

THE KIRK NEWS

APRIL 2022



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Dear Friends

On Sunday afternoon I attended the fun, family-oriented service in the Gibson Craig. What an uplifting celebration of the Cross and the Divine purpose of Christ’s dying and resurrection!

At this time of national, global uncertainty, we need to be the church more than ever, and to rally to the call of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. We can persevere, to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God, to be joyful in praise, faithful in living constant in prayer, loving in our outlook.

For God’s love and His truth triumph over sin and despair. Saint Paul reminds us, “whatsoever is true, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever things are lovely; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8)

May the true meaning of Easter speak to our hearts, lives and world

God bless

Easter

Calendar Overview

April

- 3 April Currie Kirk at 10 am—Professor John Sawkins**
- 5 April Guild—AGM—followed by The History of Edinburgh Zoo**
- 10 April Currie Kirk at 10 am—Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie**
- 14 April Maundy Thursday—Service in Balerno Parish Church at 7 pm**
- 15 April Good Friday—Service in Currie Kirk at 7 pm**
- 17 April Easter Sunday with Communion—Currie Kirk—10 am**
- 19 April Guild Supper Evening at 7 pm with Dekoy**
- 24 April Currie Kirk at 10 am**
- 24 April All Age Service—Gibson Craig Halls—4—5 pm—Tea served from 3.30 pm**
- 27 April Session Meeting—Gibson Craig Halls at 7 pm**

Office



Please note that Nina, our office administrator, is now on maternity leave. Fiona Pigott has kindly stepped forward to cover for Nina during her absence. Session approved Fiona’s appointment at its meeting on Tuesday 22 March. The office hours remain unchanged—9.30 am—12.30 pm—Tuesday to Friday.

Presbytery Plan Consultation

The following is a letter submitted on 15 March to Dr Weaver regarding the Presbytery Plan Consultation on behalf of Currie Kirk.

Many thanks to those who responded.

15th March 2022

Dear Dr Weaver

Presbytery Mission Plan Consultation (Edinburgh Congregations)

We have asked the Congregation of Currie Kirk to give their considered response to the Presbytery Plan Consultation by completing a form in the Kirk News Magazine for return to the Kirk Office. The attached summary seeks to give a collation of the responses, using their words to express their thoughts and suggestions for consideration by Presbytery.

We have sought to give the Congregation all the information we in Kirk Session have received about the process, and our responses, via the monthly Kirk News Magazine which is delivered to all members.

We started with the Report from Water of Leith Cluster Group (WOL) in October 2021, then the Consultation Document in December 2021 which we placed on the Kirk website, followed by any update correspondence to and from Presbytery on this matter.

Thus, they have seen the Minister's initial response of 13 January, also the separate response from Currie Kirk Session on 24 January, which recommended that Currie Kirk be placed in the South West Mission District, being a more logical fit with other local churches on the Water of Leith and Canalside. We had hoped to meet with the Deployment Sub Group at our February Session Meeting to discuss this proposal but we understand that with so many calls on your time we will have to wait for a more suitable time.

The WOL Cluster Group Report was compiled and signed off by all three churches in that cluster of Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green. Although initially Juniper had asked to move to another cluster with closer links to their Minister, their representatives joined in a close agreeable working relationship with WOL Cluster Group representatives. Over months in 2021, three to four representatives from each of these churches met regularly to exchange information relating to their church's organisation and activities. Discussing and collating this information helped us see where overlaps or gaps could be addressed in the future based on a 'menu' system of worship and activities in the event of a reduction from 3 to 2 Ministers in WOL. We looked forward to the prospect of working more closely together to explore different types of worship. It was therefore a surprise to find the WOL cluster broken up in the Draft Consultation Plan, with Juniper Green being placed in SW District. It seems ironic that the very solution proposed by the WOL Cluster Report for Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green has now emerged in the SW District with Juniper, Colinton and Slateford Longstone now allocated two Ministers from the existing three.

We at Currie are still of the opinion that previous relationships stretching over more than twenty-five years should be built upon rather than dismantled. Placing Currie in a new grouping with any church in

West Lothian suggests starting over with unfamiliar congregations, with which there is no history of successful resource sharing or ease of transport.

Many in our Congregation are dismayed at the thought of their beloved church closing. However, we do understand there needs to be some change to accommodate the expected decrease in ministry posts and fervently hope for a more workable solution to emerge.

We look forward to a positive dialogue with DSG representatives in the next phase of developing the Draft Plan, through exploring the Congregation's concerns and suggestions, while appreciating that a great deal of work has already been done by Presbytery in laying the framework for delivery of a new Presbytery Plan for 2022-2025 with the greatly reduced number of Ministry posts. We recognise the difficulties of communicating in such a tight timescale. We are grateful that Presbytery is listening to what the Congregation have to say, many of whom have worshipped in the same sacred place for over 50 years.

We welcome the opportunity to input to the revised Plan proposal due to go forward for consideration in October 2022 through the responses given below, subdivided into the separate sections you have suggested.

We look forward to your response in due course and wish you all well in the very difficult task ahead before the Plan is finalised.

Yours sincerely

Viola MacPhail,
Co-ordinating Currie Kirk Elder for Water of Leith Cluster Group

PRESBTERY PLAN COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM CONGREGATION OF CURRIE KIRK 15 March

1. Fundamental, strategic or general issues

- Immediate priority is to resolve the West Lothian Question.
- The suggestion put by Currie Kirk Session to the Deployment Sub Group on 24th January 2022 to move Currie Kirk to the South West Mission District is well supported in comments from the congregation, being the sensible and pragmatic approach. Our relationship with the Water of Leith villages has always been strong, not only with churches but also schools, youth organisations, choirs, bowling clubs and other leisure activities where people from all three communities of Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green easily meet up together. A number of comments were made regarding lack of satisfactory transport links to West Lothian.
 - ◆ Currie looks eastwards and other than Balerno has no natural connection with the proposed Border Mission District churches.
 - ◆ The A70 and A71 form a natural boundary within which lie Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green, Holy Trinity Wester Hailes, St Nicholas Sighthill, Slateford Longstone and St Michael's. Colinton, Craiglockhart, St David's Broomhouse, Carricknowe, Polwarth are all relatively close to these main thoroughfares and therefore easily more able to work together; only Barclay Viewforth might be termed an 'outlier'.
 - ◆ Several years ago, a Parish Grouping of Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green and Ratho proved to be unsuccessful, there being no appetite for working together other than the occasional poorly attended joint worship services. However, Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green have a

history of working together, e.g., on Holy Week Services and, for over 20 years, an annual joint Service, along with intermittent pulpit exchanges.

- ◆ Currie Kirk and Juniper Green have for the past five years shared a Families Worker, employed 10 hours per week each; she also runs a number of joint children's projects on Bank holidays and in holiday times for Currie and Juniper Green and invitation to these projects is extended to Balerno. How will these proposed changes affect her employment? Currie Kirk and Juniper Green also share Chaplaincy to Currie High School. Thus, to place these churches in different Mission Districts would be to separate well established working relationships with the younger generation, possibly our future church
- ◆ Edinburgh City Council's 20 Minute Neighbourhood initiative recognises even at present that schools, transport links, health services, cultural facilities and communities along the Water of Leith provide an abundance of common threads across Currie, Balerno and Juniper Green which we should build up.

Comments and suggestions relating to Mission Districts

- We envisage Mission Districts being in a sense mini-Presbyteries. By being part of the South West Mission District, we immediately benefit from economies of scale through a sharing of resources and collaborative working across a wide range of activities. The most obvious is that at a stroke we have variety in worship providing different theological perspectives and the opportunity for people to worship in a setting in which they feel comfortable. Underpinning this should be the fearless proclamation of the Gospel which reaches out to people of all generations. In such a wide setting it should be feasible for individual churches to specialise, say in traditional worship, contemporary worship, all age worship, children's worship, etc. In addition, we can develop, for example, the following:
 - ◆ Active children, youth work and families' programmes with Christian teaching at its heart, sharing resources across the Mission District. In regard to the latter there should be a particular focus on the 25- to 40-year-olds and we should work closely with the proposed Presbytery funded post of Outreach Minister to the under 40s.
 - ◆ A co-ordinated Pastoral care programme across the Mission District, maximising resources to provide increased cover for bereavement.
 - ◆ Well attended activities outwith a Sunday morning which encourage fellowship and sharing. Given the size and strength of the South West Mission District it should be entirely possible to hold an event similar to the 'Heart & Soul' events held in Princes Street Gardens at the time of previous General Assemblies, say in Kingsknowe Park or Saughton Park.
 - ◆ The South West Mission District should have a sum total of considerable financial strength. Each of the 13 congregations could, for example, contribute £5,000 annually to a South West Mission District fund producing a figure of £65,000 more than sufficient to pay for a full-time Mission worker across the Mission District. Alternatively, two part-timers could be employed.

3. Inaccuracies and Further Context regarding Currie Kirk

Comments in the Draft Consultation document appear to have a bias toward Balerno, disregarding Currie Kirk buildings that have been very well maintained in excellent condition, having undergone extensive renovations to the hospitality area. One external let user remarked the Gibson Craig Hall is one of the best halls in Edinburgh. Currie Kirk may not be on the main road but it is literally four minutes' walk away from the bus and is easily accessible on foot along the Water of Leith Walkway, itself a connecting path from Balerno to Currie, Juniper, Colinton and beyond to Leith.

4. Concerns Expressed by members of Currie Kirk Congregation

(i) Our village of Currie has lost its Bank and Post Office; to lose its Church will make it even more a non-community. My family have supported Currie Kirk for over 40 years and will withdraw all financial support if it closes or the Gibson Craig is not used.

(ii) We are people not objects to be tossed aside—if this consultation is about money, 121 is a very prestigious address worth a lot of money

(iii) There has been a church on the Currie Kirk site for over 1000 years, supported by farmers, landowners and villagers, with a wealth of historical significance eg it holds relic Stones dating from the Knights Templar and some of its Communion silverware is on display in the Museum of Scotland. The War Memorial sits just outside Currie Kirk. It is not just for Currie but also Juniper and Balerno. How would this be maintained if the Kirk closes?

(iv) Currie Kirk is very dear to me and my family—as will be the case for many people. With these proposals I feel CofS are shooting themselves in the foot and membership will significantly drop even more. We are moving out of Covid, at a time when our resources are needed to bring people back to our Kirk in unity rather than these divisive cuts.

(v) Where are Currie Kirk's links to Heriot Watt considered? HW Chaplaincy and the annual Town and Gown Service are well-regarded facets of university life within the large multicultural student population, many of whom live on campus at Riccarton.

(vi) There are many annual activities integrated into our community and Currie Kirk is central to many of these eg Annual Kirkin' of the Council after the Riding of the Marches; one of those traditions to be upheld at Currie Kirk

(vii) The ageing population needs even more pastoral care; I cannot see how we can sustain adequate Pastoral Care, especially in bereavement without sufficient support, too much for one minister to deliver. Our Kirk has built up such good community support which will be lost.

(viii) I totally disagree with the presbytery plan. It has been ill-thought out with no consideration for Currie Kirk. If we have to change, we should be joined with the south west mission district, rather than the border mission district with poor transport links, and our church kept open.

(ix) Balerno Church has seating capacity of around 200 in the sanctuary whereas Currie and Juniper Green Churches can seat over 300 so this should be born in mind if there is a revival in numbers, possibly from new housing. I am very unlikely to attend Balerno Church as lack of transport on a Sunday has to be considered

- (x) Children from Baberton and Juniper Green attend Currie High School, which is set to continue in the foreseeable future, with the building of a new Currie High. The Family Worker shared by Currie and Juniper Green Churches is already best placed to help the youngsters transition to secondary education.
- (xi) Will financial assistance be available to set up a new joint parish?
- (xii) It is proposed that Currie and Balerno have one full time minister, voted for by the two congregations—what happens to the remaining existing minister who is not chosen?



Community for Food

Community for Food (CFF) is a voluntary organisation supporting vulnerable families experiencing food poverty, holiday hunger, period and hygiene poverty. Set up in March 2020 at the start of the Covid pandemic, the initial focus was emergency food parcels. Now it is linked with local schools, focusing on families who really need help on a continuing basis. All families are referred to CFF through five local schools (Juniper Green Primary, Nether Currie Primary, Currie Primary, Currie High, Balerno High). CFF currently supports 34 families (121 people) every week, and has supplied over 2,000 deliveries in the past year or so, providing fresh food and larder provisions, toiletries and household products.

CFF is a community food service, not a food bank. It offers families a hand up in a way that gives them dignity and choice. Each week families request a list of goods, which CFF orders for collection or delivery. Its tailored approach provides flexibility, and its delivery service ability means it can support families who cannot access food banks due to transport issues or ill health, and has been vital during the pandemic.

CFF is dependent on in-kind support and is run entirely by volunteers. It has partnerships with Morrisons and FareShare, which provide free and reduced-cost goods. HeyGirls, a community interest company aimed at eradicating period poverty, provides sanitary items. Juniper Green Village Hall provides space to pack, distribute goods and store non-perishable items, free of charge. CFF has a small committee, a community of 29 volunteers, and 9 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers who help take delivery of produce, pack, and deliver goods to the families each week using their own vehicles. This wonderful community support means that all the money raised goes directly to supporting the families.

Community for Food relies on the generosity of local volunteers and donors - without their support it could not provide its vital service.

To find out what products it most needs and where you can drop off items, visit and “like” <https://www.facebook.com/communityforfood/> To make a financial donation, visit https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=RVLKZ5GBSJCHS

If you are interested in getting involved in CFF’s work, email Tiggy at communityforfood@gmail.com

(This article was first published in the Juniper Green and Baberton Mains Newsletter—March)



The Guild

I am pleased to report that we held a very successful Daffodil Tea on Tuesday 15 March. Although we were still unable

to serve home baking, all those attending had an enjoyable time. Between ticket sales, raffle, tombola and donations we raised £515.70 for "Home for Good". Together with the money raised in October we will be able to send a cheque for £1,000. Many thanks to all those who supported us.

Our next event is our AGM on Tuesday 5 April at 10 am. This will be followed by a speaker from Edinburgh Zoo so it should be an interesting morning. On 19 April we are holding our Supper Evening with catering by MacKenzies. After the meal Dekoy are making a welcome return to play some wonderful music. So put on your dancing shoes! If you haven't returned your menu choice, please do so as soon as possible.

Guild Outing—12 May 2022—Alnwick

Our session finishes with our Guild Outing on Thursday 12 May. This has been postponed for the last two years. We leave the Gibson Craig Halls at 9.30 am to drive to Berwick Garden Centre for tea/coffee and scones then on to Alnwick for a few hours to enjoy the sights there. Finally we return to Eyemouth where we will have our evening meal in Heather's Restaurant then home for about 7pm. All this for only £40 and the pleasure of a day out in great company.

There are still some places available on the coach so, if you are interested, please get in touch. You do not have to be a Guild member.



Alnwick

As usual, in conjunction with The Boys' Brigade, we are collecting Easter eggs for the foodbank at Holy Trinity Church in Wester Hailes. So add a couple to your weekly shop. They would like to receive them before Palm Sunday so either bring them to the Guild on Tuesday, leave them in the Church office or give them to me after church. I will do my best not to eat any of them, but promise to replace any if I do! Last year my little car was totally filled so let's try to do that again.

If you are not a Guild member, why don't you think about joining us. You can come along as a visitor if you wish. Our next session will start at the beginning of September. For further information, either phone 466-3472 or email elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk

Louise Lamont Guild President



Eyemouth

Dear Life and Work Promoter
18th March 2022



We recognise not everyone within congregations is a Life and Work reader. Therefore, to encourage new subscribers and keep people connected through the pages of the Church of Scotland magazine, we share details of our latest subscription offer.

EASTER OFFER

- **Print:** 12 issues for the price of 10 offer price £30—enter promotion code EAST22 to receive £6 discount. UK delivery address and new subscribers only.
- **Digital:** 12 issues for £14.99 (normally £20.99) no code required—simply select the introductory offer option.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the offer should visit www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe.

The offer is valid until 30.04.22. The print offer will be purchased as a personal subscription and delivered to the person's address. It will not be added to the congregation's order if you have one in place.

Subscribers to Life and Work support the vital and vibrant work of our Church while keeping connected with the Christian community in Scotland, and further afield.

We hope there is an opportunity for you to share news of this promotion with others and we thank you in advance for your loyal support.

Best wishes

The Life and Work Team

The logo for 'FreshStart' is set against a blue rectangular background. 'FreshStart' is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, the tagline 'helping people make a home for themselves' is written in a smaller, white, lowercase sans-serif font.

FreshStart
helping people make a home for themselves

With 2022 flying in already we wanted to update you on all that has been going on in the past couple of months at Fresh Start.

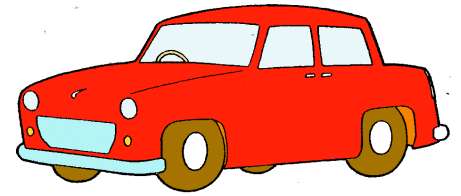
Our community hub is now fully functional and it's great to see it being used by so many local people. Our core services also continue to function, with many being needed more than ever. Cookers for Christmas was a great success raising £18,042.

The Order of Service sets out items required each month. This month it is single duvet covers and pots and pans.

Christine Wilson

Hospital Transport

We would like to restart the hospital transport service for Currie Kirk. A service where volunteer drivers take local people to hospital appointments at the RIE, WGH or St John's in Livingston. Although no charge is made for this service a donation to Currie Kirk is encouraged.



Over the last 2 years, since the service was last offered a number of drivers are no longer on the volunteer list. I would to encourage those, who may have a little time to volunteer to help.

If you know of someone from the church who would needs lift to the hospital for an appointment or treatment please let me know, the details are below. We will do our best to arrange a lift although it may not always be possible.

Liz Potter
07769 684029 lizpotter66@virginmedia.com

Coffee Stop—A new initiative

Beginning on Saturday 29 April, we are opening the Kirk for Teas and Coffees. We are looking for volunteers—if you can spare a few hours occasionally on a Saturday please get in touch with Viola or Fiona. Opening hours will be 2—4pm.

We are also hoping that visitors will be able to enjoy a self-guided tour round the Kirk.



Jubilee Celebrations—4 June



The MOF Committee on behalf of Currie Kirk is hosting an afternoon tea party on Saturday 4th June, 2-4pm in the Gibson Craig Halls.

If you have any photographs or memories of meeting the Queen, please get in touch with the Kirk Office to enable these to be shared on the day.

It's not necessary but please feel free to wear a hat to enjoy the afternoon.

Tickets will be £5 each and available from the Kirk office.



Family News

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

Mrs Sheena Crabbe, Currie
Mr James Renton, Balerno
Mr Alexander Russell, Currie
Mrs May Sutherland, Currie
Mrs Jenny Watt, Currie



Please pray for the families



Baptism: *Jesus said "Let the children come to me"*
(Luke 18:16)

On 27 March—Hamish—son of Kerry and Ian Clark and brother to Lewis and Arran.

Kirk Session: The Annual accounts and Trustees Report were approved at the Session meeting on Tuesday 22 March. This can be viewed on the Currie Kirk website. If you would like a hard copy please contact Fiona in the Kirk office.

April Flower List

3 Mrs J Caffrey
Mrs M Phillip
Mrs Jean Dick

10 Mrs M Ritchie
Mrs H Clayton
Mrs Jean Wright



17 Mrs M Malcolm

24 Mrs F Pigott
Mrs J Robertson
The Wight Family
Mrs N Hogg
Mr A Murray

The flowers are enjoyed and appreciated by so many. If you are attending Church on any given Sunday can you let me know if you are able to deliver flowers after the service. Thank you.

Should anyone wish information regarding donations to the Flower Fund please contact Margaret Matheson:
m.matheson@blueyonder.co.uk; or telephone 075190 45866



WHO'S WHO



NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL CONTACT/TIMES	TELEPHONE NO
Minister	Rev Dr Easter Smart		451 5141
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	
Data Protection Officer	Vanessa Martins	vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com	
Weddings/Funeral Officer	Sandy Harper		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	Margaret Matheson	m.matheson@blueyonder.co.uk	
Life and Work	Shona Moyes	shona.moyes@btoopenworld.com	
Magazine Distributor	Jean Dick		451 5141
Boys' Brigade Captain	Bill Brown Anchors Juniors Company/Seniors	Thursday 6.00-7.00 pm Thursday 7.00-8.30 pm Friday & Sunday 6.30-8.30	449 4905 07878377897
Banner Group	Janet Robertson	Tuesday	
Care Van	Fiona Pigott	Once a month	
Pastoral Visitors	Gordon Clephane	Gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk	449 2313
Currie Kirk Singers	Gordon Cranford	Various	
Guild	Louise Lamont	Tuesday/elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk	466 3472
Family Worker	Heather Merriman—Email: familyworker_jvp@outlook.com		
Walking Group	Moira McDonald	Third Sunday of each month	



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 May/June issue should be sent—using
a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 22 April.
Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**