

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CURRIE KIRK

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE CROSS PATHS

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*Let's gather as a band of one, in symphony across the land
To thank our Lord for Harvest reaped and gratefully as one let's stand
To think of those, for all their toil who've readied plough, who've nurtured soil
The farmers in the fields, the cold; the hardened hands, the fens, the wold
So many aspects of a life, a challenge most will never know.*

Extract from The Harvest by Henry Birtles



CLIPBOARD

The Magazine of Currie

October 2015

A Message from the Manse

Harvest time is here! I was running along the Water of Leith one morning when I watched several tractors and a huge combine harvester hurtle up Kirk Brae to set about their work. In Currie we are lucky-unlike many city folks we can look up from the Lanark Road and literally see the harvest taking place.

This year as part of our Harvest thanksgiving we also collected food items for the Trinity Centre Foodbank in Wester Hailes. As we celebrate God's bountiful blessings to us we cannot forget our brothers and sisters who live with the anxiety of unemployment, insufficient pay or food shortage. Soon there will be further opportunities for us as the congregation of Currie Kirk to show support and solidarity with those working to help alleviate the refugee crisis too.

I am pleased to say that the official Church of Scotland stewardship programme which began in March is drawing to conclusion and I am grateful to the support that the people of Currie Kirk have shown. Stewardship goes beyond money to time and talents and so many of you give and bring so much to the life of the Kirk.

As people of faith, we also remember that the 'holy' harvest is a harvest which takes place not only in an earthly sense but a heavenly one. In metaphorical terms, our harvest is a harvest of hearts.

Jesus told many parables about planting seeds of faith; seeds, he explained, could easily fall on rocky ground or dry soil where they might not grow. However if our seeds of faith are watered through prayer and nourished by authentic Christian fellowship under the bright sunlight of the Holy Spirit then we will grow in faith and our faith may begin to yield crops and bear the fruit of God's loving presence in our lives- and not just our individual lives but the lives of our children, families and community.

At our Harvest Sunday service we sing familiar songs of thanksgiving for the rhythm of the seasons and the blessings of God's good gifts. We also have the blessing of unveiling and dedicating the new Harvest Banner which has been made by the skilled hands of the Banner Group who laboured over many afternoons to create it. We offer our thanks for all these works of the heart and hands offered in God's loving service.

Easter



The Kirk joins in the "fun" at the Currie Fair

EIF brings Fanfare to Currie Kirk

The sun shone, the band played, there were balloons for the children and refreshments for all! It was Sunday, 23 August 2015 and the Edinburgh International Festival had brought its "Fanfare" event to Currie Kirk. One of twelve venues along the Water of Leith Walkway, Currie Kirk reverberated to the wonderful sound of the Newmilns and Galston Brass Band as they played three varied programmes of music throughout the day, simultaneously with other brass bands at each of the eleven other venues.

A new venture for Currie Kirk, our new welcome and refreshment areas were put to excellent use as we catered for band members and visitors alike. The EIF are counting "Fanfare" as a resounding success so may well bring forward a similar event for 2016. Something to look forward to...



We Plough the Fields with Tractors

The Hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter' commonly associated with Harvest Festivals was written over 200 years ago and since that time farming has changed greatly. Tractors and Combines are common sights on our fields and what follows is alternative words for this old Hymn reflecting the age we now live in

We plough the fields with tractors,
With drills we sow the land;
But growth is still the wondrous gift
Of God's almighty hand.
We add our fertilizers
To help the growing grain;
But for its full fruition,
It needs God's sun and rain.
*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all his love.*



With many new machines now
We do the work each day;
We reap the fields with combines,
We bale the new-mown hay.
But still it's God who gives us
Inventive skill and drives
Which lighten labour's drudgery
And give us better lives.
*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all his love.*



He only is the maker
Of galaxies and stars;
Of birds and beasts and flowers,
And any life on Mars.
Atomic powers obey him,
Yet still the birds are fed;
By him our prayer is answered:
Give us our daily bread
*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all his love.*



Kirk Outreach—As part of the Outreach of the Kirk it would be helpful if a few more names could be added to the Sunday Rota for teas and coffees. The Rota is situated to the right of the Minister's room in the Reception Area.



Elders' Conference

On Saturday 29 August the Kirk Session met in Conference in the Chaplaincy Centre at Heriot Watt University. This was a wonderful experience from the opening devotions to the closing of the Conference with the Sacrament of Communion and a thought provoking study in between. George Whyte, Clerk to the Presbytery of Edinburgh and a member of the congregation led us through the "Seven Sacred Spaces" approach developed by the Diocese of Llandaff. If we imagine the different parts of a monastery we come up with seven different parts—the seven sacred spaces—and this can be used as a lens through which to appraise where we are at. The "Seven Sacred Spaces" look like this:



Cell
pray

Chapel
worship

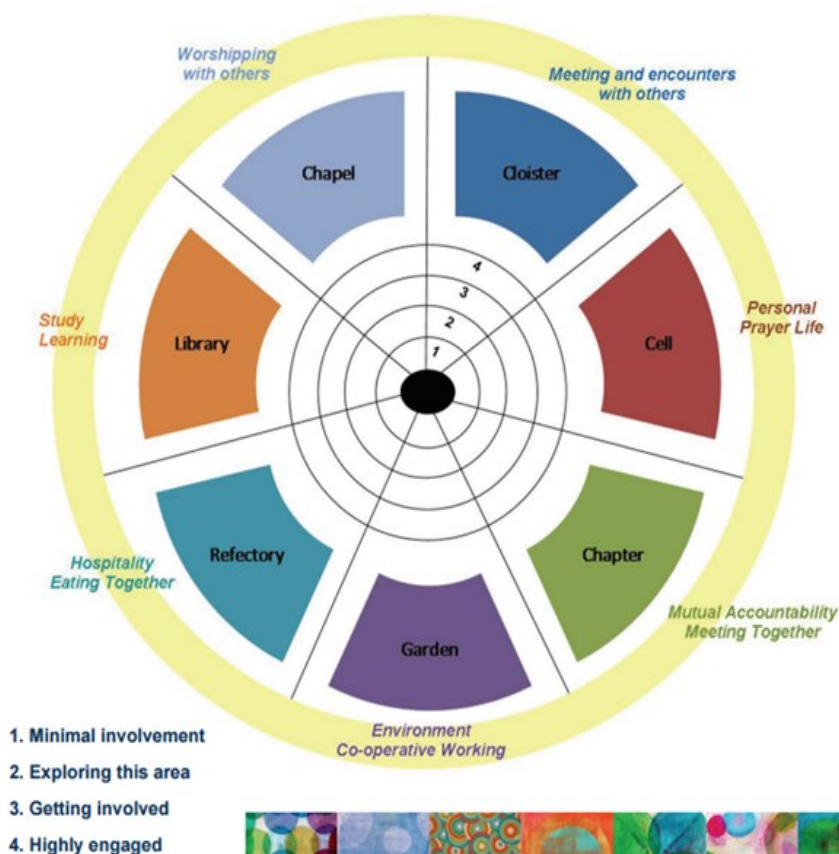
Chapter
decide

Cloister
meet

Garden
work

Refectory
share

Library
study



In groups we looked at all of these headings, with each group making an assessment of where they believe we are at using the descriptions above. None of the descriptions are meant to be critical but rather indicative of where work might be prioritised. This assessment gives us a starting position and using the same methodology we can check progress as often as we like, say each year. The Kirk Session will now be analysing the results and deciding on where our priorities lie. Watch this space!



Ceilidh

Saturday 14 November 2015

Gibson Craig Hall—7.00—11.00 pm

Dancing to Iain MacPhail and his Band

Tickets £10.00 includes Supper

**Telephone 451 5112 to reserve your ticket
 or collect one from the church office**



The Guild

The Guild has now completed its first two meetings, both very successfully. We had a lovely relaxed coffee morning with Easter as our speaker, giving us an insight into her previous post as a University Chaplain. This was followed by Hugh Henderson from Mission International, our project for this year.

Mission International's ambition is to build a multi-purpose facility in OUANAMINTHE (pronounced WANAMENT) in Haiti, which will eventually house a church, primary school for 300 children and a community centre. They have many obstacles to overcome, not least is the practice of Voodoo, which is prevalent throughout the Country. As all schools are fee paying in Haiti, M.I. aims to begin with just 50 pupils at a cost to the Charity of approximately £240 p.a. per child. This money will cover teachers' salaries, books, uniforms, food & medical expenses.

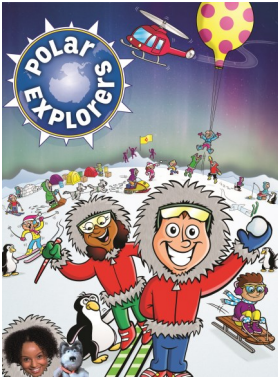
Until recently Mr Henderson was the only paid member of staff but since getting involved with the Guild Project scheme he has been able to employ more paid staff allowing him to visit Guilds around the Country, 100 Guilds so far this year. There are a few leaflets regarding Mission International's activities, in the reception area at the church, please feel free to take one.

Also in existence is a scheme whereby M.I. collects old or unwanted mobile phones, laptops, P.C.'s, digital cameras, flash drives, musical instruments, wheelchairs and crutches. There was a suggestion from a few Guild members we should help in their appeal and I will certainly discuss this with the Guild Committee, but in the meantime if anyone has old tech. lying around I would be quite happy to pass it on to Mr Henderson.

As I mentioned in the last issue of Clipboard, Catherine Crawford, Jean Pringle and I went to the Annual Guild Conference in Dundee. The day started off with a cool breeze, or a cold wind if I was being truthful, but what can one expect at 8 am on a September morning. We had a lovely day and for the first time ever the meeting was taped live so anyone unable to travel to Dundee could take part in the comfort of their own home. We ended the day with a visit to the Mary Slessor Memorial in the grounds of the Steeple Church not far from the Caird Hall, before making our way back to the station and our train home. Although we did have one last stop—Goodfellow & Stevens in Whitehall Street to purchase some of their sinfully lovely cakes.

A good way to end any day.

Freda Robertson



Polar Explorers

After weeks of preparation the day finally dawned and the doors of the Gibson Craig Halls were thrown open to admit a group of excited children ready to enjoy a week's fun at this year's holiday club. 27 July 2015 at 9.45am was time to leap on our sledges and begin our own Polar Explorers adventure.

They were all warmly welcomed, allocated to their huskies and igloos and then gathered together to learn what the week had in store for them.

We were lucky enough to have Kenny Galloway from the Baptist Church and his guitar to accompany us in singing a variety of songs all of which were performed with actions.

Darren, David and Gabe were my tech maestros and also organised the games.

The day then moved on with our team workout—aerobics—led by Polo the polar bear who spent her leisure time in Louise's bath before returning north to the wildlife park.

This was swiftly followed by team challenges, games, DVD, more singing, quizzes, worksheets and crafts not forgetting refreshments organised by Juicy Jean. Our three teams were in fierce competition with each other to see who could gain the most points for challenges, games, chants, wearing their team colours etc and they all left with a certificate at the end of the week whether they were first, second or third.

Our theme this year was based on The Acts of the Apostles and we learnt the stories of Peter, Stephen, Paul, Philip and Timothy and the paths they followed as they spread the word of Jesus. Running through all this was the message that Jesus loves us no matter how many mistakes we make or how ordinary or young we are. This was reflected in our song "Searching for Your Truth" which some of you may have seen us perform in the church—bear in mind we did that twice a day every day!!!!

Parents and carers were invited for the final half-hour on Friday to watch our last games, prayers, chants and singing. Then we set them free clutching certificates and sweets.

Many thanks are due to my team of willing(?) helpers who made it all possible. I know who you are and where you live so don't think you can avoid next year's extravaganza!! And, of course, thanks to the children who were fantastic.

Louise Lamont

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!

Autumn Word Search

Can you find the Autumn words in the puzzle below?

h	t	b	x	t	n	y	e	l	l	o	w
b	r	o	w	n	s	e	j	j	s	l	s
g	b	h	v	t	t	p	y	u	q	i	c
c	q	q	z	f	x	a	e	j	u	c	a
m	l	e	a	v	e	s	c	a	i	w	r
c	j	s	y	i	l	g	b	o	r	k	e
h	a	r	v	e	s	t	o	d	r	i	c
f	s	e	u	o	r	a	n	g	e	n	r
w	a	d	k	l	a	p	f	q	l	r	o
s	s	l	d	q	f	x	i	g	x	a	w
k	b	m	l	y	l	h	r	c	x	k	p
a	p	p	l	e	b	h	e	y	c	e	h

rake

scarecrow

brown

yellow

squirrel

leaves

apple

red

bonfire

harvest

fall

pear

orange

acom

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk • Keeping Kids Busy

Summer Holidays in China

This summer, I went to China with my family for my summer holidays. We were going to visit my grandparents in Zhengzhou and Xinxiang, and then go sightseeing in Beijing. It was going to be really exciting!

When we arrived in Zhengzhou, we were given a very warm welcome from our grandparents. We stayed in their 36 storey high flat which was really modern and spacious, and had a balcony. Outside, there was also a very big garden with an outdoor gym. With temperature reaching 36 degrees, we found it too hot to play outside for long and every day, I went to the shop to buy ice cream with my brother. In Zhengzhou, we ate lots of roast duck, dumplings, noodles, rice and lots more. All the food was delicious!

After a few weeks, we took the bullet train to Xinxiang, where I met my dad's enormous family and their adorable puppies. We visited the family farm and tasted the home grown sweetcorn, cucumbers, tomatoes and lots more.

We visited Beijing. One of my favourite things in Beijing was going to the Summer Palace. There, I dressed up in princess clothes for photos. We also went on a pedal boat and pedalled around the gigantic lake in the Summer Palace. Another one of my favourite things was going to the Great Wall. We took a cable car up to the wall, where there was an amazing view, and then took a toboggan slide down to the bottom. It was really fun! We all really enjoyed our holiday to China and I hope we can go back again one day.

Mary Kong



Thank you to Mary who responded to the request for summer holidays to share with Clipboard readers. If you have a special holiday and photos the Editor would be pleased to hear from you.

A Christian View of Genetically (GM) Crops

Farming has always been a tough and unpredictable industry for those who work in it and this year Scottish cereal farmers have had to face a cold, wet summer which has led to an increase in pests and diseases, the slower ripening of crops, a poorer quality of produce and lower grain yields. As we celebrate our Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 4 October, we thought it would be a good idea to ask Roddy Macdonald for a Christian view of GM crops for much has been written on the subject both for and against. Here is what Roddy has to say:



“A recent report in the Scotsman informed us of the decision by the Rural Affairs Minister in the Scottish Parliament to opt out of European Union consents to grow some GM crops, stating that GM crops could damage our clean and green brand thereby gambling with our food and drinks industry. It brought an angry response from a former Government scientific adviser warning that the decision to ban genetically modified (GM) crops could have “apocalyptic” consequences for Scotland.

Genetic modification of crops involves the introduction of a gene into the genetic code of a particular crop for a specific purpose enabling plant breeders to develop crops with specific attributes such as the control of blight in potatoes and the reduction of pesticide use in crops. Genes can come from a variety of sources animal or vegetable. Genes can also come from the same species. It can lead to much increased yields of the product genetically modified.

My early years in agricultural science were as technical adviser with a large chemical company producing products to control soil and air borne diseases in a variety of crops and selective weed control (kill the weeds and leave the growing crop unharmed) in cereal crops by spraying the crop. Many GM crops can resist herbicides and require less fertilisers particularly nitrogen, much of the residue finding its way into waterways. Is there a Christian dimension to all this? We require to increase yields dramatically if we are to feed the burgeoning world population estimated to reach over nine billion by mid-century. Even now it is estimated a billion people go to bed hungry each day. A source opined recently that we have some 20 years to deliver 40% more food to feed the increasing world population and we may have to produce it in an increasingly difficult environment as climate change brings its own problems of drought and excessive rainfall. Along with conventional plant breeding, GM crops will have an increasing important role in increasing yields. The Organic lobby could not hope to do this, and over some 20 years of GM crop production in all these countries no adverse gene product has been found in milk, meat or eggs produced by genetically modified crops.

Perhaps I am biased having worked in this field of agricultural science for some of my professional career and I would have to agree with the former Scientific Adviser, but the word apocalyptic is somewhat extreme and no doubt the Rural Affairs Minister had his own advisers.”



Coffee Morning

In aid of the Guild Project—Haiti

Saturday 17 October @ 10.00 am

Tickets £3



HMS Eagle in the late 50's



Refugees on Hungarian Border



War in Syria



Our World

Sandy's Poems

The Changing World

The wind of change blows through our live
Where once was peace there now is strife.
As all over the world, people fight
Putting themselves in sorry plight.

There is no victor, how can there be
The sorry facts are there to see.
Countries ruined and families lost
It's impossible now to count the cost.

When brother faces up to brother
In needless slaughter of the other.
What kind of human beings are we
Who allow such tragedies to be.

As daily we listen to the news
I think the time has come to choose.
What reason we are on this earth for
Whether it's peace, or needless war.

Lets fight to save the sick and old
These are the battles that should be told.
Keep fighting for a longer life
Not to end it with by gun or knife.

What a peaceful place this land could be
If we all just lived in harmony.
Instead of trying to take away
What's rightly others, and as such should stay.

**SO WIND OF CHANGE BLOW ONCE MORE PLEASE
AND CHANGE OUR WORLD TO LASTING PEACE.**

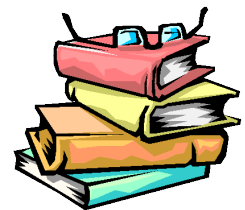
(Written in 1959 by Sandy Harper on board HMS Eagle to his wife Irene.)

How appropriate the words are today.

Good Book Group

These are the books we have decided to read in the next three months:

- 5 October—Girl on a train by Paula Hawkins
- 2 November—The Amber Keeper by Freda Lightfoot
- 7 December—Second Life by S J Watson



Come and have a chat over a cup of tea in the lounge at the Gibson Craig Hall, 7 for 7.30pm. We would love to see new faces but if you can't make it please feel free to pass on your comments and a mark out of 10 for the book read.

Carolyn Steven

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 Airs	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
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



St Silas Choir Wows Currie Audience

The St Silas Community Choir from Glasgow produced a wonderful night to remember when they performed to a full Currie Kirk on Saturday, 12 September. This accomplished all age choir, under the direction of their gifted musical director Jenny Cheung, sang their hearts out to a most appreciative and welcoming audience, lifting the roof of our ancient Kirk in a varied programme of songs from stage and screen. There was something there to

appeal to everyone; a seamless and entertaining mix of modern and traditional music with several solo slots to balance the beautiful harmonies in the full blown choral numbers. A highlight proved to be the children's solos which really tugged at the heart strings! And Al Borgo's delicious ice cream went down extremely well at the interval. The concert raised £402.50 for Kirk funds.

This was the first event of this nature to be hosted in the Kirk since extensive work to refurbish and extend the building was completed earlier this year. Our ancient building proved to be well up to the task with numerous very positive and complimentary comments received both from visitors who were seeing what has been achieved for the first time and from our Currie Kirk regulars. A common message was that we should invite the choir back for another concert and, in general, offer more events like this. This is something the Kirk's hospitality committee has taken on board and is actively working on. Watch this space!

Family News

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



Mrs Catherine Taylor, North Merchiston Care Home, 34 Watson Crescent

Robert Stewart, 4 Forthview Road

Mrs Elizabeth Melville, 51 Forthview Crescent

James Mitchell, 517b Lanark Road

Please pray for the families



Congratulations to Andrew and Elaine Warren on the birth of their second grandson Harris Andrew Warren born on 16 September a brother for Benjamin.



Macmillan Coffee Morning—Saturday 18 September

The Liddle family would like to thank everyone who attended on Saturday 18 September. We raised, between us, £1,000 and still counting.



October Flower List



October

- 4** Mrs A Wood, 24 Barnton Park Gardens
Mrs J Blair, 17 Currievale Drive
Alan & George Forsyth, 71 Forthview Crescent
Mrs S Ramsay, 47 Corslet Road
- 11** Mrs I Young, 9 Rowantree Grove

- 18** Dr & Mrs P Gordon, 105 Lanark Road
Mrs M Muirhead, Barbaraville, Invergordon
Mrs W Stewart, 35 Dolphin Road
- 25** Mrs I Blyth, 1 Bryce Place
Mrs C Inglis, 14 Riccarton Crescent
Mrs M McDonald, 1 Featherhall Crescent South

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, hilaryleal@hotmail.co.uk		449 3288
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	Tuesday	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 November issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 23 October 2015 with the theme “Remembrance”**

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