

# THE KIRK NEWS

DECEMBER 2025 /  
JANUARY 2026

The Greatest Gift of All



|   |                             | In this Issue |                            |    |                       |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 2 | Calendar Overview           | 6             | Soulmates                  | 8  | Currie Library        |
| 3 | Rev Roy Henderson.          | 6             | Prayer                     | 9  | Mission & Outreach    |
| 4 | Quiet Day                   | 6             | Transport Fund             | 9  | Obituary Sandy Harper |
| 4 | Carol Sing-a-long           | 6             | Fresh Start                | 10 | Family News           |
| 4 | Hospital Transport          | 7             | Christmas Fayre            | 10 | Flower Fund           |
| 4 | Walking Group               | 7             | Mission & Outreach         | 11 | Community Activities  |
| 5 | The Guild                   | 7             | Ceilidh                    | 11 | CD Ministry           |
| 5 | The Boys' Brigade           | 8             | Kirk on Remembrance Sunday | 11 | Community for Food    |
| 6 | Dementia Friendly Pentlands | 8             | The Meeting Place          | 12 | Who's Who             |

# Calendar Overview—December 2025

## December

- 7     **Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am—Rev Roy Henderson**
- 13   **Quiet Day—10 am—2 pm—see page 4. This will include a short Bereavement Service at 12 Noon.**
- 14   **Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am—Lessons and Carols followed by a Prayer Tree Service—Rev Roy Henderson**
- 21   **Joint Worship with Balerno in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am—Rev Roy Henderson**
- 21   **Carol Sing-a-Long with the Kirk Singers—Gibson Craig Hall—2-3 pm refreshments will be served.**
- 24   **All Age Family Service—6.00 pm—6.45 pm—Come and join the Nativity—Gibson Craig Hall**
- 24   **Watchnight Service—11.30 pm. Kirk open at 11.00 pm for refreshments—John Sawkins**
- 25   **Christmas Day—Joint Service with Balerno in Currie Kirk at 10.00 am—Rev Roy Henderson**
- 28   **Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am**

**Services for January will be intimated in the Order of Service/Online/Facebook or on Whats App**

**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), Fiona Pigott (fpigott19@gmail.com).

## THE GUILD

### December 2025

- 2     **The Scottish Prison Service—Speaker: Rev Sheena Orr at 10 am**
- 16   **Christmas Party—12.30 for 1.00 pm followed by entertainment from the Kirk Singers**

### January 2026

- 20   **Knitted Gospels—Speaker: Irene Malcolm at 2 pm**

### February 2026

- 3     **Life in Scotland in the Good Old Days—Speaker: Roy Johnstone**

## THE BOYS' BRIGADE

**Anchors & Junior Sections—meet every Thursday—6—7.30 pm**  
**Company Section meet every Friday—7.00—8.30 pm; and Sunday 6.30—8.30 pm**

Interim Minister, Rev Roy Henderson—contact details:

Landline Tel: 0131 449 3830

Mobile Tel : 07961 736061

E-mail: [RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk)



Today is November 18<sup>th</sup> and shortly I'll be meeting people to plan their child's baptism. One day soon, a young life will be enfolded publicly in the life-giving story of Jesus. Jesus who was born, died and raised up for us: Come Christmas we will celebrate the birth of Jesus, the "most precious Word of Life", "God with Us".

The Christening is set to take place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November in Balerno Parish Church. That Sunday is the festival of the Reign of Christ, the last Sunday of the Christian year before we turn once more to Advent, a season of preparation, anticipation and delayed celebration. For us in the northern hemisphere, this takes place as the days shorten, the nights lengthen and the cold and dark are with us. When the dark is deepest, we will mark the birth of the Light of the World.

When we are puzzled, perplexed or seeking guidance, we might say something such as: "I am in the dark, enlighten me". Any of us may be 'in the dark' at some point or other. So may churches, communities, peoples. The Bible itself begins with everything in a state of chaos and darkness, as the Spirit of God broods over it bringing divine order. In due course God says, "Let there be light".

"Let there be light". Advent is the time of waiting for the light. The time set aside for us to train ourselves in the radical discipline of patience. To await the coming of the "Let there be light" moment.

In God Welcomes All\*, there is an Advent hymn by Brian Wren:

*"Joyful is the dark,  
holy, hidden God,  
rolling cloud of night beyond all naming:  
Majesty in darkness,  
Energy in love,  
Word-in-flesh, the mystery proclaiming."*

As People of the Way, we travel roads that take us through darkness and light, sunset and sunrise. There will be moments of waiting in the dark, just as there will also be "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" moments. Each in due time.

I hope that through the Advent season, the waiting time, we might rediscover depth and sustenance in our Advent faith:

## Balerno linked with Currie



*"Joyful is the dark,  
depth of love divine,  
roaring, looming thundercloud of  
glory,  
holy, haunting beauty,  
living, loving God.  
Hallelujah! Sing and tell the story!"*

or, as this prayer says:

*You keep us waiting.  
You, the God of all time,  
want us to wait  
for the right time in which to discover  
who we are, where we must go,  
who will be with us, and what we must  
do.  
So thank you ... for the waiting time.\*\**

Isn't Advent the cradle, in which the Christmas celebration, when it comes, makes deepest sense?

*Sing! Sing all earth!  
Sing! Sing all earth! Eternal praises  
sing,  
To our Redeemer,  
To our Redeemer and our heavenly  
King!  
Shepherds arise, be not afraid;  
With hasty steps repair  
To David's city: see the maid  
With her blest Infant there.*

Roy Henderson—November 18<sup>th</sup> 2025

(\* GWA is the Church of Scotland's recently published hymnary supplement),  
(\*\* From Bread of Tomorrow, J Maorley SPCK/  
Iona Community Worship Book 1988)



**Quiet Day in Currie Kirk  
(Incorporating a Service of Remembrance at 12 noon)  
Saturday 13 December 2025—10.00 am—2.00 pm**



The Church will be open from 10.00 am—2.00 pm on Saturday 13th December to provide an opportunity to come into the Church just before Christmas and relax for a time, (come when you can, go when you must!) away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations. We can enjoy the peace and ambience of our beautiful Church and have some moments of quiet contemplation about the real meaning of Christmas and the coming of Jesus into a troubled world.

There will be a Service of Remembrance at 12 noon lasting about 30/45 minutes. Through prayers, readings and the lighting of candles we will give thanks for those whose memory is treasured from any time in our life.

All are welcome.



**Carol Sing-a-Long with the Kirk Singers**

**Gibson Craig Hall**

**Enjoy an afternoon of singing Carols along with the Kirk Singers**

**From 2-3 pm on Sunday 21 December**

**Refreshments will be served**

**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)



**Kirk Walking Group**



The final walk for 2025 took place on the 16 November. The photo on the right was taken between Clubbiedean and Torduff reservoirs. It was a lovely walk on a dry and crisp day.

Check the Order of Service for walks in 2026. Please get in touch with Moira if you wish further information.

Mob: 07853 228751





## The Currie Kirk Guild

**CROSSREACH**

Care you can put your faith in

Our coffee morning on 25 October was a great success and thanks to all for the hard work and to those who attended; enjoyed the baking; the fun at the tombola; and those who picked up their holiday reading. The grand sum of £687.86 was raised for our project this year "Crossreach".

The speaker from the Holyrood Ranger Service on the 7 October spoke about the different plants in the Park and the problems with wild fires. Also rock falls meaning the road at Salisbury Crags was closed at the moment for public safety.

We were joined by John Knox from Bridgend Farm who told us about the amazing achievement of the local community securing a community purchase of the derelict farm and the work they do in supporting people within their community. From young people struggling to engage with school to providing skill workshops for others working in the cafe and many others including work in the allotments.

Our speaker on Scots Women Who Chose to Challenge gave an interesting insight into the lives of many Scots Women, ahead of their time. Elsie Inglis being one and who many of us were well aware of having spent time in her maternity hospital—sadly no longer in existence. We also heard about Bruntsfield born Muriel Spark best known for writing "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie".

Our most recent talk was from George Anderson of the Beechgrove Garden who spoke on Nature Closely Observed. His talk with beautiful slides was wonderful. He showed us how plants are formed and showed us examples of how they are mirrored in Art and Architecture.

We look forward to our meeting on the 2 December with the Rev Sheena Orr who will be speaking on The Scottish Prison Service.

On the 16 December at 1 pm we will be having our Christmas Party followed by a musical rendition from the Kirk Singers—a very pleasant afternoon is guaranteed.

The second half of our session begins on 20 January at 2 pm when Irene Malcolm will be our speaker—her theme of "Knitted Gospels" sounds intriguing.

## 65th Edinburgh Company—The Boys' Brigade

The 65th is well into the new session with all Sections active.

The Anchor and Junior Sections meet together on Thursdays. Their most recent activities included the Halloween party with Boys coming with their pumpkin lanterns, dooking for apples, marshmallows on strawberry laces, making gingerbread men and other activities. The Boys had a fantastic time with parents contacting staff afterwards to say how much fun they had. They also contributed to the recent 'Shoe Box Appeal'.

The Company tried to organise a Battalion Table Tennis competition but there was no interest. We have suggested a photo competition and await comment from the Battalion to see if this is of interest.

The National competitions have resumed and the Boys are entered into the Table Tennis and Chess. Our first rounds took place at the beginning of November with a table tennis victory against the 5th Livingston winning 6 matches to 3. In the Chess the 65th whitewashed their opponents from Blackburn 9-0. Our next round in the table tennis is against Overton while the chess is against the 61st Edinburgh.



Helping with the Poppy Display

Well done all the Boys and good luck going forward.

Bill Brown  
Captain



## 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 for support and social contact.

For more information please contact Clare Dow on [palmcafebalerno@gmail.com](mailto:palmcafebalerno@gmail.com)



## Soulmates

This is a monthly reflective Prayer Group. We meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Lounge at the Gibson Craig Halls from 2.00—3.00pm.

## ALL WELCOME

### 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](mailto: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.

## 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.



**Fresh Start** is in need of small electrical items such as lamps, irons, hairdryers, toasters, as well as the usual household linens including tea towels, cleaning materials, cloths and toiletries. Their Web site has the full list of items included in their starter packs. [Freshstartweb.org.uk](http://Freshstartweb.org.uk)

Only spotlessly clean duvets are acceptable and please do not include ornaments or beer and wine glasses.

Thank you for your ongoing support for this important cause, both by donating goods or monetary gifts.  
Christine Wilson

**Christmas Fayre—Saturday 6 December**  
**Gibson Craig Halls—1.00—4 pm**

**FUN for all—Tinsel Tea Room—  
Craft Stalls, Tombola, Raffle,  
Children's Activities and Games**



**Hogmanay Charity Ceilidh**  
*in aid of*  
**Diabetes Scotland Research**  
(SCO39136)

**Entertainment by**  
**Iain MacPhail & Friends**  
**Gibson Craig Hall**  
**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**  
**8pm to 12.45am**

**Tickets £18 BYOB+Glass Raffle**  
**Contact: Viola MacPhail—0131 449**  
**4664 or 07806 806920**



**Wednesday 24 December at**  
**6 pm**  
**Gibson Craig Hall**

An All Age service on Christmas  
Eve at 6pm is taking place in the  
Gibson Craig Hall.

The short service will incorporate  
the Nativity which is always a joy  
to watch and take part in, no  
matter your age.

**ALL WELCOME**



## Currie Kirk on Remembrance Sunday 2025



### 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 07711 046014 or just call in.

### Coffee and Conversation

Currie Library every Friday from 11 am

## Mission, Outreach and Fellowship

2025 has been another eventful year for the Mission, Outreach and Fellowship team.

We took part in the Church Service in February which celebrated all the activities MOF take part in and to get us in the mood for the Summer Coffee Stop! we held a Pop-Up cafe in February in the Gibson Craig Hall.

On Easter Sunday, MOF organised a short outdoor service and offered eggs to all to roll down the hill.

Throughout 2025 we have organised Games afternoons, always good fun for those who have taken part.

Shoeboxes: 73 shoeboxes were completed by Currie Kirk. A massive Thank You to everyone who helped complete one and donated generously to the postage.

Following the Coffee Stop! the team (and others) have been busy knitting Christmas socks for all primary schoolchildren in Currie, poppies to enhance what we had last year, and angels for our Messy Church on Friday 28 November.

Advent Messy Church—the theme on 28 November was Wings. What pictures come to mind when you consider “wings”?? We'll show some of everyone's handiwork in the New Year. We linked this theme to MAF—Mission Aviation Fellowship who fly into areas of the world unreachable by bigger planes. At the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6 December you can learn more about this wonderful charity and take part in the raffle and games (Adults too!)

Please come and join our early All Age service on Christmas Eve at 6pm. The short service will incorporate the Nativity which is always a joy to watch and take part in, no matter your age.



### Sandy Harper

As Kirk News goes to press, it was with a great sense of sadness that we learned of the death of Sandy Harper on 19th November 2025. Sandy was a loyal and faithful member of Currie Kirk serving in a variety of roles over a long number of years. He was ordained as an Elder in October 1989 and presented with a long service certificate in December 2019. He was a conscientious and diligent District Elder, a one time member of the Congregational Board and for many years undertook the important position of a Safeguarding Officer, a post of ever increasing complexity as legislation evolved. Sandy was also a leading light in the Kirk Singers.

In the words of the 4th Chapter of 2 Timothy as recorded in the New Testament “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”. That was Sandy Harper.

A fuller tribute will be published in the next edition of Kirk News.

# Family News

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

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 23 September 2025 | Mrs R Wood, Currie       |
| 1 October 2025    | Mrs L Galloway, Currie   |
| 26 September 2025 | Mrs Liz Gray, Balerno    |
| 2 October 2025    | Mrs M Lindsay, ex Currie |
| 8 October 2025    | Mr R McCall, Currie      |
| 19 November 2025  | Mr Sandy Harper, Currie  |



*Please pray for the families.*



On the 18th  
October 2025, the  
Rev Susan  
Galloway had the  
pleasure of  
marrying  
Elke Fabry and  
Alasdair McKenzie  
in Currie Kirk



Congratulations  
to Jimmy and  
Agnes Barr who  
celebrated their  
60th Wedding  
Anniversary on  
7 October 2025

Congratulations  
to Martin and  
Christine Wilson  
who celebrated  
their 50th  
Wedding  
Anniversary on  
29 November  
2025

## Flower List

### December

7 Mrs S Law  
14 Mrs C Lindsay  
21 Mrs D Brown  
28 Flower Fund Donations

### January

Mrs E Smith



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

[admin@curriekirk.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:gibsoncraigbooking@gmail.com)

Tel: 07806 806920

Details are available on the website—[curriekirk.org](http://curriekirk.org)

|                                              | Contact name   | Tel/email                                                                      | Day                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Balanced Life<br>(Steady Steps)              | By referral    |                                                                                | Monday 11.45 am—1.15 pm<br>Thursday 9.30—11.00 am           |
| Balerno Bridge Club                          | Anne Lovett    | 07999 528524                                                                   | Monday 1.30—4.30 pm                                         |
| Currie and District<br>Local History Society | Douglas Lowe   | <a href="mailto:douglaslowe51@btinternet.com">douglaslowe51@btinternet.com</a> | Monday 7.30—9 pm twice<br>monthly, October to March.        |
| Currie Community Council                     |                | <a href="mailto:curriecouncil@gmail.com">curriecouncil@gmail.com</a>           | 2nd Wed of the month 7.30—<br>9 pm, except July & December. |
| Currie Creatives (Music)                     | Shona Moyes    | 07752 459203                                                                   | Tuesday 6.30—8.30 pm.                                       |
| Parent and Toddler Group                     | Euan Reid      | <a href="mailto:euanigreid@gmail.com">euanigreid@gmail.com</a>                 | Friday 9.30 am—11.30 am<br>(term time only).                |
| Octagon Club                                 | Claire Maloney | 07999 410721                                                                   | Wednesday 7.00—9.00 pm,<br>September to June.               |
| Pentland Ladies Probus                       | Marion Wallace | <a href="mailto:wmkwallace@aol.com">wmkwallace@aol.com</a>                     | 4th Tuesday of month,<br>10am—12, from Sept to May.         |
| Pilates                                      | Ellen Foster   | 07983 863143                                                                   | Saturday 9.30 - 10.30am                                     |
| Zumba Exercise Class                         | Tom Lowe       | <a href="mailto:tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk">tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk</a>           | 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](mailto: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



# WHO'S WHO

| NAME                                                         | CONTACT                                                                                    | EMAIL CONTACT/TIMES                                                                                      | TELEPHONE NO                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Interim Minister South and East Region                       | Rev Roy J M Henderson<br>3 Johnsburn Road, Balerno, EH14 7DN                               | <a href="mailto:RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk">RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>               | 0131 449 3830<br>07961 736061 |
| Currie Kirk Church Office<br>(Scottish Charity No. SC001554) | Gibson Craig Halls, Lanark Road West,<br>Currie, EH14 5NY<br>Email: Admin@curriekirk.co.uk | Wednesday      9.30 am—12.30 pm<br>Thursday        9.30 am—12.30 pm<br>Saturday         9.30 am—12.30 pm | 451 5141                      |
| Joint Session Clerks                                         | Louise Lamont<br>Isobel Webber                                                             | elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk<br>Isobelwebber@btinternet.com                                               | 466 3472<br>07702 784186      |
| Treasurer                                                    | Eddie Pigott                                                                               | pigottsef@icloud.com                                                                                     | 07891 613360                  |
| Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer                               | Eunice Stewart                                                                             | eunicestewart48@gmail.com                                                                                | 449 6832                      |
| Data Protection Officer                                      | Vanessa Martins                                                                            | <a href="mailto:vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com">vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com</a>                             |                               |
| 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                                                                                 | lizpotter66@virginmedia.com                                                                              | 07769 684029                  |
| Kirk Flowers                                                 | Isobel Webber                                                                              | isobelwebber@btinternet.com                                                                              | 07702 784186                  |
| Magazine Distributor                                         | Currie Kirk Office                                                                         | Admin@curriekirk.co.uk                                                                                   | 451 5141                      |
| Boys' Brigade Captain                                        | Bill Brown                  Anchors/Juniors<br><br>Company/Seniors                         | Thursday 6.00-7.30 pm<br><br>Friday 7.00—8.30 pm<br>Sunday 6.30-8.30 pm                                  | 449 4905<br>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                                                | Moira McDonald                                                                             | Third Sunday of each month.                                                                              | 07853 228751                  |



# The Kirk News

an now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/Kirknews>.  
Articles for the February/March issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to  
**Isobel Webber@btinternet.com** by Friday 25 January 2026

**Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**