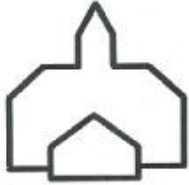


THE KIRK NEWS

MAY / JUNE 2026



THE COFFEE STOP

MAY—SEPTEMBER—2—4 PM

EVERY SATURDAY @ THE KIRK

In this Issue

2	Calendar Overview	6/7	Future of The Kirk News	9	Transport Fund
2	Dates for the Diary	7	Walking Group long ago	9	Kirk Walking Group
2	Dementia Friendly Pentlands	7	Good Book Group	10	Family News
3/4	Rev Roy Henderson.	8	Pastoral Care—Currie Kirk	10	Flower Fund
4	Christian Aid	8	Prayers	11	Community Activities
4	The Guild	8	The Boys' Brigade	11	Community for Food
4	Soulmates	8	Fresh Start	11	CD Ministry
5	Steering Group Progress	9	Praise & Worship	11	Currie Library
5	Walk of Witness	9	Wine Tasting Evening—GCH	12	Who's Who

Calendar Overview Services—MAY-JUNE

May

- 3 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—Rev Roy Henderson
- 10 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—followed by a Prayer Tree Service—Rev Roy Henderson
- 17 Joint Service in Balerno Parish Church at 10 am—Rev Roy Henderson
- 24 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—Rev Roy Henderson
- 31 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—Rev Roy Henderson with Informal Communion

June

- 7 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—Rev Roy Henderson
- 14 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—followed by a Prayer Tree Service—Rev Roy Henderson
- 21 Joint Service in Currie Kirk at 10 am—Rev Roy Henderson
- 28 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15—Formal Communion—Rev Roy Henderson

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 2 May—Summer Coffee Stop Opens—every Saturday—Currie Kirk—
2-4 pm



Christian Aid Week—10-16 May

Monday 11 May—Balerno Fairtrade AGM at 7.15 contact Lesley Henderson—
flesleyhenderson@hotmail.com



Thursday 14 May—Guild Summer Outing to Pitlochry via Bankfoot and then onwards to
Kinross—Coach will leave GCH sharp at 10 am



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

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

Balerno linked with Currie



Optimist—The glass is half full.

Pessimist—the glass is half empty.

Engineer—The glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

An optimist might recite familiar words of ‘Count your Blessings’:

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

On the other hand, a pessimist, might be tempted to sing Monty Python’s ‘*Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*’. Such cynicism is understandable if not always desirable. These are tough times and people are anxious. There is much scepticism about people in public life or in positions of power be that government or church. Turn out at elections is often relatively low. Attendance at many churches is in decline.

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams addressed this in his book ‘*Candles in the Dark—faith, hope and love in a time of pandemic*’. It is a collection of weekly ‘meditations’ that he wrote for his parish church during the COVID lockdown.

In ‘Fragile Trust, written on April 23rd 2020, he said, ‘*We trust those who are inspired by a vision of something bigger than themselves but who also recognise the ever-present possibility of failing and messing things up*’.

During the season of Easter, we revisit the Gospel stories where the Risen Jesus appears to his disciples—for example, to Mary in the garden, the disciples and Thomas behind locked doors and to two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

These characters had every reason to lose hope or to give in to disappointment and cynicism. They knew too well about things failing and being messed up. Mary had seen her Rabboni (Teacher) die. The pair on the Emmaus Road had seen their hopes crushed. Thomas knew the fear and confusion he and the others had shown when Jesus was arrested. As the Irish poet Yeats wrote: “*Too long a sacrifice, Can make a stone of the heart.*”

Yet Gospel means ‘Good News’ for a reason. These stories unfold in our ears and in our hearts. They take root in us and we learn how Jesus inspires a new, deeper trust, a healing of traumas in us as in Mary, the disciples and Thomas. The effects of the resurrection are often a lifetime’s ‘work’. A long-term healing of stoney hearts.

In these trying times, our role as Christians, be we ministers, elders, church members or enquirers, is to model God’s ‘work in progress’. None of us is the finished article, all of us are People of the Way. Sometimes, like Mary and company, we are people who have seen the dark side of life and who are blessed to know that the light is present and is not overcome.

Rowan Williams says:

'We trust those who are inspired by a vision of something bigger than themselves but who also recognise the ever-present possibility of failing and messing things up—and yet aren't paralysed by that recognition but are still ready to take risks and pay loving attention to the reality around them'.

This is not something we can engineer. It is the patient work of God in us.

Jesus says: *'Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit'*. Good News!

Interim Minister, Rev Roy Henderson—contact details:

Landline Tel: 0131 449 3830

Mobile Tel : 07961 736061

E-mail: RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk



Christian Aid Week: 10—16th May 2026

Envelopes will be available at the Kirk and Gibson Craig Hall during May.

Please post your completed envelope through the office door.



Currie Kirk Guild

The Guild AGM took place on 21 April at 2-4 pm with tea/coffee and scones in the Gibson Craig Hall with lots of fellowship. It was a joyful and sunny afternoon.

We have had such a variety of speakers this year and each one has brought a different story—some serious and some not so. We have had many laughs along the way.

The Guild will re-start in September and we look forward to seeing you and any friends you wish to bring with you. BUT before then we have our Summer Outing to look forward to—in the past the sun has shone and we are hoping that this will again happen to enable us to enjoy an ice cream. However, if not we have plenty of time indoors to browse through the offerings at Bankfoot and I am sure we will find a few shops in Pitlochry to keep us dry.



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.

Progress on the Union Steering group

The Steering Group met for the third time on Wednesday 15 April 2026. A brief resume of ongoing work and discussions from this meeting is given below.

Progress Reports

Fact Finding - Facts and figures are being compiled to enable a Parish Profile to be compiled. A list has been created of active groups/teams within each church.

Basis of Union is being working on by two of the members. Discussions have been made with a member of Presbytery and we have been reassured that there are no anticipated difficulties in drawing up the written document.

There is a list of suggested names for the unified church.

Church Treasurer—this is a matter of concern, as without a resolution it will be difficult to move towards a Union. It is recognised that this post is a big job. There was discussion about task sharing within the role of Treasurer. A discussion with the present Treasurers on the way forward will be taking place.

The Gift Aid for Balerno and Currie, this matter was raised if new declarations will be required from each donor once the Union is in place.

The Blether and The Kirk News. A meeting with representatives of those involved in both publications to discuss ways forward for each magazine is being sought.

New Business—Vision for our Church—Where do we see our unified church in five years time? What is it that we want from our Church? What will it be about?

Lay Preaching—There is a recognised need to increase the number of those willing to act in this capacity. it is hoped that members of the congregations will feel confident to get involved.

Communication—It was agreed that a brief resume of discussions and decisions be circulated to both congregations, for inclusion on respective websites, to keep everyone informed of what's going on.

If you wish to keep up-to-date on a regular basis—please email the office and you will be signed up to receive the weekly newsletter.



Walk of Witness

Walk of Witness—left Balerno Parish Church at 11am, stopped for a short reflection and prayer at a few points along the Water of Leith, finishing at Currie Kirk.



Refreshments were served at the Gibson Craig Halls.

What is a Church Magazine?—Some Thoughts

PAUL FISHER COCKBURN
EDITOR, C&B NEWS



After more than 30 years working in periodical publishing, I'm generally of the opinion that it's not a good idea for a news title to become its own lead story. It feels ... incestuous, somehow. There are exceptions, of course: as *C&B News* has shown in recent years, a memorable issue number (500!) or notable anniversary (50th!) can justify some celebratory introspection.

Sometime, though, there's simply no alternative.

Last month's issue of *Balerno Blether* asked "What is a Church Magazine?"—focusing, in light of the intended union of Balerno Parish and Currie Kirk, on what might happen to it and *The Kirk News*.

I should make clear that I'm not a member of either current congregation; I'm not even remotely religious. But, I have a genuine regard for church magazines as an all-too-overlooked example of community publishing. Also, I'm clearly sufficiently immodest to believe that my thoughts might have *some* value as the Steering Group contemplates the thorny issue of the combined parishes' communications going forward.

Let's be clear about one thing: defining what makes any newsletter, newspaper or magazine *effective*—by which I mean achieving its intended goals—isn't about whether it's print or digital. Neither is it about the quality of the paper and choice of fonts; nor whether you include a crossword puzzle (or not).

An effective publication helps build *connections*, developing a shared sense of *belonging* among its audience. It should feel *personal*, *useful*, and rooted in its readers' desire for *community*. And, in these days of information overload, it helps if much of what it offers can't be easily found elsewhere.

I know, from practical experience, that this isn't easy to achieve. It helps, though, if you can answer three key questions:

- ◆ Who is the publication for?
- ◆ Why does it exist in the form it does?
- ◆ How will it be resourced?

I don't just mean who pays the print bill—assuming there is one. It's about establishing and maintaining the flow of voluntary contributions and a galvanised team who will collate, produce and distribute the final result—not just once, but regularly.

The other questions: well, all periodicals—even church magazines—are necessarily defined by their distribution and intended audience. Which is why I have some doubts regarding the feasibility of simply merging *Balerno Blether* and *The Kirk News* into a single publication.

To explain: I've long been of the opinion that there are two types—two extremes—of church magazine. Some, like *The Kirk News*, are (as its name suggests) *congregation*-focused publications, primarily aimed at existing churchgoers. Others, like *Balerno Blether*, are more *parish* titles, making some attempt to connect with the wider community in which they sit, especially with local residents who may never attend the church services but nevertheless make use of its halls and meeting rooms for exercise classes, social gatherings, childcare and the like.

Yes, most church magazines are actually a mix of the two: but here we're talking about two very well established, and very distinct, publications. If the decision is made to simply combine the two into one, there could be genuine perceptions of such a merger being unequal, with lingering tensions as a result.

I'd also be wary about going down the most obvious route: closing both existing titles and launching a new publication (whether that's digital and/or print) for the new church. Yes, the principal advantages are the opportunities to do something new, to start afresh; but that does also mean walking away from a lot of heritage, which may make some people uneasy. Plus, unless properly handled, any new title could also be viewed as an unequal merger, albeit in disguise—especially if the new publication strongly resembles only one of its predecessors.

So, what would my suggestion be? Assuming that print retains a significant role in the new church's communications going forward (and I believe it should, given my perceptions of both current congregations), my instinct would be to retain *both* publications—but not simply as distinctive templates into which the same content could be dropped. I don't see how maintaining both church campuses' sense of having their own publications would encourage cohesion within the new combined parish.



I do believe there's genuine potential in relaunching *The Kirk News* as a congregation-focused publication across both Balerno and Currie campuses, while refining *The Blether* (either dropping *Balerno* from, or adding *Currie* to, the masthead) as a distinctive outreach title distributed more publicly in both villages.

I accept that retaining two publications does sound rather profligate, so I'd also suggest making both publications quarterly, scheduled to appear alternatively (ie, about six weeks apart).

I accept this isn't a common solution, but it's not totally unheard of. Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland has produced two magazines for *decades*: the congregational A5 *Kirk News* (published four times a year, usually in February, May, August and November) alternates with the more widely-distributed A4 *Blackhall Bulletin* (launched in 1980, and now published three times a year in March, September and December). While the two publications necessarily do share some specific church-related content, both retain their own character, style, purpose—and editors.

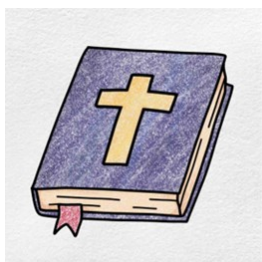
Would that, or something similar, be an option for Currie and Balerno as they move down the path to union? I like to think it could be.



This happy picture was taken by Bill Wood on one of the ramblers' summer walks many years ago. Apologies for the quality of the "sepia" picture—but it will bring back many happy memories to those on the walk.

Thanks to Bill for sharing.

The Good Book Group



Following on from the recent Advent and Lent study groups, it has become apparent that there is an appetite for a group, which would meet on a regular basis throughout the year. The group would meet informally to explore the Bible and our Christian faith. There may also be a time of prayer. If you think you would be interested in joining such a group, please get in touch with either of the Church Offices: **Currie Kirk** : admin@curriekirk.co.uk or **Balerno Parish Church** : bpc-admin@balernochurch.org.uk

Depending on the level of interest, a meeting could be arranged to discuss the day, time, and place that would suit the group best, as well as discussing the format. Please think about getting in touch.

Pastoral Care—Currie Kirk

A group of us met recently to make plans for the future of Pastoral Care in our community. We are small in number but enthusiastic in planning and offering support to those members in our Kirk who would benefit from visits and the company of a friendly face.



There are no special skills required for those in Pastoral Care, just an interest in people and a willingness to listen and chat. My experience has been to receive more than I give from really lovely people who just enjoy a friendly visit or phone call, showing interest and caring.

Please get in touch with the Kirk Office if you would like to join this small team.

Agnes Barr

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) in strict confidence and this will be passed on to the Prayer group.

65th Edinburgh Company—The Boys' Brigade



Tony and Conrad Cheung arrived with their family from Hong Kong and settled in Balerno. Both Boys enrolled at Balerno High School and joined the 65th where they quickly settled in.



The Boys have taken a very active part in Company activities and with Connor and Rory McGill the 65th entered the badminton, chess and table tennis National competitions. With the discharge of Connor the 65th continued to enter the chess and table tennis. Tony, Rory and Conrad were good at chess while Tony and Conrad were very good at table tennis and as a result the 65th regularly reached the latter stages of the Scottish tournaments.

Tony, Rory and Conrad also took part in the Battalion table tennis with Tony being runner up and Conrad 3rd overall. Conrad has completed his President's Badge and in the process assisted at Anchor and Junior Sections.

Rory is currently working towards his King's Badge. He is volunteering with a West Lothian BB Company, participating in Park runs to improve his fitness and assisting at the War Games club at his school. Hopefully he will complete his award next session.

Tony has completed his award. In doing so he volunteered with the AV team at Currie Kirk and was seen regularly upstairs on Sundays. As a member of his table tennis club he assisted with refereeing and coaching the younger members of the club. Tony will complete his BB service at the end of the Session before heading off to university in the Autumn. Tony had a number of university offers and will study pharmacy at Strathclyde. We wish him all the very best in the future.

Bill Brown
Captain



Fresh start would appreciate any unwanted household items which are in good reusable condition.

Dishes and cutlery, pots and pans, bed linen and towels/ tea towels, small electrical items and cleaning materials.

These items are included in the Fresh Start starter for clients receiving a home.

Can you help?

QUIZ

AND

Wine Tasting

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.

Kirk Walking Group



We meet on 3rd Sunday of each month, walking approx 4 miles. Looking for some new members. We generally do local walks but in better weather go further afield either in cars or buses.

Check the Order of Service for walks. Please get in touch with Moira if you wish further information. Mob: 07853 228751

Family News

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

16 April 2026 Robert Brotherston, Balerno
17 April 2026 Agnes Wood, Currie
18 April 2026 Cynthia Taylor, Currie



Please pray for the families



Baptism

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

Sarah Millie Grace Porteous born on 30 November 2025, daughter of Emma and Gregor Porteous, baptised by Rev Roy Henderson on Palm Sunday—29 March 2026.

Great Granddaughter of Erica and the late Bill Porteous

Flower List—May and June 2026

May

3 Flower Fund Donation

10 Mrs S Ramsay

17 **Service in Balerno**

24 Mr A Forsyth
Mrs D Nixon
Mr T Gatenby

31 Mrs A Haston
Mrs V MacPhail

Apologies to those who have specific dates that they wish flowers to be dedicated. We have had to go with the closest date when we will be worshipping in Currie Kirk

June

7 Mrs M McDonald

14 Mrs M Watson

21 Flower Fund Donation

28 Flower Fund Donation

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 the office
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

Tel: 07806 806920

Details are available on the website—curriekirk.org

	Contact name	Tel/email	Day
Balanced Life (Steady Steps)	By referral		Monday 11.45 am—1.15 pm
Balerno Bridge Club	Anne Lovett	07999 528524	Monday 1.30—4.30 pm
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	Euan Reid	euanigreid@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 9.30 - 10.30am
Zumba Exercise Class	Tom Lowe	tomlowe69@hotmail.co.uk	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



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

Coffee and Conversation

Currie Library every Friday from 11 am

