

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
CURRIE KIRK
WHERE FAITH AND LIFE CROSS PATHS

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Stewardship

Socials at

Currie Kirk



**27 March at 7.00 pm and
28 March at 10.00 am**



CLIPBOARD

The Magazine of Currie Kirk

March 2015



A message from our Locum Minister—John Munro

Dear Friends,

Lent, from the Old English word, *Lencten*, meaning ‘Spring’ is the word for the forty days of reflection and repentance before the glorious feast of Easter.

Lent didn’t feature in the church in which I was brought up, Warrender Church, next door to Bruntsfield Hospital. (Neither the Church nor the Hospital exist anymore). As a teenager it seemed to me that Sundays just came and went, and then suddenly it was Easter Sunday, without much clue as to how we had got there. I was told by the minister that Lent was for Roman Catholics, and that for Protestants, every day is the Day of Resurrection. Well, you would never have guessed that good news from the dour demeanour of some of the elders.

What I now appreciate about Lent and Easter is that its pattern of dying and rising is more true to life than the optimistic view, as expressed by Voltaire’s *Candide*, who, in spite of the disasters that continually piled up on him, declared, ‘Every day in every way I get better and better’. This is the individual version of the optimistic belief (delusion?) of financial investors that financial investments will grow without end. There is even an investment product seductively named the ‘Perpetual Growth Fund’.

But nothing in life shows continual growth. Many people will do almost anything to hide from that truth, and they will cling to their illusions of power, importance, success, intelligence, creativity, sexual potency, etc, until a circumstance, a setback or tragedy, confronts them. W H Auden caught this spirit and challenged it in his poem, (1947), *The Age of Anxiety, a Baroque Eclogue*:

We would rather be ruined than changed.
We would rather die in our dread
than climb the cross of the moment,
and let our illusions die.

In his life Jesus showed not only in his teachings but also in his actions, that the way to freedom and wholeness as a human being lies in letting go of our illusions, and facing death—the small deaths and the final one. Ian Fraser, one of the heroes of the Scottish Church in the 20th Century and still going strong at 96, expressed his frustration at the way the church fails to follow Jesus through death, but instead talks of mission strategies and new expressions of faith without accepting that transforming change happens when we wait upon God. (I have quoted in church what Lionel Blue once said in a BBC *Thought for the Day*; ‘The best way to make God laugh is to tell him your plans’.)

Here is Ian Fraser’s prayer:

Lord God,
whose son was content to die
to bring new life,
have mercy on your church
which will do anything you ask,
anything at all:
except die
and be reborn.

Lord Christ,
forbid us unity
that leaves us where we are
and as we are:
welded into one company
but extracted from the battle;
engaged to be yours
but not found at your side.

Holy Spirit of God -
reach deeper than our inertia and fears:
release us into the freedom of the children of God.

This time of Lent is a time to let go of our illusions about ourselves and our church, to 'risk our significance' as the poet Dawna Markova puts it. James Denney, the renowned Scottish theologian, said, "No man can bear witness to Christ and to himself at the same time. No man can give the impression that he himself is clever and that Christ is mighty to save".

Putting it plainly, in the 40 days of Lent, we are invited to strip off spiritually and stand naked before God, and then we are ready at Easter to be clothed with the glory of Christ's Resurrection. In practice, that means being transparent towards one another. Where we have wronged someone, or said something against another, let us seek an opportunity to confess to them and to seek to make amends. When we have thought that our way of thinking is the only way to think, may we be ready to receive wisdom from another person whom we trust. When we have had dark thoughts, let us open our minds to the gentle, searching light of Christ. (I write as one who knows what I am talking about!)

Let us die to all that hinders from new life in Christ, so that on Easter morning, we are able to say:

'Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!'

We are Pilgrims together...

John

Receiving Forgiveness—a poem for Lent by Jim Cotter

When we receive the forgiveness of another,
The depths of our personalities are disturbed.
For it means that the worst in us has been accepted—
and that means a kind of death.
We have no need to fight our own worst selves any more.
And it is hard to receive this truth.
We turn to our forgiver in self-justification.
How dare you accept me as I am and not condemn me?
So folk turned against Christ for so accepting them.
But God's forgiveness is without condition.
It sweeps us off our feet.
We want to make conditions,
so that there can be a core still under our control.
To let go completely—
this is death—
but it is necessary if we are to find life.
To let go into God—
this is death.
So receiving forgiveness is to prepare ourselves for the final
letting go,
for the decisive moment of truth,
by a little dying,
a little letting go.



Lenten Studies—Led by John Munro

Lent is a time for a review of our life in the light of Christ's journey to Jerusalem. We will track the journey of Jesus in five discussion sessions, leading up to Holy Week.

Where?	Currie Kirk
When?	Thursdays at 7pm

You are very welcome to attend as you are able. Each session stands on its own, but they do form a sequence.

5 March	On the road, following the Way
12 March	In the wilderness, exposed to temptation
19 March	By the sea, braving the storm
26 March	In the city, facing up to power.

New Minister—Vacancy Progress

The Nominating Committee has now conducted several interviews and has settled on two potential candidates for the new minister of Currie Kirk. Over the next few weeks the committee will have the opportunity of listening to both candidates preaching and hopes to be in a position to select one as sole nominee for Currie Kirk.

At that point a date will be chosen for the congregation to listen to the candidate preach at Currie Kirk and then make their decision. These are exciting times and the Committee just asks for your patience for a wee while longer. The Committee expects to have something positive to tell you when the next clipboard goes to print in March.

Regards,
Gordon Clephane
Convener, Nominating Committee

Kidz@Currie

Kidz@Currie operates a Creche catering for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers and a Sunday Club for Primary and Secondary school age. Children are invited to join the congregation for the start of the Church service at 10am and then leave part way for Kidz@Currie. Kidz@Currie enjoy stories, arts, crafts and games.

All welcome—please come along and join us!

Palm Sunday



At the end of March we celebrate Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday comes at the end of Lent which we were thinking about last month. Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter Sunday and is a celebration of Jesus and his life. He was at the height of his popularity and influence and entered Jerusalem like a King with followers lining the streets waving palm branches and laying them down on his path. Hence the name Palm Sunday.

Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey just a few days before his life ended when he was Crucified on the cross. His mother, Mary, had entered Bethlehem just a few hours before Jesus was born, on a donkey. John reminded us at Christmas when we were focusing on the nativity story of the significance of the lowly donkey at the beginning and end of Jesus life.

Kirk Development

By the time you are reading this one month will have elapsed since we returned to worship in our newly refurbished church. While worship at the Gibson Craig Halls was a good experience, there is something nice and reassuring about returning to your spiritual home.

The redevelopment has been a long time in the making, dating back to the Presbytery's Quinquennial Report of 2008 which highlighted a number of issues which detracted from the sense of wellbeing in the church buildings. These included inadequate toilet facilities, failed sink unit and floor coverings in the Utility Area and no accommodation for wheelchairs. Therefore, the Kirk Session, the Trustees of the Church responsible for the spiritual and temporal affairs of Currie Kirk, decided to embark upon a redevelopment that would make our buildings fit for purpose in the 21st century. The plan focused on five general themes:

- ♦ to comply fully with the spirit of the Disability Discrimination Act (wheelchair access, toilet facilities accessible to wheelchair users, and the creation of a wheelchair facility within the sanctuary);
- ♦ to install an audio visual system;
- ♦ to improve heating and lighting throughout the buildings;
- ♦ to create kitchen/pantry facilities which would enable greater flexibility in the use of the Session House; and
- ♦ to extend the Link Building northwards creating a spacious, flexible Reception Area.

Planning approval had to be obtained from the City of Edinburgh Council and that was given only after we had obtained an Archaeological Report on work that might be required when forming the foundations for the proposed extension. And so it was not until early in 2013 that the Kirk Session was in a position to agree to the redevelopment.

The end product has been widely acclaimed, for example, a letter was received saying “the sanctuary itself has been most sympathetically altered and decorated, and the Session House and Reception Area provide a welcoming space which will be well used”. Here is a selection of other comments:

- ♦ sitting in the reception area is almost as if you are in the open air;
- ♦ the Screens are so unobtrusive and easy to read;
- ♦ the sound is so much better;
- ♦ what's not to like!
- ♦ seeing our lovely communion silver and old Bible on display makes me realise the wonderful heritage we have;
- ♦ the lighting throughout the buildings is fantastic;
- ♦ new toilets—what an improvement; and
- ♦ at long last I have somewhere to park my buggy and pram.

It is noticeable that many more people are joining in the refreshments after worship. We have seats for 60 and on Sunday 15 February people had to spill over into the church. Our friends from Heriot Watt University at the anniversary service of the granting of their Charter on 8 February could not believe the transformation.

Now, these are all positives but, of course, not everyone is in sympathy with the changes. One aspect in particular which concerns some is that we enter the church through the Reception Area. In establishing the Reception Area the Kirk Session's vision is to create a welcoming and appealing environment enabling people to chat with one another if they wish before entering the church, and to provide easy access for prams and buggies as we reach out to that missing constituency in our membership—young families and children. It is now possible to use the area for receptions following funerals and on 23 February the Diaconate of the Church of Scotland held a one day conference in the facility.

Expressing amazement at the transformation of the building, a comment was made that previously the welcome was being extended in what was little more than a passageway, one that was dimly lit and cold with its stone floors. It was also a very restrictive and cramped area, not conducive to conversation and it was noticeable that even the briefest of conversations resulted in a blocked entrance, or that conversation having to take place in



the stairwell area which created a poor impression. In addition, access for prams, buggies and wheelchairs was not easy. All in all this did not facilitate the welcome that Kirk Session wished to extend and at its meeting in late January it agreed that the door to the Reception Area would become the main entrance to the building with worshippers entering the church through that area. This arrangement will remain in place for a reasonable trial period. For funeral and wedding services people can enter through whichever door they wish, these services not being regarded as outreach opportunities.

For some the Kirk Session's vision is difficult to embrace in its entirety, one person commenting that they "came through that (the front) door to be baptised, have done so ever since and wish to continue coming through that door". On the other hand, some worshippers have welcomed the absence of draughts from the doors opening and closing every few moments.

The total cost of the redevelopment, including the installation of the Audio Visual system is around £212,000 inclusive of VAT. Each year since the Project was first conceived £20,000 has been allocated from our income to fund the redevelopment. While funds have been sought from a number of grant aid bodies we have benefitted from legacies and individual donations, e.g. Kirk Singers, £300 to cover the cost of white goods for the pantry including a fridge, combi microwave/oven and kettle, and Mark Porteous, Funeral Directors, £2,000 to meet the cost of 60 new chairs in the Reception Area and Session House. The total contribution from all of these sources stands at £27,200. In addition, over £600 towards equipping the pantry has been raised through events organised by our Hospitality Committee. Considerable work has been undertaken to secure zero rating on VAT for those aspects of work associated with the extension and, under a scheme known as the Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme, we expect to obtain reimbursement of some of the VAT paid on other aspects of the Project. The Treasurer is now predicting that of the anticipated loan of £90,000 from the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland only £35,000 will be required, a substantial future cost saving.

We hope that with our redeveloped building, the coming of a new minister and programmes designed to attract young families and children we can look forward to a lively future for Currie Kirk.

Sandra Cranford, Grant Gordon, Allan Goudie, Bill Hume, Magnus Polson and Margaret Watson,
Members of the Project Development Team.

General Assembly of The Church of Scotland 16 to 22 May 2015: Can You Help?

Stewards play a significantly important role to ensure that many of the backup services, in support of the General Assembly, operate in a highly efficient, welcoming and friendly manner. Throughout the week of the General Assembly some 300 stewards help to cover over 1,000 different duties. Each 'shift' generally lasts for about two hours and it is up to each steward as to how often they wish to help—some only have time to help on one occasion, whereas others travel considerable distances to help as often as they can.

With so many tasks to undertake we are always seeking new volunteers and we are still short of our required target for 2015.

If you think you might like to help us then please get in touch for more information. Your help would be very greatly appreciated.

Current stewards who have not received the usual communication by now are also encouraged to contact me.

William Mearns, Chief Steward
Phone: 0131 667 1522 or 0780 801 1234
Email: william@mearns.me

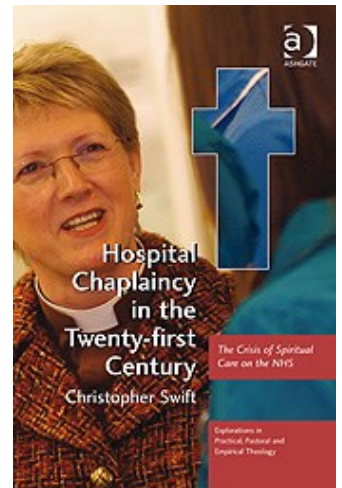


The Guild

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 3 March at 10.00 am when Anne Mulligan will give a talk on her work as a Hospital Chaplain. Our second meeting in March is on Tuesday 17 March from 2.30—4.00 pm when we will be holding our ever popular Daffodil Tea in aid of CrossReach/Social Care Council (CofS) 'Heart for Art' Project which is looking at the use of art therapy in the care of those with dementia (see page 9). Once again Dudley and Elma Williams will be entertaining us with some music and stories. Tickets, £3.00, are available from members of the committee. On Tuesday 7 April at 10.00 am the topic is David Livingstone with a speaker from World Mission.

New members and visitors are always welcome at any of our meetings.

Mary Thomson
President



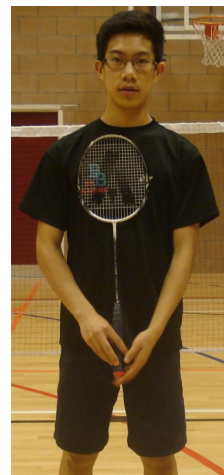
65th Edinburgh (Currie) Company

(Registered Charity No. SCO34640)

Congratulations to David who won the Seniors Battalion Badminton competition; and Peter and Jason who won the Juniors doubles which was held at Meadowbank on Sunday 8 February.

As this edition of Clipboard goes to press the Company is still in the National Badminton championships—waiting to play the 4th/5th Kilmarnock, having beaten the Motherwell Company 6-0.

The Juniors are off to Craggan for their holiday weekend at the beginning of May.



David



Peter & Jason



The Company is, once again, collecting the Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury. The box is situated in the Gibson Craig front hall or you can hand them into the Kirk Office or to one of the Officers.

Many thanks in advance for your support.



Christian Aid Week 10–16 May 2015

It may seem a little early to be writing about something that does not take place for another eight weeks, but time marches on! When the next Clipboard is issued, the event will be upon us. It is opportune at this time, therefore, to make reference to the house-to-house collection which takes place at that time and as a community we support.

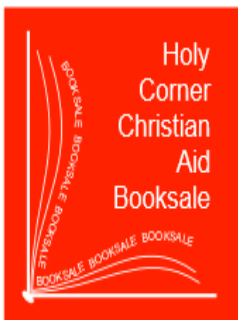
This involves a fair bit of 'behind the scenes' work, but very necessary and more importantly, a few hours of peoples time. To effectively cover the whole of the Parish, we require 75 people to deliver an envelope through the doors of a street, or part of a street depending upon its size, and return later in the same week to collect the envelopes from those interested in supporting the work of Christian Aid.

It all sounds very easy, doesn't it? Well it is really—once a year with a donation of your time of about three hours. So why do we struggle to get people to help? Sadly, I do not know the answer to that question, but I would love to get phone calls from anyone who feels they could participate in this small way to help those so disadvantaged in life, ravished by disease, wars and natural disaster.

You don't need to be a regular church goes, or a member of Currie Kirk to care about others, so if you can spare a few hours in the above week, **please** do phone me to volunteer your services.

For those that like to exercise the brain, the 2015 quiz is now available from the Kirk Office for a donation of £1. It is based on Scottish Songs and so should be 'up our street'.

Ishbel Massie
449 4693



Please join us for the Holy Corner book sale this May. Even in these days of Kindles there is still no greater pleasure than a real book; something you can take anywhere, won't run out of battery and lodges itself in your memory in a way that words on a screen can never do.

The Holy Corner Christian Aid Book Sale is a treasure trove of books for everyone: children; romantics; academics, aspiring detectives - we've something for everyone!

This year we are delighted to be able to offer signed copies of Alexander McCall Smith books. So donate your McCall Smith books now and he can get signing!

The Holy Corner Sale is the perfect space to browse around—not too daunting but large enough to offer a choice of titles, organised under such headings as general literature, children's and teens, history, Scottish, biography, cookery and many others. And if all the books aren't enough for you there are there are stamps, CD's, music scores and old maps to browse through too.

The Holy Corner Christian Aid Book Sale, Morningside United Church, runs from Saturday 9 to 16 May (excluding Sunday). If you come on either Saturday there's also a café with home baking. Donations are also welcome from now until the sale—so have that good clear out you've been promising yourself and then come and buy some fresh titles at the sale!

9–16 May:

Opening hours:

Saturdays – 10am to 5pm; Monday to Friday – 11am to 6pm.

www.holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com

All money raised goes to support Christian Aid



The Good Book Group

Lorcan Dillon was seven years old when his mother, Jayne, first heard him say 'I love you'. The words were not directed at her, but at Jessi-cat, the family pet. Lorcan suffers from autism and selective mutism, a condition that renders him unable to speak in certain situations, unable to express emotions or enjoy hugs and he has never told anyone he loves them. This all began to change with the arrival of a beautiful Birman kitten named Jessi-cat.

Jessi-cat is the stirring tale of how the affection and attention of a constant loving companion allowed a little boy to start to connect to the world around him. Lorcan spends hours playing with her, cuddling her and telling her how much he loves her. He has also begun opening up to others, making friends at school and is constantly making progress. Jessi-cat proved so inspiring that she was named Best Friend and National Cat of the Year 2012 by the Cats Protection Awards. This book charts the story of this great friendship and how the love between a young boy and his pet has changed his life forever.

We didn't think the book was well written and it reads more like a blog or a diary. It is more about the boy and his very pushy Mum than the relationship between Lorcan and his cat. It was good to read about selective mutism as we all learned something about the condition and it was fascinating to see how he could chat away in front of his family but not anyone else. If you read the book, it is worth watching the clip from BBC Breakfast to see the family. It scored 5.4, not that high but if you read the book you can see if you agree with us.

Carolyn Steven



Daffodil Tea

Tuesday 17 March—2.30-4.00 pm
Gibson Craig Halls



Tickets £3 from Guild Members
or pay at the door



in aid of
CROSSREACH
providing a caring future

Community Activities

The Gibson Craig Hall is used by various groups during the week and, if anyone is interested in joining a group, please telephone the contact noted below.

	Contact name	Tel No:	Day
Baby Ballet	Claire Robertson	07731 466147	Wednesday
Balerno Bridge Club	Brian Rose	449 5335	Monday
Blue Sky Pilates	Claire McDonald	07872 349073	Thursday
Boxercise	Grant Newlands	07525632039	Thursday: 9.00-10.00
Children's Dance	Carol Campbell	339 2315	Friday
Currie and District Local History Society	Douglas Lowe	449-4349	Monday Evenings twice monthly October to March
Currie Community Council	Madge Barker	449 3450	
Currie SWRI	Lucy Aird	449 2565	Second Tuesday each month (except July/August) at 7.15 pm
Currie Day Centre	Elspeth Frame	449 3603	Friday by referral
Highland Dancing	Michelle Marshall	339 4704.	Wednesday & Thursday
Judo	Jo Imrie	01506 884633	Tuesday 4-6 pm
Octagon Club	Alastair Hardie Terry Maloney	453 3556 0751 466 4292	Wednesday
Parents & Toddlers	Dawn Thomson	478 1106	Friday
Sequence Dance	Tom Masson	449 2561	Thursday
Senior Citizens	Jean Smith	449 5596	Monday
Snack Lunches	Viola MacPhail	449 4664	Tuesday
Yoga	Monica Evans	07986600432	Tuesday: 20.00-21.00
Zumba Exercise Class	Tom Lowe	07980 692929	Thursday



Fairtrade Fortnight 2015

A very big thank you to everyone involved with the 2015 Fairtrade Fortnight Lunch on Sunday 22 February in the Gibson Craig Hall. Thanks to all who attended and for all the help with setting up, donations of lovely soup and baking, serving, clearing away, washing and drying and returning borrowed dishes to Kirk House! We made the splendid sum of £251.10 which will be donated to Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week in May.

What fantastic teamwork and everyone who attended seemed to have a good time, too!

Many thanks again

Viola MacPhail and the Mission & Outreach Team

Family News

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

Mrs Isabel Elliot, Essex ex Pentland Place

Please pray for the family



Holy Week Services

2 April—Maundy Thursday Communion at 7.00 pm in Currie Kirk

3 April—Good Friday Service at 7.00 pm in Balerno Church



Flower List March



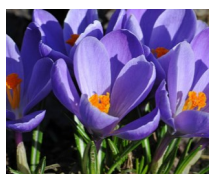
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Mrs E Chadwick, 16 Stewart Crescent | 22 Mr R Barr, East Kinleith Cottage |
| 8 Mrs M Muirhead, Barbaraville, Invergordon | Mrs M Douglas, 12 Corslet Road |
| Mrs M Sutherland, 56 Thomson Crescent | Mrs A Williamson, 32 Thomson Drive |
| Mrs S Ramsay, 47 Corslet Road | |
| 15 Mrs M Fraser, 47 Riccarton Avenue | 29 Mrs L Airs, 12 Riccarton Crescent |
| Currie Kirk Guild | Mrs M McVittie, 34 Riccarton Grove |
| | The Robert Family, 33 Riccarton Grove |

Donations for flowers may be sent to Mrs Erica Porteous, 2 Pentland View, Currie, or left at the Church Office and cheques made payable to Currie Kirk Flower Fund. Erica can be contacted on 449 6894.



New timings for Intimation Updates

Due to the introduction of the audio visual equipment and the fact that we are having to change computer and software, we are going to have to ask that anything to be included in the Update, should be with the church office by **9.00am on the Wednesday** before the Sunday in question. (This is because the intimations will appear on the screen).



WHO'S WHO



NAME	CONTACT	MEETING DAY	TELEPHONE NO
Locum Minister	Rev Dr John Munro		623 0198
Interim Moderator	Rev Moira McDonald		476 5893
Currie Kirk Church Office (Scottish Charity No. SC001554)	Gibson Craig Hall, Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5NY Secretary: Ishbel Massie e-mail currie_kirk@btconnect.com	Tuesday—9.30am—12noon Wednesday—9.30am—12noon Thursday—9.30am—12noon Friday—9.30am – 11.45am.	451 5141
Session Clerk	Grant Gordon email: gggordon@btinternet.com		449 2554
Treasurer	Neil Beattie 38 Newmills Crescent e-mail N31LBT@blueyonder.co.uk		449 2792
Gift Aid & Offerings Treasurer	Ron Dow 48 Thomson Drive ronedow@blueyonder.co.uk		538 2313
Weddings/Funeral Officer	Sandy Harper 16 Pentland View		449 4258
Organist	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Gibson Craig Hall Caretakers & bookings	May and Bill Sutherland 56 Thomson Crescent		449 7747
Hospital Transport Coordinator	Elizabeth Wood		538 0363
Deputy Coordinator	Jim Ure		449 6498
Kirk House Bookings	Isobel Paterson		449 6182
Life and Work	Eileen Chadwick		449 2559
Magazine Distributor	Jean Dick		449 6374
Boys' Brigade Captain	Jim Webber : Anchors Juniors Company/Seniors	Thursday 6.00-7.00 pm Thursday 7.00-8.30 pm Friday 7.00-9.30 pm	451 5112
Teen Café	Viola MacPhail	Friday	449 4664
Mini Bus Sunday lift organiser	Jean Pringle		449 7716
Mini Bus Bookings	Isobel Webber		451 5112
Banner Group	Janet Robertson	Thursday	441 1499
Care Van	Fiona Pigott	Once a month	466 1459
Pastoral Visitors	Sandra Cranford		449 4639
Currie Kirk Singers	Tom Masson	Various	449 2561
Guild	Mary Thomson	Tuesday	449 5919
Kidz@Currie	Elaine Rae	Sunday	451 5384
Messy Church	Contact Church Office	Last Friday of each month Gibson Craig Hall from 2.00 pm—3.30 pm except June, July, August & December	451 5141
Walking Group	Rena Milligan	Third Sunday of each month	449 2017

Clipboard

Clipboard can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/clipboard/> - why not mark it as a favourite. **Articles for the March 2015 issue should be sent using a Word attachment by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com by Friday 20 March 2015, the theme being Easter.**