

# THE KIRK NEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2022



## In this Issue

2	Calendar Overview	5	The Boys' Brigade	14	Community Activities
3	Message from the Manse	6	The Guild	15	Family News
4	Platinum Jubilee	7	Presbytery Plan	16	Who's Who

# Calendar Overview

## July

<b>July</b>	2	Saturday	Coffee Stop—Kirk—2-4 pm—tea, coffee and cakes
	3	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am—Rev John Combe with Worship Team
	9	Saturday	Coffee Stop—Kirk—2-4 pm—tea, coffee and cakes
	10	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am—Rev John Combe
	16	Saturday	Coffee Stop—Kirk—2-4 pm—tea, coffee and cakes
	17	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am—Rev James Essentia
	23	Saturday	Coffee Stop—Kirk—2-4 pm—tea, coffee and cakes
	24	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am—Professor John Sawkins
	25-29	July	Holiday Club—Seaside Rock—see below
	30	Saturday	Coffee Stop—Kirk—2-4 pm—tea, coffee and cakes
	31	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am—Grant Gordon

## August

<b>August</b>	6	Saturday	Coffee Stop—Kirk—2-4 pm—tea, coffee and cakes
	7	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am—Rev Fiona Tweedie
	13	Saturday	Coffee Stop—Kirk—2-4 pm—tea, coffee and cakes
	14	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am
	14	Sunday	Afternoon Worship—Gibson Craig Halls—4-5 pm. Refreshments served from 3.30 pm
	20	Saturday	Coffee Stop—Kirk—2-4 pm—tea, coffee and cakes
	22	Monday	Deadline for articles for September Kirk News
	21	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am
	27	Saturday	Coffee Stop—Kirk—2-4 pm—tea, coffee and cakes
	28	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am

### Holiday Club—Seaside Rock—25-29 July—Heriot Watt University



**Seaside Rock**  
25th - 29th July 2022

Heriot Watt University (next to Chaplaincy building)  
To book use the QR code or go here: [Currie & Juniper Green Child](#)

£2 per session

P1-P7: 10am-12.30pm Mon-Fri

Bible stories  
Games  
Crafts  
Songs  
Snack

SU Student  
CURRIE KIRK




**Youth nights**  
P7-S6  
7.30-9pm

Wednesday 27 July  
Thursday 28 July  
Friday 29 July  
Heriot Watt Chaplaincy Centre  
Fri 29th - Water polo & Ice cream

Heriot Watt University (next to Chaplaincy building)



## A Message from the Manse

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matt 11:28-29)*

Summer is here! BBQ's have sprung from the garage and the world is opening for holidays and travel. While life begins to feel more 'normal', I continually meet people who tell me they still don't feel fully back to the way they were before we heard of Covid. In fact, I have heard people of all ages confess that they still feel a bit anxious, or tired, or they lack their old confidence about making plans or booking things. (Not helped by air staffing shortages and rail strikes!)

Wherever, or however you spend July and August, can I encourage you to nourish your life with good things. We know the expression, “you are what you eat!” Food feeds our bodies. Books and activities uplift our minds. A holiday can provide rest and relaxation. However, we are often sold short by the many screens advertising new trends of persuading us to indulge in quick fixes or fads to salve life's stresses or strains, bumps or bruises, frustrations, or fatigue.

I encourage you this summer to be intentional about caring for your heart and soul, by seeking rest, not just in relaxation, but in prayer and taking time in the loving presence of God, feeding your soul with the wise and comforting, creative and uplifting words of scripture. Jesus, the Living Bread, the water of life, yearns to bless us every new day. Find rest in him and rediscover how much God surely desires to bless your life, strengthen you, uplift you and give you deep peace.

Have a lovely summer,

God Bless

*Easter*



Currie Kirk is proud to be able to help the Ukrainian families who are visiting our community. The Kirk, from the Pastoral Fund, has given £1,000 to help with bus passes. The Gibson Craig Hall has been made available to host English lessons on a Wednesday and Saturday each week.

### **Nether Currie Baby and Toddler Group**

Nether Currie Baby and Toddler Group is looking for volunteers to help run the group. We meet at the Gibson Craig Hall on Friday 9.30-11.30 am during term time. If you can spare some time please contact Margaret Milton on 07743 067588 or [margaret0205@hotmail.com](mailto:margaret0205@hotmail.com)



The Gibson Craig Hall was the venue for all the excitement and friendship which culminated in the celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee.

On Friday 3 June Tricky Ricky entertained over 100 children and parents with magic and jokes. The afternoon of the 4 June we celebrated in style, with tea dresses and hats a plenty, over 80 enjoyed an afternoon tea and entertainment. Covid, unfortunately, hit our Kirk Singers but in stepped Iain MacPhail to save the afternoon. Ronnie Moyes and the two remaining Kirk singers who were covid free led us in some community singing along with his special jokes—some in the style of Chic Murray!!



We were very lucky to receive a donation of a great number of bottles of Bucks Fizz and bars of Terry's Chocolate Orange from Billy Inglis *et al* from the Masonic Lodge which made the afternoon go with a "fizz" which was very much appreciated.

A truly great event and a real sense of fellowship in the hall as you can see from the photos below.

On Sunday 5 June, following our Pentecost service in the Kirk, we planted an Acer tree outside the front door as a lasting memorial to our Queen. Thanks to Susan Webber who helped us organise this with the council and a special thank you to Peter, from the bereavement services team at Mortonhall, who helped plant "the tree for the Jubilee".



Our very own Centenarian—103 (not Gordon!) - Janet (Catherine's mum)



On 27th May, 2022 the 65th Edinburgh (Currie) Company—The Boys' Brigade held its 59th Annual Display and the first in two years as a result of Covid. It was great to be back in the Gibson Craig Hall for the event and over 50 parents, family and friends attended. The inspecting officer was Professor John Sawkins and Mrs Morag Sawkins presented the Awards.

As well as the various awards and prizes eight young men received the Queen's Badge, the highest award in the Boys' Brigade. Josh Blackley and Adam Hamilton returned to be presented with their awards from 2020 while from l to r Sam Raphael, Shashank Swarna, Chris and Lewis Grierson and David Farrell also received their awards. Ollie Crane was the final Queen's man but was unable to attend on the night and was presented separately on 29th May.

During the summer a number of boys along with the Captain Bill Brown will join with the Midlothian Group camp at Prestatyn, N Wales from 16-23rd July.

Towards the end of the session an application was made to the Balerno Rotary Club Community Chest and we were extremely fortunate to be successful in receiving a generous grant which will be used for the purchase of uniforms for the new session.

The Company will resume for the new session in the Gibson Craig Hall as follows:-

Anchor Boys and Junior Section for Boys in Primary 2 to Primary 6 will resume on Thursday, 1st September at 6.00pm. Company Section will resume on Sunday, 4th September at 6.30pm. The Company Section Games Night will resume on Friday, 9th September at 7.00pm.

Yours in BB

Bill Brown, Captain



## The Guild



After a time lapse of two-years we finally made it with our long awaited outing to Alnwick. Leaving the Gibson Craig Hall and driving along the A1 our first stop was at the Berwick Garden Centre where we enjoyed delicious scones and tea and coffee.

We then drove to the town of Alnwick with free time where you could go to the castle, the gardens, Barter Books or just strolled round the town. Our evening meal was in Eyemouth at Heathers Restaurant, which is attached to the golf club, with great views across the Forth.

We are now preparing speakers for our next session starting in September.

We already have a few speakers booked and are hoping that Coffee Mornings and Afternoon Teas will be back to normal. Our chosen charity for this coming session is "Starchild" which is a Ugandan based charity working towards improving the lives of the most vulnerable in that country.



Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 6 September at 10am and our speaker will be Rev Fiona Tweedie who will be telling us about her life as an Ordained Local Minister. Fiona has led worship in Currie Kirk on a number of occasions in the past few months.

If you are not already a member of the Guild, please consider joining us. It is a chance for fellowship and an opportunity to make new friends or meet up with old ones. Everybody is welcome.

For further information, either email me at [elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone 466-3472

Louise Lamont  
Guild President

# The Presbytery Plan

The following correspondence has been received and replied to—it is printed for your information.

The first is from the Deployment Group, signed by Stewart Weaver

**Church of Scotland  
Presbytery of Edinburgh & West Lothian  
Resources Committee  
Deployment Group (DG)**

**25 May 2022**

Dear All,

With the visits to congregations in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian proceeding apace, and following requests from congregations for regular updates, it seems a good time to provide a summary of the process of creating a Presbytery Mission Plan. The information below will then be supplemented with further information and discussion at the Presbytery meeting on 21 June.

## **What has happened thus far?**

Since 1 January 2022, the Deployment Group (DG) have met seven times and have also participated in an evening of training in order to ensure that our conversations with congregations are as fruitful as possible. The letter sent to congregations in February of 2022, requesting considered feedback to the Edinburgh consultative document and the West Lothian draft plan, provided valuable and detailed insight into the thoughts and concerns of congregations. The DG then initiated an extensive round of visits to congregations in order to listen, clarify, understand and explain. Thus far, over 50 congregations have been visited. Thank you to every congregation for taking part in this initiative, and thanks too to the members of the DG for undertaking this task. Each visit requires many hours of work per DG representative and significant input from the people involved in every congregation. The scale of the task for the entirety of Presbytery thus becomes more apparent.

## **What has been heard and seen?**

Each conversation with each congregation is unique. Yet, broader themes have arisen consistently that may be worth sharing.

**AMBA Reports:** Virtually every congregation has asked when the reports will be available. At the time of writing, reports have been submitted and summary scores have been provided. The Resources Committee (RC), which includes conveners and vice-conveners from DG, Finance and Property, have met twice to examine that which has been received. The numbers sometimes reflect previous knowledge of properties. Sometimes, however, the numbers have been unexpected and thus further examination has been required. This has typically been a matter of looking at the report in some detail. Another meeting of the RC is scheduled and a meeting with the General Trustees (GTs) too is scheduled. Two points may be worth sharing. Firstly, the AMBA reports are not final or definitive when it comes to proposing a designation of 'A' (retain) or 'B' (release) of a building. Many factors will contribute and not least of these is mission as articulated in a mission narrative (please see below).

Secondly, it is planned that further information will be made available to Presbytery as soon as possible after 6 June and before Presbytery meets on 21 June. The Resources Committee meet at the end of May and then again at the beginning of June with the General Trustees, and afterwards additional insights can be provided. A means by which Presbytery will be able to discuss the AMBA reports in more detail is being considered.

**Staffing and Capacity:** Nearly every congregation has expressed concern about staffing. In order to do mission, people are required. This point has been duly noted and will be discussed in more detail as visits continue. However, we cannot provide resources that are simply not available. It might be worth offering a number of points: there is at present no latitude with regards to the 65.5 nationally funded ministries posts for Edinburgh and West Lothian; we recognise that significant new housing is being built and yet the numbers are not yet formally reflected in the statistics provided by the national church; reaching out to new housing and the priority to the poor is labour intensive; and the secondary principles of Presbytery planning encourage the use of all the gifts of God's people. In essence, in order to do effective mission, focus and priorities will be needed. Once the Presbytery Plan is approved, further thought will need to be given to the deployment of Ordained Local Ministers, Readers and others, alongside the possibility of Pioneer Ministry. Whilst there is no national funding included for new posts, Presbytery itself, through its funds, may consider funding. There is also the question of locally funded (i.e., congregational funded) posts. Much of this work lies in the period after the plan has been approved and we begin to move into implementation. It will be an evolving matter over the next five years.

**Pastoral Care:** This issue has been highlighted several times. As mentioned previously, it is hoped that the visits and ongoing conversations have allowed voices to be heard. The DG have continued to liaise with Presbytery's Faith Nurture Committee in order to keep the lines of communication open, recognising that this is a difficult time for all involved in this process, but particularly those ministers in reviewable charges.

**Mission Districts:** This relatively new concept has drawn many comments. Some have been favourable, seeing wider cooperation as a means to facilitate mission. Others have been less favourable, seeing another layer of bureaucracy and meetings. Presbyters are encouraged to read the recent paper provided by Gordon Jamieson (*See Mission Districts paper shown later on page 12*) in order to envision the means by which wider teamwork could be beneficial. It provides some helpful ideas as a starting point.

**Unions only?** The Edinburgh consultative document focusses on unions and the draft West Lothian plan includes within it many proposed unions. Unions encourage a focus on mission by one kirk session and one group of people. The national church does not encourage linkages because of the duplication of meetings and the drain on resources. The Presbytery Mission Plan Act offers other means for current congregations to work together, such as Team Ministry, and the DG are aware of the many tools in the toolkit. Yet, when it comes to congregations working together, a concentrated focus on mission will be vital no matter what the structure. Moreover, the DG have clearly heard the plea to support congregations as closer relationships develop and as formal structures are considered.

**Wider conversations?** Many congregations have asked if they can initiate and/or participate in conversations with other congregations not specifically paired with them in the proposals thus far. This is potentially helpful but please do remember some important caveats: there are clear limitations on nationally paid ministries posts and an alteration in one area may have significant ripple effects in other areas, especially those close by. An awareness of the wider context within which the Presbytery is working is crucial.



The DG has seen ideas mooted for adjustments that will improve the plan and, in recognising the contours on the ground, will encourage greater buy-in from those involved.

**Differences in size:** Smaller congregations have asked how they can join with larger congregations and not be swallowed up. Larger congregations have expressed concerns about responsibilities, whether they be fabric or finance. Partnership is critical in the way ahead. Many of those who might be smaller have manifested the Five Marks of Mission (5MM) in humbling, inspirational and self-sacrificial manners. Those who are larger have mobilized their resources to support mission in a myriad of ways. The DG strongly encourage congregations to seek the means to work together in a locality and world yearning for healing and hope. When discussing a basis for union or team ministry or other form of cooperation, for example, all parties involved can strive for understanding and parity in representation.

**Differences in approach:** Some congregations might gravitate towards one approach to worship, mission, evangelism and church life, and some might gravitate in another direction. A common focus on mission, and perhaps unifying mission projects, is one means to use the variety of gifts and approaches. Some new unions or team ministries may retain more than one worship space: herein rests a possibility for different types of worship. Imaginative ideas founded on the 5MM can create unity in purpose.

**Pioneer Ministry:** Many comments have been made about Pioneer Ministry. Some have been sceptical, wondering what precisely this idea is and how effective it is. Would not more parish ministers, rooted in a community, be desirable? Others have noted that imagination and energy can be unlocked when a pioneer minister is freed from many of the constrictions that limit relationship building and ingenuity. Conversations will continue, as noted above.

**Mission Narratives:** These will be of great importance in the road ahead and some congregations have asked for more details. In essence, a mission narrative for the Presbytery will reference the 5MM and the secondary principles, and then mission narratives for mission districts or new congregations will describe how the adjustments suggested in the mission plan will help to further mission in a particular area of the Presbytery. These are to be broad brush strokes rather than detailed descriptions and Presbytery are responsible ultimately for the mission narratives. While much information will contribute to the narratives, such as AMBA scores, statistics and demographics, the mission narrative will point the way forward with regards to mission in a particular area. Recent conversations will contribute significantly. Further information is being sought that can be shared with Presbytery.

### **What will be happening next?**

**Visits:** These will continue during the month of June. It is hoped that every congregation, where possible, will be visited by 30 June, in keeping with the timeline. Reports from the visiting DG reps will be shared with the entirety of the team in order to provide an overview. An away day for DG is planned for the third week of June to begin the process of sorting and assessment.

**Timeline for approving the Presbytery Mission Plan:** A timeline running from 1 July to 31 December 2022 is currently under discussion. It is planned that a timeline will be brought to Presbytery on 21 June for discussion. Broadly speaking, discussions between the DG, congregations and mission districts will continue. It is proposed that Presbytery meetings will be arranged so that Presbyters will have an opportunity to discuss ideas, proposals and/or broad themes. Using the visits currently underway as a springboard, everything that *can* be done within the limits of time and capacity will be done to ensure the involvement of Presbytery in this process.

**Buildings:** The process regarding AMBA was mentioned above. The RC and DG are aware that this sensitive issue will require time, effort and conversations. These will continue where needed.

Communication has been highlighted as a key factor in the successful creation and implementation of a Presbytery Plan. We hope that the information above is of some assistance in providing a view into the state of play at the moment. The Presbytery meeting on 21 June will also allow further dialogue and conversation. Whilst the work undertaken thus far will be shared it will be too early to put forward even a tentative draft: not every congregation will necessarily have been visited. This is, and will be, an ongoing process. The DG would like to thank Presbyters and congregations for their time, energy, insight and patience as all of us work towards a plan and more fruitful mission.

Should you have any thoughts or questions, please do get in touch.

Sincerely yours,  
Stewart G. Weaver  
Convener—Deployment Group

The following is the response from Viola MacPhail Co-ordinating Currie Kirk Elder on the Water of Leith Cluster Group with the response from Hugh and Pauline in blue.

**Currie Kirk Office  
156 Lanark Road West  
Currie  
EH14 5NY  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2022**

Dear Hugh and Pauline

On behalf of Currie Kirk Session and Congregation, we would like to thank you, as representatives of the Deployment Group, for coming to meet with us on April 27.

We very much appreciate the time you have taken to listen to the points made by members of the Congregation, those in particular, who feel very strongly that it was a mistake to place Currie Kirk in the 'Border' Mission District in the draft Presbytery Plan.

The main points of our written submission on 15th March 2022 stressed that Currie looks eastward toward Edinburgh and therefore naturally to the proposed South West Mission District which includes the Churches of Juniper Green, Colinton, Slateford Longstone, Craiglockhart, and others along the Water of Leith and Canalside, rather than Churches in West Lothian with which there has been little contact or relationship. Transferring Currie Kirk to the South West District gives greater opportunity to share resources and produce a 'menu' system of worship; we would like to expand on the many positive and

productive ways that could be implemented in discussion with the other Churches in South West District. Although we made a brief reference to the points of advantage outlined in our submitted paper perhaps we were remiss in not reiterating them. However, we very much wished to give the Congregation the opportunity to voice their points of view and state their concerns that naturally existing natural community links through schools and activities would be broken or strained by separating Currie and Juniper Green into different Mission Districts.

We are grateful for your note of the meeting which distils the discussion. However, this should, we feel, be read in conjunction with the submission paper from Currie Kirk which details some of the means to closer working with all the churches in South West district, almost to form a small Presbytery to explore different ways of working to people's strengths.

**The points you make in the above 2 paragraphs are noted, and will be taken to the DG.**

In your Minute, an action point proposes to consult with Rachel and Jamie; we are unclear what this point entails. Is it the case that Rachel and Jamie are your counterparts in visits to churches in the South West District? We would like to learn what progress, if any, is there to report on our requested transfer to the South West District? A positive response would enable us to begin to develop our plans/strategy for engagement with, and conversations with, this Mission District.

**You are correct – Jamie and Rachel are our DG counterparts for Mission District A (MD A). Visits there are not yet complete. We need to talk to them to find out what Juniper Green is thinking, and to inform them of the desire of Currie Kirk, and indeed Balerno, to be reallocated to MD A. Pauline and I fully support your desire for such a move, and will argue for this when the DG meets to discuss amendments to MDs – this has not yet happened.**

We believe that our perspective on future co-operation in Mission Districts does dovetail well with Gordon Jamieson's paper on Mission Districts presented on 30 April 2022. However, we would ask for some clarification on the position of Heriot Watt University and its Chaplaincy in terms of belonging to a Mission District. We in Currie Kirk are glad to host their Annual Rededication Service and seek opportunities to build closer relationships, hold joint services, ask exchange students to provide links to different ways of worship, for example in the use of technology, Heriot Watt being a leading centre of excellence in electronics.

**I am unaware of any discussion relating to University Chaplaincies being incorporated into a MD. This will be explored with the Convener of the DG, but I think the answer will be that the MD would be perfectly free to invite the chaplain(s) to join the MD, in the same way as other denominations could join.**

We look forward to hearing a favourable resolution to our request that Currie Kirk joins the South West Mission District.

Yours sincerely

Viola MacPhail

Co-ordinating Currie Kirk Elder on the Water of Leith Cluster Group

# Mission Districts in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian

Gordon D Jamieson—30 April 2022

## 1 Introduction

Moira McDonald, Lynne McEwen and I were part of the Steering Group which prepared for the new Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian. During 2021 the Steering Group for the new Presbytery worked its way through the remit it had been given by both the old Presbyteries. One part of the remit was *Recommend a List of Mission Districts and their Remit for presentation to the first meeting of the new Presbytery*. This did not happen, not because the Steering Group overlooked it or ran out of time. It did not happen because two things became apparent:

1 It would not be possible to define the geographical area of each Mission District until the Presbytery Mission Plan receives final approval from Presbytery and the appropriate central bodies. (Although planning in West Lothian referred to three specific Mission Districts, these are only provisional at present, and Cluster Groups identified in Edinburgh are not necessarily the Mission Districts.); and

2 This is an area where a ‘top down’ approach from Presbytery is not necessary, and possibly not desirable. It is an area where more local perspectives are very important, and a ‘bottom up’ approach, in consultation with the Presbytery’s Mission Co-ordinator, is workable and desirable.

## 2 What is a Mission District?

1 It is a number of congregations and parishes within a defined geographical area, which should be a more natural unit than some parishes. Dividing lines between some parishes can be artificial and to a great extent irrelevant.

2 There may be an ecumenical dimension in a Mission District: this would build on existing ecumenical relationships in some areas, and perhaps initiate such co-operation in other areas.

3 It should enable the new larger Presbytery, which may appear remote, to be closer to congregations and provide a degree of fellowship which will probably not be possible across the new larger Presbytery.

4 It is a unit designed to engage with Christian outreach and service in an area which is larger than the parish and smaller than the Presbytery.

5 It is an opportunity for congregations to share resources in a practical way.

6 It is something new for the Church of Scotland. What works and what does not work will become apparent as the Mission Districts begin to function. It might be described as an adventure in faith.

7 It is not an ‘official’ new layer of governance between Presbytery and Kirk Sessions. Each Mission District need not, and perhaps should not, function in exactly the same way.

## 3 Sharing Resources

Some congregations have already engaged in sharing resources, e.g. providing Session Clerks and Treasurers to other congregations who find it difficult to recruit these from their own membership. Mission Districts should provide wider opportunities for this.

In each Mission District there will be a number of paid ministries. Each of these people, Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Deacons, Mission Development Staff, is a unique person with his/her own skills and talents. Rather than expect each of them to do everything, whether it is a talent they have or not, the Mission District may be an opportunity for each to concentrate on their strengths.

As the Church of Scotland becomes less dependent on paid ministries, there will be an expectation that lay people will do more. One area for this is leading worship. The establishment of worship leadership teams will become increasingly important. Training may be provided at Presbytery level or within a Mission District (or two or three Mission Districts together). Once this training has taken place, it will be possible to have a Worship Leadership Team in each Mission District, to serve across that Mission District.

Session Clerk, Treasurer, Property Convener, Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Musician—these are posts which each congregation seeks to fill at the present time. Sometimes this is straightforward, often it is not. Within a Mission District there can be the opportunity for one congregation to assist another, or even for

some posts to be undertaken across the Mission District. One area which may particularly lend itself to this is the post of Administrator: he/she could work across the Mission District in an office to serve the whole Mission District, rather than each congregation have a part-time Administrator and office facilities.

Sharing of resources in a Mission District can happen without congregations formally adopting a Basis of Team Ministry or a Basis of Parish Grouping.

#### **4 Fellowship and Support**

Ministers, Deacons, MDS, Session Clerks, Treasurers, Property Conveners, Safeguarding Co-ordinators, Musicians—these people often work in isolation, with the parish boundary operating as a barrier. It suits some to work in this way, but often only until something goes wrong.

Mission Districts provide the opportunity for those doing the same job to meet together, to learn from one another, and to support one another. This can also apply to all elders, and to members of congregations with similar concerns.

People will discover that those in neighbouring congregations are not from a different planet!

The congregation has become the key unit in the Church of Scotland. When I worked in the Church Offices, I received a very sad phone call from a woman, asking for advice that would enable her congregation to keep going for another year. Some congregations today are in 'survival' mode: keeping 'the show on the road' has become the main, perhaps only, concern. With shared resources and greater support, the Mission District could become the key unit, and the outlook might move from 'survival' to 'revival'.

For this to happen we need to trust one another and be willing to increase our horizon beyond our own church building, our own congregation, our own minister.

There may be lessons to be learned from the Methodist Church, where the circuit (a group of congregations) is the basic unit, or from the Church of England, where a diocese is divided into a number of deaneries.

#### **5 What is missing?**

Having said all this, what has been left unsaid? One very important thing, the most important thing—what is the main function of the Mission District? It is to engage in Christian outreach and service, to be a visible church, to share the gospel in word and action. This needs to be determined within each Mission District.

Rather than prescribe a remit at this stage, it is more appropriate to list some questions which each Mission District might address:

- 1 What are the principal needs of the communities within our Mission District?
- 2 How can the church most effectively share the gospel in our Mission District?
- 3 How would we start setting up our Mission District?
- 4 How would the work of our Mission District be co-ordinated?
- 5 What resources, if any, does our Mission District require from Presbytery?

#### **Comments from those present at the Conference:**

**1 Mission Districts may be regarded as yet another layer of church governance and administration.**

*The answer to this concern is that the Mission District is designed to engage congregations in mission, some aspects of which may be more effectively undertaken by a group of congregations working together rather than a number of individual congregations working separately. The Mission District is not part of the governance of the church.*

**2 Remove the present parish boundaries in favour of a Mission District boundary.**

*This may be the sensible approach in some, if not all, Mission Districts, especially where current parish boundaries are artificial and largely irrelevant. If the abolition of some parish boundaries is contrary to church law, but is a good idea that leads to more effective mission, then there may be good reason to change church law.*

Another comment referred to the training of Worship Leadership Teams, which was referred to above and in the brief comments by the convener of the Faith Nurture Committee.

It was also emphasised that a 'bottom up' approach needs to be addressed with positivity and enthusiasm.

# 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

	Contact name	Tel/email	Day
Balerno Bridge Club	Sandra Renton	449 3527	Monday 1.30-4.30
Currie and District Local History Society	Douglas Lowe	<a href="mailto:douglaslowe51@btinternet.com">douglaslowe51@btinternet.com</a>	Monday 7-9 pm twice monthly from 3/10/22-20/3/23
Currie Community Council			2nd Monday of each month 7.30-9.00 pm—not July
Nether Currie Baby and Toddler Group	Margaret Milton	07743 067588	Friday: 9.30 am—11.30 am (term time only)
Octagon Club	Claire Maloney	07999410721	Wednesday 7—9 pm from 7 September
Zumba Exercise Class	Tom Lowe	<a href="mailto:tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk">tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk</a>	Thursday: 10.15 am—11.15 am
Pilates	Ellen Foster	07752698425 <a href="mailto:ellenfosterphysio@outlook.com">ellenfosterphysio@outlook.com</a>	Saturday 10.30-11.30

## July/August Flower List

### July

- 3 Mrs B Dow
- 10 Mrs E Patton
- 17 Flower Fund Donations
- 24 Flower Fund Donations
- 31 Mr A Forsyth



### August

- 7 Flower Fund Donations
- 14 Mr & Mrs R Barr
- 21 Mrs W McLauchlan  
Mrs R Milligan
- 28 Flower Fund Donations

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 Isobel Webber or the office.

# Family News

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

Janey Bignell, Currie  
Alexander Graham, Currie  
Roddy Macdonald, Balerno



## Anne Gwendolene Williams

The 15th July this year would have been the 65th birthday of my late friend, Anne Gwendolene Williams who most of you know passed away peacefully at home here at Western Harbour on 26th February.

Anne and I had been close friends since we met during the long hot summer of 1995.

Anne steered me through a difficult period of my life in the late 1990s and it was mostly her vision and initiation that got us both up to Edinburgh.

Thanks to Anne the last 21 years here have been the best of my life. It really feels like she "prepared a place" here for me.

And now, it seems she has gone on ahead of me doubtless to do the same again.

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to all those of you who have offered me support at this time of my bereavement, you've been helping me to keep buoyant.

Anne's favourite author, the sorcerer's apprentice Carlos Castaneda wrote of the importance of performing "acts of abandon, of largesse" in order to transcend and transform ourselves into magical beings.

In that respect Anne was a living example to me.

Thank you all once again.

Michael Wilson



## STOP PRESS

**Nina** has had her baby. Orla McCarron was born at 2.13 pm on Saturday 19 June, 8.4lbs, and 53 cm long.

Mother and baby doing well. Congratulations to Nina, Sean and Jude.



# WHO'S WHO



NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL CONTACT/TIMES	TELEPHONE NO
Minister	Rev Dr Easter Smart		449 4719
Currie Kirk Church Office (Scottish Charity No. SC001554)	Gibson Craig Halls, Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5NY Email currie_kirk@btconnect.com	Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am— 12.30 pm	451 5141
Joint Session Clerks	Louise Lamont Isobel Webber	elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk Isobelwebber@btinternet.com	466-3472 451 5112
Treasurer	Eddie Pigott Email: pigottsef@icloud.com	pigottsef@icloud.com	466 1459
Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer	Eunice Stewart	eunicestewart48@gmail.com	449 6832
Data Protection Officer	Vanessa Martins	<a href="mailto:vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com">vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com</a>	
Weddings/Funeral Officer	Sandy Harper		451 5141
Organist	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Gibson Craig Halls Bookings	Viola MacPhail	<a href="mailto:gibsoncraigbooking@gmail.com">gibsoncraigbooking@gmail.com</a>	07806 806920
Hospital Transport Coordinator	Liz Potter	<a href="mailto:lizpotter66@virginmedia.com">lizpotter66@virginmedia.com</a>	07769 684029
Kirk Flowers	Isobel Webber	<a href="mailto:isobelwebber@btinternet.com">isobelwebber@btinternet.com</a>	07702 784186
Life and Work	Shona Moyes	<a href="mailto:shona.moyes@btoopenworld.com">shona.moyes@btoopenworld.com</a>	
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	<a href="mailto:Gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk">Gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	449 2313
Currie Kirk Singers	Gordon Cranford	Various	
Guild	Louise Lamont	Tuesday/elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk	466 3472
Family Worker	Heather Merriman	<a href="mailto:familyworker_jvp@outlook.com">familyworker_jvp@outlook.com</a>	
Walking Group	Moira McDonald	Third Sunday of each month	466 1115



## The Kirk News

Can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/Kirknews>—why not mark it as a favourite. **Articles for the September issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to [currie\\_kirk@btconnect.com](mailto:currie_kirk@btconnect.com) before or by Friday 19 August.**  
**Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**

