

THE KIRK NEWS

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY
2024



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Church Services in Currie

December

- 3 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—First Sunday in Advent—Joint Advent Service with Balerno Parish Church—Grant Gordon
- 10 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Second Sunday in Advent—Rev Alistair Keil—followed by Prayer Tree Service
- 16 Currie Kirk at 12.30—Mrs Margaret Gordon—Bereavement Quiet Day Service
- 17 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Third Sunday in Advent—Rev Alistair Keil—Lessons and Carols
- 20 Our Lady's Currie—7 pm—Carol Service
- 24 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Fourth Sunday in Advent—Rev Dr Anne T Logan, Interim Moderator
- 24 Gibson Craig Hall—Christingle/Pyjama Service 6.30 pm—come and make your Christingle from 6 pm
- 24 Currie Kirk—Watchnight Service at 11.30—Professor John Sawkins
- 25 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Christmas Day—Rev Dr Anne T Logan, Interim Moderator
- 31 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Reflective Worship for the Year's End led by Neill Crawford



JOY to the WORLd

January

- 7 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Wendy Drake
- 14 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Peter Graham
- 21 Currie Kirk at 10.00 am—Joint Service in Balerno Parish Church
- 28 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Dr Anne T Logan, Interim Moderator—Formal Communion Service

A Christmas Message from the Interim Moderator



Dear Friends,

Christmas is approaching rapidly—too rapidly for many of us as we scurry around to get everything done. Children tend to look forward to Christmas, they have great expectations—and not just material expectations of presents, they also have great expectations that Christmas will be exciting and good fun. As adults our expectations are much more mixed. Christmas and New Year are often a poignant reminder of what we have lost and of people who are no longer with us. Christmas and New Year are times when we think about the successes and the failures of our lives. Christmas and New Year are times when we look at our world and are sometimes despairing.

Yet with Christmas comes the reminder that God loves us enough to enter this human life of ours, that God loves us enough to share in our experiences. At Christmas we are struck again by the wonder of the Incarnation and the knowledge that no matter our hopes and expectations, no matter our failures, losses or despair, God's love surrounds us, God's love is always there.

One of the most moving and most powerful passages in the whole Bible is John 1 vv 1—16 because here, devoid of detail about shepherds and angels, wise men and stars is the stark truth of the Incarnation. Here we have laid out for us the ultimate self-giving of God. This is a passage to live with day by day, to go back to time and time again—a passage, not just for Christmas, but a reading, to sit with, to pray with, to wonder at. Ask yourself, 'what does this passage mean for the way I live my life every day in what is left of 2023 but also in 2024 and beyond.'

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and New Year

Anne T Logan

Quiet Day in Currie Kirk (Incorporating a Service of Remembrance at 12.30 pm.) Saturday 16 December 2023—11.00 am—2.30 pm

The Church will be open from 11.00 am—2.30 pm on Saturday 16 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 12.30, 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.

Margaret Gordon

Church Organisations—Dates for your Diary

The Boys' Brigade

Anchors & Junior Sections meet every Thursday 6—7.30

Boys in P2—P6—Gibson Craig Hall

Company Section meets every Sunday 6.30—8.30

Boys in P7—S6—Gibson Craig Hall

Games Night every Friday from 7.00 pm

The Guild

5 December—Working with Stained Glass—Speaker: Edith Armit at 10.00 am

19 December—Christmas Party with Bill Wishart, Ministry of Magic—1-4 pm

16 January—Braidburn Valley Park—Speaker: Andrew Swann at 2 pm

Mission and Outreach—Christmas Out of the Box Show

**16 December—Mary & Joseph and a donkey called Hank—6.30 pm
Gibson Craig Halls**

**A Christmas musical for all the family from Out of the Box Production Company
Entry free, please register your interest on the link on www.curriekirk.org
(See page 5)**



an 'Out of the Box' Christmas musical for all the family

Mary & Joseph

and a donkey called Hank

CAST
Philip Todd, Matthew Todd
Carol Hutchison and Chris Watt

Saturday 16th Dec 2023
Venue: Gibson Craig Hall
156 Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5NY
Starts at 6.30pm

Tickets for this event are **FREE** and available from:
Currie Kirk Office

Out of the Box (Scotland) Ltd - Scottish Charity No. SC 035701
For more information check out www.outofthebox.me.uk



Shoebox Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated a completed shoebox or handed in items to complete boxes. We handed over 57 completed shoeboxes along with two large boxes of 'overspill' items to Chris at Blythswood on Wednesday 1st November.

Christmas Stockings

Thanks to everyone who knitted or stitched a stocking to hang on a Christmas tree. We have handed over a stocking to every child in the local primary schools (over 1000!)

Bathgate Brass Band

Thanks to everyone who came along and enjoyed the Bathgate Brass Band on 2 November. Despite an awful night weatherwise the band cheered us all.

MOF Committee

On the 4th October officers and boys from all sections of the 65th joined with others from the Edinburgh, Leith and District Battalion on Edinburgh Castle Esplanade as the castle was turned blue to celebrate 140 years of The Boys' Brigade.



Later in October, bands from England including the 4th Croydon Pipe Band toured Scotland to celebrate 140 years of the BB. They visited and performed in Thurso, Inverness, Dundee, Stirling, Glasgow and finally Edinburgh where they marched (in appalling weather) from Johnston Terrace to Parliament Square at St Giles giving fabulous performances there and at the Mound.

In the next few weeks the Boys of the Company Section will participate in National competitions in Chess, Badminton and Table Tennis hosting companies from Livingston, Blackburn and Dunblane. We wish them well.

Bill Brown (Captain)



A Huge Thank You from Easter

Dear Friends in Currie

While it is great to be here close to my dad and I am enjoying my new ministry at Centre Presbyterian, PA, I cannot say that I am not fairly homesick. I do miss Currie Kirk's church family as well as my own family who are still in Scotland.

I hope and pray you are faring well, keeping well and that your faith and plans are thriving.

My main reason for writing is to say THANK YOU! Thank you for the time you shared with me and Thank you especially for your generosity and kindness at my parting. The beautiful iconic glassware is stunning by the light on the window-sill. Thank you also for the generous envelope full of dollars. It has gone a long way to help me furnish a new manse.

Thank You for coming to say farewell at my last few services, and for your friendship and the lovely presentation for Heather and myself. Please let me know if you fancy coming over for a visit. Between Dad and myself we have two houses and lots of room.

I wish you so, so well meantime as you look ahead to Christmas and the New Year.

With every blessing,

Easter

FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

Fresh Start was established to help those moving on from homelessness to make a home for themselves. At Currie Kirk we give our support by donating a variety of items which we no longer need or by giving cash donations to help with the work Fresh Start does. To those of you who are not familiar with the Charity here are some of their activities.



Jean and Elizabeth helping at Fresh Start

- * Provide starter packs of basis household goods to those getting their first home;
- * Arrange volunteers to decorate two rooms in people's homes;
- * Fund raise for white goods eg Cookers for Christmas yearly appeal;
- * Provide a Community hub providing, food, cooking classes and support;
- * Growing spaces across the city, the produce being used in their cooking classes; and
- * Their new initiative is NESSie a collaboration of several North Edinburgh Support Groups to work in a person centred way, tailored to the needs of the individual.

These are just a few of the support services provided by the staff and volunteers at Fresh Start. We appreciate the good work done by these volunteers including our very own, Elizabeth Wood and Jean Smith, two long serving volunteers who help at the Fresh Start premises.

If you have any items you wish to donate please leave them at the Gibson Craig Hall or contact me, Christine Wilson 538 2567.

A list of what is required:

- * Bedding, not duvets or pillows,
- * Towels and tea towels, cleaning items, cutlery, cooking utensils, pots and pans in good condition,
- * Dinner plates and mugs but no tea sets or wine glasses.
- * Small electrical items but no bric-a-brac please.

By donating to Fresh Start's Cookers for Christmas campaign, you are not only helping someone at the most troubling and stressful time of their lives—you are putting a hot meal on the table for a household, you are allowing someone to make healthy life choices by giving them the means to store their food properly and giving them the basic dignity of being able to wash their clothes.



To donate: online—www.justgiving.com/campaign/CookersforChristmas2023 or pick up a leaflet from the Gibson Craig Hall or Currie Kirk.



The Guild

As we draw nearer to Christmas, the Guild has already enjoyed a number of meetings as well as our Coffee Morning to raise funds for Beat Eating Disorders. Our Rededication Service was taken by Rev Alistair Keil who spoke very movingly about the Guild and our project.

Moving into December there is a meeting on Tuesday 5 December at 10am when the speaker will be Edith Armit talking about "Working with Stained Glass". Our Christmas Party is on Tuesday 19 December from 1-4pm. As well as enjoying a meal together, we welcome the return of Bill Wishart with his Ministry of Magic. On Tuesday 16 January 2024 at 2pm our first speaker of the new year will be Andrew Swann telling us about Braidburn Valley Park.

Please do join us for any of our meetings. If you require further information, please email me on elf.lamont@bluryonder.co.uk or phone 466-3472. Have a wonderful Christmas and a joyous start to 2024/

Louise Lamont Currie Kirk Guild President

Local churches working together.



On Saturday 14 October volunteers from Currie Kirk, Currie Community church and St. Mungo's in Balerno joined with volunteers from the Salaam group in Edinburgh City Mission to provide an afternoon of fun and fellowship with refugees living in EH14 postcode. This is part of the New Scots Community—reaching out to others who have recently moved to our area. We joined with families from Syria, Afghanistan, and Sudan to participate in the activities.

There were craft tables, table tennis thanks to the b=Boys from the 65th BB company who provided advice and guidance, food, and some Scottish Country dancing thanks to Christine Wilson. It was agreed by everyone that it had been a great afternoon, filled with fun and friendship. After a very successful afternoon, we're looking forward to hosting another event soon in the Gibson Craig Halls, Currie. If you are interested in joining with us to plan future events for our new neighbours, please contact Fiona Pigott, Currie Kirk (fpigott19@gmail.com).

Christmas Cakes

Christmas cakes for sale from Fiona Pigott. The price stays the same at £10 and every penny goes toward the Bethany Care Van to pay for the soup and supplies we take out each month. Please contact me direct (07874 -282480 or fpigott19@gmail.com)



Remembrance Sunday

Wreaths were laid by representatives of Currie Kirk—Bill Wood; The Scottish Parliament (Sue Webber), The Masonic Lodge (Douglas Munro). A further two wreaths were laid by a representatives of the 3Rifles; and the RAF. A wreath from Juniper Green Church was laid later. The service was conducted by Grant Gordon.



Sandy Harper and Bill Wood



The Changing World

The wind of change blows through our life
Where once was peace there now is strife,
As all over the world, people fight
Putting their lives in sorry plight.

There is no victor, how can there be
The sorry facts are there to see.
Countries ruined and families lost
It's impossible now to count the cost.

When brother faces up to brother
In needless slaughter of the other.
What kind of human beings are we
Who allow such tragedies to be.

As daily we listen to the news
I think the time has come to choose.
The reason we're here on this earth for
Whether it's peace, or needless war.

Lets fight to save the sick and old
These are the battles that should be told.
Keep fighting for a longer life
Not to end it with by gun or knife.

What a peaceful place this land could be
If we all just lived in harmony.
Instead of trying to take away
What's rightly others, and as such should stay.

SO WIND OF CHANGE BLOW ONCE MORE PLEASE
AND CHANGE OUR WORLD TO LASTING PEACE.

*(Written in 1959 by Sandy Harper on board HMS Eagle
to his wife Irene)*

How appropriate the words are today



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 7.30-9pm every second Monday from October 2nd to mid-March
Currie Community Council		curriecouncil@gmail.com	2nd Wednesday of every Month except August and December
EH Fitness Classes	Emma	emma@eh-fitness.co.uk 0771 333 5900	Monday 10.30—11.30 am Monday 5.50—6.50 pm Tuesday 6.45—7.15 pm Friday 5.30-6.30 pm Saturday 8.45—9.30 am
Inna Pilates	Inna Buzz	07825 164927	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—9 pm from 7 September to 19 April
Pentland Ladies Probus	Barbara Hannaford	0131 453 3012	4th Tuesday of Month from September to May
Pilates	Ellen Foster	07983 863143	Saturday 10.30—11.30 am
Zumba Exercise Class	Tom Lowe	tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk	Thursday: 10.15 am—11.15 am

Transport Fund

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

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

The Meeting Place

The meeting place is held every Monday for the over 65's and their carers, in the Scout Hall, Forth View Crescent, Currie, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Lunch is served for a modest £4.00.

Our main focus is offering a place to all our residents looking for companionship in a safe friendly environment where they can enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

For more information phone 07711 046041 or just call in.
Allan Murray.

A Letter from the Rev Dr Anne T Logan, Interim Moderator

Dear Friends,

Gradually, slowly, people are returning to Worship after the pandemic. It is wonderful to welcome friends back into the Sunday community. If you haven't returned yet, please be sure that you will be very welcome.

We are aware that many people are struggling greatly with the cost-of-living crisis. Sadly, some of the same issues affect us as a congregation. Our power, insurance and staffing costs are all rising rather more rapidly than our income. If you feel that you are in a position to make even a very modest increase in your giving, we would be very grateful. However, we do understand that for some, even that will not be possible.

We do ask everyone for your ongoing prayers as we navigate the next steps in the life of Currie Kirk.

Wishing you all God's Blessings!

December/January Flower List

December

- 3 Mrs S Law
- 10 Mrs C Lindsay
- 17 Flower Fund Donations
- 24 Flower Fund Donations
- 31 Flower Fund Donations



January

- 7 Flower Fund Donations
- 14 Mrs J McColl
- 21 Mrs Eleanor Smith
- 28 Flower Fund Donations

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.

