

# THE KIRK NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 2023



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# Calendar Overview

## Church Services in Currie Kirk

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am, Rev Easter Smart;  
Balerno Parish Church Reflective service, 6.30pm. (See article on Page 9 for information)
- 10 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am, Grant Gordon
- 17 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am, Rev Easter Smart
- 24 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am

1st Oct—Harvest Thanksgiving. Joint Service at Balerno Parish Church

## Other Dates for your Diary

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Coffee Stop! - 2pm—4pm, Currie Kirk
- 3 BB Company Section, 6.30—8.30pm, Gibson Craig Hall
- 5 Guild restarts, 10am, Gibson Craig Hall
- 7 BB Anchor Boys/Junior Section, 6.00—7.30pm, Gibson Craig Hall
- 9 Coffee Stop! - 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk
- 10 BB Company Section, 6.30—8.30pm, Gibson Craig Hall
- 14 BB Anchor Boys/Junior Section, 6.00—7.30pm, Gibson Craig Hall
- 16 Coffee Stop! 2—4pm, Currie Kirk
- 17 BB Company Section, 6.30—8.30pm, Gibson Craig Hall
- 19 Guild, 2pm, Gibson Craig Hall
- 19 Care Van out tonight manned by Currie Kirk volunteers
- 21 BB Anchor Boys/Junior Section, 6.00—7.30pm, Gibson Craig Hall
- 23 Coffee Stop! 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk
- 24 BB Company Section, 6.30—8.30pm, Gibson Craig Hall
- 28 BB Anchor Boys/Junior Section, 6.00pm—7.30pm, Gibson Craig Hall
- 30 Coffee Stop! Last day!! 2—4pm, Currie Kirk

## Bathgate Brass Band Concert.

Save the date—Thursday 2nd Nov.  
Gibson Craig Hall, Currie.  
Tickets available from Kirk Office  
Entry free, donations will be collected.





## Letter from the Manse:

Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that I am to leave Currie to move back to the USA. I announced to our Session and congregation on 6<sup>th</sup> August that this was a tough decision, as I have loved being your minister these past eight years.

It has been my privilege to get to know each of you and to share in so many of your joys as well as your suffering. From our spirited Sunday worship complete with baptisms, as well as knitting hats for refugees and the snack lunches and guild outings. ... to our shared grief as we experienced the loss of some really wonderful members, it has been my honour to be part of the Currie community.

I know that the last few years have been so tough on all of you, especially as we endured the isolation and uncertainty of the Covid lockdown. Then the Presbytery plan presented a new uncertainty about the future of our Kirk. But I prayerfully trust that God will guide you, and all our neighbouring Parishes together as you move forward into a new era. God's spirit will surely empower you, along with Presbytery, to reshape positive and exciting new ministries across Colinton, Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno.

Personally, since my Mum died, I have felt a yearning to be closer to friends and family across the Atlantic. I am excited to begin a new ministry with a little certainty. I have accepted a call to Centre Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania. Like Currie, it is a warm hearted, caring congregation, and very proud of its Scottish roots! The church, founded in 1781 has a strong history, but it is nowhere near as old as Currie Kirk, which as you know was founded in 1140!

I want to thank you from my heart for your kindness to me over these eight years. I will miss all of you so much – friends with whom I could laugh and pray.

Yours in Christ,

Easter

Easter's last Worship service with us will be on September 17th, 10.30am .

If you would like to donate towards a gift for Easter, please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Easter' and place in the Offering on a Sunday, or post through the Kirk office door. If you would like the bank details please contact the office or Eddie Pigott (Treasurer)

### **What happens next at Currie Kirk?**

**We will have an Interim Moderator appointed by the Presbytery of West Lothian and Edinburgh and we will hope to have a Locum to preach and work with us over the next few months.**

## Heather's Ministry

### Holiday Club 2023!

From the 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July I had the opportunity to lead a team of wonderful people as we served God at holiday club down at Heriot Watt. We welcomed 46 children, the number growing as the week went on!

Our theme for the week was The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show, and our programme was filled with games, drama, Bible exploration, crafts, snacks and songs. One of the highlights for me was the song time. Throughout the week we sang truths that proclaimed who God is and what he's like. The loudest proclamation being that of "Allelu, allelu, praise ye the Lord" – a noise I'm sure was heard far away as the children competed to see which team could be the loudest! However watching and hearing the children joyfully singing out the greatness and goodness and love of God is heart-warming.

Our Bible theme over the week was the overarching storyline of Scripture. On day 1 we looked at creation, where God made everything perfect and made people in His image. On day 2 we discover God's perfect world is spoiled by human choices. Day 3 we learnt that the prophets reminded people to "put God first", and that even when we get it wrong God still loves us and there was hope that someone would come to restore the world and fix the problem of sin. Day 4 focused on the cross, discovering that Jesus is the only one who can save our broken world and fix the mess of sin. Finally, we looked ahead to God making a new perfect world and that we are all invited to be part of God's family and plan. To demonstrate the theme of salvation and restoration further we had a show garden which began beautiful and perfect, got spoiled and destroyed as the week continued, but by the end was restored and renewed and everyone was invited to add to and enjoy it.

We were encouraged by the way every child engaged with the teaching and the small group discussions. Walking around the groups during that time it was lovely to see all the children taking part and asking questions. One of the activities we did on Thursday was to decorate crosses. First the children wrote on the crosses examples of sin, either that they were aware of in themselves or in the world in general. They then spread grout over the writing and placed on pieces of broken mosaic tiles to represent the brokenness of the world. They then picked up glass beads and spoke out things to be thankful for and stuck them into the spaces left on the cross. The final results are beautiful pieces of art that speak both of the brokenness and beauty of the cross. Two of these are on display in the Sunshine Corner at Currie Kirk.

There were many small yet precious memories created throughout the week – seeing the oldest ones looking out for and helping the youngest ones; small hands slipping into those of team members as they walked; deep questions being asked and answered by children; seeing families at our Friday Garden Party mingling with each other and with team members as we enjoyed the warm sunshine that finally came out; young people being bold and brave enough to share their talents and creativity with others. We are so grateful to the parents for entrusting us with their precious children for the week, both a responsibility and a privilege for us.

On Thursday we were given the opportunity to add to the environment we borrowed from Heriot Watt. Two of the landscaping team made it possible for each child to do some planting of heather and hydrangea. There were lots of muddy hands and smiling faces from enthusiastic children, and the men who helped us said it was the highlight of their day. So if you walk down by the Chaplaincy Centre at Heriot Watt, then take a few moments to admire the new plants hand placed by local children.



Finally, on Friday during group time the children were given invitations to know Jesus better. If they wanted to fill it in, there were 4 boxes they could choose from – definitely yes, maybe yes, maybe no, and not interested. From the 37 completed invitations, which were all done privately with no pressure to share their response, there were 5 who ticked maybe yes, and 32 who chose definitely yes. There was also space for them to write why they chose that reply and some of the reasons given included - because God is good, because they trust God, because they believe, and because God loves them. One child wrote “because I love God so much and it would be such an honour”. I don’t know who gave a response or which one they gave, but I pray that each of those children will have the opportunity to find out more about who God is and come to follow Him for themselves. More than that, I give thanks that they ended the week knowing that, above all else, God loves them. It is likely we will never know the exact work God did in each life that week, but I pray that the seeds of love planted in each child by God and by the example of the incredible team will go deep into their hearts and minds. I hope that along with the memories of fun and silliness, they will remember the stories, the verses, the words of the songs that they took part in for 5 mornings this summer.

Thank you to everyone who had a part in making this year’s holiday club happen – you are all incredibly special and very appreciated.

Heather Merriman (familyworker\_jvp@outlook.com)



## The Guild

After what, I hope, has been a relaxing summer break, the Guild will resume again on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 10am. Our first meeting will be on the subject of our project for this session which is “Beat Eating Disorders”. We then meet again on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm. Jane Howitt who is the Chaplain at Heriot Watt University will be our guest speaker.

All meetings start with tea/coffee and biscuits along with a chance to chat and catch up with everybody’s news. We are open to both women and men and you can be assured of a very warm welcome. Our annual subscription is £15 but new members receive their first year free. However, there is a charge per meeting of £3 with visitors paying £4.

If you are looking for something to do over the next few months, please think about joining us. If you require any further information, please contact me on 0131-466-3472 or email [elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk)

Louise Lamont Currie Kirk Guild President.

### Shoebox Appeal

We are now collecting items for the Shoebox Appeal. The boxes need to be ready to go at the end of October so if you’d like to contribute in any way please drop off donations at the office (Gibson Craig Hall) or at the Kirk on a Sunday.

Items always needed are toiletries, stationery, small toys (new), sweets and clothing (especially underwear—it all needs to fit into a shoebox!)

Contact Fiona Pigott, 07874-282480





## Christmas Fayre Saturday 25th November 2023

This year we're be holding a Christmas Fayre in the Gibson Craig Halls. There will be fun for every age!

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!

Fiona Pigott, Mission, Outreach and Fellowship committee.



### From the Editor:



Why do cows have bells?

Because their horns don't work!

Why did the tomato blush?

Because it saw the salad dressing!



This happy couple are Cameron Spence and Vanessa Martin (Our GDPR advisor) on their wedding day. The venue was Italy on 15th July, 2023.

Thanks to Cameron's mum, Ruth, for sending it for inclusion.

Congratulations from everyone in Currie Kirk!



Coffee Stop! reopened on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May and will be open until end of September 2023 (Last day will be 30th)

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'd love to see you!

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

**The 65th Edinburgh Company starts the new session as follows:-**

Anchor Boys/Junior Section for boys P2 - P6 (aged 6 - 11) will resume on Thursday, 7th September 6.00 - 7.30pm.

Company Section for boys P7 - S6 (aged 11 - 18 years) will resume on Sunday, 3rd September, 6.30 - 8.30pm.

New boys for all Sections welcome.

All Sections meet in the Gibson Craig Halls, Lanark Road West.

Further information from Bill Brown (Captain) on 07878377897 or email [bill.brown53@yahoo.com](mailto:bill.brown53@yahoo.com)



## Kirk News

Thank you for all the donations received so far toward the cost of printing the Kirk News. If you would still 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”.

## Kirk Walking Group

We meet on 3rd Sunday of the month and generally walk locally eg. Reservoirs, Water of Leith etc. We walk at a leisurely pace for around 2 hours, and try to include a coffee stop! Our next walk will be on Sunday 17th September, after the Kirk service (around 11.30am).

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



### Local events.

**Balerno Farmers Market** - 2nd Saturday each month.

**Balerno Music Festival** is back for 2023! Two events are:

**Stirling Crisis play the Jazz Party**, Sun 1st Oct., 7pm, St Joseph's Hall, Balerno.  
Tickets £18

**Forth Valley Chorus**, Sat 7th Oct., 7.30pm. Balerno Parish Church . £12  
More details on [balernomusicfestival.org.uk](http://balernomusicfestival.org.uk)



Did you know.....you can now buy a jigsaw of the Colinton Tunnel.

Buy online at <https://thecolintontunnel.bigcartel.com/> or email [colintontunnel@btinternet.com](mailto:colintontunnel@btinternet.com) or you can just send a cheque to The Colinton Tunnel, 10 Allermuir Road, Edinburgh EH13 OHE.

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

**FreshStart**  
helping people make a home for themselves

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

Donations may be handed into the Gibson Craig Hall. The office hours are currently restricted, please call before you come!  
(0131) 451 5141

## **The Currie Kirk Singers**

The Kirk Singers have been on the go continuously since the early nineties. Every year, over the Autumn and Winter months, our small band of enthusiasts venture forth to sing for and entertain a wide variety of audiences - care homes, friendship groups, church groups - and we'd really love to keep going! We enjoy what we do; it's great fun and when we see a smile or two in the faces of our audiences it makes it all worthwhile. What we do isn't particularly polished, and it's certainly not high brow, but over the years our programmes have included a mix of songs from the shows, folk songs, traditional Scottish songs, pop songs and the like. And we always try to inject a fair chunk of humour in what we do!

So here's the sales pitch!!! Our numbers have fluctuated over the years and to remain viable we're always on the lookout for new members. If you enjoy singing and feel you might like to join us we'd love to hear from you. Please phone me on 07572861123 and we can have a chat. Gordon Cranford.

**Balerno Parish Church** are beginning a series of monthly informal worship evenings.

The initial one is on 3rd September, 6.30pm in St Joseph's for supper, followed by an informal reflective style of worship.

If you are interested, please contact Louise Lamont or Andre, the minister at Balerno Parish Church (AGroenewald@churchofscotland.org.uk) for catering purposes.

## **An Exciting, New Opportunity and Venture!**

MOF Team are joining with other churches in the valley to welcome Refugees who live in our communities under a project called New Scots.

Diane Brown and I met with Natalia (Edinburgh City Mission) and Teresa ( St. Mungo's Church) to chat about the work that is already being done in other parts of Edinburgh and what we can do to extend a hand of friendship to those who have fled War, Unrest, Persecution and Intolerance and find themselves living in EH14. Many have left parents & family behind and have arrived in Edinburgh with few possessions and not knowing our language, culture or way of life.

Their new lives are so very different from what they knew & understood. Most have fled their home countries to seek safety and better lives for their children.

Integration is an important aspect of their successful resettlement.

We are starting off with a Fun Afternoon on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 , 2-5pm at our Gibson Craig Hall and we would love you to join with us and participate in this new venture. If we can attract more helpers, then we will be able to offer this friendly welcoming space on a more regular basis.

The plan for the 14<sup>th</sup> is to provide activities for the children & teens – crafts and games/sports, and a “quiet” space for adults for them to chat with one another and form new friendships and make connections with local residents.

Pizza, teas & coffees will be provided.

This invitation will be extended to all congregations along the Water of Leith Valley/Lanark Road Corridor.

If you are interested in joining the fun, have brilliant ideas of what we can do or can help in any way, please contact Fiona Pigott (07874-282480).

# 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

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

Mrs Sheena MacPhie, Currie  
George Morrison, Currie

*Please pray for the families*



## 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 (Webber) or Fiona (Pigott).

## September Flower List

### September

- 3 Mrs Thomson  
Mrs J Robertson  
Mrs M Lamb
- 10 Mrs H Heggie  
Mrs M Gray
- 17 Mrs M Anderson
- 24 Alan Forsyth



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
		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	07572 861123
Guild	Louise Lamont	Tuesday/elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk	466 3472
Family Worker	Heather Merriman	familyworker_jvp@outlook.com	
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 Oct/Nov issue should be sent—using a  
Word attachment—by email to [isobelwebber@btinternet.com](mailto:isobelwebber@btinternet.com) before or by Friday 22nd Sept '23**

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