

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



 [www.curriekirk.org.uk](http://www.curriekirk.org.uk)

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# **CLIPBOARD**

The Magazine of Currie Kirk

December 2015 / January 2016





# A Message from Easter at Christmas

*Dearest friends,*

I feel a sense of privilege and blessing to have joined this community and for the many ways you have welcomed our family. This time of year we sing a familiar hymn by Bernadette Farrell:

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, Light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair

Your Word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

*Christ be our light! . .*



It seems appropriate for us to sing this—according to ‘sidereal’ time we are losing approximately four minutes of light per day. We await the winter solstice on 22 December when our Scottish days will again ‘draw out’ and lengthen once again.

From a spiritual perspective, as we enter this season of Advent we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus who came to bring light to our darkness. It is not difficult to look about and see where darkness lurks. Sometimes when I watch the news, I am stumped for words to say—words which might address the multitudinous phenomena of suffering and violence. The bombings, sacrilege, death tolls and plight of refugees across Europe, and places else seem too commonplace.

As a Christian—a firm believer in Jesus and his teachings—I still believe that we must be sure NOT to blame Islam. Many people need a better understanding of the Muslim faith. Islamic people around the world are kind, caring and reverent. They too worship the God of Abraham, albeit with a few different teachings. Muslims, like Christians believe there is only one Creator God who hears our prayers. Most Muslim people revere the teachings of Jesus upon which I have based my life: Love one another; Be kind; and Forgive your enemies. The call from terrorists to incite people to suicide bombings and the killing of innocents is rejected by all people who believe in one true God who is a God of love. Therefore, radicalised violence is an aberration of God’s intentions for our world.

I have been moved, like many of you have, by the German pianist who cycled to Paris to play the piano outside the Baclat and offer his prayer by music that one day we might imagine that humanity might live by some means beyond violence. As we approach Christmas and enter into the year 2016 we need to keep up the hope, love and aspirations for peace which Jesus taught us. We celebrate that he came and continues to come among us transforming lives and bringing hope and healing to situations where there may be darkness or despair. The words of Isaiah put to another hymn, tell us ‘Comfort, comfort now my people; speak of peace—so says your God. Comfort those who sit in darkness burdened by a heavy load.’

As you approach this Christmas and all the festivities of the New Year I pray that you may experience the peace of Christ in your own lives and that his light may shine in your lives. Truly, Christ is the Light of the World. His light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Whatever your personal circumstance, I wish you joy, happiness and light this Christmas and New Year. Take care and may God Bless You.



Easter





# Services



## **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December @ 10am**

Advent worship followed by prayer tree service *in the Kirk*

## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December @ 10am**

Advent worship: Festival Choir with Lessons and Carols *in the Kirk*

## **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December—11 am—3 pm**

Come along for a time of quiet contemplation *in the Kirk*

Reflective Service will take place at 12 Noon

## **20<sup>th</sup> December @ 10am**

Advent Worship with Kids@Currie Nativity Play *in the Kirk*

## **24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve**

### **Family Christingle & Pyjama Service**

All children are welcome from 5.30 pm to make their Christingle lanterns before the service at 6.30 pm *in Gibson Craig Halls*

Followed by refreshments

## **11.30pm Watchnight Service**

*in the Kirk* followed by refreshments

## **Christmas Day Family Service @ 10 am**

Children (and adults) invited to bring along one of their gifts





# A Place at the Christmas Table

Going out for a Christmas meal with friends from work? Hosting the family Christmas dinner? Then why not set an extra place and donate the money which would have been spent on the meal to support the Church of Scotland's "A place at the table campaign". Just £20 can feed a Syrian family of five for a month in a refugee camp; £5 will feed them for a week.

Carol Finlay of the World Mission Council explains: "This campaign has been active for two years and we have raised around £80,000 which has gone to our partner church, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, to help feed, shelter and support families who have been displaced in Syria or have had to leave their country and live in refugee camps.

"A Christmas meal is the perfect opportunity for people to do this and now is when festive nights out are being organised with colleagues, friends and family. We have suggested an average of £20 which can feed a Syrian family of five for a month. It could be split between everyone who is dining out or if people are feeling generous, perhaps they could donate £20 each.

"We can all feel powerless when we see the images of refugees and their living conditions in the media, but this is something simple and constructive we can all do to help."



No one needs reminding that they are likely to be posting their Christmas cards very soon. Perhaps we do need reminding though that Christian Aid can benefit from those that you receive via Royal Mail. Please take the time to cut the stamps from your envelopes (leave  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of envelope all around the stamp) and pop them in to the Kirk Office when you are passing. This small act costs you nothing but a few seconds of your time, but if we all do it, we can pass thousands of stamps from Currie alone to help the much needed funds to help end poverty.

Ishbel Massie







## The Guild

I can't believe we are nearly at the half-way stage in our Guild year and looking forward to Christmas. We have one more speaker, Eric Melvin on 1 December, who will be talking to us about Mary Queen of Scots. We then look forward to the Christmas Party on 15 December. Joining us at the party will be six ladies from South Queensferry who title themselves "The Home Groan". The Committee is not sure what to expect with this singing group but that all adds to the excitement and mystery of Christmas.

We have enjoyed some amazing talks so far, none more so than that from Rev Cole Maynard FP, an army chaplain (see some of the photographs below). If you are in the Gibson Craig Hall be sure to look at the Guild Notice Board where you will see some of the photographs Cole sent to us. It was such a pity that the day he was our guest the new blinds had not been fitted to the windows, and as it was a beautiful day the sun came streaming into the hall so we were unable to watch his audio visual presentation. We did try to use a wall, but as the new paintwork is cream and the photographs were taken in the desert in Afghanistan with sand and the army tanks etc the same colour, it was just impossible to see anything.

We welcomed Pat and John Munro to our meeting on the 17 November. The title for John's talk was "Snow Poles in Winter", giving no clue as to the subject content, but as always it was a brilliant and thought provoking talk about markers in one's life with some hilarious audio visual effects. It truly was lovely to see them both again in our midst.

The Guild sends warmest wishes to Easter and family and all our friends in Currie Kirk for Christmas and the coming year.

Freda Robertson



**Centre: Rev Cole Maynard FP**



**Repatriation**







"It's a magic wardrobe. There's a wood inside it, and it's snowing, and there's a faun and a witch and it's called Narnia. Come and see."

The Anchors and Juniors Christmas Outing is to the Lyceum Theatre to enjoy "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" - the Boys will travel to the theatre by coach and enjoy an exciting evening entertainment with ice cream.

The Company would like to thank all who attended and supported the Ceilidh on Saturday 14 November £200.50 was raised for Company funds which helps all three sections. A further £84 was raised for the Trinity Centre Food Bank, Wester Hailes.

The second round of the National Masterteam takes place on Saturday 12 December and we wish both our "A" and "B" teams well.

## 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!



Colour in the picture of the Babe in the Manger





Some comments from TEEN Cafe

*"Like different range of making things and trying things"*

*"I always have a nice time"*

*"Like the informality of choosing what I want to do at the club"*

### TEEN Café Progress

TEEN Café at the Gibson Craig Hall has been going for over two years now. The group has around 18 registered youngsters and is open to pupils in P7-S6 to drop in on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month from 4-6pm in the Gibson Craig Hall, during term-time. We have quite a variety of activities, crafts and games on offer, such as table tennis, badminton, pool and snooker, table games, art and clay-modelling, jewellery making, cake-decorating (and eating!) and there is tuck shop with juice, crisps and Fairtrade chocolate on sale. Youngsters have the opportunity to try different activities or just chatting and chilling in a very relaxed and safe atmosphere!

### TEEN Café - Could you lend a hand sometime, please?

TEEN Café is run by volunteers from the Mission & Outreach team but we do need some extra help now—do you think you could lend a hand on an occasional basis, even for a part of the time we are open? Could you be a welcoming face or help set up the games or tend the tuck-shop? Do you have a skill which you could demonstrate or pass on to the youngsters eg origami, drawing, sewing, card making, games etc? We find the youngsters are great fun and very appreciative of what we provide for them. The M&O committee are keen to follow the church calendar and we use this to influence TEEN events—Harvest, Homelessness, Foodbank, Christmas, Easter.

If you would like to find out more about events at TEEN Café or if you would like more information about training, vetting, to consider whether you could help, please contact Viola MacPhail on 449 4664 or 07806 806920—or just pop along and join in the fun sometime soon!

## In anticipation .....?????



It is nearly a year now since we set up the cleaning teams at the Kirk. These are working out really well I am pleased to say, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those already doing this for their efforts.

I will be making up new rotas towards the end of March next year, and prior to this will be giving others the opportunity to come 'on board'. I already have one 'lady in waiting' keen to join a new team! Perhaps you would like to do something for the Kirk, but not be in the foreground? If so—this would be the job for you and you would be very welcome to join our merry band.

Could this be your New Year resolution? Please give this some thought prior to the next clipboard appeal.

Thanks,

Margaret Innes  
Cleaning co-ordinator  
Tel. 449-2468





# The Hospitality Committee—9 January 2016



The Hospitality Committee presents: “Paddington” in an all age  
free film afternoon

in the Ogston Hall, Balerno, on Saturday 9 January 2016.

Doors open at 2pm for a 2.30pm start and finishing at 4pm  
approximately.

Refreshments will be provided.

Tickets for this event can be obtained from Maureen Reid

Tel 0131 449 7831 or 07743539871.

Also from members of the hospitality committee

## Good Book Group The Amber Keeper—Freda Lightfoot

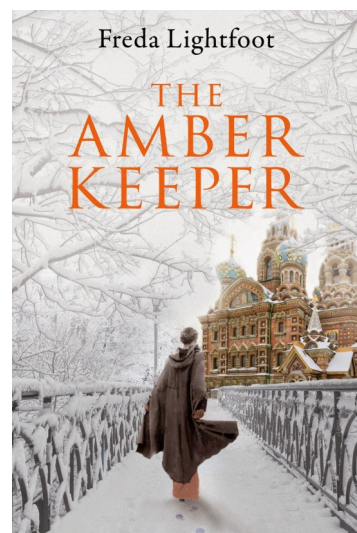
The Good Book Group met up on Monday 5 October to catch up over coffee and discuss the latest read from our autumn reading list—The Amber Keeper.

The book transports you from the Lake District in the 1960s back to the grandeur of the Russian Empire in 1911 with tales of a grandmother’s life as a governess and the revolution which erupted around her. The main character, Abbey, is determined to uncover her mother’s past following her death and in the process unearths family secrets from her grandmother’s past that still impact on her family’s life in the Lake District in 1960.

The book was well liked and enjoyed by the majority of the group particularly for the descriptions of life in the Russian Empire and the subsequent revolution as well as other aspects of life in Russia during that time period. These were preferred to the parts of the story set in the Lake District in the 1960s. It also sparked some discussion about the secrets that families keep and how these come to light. Many secrets would remain hidden unless someone asks the right question which unlocks a past which can often be seen as much less scandalous in current times. Everyone agreed the ending to the book was disappointing and didn’t live up to the rest of the story.

Overall the book achieved one of our higher scores at 7.6 out of 10.

Maureen Reid







**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 ...

## 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*

*Raffle*

*Bring your own bottle and glass*

*Tickets £15*

*Contact Viola MacPhail*

*Tel. 449 4664 or 07806 806920*

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



## Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 31 January 2016**

Joint Valley Service in Juniper Green Church at 10.30am

**Sunday 7 February 2016**

Heriot-Watt University 50th Anniversary Service  
in Currie Kirk 10.00am



# 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

## "A Bell" by Clinton Scollard



Had I the power  
 To cast a bell that should from some grand tower,  
 At the first Christmas hour,  
 Outring,  
 And fling  
 A jubilant message wide,  
 The forged metals should be thus allied:-  
 No iron Pride,  
 But soft Humility, and rich-veined Hope  
 Cleft from a sunny slope;  
 And there should be  
 White Charity,  
 And silvery Love, that knows not Doubt nor Fear,  
 To make the peal more clear;  
 And then to firmly fix the fine alloy,  
 There should be Joy!





# Family News

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

George Hardie, ex 6 Dolphin Gardens East

Please pray for the family



**Wedding:** Caroline Rutherford & Angus Bayne

**Transferred by Certificate:**

Mrs Pat Howard, 11 Margaret Rose Loan, Edinburgh EH10 7EQ



# December/January Flower List



## December 2015

- 6** Mrs M Bradly, 24 Easter Currie Crescent  
Mrs S Law, 110 Lanark Road West
- 13** The Robert Family, 33 Riccarton Grove

## January 2016

- 10** Mrs M Davidson, 12 Thomson Road
- 17** Mrs J McColl, 34 Easter Currie Terrace
- 24** Mrs E Smith, 20 Riccarton Crescent  
Mr & Mrs I Matheson, 64 Riccarton Mains Road

Thank you to everyone who made donations or dedicated flowers during the past year. The flowers not only give pleasure to the congregation each Sunday but are very much appreciated by those who receive them after the service, perhaps when bereaved, ill or have a special birthday or anniversary.

Should anyone wish to donate to the Flower Fund or dedicate flowers on a specific Sunday, please leave cash or a cheque, made payable to Currie Kirk Flower Fund, at the Church Office or give to me at 2 Pentland View, Currie.

Erica Porteous  
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	Eddie Pigott Email: pigottsef@icloud.com		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	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 February/March issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to [isobelwebber@btinternet.com](mailto:isobelwebber@btinternet.com) before or by Friday 29 January.** Clipboard will be ready for distribution on Sunday 7 February 2016—see page 9—no service in Currie Kirk on Sunday 31 January.

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