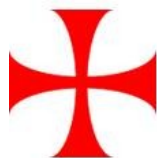


THE KIRK NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025



		In this Issue			
2	Calendar Overview;	6	Soulmates	10	Fresh Start
2	Coffee Stop!	6	Prayer	10	Blythswood Shoebox Appeal
2	New Office Hours	6	Tribute Rev Gordon McLean	10	Flower Fund
3	Rev Roy Henderson.	6	Hospital Transport	11	Community Activities
4	The Guild	7-8	At the Going Down of the Sun	11	Community for Food
4	Coffee Stop	8	Family Fun Day	11	CD Ministry
4	The Boys’ Brigade	9	Tribute Bill Porteous	11	Palm Dementia Café
5	Harvest Lunch	9	Tribute Mary Skinner	12	Who’s Who
5	Godly Play	10	Family News		
5	The Walking Group				



THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CURRIE KIRK

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE CROSS PATHS

Calendar Overview

September

- 7 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am
- 14 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am followed by a Prayer Tree Service
- 21 Joint Worship in Balerno Parish Church at 9.30 am
- 28 Worship in Currie Kirk at 11.15 am with Communion

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER at the Gibson Craig Halls

- 2 September at 10 am—The Guild—"Being a Chaplain to the King"—Rev Moira McDonald
- 4 September—The Boys' Brigade—Anchor Boys and Junior Section—6 pm
- 5 September—Games Afternoon—see page 8
- 7 September—The Boys' Brigade—Company Section—6.30 pm
- 16 September at 2 pm—The Guild "CrossReach"—Miriam Rana
- 21 September—Walking Group—see time and place on Order of Service



Come and Join us at

The Coffee Stop!

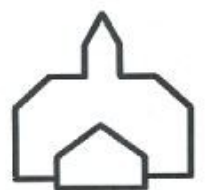
Every Saturday until the end of September

Currie Kirk

2—4 pm

Coffee/Tea/Delicious Home Baking

Great place to meet friends and make new ones



NEW OFFICE HOURS: WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY—9.30 AM—12.30 PM



Balerno linked with Currie



On Being a Temporary Shepherd

It is now about two months since the service of Introduction and Linkage. In that time I have been trying to get to know people and build rapport and am grateful for the warm welcome at both Balerno and Currie. It has been quite a transition, moving from Parish Ministry, five years in Alexandria, twenty years in Glasgow's west end and Woodside area then over a decade in Pollokshaws.

The model of Parish Ministry I grew up with was often about the 'long game', taking time to get to know the people and story of a parish. Interim Ministry is a shorter-term business. As your 'temporary shepherd' my role over the next wee while is to help you take stock of things, asking how we got here and then to turn towards a changed future.

In his book '*Temporary Shepherds*' Roger Nicholson quotes a letter to a United Reformed Church congregation:

"If our only vision of the future of our church harks back to a golden era in our past, then we are doing ourselves no favours in trying to plan for the future. The reality is those days will not return."

The kind of ministry that formed and shaped my practice and assumptions as a parish minister came from a more settled time. These are unsettled times, unsettling times. In Romans 12.2, the Apostle Paul wrote:

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect"

Warren Schulz defines them like this:

Change: The inevitable movement of life's forces

Transition: The process by which we must deal with the inevitable changes of life (the interim)

Transformation: The new shape that occurs after transition, toward which change is aimed.

Biblically we could liken those three to:

*Egypt, then Exodus/wilderness leading towards entry to the Promised Land
or the Passion story...*

Death, three days, and resurrection.

In the meantime, I have enjoyed informal gatherings of the office bearers of Balerno and Currie churches, a Kirk session meeting at Currie (July 21st) and Balerno (20th August). The next steps to continue conversations with people and to organise a 'Visioning Day' with office bearers and a colleagues from the Interim and Transition Ministry Team and Presbytery – more of which will be forthcoming soon.

We are on a journey, you and I, living in the interim. Let's see what happens next.

Roy

Contact details:

Landline Tel: 0131 449 3830

Mobile Tel : 07961 736061

E-mail: RHenderson@churchofscotland.org.uk



The Currie Kirk Guild



Welcome Back

We look forward to welcoming new and returning members to enjoy the fellowship that is “The Guild”.

This year brings a great syllabus—beginning on **Tuesday 2 September at 10 am** we welcome the Rev Moira McDonald who is speaking on “Being a Chaplain to the King”. Enjoy a welcoming cup of tea/coffee and scones for our first meeting.

The meeting on 16 September at 2 pm will be Miriam Rana from CrossReach—our project for this year.

The duties of our Guild are being shared between the Committee and we are grateful for this commitment. If you would like to be co-opted on or can give assistance at the Coffee Morning it will be greatly appreciated.

Coffee Stop!

Thanks to everyone who came along to the Coffee Stop! on a Saturday afternoon.

To date we have donated £500 to the Currie Community Foodbank

65th Edinburgh Company—The Boys’ Brigade

The Boys’ Brigade (BB) is a youth organisation for those aged from 6-18 years. It is the oldest youth organisation in the UK founded in 1883 in Glasgow. Initially for Boys from a Church of Scotland background the BB still operates on Christian principals but is for **ALL FAITHS** and none. In some areas it incorporates Girls Associations.

The 65th Edinburgh (Currie) Company is for Boys only from 6 years (P2) - 18 years (S6) and will resume on Thursday, 4th September at 6.00pm for Boys from P2—P6 and on Sunday, 7th September at 6.30pm for Boys from P7—18 years (S6). All meetings are at the Gibson Craig Hall, Lanark Road West, Currie.



Over 100 boys from the 65th have attained the highest award in the BB, the Queen’s Badge. All their names are recorded on the Honours Board within the Gibson Craig Hall. The highest award is now the King’s Badge which replaced the previous award. Do you have what it takes to make our Honours Board?

Why not come along and give it a try.

Bill Brown
Captain



**CURRIE KIRK
HARVEST SOUP LUNCH
SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER at 12.30pm
Gibson Craig Hall
Tickets £5
From the Kirk Office or Fiona**

**All proceeds in aid of British Red Cross
Gaza Crisis Appeal**



Godly Play Discovery Day – 20 September—10am—4pm

Godly Play Scotland, Duddingston Kirk Manse, Old Church Lane, Edinburgh, EH15 3PX,

Discovery Days are a great way to find out about Godly Play and to experience it for yourself as we share a full Godly Play session and two additional stories. This Discovery Day will be held at the Godly Play Scotland Centre, in the basement of Duddingston Kirk Manse. You will find us by parking in the Duddingston Hall parking lot off of Duddingston Road West and then following signs from the parking lot to the Manse basement.

Tea, coffee and snacks will be provided, but please bring your own lunch.

The cost of the day is £15 and you can book online at

[Discovery Day Booking Form](#)

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

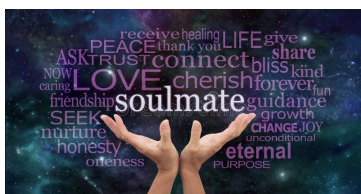


The Walking Group

The walk commenced at the Ratho Inn and ended at the Surf Centre

Next Walk: Sunday 21 September
ALL WELCOME





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

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.



Rev Gordon McLean—Minister of Currie Kirk (1982-1992)

I had known Gordon ever since he came amongst the people of Currie as our Minister in 1982 and we kept in touch after he left us for Springfield, USA in 1992 and, indeed on his return to Scotland to Contin in 2005 I was privileged to speak on his behalf at the social following his induction to that parish.

I worked with Gordon in various capacities during his Currie ministry. The obituary notice referred to him as a pioneering minister and that is exactly right for Gordon served his Church and his God with devotion. He served his parishioners and community with fervour, with dedication and with humour. His ideas were big and his horizons large. Week after week, year after year, his worship services were faithful to the Scripture, relevant to the life and experience of the worshippers, simultaneously traditional and lively.

While it may sound trite, I believe that Gordon endeavoured to practice what he preached and in so doing gave integrity to his Christian ministry, a ministry founded on compassion, love and grace, reaching out in particular to those in crisis situations and evidenced most notably in bereavement where he sought to bring a sense of spiritual peace, comfort and dignity to those concerned.

Gordon believed that leaders need to be seen to lead and he demonstrated this through his strong vision on many aspects of church life, for example strategies for pastoral care – the development of a care model that other Churches copied—energising and releasing the potential of Kirk Session; these are but two of his many initiatives. It would be fair to say that for Gordon when something was not a passion he could be shamelessly cynical about it, but when he had a passion, and this was more often than not, he was formidable in advocating it and obstinate in stopping anything that did not fit with the vision he gave his Church.

There can be no finer way to sum up the life of Gordon McLean 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.” And so, for Betty, Morven and Ross may they know God’s peace and for Gordon, may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Thank you to Grant Gordon for this tribute.

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)



At the Going Down of the Sun—7—14 June 2025

Bill and Diane Brown

In Currie Kirk there are Memorial Boards to those from the Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno parishes who made the ultimate sacrifice in the two World Wars and also those from conflicts after the two wars. Bill Wood (Currie Kirk) and Malcolm Fergusson (Balerno Church) had previously carried out valuable research on the Boards but it was felt that more could be done.

Diane Brown and John Macaulay decided that rather than just names on a board they could build a pen picture of each casualty. Extensive research was carried out identifying the home addresses of the casualties, their family backgrounds and who had been left behind to mourn their loss. As a result, Memorial Books containing all relevant and available information for each casualty were created and are now available in the Link Building of Currie Kirk.

The War dead from the parishes are buried or commemorated around the World including France, Belgium, Italy, India, Greece, Tunisia, Germany, Israel, Bangladesh, Singapore China, Holland, Egypt, and the UK including Currie which just confirms the global nature of the conflicts.

To continue the research, Diane Brown with me as her driver and guide, set off for France to identify each grave or Memorial and stand briefly at each site to honour their sacrifice. Our base for the week was a gite on Nobiscourt Farm, Roisel just outside Peronne. The Somme, notorious in British Army history was one of the main battlegrounds of the first war. There is so much unexploded ordinance from that conflict still buried in the fields, that farm workers are still killed and injured annually having inadvertently disturbed a decaying shell, mortar bomb or grenade. Most farmers mark the locus and call the bomb disposal. At Nobiscourt, earlier this year, Marc Leroy snagged a significant piece of WW1 ordinance breaking his plough but thankfully nothing else. Diane's great grandfather served with the Royal Artillery and in 1917 was based near Nobiscourt so may well have been responsible for some of the ordinance uncovered annually at the farm.

As is the case with all WW1 losses over 50% have no known grave. Thousands of unidentified casualties are buried with the epitaph 'Known Unto God'. Our casualties are no different. Of the 80 from WW1 only 34 have a marked grave. At 7.30am on the 1st July, 1916, the Battle of the Somme began. It would arguably be the worst day in the history of the British Army who suffered 57,000 casualties with almost 20,000 dead on day one

alone. The battle raged on for over 4 months with casualties buried, blown up and buried again as the two sides fought back and forth over the same ground. By the end, over 70,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers never came home and have no known grave. Our first stop was therefore Thiepval and the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, which bears the names of nine parishioners.



We identified each name on the respective panels of the huge Memorial and stood in silent contemplation. John Cassidy; George Downie; Joseph Godley; Frederick Lewis; Frank McCue; Robert Murray; Thomas Shankie; Alexander Smart; Peter Swan. From Thiepval we travelled to Warlincourt Halte Cemetery and stood at the grave of Andrew Fraser. At Doullens Communal Cemetery, Frank Byrne.

Our final stop on day 1 was the Arras Memorial to honour Robert Davidson; Arthur McGuigan; Peter M. Stuart; Robert Traill; and John Williamson.

On day 2 we headed to Bray Military Cemetery where Kenneth D Thompson is buried and then to Danzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz for the

grave of John Stewart, Royal Engineers. Sapper Stewart is buried side by side with 8 other Royal Engineers all killed on the same day.

Day 3 saw visits to Tincourt New British Cemetery and Vaulx Hill Cemetery. Tincourt is the resting place of Archibald Moffat amongst almost 2000 graves from WW1. Among them are 136 US soldiers, 151 German soldiers and 58 members of the Chinese Labour Corps. Although not used in the fighting that didn't mean they wouldn't be fired upon by the enemy. Large numbers also died from Cholera and flu outbreaks and poor treatment by their British and French employers.

Vaulx Hill is where William Knox is buried. Knox was a member of the Tank Corps. Interestingly he is buried next to Lieutenant Sewel VC also of the Tank Corps. They died on the same day and the citation for Sewel states that he was killed trying to save a wounded member of his crew. It is not too much of a stretch to assume that Knox was that crewman.





We were quickly back on the trail and visited the French National Memorial at Notre Dame de Lorette. It is the final resting

place of over 40,000 WW1 French casualties from the fighting in Northern France. Beside the Memorial is the Ring of Remembrance which commemorates almost 580,000 casualties from all sides killed on the Western Front. The Memorial is made up of 500 plates of bronzed stainless steel in a huge elliptical circle like an open book. We identified the names from our boards killed in that area. The names are recorded in alphabetical order. The first name is that of a Nepalese sailor serving with the British Merchant



Navy and the last is the name of a German serviceman. Day 6 saw us at the wonderful Australian site at Villers Bretonneaux where the names of William

Butler and Thomas Urquhart are commemorated. If you ever visit this Memorial make sure you have plenty of time. The cemetery is fairly vast with an accessible tower where you can look over the battlefield. Parts of the site sustained WW2 damage courtesy of the Germans which is still visible. The site also contains the Sir John Monash museum. I don't have enough superlatives to describe this museum.



Bouchoir New British Cemetery has the grave of James Cassidy of the Royal Scots. The cemetery has a large number of Royal Scots within it including many killed on 11th August, 1918, the same day as Cassidy. They will have been part of the Allied Offensive which was the Battle of Amiens.

Our final visit was to the Canadian Memorial at Vimy Ridge. I have visited many memorials to WW1 in France and Flanders. They all have different attributes but Vimy is simply stunning. It never fails to impress and along with Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele has the ability to bring tears to my eyes at every visit. Here we found the name of William Young. He originated from

Glenbrook, Balerno but emigrated to British Columbia only to join the 7th BC Regiment to help in the war.

Our week on the Somme ended with a quite spectacular electric storm before we headed west into Brittany for a well deserved gastronomic break. We will return to France and Flanders for further research in the future.

If anyone is thinking of doing a bit of historical research themselves, either for interest or perhaps researching a family member then happy to give advice and assistance if required. If going to the Somme then you will find the accommodation at Gites de Nobescourt very hard to beat.

**Games Afternoon
Friday 5 September—2-4 pm
Gibson Craig Hall**

Lots of FUN for children in P2—S1

Refreshments available

Entry FREE



William (Bill) Porteous—Elder, Currie Kirk

The large turn out at the funeral of (William) Bill Porteous' on 11th August in Currie Kirk was testament to the respect and esteem in which this man was held across many organisations including The Boys' Brigade, Currie Rugby Club, Probus, Police, Currie Kirk and the Community at large. Bill died on the 29th July 2025.

Born in 1936, Bill was the only child of Agnes and Alexander Porteous. His father was a shepherd in the Borders area and schooling for Bill was at Heriot Primary, having to walk two miles to and from his home in the hills! Secondary education was at Galashiels Academy.

On leaving school Bill joined the Fire Service in Galashiels but in 1955 he was called up for National Service with the Royal Scots at Glencorse.

In 1966 Bill joined Lothian and Peebles Police and his first posting was to Bo'ness, but a year later he was transferred to Currie (who remembers the Police Station in Currie?). He later was transferred to the new Balerno Police Station and retired in 1991 as a sergeant in the force.

Through his involvement in many community activities Bill developed a vast wealth of sustaining friendships. He was an officer in the 65th BB Company, a football coach with Curriehill Primary School, a past president of the local Probus Club, a founding member of Currie Rugby Club and an Elder in Currie Kirk, having received a certificate just this year acknowledging over 50 years of service.

To Bill's wife of 65 years, Erica, and their three sons, Brian, Gordon and Iain and their partners and family we offer our sincere sympathies and thanks for sharing this special man with the community.



Mary Skinner—Elder, Currie Kirk

Mary Skinner, a quiet, unassuming, kind, compassionate and thoughtful lady died suddenly on 28th July 2025

Born in Tain where she completed her schooling, Mary graduated from Aberdeen University with a BSc after which she undertook a teaching qualification. On completing her probationary period as a maths and science teacher at Millburn Academy in Inverness the world was Mary's oyster!

Mary married Ali in 1971. At that time, he was a geologist in the Antarctic, although married life began in Birmingham. Subsequent moves took them to London and Botswana where life in Lobatse was most enjoyable, especially spending time camping on the edge of the Kalahari Desert with their baby daughter Mhari. 1977 saw a return to the UK and London where their son Niall was born.

When a work opportunity arose for Ali in Edinburgh the family returned to Scotland, much to Mary's delight resulting in setting up home in Currie.

Mary's chosen career of teaching involved posts in Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School in Birmingham and Highbury Girls School in London before her appointment at St Serf's School here in Edinburgh eventually serving as Assistant Head. Mary retired from teaching in 2007.

Portmahomack, a village close to Tain, was always a special place for Mary, having visited there with family just two weeks before her sudden death.

Mary was a faithful servant of Currie Kirk, particularly as a conscientious and diligent elder for 33 years. Both in teaching and in her Elder duties Mary took people 'under her wing', and we will never know just how many she helped and influenced.

To her husband Ali, her daughter Mhari and son Niall, their spouses and her four grandchildren we offer our sincere condolences.

Thank you to Margaret Gordon for these Tributes

Family News

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



23 June	Janet Johnston, Balerno
4 July	Marie Duncan Manson, Currie
13 July	Mrs Margaret (Peggy) Morrison, ex Currie
19 July	Rev Gordon McLean, Minister of Currie Kirk (1982-1992)
25 July	Mary Skinner, Currie
29 July	Bill Porteous, Currie
3 August	Barbara Chambers, Currie
7 August	Margaret Dougan, Currie

Please pray for the families.



Fresh Start is in need of small electrical items such as lamps, irons, hairdryers, toasters, as well as the usual household linens including tea towels, cleaning materials, cloths and toiletries. Their Web site has the full list of items included in their starter packs. Freshstartweb.org.uk

Only spotlessly clean duvets are acceptable and please do not include ornaments or beer and wine glasses.

Thank you for your ongoing support for this important cause, both by donating good or monetary gifts.
Christine Wilson



Blythwood Christmas Shoebox Appeal

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

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: Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 9.30–12.30.
Thank you for your continued support. MOF Committee

September 2025 Flower List

September

7 Mrs J Robertson
Mrs M Lamb
Mrs M Falconer
Mrs S Heron

14 Mrs H Heggie



21 Mrs M Anderson
Mr A Forsyth

28 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 Isobel Webber or 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 and 2.30—4.00 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	euangreid@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—9.30am—12.30pm



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

