

THE KIRK NEWS

OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 2026



In this Issue

2 Rev Roy Henderson
2 Soulmates
3 Calendar Overview
3 Steering Group
4 The Boys' Brigade
4 Poppies
4 Palm Dementia Cafe
4 Prayers
4 Hospital Transport
5 The Guild

6 Coffee Stop
6 Thank You to MOF
6 Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal
6 Christmas Stockings
6 Christmas Fayre
7 Currie Horticulture Society
7 Summer Intern Worker
7 Transport Fund
8 Memory Lane—Budapest
8 Fresh Start

8. The Walking Group
9 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
9 The Good Book Group
10 Family News
10 Harvest Thanksgiving
10 Flower Fund
11 Community Activities
11 Community for Food
11 CD Ministry



Balerno linked with Currie

A Message from Roy, our Interim Minister

“What’s in a name?”



What’s in a name? As a young lad, I was often a bit jealous of other peoples’ names. I rather liked Andrew or Andy, the name of a pal. There was one really cool guy who went by Mike. To me, Roy seemed altogether too short and a bit nondescript. It therefore came as a very pleasant surprise, when another friend said that he had always envied my name. ‘Roy Henderson, what a fab name!’, he said. I felt about ten feet tall. Who’d have thought?

Over the summer, in church, we were revisiting stories from the book of Genesis and Exodus. The names of people and places came up regularly, as did changes of names. That colourful character Jacob, was renamed Israel. Jacob meant ‘supplanter’ among other things and Israel meant ‘someone who has striven with God and with humans and has prevailed’. (Gen 32.28) When Moses encountered the Lord in a bush ‘blazing yet not consumed’ (Ex 3.2) he asked, ‘What shall I say is his (God’s) name?’ (Ex 3.13-14). The Lord’s reply was the endlessly mysterious ‘Thus you will say to the Israelites, “I AM has sent me to you.” God’s name is ‘I AM, or ‘I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE’.

In those days, knowing someone’s name gave you some power or influence over them. God’s name is mysterious. Neither Moses nor any of us can box God in. Once I heard God describes as ‘the elusive presence’. God is sovereign and free. So, names. Jacob’s name change denoted a change in direction and character for him. God’s name describes the indescribable, the Holy One. At the time of writing, the two parishes of Currie and Balerno are linked together as the charge of ‘Balerno linked with Currie Church of Scotland’. Soon at a date to be confirmed, members and adherents of each congregation will vote to agree or not to the union of the two. The new name will be the ‘Kirk of Currie and Balerno, Church of Scotland’. in one sense this marks an administrative arrangement, two Kirk sessions becoming one, and so

Interim Minister, Rev Roy Henderson—contact details:
Landline Tel: 0131 449 3830; Mobile Tel : 07961 736061
E-mail: RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Soulmates



The monthly reflective Prayer Group meeting known as Soulmates meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Lounge at the Gibson Craig Halls from 2.00—3.00 pm. The next meeting is on Thursday 10 September.

Soulmates is an escape from a busy day! We start with a time of stillness, to let go of our day, troubles and the List To Do! We then have a passage from the bible and often a photograph to consider for a while then we chat about the passage, the meaning for us today, and any concerns we may have.

What's not to enjoy!

Calendar Overview

October

- 4 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.00 am—Rev Keith Ross
- 6 Currie Guild at 10 am—"The Memorial Role". Speaker: Gerard McEwan
- 11 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.00 am—Rev Roy Henderson—Harvest Thanksgiving (see page 10) followed by Prayer Tree Service.
- 18 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.00 am—Rev Roy Henderson
- 20 Currie Guild at 2 pm—"The Elizabeth Sword". Speakers: Mairihread Ellis & Godfrey Fitton
- 25 Joint Service in Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Roy Henderson—with informal communion

November

- 1 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.00 am—Rev Roy Henderson
- 3 Currie Guild at 10.00 am—"Being an MSP". Speaker: Sue Webber
- 8 Remembrance Sunday—Worship in Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Grant Gordon and Neill Crawford
- 15 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.00 am—Rev Roy Henderson—followed by Prayer Tree Service
- 17 Currie Guild at 2 pm—"The Joy of Spines". Speaker Graeme Hawley
- 22 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.00 am—Rev Roy Henderson
- 29 Advent 1—Joint Service in Balerno Parish Church at 10.30 am—Rev Roy Henderson—with formal communion

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).

The Steering Group say Thank You



The Steering Group wishes to thank wholeheartedly everyone who responded to the Consultation Questionnaire about a Vision, Strategy and Actions for the new Kirk of Currie and Balerno. Also, the Group is particularly grateful to more than 50 people who have expressed interest in joining (or helping) on a Committee.

With nearly 100 responses in writing or at a "drop-in", the Group is greatly appreciative of the time, thought and creativity that has gone into providing a rich seam of opinion, observations and suggestions from across both congregations. This feedback was the main focus of the Steering Group's "Away Day" on 16 September and work is in progress as every response is considered in a review of the draft Vision, Strategy and Actions. The results of that review will be fed back to the congregations in early course.



65th Edinburgh Company—The Boys' Brigade

The Anchor Boys (P2 and P3) and the Junior Section Boys (P4 to P6) resumed on Thursday, 3 September at the Gibson Craig Hall from 6.00 - 7.30pm. Hopefully all the Boys from last session will return along with some new recruits.

Unfortunately, the Company Section which takes Boys from P7 to S6 or 18 years will not resume. We have only one boy who is in his final year. To enhance his development he will attend the 5th Livingston Company where he is also assisting the Anchor and Junior Sections as part of his King's Badge.

If in the future we see an upturn in numbers the Company Section will resume but in the meantime we are looking at entering into a partnership with the 53rd Company at Colinton Mains.

Sadly this situation is not just a local Currie problem. Since Covid, numbers across Edinburgh, Leith and District Battalion have been falling with many companies closing. Total numbers of Company Section Boys now barely reach 400.

In the meantime the staff are looking forward to seeing the return of old and new boys to continue the fun and games on Thursday evenings.

Bill Brown
Captain

Poppies—For anyone who has **red** wool and idle hands, we are looking for more poppies to be knitted by the end of October. Anyone on the MOF team will be more than happy to provide a pattern to knit or crochet.



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

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.

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)





Currie Kirk Guild

The Guild's first two speakers—Rev Roy Henderson our Interim Minister who asked many questions of “What the Guild means for us”. He combined our answers into the prayer which is set out below. James Fraser from Operation Hope enlightened us on our project. It made for a humbling experience being made aware of the suffering of our fellow Christians in the north of Egypt and how we can help. Our fundraising will go towards repairing roofs and the need for basic essentials, such as beds, toilet facilities etc.

On 6 October Gerard McEwan will give a talk on the Memorial Role at 10 am; followed on 20 October at 2 pm “The Elizabeth Sword” where the speakers are Mairihead Ellis and Godfrey Fitton.

The Guild Rededication Service is on Sunday 25 October at 10.30 am in Currie Kirk where we will be joined by members of the Balerno Guild.

Saturday 24 October from 10 am to 12 Noon don't forget our Coffee Morning, with stalls—books and tombola. If you wish your library to be replenished please bring along any surplus books you have read and stock up on new ones for the long winter nights ahead!! Shona is looking for donations suitable for her tombola stall. If you have any unwanted gifts or the odd bottle of sherry lying around she will be pleased to take them of your hands!

Guild Prayer—Roy Henderson

Loving God,

Who invites to belong together in like-minded action and enjoyable fellowship;

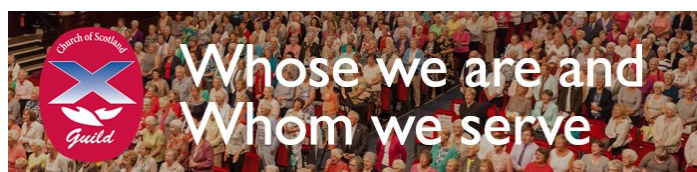
Bring us together as Currie Kirk Guild,

To seek Your loving presence among us,

Through our regular fellowship, mutual care, inspiring speakers,

Life enhancing projects and the power of togetherness,

In Jesus' name, AMEN.



tombola™



Saturday 24 October 2026
Gibson Craig Hall: 10 am—12 Noon
Admission £5; Children Free



Coffee Stop! has now finished for this year. I'm delighted to report that the total for this year is £4,808.69. Huge thanks to everyone who came along on a Saturday afternoon to eat cake, drink lots of tea and coffee, and share fellowship with others! Our numbers reached one week to over 90! This amount will be used to help other charities over the next few months—Christian Aid, and the local FoodBank amongst others. Thanks.

On behalf of all at Currie Kirk we would like to take this opportunity to thank the MOF team who have made Saturday afternoons a special place for fellowship and cake. The sum raised for charity is tremendous. All the work that is done by MOF is greatly appreciated—**WELL DONE ALL**—Ed.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2026—The MOF team are busy packing the shoeboxes in time to be uplifted by Blythswood at the end of October. These boxes are then delivered to someone in need in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. Thank you to everyone who has supported our efforts for this appeal and given in any way. The team are still looking for gloves for men, women and children. If you can help please get in touch with the Fiona or the Kirk Office.



Christmas Stockings for children—The Kirk has given a small, knitted stocking to all the schoolchildren (and their teachers!) in Currie for the past number of years. This may be our last year. Never too late to join the MOF team in its knitting as over 800 are needed!

Pattern: Using DK bright coloured wool and size 4mm (8) needles, cast on 12 stitches, increase every stitch (24), knit 6 rows. Next row—K8, K2tog 4 times, K8 (20 sts); K8, K2tog 2 times, K8 (18 sts); K8, K2tog, K8 (17 sts). K12 rows then cast off and create a loop of 24 chain sts. Sew up. Easy!!

Currie Kirk
CHRISTMAS
FAYRE

CHILDREN'S CRAFT ROOM

STALLS

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER
1 - 4PM. TICKETS £4 ADULT,
£2 CHILDREN
(INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS)

Gibson Craig Halls
156 Lanark Road West, Currie

Christmas Fayre—Saturday 5 December
1-4 pm—Gibson Craig Hall

This year the Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 5th December, 1–4pm. We have some exciting stalls in the main hall, Children's activities in the Back Hall and our Tinsel Tearoom in the Guide Hut.

Please help to spread the word, donations of home baking will be very gratefully received. Please get in touch if you are able to help in any way.

Thanks, Fiona Pigott (07874 282480).



Currie Parish Horticultural Society

Congratulations to Fiona who retained the Livingston Trophy (highest aggregate in baking) at the Currie Parish Horticultural Society on Saturday 29th August and to Nina's daughter Orla who won third prize in craft.



Summer Intern Worker—Summer Holiday Club

I'm sure everyone who met Hannah and joined in one of her sessions has enjoyed her company as well as the children who came along and had fun.

As you know we secured a grant from Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery and were delighted to have Hannah with us in Currie and Balerno from July until September.

Hannah prepared and organised our weekly sessions of Messy Church with stories, crafts, refreshments and, of course, the parachute!! All the families who joined us had a great afternoon. Her bible stories included the feeding of the 5000, the parable of the lost sheep, healing a leper and how love and friendship are so important to live by.

Hannah has now finished her work with us and is heading back to Edinburgh University and we wish her well.

We hope to hold a Messy Church at the end of October and



November. Look out for posters and information nearer the times. If you are interested in helping with Messy Church please get in touch with Fiona or the Kirk Office.



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.



Down Memory Lane—1998—Bill Wood

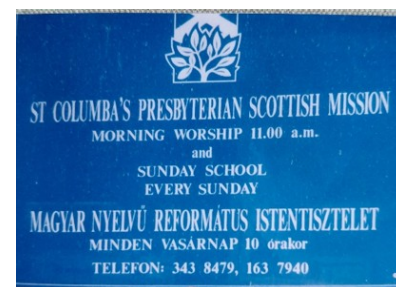


On the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, the Rev Dr Willis Jones offered assistance to St. Andrew's Church of Scotland in Budapest as it wished help to renovate the Protestant School which had been closed for over 10 years during the communist regime—a class teaching youngsters was to be formed in the church premises.

A band of 25 volunteers (including five children) was gathered and fundraising for the trip organised to help purchase paint and materials which would be required. Many a good meal was served in the Kirk House to raise funds.

The party flew out to Budapest where the local Church of Scotland minister, Rev Susan Cowell, was waiting to welcome them. During the two weeks the group divided into two groups—one decorating the school and

the other group teaching English to children and some parents, using Bible stories and games. The painting group worked on nine classrooms and a small mess hall, each room being embossed with the profile of Currie Kirk. The school grounds were tidied and the grass mown—from over 2 feet high!



On the social side outings were organised to “see the sights”—a walking tour of the old town, a cruise along the river

Danube, a visit to Elizabeth Island and, of course, dining out!!

Memories indeed and a good project completed—a chance for bonding and outreach to a very needy cause

Fresh Start

Thank you for the numerous donations received recently, of lovely bedding, curtains, kitchen wear, crockery and cleaning materials. Your support is greatly appreciated particularly by those who are in need of help when furnishing their accommodation. Please continue to support the wonderful work of Fresh Start.

Christine Wilson

Kirk Walking Group



We meet the last 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.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the Rev Lezley Stewart



Lezley led the above pilgrimage on the 26 October 2010 returning on 4 November 2010.
Our guide is on the left of the photo.

The Good Book Group



The story of the early church is full of drama and strange events. As we work our way through the Acts of the Apostles we sometimes find ourselves wondering why Luke (Acts is the second volume—or the sequel if you will—in Luke's history of Jesus and his followers) has decided to tell these stories. There's the sudden deaths of Ananias and Sapphira, or the grisly martyrdom of Stephen, and now, lurking in the background is the sinister figure of a young Scribe from Tarsus. Saul—the man who holds the coats while Stephen is stoned!

We have also been asking—why was the church thriving? In Jerusalem after Jesus' resurrection thousands of people—men women and children—became believers, which is of course why the Priests and Temple Authorities were so afraid of them. Imagine that—the authorities being afraid of the church—how would that change the things we do or say? Why was the church so good at drawing people in. Was it something they said, something they did, was it the Holy Spirit?

If you are even a little intrigued by what happens next the place to be is the Good Book Group, which meets in the Shepherd Room, Balerno on a Monday from 11-12 noon and in the Gibson Craig Halls on a Tuesday evening from 7-8 pm.

Family News

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



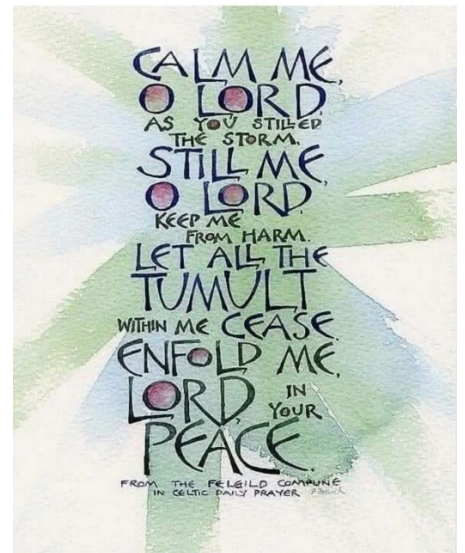
8 August 2026 Elizabeth Cummings Culbert, Currie

11 September 2026 Maimie Ritchie, Currie

Please pray for the families



Harvest Thanksgiving
Service—11 October at
11am—Currie Kirk. We
will be collecting
donations for the Holy
Trinity Foodbank.
Thank you in advance



Flower List—October & November 2026

October

4 Mrs J Blair
Mrs S Ramsay
Mrs A Wood

11 Mr A Forsyth

18 Flower Fund Donations

25 Mrs J Smith
Mrs I Blyth
Mrs M Thomson



November

1 Mrs D Brown

8 Mrs V MacPhail
The Crawford Family

15 Mrs M Preston
Mrs J Dick

22 Mr & Mrs Goudie
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 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		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: 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
Session Clerk	Louise Lamont	elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk	466 3472
Treasurer	Eddie Pigott	pigottsef@icloud.com	07891 613360
Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer	Eunice Stewart	eunicestewart48@gmail.com	07547 653 449
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		07769 684029
Kirk Flowers	Contact Church Office	Admin@curriekirk.co.uk	451 5141
Magazine Distributor	Currie Kirk Office	Admin@curriekirk.co.uk	451 5141
Boys' Brigade Captain	Bill Brown Anchors/Juniors	Thursday 6.00-7.30 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	Elizabeth Wood	Last Sunday of each month.	0131 538 0363

The Kirk News



Can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/Kirknews>.
Articles for the December/January issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to fpigott19@gmail.com by 22 November 2026

Please insert the words "Kirk News" into the subject.