

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**CURRIE KIRK**

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE CROSS PATHS

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*I to the hills will lift mine eyes, from whence doth come mine aid.  
My safety cometh from the Lord, who heav'n and earth hath made.*

# CLIPBOARD

The Magazine of Currie Kirk

September 2015

# A Message from the Manse

My family and I have been moved and uplifted by the warmth of the welcome we have received from you, the people of Currie. (Thank you!) Slowly but surely I begin to put names to faces and faces to names. What is so nice is that if I am cycling about, or when the children walk to school, so many of you stop to wave, smile and say hello. Already Currie feels like a real community.

Having a sense of community was a key dimension of the early church and it is no less important in the church today. When we are willing to be open, to share with one another, to help out—or to involve our lives, our schools and our families in positive projects which benefit the lives of others then we are all blessed with a sense of belonging to something bigger than ourselves.

I value the model of community found in the image of our God as a Trinity. God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit are One and yet three distinct persons. The three persons of God are unique and yet they belong together and they belong to one another. They are intimately close, moving, living and being independently of and inter-dependently with one another. From the relational power of their love comes great energy and creativity.

Ultimately this sense of “belonging” is what being part of a church gives to all of us—not simply because we belong to one another as a spiritual community but because we all, independently and together, belong to God—God who knows each of us by name.

The Bible tells us that our names are written in the ‘book of life’. No matter what we endure or go through, God is with us. In Isaiah Chapter 43 the devout prophet cries out from God, “Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name, you are mine. For you are precious in my sight, you are honoured, and I love you.”

Well, I may not know all your names yet but I can say that my family and I are chuffed to feel that in some way, after only a short time, we feel that we ‘belong’ to Currie.

Last week my sister, her husband and family came over from America to visit us in the Currie Kirk Manse. During our “stay-cation” we enjoyed some fun Festival shows as well as some walks in the Pentland Hills. During one of those walks my nine year old American nephew was delighted to see real sheep for the first time. On one walk he commented, “In Currie, even the sheep are so friendly!” (photos of ‘friendly Pentland sheep’ courtesy of my sister Nicola!).



*Easter*

## A Prayer for Refugees

Lord, hear our prayers for the people leaving everything behind to flee to safety. For those who have lost loved ones or are separated from relatives. For lives interrupted, education stalled, jobs left behind.

We pray for the safety of these hundreds of thousands who live with the pain of hunger, the loss of protection, the fear of the unknown. May your angels watch over them as they travel or as they wait for boats or document papers.

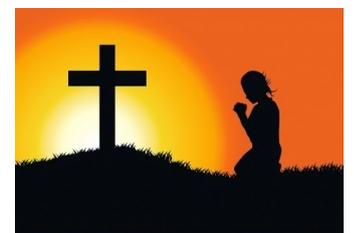
Lord, give them hope to believe in the possibility of new beginnings where freedom may replace fear,

We pray too, for the war-torn and violent places from which they depart. Hear their longings for peace and justice to prevail for next generations so that there can be a brighter and better tomorrow.

We thank you for glimpses of grace in the darkness of despair; for the hospitality that welcomes strangers; for the individuals and agencies handing out blankets and water or simply listening to the stories people have to tell.

May the leaders of our nations find fresh determination to provide peaceable solutions and answers. And we pray for ourselves that we will not ignore their pleas for help—that we may play our part in bringing about the change these people hope to see. Amen

(adapted from Christian Aid)





## The Guild

Tuesday 1 September sees the start of the new session of the Guild. The subscription and fees per meeting remain unchanged – Annual Subscription £10, meeting fee £2 and visitor fees £3. Anyone who has been in a position of arranging a syllabus or programme of events will know it is never an easy task to ensure all tastes are catered for and it would be arrogant for me to say unequivocally that we have done so on this occasion, but I do believe we have managed a fairly interesting and varied programme.

Our first meeting in September is the usual! “Welcome Coffee Morning” which allows Guild members, both old and new, to bring themselves up-to-date with all that has occurred since they last met and exchange news of their holidays be it at home or abroad. We will also warmly welcome our new Minister, Revd. Dr Easter Smart. The second meeting on 15 September, will be all about our chosen Project for the coming year. Mr Hugh Henderson will travel from Dundee to speak on the work of Mission International and in particular their work in Haiti.

At one time, Currie Kirk Guild was one of the largest Guilds in Scotland and certainly the largest in Edinburgh. Sadly this is no longer the case, mainly due to the ages of the members, but the enthusiasm and fellowship among the Guild members continues to flourish and if anyone cares to come along to any of the meetings you will be assured of a warm welcome.

I will be joined by Catherine Crawford and Jean Pringle on 5 September when we travel to Dundee for the Annual Guild Conference in the Caird Hall. There will be in the region of 2,000 members, men and women (gentlemen of Currie Kirk take note), singing our hearts out and listening to interesting speakers from all walks of life. I have been attending these Conferences for many years and have never been disappointed, and it’s nice to meet up with fellow members from other Guilds who one only ever meets at these yearly gatherings but we come together like old friends.

Freda Robertson



*Coffee Morning*

*In aid of the Guild Project—Haiti*

*Saturday 17 October @ 10.00 am*

*Tickets £3*

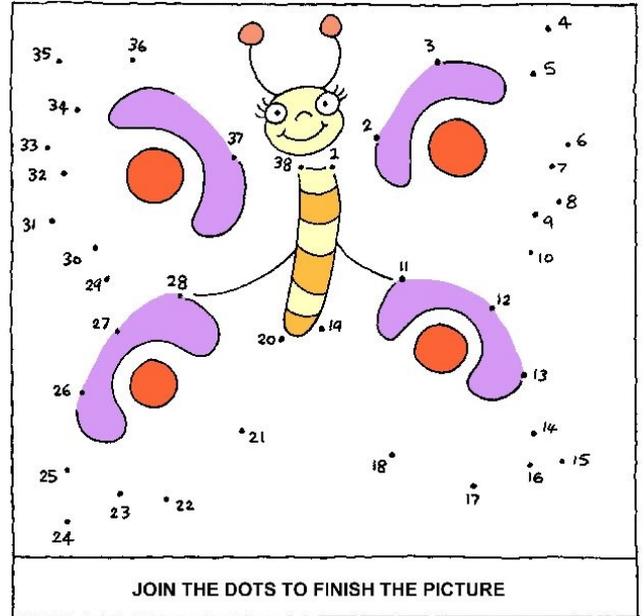
# Kidz@Currie

We operate 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 10 am and then leave part way for Kidz@Currie. Kidz@Currie enjoy stories, arts, crafts and games.

All welcome—please come along and join us!



Spot the difference



## A Message from Rev Russell McLarty

I very much look forward to visiting Currie Kirk once again when Easter and I swap pulpits. My only previous visit was to be part of the congregation for the Holy Week Service and I was very impressed with the newly renovated church with its new glass extension and upgraded historic Session House. The church with the glass entrance was beautifully illuminated in the darkness giving a strong message of welcome and I captured this on the photograph taken with my mobile phone.

As a former architect I am always keen to see how our church buildings can be developed in a sensitive way to provide the quality of spaces we need for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our predecessors invested well in giving us fine buildings and the story of every congregation shows how buildings have been adapted through the centuries to bring in such things as central heating, artificial lighting, pews, toilets for the congregation, 'the kist o' the deil' (pipe organ) and, in recent years, digital projection and more extended comfortable reception and foyer spaces.

Rev Russell McLarty  
Regional Interim Minister (East) serving in Balerno Parish Church





**Remembering Srebrenica**

Liam Packwood represented the Brigade in Scotland at the Service in St Giles—here he is with the First Minister.

The Boys of the 65th have been busy since the last Clipboard— The Company was asked to provide a reader to represent the Brigade for the Service in St Giles to remember the atrocities of Srebrenica; the Athletics cup is once again back in Currie; Boys have commenced their work towards their Queen’s Badge with one volunteering to help with the audio visual and one in the Sunday School.

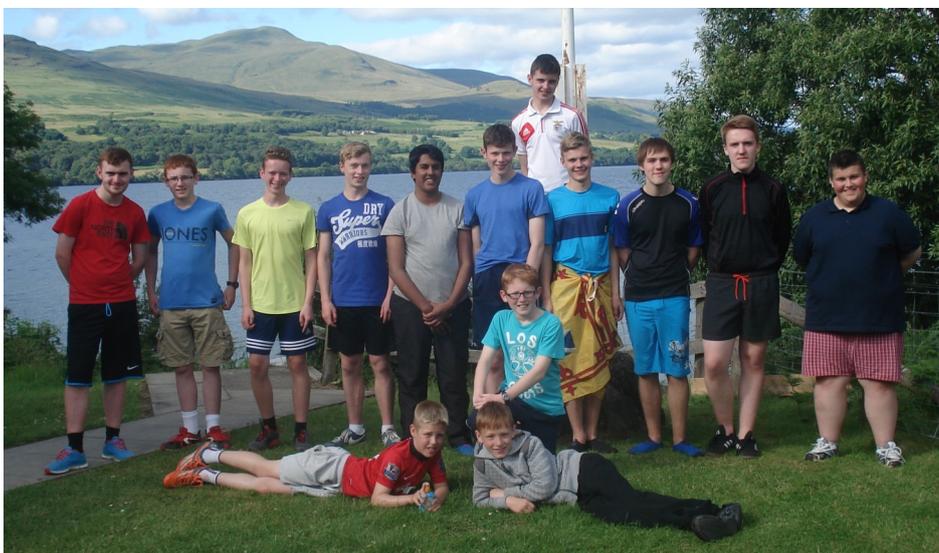
The camp as the photos show was enjoyed by all—officers and boys!!



Camp this year was fun—the boys successfully—through a lot of team work—built a raft—and it floated for a short spell. The photo shows a few trying it out.

Anchors and Juniors commence on Thursday 3 September—  
 Anchors at 6—7 pm; and Juniors 7—8.30 pm; and the Company on Friday 4 September at 7 pm.

Anchor Section for Boys in P2 & P3;  
 Juniors for Boys in P4, P5 & P6;  
 Company for Boys in P7—S6



This photo proves that the sun does shine in Scotland and “always at Craggan”.

## 25 Years Ago—A Volunteer's View

### A Ministry of Love and Help

I'M HOMELESS AND HUNGRY—CAN YOU HELP ME?

It was a usual Friday night; if I was being honest, I really did not want to be there. At 1am the thought of my warm bed was far too appealing. We had found out about a new sleeping place and we were heading there. We turned the corner to face an old derelict building. It was wet and I was cold, I wanted to go home, but we went in. The floor was lined with rubbish and the roof was non-existent. We waded through the rubbish to a doorway, the darkness was like a blanket surrounding us and the smell was unbearable. We headed into the room to what we thought were piles of rubbish but to my astonishment the rubbish piles moved, they were PEOPLE! The shock and guilt at my complacency struck me; I found it hard to talk.

This is not an isolated incident, there are men and women around Edinburgh sleeping in similar situations or even worse. Some, who are fit enough, walk all night because it is safer, less chance of them being mugged as the boys go home after a night out. *Matthew 25 v 35-40, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

### Getting Involved

We can't all be out on the street to help these people but that doesn't mean that we can't get involved. Prayer and giving are just as important as being there. So now, when you walk past someone in the street who is homeless, you know that you could go that extra mile and be involved.

*This brilliant account of the Care Van work in its early days reminds us how far the service has come. From a grass roots beginning with a handful of willing volunteers who sought out people as they slept in hidden locations, the service has grown to be well known, stopping in more visible locations, with over 650 volunteers, in 41 church teams. One constant over the last 25 years is our reliance on God and his love for those that use this service.*



**What are you doing this Thursday? From 12 till 3pm?...**

**...if you answered "Nothing!" then consider volunteering for the Care Van at Lunchtime. We need new volunteers. Call 0131 561 8930.**

## Clipboard

The photograph on the front cover was taken from Loch Tay looking over to Ben Lawers—the tenth highest Munro—taken by the Editor—so it is not professional!! Do you have a favourite photograph that could be used on the front cover? If so, can you please forward this to the Editor, along with a title—an acknowledgement will be printed if you wish.

To brighten up the long winters ahead it would be a great if you can share your wonderful holiday experience this year, be it a short or long one. I am not looking for a long article so please don't be put off—short, sharp and sweet.

Many thanks—Ed.



## Congratulations

Well known members of the local farming community and members of Currie Kirk, the Steven family (John, Carolyn, Rebecca and Rowena) won the top prize for Shetland sheep in mainland UK by winning the overall championship at The Highland Show with a 2-year old ram called Rosebank Neptune. He is a grey katmoget in colour. Shetland sheep are well known for the quality of their wool being the finest and softest of all UK native breeds. This year the Stevens also won first prize with one of their fleeces at The Highland. Daughter, Rowena, was also thrilled to have been placed first with her ram lamb, also a grey and is showing a keen interest in sheep as she has just started her own small flock of Kerry Hills.

As a family the Stevens have been showing at The Highland Show for 15 years and are delighted to have achieved one of their life ambitions. This follows on from winning the overall championship at The Shetland Sheep National Show and Sale last Autumn at Sedgemore.

From April through to October there is at least one or more local agricultural show throughout Scotland and the Stevens regularly travel most Saturdays to one of these shows. Drymen Show at the end of May, with its beautiful setting near the banks of Loch Lomond has been their most successful show to date, winning it six times.

Neptune, because of his win at The Highland Show this year, has qualified to compete against 19 other champions from throughout the country at Lanark, at the end of August, to see which Shetland will be crowned Champion of Champions 2015. All good wishes to Neptune!

## St Silas Community Choir Concert—

Saturday 12 September at 7.30 pm—Currie Kirk

### “Music from Stage and Screen”

This well established and very talented community choir is coming to perform in Currie Kirk on Saturday, 12 September at 7.30 pm. The choir is non-denominational and draws its all-age membership from all parts of the community, operating from St Silas Scottish Episcopal church in Glasgow’s west end. They have an accomplished and varied repertoire ranging from the classics, to music from the films, to modern pop. Their choice of programme on this occasion is ‘Music From Stage and Screen’ and, under the leadership of their gifted musical director Jenny Cheung, the St Silas choir promises a fun filled and highly entertaining evening of music and song.

This will be the first concert to be staged in Currie Kirk since extensive work to update and extend the church was completed earlier this year. Let’s give the choir a full house to perform to.

Tickets are £7.50 (including refreshments at the interval!) available from Gordon or Sandra Cranford (449 4639), or from the Currie Kirk Office, Gibson Craig Halls, 156 Lanark Road West (451 5141).

**All proceeds to Currie Kirk.**





## Currie Fair—Saturday 6 September

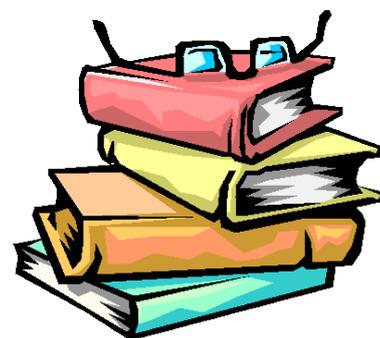
The Mission and Outreach committee has taken a stall at this year's Currie Fair which is being run by Currie Community Council. The Fair is on **Saturday 5 September at Pentland View Park from 12.30 to 4 pm**. We will be promoting Currie Kirk via the M&O committee, handing out leaflets, cakes and balloons and chatting about some of the activities the Church is involved in e.g. Fresh Start, Bethany Care Van, Teen Café, Messy Church, The Boys' Brigade to name but a few. Look out for our Gazebo in front of the Kirk Mini-Bus and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Further information from Gordon Clephane on 449 2313.

## The Good Book Group

The Good Book Group restarts after the summer on **Monday 7 September at 7pm** in the Gibson Craig Hall Lounge. We meet on the first Monday of most months (not January) and enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits (sometimes even chocolate!) alongside discussion of a book or books we've been reading. We've had a selection of books to read over the summer but usually choose a book per month during the rest of the year. The books vary widely, through ghost stories, crime, classics, ethical, short stories, factual as well as fiction of all kinds; there's something for everyone! Come along with ideas for books to read over the next few months and share with us any good books you've read over the summer. If you've not been before, why not give it a try—everyone is most welcome. If you can't make it for 7 pm, don't worry; the discussion usually starts around 7.30. Look forward to seeing you there!

Krys Hume



**Snack Lunches** closed for the summer in May, having raised the wonderful sum of £2,000 for charity during the 2014-15 season. At the AGM it was decided to donate £230 to each of the following charities:

Myotonic Dystrophy  
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh Renal Unit  
Alzheimer Scotland  
Scottish Autism  
Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research in Scotland  
Ravelrig Riding for the Disabled  
Mercy Corps  
Royal British Legion Scotland



£150 is also to be given to the Gibson Craig Hall for the purchase of an additional kitchen trolley.

Many thanks indeed to all who supported Snack Lunches, whether as volunteer helpers or customers consuming the delicious soup and homebaking!

**We will resume Snack Lunches at Noon on Tuesday 22 September when all are welcome.**

If you would be interested in helping, please contact **Viola MacPhail 449 4664 or 07806 806920**.

# FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

Thank you to **Team Currie Kirk** for taking part in  
the Fresh Start Sponsored Walk 2015!

You raised a fantastic £701 - thank you so much!



Fresh Start (Scotland) is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland no. SC197784. Scottish Charity No. SCO29184. Fresh Start, 22-24 Ferry Road Drive, Edinburgh EH4 4BR.

Jenny Baird, the Fundraising Development Officer wrote to Elizabeth Wood stating that this was an amazing amount to have raised—all sponsorship money had now been received and the 2015 Walk raised over £8,000.

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Thank you to all members of Currie Kirk, and people living in the Parish, who make regular donations to Fresh Start. All donations are welcome, and much appreciated by our clients. Each month you are invited to focus on Fresh Start, and make a donation.

The items in focus each month, will be printed in the Order of Service. Ordinary contributions will always be welcome, and can be placed in the box in the Gibson Craig Hall, or in the basket in the church.

If you have never made a donation before, I encourage you to join in and help to settle someone in their new home. A quotation from a client you may have helped:

*“Without the support of Fresh Start I would have struggled to make the house a home”*

Elizabeth Wood—contact 538 0363

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

**A Coffee Morning will be held in Kirk House on  
Friday 18 September from 10 am—2 pm**

**Please come along and support  
The Macmillan Coffee Morning**

# 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
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	Elsbeth Frame	449 3603	Friday by referral
Highland Dancing	Michelle Marshall	339 4704.	Wednesday
Judo	Jo Imrie	01506 884633	Tuesday 4-5.30 pm
Octagon Club	Alastair Hardie Terry Maloney	453 3556 0751 466 4292	Wednesday
Parents & Toddlers	Dawn Thomson	478 1106	Friday
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

## Octagon Club

(for Adults with Learning Difficulties and Special Needs)

Some members and helpers of the Octagon Club on their annual outing—this year to Blair Drummond Safari Park.



Alastair Hardie (453 3556)

# Family News

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

Alastair Forrest, 97 Muir Wood Road

David Smart, 52 Thomson Drive

Nick Moulden, 31 Currievale Park

Helen Stewart, 4 Forthview Road

Please pray for the families



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

Robyn Elizabeth Mitchell, daughter of Alison and Fraser

Emily Harper Brown, daughter of Jennifer and Christopher

Zara Louise Patton, daughter of Claire and Iain



Iain and Margaret Matheson would like to express heartfelt thanks to everyone who showed kindness and offered moral support in many different ways following their car accident on the A9.  
We are now well on the mend.

## Dear Friends,

We are missing you a lot! When we started in Currie Kirk nearly a year ago, we had no idea that we were being invited in to a special congregation, with a great heart. This year stands out in our lives and we will never forget your warm-hearted love. We are deeply touched by your generous gifts presented at the Induction. Thank you. And, after a few months, you can expect to see us some Sunday morning sitting at the back of the church.

Love from John and Pat.



## September Flower List



### September

- |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
| 6  | Mrs J Pringle, 16 Rowantree Avenue   | 20 | Mrs Margaret Anderson, 18 Curriehill Road<br>Mrs M Brown, 30 Thomson Crescent |
| 13 | Mrs M Gray, 1 Marchbank Way, Balerno<br>Mrs H Heggie, 24 Thomson Drive<br>Mrs S Heron, 67 Nether Currie Crescent | 27 | Mr D Jordan, 23 Rowantree Avenue<br>Mrs C Lindsay, 26 Weaversknowe Crescent   |

Please get in touch with Erica Porteous, 2 Pentland View, Currie should you wish to dedicate flowers in church on a specific Sunday, cheques made payable to Currie Kirk Flower Fund which may also be left at the Church Office.  
Erica can be contacted on 449 6894.



# WHO'S WHO



NAME	CONTACT	MEETING DAY	TELEPHONE NO
Minister	Rev Dr Easter Smart		449 4719
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	Hilary Leal, <a href="mailto:hilaryleal@hotmail.co.uk">hilaryleal@hotmail.co.uk</a>		449 3288
Gift Aid & Offerings Treasurer	Ron Dow 48 Thomson Drive <a href="mailto:ronedow@blueyonder.co.uk">ronedow@blueyonder.co.uk</a>		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 Deputy Coordinator	Elizabeth Wood Jim Ure		538 0363 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	Freda Robertson	Tuesday	449 2593
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 October issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to [isobelwebber@btinternet.com](mailto:isobelwebber@btinternet.com) before or by Thursday 24 September 2015.**

Currie Kirk is a registered Charity (Scottish Charity No. SC001554)