

THE KIRK NEWS

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023



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Church Services in Currie Kirk

Vacancy Arrangements

There being a shortage of ministers and a very high number of vacancies in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian, it has not been possible, at this stage, to find a locum for Currie. Instead, your Session Clerks have arranged a varied programme of Worship Leaders to take us through to the end of the year.

We hope you will find the many talents and creative gifts of our preachers to be a great blessing. In terms of pastoral needs, the first contact, as always, should be with the elders but the Interim Moderator will provide pastoral support and funeral cover as necessary.

October

- 1 Harvest Thanksgiving. Joint Service at Balerno Parish Church at 10 am**
- 8 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Grant Gordon**
- 15 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Alistair Keil**
- 22 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Professor John Sawkins**
- 29 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Fiona Tweedie**

November

- 5 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Alistair Keil**
- 12 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Grant Gordon**
- 19 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Interim Moderator Rev Dr Anne T Logan**
- 26 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Rita Welsh**

December

- 3 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Joint Carol Service with Balerno**
- 10 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Alistair Keil**
- 17 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Alistair Keil**
- 24 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Interim Moderator Rev Dr Anne T Logan**
- 24 Christingle Service at 6.30pm, Gibson Craig Hall (Come in your pyjamas!)**
- 24 Currie Kirk—Watchnight Service at 11.30—Professor John Sawkins**
- 25 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Christmas Day—Interim Moderator Rev Dr Anne T Logan**
- 31 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Reflective Worship for the Year's End led by members of the congregation**

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to be invited to spend time with you as your Interim Moderator and I look forward to getting to know you over the coming months. To help you get to know me, I thought it might be helpful to provide you with a brief introduction.



A daughter and grand-daughter of the manse, I trained for ministry at New College at a time when women ministers were still quite a novelty! I was ordained in 1981 and retired (early) from my last charge in Stockbridge in 2012. Since then, I have been Interim Moderator and/or locum in a variety of churches and also help out at St Giles Cathedral. During my ministry, I spent time in a variety of churches around Edinburgh including St George's West and St Martin's. Throughout my ministry, I enjoyed and valued the interaction I had with students who were training for ministry—and frequently thought that I learned more from the students than they ever did from me!

I am married with two adult sons. My husband, Mike, was an anaesthetist—like me, he is now retired. Our sons have provided us with two delightful daughters-in-law and we have four grandchildren. We are fortunate enough to be invited to go and play with our grandchildren two days a week whilst their parents are at work. In our leisure time, Mike and I enjoy walking, gardening (most of the time!), and reading.

A vacancy is always a difficult time of transition for a congregation and particularly so when there are the demands of the Presbytery Plan to be negotiated. However, whatever reorganisation takes place, God still loves us and cares for us, still holds us in his loving arms. God also still invites us to share in creating a better, fairer, and more loving world. Amidst all the busyness and organisation involved in a vacancy, we will also take time, to listen for God's voice calling us in love; to reflect on what Jesus' mission might look like in our situation; to watch for the Spirit leading us forward.

Blessings!

Anne

(Rev Dr) Anne T Logan

Presbytery Plan

With Easter's departure, consideration of the proposed Union between Currie Kirk and Balerno Parish Church, becomes more urgent. The Currie Kirk Session will begin detailed discussion of the Church of Scotland template document at its meeting next week. There will be a joint meeting with the Balerno Kirk Session at the end of October which will help take matters forward. All these discussions will take time as they will become very detailed. We ask that members of the congregation are patient with the process and ignore any rumours they hear. There will be official updates as soon as there is anything to report.

Rev Dr Anne T Logan

Rev Dr Easter Smart bids farewell to Currie



On Sunday 17 September Easter gave her final sermon in Currie Kirk. Easter has accepted a call to the Centre Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania.

The choir opened the service singing Easter's favourite introit "Lead me Lord". The Kirk Singers ended the Service with the Battle Hymn of the Republic and ended with a tearful "Our Sung Blessing" to guide her on her way to the USA. Easter shared the poem which is set out below.

The Congregation presented Easter on Sunday

24 September in the Gibson Craig Hall after the morning service with gifts from Harmonies in Wood and a cheque to remind her of her time here in Currie.



Footprints by Margaret Fishback Powers

One night I dreamed a dream
I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprint in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.
When the last scene of my life shot before me
I looked back at the footprints in the sand and to my surprise,
I noticed that many times along th path of my life
there was only one set of footprints.
I realised that this was at the lowest and saddest
time of my life.
This always bothered me
and I questioned the Lord
about my dilemma.

"Lord, you told me when I decided to follow You,
You would walk and talk with me all the way.
But I'm aware that during the most troublesome
times of my life there is only one set of footprints.
I just don't understand why, when I needed You
most,
You leave me".
He whispered, "My precious child,
I love you and will never leave you
never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints
it was then that I carried you".

Note from Heather our Family Worker

Goodbye

I wanted to take this opportunity to say goodbye to you all and to say a very big thank you. I have greatly enjoyed my time with you over the past six years and have appreciated all the support, opportunities and encouragement given. I leave this role with wonderful memories and feeling greatly blessed.

I do hope to see you around the village still and to keep in touch. I'm pleased that my new role as Regional Worker for SU Scotland will encompass Currie and Juniper Green, so I look forward to continuing some of the work I've been doing with the children and young people in the local area through the schools (and maybe asking some of you to come and help!).

It has been a privilege to serve and worship alongside you. I look forward to seeing what God will do through you next as you also begin a new journey towards union with Balerno. I'll finish with these words from Psalm 33:20-22:

“We put our hope in the Lord.
He is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.
Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord,
for our hope is in you alone.”



Heather and Easter being presented with their gifts

The congregation enjoyed a farewell coffee and tea. Thanks to the Guild and members of MOF who made this a joyful occasion.



Church Organisations—Dates for your Diary

The Boys' Brigade

Anchors & Junior Sections meet every Thursday 6—7.30

Boys in P2—P6—Gibson Craig Hall

Company Section meets every Sunday 6.30—8.30

Boys in P7—S6—Gibson Craig Hall

Games Night every Friday from 7.00 pm

The Guild

- 3 October—The History of Jewellery—Speaker: Hugh Macreadie at 10.00 am**
17 October—Renegade Monk & Runaway Nun—Speaker: Kath Hay at 2.00 pm
21 October—Coffee Morning—10 am—12 Noon—Gibson Craig Hall (see page 8)
29 October—Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Guild Rededication Service
- 7 November—Burtons Biscuits—Speaker: Tommy McGovern at 10.00 am**
21 November—Pet and Companion PEACE—Speaker: Sarah Jeffrey at 2.00 pm

Mission and Outreach

- 2 November—Bathgate Brass Band Concert—7.30—Gibson Craig Hall—see below**
25 November—Christmas Fayre—Gibson Craig Hall—10 am—1 pm—(See page 9)



Bathgate Brass Band Concert.

Thursday 2 November at 7.30 pm

Gibson Craig Hall, Currie.

No Ticket required

Entry free, donations will be collected.



The Guild

The Guild got off to a great start having had its first two meetings. There was a good turnout for both and it now has five new members.

As we move into October we are looking forward to learning about “The History of Jewellery” from Hugh MacReadie on 3rd at 10am and the intriguing “Renegade Monk and Runaway Nun” with Kath Hay on 17th at 2pm. October also sees our first fundraiser for “Beat Eating Disorders” with a Coffee Morning on Saturday 21st from 10am—12noon. As well as home baking there will be a tombola and a book stall. Tickets are £4 and will be available from Currie Kirk Office or Guild members. Sunday 29th October is our Rededication Service which will be led by Rev Fiona Tweedie in Currie Kirk at 10.30 am.

November brings Tommy McGovern talking about “Burtons Biscuits” on 7th at 10am— hopefully with free samples! Then Sarah Jeffrey will be speaking on “Pet and Companion PEACE “ on 21st at 2pm.

Each meeting costs £3 with annual subscription of £15 waived for new members. Visitors pay £4 per meeting.

For further information please email elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 466-3472.

Louise Lamont

Currie Kirk Guild President



Home Baking

tombola™



Books

Saturday 21 October 2023
Gibson Craig Hall—10 am—12 Noon
Admission £4: Children Free

The 65th spent a great September holiday weekend at the Battalion's Adventure Centre at Craggan, Loch Tay.

Great fun from start to finish especially on Saturday as the boys spent almost six hours on the water receiving canoe and kayak instruction from the excellent David Walsh of Emmaus Adventure.

While it rained heavily on the Friday, we were blessed with glorious sunshine on the Saturday and a fairly dry Sunday. Great fun had by all boys and staff. Looking forward to our next visit.



Craggan



Bonfire Night



Shoe Box Appeal.

We are now collecting items for shoeboxes to go off to Eastern Europe. Lists can be collected from the Kirk or the Kirk office in Gibson Craig Hall. The boxes need to be completed by end October.

For more information please contact the Kirk office or Fiona Pigott (07874 282480)

The Boys' Brigade celebrating 140 Years on 4 October 2023



To celebrate the 140th Anniversary of The Boys' Brigade, the Battalion is arranging to turn Edinburgh Castle Blue for the evening of Wednesday 4 October 2023 and to make it even more special it is being honoured to hold a photoshoot at the Drawbridge with the Governor of Edinburgh Castle, Alastair Bruce of Crionaich (Sky News Royal Commentator), The Garrison Sgt Major, Ruaridh Tuach and SO2 G5 Co-ordinator, Naill Archibald MBE.

Care Van

It's that time of year again when the nights are getting cooler and the homeless we feed at the Care Van are looking for warmer clothes. If you have any jeans, sweatshirts, jumpers, hats and blankets you are wanting to donate please get in touch with me.

Thanks, Fiona Pigott (07874 282480)



Saturday 25 November, 10 am—1pm

Gibson Craig Hall

Stalls available for local craftspeople to rent.....

Tombola, Raffle, Children's activities

Teas and coffees and lots of home baking.

We hope to see you there!



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 every second Monday from 2nd October to mid March. |
| Currie Community Council | | curriecouncil@gmail.com | 2nd Wednesday of every month 7.30-9.00 pm except August and December. |
| 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 Friday 5.30-6.30 pm Saturday 8.45—9.30 am |
| Inna Pilates | Inna Bugg | 07825 164927 | Monday 9.30—10.15am. |
| 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—9 pm from 7 September to 19 April |
| Pentland Ladies Probus | Barbara Hannaford | 0131 453 3012 | 4th Tuesday of Month from September to May |
| Pilates | Ellen Foster | 07983 863143 | Saturday 10.30—11.30 am |
| Zumba Exercise Class | Tom Lowe | tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk | Thursday: 10.15 am—11.15 am |

Transport Fund

Please note if you wish transport to Church your taxi fare will be refunded from the Transport Fund. Please ask for a receipt and hand to an Elder on duty. Central Taxis 0131 229 2468 City Cabs 0131 228 1211.

To apply for funds please get in touch with the Kirk Office who will send you an application form.

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 £4.00.

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 046041 or just call in.
Allan Murray.

Family News

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

Mrs Jessie Bannister, Currie

Mr Grant Williamson, Balerno

Please pray for the families



Coffee Stop!

Thank you to everyone who came along and enjoyed tea, coffee and home-baking (and lots of chat!). Our last Saturday was 30th September. We have had a great summer making new friends and enjoying the fellowship too, but we are looking forward to a rest! We have raised over £800.00, some of which will go towards clothing for the homeless who attend the Care Van.



Thanks from all the Coffee Stop volunteers.

October/November Flower List

October

- 8 Mrs J Blair
Mrs S Ramsay
Mrs A Wood
Mr A Forsyth
- 15 Dr & Mrs P Gordon
- 22 Mrs M McDonald
- 29 Mrs J Smith
Mrs I Blyth
Mrs M Thomson



November

- 5 Mrs D Brown
Mr & Mrs Goudie
Mr N Crawford
- 12 Mrs V MacPhail
Mrs M Preston
- 19 Mrs J Dick
- 26 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 Isobel Webber or the office.



WHO'S WHO



| NAME | CONTACT | EMAIL CONTACT/TIMES | TELEPHONE NO |
|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| Interim Moderator | Rev Dr Anne T Logan | annetlogan@sky.com | 663 9550 |
| 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 Company/Seniors | Thursday 6.00-7.30 pm Thursday 6.00-7.30 pm Friday 7.00—8.30 pm Sunday 6.30-8.30 pm | 449 4905 07878377897 |
| 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 | 07572 861123 |
| Guild | Louise Lamont | Tuesday/elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk | 466 3472 |
| Walking Group | Moira 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 December/January issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 17 November 2023**