speaker adding humour and interesting facts which we all enjoyed.

At our next meeting on 16 September we welcomed new members. Our speaker was Miriam Rani from Crossreach which is the Guild project this year. Miriam spoke about Crossreach's involvement with children and adults, all of whom have very different needs and some very specialised skills are required to care for them all.

Our coffee morning on 25 October from 10 am until 12 noon will help us to raise much needed funds for Crossreach. Tickets priced at £5 (children free) are available from committee members or the Kirk Office. Everyone is very welcome to come along.

Agnes Barr
Guild Committee Member

Coffee Morning Saturday 25 October 2025 Gibson Craig Hall—10 am—12 Noon in aid of

CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in



65th Edinburgh Company—The Boys' Brigade

All sections have now resumed with lots of fun for all. We have room for boys of all ages from P2 upwards.

Thursdays from 6.00pm—7.30pm at the Gibson Craig Hall is for P2-6.

Company for P7—S6/18 years meets on Sundays from 6.30—8.30pm at the same venue.

The Company also meets on Fridays from 7—8.30pm for a games night.

The Company has once again entered National competitions for chess and table tennis.

Bill Brown
Captain



**CURRIE KIRK
HARVEST SOUP LUNCH
SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER at 12.30pm
Gibson Craig Hall
Tickets £5
From the Kirk Office or Fiona**

**All proceeds in aid of British Red Cross
Gaza Crisis Appeal**

Kirk Session

“Services shall be conducted at times to be decided by the Minister and the Kirk Sessions of Balerno linked with Currie, subject to the approval of Presbytery”

- 1 status quo—remain as is—two services—one in Balerno at 9.30; and Currie at 11.15
- 2 One week in Currie and one week in Balerno
- 3 One month in Currie and one month in Balerno (except Easter, Remembrance and Christmas when it will be in our own churches)

Please give some thought to the above as we will be consulting about this in due course.

Session agreed that there is a need for Wi-Fi to be installed into the church and also upgrades to parts of the existing system. As a result of this discussions with AV installers are ongoing.

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



Walks will take place on 19 October and 16 November. Times and places for the walks will be intimated in the order of service prior to those dates.

Please get in touch with Moira if you wish further information.
Mob: 07853 228751



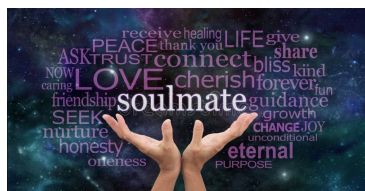
PALM Dementia café

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

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.



Messy Church—28 November—2.00-4.00 pm Gibson Craig Halls

Advent Messy Church is being held on Friday 28 November at Gibson Craig Halls between 2.00—4.00 pm.

There may be a visit from some straying reindeer who gate crashed the Christingle Service last year!!

Messy Church will be Currie & Balerno churches working together and will be available to children and their parents/carers from both villages.



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.co.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 good or monetary gifts.

Christine Wilson

**Christmas Fayre—Saturday 6 December—
Gibson Craig Halls—1.30—4 pm**

**FUN for all—Tinsel Tea Room—Craft
Stalls—Tombola, Raffle, Children's
Activities and Games**



Mission Aviation Fellowship



While on holiday this summer, Martin and I were intrigued to see a Cessna light plane displayed in the grounds of Dingwall Parish Church. Clearly an event was happening so we joined with other visitors to see what was going on. This was our first introduction to MAF—Mission Aviation Fellowship, a Christian aviation charity which was first introduced in 1945 with a purpose of operating light aircraft into very remote areas in the world.

IMAGINE No 999; No medical assistance; No medicine; and a three day walk to reach aid.

This is when MAF steps in—rather flies in—to help those remote communities, supplying humanitarian relief and delivering emergency personnel. Food, medicine and aid workers are transported to these remote areas as well as teachers and school supplies. This vital work has our Christian ethos at its heart, so ministry and bible distribution is also a vital element of its work.

Learn more about MAF in the back hall at the Christmas Fayre where there will be an opportunity to see a model, find out more about MAFs work and take part in a few competitions. Prizes awarded for the best paper aeroplane decoration, which plane will fly the farthest? And where in the world “x” marks the spot. Donations towards this worthy cause can be made at the MAF table in the back hall.

Christine and Martin Wilson.

Guild members will remember MAF gave a talk at the Guild a few years ago

Mission Outreach & Fellowship Team FUN day



A games afternoon was held in Gibson Craig Halls on Friday 5 September, 2-4pm for local primary school aged children. Twelve children plus parents/grandparents attended. All took part in a variety of games where lots of energy was expended. Juice/tea/coffee and biscuits were welcomed by everyone and the wee break gave adults a chance to chat.

A further FUN day will be held on Friday 24 October.

National Memorial Arboretum Staffordshire

All across the UK, Memorials both in churches and on town and village monuments contain the names of those Armed Forces personnel who gave their lives in the two World Wars. Armed Forces personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice since the end of World War 2, while certainly not forgotten, do not always find their way on to the same Memorials. The Memorial Boards in Currie Kirk are an exception and honour the names of three such losses.

W A Inglis, D Ross and S G McDonald.

The National Memorial Arboretum covers 150 acres and was opened in May 2001. Its main purpose is to honour and remember those from the Armed Services who have made the ultimate sacrifice since the end of WW2. The centre piece of the Arboretum is the Armed Forces Memorial.

Surprised, and shocked to learn that the Memorial contains the names of over 16,000 names of Service personnel who have given their lives post 1945.

Amongst these names are those with a Currie connection.



William A Inglis died in June 1957 in Germany as a result of an accident while on exercise. Prior to his National Service he had trained as a mechanic at Hope Scott Garage in Currie.



David Ross was born in Currie and was a member of the Royal Military Police. While serving in Northern Ireland he was murdered by the IRA in March 1984.

There is also a tree dedicated to the memory of David Ross within the park and a memorial to The Royal Military Police.



Sean G McDonald spent some of his early life in Currie and was for a while a member of the 65th Edinburgh (Currie) Company The Boys' Brigade. He was killed in February 2010 along with a colleague (Jonathan Moore) while serving with the Royal Regiment of Scotland in Afghanistan.

Sean McDonald's name also appears on the Bastion Memorial within the Arboretum.

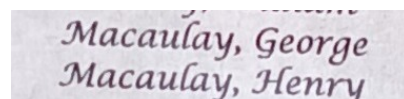
There are over 400 Memorials in the park and include those to the Emergency Services and other Civilian Organisations including The Boys' Brigade, the Scout Movement and many more. The National Police Memorial is in the park and, in a section called the Beat, there are small plaques to individual officers and police forces.

Although the National Arboretum Memorial is, in the main, to those who have lost their lives since WW2 there are a number of other memorials to various incidents and campaigns. There is a poignant Memorial to the children evacuated during WW2.

There is a memorial to the disastrous WWI Gallipoli campaign where the grandfather of our own Bill Wood lost his life.



While talking of disasters, there is a Memorial to the Quintinshill rail disaster. This happened on 22 May, 1915 near Gretna Green and remains the worst ever rail disaster in the UK and involved a troop train and another four trains resulting in the deaths of 215 soldiers and others. The soldiers were in the main from the territorial 1/7th Battalion Royal Scots from Leith heading for the aforementioned Gallipoli campaign. The soldiers are buried together in a communal grave in Rosebank Cemetery, Edinburgh. They include two relatives of our John Macaulay.

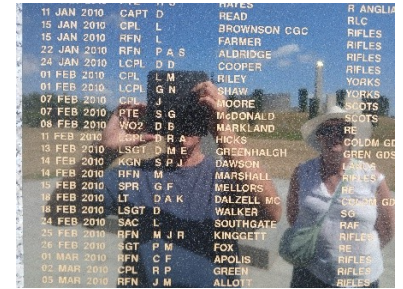


This is just a brief snapshot of what the Arboretum has to offer. It was a very moving visit. The staff, mostly volunteers, are very knowledgeable and extremely helpful both as you enter and as you make your way around the park. There is a trolley train with guide, that can take you around about 75% of the park if you aren't too mobile or don't fancy the walk. A Service of Remembrance takes place in the chapel at 11.00 hrs every day with a two minute silence. It is very moving especially if seated behind an elderly lady clutching a toy figure in her hands and quietly and gently weeping.

Confirmation of our visit shown in the picture from the Afghanistan Memorial with our figures reflected in the panels.

There is a pretty good restaurant for much needed sustenance and refreshments and also the obligatory gift shop with thankfully no 'tat'.

It is a visit that will live long in our memories.



Thanks to Bill Brown for this moving account of his and his wife's visit to the National Memorial Arboretum.



Coffee Stop!

Thanks to everyone who came along to the Coffee Stop! on a Saturday afternoon.

Our donation to the British Red Cross Gaza Crisis Appeal currently totals £1,721.40, including the retiral collection from our joint service (£794.00). This will be added to the total from our Harvest Lunch on Sunday 5th October.

The Kirk Benches

The five benches outside the Kirk have now been refurbished. Bill Brown has completed the renovation of the Benches with three to receive a coat of hardwood oil as final protection. The stain has a 10 year guarantee but Bill will remember to wash and reoil them all annually. Our thanks to Bill for his dedication to ensure that those who donated the benches in memory of their loved ones will live on.



Family News

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

29 June 2025 Mrs Margaret (Madge) Gray, Balerno

3 September 2025 Mrs May Henry, Balerno



Please pray for the families.



Peter and Elaine Roscoe made a welcome return to the Kirk where they were married on 17 July 1971. They returned to the Saturday Café on 19 July 2025.

Elaine and Peter met on a ward in the Royal Infirmary where she was the ward Sister and Peter was a junior doctor. This resulted in a little article in the Edinburgh Evening News under a heading "A doctor has married his sister".

Congratulations from all at Currie Kirk



Blythwood Christmas Shoebox Appeal

To make a shoebox easier to complete, we're looking for donations in October:

Ladies: underwear – pants and socks; deodorants;

Men's pants, gloves, shampoo, shaving foam and razors

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: Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 9.30–12.30.

Thank you for your continued support. MOF Committee

October/November 2025 Flower List

October

5 Mrs J Blair
Mr A Forsyth
Mrs S Ramsay
Mrs A Wood

12 Flower Fund Donations

19 Flower Fund Donations

26 Mrs M McDonald
Mrs J Smith
Mrs I Blyth
Mrs M Thomson

2 **November**
Service in Balerno

November

9 Mrs D Brown
The Crawford Family
Mrs V MacPhail
Mrs M Preston

16 Mrs J Dick

23 Mr & Mrs Goudie

30 Mrs D Collins



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 Thursday 9.30—11.00 am
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: Tuesday, Friday & Saturday—9.30—12.30

