

THE KIRK NEWS

MAY/JUNE 2023



King Charles III
CORONATION

In this Issue

2	Calendar Overview	7	Stated Annual Meeting	14	Community Activities
3	Message from Easter	7	The Boys' Brigade	14	The Meeting Place
4	Heather's Ministry	8	Kirk News Donation	15	Family News
5	The Guild	8	MOF—Thank You	16	Flower List
6	Christian Aid	8	Fresh start	16	Who's Who
7	Coffee Stop Returns	9	The Late Tom Masson		

Calendar Overview

Church Services

MAY

- 7 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Grant Gordon
- 14 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 14 Currie Kirk at 2 pm—Pastoral Communion followed by refreshments—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 21 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am followed by the Stated Annual Meeting—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 28 Currie Kirk at 10 30 am—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 31 Wednesday—Reflective Service in the Kirk—2pm—Rev Dr Easter Smart

JUNE

- 4 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Professor John Sawkins
- 11 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 11 Afternoon Service in Gibson Craig Hall—4.00 pm refreshments from 3.30 pm—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 18 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Rev Dr Easter Smart
- 25 Currie Kirk at 10.30 am—Joint Service with Balerno—followed by a Picnic
- 28 Wednesday—Reflective Service in the Kirk—2 pm—Rev Dr Easter Smart

Other Dates for your Diary

MAY

- 2 May Madness—Juniper Green Church—9.30—12 Noon (see page 4)
- 4 BB Anchor and Junior Section—6pm-7.30pm—Gibson Craig Halls
- 5 BB Company Section—Games Night—7.00pm-8.30pm—Gibson Craig Halls
- 6 Coronation of King Charles III
- 7 BB Company night—7.15pm-9pm—Gibson Craig Halls
- 11 Guild Outing to New Lanark
- 11 BB Anchor and Junior Section—6pm-7.30pm—Gibson Craig Halls
- 12 BB Company Section—Games Night—7.00pm-8.30pm—Gibson Craig Halls
- 14 BB Company night—7.15pm-9pm—Gibson Craig Halls
- 18 BB Anchor and Junior Section—6pm-7.30pm—Gibson Craig Halls
- 19 BB Company Section—Games Night—7.00pm-8.30pm—Gibson Craig Halls
- 20 Coffee Stop! - Every Saturday 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk until end of September
- 21 BB Company Section—Games Night—7.00pm-8.30pm—Gibson Craig Halls
- 25 BB Anchor and Junior Section—6pm-7.30pm—Gibson Craig Halls
- 26 BB Company Section—Games Night—7.00pm-8.30pm—Gibson Craig Halls
- 27 Coffee Stop! - Every Saturday 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk until end of September
- 28 BB Company night—7.15pm-9pm—Gibson Craig Halls

JUNE

- 2 BB Display - Final Parade Night—7.00pm—All Parents and Friends are invited
- 3 Coffee Stop! - Every Saturday 2pm—4pm—Currie Kirk until end of September



A Letter from Easter

Dear Friends,

When I was young, I did not think much of Psalm 23. We sang it, in every form of derivative hymns to which the psalm was adapted. I got tired of Psalm 23. But these days, if I have time to walk along the Water of Leith or up into the hills where there are Jacob sheep and all breeds of sheep, I have felt that Psalm 23 reminds me, that even in the dark moments, or when enemies camp around proverbially, I can call upon God.

Sometimes my faith still feels naïve, not sophisticated, or clever. I was educated by my wonderful mother who was a born teacher. She was surely someone who fought for her kids. But my father was the one who prayed. These days call for prayer.

We face a time of transition as we navigate the Presbytery plan and look forward to worshipping and working more closely with Balerno and other joint valley congregations.

Working together can bring new energy and creativity. Let us all pray that the Lord, who is our Shepherd, will guide us on our way.

Easter



Vestry Hour

Easter will be holding a Vestry Hour every Friday from 10 am to 11am in her office which is situated in the Gibson Craig Halls.

Please feel free to drop in to see her or you can make an appointment by phoning the Kirk Office.

Heather's Ministry

On Friday 31 March we had the joy of welcoming Nether Currie Primary School to the Kirk for their Easter assembly. The whole school filed into the pews and some parents and carers joined us for the morning too. It was wonderful to hear the voices of everyone singing two Fischy music songs and together we retold the Easter story using props and the headteacher, Kirsten Johnston, spoke on how we can all make a difference. The children had brought in Easter eggs to donate and the floor was a sea of chocolate!

It was lovely to welcome Tiggy Brown from Community for Food and Rita Walsh from Wester Hailes Foodbank to accept the Easter eggs on behalf of the families they support and would be gifting the eggs to over Easter. All in all it was a wonderful morning (despite the wet walk there!) and we hope to welcome the school back again in future.

Our next venture is May Madness on Tuesday 2 May. Together we will explore the story of King Josiah and have all our usual discussions, games, crafts, snacks and fun! If you know anyone in P1-P7 who would like to join us then please do get in touch.



Tuesday 2nd May 2023

9.30am-12 noon, P1-7

Juniper Green Parish

Church Hall 1

For more information contact
Heather Merriman

familyworker_jvp@outlook.com

To book: <https://tinyurl.com/MayMadness2023>



The Guild

After a very successful Guild year during which we enjoyed a variety of different speakers, we held our AGM on Tuesday 18 April at 7pm. This was very well attended and it was agreed that I would stay on as President for one more year but with previous presidents chairing some of the meetings throughout the year.

With the formal part of the evening successfully concluded, we then went on to enjoy an extremely sociable Cheese and Wine. It was delightful to sit and chat amongst ourselves for an hour or so.

To round off the year our outing to New Lanark will take place on Thursday 11 May. With luck the weather will stay good for us and it will prove to be a lovely day out.

Our next session will commence on Tuesday 5 September at 10am. If you are not already a member, please come along and join us. You will be made very welcome. For further information contact me on 0131-466-3472 or email elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk

Louise Lamont Currie Kirk Guild President

“Starchild”

This year our chosen project is “Starchild” which is a registered charity founded by Michaela Foster Marsh and set up in memory of her adopted brother Frankie Marsh who died in a house fire at the age of 27 years. Frankie’s parents were both Ugandan and Frankie was adopted into Michaela’s family at 13 months old.

Since gaining charitable status “Starchild” has gone on to build a school for Creative Arts and improve the lives of many of the most vulnerable in Uganda. This year thanks to donations from Guild members, our Coffee Morning in October and our Daffodil Tea in March, I have sent a cheque for £1,400.00 to the Church of Scotland Guild Office.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed.

Mary Thomson





Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2023

There will be envelopes available at the church for the Sundays in May for anyone who would like to make a donation. This year the focus is on helping farmers in Malawi plant better seeds to secure a fairer price for the crops and build happier futures for their children. If you want to find out more about the work of Christian Aid please log on to their website – www.caweeek.org.

Fiona Pigott, Mission, Outreach and Fellowship committee.

For a farmer like Jen, pigeon peas are the stuff that dreams are made of.

All Jen Bishop wants is to give her children an education. But like so many farmers in Malawi, she's battling a crisis that could crush her dreams. As temperatures continue rising at twice the global average, droughts and cyclones are ruining crops year after year. Food is so scarce that one in three children have stunted growth. Meanwhile prices have doubled, leaving Jen struggling to afford essentials like fuel and school fees.

Two of Jen's sons have won rare college places. But heartbreakingly, she can only afford to send one. Every day, Chimwemwe cycles 30km to study. Meanwhile his brother Mathews stay home, his dreams on hold.

In Christian Aid Week, will you help a family like Jen's to transform their lives forever?

Pigeon peas are a food that can be farmed in the harshest conditions. In a land stricken by merciless droughts, they are a ray of hope.

By producing and selling baked goods made from the peas, Jen can transform her family's future. With Christian Aid's help and training, she's formed a co-operative with other farmers, enabling them to earn a fair price at market. Jen hopes that soon, Mathews can also continue his studies.

In Christian Aid Week, you can help a farming family turn their dreams into reality. By sharing £5, or whatever you can, you could help buy seeds, equipment and training in drought-proof agriculture—starting a process that will not only feed a family, but transform their lives.

Coffee Stop! Reopens 20 May 2023

Coffee Stop! reopens Saturday 20th May until end of September 2023.



The café will be in Currie Kirk and will be open 2pm – 4pm with last orders at 3.30pm serving coffee, teas and baking.

We look forward to welcoming old friends and new!

If you are able to help in any way please contact Fiona Pigott on 07874-282480 (fpigott19@gmail.com)

Stated Annual Meeting

If you would like a copy of the 2022 annual accounts in advance of the meeting on 21 May please contact the Kirk Office.

Thanks, Eddie Pigott



65th Edinburgh Company

(Registered Charity No. SCO34640)



The officers and boys of the Company Section enjoyed an outing to the ten pin bowling prior to the Easter break. A great night was had by all who attended.

It is hoped to have our final Parade night on Friday, 2 June to which all parents and friends of the Company are invited.

Over the summer we will then look to put in place a recruitment plan to hopefully bring in more boys for the new session.

We will commence early in September with the Junior and Company Sections going to the BB Outdoor Centre at Craggan, Loch Tay for the September holiday weekend.

Kirk News

If you would like to donate towards the printing costs of the Kirk News please hand in or post your donation to the Church Office—marking on the envelope “Kirk News Donation”.

Kirk Walking Group

Walkers meet after Church service or coffee. We meet on 3rd Sunday of the month and generally walk locally eg. Reservoirs, Water of Leith etc. When the weather improves we sometimes take the bus and go further afield or do car sharing, depending on where we are going. We take a picnic and flask to enjoy the countryside and the chat along the way.

Anyone interested in joining the group would be made most welcome. It's a very friendly group and I can guarantee you will go home with a good feeling and smile on your face. You don't need to come to every walk just whatever suits you.

Any enquiries please phone me or speak to me in Church.

Moir McDonald
07853 228751 or 0131 466 1115



Tricky Ricky and Afternoon Tea on Saturday 15 April

A huge Thank You to everyone who came along to watch Tricky Ricky in the morning or enjoyed afternoon tea and some entertainment from the Kirk Singers.



It was a great day and even though we didn't set out to make a profit we did make £273.50. Thanks to all our performers and those who helped in any way.

MOF Committee



Now collecting china, cutlery, pots and pans. Bed linen—sheets, duvet covers, pillow cases etc.

NO duvets or pillows. NO furniture or bric-a-brac.

Donations may be handed into the Gibson Craig Hall. The office hours are published on page 12.

Tom Masson

1 February 1929—5 April 2023

Tom's funeral took place in Currie Kirk on Wednesday 19 April—the Kirk in which he was the senior elder having been ordained on 25 March 1962—61 years ago.

Tom served Currie Kirk with distinction and loyalty in many different capacities. In his role as an elder he had pastoral responsibility for a district, and indeed was an Area Team Leader, supporting and encouraging a group of Elders as they cared for a number of districts within a geographic area of Currie. Tom was at one time a member of the Congregational Board.



Tom always had an interest in young people and served for a time as a Sunday School teacher at Riccarton School. As a boy Tom joined The Boys' Brigade in his home city of Glasgow, rising to become an Officer in the 10th Glasgow. The Boys' Brigade was a lifelong passion for him, and once resident in Currie, it was only natural that he should become involved in the 65th Edinburgh Company and in the early 60s became Officer in Charge of the Junior Section. There is no doubt that Tom's influence shaped the lives of many young boys in their formative years. How many people, both boys and leaders, remember the fun of Craggan Camps?

Tom was one of the founder members of the Currie Kirk Singers, and for a time he organised what many musicians would now call 'gigs' visiting church groups and care homes, bringing pleasure and musical memories to the audiences.

Tom was a regular participant in drama activities within the church and community, whether at Christmas nativities or the drama groups, originating from the church, Mixed Currie and the Pentland Valley Players.

(Thanks to Margaret Gordon who gave the above eulogy.)

(Tom was born Thomas Muir Sutherland Masson on the 1st February 1929. He was raised in Duncruin Street in Maryhill, Glasgow, by Mother Anna & Father Richard. He was one of five children; Richard, Alex, Robert and Anna, of which Tom was the second eldest. Typical of the times, the family lived together in a small tenement flat—humble beginnings, but happy memories. He attended Maryhill Primary School and then North Kelvinside Secondary School. There his passions were for English, History, Geography, Mathematics, French, Science & Art.

He was a man of faith and this helped shape him in his youth. Sundays as a child were traditional, and often spent at Sunday school after attending his local church, Maryhill High.

He served briefly in the RAF as an Airframe Assistant—he then went on to establish a career in retail, working predominantly for Stylo Barrett—managing stores in York, Edinburgh Princes Street, North Bridge and Livingston. It was here that he met the love of his life, Janet—known by most as 'Jen' or 'Jenny' at Cherries shoe shop in Glasgow. They later went on to marry on 12 June 1954 at Govan Old Parish Church. They settled in Currie during the late 1950s, at Weaver Knowe Crescent—a house they both went on to spend the rest of their lives in.)

(Thanks to his youngest Grandchild—Calum Helm—for this early part of his Grandpa's life)

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—9 pm twice monthly
Currie Community Council		curriecouncil@gmail.com	Monday 7.30-9pm twice monthly from October to March
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—8.15 pm Friday 5.30-6.30 pm Saturday 8.00—9.30 am
Inna Pilates	Inna	07825 164927 inna@innafitness.com	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
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

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.

Family News

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

Tom Masson, Currie



Please pray for the family

Flower Arrangers

Can you help—we are desperately in need of your talents.

If you would like to join "The Team" it would be great to hear from you.

Please get in touch with Isobel or Fiona

May/June Flower List

May

- 7 Mrs I Greig
Mrs J Bannister
- 14 Mrs S Ramsay
Mr A Forsyth
Mrs D Nixon
Mr T Gatenby
- 21 Mrs A Smith
- 28 Mrs A Haston
Mrs V MacPhail



June

- 4 Mr B Eunson
Mrs M McDonald
- 11 Mrs M Watson
- 18 Flower Fund
- 25 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.



WHO'S WHO



NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL CONTACT/TIMES	TELEPHONE NO
Minister	Rev Dr Easter Smart	ESmart@churchofscotland.org.uk	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	vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com	
Weddings/Funerals	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Organist	Contact Church Office		451 5141
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	Jean Dick		451 5141
Boys' Brigade Captain	Bill Brown Anchors/Juniors	Thursday 6.00-7.30 pm	449 4905 07878377897
	Company/Seniors	Friday 7.00—8.30 pm	
		Sunday 6.30-8.30 pm	
Care Van	Fiona Pigott	Third Tuesday of the month	07874-282480
Fresh Start	Christine Wilson		538 2567
Pastoral Visitors			451 5141
Currie Kirk Singers	Gordon Cranford	Various	
Guild	Louise Lamont	Tuesday/elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk	466 3472
Family Worker	Heather Merriman	familyworker_jvp@outlook.com	
Walking Group	Moir 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 July/August issue should be sent—
using a Word attachment—by email to fpigott19@gmail.com before or by Friday 23 June 2023**

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