

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CURRIE KIRK

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE CROSS PATHS

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*In Flanders fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky,
The Larks, still bravely singing fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
(John McCrae, May 1915)*



CLIPBOARD

The Magazine of Currie Kirk

November 2015



A Message from the Manse

The golden sun of our long Indian summer and the bright light of the Harvest moon are behind us. The clock has changed and already the axis of our turning earth is tilting us towards winter. November brings with it the promise of windy, wet and blustery days that dash dead leaves to the ground.

As the leaves die for another season, it seems fitting that the month of November is associated with remembrance of the dead. The first of November is *All Saints Day* which calls to mind those many faithful people who have died before us. This in itself is meant to be a celebration of those obedient and faithful persons who are now at peace in the presence of God. But for many this also calls to mind the pain of personal losses—beloved parents, spouses, sons, daughters. For many years I participated in a memorial service for road accident victims which always took place in the third week of November. In November we also honour all the servicemen

and women who have sacrificed for their country and lost their lives in war. We wear red poppies as a mark of the blood of these martyrs.

It is no wonder then that many people seem to find November difficult. Some people struggle with the hastening of colder days and encroaching loss of daylight. For others the tensions and pressures of work pile up in the draw up to Christmas. And, of course, our remembrances of those gone before us can bring solemnity and sadness.

However, as Christians we are not called to proclaim darkness or death. In Christ it is our privilege to proclaim light and life. Our remembrance of the saints in heaven and earth also brings us great hope. Our life in God's keeping is more than we can see, experience or understand now. We belong to something greater, something eternal. As Christ's church our All Saints Day worship reminds us that we belong to a great family of God's people in earth and in heaven. That is why our remembrance of those whose separation from us brings us pain, also brings us great joy and hope. For our faith assures us that the end of earthly life is, in fact only a beginning of a new chapter. We belong to a long chain of heavenly and earthly saints—a chain which death itself cannot break.

Easter

For the Fallen

At our Remembrance Service on Sunday 8 November we will be dedicating the new Memorial Board in respect of the three military personnel killed post 1945:

William A Inglis, Craftsman, Royal Irish Dragoon Guards;
David Ross, Sgt. Royal Military Police; and
Sean G McDonald, Pte. Royal Regiment of Scotland.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.



Iona Retreat

On Saturday 26 September 22 ladies and one man arrived at the Gibson Craig Hall at 7.30 ready for a four-day Retreat to Iona. Stopping en route at the Green Welly at Tyndrum for a much needed coffee stop before proceeding to Oban for the ferry to Mull. It being the Glasgow holiday weekend the boat was fairly full and it did present a problem for the bus company who was going to drive the passengers to Fionnphort for the ferry to Iona. Quite a few travellers from the States and England did not understand that it was a “public service bus” and were of the opinion that their group had priority, however, the ladies and gentleman from Currie had other ideas as they

boarded—bus passes at the ready!!!

Arriving at Bishops House (which you can see in the picture below—it is to the left of the Cathedral) we were warmly welcomed by Tobin Lewis—the manager—it was really nice to be back. The Bishops House is friendly and welcoming—accommodation excellent and the food even better. We joined fellow travellers for Sunday worship in the Cathedral—a very moving service—the congregation had come as far afield as the States and Australia—a truly international congregation!

We must thank Easter, for accompanying the group and hope that she enjoyed the fun and fellowship as much as we did.



Chapel in Bishops House

Also a big thank you to Moira and Jean who had organised the Retreat. Moira and Jean were presented with a gift from Iona and a special “pencil” to allow them to take names for the promised retreat in May 2017—book early!!!!



Bill, Easter, Margaret, Elizabeth



Easter’s favourite photo!!



Sunday Service at the Cathedral



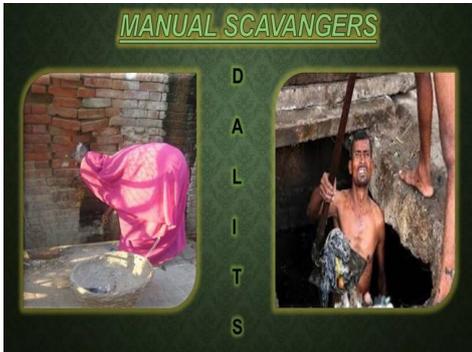
Easter, Jean, Agnes, Moira



Bishops House and Iona Cathedral

Mission and Outreach

I have been asked to write a report on meeting I attended at the Christian Aid Offices on 30 September. There were two visitors to Christian Aid that day, Beswada Wilson from India and Olver Vaca Ruiz from Bolivia. We heard from Beswada first—and it was not what I thought the subject would be—so I will not be going into this in any great detail, enough to say I was thoroughly shocked but nevertheless I am glad not to have missed his story.



Human Scavenging is prevalent throughout India today although this work is only carried out by the lowest caste, the Dalits, and in some cases, could be termed “a family business”. We were shown a video of men and women manually cleaning out communal dry toilets and latrines but it seemed only men were employed to manually clean out cess pits, septic tanks and the street sewers. When cleaning out the cess pits, septic tanks and sewers, two people were always in attendance due to the poisonous gasses involved in this work. The video also showed men transporting this human excrement in baskets on their heads to a designated site where it was destroyed by fire. There are numerous demonstrations being carried out, mostly by women, for this practice to stop, and in 1993 an Act was passed to prevent this custom. However in the 20 years since and many court cases, no direct action has been taken.

The Railway companies are the biggest offenders. There are flush toilets being installed in many parts of India but where the Dalit castes are prevalent these areas come well down the list of priority, it’s all a case of Caste Ideology.

The second talk was much more enjoyable and enlightening. We in this country take our food and how it is prepared for granted. The Amazon region of Bolivia covers 230 square miles supports 64% of the indigenous people. While the men work, their wives must collect enough firewood each day to prepare the food to provide hot water. With the deforestation of the Amazon, flooding and forest fires, this could take up to two hours and in the wet season, longer as the women would have to forage further afield from their homes. A scheme has been put in motion to introduce solar ovens. Each oven costs around \$300 (American) and ten days to produced in La Paz. It is hoped that in future these ovens can be manufactured nearer to where they are needed. The problem is getting the people to believe this new technology will be more nutritious, labour saving so allowing for more family time and perhaps engaging the men in preparing a meal. Each oven can cook enough food for a family meal and are easily cleaned. At the moment the plan is to concentrate on family sized cookers but if successful in the future, could be used commercially. It was also stressed that by using solar ovens the women would no longer have to carry huge amounts of wood on their backs so be more beneficial health wise by cutting out back strain. At the moment the trial is taking place with only four families who each seemed to be favourably impressed, especially as the meal can be placed in the oven early in the day ready for eating in the evening. Hopefully we will be kept up-to-date on this scheme.



Freda Robertson



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 (children £5)

**Telephone Jim/Isobel Webber on 451 5112 to reserve your ticket
or collect from Isobel at the church office**

Congratulations to Andrew and Connie Girvan whose son Robert Tancredi Brice Girvan, was born on Saturday 24 October. Andrew was one of the Company's Queen's Men

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!

Remembrance Sunday—8 November

We wear poppies to remember those who have given their lives in service for our country.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

From "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon

Colour the poppies.



Blessed are those Who Help the Poor

(Proverbs 14: 21)

At the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 4 October the area around the Communion Table was completely covered in food items for the Trinity Centre Food Bank at Wester Hailes Trinity Church. There was barely space for Easter to make her way to the Table. It was a magnificent response. It took three cars to transport all the food to Wester Hailes where it was gratefully received by Angela Thomson, the Food Bank Manager and her team.

Angela gave a short talk at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service, a talk which really opened our eyes and minds to the needs of the area. It is not just Wester Hailes people who use the Food Bank, but people from Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green and Colinton. Here are some of the facts Angela instanced:

TOTAL NO OF FOOD PARCELS

2011	211
2012	1116
2013	1549
2014	2205
January 2015	154

Total April 2011—January 2015 5235 Parcels

Equivalent to 25 tons of food



WHO USES THE FOOD BANK?

Unemployed	Families in Trouble	Sick	Immigrant Community
Ex-service personnel	Single Parents	Homeless	Addicts
Low Income Families	People in Debt	Victims of Violence (out of hospital)	
Victims of Domestic Violence	People whose Benefits have been sanctioned		
Released from Prison			

Many Food Bank users face multiple challenges, including ill-health, relationship breakdown, mental health problems or substantial caring responsibilities. Many are unable to work or have recently lost their job.

It costs £1,000/£1,200 per month to run the Food Bank. Food and financial donations come from Churches, individuals and some trusts. You can help in a number of ways—by giving financially (all donations go to buying food); bag packing or helping on Food Bank days to serve those who come.



Above are the food transporters Grant Gordon, Viola MacPhail, Gordon Clephane, Angela Thomson (Manager) and Christine Wilson.



The Guild

The Coffee Morning held on Saturday, 17 October in aid of our Project, Mission International: The Haiti Project, was very successful, raising £410.60 for this very worthwhile cause. The Guild Committee would like to thank all the Guild members and our many friends for their donations of home baking, also for the support shown in attending the Coffee Morning. Now we can look forward to our next two Speakers in November:



3rd November: Life of an Army Chaplain—
Rev. Cole Maynard CF at 10 a.m.

17th November: Snow Poles in the winter—
Rev. Dr. John Munro at 7.30 p.m.



We also have the Rededication Service in the Church on Sunday 15 November.

It is not necessary to be a Guild member to attend the meetings. If there is one speaker you think would be of interest to you please feel free to come along—you will be made most welcome.

Freda Robertson



Mission and Outreach Gibson Craig—Saturday 21 November—6—9 pm

The Mission and Outreach committee is organising a Winter Market, to be held in Gibson Craig Hall, on Saturday 21 November—6—9 pm. Tickets will be £5 which includes a glass of wine and mince pie/shortbread. An ideal evening for some early Christmas shopping or just a chance to socialise with a glass of wine and friends! The Winter Market will have a number of varied stalls and goods for sale—Phoenix Cards, Usborne Books, Avon, jewellery, candles, and other quality crafts. All the profits will go to the Foodbank run by Holy Trinity Church, Wester Hailes.

At the Harvest Thanksgiving service Angela Thomson, Centre Manager of the Trinity Centre spoke about the work done by the Foodbank and the wide breadth of the people who are relying on the service. Having listened to Angela the committee decided that this is something that it would like to support.

We will also be collecting items for the Foodbank on the night—all donations welcome.

For more information or tickets please contact Fiona Pigott on 07584 678990. (f.pigott@blueyonder.co.uk)



Christmas Brass Band Concert 29 November—7.30 pm Currie Kirk—

To kick off the Advent season with a bang, Currie Kirk will be filled with the sound of music on Sunday, 29 November when the Whitburn Heartlands Band come along to perform.

The Heartlands Band was formed only two years ago as a player pathway to take young players from the highly successful Whitburn Youth Band and place them in the adult contest environment to further their development and progress. The Band is the reigning Scottish Champion Brass Band (4th Section) and, earlier this year, the Band took fourth place in their first ever National Championship of Great Britain ahead of many well established bands from all over the UK. Quite an achievement!

The concert starts at 7.30 in the Kirk. Tickets, priced £8.00 including refreshments, are available from Sandra Cranford (449 4639) or from the church office.

Proceeds to the Currie Kirk Development Fund.

Hogmanay Charity Ceilidh 2015

In aid of Pancreatic Cancer Scotland SCO41740

Dancing to Iain MacPhail and his Band

Thursday 31 December 2015

Gibson Craig Hall, Currie

8pm to 12.45am

Light Refreshments

Bring your own bottle and glass

Raffle

Tickets £15

Contact Viola MacPhail

Tel. 449 4664 or 07806 806920

Pancreatic Cancer receives only 1% of cancer research funding yet it is the 5th most common cause of deaths in Scotland





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. If a few more names are not added to the rota it may be that one Sunday there will be no teas!! Please help ...



The Kirk Minibus—Thank you to all who have donated through the Sunshine Bags and made donations towards the running of the Minibus. Your donations help towards keeping the bus on the road—to enable any member of the congregation who requires help to get to church to do so. Please contact the Coordinator—Jean Pringle—whose details are on the back of Clipboard if you require transport.

Sunshine Bags are available from Ishbel at the Kirk Office.

Good Book Group— The Girl on the Train—Paula Hawkins

Planning our reads for the Autumn, *The Girl on the Train* sparked out interest, in the main as it appeared on so many book review lists in the UK and the US, and seemed to be very heavily advertised. Thrillers and psychological suspense novels have though generally gone down well with our group, so *The Girl on the Train* became our September read.

The book's heroine is Rachel, a divorced, alcoholic who has been sacked from her job. Trying to keep up the pretence that she is coping with life, she continues to travel by train into 'work' in London. Each day, when the train stops at the same signal, she catches glimpses of a couple who live in the same street that she used to live in. Rachel doesn't know the couple, but in her mind she has invented a life story for them—one of perfect happiness.

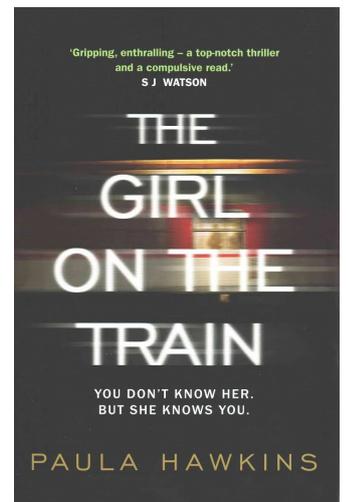
One morning Rachel wakes up with no recollection of arriving home the night before. She is bruised and covered in blood. She later discovers that the woman that she has been watching each day from the train has disappeared without trace. Rachel has to find out both what happened to her the night before, but also what happened to the woman she watched from the train.

That's probably all that I should write about the plot, as being a psychological thriller it relies on twists, turns and shocks to keep readers involved. Suffice to say there are plenty of those to follow as pages are turned. Our views on the book were split, with half the room finding the novel rather slow to begin with. Others in the group had enjoyed the focus on the main character Rachel, with the author slowly letting us understand the world that she lives in. We started to learn about all her problems and began to realise what an unreliable witness her narration would bring later in the book.

Even those that had found the start of the story rather slow moving, did seem to enjoy the novel as we started to understand the relationships between the various characters and we discovered more about Rachel's 'missing' hours.

Almost everyone finished the book, which certainly doesn't always happen(!) and it scored a very respectable 6.6 out of 10.

Given the level of hype around the book, no-one was particularly surprised that it is about to be made into a film starring Emily Blunt. I'm sure many of us will head to see it.



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



Perfect Peace

I am sure I speak for us all when I say that the one thing we crave is peace, real, deep peace, and not just a cessation of hostilities. Oh, to be able to forget our fears and anxieties! But how can we know such peace? Jesus promises us peace—his peace—a “peace beyond our understanding”. But how do we achieve this peace? We need to really get to know Jesus so that we can trust him with all our problems and, apart from our daily walk of prayer, a good way to learn more and know him better is by reading his Word. Just a few of his words each day can direct our thoughts and help us increase our trust.

Many guides and notes are printed to help us on a daily or weekly basis and if anyone is interested and would like more information, or wishes to order one of the plans please see me after the Sunday Service or phone me on 449 3686. Thank you

Judith McColl

Family News

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

Libby Joanna Shekleton daughter of Hannah and Danny



Congratulations to Jimmy and Agnes Barr who celebrated their Golden Wedding on Wednesday 7 October 2015.



Wishing all my friends in Currie a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Nairn



November Flower List



November

- 1 Mrs D Brown, 9 Kingsknowe Avenue
Mrs B Smith, 88 Currievale Drive
Mrs J Smith, 8 Thomson Road
Mrs M Thomson, 34 Forthview Crescent
- 8 Mrs A Williamson, 32 Thomson Drive

- 15 Mrs. J. Perry, 46 Corslet Crescent
Mrs. M. Preston, 23 Thomson Drive
- 22 Wedding—Caroline Rutherford and Angus Bayne
- 29 Mrs D Collins, 28 Foulis Crescent, Juniper Green
Mr & Mrs A Goudie, 17 Newmills Crescent, Balerno

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 Eddie Pigott	Until 31/10/15 From 1/11/15	449 3288 466 1459
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 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	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 December/January issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 20 November with the theme “Christmas & New Year Resolutions”.**

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