

THE KIRK NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026



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Balerno linked with Currie

A Message from Roy, our Interim Minister



It was lovely to be able to share in the celebration of the baptism of little Matthew at Currie Kirk on Sunday 23rd. There is always a welcome 'buzz' in the air on such days and it is a good thing to be part. All good wishes to Matthew's parents and family.

Afterwards I had a brief conversation with someone prompted by the prayer of dedication. The prayer goes like this:

*Gracious God,
touch us all again this day
with the grace of our baptism.
Give us new lives for old,
new spirits, new faith, new commitment,
in place of all that has grown tired and stale
and dead in our lives.
So may we rise and go from here,
to whatever awaits us, in joy and trust. Amen.*

Those words come from the service of Baptism in our Church of Scotland Book of Common Order (1994).

Following that conversation it occurred to me that baptism itself may be a help to us in these times of change. When we are baptised we are 'plunged' into the story of Jesus, his story of birth and life and death and being raised up. He 'acted that out' when he was baptised by John in the River Jordan, going down under the water and then rising out of it being like his life, his death and his resurrection.

That pattern is his gift to us, as we too are buried with Christ and rise with him.

The changes that our churches face are real and daunting. Perhaps churches, congregations and parishes can die and rise too?

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...' (1 Pet 1.3)

Towards the Union of Currie Kirk and Balerno Parish Church

The parishes of Currie and Balerno were linked by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian as from 1 December 2024. The service of Linkage took place on Thursday 19 June 2025. This Linkage is a step on the way to a formal Union as in the Presbytery Mission Plan.

In a Linkage, each church retains its Kirk Session and separate charity number, etc. whereas in a Union the two become one, with one Kirk Session responsible for local leadership and oversight. In due course, Edinburgh: Balerno linked with Currie will become Edinburgh: Kirk of Currie and Balerno.

At the time of writing I cannot give precise dates for each of the next steps but I can describe the stages on the way.

- ♦ The Draft basis and Plan of Union has been sent to the Presbytery Deployment Committee.
- ♦ There will be a meeting of the joint Kirk Sessions of Currie and Balerno on 24 August in the Gibson Craig Hall at 7pm. Representatives of the Presbytery Deployment Committee will be on hand to describe the next steps towards Union and answer questions. After discussion each Session will take a vote on the Basis of Union as supervised by the Presbytery representatives
- ♦ There will then be separate Congregational Meetings where church members will vote on the Basis of Union. These are held in the presence of the Presbytery representatives. Please look out for news of the dates and times of these.”
- ♦ Following voting, the Deployment Committee will seek formal approval of the Union at an appropriate Presbytery meeting. Representatives from each congregation may attend that meeting if they so wish.

In parallel the Steering Group has, in addition to drafting the Basis of Union, been working on the preparation of a Programme for Action including a Vision Statement and Strategy for the united church. Please do complete and return the questionnaire which is currently out to consultation and has a deadline of 13 September.

I hope that this gives a helpful explanation of formalities and of what happens next.

Roy Hendesron

Interim Minister, Rev Roy Henderson—contact details:
Landline Tel: 0131 449 3830; Mobile Tel : 07961 736061
E-mail: RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Calendar Overview—September

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Currie Guild at 10 am—Speaker: Rev Roy Henderson |
| 6 | Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.00 am—Rev Roy Henderson |
| 10 | Soul Mates—Gibson Craig Hall Lounge—2.00—4.00 pm |
| 13 | Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.00 am—Rev Stewart McPherson followed by a Prayer Tree Service |
| 15 | Currie Guild at 2 pm—Operation Hope: Speaker: James Fraser |
| 20 | Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.00 am—Rev Roy Henderson |
| 26 | Macmillan Coffee Afternoon—Gibson Craig Halls—1.00—4.00 pm |
| 27 | Joint Service in Balerno Parish Church at 10.30 am—Rev Roy Henderson—with communion |

(Coffee Stop continues on 5th, 12th and 19th September in the Kirk—2-4 pm)



Tyne Cot Cemetery in Ypres, Belgium

Garden of Remembrance

In November 2024, the members of the Mission, Outreach & Fellowship Team created a Garden of Remembrance at the War Memorial outside Currie Kirk. Each name listed on the Memorial Boards in the Kirk, men and one woman from Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno was given a personalised cross with a hand crafted poppy attached. Files were created giving biographical information about each of the 80 names from WWI, 23 names from WWII and 3 names from the post 1945 period. Names became people.

This was a successful and very poignant tribute to our fallen.

It is proposed to extend the Garden of Remembrance this year.

Residents of Currie and Balerno will have family members who gave their lives in armed conflict and in Service to their country but they are commemorated on memorials elsewhere or buried in foreign lands. Most families in Scotland will have a relative(s) who died in WWI especially when the numbers of those killed and wounded were disproportionate per head of population. Both my grandfathers served and survived but I have two Great Uncles who did not return home. One has a grave in France and the other is commemorated on the massive Thiepval Memorial.



If you have a family member who died in such circumstances and you would like to commemorate them with a personalised cross and poppy please contact me by email/hand written note/speak to me and provide me with any information that you may have.

Diane Brown

dianebrown53@btinternet.com



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



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. It is important that you seek permission from the person first.

Hospital Transport

Do you have appointments at the hospital and are struggling to get there? Did you know we have a Hospital Transport Coordinator who can help you and organise transport for you. Please get in touch with Liz Potter (07769 684029)

Summer Holiday Club 2026

We have been fortunate this year to be able to have Hannah as our Team Leader for the Summer Holiday Club, every Friday in Currie and every Sunday in Balerno. Hannah has organised and planned sessions twice a week for 8 weeks in both churches. We have had a nice group come along each week to join us for a bible story, craft and games. Hannah's last session will be over the weekend of 11—13th September—Friday (2—4) in Gibson Craig Hall, Currie; a Pop-In morning at the Balerno Farmers Market on Saturday 12th September (10—12) and then her final session on Sunday 13th September (2—4) in the Ogston Hall. As volunteers, we have really enjoyed having Hannah organise the sessions and we have realised we don't need to pack so much into our Messy Church events going forward!! Many, many thanks to Hannah for her input into each week. I am sure I speak on behalf of all the volunteers when I wish her all the very best for her 2nd year at Edinburgh University.

Fiona Pigott



The Coffee Stop—2—4 pm—every Saturday until 19 September @ The Kirk

Our last Coffee Stop! for the 2026 season will be held in Currie Kirk on Saturday 19 September.

We've had a fantastic summer with bumper attendances. New faces appear each week along with those of you who are our regulars. The noise levels in the Session Room, Glass Building and our outside space have reached new levels. It has been wonderful to hear and your continued support is very much appreciated.

With money raised so far, we have been able to donate sums of money to the local Community Foodbank and to Christian Aid—both great examples of our Outreach.



Macmillan Cancer Coffee Afternoon Saturday 26 September: 1—4 pm—Gibson Craig Hall

We continue with this aspect of our work on Saturday 26 September. We have signed up to the national Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning Fundraiser and will hold a Coffee Afternoon in the Gibson Craig Halls 1-4pm. In addition to our usual fantastic selection of home baking and tea/coffee there will be tasty fudge, tablet and sweet treats on sale to help boost our fundraising for this vital Charity.

Donations of baking and any sweet treats will be gratefully received. Please speak with any of the MOF team, if you can help with this.

We look forward to seeing you on the remaining Saturdays of Coffee Stop! at Currie Kirk and on Saturday 26 September at Gibson Craig Halls. An important date for your diary!



Currie Kirk Guild

Welcome Back

The Guild resumes on Tuesday 1 September at 10 am in the Gibson Craig Hall where tea/coffee and scones will be served prior to the meeting. Our speaker is the Rev Roy Henderson and we look forward to seeing you and any friends you wish to bring with you. All Welcome.

Our membership fee for the year which has been set by the Church of Scotland Guild is £17. New members are Free for the first year. The charge for each meeting remains at £3.

Our second meeting is on Tuesday 15 September at 2 pm when our speaker will be James Fraser. James will be speaking on our project for this session "*Operation Hope*". *Operation Hope Egypt* a project serving Christians in Upper Egypt who are marginalised and who face extreme poverty as a result. Operation Hope provides families with basic living needs, such as beds, toilet facilities, kitchen appliances, food, and funds to help with construction of their homes. The project also helps families to establish micro-businesses, so they can begin to support themselves, and provides spiritual care through regular visits and discipleship programmes.

A coffee morning in aid of the project will be held on 24 October.

Another full programme has been organised for this Session—come along and enjoy the fellowship that is "The Guild".

Soulmates



The monthly reflective Prayer Group meeting known as Soulmates meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Lounge at the Gibson Craig Halls from 2.00—3.00 pm. The next meeting is on Thursday 10 September.

Soulmates is an escape from a busy day! We start with a time of stillness, to let go of our day, troubles and the List To Do! We then have a passage from the bible and often a photograph to consider for a while then we chat about the passage, the meaning for us today, and any concerns we may have.

What's not to enjoy!

Kirk Walking Group



We meet the last 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.

Blythwood Shoebox Appeal 2026

This year marks 60 years since Blythwood first began, and we want to take the opportunity to celebrate all that the Lord has enabled us to achieve during this time. I am pleased to share details of an upcoming event in Edinburgh.

Edinburgh - Sunday, 13th September, 7:00—8:30 PM

We are also excited that some of our friends from Ukraine will be joining us, and we look forward to hearing from them and learning how we can be more intentional in our prayers for them.



Items collected for the Shoebox Appeal can be handed into the Kirk Office or placed in the box in the Link Building.

Deadline for return of items—The end of September

Blythwood 60th Celebration

Sunday 13th September | 7pm

An evening of

prayer

Worship

refreshments

With updates from Blythwood's partners,
Light of Reformation, Ukraine



A free will offering will be taken

Barclay Viewforth Church
1 Wrights Houses
Edinburgh
EH10 4HN



Mungo's Well

At present this well may be found on the south bank of the Water of Leith about 50 yards east of Currie Brig. Although it has a stone surround and gives every appearance of great antiquity this is not the true St Mungo's Well. This is to be found deep under the adjacent railway embankment. In former times it is very likely that this was the well from this the hamlet of Currie drew its water. The cottages, the old school and any passers by would know its refreshing waters. The Manse had its own well but possibly Robert Palmer at the Schoolhouse used this well at his back door!

Currie was very lucky in that iron well heads from water mains gave clean water to the people as early as mid Victorian times. St Mungo's Well takes its name from Mungo or Kentigern who founded the Christian community in Glasgow. Since he knew Carnwath well it is likely that he knew this area too. Mungo in his missionary zeal sent out preachers to many places. A small stone cell would be built and a Preaching Cross set up. Sensibly, the sites chosen were usually beside a well or stream. One man covered a wide area with several centres. From these bases Mungo's young men would preach, teach, administer the sacraments, legalise marriages and say prayers for the dead. It is virtually certain that from Kildeleith (the chapel on the Leith) grew the parish and the Kirk of Currie. Two verses about the Well were written by William Taylor the schoolmaster in 1785.

This article was published in an earlier Kirk News written by the late Betty Dagg.

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.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the Rev Willis Jones



Can you help: Do you have a photograph of the Group that was on the Pilgrimage with Lezley?

The Good Book Group



The 'Good Book Group' is now well established having completed its first book—the Old Testament story of Queen Esther, her husband Xerxes and Haman who plotted to kill all the Jews in the Persian empire.

How God saved his people through Esther and her uncle Mordecai kept us all enthralled for weeks. Now we are starting out on our journey through The Book of Acts, with the story of the First Pentecost and the birth of the church covered so far.

What's surprised us all is how much these stories resonate with our own journeys of Faith and the life of the church today. Why not come along and join the conversation. The Group meets in the Shepherd Room, Balerno on a Monday from 11—12noon and in the Gibson Craig Halls on a Tuesday evening from 7—8pm. An opportunity for fellowship as we explore our faith and the Bible together.

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).

Tribute to Allan Goudie by Grant Gordon

It is my great pleasure to stand before this venerable Court and pay tribute to my friend of many years Allan Goudie who died on 26th April aged 92. In recalling Allan's life, a verse from 2 Timothy seems appropriate: 'I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith.'

Starting out as an apprentice joiner/carpenter and ending up as Director of Wimpey Homes Ltd. Allan put his work experience and expertise into so many projects within the church, that his fingerprints are to be found not only on the Kirk itself but in the Link Building, Session Room and Gibson Craig Halls.

Allan was ordained as an Elder 33 years ago on 9th May 1993 and served in various capacities including as a caring and compassionate district elder. For many years he was Chairman of the Congregational Board with responsibilities stretching over finance and fabric. In earlier years, he was a regular member of the Bethany Care Van Team reaching out to the homeless.

On leaving school Allan wanted to be an architect or draughtsman. He secured an apprenticeship in carpentry/joinery with local builders, Dixons in Glasgow. Apprenticeship completed, he worked as a Foreman Joiner and continued studying, latterly at Glasgow Technical College (now Strathclyde University) and gained a 1st Class degree in Building Technology.

In 1956 Allan's career with George Wimpey commenced, remaining with the company until his retirement in 1992. In his 36 years with the company his role changed constantly, encompassing many different areas of the company's portfolio, involving travel from Scotland to many different parts of the world. In 1976 he returned to Edinburgh as Regional Director retiring 26 years later as a Director of Wimpey Homes Holding Ltd and Chairman of Wimpey Leisure.

Held in high esteem in the building industry, Allan held positions on many of Scotland's governing bodies overseeing the construction industry:

- Scottish Chairman of the Institute of Builders
- Chairman of Edinburgh and District Master Builders
- President of Scottish House Builders Association
- Member of Scottish Office Building Regulations Advisory.

In his youth Allan participated in football, badminton, cricket and golf. Indeed, it was through football he met his wife Eileen. Allan was kit boy for Pollock Football Club and Eileen attended the games with her friend—the rest is history. Allan and Eileen had two sons, Kenneth and Christopher.

Allan enjoyed golf, being a member at Ratho Park Golf Club and was elected Captain from 1987—1989.

As long as he was able Alan was an active member of Edinburgh Pentland Probus Club.

Gardening brought Allan great pleasure, although latterly mobility became an issue, but he loved to sit in his chair looking out on the garden as the seasons changed.

Throughout Allan's working life both with Wimpey and indeed on the Church Projects he oversaw, he had a formidable reputation for expecting high quality work and professionalism, born out of the standards he expected of himself. The respect in which he was held in the building industry was demonstrated in the large turnout of Wimpey employees at his funeral. A loving husband, proud father and grandfather, Allan was a man of strong principals, honesty and integrity, always interested in others, and with a faith that was important to him.

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote :

That man is a success who has lived well,
laughed often and loved much;
who has gained the respect of men and women
and the love of children;
who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;
who leaves the world better than he found it,
who has never lacked appreciation of Earth's beauty
or failed to express it; who looked for the best in others,
and gave the best he had.

That was my friend Allan Goudie. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Family News

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



11 June 2026	Mr Robert Fraser, Currie
4 August 2026	Mr George Robertson, Colinton
6 August 2026	Mr Donald Macpherson, Currie
18 August 2026	Mr Alexander Grant Telford, Currie

Please pray for the families

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

Matthew Kenneth Daniel Thomson, born on 3 November 2025, son of Julia and Iain Thomson, was baptised by the Rev Roy Henderson on Sunday 23 August 2026.



Flower List—September 2026



6 Mrs J Robertson
Mrs M Falconer

13 Mrs S Heron
Mrs H Heggie

20 Service in Balerno

27 Mr A Forsyth
Mrs I Webber



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		Thursday 9.30—11.00 am
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



WHO'S WHO



NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL CONTACT/TIMES	TELEPHONE NO
Interim Minister South and East Region	Rev Roy J M Henderson 3 Johnsburn Road, Balerno, EH14 7DN	RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk	0131 449 3830 07961 736061
Currie Kirk Church Office (Scottish Charity No. SC001554)	Gibson Craig Halls, Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5NY Email: Admin@curriekirk.co.uk	Wednesday 9.30 am—12.30 pm Thursday 9.30 am—12.30 pm Saturday 9.30 am—12.30 pm	451 5141
Session Clerk	Louise Lamont	elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk	466 3472
Treasurer	Eddie Pigott	pigottsef@icloud.com	07891 613360
Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer	Eunice Stewart	eunicestewart48@gmail.com	07547 653 449
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		07769 684029
Kirk Flowers	Contact Church Office	Admin@curriekirk.co.uk	451 5141
Magazine Distributor	Currie Kirk Office	Admin@curriekirk.co.uk	451 5141
Boys' Brigade Captain	Bill Brown Anchors/Juniors	Thursday 6.00-7.30 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	Isobel Webber	1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.	07702 784186
Walking Group	Elizabeth Wood	Last Sunday of each month.	0131 538 0363

The Kirk News



Can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/Kirknews>.
Articles for the October/November issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to fpigott19@gmail.com or the Kirk Office by Monday 21 September
Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.