

balerno



Blether

FREE

the magazine and newsletter of Balerno Parish Church; for the Church and for the Community



It's a big hello to Kirk of Currie and Balerno (Church of Scotland)

With the decision to name the new united congregation for Currie and Balerno, the Kirk of Currie and Balerno (Church of Scotland), both congregations begin the serious part of the journey from the linkage in which they have both been located since summer 2025, towards realisation of the full union.

The process for selection of the name for the united congregation involved a two stage ballot conducted during May in the first round of which saw the twenty five names offered for consideration whittled down to five which in turn were offered to congregations as candidates in the second ballot to be held on 24th May. Fortunately 'Churchy McChurch Face' didn't appear on the long list and may indeed never have actually made it to nomination.

The result of the first ballot had been issued on 19th May and was accompanied by a firm admonition that if you wanted to vote on the short list then you had to be there for the second ballot on 24th May. Proxies and postal voting may be things for the future but they aren't for the here and now under church law.

In the event the five candidate names were as shown below, and so the name of the united congregation, when it finally arrives, will be Kirk of Currie and Balerno. The names and polling figures were as follows

Balerno and Currie Parish Church	15
Currie and Balerno Kirk	27
Currie and Balerno Parish Church	31
Kirk of Currie and Balerno	32
West Pentlands Church	22

So a tight margin between 1st and 2nd; but we have a name, and VAR didn't have to be involved.

Amongst the tasks that the Steering Group has set itself is taking that name forward and is thinking about brand identity; that really means simply a logo. And the likelihood is that that will involve another invitation for ideas, both as to the method and as to an actual design. Watch this space!

Then there is the design of how the new Church will actually work. Whitehall would call it 'Machinery of Government', and within that decisions will have to be made about Committees, Working Groups etc. And members of the congregation will probably be invited to identify any of those of which they might like to be members.

RMH

Agreement on Basis of Union

At a Joint Meeting of the Kirk Sessions of Currie Kirk and Balerno Parish Church on 10th June there was unanimous approval of the Basis of Union, which is the document which outlines how the congregations of the two will merge. While it is not the sort of document for which there is likely to be wide readership - one contributor to the discussion suggested that you might look at it only if you have difficulty sleeping - it is the small print of the union arrangement, and therefore has to be scanned thoroughly. However and fortunately the Steering Group, made up of hardy members from each congregation gave it a seal of approval, meaning that the joint meeting was able to progress to some of the recommendations in their most recent report. These included suggestions as to a committee structure which might be instituted in shadow form in advance of the union taking effect, thereby making sure that the new Kirk of Currie and Balerno can 'hit the ground running'.

However, and without seeming to pour a bucket of cold water on burgeoning enthusiasm, the Basis of Union agreement is only an initial step and cannot proceed without official Presbytery approval and a formal vote from the congregations. That approval will have to await the August meeting of Presbytery.

Currie and Balerno's Basis of Union will now disappear into the further reaches of both the Presbytery and the Church administration at 121 George Street, and we will hear from them as and when they have completed their own 'due diligence.'

Although one perhaps ought not to use gaming metaphors, the hot money is that the Union may now be likely to appear over the horizon to take effect from 1 January 2027. Apart from anything else, that, co-inciding with the end of the Church's financial year would make the financial implications more straightforward to handle.

The Steering Group have already moved to develop the governance structure required for the new charge, possibly even to run as a shadow administration in the run up to D-day.

RMH

The next issue of the Balerno Blether will be the September 2026 edition and will be published on line and in hard copy form on Friday 28th August. The Blether is available in hard copy at the Mill Cafe and at Balerno and Currie Libraries.

Meanwhile elsewhere in Balerno

News in brief from Balerno Community Council

The big story so far as the Balerno Community Council is concerned relates to the continued preparation of a Local Place Plan for Balerno. The data on the basis of which the plan's proposals will be based derives from the most part from an online survey conducted by the Council from January to May 2026. The survey produced over 250 responses including hard copy responses received through a Mill Cafe 'post-box', and also conversations at Farmers Markets and at the Gala in May.

There have been robust discussions at the Community Council meetings over the winter and spring mostly arising from the possibility that St Mungo's Church may seek planning permission to build a new church on the field opposite Balerno High School. The Council's meetings over recent months have regularly hosted members of the public who wish to make clear their considerable opposition to the St Mungo's proposal which has not yet been presented, and on which the required planning application to City of Edinburgh Council is not anticipated before November. St Mungo's offered a 'drop-in' session on its proposal on Saturday 13 June.

At its June meeting on Thursday 4th the Community Council also hosted a representation from the Hermiston Community Data Centre campaign group who addressed the meeting about the proposal for a Data Centre campus with associated infrastructure, and comprising in particular three main buildings capable of 200MW utility demand capacity. Those buildings would have a foot print of 54690m² along with an associated electricity substation of 15.625 m². The proposed height of the buildings is said to be 23m. The site overall is 30.5 hectares – that is the equivalent of approximately 37 to 42 football pitches. If permitted this would therefore be a massive development with implications for the surrounding area including Balerno.

The City Council has concluded in a recent 'Screening Opinion' - 6 May - that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required in relation to the proposed development.

Complaints about weeds - The problem of weeds in the village was described by one local resident as "diabolical", particularly in the Dean Park area. Balerno is a 'pesticide-free' area and this complicated the issue. A member of the public argued that there are sophisticated weed killer options now available and urged to council to take action as soon as possible. BCC is investigating what happens in other parts of the city.

ROAD SAFETY AT DEAN PARK SCHOOL: The Council heard from Dean Park Primary School Parent Council who outlined concerns to BCC and urged the City of Edinburgh Council to look at increasing crossing points in key areas in the village with Ravelrig and Bridge Road among them. Some parents use their cars because of safety concerns, according to the representatives, and Dean Park Parent Council are seeking to improve the safety of pupils, parents and staff at the school which is a main feeder primary for Balerno High School.

There are, said the representatives, significant concerns around what they termed unsafe and congested parking during drop-off and pick-up times and they called for improvements, including safer cycle zones. BCC are encouraging the City Council to address the various issues.

Finally, and in relation to the Local Place Plan the Community Council are holding a Public Meeting at St Joseph's Hall on 9th July (7.30pm) for an update. The Council intends to complete the draft by mid August to allow for a mandatory 28 day period for comment in advance of lodging the Plan with the City Council by the end of September.

RMH

Songs of **Stage and Screen**

Pentland Singers Summer Concert

With the 20thC Fox fanfare the Pentland Singers Summer Concert on Thursday 12th June was up and running, playing to a near capacity audience at Balerno High School, and the show they put on could well have attracted another similar house on a second night. And it certainly deserved another outing!

Ian Munro conducted the Singers in a programme designed to be light and accessible under the title of 'Songs of Stage and Screen', and so it proved to be, Kicking off with Kiss Me Kate's '*Another Op'nin' Another Show*' the programme kept up the pace with '*O Fortuna*' from Carl Orff's 1937 '*Carmina Burana*'. Karl Jenkins '*Adiemus*' - originally commissioned for a Delta Airlines TV commercial and that certainly surprised me - heralded more reflective items with Howard Goodall's setting of 'The Lord is my Shepherd' taking us straight to Dibley. A more serious although still light performance of Paul Meallor's '*Wherever you are*' - Military Wives 2012 - maintained the reflective, and seemed to flow into Scarborough Fair with its memories of Dustin Hoffman and Katharine Ross, before the Singers closed their first set with a celebration of Lloyd Webber. Take your choice it was all there from Phantom of the Opera, via Evita (*Don't cry for me Argentina*, and not a dry eye in the house) to Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream coat.

Then it was time for the Junior Choir, who each year get better and better, stronger voices and tons of confidence. They are a pleasure to listen to, and their programme included some pretty complicated stuff including unaccompanied spirituals.

After the interval and the raffle - why did my neighbour win the super-sized Pentland Hills Gin? - the Singers took us to the continent. Do you remember the coach hanging over the ravine in the (original) Italian Job? Quincy Jones' '*Get a Bloomin' move on!*', which you may know better as The Self Preservation Society, and no they don't write them like that anymore, was sung with gutsy enthusiasm and real panache by the Pentland Singers. The idea of Michael Caine making way for Julie Andrews aka Mary Poppins was an interesting directorial wheeze but it worked, as did the move from Edwardian London to 1906 Oklahoma and 'Oh, what a beautiful morning!' Morning gave way to dusk with Breakfast at Tiffany's *Moon River* things down to a pleasant drifting speed. The Choir handled the mood change with ease, so that one could just as easily move over across the border from Oklahoma to Kansas to find the Wizard of Oz' '*Somewhere over the rainbow*'.

This was like discovering old friends, and we were introduced to or discovered a new one with *Discovery*, written and performed by Ailsa Aitkenhead. Ailsa is the multi-talented accompanist for the Pentland Singers who plays throughout the concert in a *tour de force*. Her own composition was its own tour de force, taking the breath away, leaving you thinking how did she do that? Truly a bravura performance. and if you want to hear more, Ailsa is performing in her own concerts at the upcoming Edinburgh Fringe; 10th, 18th and 25th August. Don't miss them. Chopin, Schubert, Rachmaninov, and one concert, on 25th featuring entirely her own compositions.

As Ian said at the close of Ailsa's solo performance, 'How do I follow that?' This was a fair question but the Choir certainly answered with Cy Coleman's '*Rhythm of Life*' from the 1966 Broadway musical *Charity*, and they followed up that success with John Williams haunting 'Dry your Tears, Afrika,' from the 1997 film *Amistad*. It was another directorial coup to follow the slave ship tribute with *Lacrimosa* from Mozart's Requiem, which the choir offered with a wealth of feeling and with accomplishment.

Then the lightness returned with the *Best of Bond* in which we met again with Goldfinger, Live and let Die, You Only Live Twice, and ending with Diamonds are Forever. Which indeed they are, and this Summer concert was a real diamond of an evening, rounded off, if you can do that to diamonds, by an encore. Choosing '*Bring me Sunshine*' said it all. The Pentland Singers Summer Concert certainly did that. Don't miss the next Pentland Singers Concert.

RMH



What Language Shall we Borrow?

What do you think these words mean: 'God', 'Church', 'Prayer', 'Scripture', 'Hymn'?

As a minister, such words are 'bread and butter'. I say things such as, 'Let us worship God, singing hymn number 123' or 'Today's Bible reading is from Genesis chapter 1, verse 1' and so on.

These are very meaningful inside the church. I wonder what they mean to other people today??

'God', what or who is that? The deity of Christianity, Judaism or Islam? A distant creator? An unbelievable concept? Our Heavenly Father?

Does 'church' mean something good? What do people associate with the term? Faith? Hypocrisy? Goodness? Self-righteousness? A place of worship? Somewhere to turn to in hard times?

'Prayer', a superstitious practice held over from times past? A personal lifeline to the divine? A shared action where a community reaches out in deep concern for others?

'Scripture'. God's Word? A literary artefact from the past but of great cultural and historical value? A hangover from times when people believed in fairy tales?

Precious, life-enhancing words that you learned by heart many years ago?

'Hymn'. A religious song? Something you remember singing at a wedding or a funeral?

A way of preserving valuable music?

For me whose bread and butter such language is, I have to face the awkward possibility that some of these words don't mean much to some people now. If that is right, how might we bridge the gap between the community we call 'the church' and today's culture? How do we have a conversation about the meaning of it all?

I can think of people of my age who are not believers but who know the words of hymns, can remember passages of the Bible and who could attend a Christian funeral and join in the singing – because they understand the shape and content of the service. They have a grasp of the shared framework even if they don't share it. That shared framework is breaking down. Today, many people are unaware of it, the framework provided by all those peculiar 'churchy' words. For me they are more than 'bread and butter' they point to the meaning of life and my connection with life's author. But I would say that wouldn't I? How would you say out loud what gives your life purpose?

An old hymn asks Jesus: 'What language shall I borrow to thank you, dearest Friend?'

Today we are also looking for a shared, common language to converse with one another about the deepest things in life.

Hannah is appointed to run Currie and Balerno Churches' Holiday Club

Please think about coming along to our Summer Holiday Club sessions planned for July -September.

Hannah Macphee a 19-year-old Chemistry student is going to facilitate sessions for children and their families in both Currie and Balerno Churches.

Hannah and her support team will be in the Gibson Craig Halls, Currie on Friday afternoons from 2-4 pm from the 24th of July, for 8 weeks and in the Ogston Hall, Balerno from 2-4 pm on Sunday afternoons from the 26th of July for 8 weeks.

Hannah also plans to run activities in the Ogston Hall from 10-12noon, during the Farmers Market on Saturday the 8th of August and Saturday the 12th of September.

It would be good if you were able to join us. The sessions are free.

There will be stories, crafts, games, and snacks.

Hi, my name is Hannah and I'm going to be working with both Balerno Parish Church and Currie Kirk over the summer, putting on a summer holiday club for kids and families in the community.



I've lived in Edinburgh my whole life, and currently attend the University of Edinburgh where I'm about to go into my third year studying Chemistry.

I grew up in a Church of Scotland church, St Stephens Comely Bank where I did the summer worker scheme last year, putting on similar events as outreach for the whole community.

I now attend St Pauls and St Georges (Ps & Gs) church in the centre of town, where I am also involved in their children's ministry.

I love knitting, reading, tap dancing and crocheting in my free time, and can't wait to get started with our Summer Holiday Club! We're going to be having two sessions a week, one in Currie and one in Balerno starting on the 24th of July. It's free to

attend, and we will have lots of fun, crafts, games, activities, refreshments and stories looking at who Jesus is. Aimed at Primary aged children and younger, with parents, grandparents and carers all welcome to join in the fun. I can't wait to get started.

If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact either: bpc-admin@balernochurch.org.uk or admin@curriekirk.co.uk

We hope to see you at one of our sessions soon!

Committees and

Always mindful of Sir Alec Issigonis tongue in cheek description of the value of committees in general, the Church of Scotland and indeed most businesses do engage a committee structure in order to get the job done. Even the Romans had committees although they called them comitia, and they were directly elected.

And the Greeks before them had Eklesia, an assembly of all (male) citizens. The Vikings obviously didn't think these were a terribly good idea so they just had large gatherings which they called 'Thing', or 

But at least they had something or perhaps that should be some 'thing'.

The Steering Group's current thinking appears to be that the Kirk of Currie and Balerno should have a bit more than  and probably a bit closer to Church of Scotland orthodoxy.

So the proposal is that the business of the Kirk of Currie and Balerno should be handled / addressed / dealt with by a number of Committees is unsurprising, and the list offered by the Group as the outcome of their May Away-Day is for the most part equally unsurprising. It brings together some formerly separate portfolios, and importantly recognises the need both for better coordination of information systems and greater attention to messaging in an age where 'getting the message across' will be central to the success of the Church in general and the Kirk of Currie and Balerno in particular. In no particular order therefore, with new elements in bold type

Property/Fabric AND **Health and Safety**;

Finance;

Worship;

Pastoral Care AND **Safeguarding**;

Fellowship AND Mission and Outreach;

and **Communications (inc Magazines, and websites, Facebook, Instagram, podcasts, live streaming of services).**

Interesting times ahead. But then the Blether would say that wouldn't it?

Extracts from Balerno Parish Church June Newsletter

The following is an extract from the June Newsletter from the Minister.

'Plans for 'Balerno linked with Currie': The long process to the Union of Balerno Parish Church and Currie Kirk is now moving forward, due to the work being completed by the Steering Group. We have a new name for the united Church - Kirk of Currie and Balerno, Church of Scotland. The draft Basis and Plan of Union Document is now on its way to Presbytery for approval, prior to the Kirk Sessions and congregations voting. A vision and action plan for the Union is being explored, groups within both Churches are coming together and a Parish Profile is being considered, as we in time, look to having a new Minister for the United charge. Plans to give us 'hope and a future'. Worship services will remain as they are until September when times may be adjusted and the joint services and the sharing of Communion could move to the last Sunday of the month. Other Plans; In June we have the Guild fund raising evening on Wed 24th June at 7pm in the St Joseph's Centre, come along for some 'sweet treats' and refreshing drink at a suggested donation of £5, all in aid of the Guild project 'Build my Church'. All welcome.

Activities for children/families are planned from July 24th on a Friday in the Gibson Craig Halls in Currie from 2-4pm and on a Sunday in the Ogston Hall, for 8 weeks. More information to follow.

The Good Book Group has also been established, an informal opportunity to explore our faith and the Bible together. There are two groups to choose from, one will meet weekly on a Monday from 11- 12noon in the Shepherd Room in Balerno and the other at the Craig Gibson Halls, Currie from 7-8pm on a Tuesday. Initially we will study the book of Esther. Please think about joining us.

The next Joint service will be at Currie Kirk on Sunday the 21st of June at 10am.'

Summer Holiday Club Who is Jesus?

Join us for activities, snacks, games and stories about who Jesus is



Friday 2pm - 4pm at Gibson Craig Hall

Sunday 2pm-4pm at Ogston hall, Balerno Parish Church

Join us every Friday and Sunday afternoon!

Beginning Friday 24th July for 8 weeks finishing on Sunday 13th September



free for the whole family, all ages welcome



Balerno Parish Church Address:
2 Main St, Balerno EH14 7EH

Gibson Craig Hall Address:
158 Lanark Road West EH14 5NY

For more information, contact us via email at

bcp-admin@balernochurch.org.uk
admin@curriekirk.co.uk

do you have a minute, Lord?



It's about walking away, Lord, and letting go. It's not easy. You can spend your life working for something and then you get to the point when you realise that the future is beyond your control. It's not just that the world doesn't stand still, it's that none of us can go on for ever. We all reach a point when we have to acknowledge that it took quite a few years to gather all that 'experience' so that age is no longer on our side and it is perhaps time to surrender to the ideas of the next generation.

It's like seeing your children grow up and there comes a point when you realise that they have to live their own lives and to be allowed to live with the outcomes of their own decisions; it is difficult to stop being protective – using all that 'experience' – and to acknowledge that they have the right to try to make something of their possibly unconventional ambition.

It's not a difficulty that is unique to relationships with children. It can crop up in all other sorts of situations as well like the work place or with neighbours. The problem seems to be recognising where the point is when we have to recognise there is a danger of damaging relationships if we are not prepared to compromise and step back. Then, somehow, we have to find a way to do it, no matter how ill-advised we think that the consequences might be.

Lord, help me to remember that being 'right' is not necessarily the most important thing.

contributed 4

Out and about in the union - 1



There were four wines and sixteen questions; sounds easy? Think again.

The latter were said to have no relation to the former; well, OK. But they were also somewhere beyond devilish and fiendish, while the former were at the other end of the spectrum; delightful really.

As you would have expected from an expert of Macolm Ogilvie's experience and skill, the choice of wines presented a range which most of his audience were unlikely to have come across in our perambulations around the aisles of Waitrose. We were warned that one might seem very different, and I'm not sure I will search out Orange wine, but the rest were as I say delightful, especially the Pinot Noir. No wonder the bottle was empty when it reached me. But not to worry there were others in the box; bottles that is.

The questions on the other hand lived up to expectations in their abstruse abstraction. The scoring system - was there one? - apparently involved one point for the right answer but that begged the question didn't it? The quizmaster, who had at the start reminded us that his word was final, awarded points on a wide and flexible interpretation of the 'correct' answer. Although the answer

'Ronaldo' to the question who is Portugal's Patron Saint, still didn't apparently qualify. And as for the question 'what is the common denominator between Pope Francis and Pope Leo'. the response 'they shared a popemobile' was, equally, rejected. Refusal of points for those answers inevitably torpedoed one team's dream of the winner's accolade and prize of the box of 'Heroes'; they were left floundering amongst the pack on 8 points while the nameless winners romped home on 14. Pretty good really, and well done to all those who organised the event.

Oh, yes, and the prize for best team name simply shows that some stories will last for a very long time.

'What Campervan?' didn't need any explanation, and showed that for the next event you have to be on your toes right from the 'off'!



Out and about in the union - 2

Note from Diane Brown re Currie Garden of Remembrance

In November 2024, the members of the Currie Kirk 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 WW1, 23 names from WW11 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.

Members of the Congregations 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 WW1 especially when the numbers of those killed and wounded were disproportionate per head of population. Both my grandfathers served and survived but I have 2 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 via the church offices or directly by email/ hand written note/ speak to me and provided me with information that you have.

Diane Brown

dianebrown53@btinternet.com

Well done to them and to the organisers! And for those of you who weren't quick enough to note down the 'wine list'; they were

Baron d'Arignac Brut Vin Mousseux,
France NV

Chenin Blanc, "The Den" Painted Wolf,
South Africa, 2025

Semillon, Macerao, Luis
Felipe Edwards, Chile 2022

Pinot Noir "Odd Lot"
California, NV

3 Castas Fiuza, Portugal,
2024

And for those who weren't able to make it this time, we've no doubt that Malcolm will have dreamt up some more questions to ponder along with a glass, or several glasses from his carefully curated vinotheque.



So, the Basis of Union for Currie Kirk and Balerno Parish Church which has been prepared by the joint Steering Group has been reviewed at a joint meeting of our Kirk Sessions and has now been submitted to the Presbytery for approval. It is perhaps not an insignificant step, but it is fundamentally a straight-forward legal process which defines how the legal and financial affairs of the new congregation will be managed before the presbytery gives permission for the new congregation to call a minister. It does not present any insight as to what the aims and priorities of the new congregation will be.

The decline in the membership of the two congregations is not something which is in dispute and in many ways, it reflects the decline in the membership of the church nationally. So, perhaps there would be merit in having some discussion about lessons that might be learned from previous mistakes. The General Assembly received a rather dry, but hard hitting, report on the subject of Church Decline from a committee whose title was not designed to trip off the tongue.

On the subject of young people and 'modern Scots', it acknowledged:

In terms of culture, there have been repeated worries concerning a generational disconnect at the heart of the Church of Scotland and its practices. Its worship and language often feel outdated to modern Scots, especially the young, and it has sometimes struggled to integrate young people effectively into the life of the church, or to connect faith with everyday issues such as climate change, justice, or digital culture. The latter seems particularly relevant to church decline, in so far as the Church of Scotland risks not having kept pace with how people – particularly young people – engage with ideas, meaning, and community today. The result is that Christianity is often deemed simply irrelevant by younger generations.

On the subject of change, it admitted:

The Church of Scotland has tended to resist innovation, and – specifically – that it has regularly failed fully to implement the results of previous reports and commissions where these have recommended bold new initiatives.

And continued:

Because of its structure and identity, the inclination of the Church can be to protect the status quo as it believes it to be inviolable, and to implement Church law as an instrument to stifle action, innovation and development in mission, rather than to enable and encourage them. This has brought the implication that any other structure or form of church, mission or ministry, such as 'pioneering' or 'fresh expressions,' can be seen as anathema to who we are. In short, the Church by its very nature may not be suited to the re-orientation that is required towards imaginative, adaptive, organic mission 'on the edge,' without a significant change in mindset and ethos.

On the subject of the mission of the Church of Scotland the report said:

Too often the Church's basis of mission is seen as a centripetal movement with an inward-facing momentum whose purpose is to bring others into the Church. Attempts to develop a centrifugal movement with an outward-facing momentum whose purpose is to see the mission of God expressed at its fullest in word and deed in the world are often thwarted.

Now that the name of the new combined parishes has been decided the next item on the agenda has been discussion on progress to worshipping together in one service, but there is that a reflection of the inward facing path identified above? It may well be that there is merit in having one service on a Sunday morning and having one of the churches empty, but perhaps it would be prudent to give some thought to what sort of ministry and worship we envisage for the future before we discontinue regular worship in either of our buildings. If we acknowledge that our numbers have diminished in recent years, then perhaps, like the church at large, we should try to focus on the reasons for that decline before we contemplate serious changes.

There is perhaps a modern parable which is appropriate in the circumstances. There was a man who lived in a white house and decided that he wanted to have a ballroom and so he demolished his wife's office to make space for it; but when he had torn down the old part of the house, he found that, in his haste, he had not really thought through the implications of his project which left him with an unattractive empty building site.

Malleny Garden Plant Fayre

Saturday 20th June

After pouring rain on Thursday and Friday, 18 and 19 June, the Malleny Garden Plant Fayre was held on an almost cloudless, warm and above all, a dry, day on Saturday 20th. The Garden itself was looking splendid with a good spread of stalls on the upper lawn and a good number of appreciative visitors both patronising those



stalls and exchanging chat. The greenhouse was open for the occasion with rose painting tuition on offer. Malleny Garden is amongst the real gems of Balerno and is a perfect setting for this kind of summer fete.

Fairtrade Tub planted up for 2026!

Balerno Fairtrade Village Group have planted up their 2026 tub in Main Street, and they thank the Main Street gardeners for once again making the tub available; thanks also to everyone who helped the planting process, especially to Joyce and Lawrence who organised it all!



Balerno Parish Church Kirk Session business

Since the last edition of the Blether there has been a meeting of the Balerno Kirk Session and a joint meeting of the Kirk Sessions of Currie Kirk and Balerno PC at which various issues have progressed.

A paper proposing two possible future worship options, which had been discussed at the Joint Worship Group was submitted to the joint meeting of the Kirk Sessions. After some discussion about the pros and cons of each option a ballot vote was taken. The two options were:

- 1) Joint service held week about at Currie and Balerno at 10 am.
- 2) A 45-minute service in each Church, every week, with a joint 'celebration service on the last Sunday of the month. (Times/places to be decided).

The majority favoured option 2 which will be adopted in September. The times and places of the worship services over the summer months were also discussed, and it was agreed to leave them as they are until September. The worship times and places will be reviewed again at a later date.

Communion services were also considered and it was agreed that there could be four formal joint Communion services over the year, two in Currie Kirk and two in BPC. These could be celebrated on the last Sunday of particular months with joint Informal/quiet Communions taking place on the last Sundays of the month in each Church, after normal worship.

Property /Fabric:Two reports have been recently received from the Presbytery Buildings Officer following a quinquennial inspection of the campuses of both churches. The reports indicated that there was urgent work to be completed in Currie Kirk regarding the testing and maintenance of electrical system. In BPC there was urgent work on the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) required for the manse. Some other, less urgent, issues were identified which

should be completed over the next year. The reports will be considered by a joint fabric and finance committee meeting of the two Kirk Sessions in the near future and a five-year plan and budget for work on both campuses is to be drawn up.

It is intended that the decoration of the Balerno halls should start on 13th July, financed by The Betty Main Fund.

The Balerno KS received an enquiry from a Church member regarding the possibility of the Free Church of Scotland making use of our Church building on one Sunday afternoon per month. The KS agreed to the request and welcomed the possibility that there might be an opportunity to hear more from a member of the Free Church.

The joint meeting of the Kirk Sessions received an update on progress from the Steering Group(SG).

There was a brief discussion on a suggested High level Vision statement. 'Christ's Church serving our community' and this will be developed in the coming months.

Other areas to be explored will include relationships with other Churches in the area and a new logo, which, it was suggested, might be designed by local school children.

Elders were invited to consider the options open to them going forward into the new Kirk Session which would be constituted after the union and to consult with the Session Clerks on their intentions for future participation.

Both Kirk Sessions agreed that the draft Basis of Union Document for the 'Kirk of Currie and Balerno' should be submitted to the Presbytery Deployment Group for approval

Krys Hume, Presbytery Elder at Currie Kirk described the pilot scheme for 5 year congregational action plans of which she is part. This is an initiative which will be rolled out to all congregations in the Church of Scotland in 2027 and will become part of the attestation of records.

Presbytery notes

Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian met on Tuesday 16th June and amongst the matters discussed two were of particular interest to Balerno Parish Church.

Under "Faith Nurture" Ms Lynne McEwan reported on the Mission grants awarded to twelve churches and approval was also given for Summer Worker Applications, including an application for Currie and Balerno for funding of a temporary post organising and leading a proposed Holiday Club.

Under the heading of Property, approval was also given by Presbytery to the congregation of Balerno to carry out energy saving work at a cost of £13,587.15. Presbytery also supported the application of a grant and loan from the Energy Saving Trust, all requiring approval by the General Trustees. This means that Balerno's proposals move another step along the way towards possible implementation.

Presbytery's next meeting is on 8th September.



Great News x2 for the Mill Cafe

Great news for and from the Mill Cafe! First of all The Mill have managed to persuade Scottish Water that the Water company should compensate the Cafe for losses which accrued from the company's failure to provide useable water for a long period of time. It was obvious for a long time that water quality for the Mill was lower than it should have been; the tap water was discoloured and the Mill was having to cart water down from the Ogston Kitchen for cooking. Scottish Water had had several

unsuccessful attempts to solve the underlying water quality problem, involving digging up the road outside St Joseph's, Eventually they seem to have done so, so that Mill water quality is once more high quality. But in the meantime it was clear that the poor quality water had clearly affected the Mill's business, and had also actually damaged some of the Mill's equipment. So after a lengthy negotiation in which Scottish Water had first to be encouraged to accept their responsibility, there is a now a cash settlement which will be available for example to help replace equipment as necessary. Well done to Lynsey and the Mill Cafe management!

More good news from the Mill is that prices will come down for kids at the Mill over the summer. In short the UK government has introduced a temporary reduction in VAT from 20% to 5% on qualifying children's meals and family admissions. Running from June 25 to September 1, the policy applies across restaurants, cafés, and pubs and will help families manage costs during the school summer holidays.

See page 9 for details of

The Mill Cafe's Great Summer Savings Scheme



The (former) Treasurer's Thumb Brachydactyly Type D

The question really is whether I'm a Brachydactyly Type D, isn't it?

'Ye what?'

'A Brachydactyly Type D, you surely know all there is to know about that, Sir don't you? I should assume you're interested then, shall I?'

'What on earth are you on about Thumb?'

'Right oh. Well, If you're sitting comfortably then I'll begin.'

'Grrrrrrrr...'

'Well it's like this you see. You know all about Housemaid's Knee and all that stuff, better known perhaps as prepatellar bursitis. Or Clergyman's Knee, not the same of course infrapatellar bursitis that one. Then there's always, moving away from the knee area, Tennis Elbow or to give it its Sunday name, ateral epicondylitis, pretty painful I think, sort of thing you might get from excessive soup making - speaking of which how is the Minsetrone, sir? Minestrone's not at all like Tendinitisof course. Although, come to think of it, you can also get Avocado Hands - best not to go there maybe. But you get the picture. You see if I've got Brachydactyly Type D (BDD) then that's a common, harmless genetic condition where the final bone of the thumb (the distal phalanx) is abnormally short and broad; it's also known as "stub thumb" or "murderer's thumb," then I'm OK.'

'And if not Thumb then what next, I wonder...?'

'mmmmmn -not sure I like that look in your eye sir.'

'Really Thumb? Would you like to speculate on what might happen? Perhaps?'

'Well I don't really know sir. If I don't then, how may I best put this I wonder, um err Sir.... you know.... are you possibly a homicidal maniac, Sir?'

'Well Thumb; not as far as I am aware; but there are times, Thumb. there are times, when I may be tempted to lose self restraint, and release my inner being. I have often seen myself as a Pterodactyl. Do you fancy your Brachydactyly 's chances against my Pterodactyl?'

'Well sir, I think your Pterodactyl might just better my Brachydactyly; but I suppose if it did then that would probably be the end of the Treasurer's Thumb.'

'Indeed so Thumb, and do you think there would be a weeping and a wailing and general unrestrained nashing of teeth, Thumb?'

'It's gnashing with a G sir. Bruxism.'

'You know Thumb; sometimes you can be incredibly irritating?'

'Always aim to please sir. Always aim to please.'

'Really?'

AI Write!

'Have ye heard?' whispered one worthy over a scone in the Mill.

"Not til ye've told me", responds and even worthier worthy.

"They're saying the new Kirk might get a new minister before the next solar eclipse."

"Never!", came the sceptical rejoinder.

'I know' says the first. "but my cousin's neighbour's dog walker's great aunt says there's a shortlist."

"A shortlist?That'll mean three names, six committees, four consultations and a questionnaire about biscuit preferences."

"But they *are* taking it seriously."

"They always take it seriously. It's deciding anything that's the problem".....

"I heard one candidate visited quietly."

"That's nothing. I heard another candidate visited so quietly nobody can prove they were ever here."

"Well, the congregation seems hopeful."

"Hopeful? Last Sunday I heard three folk predicting a new minister by Christmas."

"This Christmas?'"

"Nobody specified."

Quick glance over shoulder "Mind you, there's a lot to be said for waiting a bit longer....."

"Such as?"

"Everyone gets to imagine their ideal minister. Good preacher, good listener, understands finance, visits every parishioner, settles theological disputes, and can work the AV."

."Aye, and that'll be right, and repairs the church boiler between sermons is it?"

"Exactly."

Silence for an eternity interrupted only by slurps of award winning coffee.

"So what do you think will happen?"

"I think there'll be another meeting, followed by another update, followed by tea."

"And after that?"

"More tea."

"A sound Presbyterian prediction."

"I like tea."

WOOF!

Hello my friends, and oh dear, would you believe it – another problem. Our local butcher is to close and transfer its business to the firm's other shop down the road in the next village. And if you think that's important for you, what about me? No more scaring the seagulls and no juicy titbits in return. The reason for the change currently eludes me but I can see the downsides – what happens if customers decide to take the bus into town to shop? – and if both shops were to close? Does that sound familiar.

The boys and I had certainly not expected this, which with any other associated changes might change our whole existence, so we've been giving some canine thought to what we could do. Try as we may, however, all our brilliant ideas had one thing in common – we had no means of putting them into action.

So, then my friends, please do what you can to influence this – sign a petition or something to retain the status quo. There is one piece of good news though, that nice butcher Mr. MacTavish (aka Mac) is moving to the new shop, so as long as I'm the first to go to see him...? – well, you just never know, my job (and life) may be safe after all.

woof! woof!



On the road again !

An adventure that started off as a trial in May 2024, came to a climax two years later for Anne and Neil Johnstone. The French



Camino started at St Jean Pied de Port and soon they crossed the high border into Spain following Napoleon's route. That first stage

test to Pamplona encouraged them to return and go a bit further to Logrono. Those 7 days walking was then supplemented by a 13-day stretch in 2025 as far as Leon, and that is where they picked up again on 2 May this year.

Faced with 315km to go to Santiago, their plan was to walk for 13 days (with 2 rest days) to reach Santiago – the destination for several Camino routes – where over 2,000 pilgrims (or Peregrinos) arrive daily. And that plan worked albeit with the minor amendment of walking short sections on the rest days. So once free of the industrial suburbs of Leon, it was back to the familiar mix of paths and tracks towards Santiago. The weather was quite mixed,

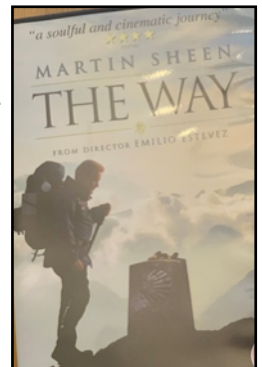


generally cool enough to aid walking, some warm days and a few soakings. A few high points (literally) was the village of O Cebreiro, Alto de San Roque and the highest on the route (at 1,505m), the Cruz de Ferro (Iron Cross).

Tradition has it that pilgrims carry a stone from their home as a memento of a deceased friend or relative and add it to the historic pile at the base of the tall cross. Anne and Neil carried a stone from our church remembrance garden in memory of the late Rev Louise Duncan and placed it with prayer on the monument. The significance was underscored given it was in one of her



sermons that our Balerno pilgrims were alerted to the Camino by her reference to a favourite film, The Way, starring Martin Sheen.



Anne and Neil have reported their Camino challenge as one of their best life experiences together. As before, the natural beauty and variety of landscape plus the many encounters with fellow-pilgrims from around the world made for a very enjoyable and spiritual sojourn. You can hear more about their fantastic trip at a promised reprise of their Guild talk on 21 October!

The Mill Cafe Great Summer Savings Scheme

KIDS MENU

Reduced rate of 5% VAT from 25th June – 1st Sept

CHOOSE ONE FILLING -

Cheese, Cheese & Ham, Tuna or Egg mayo

Toasted Sandwich	£2.75
Sandwich	£2.75
Baked Potato	£3.95
<i>(all served with veg sticks + tortilla chips)</i>	

Soup & Bread	£2.50
Soup & Scone	£4.40
Beans on Toast	£2.40
Slice of Toast	£1.05

KIDS LUNCH DEAL	£5.05
Soup & Toasted sandwich / Sandwich	

DRINKS

Hot Chocolate	£2.10
Add cream and marshmallow	£0.85
Babyccino	£1.05

Apple Juice	£1.35
Orange Juice	£1.35
Milk	£1.05
Fruit juice bottle	£1.35

Congratulations Neil and Anne, from Balerno Blether on completion of an absolutely epic trek!

772 kms! give or take. That probably involved between 1,005,000 and 1,118,000 steps, which might involve 44720 calories which might in turn could have involved the (prior) consumption of between 69 and 75 bottles of wine.

We don't know what we 're going to fill the pages with,.....unless you decided to walk the whole thing in reverse. Although there are lots more pilgrimage routes out there calling out for your patronage. Well done!

Have you seen this man?

He is believed to be resident in the Balerno area, and has taken to wearing what might appear to be a skull cap. He is known to habituate the Mill Cafe



particularly on a Friday morning, or on Farmers Market days. And his photograph was recently displayed outside the National Galleries in Princes Street, until promoted/ relegated to Portobello Promenade.

He is not dangerous, but church authorities believe there may be some risk of his being mistaken for a senior prelate. Or perhaps an even greater rapprochement between the Church of Scotland and Rome than the Saint Margaret Declaration of November 2022, is in the offing?

The Blether's newshounds will keep you informed !

The Louise Duncan Bursary

Helping young people to help disadvantaged communities around the world

Commemorating the life and work of former minister, Louise Duncan, who served Balerno with distinction between 2010 and her premature death in 2015, the bursary in her memory offers £500 to a young adult aged 17 to 25 inclusive, living in or near Balerno.

The Bursary exists to help meet the cost of travelling out of Scotland to take part in voluntary work which has an aim of benefiting disadvantaged communities.

The bursary has been running since 2018 and previous holders include;

2025; **Georgina Graham** [Project Trust in Honduras].

2019; **Kirsty Williams** [Project Trust in Ghana teaching primary children for a year]

2018; **Rhona Goodarzi** [year-long voluntary project in Bolivia with an anti-torture and state violence NGO.]

The Bursary is funded annually through the Mill Cafe and is a

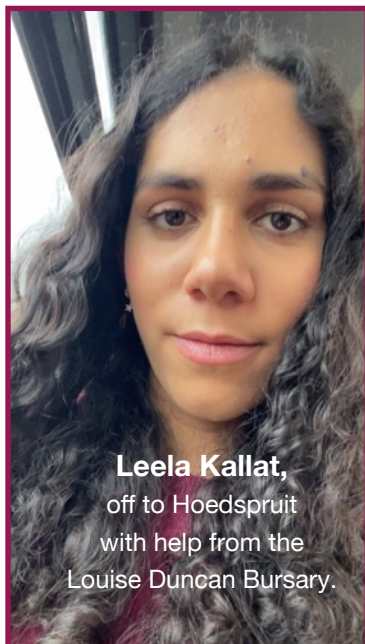
real and continuing example of the outreach work which Balerno Parish Church is proud to be able to promote and support.

When they have returned home, recipients of the bursary are invited to the talk to the congregation, telling us about the experience the money has helped provide. In previous years we have heard from successful applicants who travelled to teach young children in Cambodia for two months and another who went to Bolivia for a year-long placement with a human rights NGO.

Whilst the recipient of the 2025 bursary, Georgina Graham, is still in Honduras in her year long commitment to Project Trust activities there, we were delighted to be able to award the 2026 Bursary to Leela Kallat to help her with the cost of getting to Raleigh International Expedition in South Africa for seven weeks this summer.

More from Leela below, in her own words.

Raleigh International Expedition in South Africa 2026



Leela Kallat,
off to Hoedspruit
with help from the
Louise Duncan Bursary.

My name is Leela Kallat, I am 20 years old, and I have been successful with the Louise Duncan Memorial Travel Bursary. This summer I am travelling to Hoedspruit, South Africa to volunteer with Raleigh International for seven weeks. Hoedspruit is where I will be based for the duration of my expedition, it is in the remote northeast region of Limpopo and on the border of Kruger National Park. I will be living and working with a team of young people from different backgrounds and countries.

My Raleigh

expedition will include 2 phases, a community project or environmental work, and an adventure challenge. The community project is focused around finding sustainable solutions to issues such as poverty, low education and unemployment. We will be working closely with the local community by building vegetable gardens, playgrounds and essential infrastructure. We may have opportunities to help teach local children English. On the environmental project we will be assisting with invasive species removal, soil erosion control and data collection. We will also educate local communities about environmental issues with the aim to enhance and increase vocational skills for everyone. Finally, we will be trekking for 19 days through the Mpumalanga Drakensburg Mountains whilst gaining

leadership skills.

These experiences are designed to push us out of our comfort zones including having a digital detox! During this time, we have no access to our mobile phones. We will only get them briefly between phases to connect with family and friends. Taking part in this expedition is important to me because it is a chance to challenge myself both physically and mentally and experience something completely new. Spending seven weeks away from home, living in a different country, and working with people I have never met before I hope will help me develop confidence and independence. On a personal note, I am hoping that taking part in this expedition will be life changing and be an exciting start to a new positive chapter in my life. I am looking forward to learning about a new culture, and I hope to have a better understanding of our world. Most importantly, I hope that the work we do will have a positive and lasting impact on the local communities and environments we are supporting in South Africa!





Are you a person or a local group who's never hit a gloomy patch? If so, please share your secret; we'd love to know it, and we guess you're almost unique.

Balerno Fairtrade Village Group (BFTVG) narrowly missed a little gloom recently. Here's how. A reminder first : BFTVG is not only a Community Group, full of life here for over two decades, but also a BPC Group, hugely helped by BPC and its members, and in turn helping promote what's a proper part of every Church's work, fair treatment of our fellow-people around the world, especially producers, traders and their communities, via our own purchasing. BFTVG's May 2026 AGM left enough vital business to need an urgent June mop-up meeting. With nights getting lighter and the Ogston Hall welcoming, what was bothering us? That some of us were no chickens, wobbling on our perches instead of chirping with fresh ideas? Realistically, had we still enough active Fairtraders to organise and run any future events? We certainly didn't want our part of local FT to collapse, but saw a risk.

Then - whoopee! - guided by Jo Khan's grand study of roles and jobs, our eight great attenders readily shared tasks differently, and office-bearers changed: please welcome especially Karen Downard as our new Chair, still with Jo assisting, and Morag Lyall as Treasurer. Others will keep in contact with Churches, trying especially to help strengthen our uniting Currie and Balerno Kirks' FT commitment; with Schools, Traders, City of Edinburgh Council, our Politicians, other local organisations and national/international FT bodies;

and will also run mini-groups to plan FT events.

Far from winding up, we planned the return of some FT local favourites, and new things too. Expect a FT stall at October's Farmers' Market, helping mark FT Fortnight; a local Schools' FT Art Competition early in 2027, welcomed already by our Schools, followed we hope by a 'FT Morning' at BPC in early March. Details are still to be planned – but what a contrast with early summer nerves.

The wonderful Mill's staff and helpers inspire the whole community with outward-looking Fairtrade/Fair Trade commitment year-round, meeting our fellow-people's needs right here and around the world on a daily basis, not just via 'special occasions' like some of BFTVG's. It's such an honour for BFTVG to work alongside them with similar aims, in our same community. Long may all this continue. Thank you everyone for your support – it really matters.



Congratulations to the Fairtrade Group on the success of their application to the Fairtrade Foundation



for renewal of accreditation of Balerno as a Fairtrade Community!

Notification of the award was received only on 22 June, which was the final day of preparation of the summer issue of the Blether, and we're delighted to be able to include the news just before folk go off on holidays. Well done team!

Meet Chris, who popped in a for a Brekkie Roll; all the way from Brisbane!

This is Chris. He's from Brisbane; that's Brisbane, Australia, not Brisbane, North Ayrshire, just in case you were wondering. Chris has taken six months off work, just so he could walk from Land's End to John O'Groats. Well, lots of people do! And best of all the Mill Café is right on the route.



When he got to Edinburgh he asked Tripadvisor where he could go for the best bacon roll and fresh baking; and yes, you're ahead of the pack on this one; they obviously said go to the Mill Café, which is 'Excellent' and also the correct answer. So that's where he went.

The Café was very busy, but Don was having a quiet morning again, although still able to meet and greet Chris and regale him no doubt with tales of growing up in the Western Isles.

Chris was really impressed with the Mill Café, and he also enjoyed the chat. But time and tide and all that and he had to get back to Brisbane, via Orkney of course, and so he took his leave in the direction of Glasgow via the Forth Clyde Canal, before turning up the West Highland Way, aiming to cross to Orkney and walk the length of the Northern Isle, before getting the train back to London, and finally returning to Brisbane. He'll almost certainly remember meeting and chatting to Don at the Mill Café. Maybe he'll tell his friends and they'll all come next year. And maybe he'll drop in again on his way to the Hebrides. Why not?

You can learn a lot at the Mill Café, as well as meeting lots of interesting folk! And you get all that as well as the best fresh baking - and the best brekkie roll!



Come and visit The Mill Café at the St Joseph's Centre. Open Tuesday to Friday, 9.00am to 2.00pm.

(and the second Saturday of August when the Farmers' Market is on)

There is something for everyone at the Mill Café. A warm welcome awaits families, walkers, locals – in other words, the whole community. It is bright and spacious and the food is fantastic. You will find good quality coffee, freshly-baked scones, cakes and much more besides. Try it once and we guarantee you'll be back.



Every day we have two varieties soup, lovingly made by our Mill volunteers and staff. Or try our baked potatoes, toasted sandwiches or paninis, with a variety of tasty fillings to choose from.

The Mill will be closed for a summer holiday from Saturday 4th July to Monday 20th July

We use Fairtrade products wherever possible.

The Mill Café, St Joseph's Centre, 2 Main Street, Balerno EH14 9EH

The Mill Café will be closed from Monday 6th July and will reopen on Tuesday 21st July to allow our staff & volunteers a well-earned break; but Coffee Stop at Currie Kirk is open Saturdays 2.00 to 4.00.

Calendar announcements & chit chat

Unless otherwise notified Sunday worship is at 9.30am every Sunday at Balerno Parish Church

July / August 2026 Services

	Currie	Balerno
5th July	11.15	9.30
12th July	11.15	9.30
19th July	United Service in Balerno 10.00am	
26th July	11.15 (+Quiet Com)	9.30
2nd August	11.15 (+Prayer Tree)	9.30
9th August	11.15	9.30
16th August	United Service in Currie 10.00am	
23rd August	11.15	9.30
30th August	11.15(+Quiet Com.)	9.30

July / August weekly events

GOOD BOOK GROUP

6, 13, 20, 27 Jul, and 3, 10, 17 & 24 Aug at 11.00 to 12.00; Shepherd Room
7, 14, 21, 28 Jul, and 4, 11, 18 & 25 Aug 19.00 to 20.00 Gibson Craig Lounges

MESSY CHURCH (see ad p4)

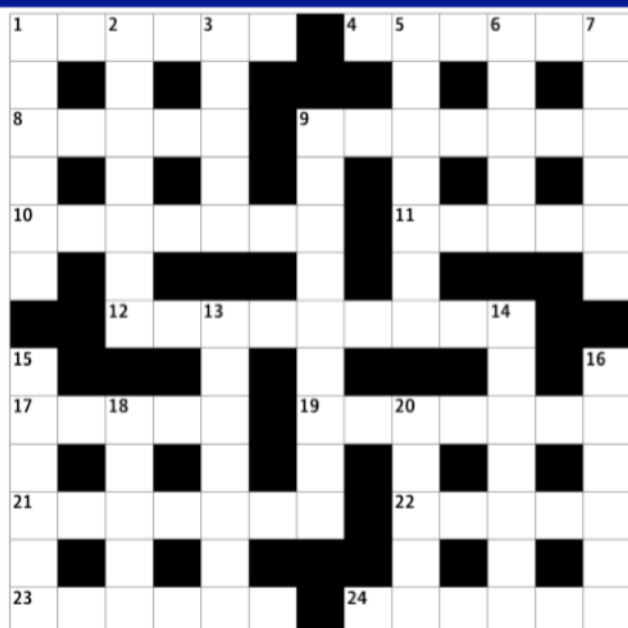
26 Jul & 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Aug at 2.00 to 4.00 Ogston Hall
31 Jul & 7, 14, and 21 Aug at Gibson Craig Hall

Keeping in touch!

If you would like to receive emails from the Church please complete a consent form available from the Church office. This includes people who have previously been receiving emails.

Keep updated! Fill in a form! Many thanks !!

Crossword Corner - July/August puzzle



Across

- 1 Underpass (6)
- 4 Calculating device (6)
- 8 Merchandise – ancestry (5)
- 9 Art of paper folding (7)
- 10 Distinguished (7)
- 11 Fruit (5)
- 12 Impetuous (3-6)
- 17 Sweetheart (5)
- 19 Hardwood flooring (7)
- 21 Find guilty (7)
- 22 Very pale (5)
- 23 Chaste (6)
- 24 Remained (6)

Down

- 1 Methodology (6)
- 2 Studious (7)
- 3 Joint (5)
- 5 Highway robber (7)
- 6 Chew noisily (5)
- 7 Instep (anag) (6)
- 9 There and then (2,3,4)
- 13 Dog – reservist (7)
- 14 Resolute (7)
- 15 Thinly cut (6)
- 16 Doesn't (anag) – drunk (6)
- 18 Spite (5)
- 20 Retaliate (5)

July / August 2026 Events

During July and August - every Saturday 2.00 to 4.00

Coffee Stop at Currie Kirk

07/07/26 Help required with gardening in the Balerno Church campus 10.00am Bring gloves and gardening tools

11/07/26 Farmers Market Main Street Balerno 09:00-13:00
(NB - Mill Cafe not open for Market)

09/07/26 Public meeting re Local Place Plan 7.30pm
St Joseph's Hall

21/07/26 Mill Cafe reopens!!!!!!

26/07/26 Currie Kirk Walking Group after service at Currie Kirk

04/08/26 Help required with gardening in the Balerno Church campus 10.00am Bring gloves and gardening tools

08/08/26 Farmers Market Main Street Balerno 09:00-13:00 (Mill cafe open 09:00-13:00)

08/08/26 Fischy Music Stockbridge Church Edinburgh Fringe



Crossword corner June answers

B	A	O	N	G	A	E
A	S	P	I	C	S	N
T	P	A	A	G	E	E
T	H	R	O	T	T	L
E	E	I	E	L	O	T
R	E	C	K	O	N	D
I	I	N	P	N	O	E
N	A	A	N	C	U	L
G	T	L	T	L	I	S
R	A	I	M	E	N	T
A	V	E	E	U	E	Y
M	A	E	L	S	T	R

Classic Car for

Balerno Parish Church wedding!

This Beauford Tourer, designed to reflect the look and feel of a 1930's Duesenberg was decked out for a wedding at Balerno on 18th June.

The Blether wishes the bride and groom every happiness in their new life together!

COPY DATES

for September Blether

Final date for receipt of copy for the September Blether is **Friday 13th August**. Please ensure that copy - (in word or pdf format please) - is in the hands of Editors by 13 August. Publication of the September 2026 issue will be on **Friday 28 August**.

It may not be possible to include copy submitted after that date in the September issue.

Please submit e-copy to the Editor in time to be considered for publication.

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