

THE KIRK NEWS

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2022



In this Issue

2	Calendar Overview	6	Brass Band	8	Tribute to Roddy Macdonald
3	Message from the Manse	7	Monday Madness	10	Community Activities
4	Presbytery Plan	7	Light Party	10	Flower List
5	The Guild	8	Ukrainian Day Photos	11	Family News
6	Meet and Heat	8	Meeting Place	12	Who's Who
6	Transport	8	Nether Currie Baby & Toddler Group		

Calendar Overview

October

2	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am
4	Tuesday	The Guild—10 am—Gibson Craig Halls—"Wimbledon Umpires" - Speaker: Chris Jeans
6	Thursday	Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls—see page ??
6	Thursday	BB Anchor and Junior Section 6 pm—7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
7	Friday	BB Company Section games night 7.15—9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
9	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am
9	Sunday	Afternoon Worship—Pastoral Communion— Gibson Craig Halls—4-5 pm. Refreshments served from 3.30 pm
9	Sunday	BB Company Section games night—7-9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
13	Thursday	Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
13	Thursday	BB Anchor and Junior Section 6 pm—7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
14	Friday	BB Company Section games night 7.15—9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
16	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am
18	Tuesday	The Guild—2 pm—Gibson Craig Halls—"Pontius Pilate!" - Speaker: Margaret Williamson
20	Thursday	Deadline for Shoe Boxes to Gibson Craig Office
20	Thursday	Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
20	Thursday	Brass Band @ 7.30—Gibson Craig Hall—see page 6
21	Friday	BB Company Section games night—7.15-9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
22	Saturday	Guild Coffee Morning— 10-12—Gibson Craig Hall
23	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am
24	Monday	Monday Madness— Juniper Green Halls—Contact Heather—see page 7 for details.
27	Thursday	Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
27	Thursday	BB Anchor and Junior Section—6 pm-7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
28	Friday	BB Company Section club games night—7.15-9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
30	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am— Informal Communion
30	Sunday	BB Company Section club games night—7-9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls

November

1	Tuesday	Guild meeting at 10 am—Gibson Craig Halls—"Swingin' in the Sixties" - Speaker: Tom Kelly
3	Thursday	Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
3	Thursday	BB Anchor and Junior Section—6 pm-7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
4	Friday	BB Company Section club games night—7.15-9 pm—Gibson Craig Hall
6	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am—Guild Rededication Service
10	Thursday	Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
10	Thursday	BB Anchor and Junior Section—6 pm-7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
11	Friday	BB Company Section club games night—7.15-9 pm—Gibson Craig Hall
12	Saturday	Light Party for Families— Gibson Craig Hall—5—7 pm—Contact Heather—see page 7 for details
13	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am—Remembrance Service
13	Sunday	Afternoon Worship— Gibson Craig Halls—4-5 pm. Refreshments served from 3.30 pm
13	Sunday	BB Company Section club games night—7-9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
15	Tuesday	Guild Meeting—2 pm—Gibson Craig Halls—"Edinburgh Cinema Memories", Speaker: Keith Walker
17	Thursday	Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
17	Thursday	BB Anchor and Junior Section—6 pm-7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
18	Friday	BB Company Section club games night—7.15-9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
20	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am
20	Sunday	BB Company Section club games night—7-9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
24	Thursday	Heat & Meet—2-4 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
24	Thursday	BB Anchor and Junior Section—6 pm-7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
25	Friday	BB Company Section club games night—7.15-9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls
25	Friday	Articles for Kirk News Deadline
27	Sunday	Worship Currie Kirk at 10 am
27	Sunday	BB Company Section club games night—7-9 pm—Gibson Craig Halls



A Message from the Manse

This past month has made me very proud of Scotland's rich historic heritage and strong Christian tradition. Some of us started September on Iona, where we began and ended each day in communal prayer—and as we treaded the paths of ancient Celtic saints, beholding sea and sand, we were able to strengthen our sense of fellowship, friendship, and faith. I feel blessed that we proclaim a faith with deep historic roots all the way back to the Celtic Saints.

When the news came on 8 September that Queen Elizabeth had passed peacefully at her beloved Balmoral Castle, the world solemnly watched the poignant procession which brought her from Aberdeenshire to Holyrood and to St Giles Cathedral. The Queen's loss unified our nation and her life-long devotion to Christ-like service enabled many people to hear the Good News of the Christian Faith proclaimed anew. We are blessed to have a history of devout Royals devoted to God.

September, for me, ended with our Harvest celebration on Sunday 25th where we dedicated our food donations to the Community Food project. Later that day, we processed up to Blinkbonny Park for Scottish Highland Games which opened with prayer. Lots of Scottish fun hurling Haggis and Tossing the Caber and listening to the bagpipes. Apparently, the Highland Games stopped after the clearances and it was Queen Victoria, while staying at Balmoral, who first reinstated the Braemar Gathering in July 1815!

As the nation and the world face uncertainties of food, fuel, and economic shortages, we need to celebrate and give thanks for our togetherness. More than ever, we need to pray for one another, and for our world. And I am sure that God will grant us some of the succour of the Celtic Saints as well as the constancy, courage and staying power of our late Queen.



A Prayer of St Columba

*Alone with none but thee my God
I journey on my way.
What need I fear when thou art near
O King of night and day.
More safe I am within thy hand
Than if a host did round me stand.*

God Bless

Easter

Update on Presbytery Plan 2022-25

The latest update of Presbytery's Draft Plan (see Extract below from Working Document issued in early September) in many senses appears to give Currie Kirk and Balerno Parish Church what we have been asking for from the start, our request that we are allocated to the South West Mission District. We can therefore take some comfort that we are not now forced to be included in the so-called Border Mission District with West Lothian churches.

However, Currie and Balerno had been discussing how to form the partnership proposed for them in the original Plan of December, agreeing in August that Linkage as opposed to Union would be more appropriate. This would leave each church with its existing infrastructure while encouraging closer working across shared areas. But despite each of our churches attending separate but amicable talks with representatives of the Deployment Group to outline how we envisaged we could make this work, the latest Draft Plan shows Currie and Balerno in a Union, not Linkage.

The Draft Plan now sets up a structure in which Currie and Balerno are in a Union, Juniper Green and Colinton are in a Union but the four churches are 'grouped' together, showing an expectation on the part of Presbytery that the four current parishes should work together. Presbytery are not keen on forcing churches together, rather they prefer trying to move things along gently, recommending that churches communicate on how to build trust and work more closely together. Thus, Currie and Balerno churches are now trying to meet with Juniper Green then Colinton Church, attempting to find ways of interacting with them but so far without success, possibly due to busy schedules and conflicting diaries.

Presbytery's meeting on 20th September was held after this article was written. Updates will be included in the next Kirk News magazine. There is a pressing timetable of dates when Presbytery requires decisions to be made on taking the Plan forward, ready to sign off by the end of December when implementation begins. The next significant date is 4th October 2022 when Presbytery meet to deliver their decisions on church buildings.

Extract from Draft Presbytery Plan 5th September 2022

Balerno, Currie, Colinton and Juniper Green will be served by two Full Time Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Colinton and Juniper Green, who are working well together, will form a Union with one Full Time Minister, working within a Parish Grouping with Balerno and Currie, who will also form a Union with one Full Time Minister. Balerno and Currie have a long-standing relationship, including joint services and mission initiatives. Currie share a youth worker with Juniper Green, and Juniper Green are forging connections with Colinton. There is overlap in the communities along the Water of Leith. Joint services are already held and some local staffing is shared. All of the congregations have undertaken commendable mission work and this forms an excellent basis for development. They are thus asked to build upon the Water of Leith locale, pursuing the mooted idea of a 'pilgrimage route' and, given the connections created with the local schools, to continue sharing mission in and with the school communities. These congregations are well-resourced and are encouraged to identify resources (not just financial) which could be used to support those less resourced congregations in the mission district. They should also be encouraged to fund a local post that would build on existing community involvement.



The Guild

The Guild has started well with two excellent speakers. We started with Fiona Tweedie who told us all about the duties carried out by an Ordained Local Minister. Michaela Foster Marsh followed at the next meeting who gave us an extremely interesting and informative talk about “Starchild” which is the Guild’s chosen project this session.

Moving into October we have Chris Jeans on Tuesday 4th October at 10 am talking on “Wimbledon Umpires”. This will be followed by a talk on “Pontius Pilate” given by Margaret Williamson on Tuesday 18th October at 2 pm. Then we have our Project Coffee Morning on Saturday 22nd October at 10am at which we will be serving home baking as well as a variety of stalls.

November starts with Tom Kelly on Tuesday 1st November at 10 am taking us back to “Swingin’ in the Sixties” followed by another walk down memory lane on Tuesday 15th November at 2 pm when Keith Walker will be reminding us of “Edinburgh Cinema Memories”. In addition we have our Guild Rededication Service on Sunday 6th November.

So many things to look forward to and mark on your calendars.

The Guild is open to both women and men so please join us. Tea/coffee and biscuits are served at each meeting. Alternatively you are very welcome just to join us for the odd meeting without actually joining. It is £3 per meeting for members and £4 per meeting for visitors.

For any further information please contact me on 466-3472 or email elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk

Louise Lamont Currie Kirk Guild President

Home Baking
Tombola
Books

Coffee Morning

Saturday 22 October 2022

Gibson Craig—10 am—12 Noon

In aid of ‘The Guild Project’ “Starchild”



Starchild—The Sunflower Sanctuary

Starchild was founded by Michaela Foster Marsh, who set up the charity in memory of her adopted Ugandan brother, Frankie Marsh. Finding the Light in Every Child project will address the challenges of stigma and myths related to intellectual and physical disability in Uganda. Many of these children and young people have been locked up, tied up and left in the dark. Starchild aims to build a holistic centre called the **Sunflower Sanctuary**. This centre will offer support, training and guidance to the most marginalised and help to prevent future generations of disabled people from being hidden in their communities and regarded as having no potential benefit to civil society. It is this lack of equality and inclusion that Starchild is addressing with the Guild and will be going forward in faith to bring these children out of the darkness and into the light



Meet and Heat Every Thursday—Gibson Craig Hall 2-4 pm

A new initiative to combat the winter fuel bills

The Gibson Craig Back Hall will be open every Thursday from 2-4 pm where you can enjoy a chat over a free cup of tea/coffee with some biscuits.

Transport Fund

With the minibus having been sold, we are faced with a number of people who would like to come to church on a Sunday morning but are unable to do so for a variety of reasons.



However, we do have some money from the sale of the minibus which has been set aside for providing transport. We are still working on how this is going to work.

If you would like transport on a Sunday morning, please give your name, address and phone number/ email address to either Isobel or myself. Alternatively you can hand it in at the Church Office. Once we have an idea of who is requiring transport, we can begin to devise ways of providing it. Please be patient as this is not going to happen immediately.

All our contact details are on the back of the Kirk News.

In the meantime if you are able to help by providing a car to transport the elderly on a rota basis please get in touch with the Kirk Office.

Louise Lamont Joint Session Clerk



Bathgate Brass Band

The Bathgate Brass Band will be performing at the Gibson Craig Hall on Thursday 20 October at 7.30 pm. Entry is by donation. Get your tickets by phoning the office.

Refreshments will be served during the event.



**Suggested
donation £1
per child**

**Snacks! Bible stories!
Songs! Crafts! Games!**

Monday 24th October 2022

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://
form.jotform.com/221501399002344](https://form.jotform.com/221501399002344)



Monday Madness is BACK ... Monday 24 October 9.30 am—12 Noon Juniper Green Church Halls

Our one-day holiday club is back! Monday 24 October in Juniper Green Church Halls for those in P1-7. 9.30 am—12 Noon.

There will be lots of fun as we explore a Bible story, play games, make crafts and eat snacks together. For more information or details on how to book email Heather at familyworker_jvp@outlook.com

Family Light Party Saturday 12 November 5—7 pm Gibson Craig Hall

On Saturday 12 November from 5-7pm in the Gibson Craig Hall we're hosting a Family Light Party! As the nights get longer and darkness falls earlier, come and enjoy light and fun at our family friendly event. We'll eat food together, play games and think about what it means to live in God's light. Let us know you're coming by completing the online form here: <https://tinyurl.com/familylightparty2022> Everyone of all ages is welcome!

You are invited...

LIGHT PARTY

Bring your whole family!

Wear something colourful or sparkly!

ON
Saturday 12th Novem-
AT
5-7pm
Gibson Craig Hall

WHAT'S ON?
Games
Bible Story
Food
Craft

Let us know you're coming:
<https://tinyurl.com/familylightparty2022>

Ukrainian Day—Wednesday 24 August

The Ukrainian Group who meet in the Gibson Craig Hall every Wednesday and Saturday had an extra special gathering to support Ukrainian Day in Currie Community Centre—below are some photos.



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.

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

Roderick (Roddy) Macdonald—A Tribute given at Session by Grant Gordon

It is my honour and privilege to stand before this venerable Court and pay tribute to my great friend Roddy Macdonald who died peacefully on 3rd June 2022 aged 95.

Roddy had been born on the family croft on Benbecula, the fourth son of a family of five boys and one girl, but as an infant moved to his mother's family croft in Borge on the Isle of Skye. Roddy did well at school and on leaving Portree High began a course of studies leading toward a degree in agriculture at Aberdeen University. However, the Second World War interrupted his studies, and he was conscripted to the Royal Signals as a Cipher Clerk which saw him serve in Tripoli and the Middle East. In this role he had access to secret and sensitive information. Back in civvy street, Roddy resumed his studies and gained a BSc in Agriculture. In due course, he added an MSc in Land Economics and Geology from the Michigan State University.

Roddy was never one to turn aside career opportunities and after a spell at ICI, in Perth, he joined the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries, working in his beloved Highlands and Islands area. Various Civil Service departments relating to Land and Agriculture followed, including a five year secondment to the then Highland & Islands Development Board in Inverness to set up and head up a Land Development Division. Eventually he ended up in the Edinburgh head office responsible for the management of the Secretary of State's Land Settlement Estates throughout Scotland, plus Crofting & Forestry.

In 1986 Roddy was appointed Gaelic Speaking Member at the Scottish Land Court, a role for which no-one was better suited bearing in mind his distinguished career in the Department of Agriculture. Roddy's love of the land was steadfast and infectious, forged as it was in those early days on the croft in Skye. In the Land Court his fairness was such that he was held in the highest regard by crofters and all such independent tillers of the soil and landlords.

In retirement, Roddy put this accrued knowledge and experience at the disposal of the Church of Scotland as a Trustee specialising in Glebe Management. Glebe land is held by many parishes and is rented out to local farmers and is a valuable asset.

In 1962 Roddy married Betty Macleod a Kincairdie born state registered nurse with whom he celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary in April of this year. Together, they raised their three daughters, Jane, Shona and Kathryn and became very proud grandparents of Roddie and Kate.

Roddy, who had a deeply held personal faith, was ordained as an elder on 30th November 1975 and, in addition to having pastoral oversight of a District, served for many years as an extremely conscientious Assistant Session Clerk. He also represented Currie as a Commissioner at a General Assembly at which he read the Gaelic lesson at worship one morning. Currie Kirk shared Roddy with Greyfriars Kirk where he was precentor, at their Gaelic services, a post his father fulfilled in Skye.

Away from work and Kirk, Roddy had been a member of Baberton Golf Club for 48 years, and while at University gained a Blue in shinty. In his younger days he used to play the fiddle, but recently passed it on to granddaughter Kate.

Proud, in the best sense of the word, of his sgiathanach roots, Roddy was a true Highland gentleman. His contribution to both Church and agriculture is without question. He was unique, typifying the best of his generation, and his affable demeanour meant that he was equally at ease in the company of anyone, from any walk of life. There can be no finer way to sum up the life of Roddy Macdonald than in words from the New Testament, crafted in the 4th chapter of 2 Timothy – "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." The torch he lit we now carry forward as others will also pass along ours in the sure knowledge that the great gift of life flows ever onward. May the best that was in Roddy be renewed in strength in us and may we give to others the love we can no longer show Roddy. For the lives we now lead are his honour and his memorial. God, who was Roddy's pillow of peace in his dying, would, I am sure, have welcomed him home with the words 'math a rinn seirbhiseach math agus dileas'. (Well done good and faithful servant.)

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
Art Class	Katie Hunter	07815 506520 katiehunter85@hotmail.com	Wednesday 5.45—7.15 pm Thursday 9.45—11.15 am
Currie and District Local History Society	Douglas Lowe	douglaslowe51@btinternet.com	Monday 7.30—9 pm twice monthly from 3/10/22- 20/3/23
Currie Community Council		curriecouncil@gmail.com	2nd Monday of each month 7.30-9.00 pm—not July
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
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



October/November Flower List

October

2 Mrs J Blair
Mrs S Ramsay
Mrs A Wood

9 Mr A Forsyth

16 Dr & Mrs P Gordon

23 Mrs M McDonald

30 Mrs J Smith
Mrs I Blyth
Mrs M Thomson

November

6 Mrs D Brown
Mrs B Smith
Mr & Mrs Goudie

13 Mrs V MacPhail
Mrs M Preston
Mrs M Watson

20 Mrs J Dick

27 Mrs D Collins

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.

Family News

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

Lawrence Smith, Currie

Please pray for the family



Transferred in:

Mrs Joyce Hayward, Edinburgh from Slateford Longstone



Shoe Box Appeal

Last Date for Shoe Box or items for inclusion

to Gibson Craig Office

Thursday 20 October 2022



Fresh Start is looking for Toiletries and Cleaning Materials

If you can help please hand into Kirk Office

Saturday Café

Saturday 24 September was the last Saturday for the Café which has been running during the summer in the link building and session house in the Kirk. We've had many supporters, both old and new. It's been great to have had time to chat to people, watch good friendships develop and allow new faces to look round our beautiful kirk and enjoy our hospitality.

A massive thank you to everyone who helped to serve, bake and supported it this summer.

A grand total of £1,357.61 has been raised for church funds.



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	vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com	
Weddings/Funeral Officer	Sandy Harper		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 Company/Seniors	Thursday 6.00-7.30 pm Thursday 6.00-7.30 pm Friday 7.15—9 pm & Sunday 7-9 pm	449 4905 07878377897
Banner Group	Janet Robertson	Tuesday	
Care Van	Fiona Pigott	Third Tuesday of the month	
Pastoral Visitors	Gordon Clephane	Gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk	449 2313
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	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 December/January issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 25 November.**

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