

THE KIRK NEWS

MAY-JUNE 2025



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Rev Anne Logan writes a weekly letter—if you'd like to receive this, please send your email request to admin@curriekirk.co.uk to register.

Calendar Overview

MAY

- 4 Currie Kirk at 10.30am. Worship led by Rev Susan Galloway
- 11 Currie Kirk at 10.30am. Worship led by Rev Dr Anne T Logan followed by a Prayer Tree Service
- 18 Currie Kirk at 10.30am. Worship led by Rev Susan Galloway
- 25 Currie Kirk at 10.30am. Worship led by Rev Susan Galloway followed by Informal Communion.

JUNE

- 1 Currie Kirk at 10.30am. Worship led by Rev Susan Galloway
- 8 Currie Kirk at 10.30am. Worship led by Rev Susan Galloway followed by a Prayer Tree Service
- 15 Currie Kirk at 10.30am. Worship led by Rev Susan Galloway
- 22 Joint Service in Currie Kirk at 10.30am followed by picnic.
- 29 Currie Kirk at 10.30am. Worship followed by Informal Communion.

Other Dates to Remember

May

- 10 Coffee Stop—Currie Kirk—2—4pm

14—18 MAY Christian Aid Week

- 15 Guild Outing to Anstruther
- 16 An Afternoon of FUN and GAMES (see page 9)
- 17 Coffee Stop—Currie Kirk—2—4pm
- 24 Coffee Stop—Currie Kirk—2—4pm
- 31 Coffee Stop—Currie Kirk—2—4pm

June

- 8 Coffee Stop—Currie Kirk—2—4pm
- 15 Coffee Stop—Currie Kirk—2—4pm
- 22 Coffee Stop—Currie Kirk—2—4pm
- 29 Coffee Stop—Currie Kirk—2—4pm



A Message from our Locum Minister Rev Susan Galloway

Surprise—God beats the odds!

Ephesians 3 20-21

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to achieve inestimably more than anything we can ask or even dream of, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus in this and every generation now and always.

I was reading a fascinating article recently on the subject of chance. It focused especially on the calculation of odds—how likely it is, for example, to throw a particular number with dice, or for red or black to come up on a roulette wheel, or to win the jackpot on a fruit machine. The conclusion was that the odds were hopelessly stacked against it. Bookmakers, casino and amusement arcade owners are no fools; they know that those who engage in gambling are onto a loser. Blind optimism is no match for statistical probability.

In life sometimes we can feel as though the table is loaded against us. There seems to be no way to conquer our problems, no possibility of overcoming the odds and achieving the outcome we desire. So, is it wishful thinking to believe that God can make a difference? No. And for a very good reason. Across the centuries He has shown himself to be a God who overturns expectations, taking the side of the weak against the strong, the rank outsider against the indisputable favourite. Take Moses confronted by pharaoh, the people of Israel pursued by the Egyptians into the wilderness, David facing Goliath, the apostles sent out into a hostile world, the early Christians enduring persecution at the hands of Rome, and so we could continue. Each of these is an example of the way in which God took on the forces of darkness and evil through a child born in a stable, a broken man hanging on a cross, a body laid in a tomb and was victorious in the risen Jesus.

Whatever odds you seem up against, however hopeless things may seem, never despair, for our God is a God of surprises, a God who, as Paul reminds the Ephesians is *“able to achieve inestimably more than anything we can ask or even dream of”* Our God is mighty God who can overturn the expectations of this world turning weakness into strength, despair to hope and defeat to victory. A God that we can put our trust in, not hoping against hope, but confident that he is indeed able to do more than anything we can ever ask or imagine. And however much our lives may seem ruled by the vagaries of chance, we can be sure that with God at our side the odds can never be finally against us.

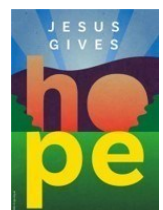
Prayer

Mighty God, thank you for overturning the expectations of this world, turning weakness to strength, despair to hope and defeat to victory.

Thank you that we can put our trust in you, not hoping against hope but confident that you are indeed able to do more than anything we can ever ask or even imagine.

However much life may seem ruled by the vagaries of chance, teach us that, with you at our side, the odds can never finally be against us. Amen.

Rev Susan Galloway
Locum Minister, Currie Kirk
T: 0788 1093480





Update on Linking of Currie Kirk and Balerno Parish Church

Appointment of Interim Minister

I am delighted to be able to share with you, that the Rev Roy Henderson has been appointed as Interim Minister for Currie and Balerno. Roy is a minister of considerable experience and comes to us from Glasgow: Pollockshaws. Roy will begin meeting with Interim Moderators and Kirk Sessions after the 13th of June. Presbytery will arrange a service of Introduction, sometime in the second half of June and Roy will begin to conduct worship in the linked charge on the Sunday after that service. We will announce the dates as soon as those are available. I am sure you will give Roy a true Currie welcome.

Rev Dr Anne T Logan (Interim Moderator: Currie)

Walk of Witness

The Walk of Witness took place on Maundy Thursday, beginning at Currie Kirk and walking with the Cross along the Water of Leith to Balerno Church where Pilgrims enjoyed refreshments at the Mill Café.





Christian Aid Week 11-17 May 2025



In Guatemala, gruelling heatwaves and extreme weather are destroying Aurelia's farm. She worries deeply about how much harvest the family will have to eat and sell:

'Climate change has been killing our crops, and this is our food.'

The roots of this cruel injustice run deep. Indigenous communities like Aurelia's have done the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they endure its impact the most. But the unstoppable power of hope is in the hands of farmers like Aurelia, as she leads her community in the fight to overcome the challenges they face.

Aurelia is holding hope in her hands.



The climate crisis is killing Amelia's precious crops. Dying crops means food stops.

'I worry about what my children will eat.' - Amelia

She relies on the land to feed her eight-year-old son, Lázaro, and four-year-old daughter, Yakelin.

As her farm is devastated, the search for solutions becomes critical. And that comes through changing the way she farms. With the support of specialist training from our partner, Congcoop, Amelia's planting resilient crops, conserving water and making fertiliser.

£6 could buy the pruning saw that means a farmer can tend to their fruit trees.

£30 could help fund the training session that teaches someone how to make valuable organic fertiliser.

£100 could fund the metal roofing sheets that shield a market stall holder and their produce from the sun and rain.



Christian Aid envelopes will be available at the Kirk during May—
Please give generously

The Soup Lunch on Sunday 27 April raised the grand sum of £251.92.
Many thanks to everyone who came along.

Thanks to the MOF team who organised this lunch along with delicious home
baking

A Pilgrimage to the Islands of Staffa and Iona

On the third of August 1957 a young couple left their homes in Glasgow very early in the morning and took the train to Oban. After a journey North by mountains, lochs and glens they arrived at the Railway Pier where the MacBrayne steamship King George V awaited for the sail round Mull and its offshore islands of Staffa and Iona.

The ship sailed up the Sound of Mull before reaching the open sea and a panorama of the Inner Hebrides. Our first call was when the King George V dropped anchor off the Island of Staffa. There we boarded a wooden motorboat which landed us at the jetty on the rocky shore. Staffa is one of nature's masterpieces. It arose from a volcanic eruption of basalt which formed into hexagonal columns lining the shore and leading to Fingal's Cave which is 150 feet long and rises to a height of 60 feet. It is like the nave of a Gothic Cathedral. An early visitor said *"the atmosphere of he Deity filled my soul. I was lost in wonder, gratitude and praise"*. We re-echoed these thoughts. The composer Felix Mendelsohn set the scene in his moving composition of the Hebrides Overture (Fingal's Cave).

We returned to the ship and sailed South to the main object of our pilgrimage, the Island of Iona. Again, the ship anchored and we were taken ashore by motor launch to what is now

the ferry jetty. Here we took our first steps on the Sacred Isle and gave thanks to God. We then exchanged engagement rings (to be followed by our wedding a year later). We tried to see as much of Iona in the limited time available—the impressive ruins of the Nunnery, the Street of the Dead where a large number of Scottish Kings are buried and the Abbey itself with the carved stone Celtic crosses, the tranquil cloisters and the alter in green Iona marble.

St Columba founded the Abbey in 563 AD and from there led missionary journeys to convert the Picts. The building fell into disrepair and was restored by the efforts of the Iona Community, a team of ministers, students and the unemployed led by a Govan minister George McLeod. It was he that described Iona as a "Thin Place" where the earth and heaven meet.

Time forced us to return to the ship and the long journey home. We have revisited Iona many times and each time our faith has been enhanced and inspired.

Alan and Margaret Gateley

(Alan was Session Clerk at St Rules, Monifeith before retiring to Currie)



Do you have a memory you would like to share? If so we would be pleased to publish this in the Kirk News. email the Editor—isobelwebber@btinternet.com



65th Edinburgh Company—The Boys' Brigade

L/Cpl Rory McGill has gained his President's Badge and is now registered to undertake his King's Badge. Well done Rory.

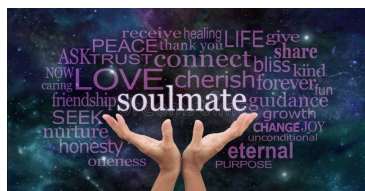


PALM Dementia café

The PALM cafe is held on the last Tuesday of the month (except July) 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



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

God's invitation to relationship—An introduction of Ways of Praying



A short prayer course on Zoom to support people into deeper prayer life through tutors' input guided prayer experience and sharing. Dates & times: Wednesdays 7pm—9pm on the 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th May and 4th and 11th June

For more information please contact Margaret Gordon at margaretgordon52@gmail.com



Easter Celebrations at Currie Kirk

This is a collage of the flowers and Kirk ready for Easter celebrations.

Thanks to everyone who knitted flowers and those who came along on Saturday to help decorate the Kirk for our service. Extra thanks to Liz and Anne for the hot cross buns and coffee.

Blythwood Christmas Shoebox Appeal

To make a shoebox easier to complete, we're looking for donations each month:

May—Combs and hairbrushes; shampoo (including children's shampoo)

June—Facecloths, sponges, soap,

July—Men's toiletries

August—Socks (all ages)

September—domestic candles, small toys

October—Sweets (not chocolate)



Please leave in the box in the reception area of the Kirk or hand in to the Kirk office.

Hours of opening: Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 9.30–12.30.

Thank you for your continued support.

Every Saturday, Currie Kirk, Kirkgate

The Coffee Stop will be returning on the **10 May from 2–4pm**. Every Saturday at Currie Kirk, Kirkgate—Tea, Coffee and Home Baking.

It was such a success last year being enjoyed by walkers and those in the congregation who looked forward to a refreshment with great baking.



Summer Outing to Anstruther— Thursday 15 May



The summer outing this year is to Anstruther, leaving the Gibson Craig Hall at 10 am. First stop at Caulders Garden Centre in Cupar where we will spend some time enjoying coffee/tea with scones and time to look and shop. Onwards to Anstruther where there will be time, if you wish, to visit the Fisheries Museum, which also includes the Buckhaven Fisheries which sets out its industrial and social past charting its transition from fishing village to mining town (the cost of this is extra but entry for groups is £7 each. Please let Shona know if you wish to visit. Those who wish to take it easy can go for a stroll and enjoy an ice cream (make sure the gulls don't get it!!) and look around the little shops and the harbour.

Onwards to our stop for our meal which is at Pettycur Bay—with great views over the Forth. Returning to the Gibson Craig around 6.30 pm.

The cost of this outing is £35. Please see Shona if you wish to join the coach—mobile 07752 459203.

The Guild would like to thank the Transport Fund for subsidising this outing to enable many to attend.



An afternoon of Fun and Games



Friday 16th May, 2–4pm

Gibson Craig Hall, 158 Lanark Road West, Currie. EH14 5NY.

Who? – Ages 6—14yrs.

You'll be very welcome!

Contact admin@curriekirk.co.uk for more information.

At a Crossroads

Our corner of the city grinds to a halt, yet again. Is it me or do we seem to have a revolving door of temporary traffic lights. They might be temporary in one location one day, but the next they are further along Lanark Road. We are in a perpetual state of frustration when it comes to roadworks and traffic congestion caused by utility companies digging up our main roads. Nothing ever seems to be planned. As Scottish Gas Networks finish, in comes Scottish Water or the Council to dig up the same stretch of road.

I certainly find it infuriating when there appears to be absolutely zero co-ordination, with scant regard to the impact it has on us going about our daily lives. It might cost more to the utility company or the council to have men working 24 hours, or at least over weekends but, they ignore the cost that our local businesses faced with lengthy diversions. As was the case recently when Wester Hailes Road was closed—it had the effect of severing Baberton Mains from Juniper Green, meaning access to the shops was cut off. Joiners and other trades will have struggled to carry out as many calls, routes to GP surgeries, schools and colleges turned on their heads, taxi fares doubled as queues grew. But those costs didn't matter as they were borne by you and me.



Time and time again we are told we need to use public transport more. I know I do when I can and that we are relatively fortunate with the 44, 45 and now the 32 buses.

I was reading a report prepared by KPMG for Confederation of Passenger Transport “*Trends in Scottish Bus Patronage*”. It discusses the impact on the increasing journey times and how, as this grows, people are less likely to use public transport over their own car. It clearly states that the major cause now of increasing journey times are roadworks and diversions. It was taking me 60 minutes to get to and from work on the 44 recently, when Craiglockhart Avenue was being dug up. As soon as this was finished, the journey shortened to 35 minutes. If the Government and Council are serious about getting us out of our cars and onto buses, then they need to look long and hard at measures to reduce disruption caused by roadworks. Investing in coordination seems as good a place to start as ever.

(The Editorial team requested that Susan, our MSP for Lothian, write an article that affects us all in Currie)

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
Caretta Pilates	Kayleigh	07982 975260	Wednesday 5.30-6.15
Currie and District Local History Society	Douglas Lowe	douglaslowe51@btinternet.com	Monday 7.30—9 pm twice monthly, October to March.
Currie Community Council		curriecouncil@gmail.com	2nd Wed of the month 7.30—9 pm, except July & December.
Currie Creatives (Music)	Shona Moyes	07752 459203	Tuesday 6.30—8.30 pm.
Parent and Toddler Group	Kate Pearson	kate.q.kate@gmail.com	Friday 9.30 am—11.30 am (term time only).
Octagon Club	Claire Maloney	07999 410721	Wednesday 7.00—9.00 pm, September to June.
Pentland Ladies Probus	Marion Wallace	wmkwallace@aol.com	4th Tuesday of month, 10am—12, from Sept to May.
Pilates	Ellen Foster	07983 863143	Saturday 10.30—11.30 am
Song Time for Under 5s and their Grown-ups	Rachel Petyt	078141 98715	Thursday 1.30—2.15 pm (term time only)
Steady Steps	By referral		Thursday 9.30—11.00 am and 2.30—4.00 pm
Zumba Exercise Class	Tom Lowe	tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk	Thursday 10.15 — 11.15 am.

Coffee and Conversation

Currie Library every Friday from 11 am



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.

Family News

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

6 April Sheila Rose, Currie



Janet Smart aged 106 yrs, mother of Catherine and mother-in-law of Gordon Clephane. There will be a private cremation, and celebration of her life in Balerno Parish Church on Monday 12 May at 1 pm. The service is being led by Sam Torrens minister of Slateford Longstone. Please pray for Catherine and Gordon at this sad time.

The Congregation of Currie Kirk extends its sympathies to our friends who worship at Our Lady's, Currie at the passing of Pope Francis.

Farewells

When our Interim Minister, Rev Roy Henderson takes up his post, our Interim Moderator, Rev Dr Anne T Logan will be handing over the oversight of the Kirk Session and Congregation to him. Sadly, it will also mean that our locum Rev Susan Galloway will leave us and will be reassigned by Presbytery to a new post. We will have an opportunity to say farewell to Susan and to thank her for her meaningful ministry amongst us. We'll let you know a date for this as soon as possible.

May/June 2025 Flower List

May

- 4 Mrs I Greig
- 11 Mrs S Ramsay
- 18 Mrs D Nixon
Mr A Forsyth
Mr T Gatenby
- 25 Mrs A Smith
Mrs A Haston
Mrs V MacPhail



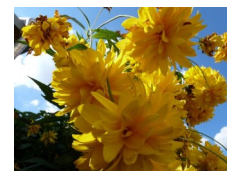
June

- 1 Mrs M McDonald
- 8 Flower Fund
- 15 Mrs M Watson
- 22 Flower Fund
- 29 Flower Fund

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



WHO'S WHO



NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL CONTACT/TIMES	TELEPHONE NO
Interim Moderator	Rev Dr Anne T Logan	annetlogan@sky.com	
Locum Minister	Rev Susan Galloway	SGalloway@churchofscotland.org.uk	07881 093480
Currie Kirk Church Office (Scottish Charity No. SC001554)	Gibson Craig Halls, Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5NY Email: Admin@curriekirk.co.uk	Tuesday 9.30 am—12.30 pm Friday 9.30 am—12.30 pm Saturday 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 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	vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com	
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
Life and Work	Shona Moyes	shona.moyes@btopenworld.com	
Magazine Distributor	Currie Kirk Office	Admin@curriekirk.co.uk	451 5141
Boys' Brigade Captain	Bill Brown	Anchors/Juniors	Thursday 6.00-7.30 pm
		Company/Seniors	Friday 7.00—8.30 pm Sunday 6.30-8.30 pm
			449 4905 07878377897
Fresh Start	Christine Wilson		538 2567
Pastoral Visitors	Contact church office		451 5141
Currie Kirk Singers	Gordon Cranford	Various	07572 861123
Guild	Louise Lamont	1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.	466 3472
Walking Group	Moira McDonald	Third Sunday of each month.	07853 228751



The Kirk News

Can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/Kirknews>.
Articles for the July/August issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to Isobel Webber—isobelwebber@btinternet.com by Friday 20 June 2025.



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