

Worship at Home—9 May 2021
Kirkin' of the Currie Community Council



The Currie Community Council were instrumental in getting the new boundary signs made and erected. It was a contest ran at Currie High School one year ago when pupils were asked to submit straplines describing their village. The Bauld family—three sisters—came up with The Community that Cares. It was in our opinion perfect for Currie.

Allister McKillop

Call to Worship

To know Jesus is to love God
to show we love God
we are asked to keep his commandment
There is one commandment: love
There is one way of living: love
One place to abide: love
One state of being: love
One relationship to seek: love
One God to find: love
Come let us celebrate Love
and let it grow more between us
Come, let us worship God

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Gracious God of all Gods, love of all loves
Who knows us better than we shall ever know ourselves
We come to your Holy presence
Unaware of how much we need you
You are the source of our healing and our resurrection
We are so often not even aware when we are lifeless, when we are hopeless,
When we are dried up or cut off from one another
When we have wasted gifts and opportunities and the potential you have given us

Show us how recognising our own weakness can enable us to find incredible strength in you
Show us how living another way—we may just find, you are there
We ask that you be with us, care for us, comfort us
That we might find ourselves rooted in your love
Though Covid has kept us physically apart, unite us in love

We ask that your Holy Spirit may illumine our path so that we might
Better see and feel and know our true selves as your children
Help us to dwell in the company of your spirit
So that we might live in your truth
So that we can bear real fruit and so that we can grow into the people you would have us grow into.

God of wondrous love
Encourage our hearts through the beautiful truths which Jesus lived and showed
Stay with us that we might learn to better live by them.
We thank you that we can always come to you and that you welcome and forgive us,
Continuing always to heal our memories and our lives.
Bathing us constantly in your love and grace

We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear us now as we share the prayer he taught us to pray. . . .

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen

Scripture Reading: 1 John 4, v.7-16



Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.



Currie Community Council

The Kirkin' as we all know is a very special time in the life of CCC. It lets us remember that we are here to serve our community especially in times like these.

Covid has not allowed us to meet face to face and led us to live particularly insulated and sadly isolated lives—just as we need companionship!

Perhaps the cruellest part of all this is not being able to meet with the ones we love or the ability to say goodbye to those we have lost.

But through all this I believe our community has done it's best to help those in need—be it Easter with her virtual services or Dementia Friendly Pentlands delivering goodie bags to those living with dementia.

We don't have to look too far to see many similar acts of kindness which help remind us all that we are never truly alone. The love we share with family and friends, our faith—all help us be better, and that's the message I wish to share.

Love does indeed conquer all if we allow it into our hearts. Every small act of kindness makes us better neighbours, better friends and better people.

Currie is the community that cares and we should never forget that.

Allister McKillop

Currie Community Council—History

The Grant of Arms was applied for in the 1980s so there could be a flag to be paraded in the annual Riding of the Marches, which began in 1990. The Currie Ensign and Equerry are the official standard bearers of Currie and they carry the flag to the Kirk for the Kirkin' of the Community Council.

The official description is:

- ◆ The Arms of Currie.
- ◆ The Gold Coronet with thistle leaves and pinecones represents the authority of Currie Community Council.
- ◆ The Shield is in blue and white, the colours of our national flag, the St Andrew's Cross.
- ◆ The Gold Mascule is part of the arms of the Wardlaw family—one time overlords of the area.
- ◆ The Open Book, with Gold Pages indicates a place of higher learning, Heriot Watt University, and as the pages of a book are made from paper, this commemorates the former paper-making industry of the area.
- ◆ The First Celtic Cross represents the setting up of the Headquarters of the Archdeacons of Lothian in 1018 AD.
- ◆ The Second Celtic Cross represents the existence of a Christian community for well over 1000 years.
- ◆ The two crosses represent the two Clerics of Currie who became Chancellors of Scotland—William de Boco and Sir Robert of Kildeleith.
- ◆ The Gold Crown in the centre of the Shield signifies the area as being a former Royal Estate.
- ◆ The Motto of "Aye Speir an Rede Weel" is in Scots and means "Always Enquire and Counsel Well" – an alternative meaning is "Always Enquire and Guard Well".



The Kirkin' of Currie Community Council is a type of ceremony that was very common in the past, when public bodies of all sorts went to their local Kirk for a religious start to the year, but it has fallen by the wayside in recent times. It is a focus for a thoughtful moment in the yearly cycle, when we step aside from the busyness of the latest project and consider our long term commitment to public service. We ask for our banner to be rededicated, and representatives of the Community Council are accompanied by the official standard bearers, the Ensign and Equerry. The main impetus to continue with the ceremony comes from the Riding of the Marches Committee.

The banner is paraded into the Kirk and kept at the front, while the party join in morning worship. It is a chance for the symbol and the servants of the parish to be seen by the parishioners. This is the same banner that will be accompanied round the marches by a cavalcade on the following Saturday, and will lead all the elected representatives round the field at the Currie Fair.

As a rough guide, the flag is worth around £1,000. It has not been insured in the past as it should always be in the charge of the Ensign or the Equerry, or an official of the Community Council. It is the property of Currie Community Council.

Allan Murray

Meditation

Our theme for the next two weeks is simply, Love.

This Sunday we participate in the Kirkin' of the Currie Community Council. Of course everything is still virtual. There is no Riding of the Marches or formal procession of flags, although we are blessed to have the Council Flag in the Kirk for the week. Next week we will share in a joint virtual Christian Aid service with Balerno Parish Church. And so, as we think about the theme of love centred around our own community this week, we will focus our thoughts about love shared with our neighbours nearby as well as around the world.

At the start of the Musical, Moulin Rouge, Ewan MacGregor sings a medley of songs with the words love. Love, love changes everything, Love is a many splendoured thing, Love, it makes the world go round. All you need is love.

What is life without love? As Allan read in our scripture from 1st John, God, the source of life, the source of our being IS love. We are born into love, created for love and life is empty without it. When it comes to faith, love is far more than a romantic attraction, a warm fuzzy feeling or a good friendship. In the Christian faith, love is non-negotiable. Saint Paul said that if we have not love, we have nothing. He went on to say that love is patient, kind, forgiving. Love bears all things, hopes all things and love lasts forever. Love, though we cannot see it, is powerful.

When Jesus was asked to sum up all the commandments, he offered the golden rule, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength and love your neighbour as you love yourself." Then when a clever lawyer asked him, "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus shared that controversial parable of a Good Samaritan. Who was the 'good' neighbour in the story? It is not the preacher or the pharisee, not the Levite or the lawyer, but the foreigner, the outcast, the Samaritan who loved his neighbour. He saw past differences, class, theology, ethnicity to help a fellow human being. He bound up wounds, gave a thirsty man water, help, rest and food.

This is the beauty of this thing called love. It isn't just emotional. It has to be practical. And we don't get to pick and choose who our neighbour is. Jesus cares about everyone. And love matters to Jesus, who himself loves us and serves us and sacrificed for us. Jesus doesn't just love us and invite us to love, He commands us to love. He tells his followers, "This is my commandment that you love one another as I love you." He says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandment to love."

As Allister McKillop mentioned, one of the good things that came out of this Covid crisis in Currie was a new sense of neighbourliness. It has been so encouraging to see how our community has come together in care and helpfulness as people were shielding or needing food or a phone call. I think of the Community Food Project, the Dementia Friendly Pentlands, the work of the Council and counsellors, the Kirk and all those in the schools, the local shops, who all did their bit to care, even though nothing was easy—with the isolation and separation and closures and cessation of normal meetings in community life.

I know some even felt a little starved of love without hugs or handshakes, visits from friends or family so I am glad that we are slowly emerging from a lonely lockdown. I do hope that whatever happens, we can hold onto some of the good community feeling that kept us going through it all.

Not least as we remember Christ's command to love one another. Let us also remember how much we are loved. We have love because God first loves us.

The author and speaker Brennan Manning came up with a slogan. The slogan is, "I am the one Jesus loves." It sounds a little arrogant doesn't it? But he was actually quoting Scripture. Jesus' closest friend on earth, the disciple named John, is identified in the Gospels as "the one Jesus loved." Manning said, "If John were to be asked, 'What is your primary identity in life?' he would not reply, 'I am a disciple, an apostle, an evangelist, an author of one of the four Gospels,' but rather, 'I am the one Jesus loves.'"

Branning encourages us to think. He says, "what would it mean, I ask myself, if I too came to the place where I saw my primary identity in life as "the one Jesus loves"? How differently would I view myself at the end of a day?

Brennan Manning tells the story of an Irish priest who, on a walking tour of a rural parish, sees an old peasant kneeling by the side of the road, praying. Impressed, the priest says to the man, "You must be very close to God." The peasant looks up from his prayers, thinks for a moment, and then smiles, "Yes, he's very fond of me."

Love is a gift, love is life, love, like God is something we cannot see, but we can feel it and know it, share it and give it when we offer ourselves in little ways to one another. We will always find that in giving love, we find love too.

Pastoral Prayer—Krys Hume

Dear Father, we thank you for the world you have made, that you have filled with so many wonderful things to see, to hear, to learn and to discover.

We thank you for our minds and for our memories; for the things that make us happy and the things that cheer us up when we are sad; for the things that make us excited and the things that bring us calm and peace.

We thank you for books and for music; for sports and other activities we can now take part in again; for computers and modern technology which have made a huge difference to our lives, especially during lockdown; for our friends and neighbours and families who share our daily lives and make them so much better because they love us and are there for us, to laugh with us when we are happy and to care for us when we are sad.

But most of all we thank you for your all-encompassing love to every human being, from the tiniest baby to the oldest person, male and female, black, white or any colour. Your love for us meant sending Jesus to earth to live a life full of love and compassion and then to die, but to rise again in glory and show us the road to heaven. Thank you, Father, and bless us with your holy spirit to enable us to live our lives as well as we can.

We pray for the needs of people everywhere. You know what they are. We pray for those known to us personally to be in particular need; those who are sick and those who are dying; for those who mourn and those who are hurting; for those who are overwhelmed by the burdens in their lives. We name them in the stillness of our hearts.

Father, we especially pray for all people whose lives have been affected by coronavirus, here and worldwide. Be with them and their families and friends. We pray for the NHS staff and all who care for

those affected by the virus. We pray for the way ahead, and particularly at this time for a successful return of our school pupils. Bless pupils, teachers and other staff as they seek a return to normality.

Lord, we pray for those whose words and actions influence others. We pray for the leaders of nations, of unions, of industry of commerce, of education. We pray for members of our parliaments and councils, and especially members of our newly elected Scottish Parliament. Lord, keep them aware of the impact that their decisions and actions have, on ourselves and on generations to come. And at this particular time, we remember our own Community Council as they serve the community of Currie. We thank you for their hard work and commitment, and ask that you will bless them and give them strength and fortitude in their endeavours.

We thank you for your church worldwide, but particularly here in Currie, as it impacts on our daily lives, and through us, on the lives of others. We are the stewards of your church here in Currie. Help us to grasp every opportunity to be witnesses for Christ, as you have no other hands than ours, no other feet than ours, and no other voices than ours. Move us to be generous with our time, with our love, with our actions and with our money, remembering that Christ was much more than generous—he gave up his life for us. May we respond to this love willingly and with joyfulness.

We make our prayers in Jesus' name. Amen.



Pray in May with Mary's Meals

In this month we invite you to join us in praying for the work of Mary's Meals, whose mission is to feed children a daily school meal in some of the world's poorest communities.

This meal brings children into the classroom where they can get an education, offering hope of a better future. Our work began with prayer, and prayer has sustained our rapid growth—from feeding 200 children in 2002 to feeding over 1.8 million children today. Please join us in praying for:

- ◆ all the children who receive Mary's Meals
- ◆ all those who have grown up eating Mary's Meals and gone out into the world as adults
- ◆ all the children still waiting for Mary's meals, that we will be able to reach them soon.
- ◆

Here us when we pray:

Lord God, we entrust the work of Mary's Meals to your tender care; that children throughout this world will see their lives transformed through the promise of a daily meal at school; that our volunteers across the world on whom this work depends will be filled with hope and strength; that new seeds of possibility will be planted, and more people will discover their place in the Mary's Meals family. Amen.

Kirk Contacts

Minister: Rev Dr Easter Smart—Tel: 449 4719 email: esmart@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Hamish Leal—Tel: 449 3288 email: hamish@hamishleal.co.uk

Family worker: Heather Merriman email: Familyworker_JVP@outlook.com

Please get in touch with Nina at the Kirk Office—451 5141

email currie_kirk@btconnect.com if you need anything.

We have friends willing to listen, shop, walk a dog, fix a garden.

Website: [//www.curriekirk.org/](http://www.curriekirk.org/) or [//www.facebook.com/CurrieKirk/](https://www.facebook.com/CurrieKirk/)

All sermons from Currie Kirk can be found on the Kirk's website and on YouTube—search Currie Kirk



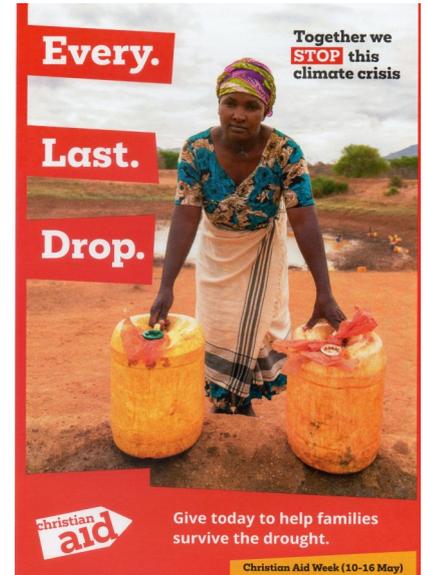
**Christian Aid week—10—16 May 2021
(Christian Aid Sunday—16 May
Currie Kirk’s service will be available on YouTube).**

This year the focus is on the climate crisis and our global neighbours in Kenya who continue to battle the effects of extreme weather. Like last year Kenya is caught in a cycle of climate chaos—severe droughts and flooding rob villagers like Rose of a reliable source of water. There is an earth dam not far from Rose’s home which should be a lifeline but it runs out of water too quickly, forcing villagers to walk long and exhausting journeys to fetch water. The pandemic has made the lack of water even worse as handwashing with soap and water is vital to stay safe against the virus. Christian Aid can help communities like Rose’s withstand climate chaos: from building better earth dams to harvest more water, to sowing drought-tolerant crops, to demanding climate justice at the highest level.

As we are unable to deliver and collect Christian Aid envelopes we propose to have a supply of envelopes in the plastic box outside the Gibson Craig Hall for anyone who would like to make a donation. Once you have completed the envelope details please post it through the Kirk office door. If you want to find out more about the work of Christian Aid please log on to their website – www.caweek.org.

We are having a Quiz on Zoom on Saturday 29 May at 7pm, John Macaulay being the Quizmaster. If you’d like to take part please contact Nina at the Kirk Office to be registered (currie_kirk@btconnect.com). Entry is free but any donations to Christian Aid’s work will be very welcome.

Fiona Pigott, Mission, Outreach and Fellowship Committee.



Enclosed with the paper copy of this week’s sermon you will find a Christian Aid envelope for anyone who would like to give a donation. If you are able, this can be posted through the letter box at the Gibson Craig Hall. If you are unable to get to the hall but would like to give a donation please phone either Gordon or Isobel and they will collect it when they deliver the service sheet next week.
(Gordon – 07745 563207; Isobel – 07702 784186).

If you have received your paper copy through the post and would like to give – please post your donation to the Kirk Office.

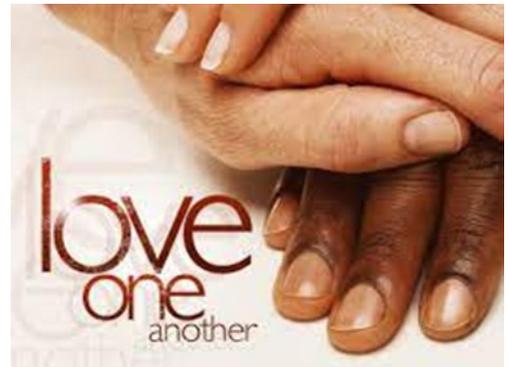
Many thanks for supporting the work of Christian Aid.

Friends

These resources are designed to help you explore the Bible as a family together at home while we can't go to church. Be as creative as you want to be and enjoy spending time with each other and with God.

Prepare yourself...

Creator God,
you have called us to worship you,
chosen us to be your friends
and invited us to extend that friendship
to your people in all the world.
May we live as Jesus lived,
serve as he served,
and love as he loved,
to the glory of your name.
Amen.



Question...

How much time have you spent with friends this week? What did you do together?



Challenge...

How many words can you make from the letter in the word 'friendship'?
Bonus points if any of your words describe friendship!



Read the Bible...

Today's verses are found in **John 15:9-17**. You can read them in a Bible or find them [here](#).

Here's another version you could read: <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/22615/easter-6-present-the-reading.pdf>

Talk together...



- ◇ What does it mean to be loved?
- ◇ How do people show love?
- ◇ What do you think it means to love others as Jesus loved?
- ◇ What does it mean to be a friend?
- ◇ Who are your friends? What do you like about them?
- ◇ How does it make you feel to know that Jesus thinks of you as a friend?
- ◇ I wonder if earthly friendships are different from a friendship with Jesus?
- ◇ Are there ways in which you can show love to those around you this week?

Play together...

Guess my friend

Invite everyone to sit in a circle. Start to describe a person in the group or someone that you will all know. If someone thinks they know who you are describing they can raise their hand and guess.

If someone guesses correctly they get to describe next. Make sure you describe positively what the person is good at and all the things you like about them and why they make a great friend, rather than a physical description.

Pray together...

Cut out a heart shape from paper and write the name/draw a picture of a friend/family member. Say a prayer thanking God for them.

We thank you, God,
that today and every day
you sing a song of love over the world
you created.

Thank you for the love of friends and
family.

Thank you that we can share love with
others.

Amen.

Make something...

Friendship bracelets

You'll need: thread or wool in 3 different colours, safety pin, cushion, scissors.

Watch this video for instructions on how to make the bracelets:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2rg-btMNFI&t=41s> (I'm sure there are many other videos with different patterns or designs if you wanted to try something different!)

Once completed you can give it to a friend or family member as a reminder that you love them.

Praise together...

What a friend we have in Jesus –

Steph Macleod

Love one another

Friend of God

