



The Kirk News

November 2016

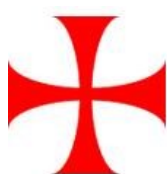


In this Issue

Calendar Overview
Poppies Weeping Window
Message from the Manse
Why Poppies?
Winter Clothes Appeal
Keep Knitting
Pop-Up Family Church
Good Book Group

Winter Market
Winter Night Shelter
Care Van Clothing
The Boys' Brigade
Kidz @ Currie
The Guild
Macmillan Cancer

What is free ... ?
Bathgate Band Concert
Community Activities
60's disco
Family News
Flower List
Who's Who



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



CALENDAR OVERVIEW:

Why not cut out this handy calendar and put it on your fridge!!

(GCH= Gibson Craig Halls)

November:	6 Sunday	10 am —Worship: Guild Dedication Service, Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	13 Sunday	10 am —Remembrance Sunday Service, Currie Kirk
	19 Saturday	6.30—8.30 pm — Winter Market with craft stalls in GCH
	20 Sunday	10 am —Worship, Currie Kirk
	26 Saturday	3-5 pm —Pop-up Family Church (GCH)—all welcome
	27 Sunday	10 am — Advent Worship, Currie Kirk, informal communion following worship
December:	4 Sunday	10 am — Advent Worship, Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	11 Sunday	10 am — Festival Choir Advent Service , Currie Kirk
	17 Saturday	11 am—3 pm Reflection Day in Currie Kirk with service at 12 pm
	18 Sunday	10 am — Children's Nativity
	24 Saturday	Christmas Eve—All-Age Praise Service in GCH
	24 Saturday	11.30 pm — Watchnight Service , Currie Kirk
	25 Sunday	10 am — Christmas Day Worship , Currie Kirk
	31 Saturday	Hogmanay Ceilidh in GCH
2017		
January	1 Sunday	10 am —Worship, Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	8 Sunday	10 am — Kirkin of the Rotary Club of Currie and Balerno
	15 Sunday	10 am —Worship, Currie Kirk
	22 Sunday	10 am —Communion, Currie Kirk
	29 Sunday	10.30 am — Joint Valley Service

Poppies Weeping Window

The photograph on the front page was taken at The Black Watch Castle and Museum Perth by Ian Heatley. The museum is located within the dramatic and historic Balhousie Castle, the origins of which are said to date back to the 12th Century. The Black Watch Museum shares the story of the iconic Black Watch, Scotland's Premier Highland Regiment.

For the duration of the First World War, the Regiment saw extensive action throughout France as well as other countries such as Salonika and Palestine. The various battalions of The Black Watch saw service from the first battles of the Aisne and the Marne, right through to 'the advance to victory' in 1918. Throughout the war The Black Watch maintained its reputation as a world class regiment, whether in the deserts of Mesopotamia or the mud of Flanders.

By the end of the First World War nearly 9,000 soldiers of The Black Watch were killed and almost 20,000 wounded. These losses served to deepen the regimental bond with its heartlands of Dundee, Angus, Perthshire and Fife.

[This extract of the "Poppies Weeping Window" by Paul Cummins, Artist, and Tom Piper Designer, has been taken from the programme which was included in the Museum admission]





A Message from the Manse

Dearest friends,

November is often depicted as a hard and sad month. Trees are losing leaves. Days are losing light. It feels right therefore appropriate that this month remembers the soldiers lost; and seamen lost, loved ones lost -and with them, hopes and dreams lost.

Sometimes in the face of loss the only language we can find to express our feelings is poetry. I know there are many good poets in Currie Kirk. I love poetry because it says in simple ways what no sermon can say. Here is Robert Frost's heartfelt reflection on this month entitled **My November Guest**

*'My Sorrow, when she's here with me,
Thinks these dark days of autumn rain
Are beautiful as days can be;
She loves the bare, the withered tree;
She walks the sodden pasture lane.*

*Her pleasure will not let me stay.
She talks and I am fain to list:
She's glad the birds are gone away,
She's glad her simple worsted grey
Is silver now with clinging mist.*

*The desolate, deserted trees,
The faded earth, the heavy sky,
The beauties she so truly sees,
She thinks I have no eye for these,
And vexes me for reason why.*

*Not yesterday I learned to know
The love of bare November days
Before the coming of the snow,
But it were vain to tell her so,
And they are better for her praise' Robert Frost*

Last year at our Remembrance Service we shared a modern poem by Nathan Gunapalan who served in Afghanistan with the Duke of Lancaster Regiment. He gave permission for us to use his poem called **The Repatriation** and here it is.

*As I stood there rooted to the spot
one amongst hundreds I am all alone
the wail of the bagpipes
the look from the corner of my eye,
is this real? It can't be—but there they were,
in their caskets draped in the red, white and blue of the Union Jack;
their soulless bodies being carried on the shoulders of tearful friends.*

*As they pass, a brace from a Sergeant Major,
a salute from a commanding officer
and the sad bewildered stares from a hundred lost souls,
laid to rest aboard the aircraft.*

*The rear doors slowly shut, as if a coffin itself,
A sense of finality; a sense of sorrow and loss,
still standing we looked on as the grey
bird in the sky dipped its wing in tribute,
then took them home.*

Nathan Gunapalan



Perhaps Robert Frost has something to teach us about befriending the kind of sadness only poetry can express. Yet, whilst our remembrances bring sadness, they can also bring us joy. As Christians we remember that we belong to a great family of God's people in heaven and on earth—we believe that the light of heaven dawns on those in the valley of death, guiding them into God's love. All our lives find their source and fulfilment in the love of God. This assurance of faith brings us great hope and reminds us that every day of life is a gift to be enjoyed. Only God can turn the sadness of loss, the changing of seasons and the passing of time into the brightness of a new morning each and every day.

Winter Clothes Appeal for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

For each of the past three years Edinburgh Direct Aid (EDA) has shipped containers of clothes to some of the 70,000 Syrian refugees in Aarsal, a town in Lebanon over 5000' above sea level with bitterly cold winters. Between now and Christmas EDA need as much as possible (in good condition) of the following:



Winter Coats
Padded Jackets
Waterproofs
Fleeces
Woolies
Thermals

Mountain Boots
Welly Boots
Padded Boots
Good Shoes
Socks
Gloves

Woolly Hats (for young and old, Boys and Girls, Men and Women, Babies too, but especially for Children and Teenagers.)

Also: New underwear, toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, sanitary towels, razors)—simple first aid things (pain killers, plasters, disinfectants.)

And for the EDA self-help workshops and schools: **Stationery, Knitting Materials, Fabric and Haberdashery.**

And also **flocks of volunteers are needed to pack and sort at the warehouse** (16a West Harbour Road Edinburgh EH5 1PN—further details from Ian 0785 785 5849, Ann 0781 494 9468, David 0796 356 2686)

You can **drop off** items at the **Church Office** on **Tuesday to Friday mornings** or bring them to the **Church on Sunday 27 November.**

Grant Gordon



The Guild: Knitting Hats for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

(see article above)

The ladies of the Guild love a knitting project and they are knitting hats for the above appeal. As we only have until Sunday 27 November to knit as many hats as possible we are appealing to the knitters in the congregation to help us by knitting hats—any size, any colour and with any type of wool.

A copy of an easy to knit hat pattern is available in the Church Office where donations of wool will also be gratefully received. Completed hats can be left there too.

Can we reach a target of 100 hats? With the dark nights what better way to keep occupied!

K E E P Knitting !!!!!!!!!!!



Pop-Up Family Church

3.00-5.00 pm—Gibson Craig Halls

26 November



We welcome children from babies up to Secondary school who are accompanied by a parent, grandparent or friend of the family. There will be a bible story or drama followed by a craft to reflect the day's theme and we will finish with lots of singing accompanied by live music. All this promises to be a fantastic way to round off a Saturday afternoon—just to tempt you a little more there will be refreshments, with slightly more to offer than juice and a biscuit—perhaps a hot dog and pop-corn?

It is always helpful if you can let us know you will attend with young children so if you plan on coming perhaps you could let us know by phoning the Kirk-office on 0131-451-5141 or emailing currie_kirk@btconnect.com.

For more information please contact Louise Lamont at elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk

Louise Lamont

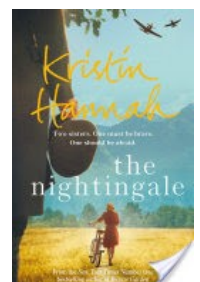
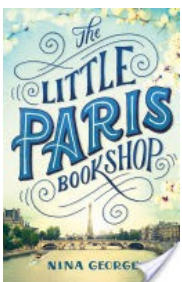


Good Book Group

The October read was “According to Yes” by Dawn French. The central character is Rosie who goes to America to “get away from things” and to live her life more positively, “according to yes”. She finds work as a nanny for a family of three generations living in posh upper Manhattan in New York. The matriarch of the family is a cold austere person, difficult to like, and her wishes are the law. Rosie, of course, is her own person and does her own thing. She gets on well with the youngsters and, unfortunately, rather too well with the three generations of men in the family, ending up pregnant. I’ll not spoil the rest of the story!

The discussion was wide-ranging, with some liking the book and others not, but we were all agreed that Rosie was very much Dawn French, so if like me, you’re not a fan, you might not enjoy the book.

Our next meeting is on 7 November and the book is “The Little Paris Bookshop” by Nina George and our December meeting is on the 5th, the book being “The Nightingale” by Kristin Hannah.



Krys Hume
449 4036



Paul Selman is a published Christian author, writing under the pen name of Harry Hunter, and a Church of Scotland elder living in Ayrshire. He has decided to make a range of fiction and poetry available through a new website. Its content may be freely used for church magazines and similar publications—all that he requests is that authorship is acknowledged.

The website address is: <https://harryhunteronline.wordpress.com/>

He has asked that a few words be placed in the Kirk's magazine drawing worshippers' attention to this free resource.



Saturday 19 November 2016
Gibson Craig Halls
6.30–8.30—with Craft Stalls

Following the success of last year's winter market, the Mission and Outreach Committee decided to organise another one and will be hosting the Winter Market once again in the Gibson Craig Halls, 6.30—8.30pm. A chance to do some early Christmas shopping or just a catch up with friends over a glass of wine or tea/coffee and shortbread?

Last year we donated £900 to the Foodbank at Holy Trinity church in Wester Hailes. The profit this year will go to Braidburn school and, in particular, the sensory lighting for the hydrotherapy pool.

Braidburn school is in Oxbgangs and provides a supportive learning environment for children with additional support needs. Friends of Braidburn school are trying to raise funds for some sensory lighting for the hydrotherapy pool. By placing a person with special needs in a pleasant warm environment with music where the troubles of the outside world are completely absent, a therapist or one-to-one carer can encourage movement with the child/adult to move around the pool with or without the aid of floats. An overactive person can be calmed, an inactive child can become interested. The partially sighted can see and enjoy the vivid moving colours. By applying a little pressure to the floating switches, the whole room can change colour or voice therapy can allow the child to interact with some of the moving beams.



**Bethany
Christian
Trust**

Winter Night shelter.

As well as the Care Van going out 364 nights of the year, Bethany organise a Night Shelter for six months of the year, using city centre church halls. The night shelter allows up to 50 homeless clients a safe and dry place to sleep and shelter overnight. Churches play their part by providing and cooking a hot dinner in the church hall. Currie Kirk has opted to volunteer on two nights this winter—Monday 28 November 2016; and Wednesday 29 March 2017. If you would like to help on either of these nights or want to find out more, please contact Fiona Pigott on 466-1459.

Care Van Clothing

If you are clearing out wardrobes before Christmas, we are always grateful for sweatshirts, t-shirts, jeans, trainers and outerwear in men's sizes to offer to the homeless we meet monthly. Please contact Gordon Clephane on 449-2313.



Harvest Thanksgiving—Thank You

Three very full car loads of groceries were taken to the Foodbank at Holy Trinity Church, Wester Hailes after the Harvest Thanksgiving Service—thanks to all who donated.



Peter and Sam

This month the Boys in Company Section (P7-S6) were set a challenge called “multiply your money”. The Boys were split into four teams and each given £10. They were told to invest the money wisely and use it to raise money for charity. Each team came up with a different idea of how they would spend their money—home baking, music, tuck shop and water bottles. Once the boys had developed their idea they went out and turned the initial £40 into £165 that will be given to Cancer Research UK.

The picture shows Peter and Sam selling their cakes at Church on Sunday where the two Boys raised £85.82. Peter has been requested to bake again and join the Guild!! His meringues were fabulous and the cakes beautifully decorated.

The Boys also went to watch Scotland v Lithuania and although the result did not go Scotland's way all who attended enjoyed the experience.

Congratulation to Andrew Sawkins for being the Dux at Currie High, achieving three 'A' Advanced Highers and two 'A' Highers. Also to John Wilhelm who achieved three 'A' Highers—both are now off to study at the University of Edinburgh. John is now an officer in the Junior Section.

The Company will be collecting chocolate treats for the foodbank at Wester Hailes to distribute to the families at Christmas—chocolate money, santas, in fact, anything “chocolate”—this will be coordinated with the Mission & Outreach team.

The Anchors and Junior Section have been thinking about the change of season from summer to autumn and have made their own autumnal tree that can be seen in the Gibson Craig Hall.

Michael Knott
 Captain

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!

What is Remembrance Day?

“Remembrance Day, or Poppy Day, is held in Commonwealth countries to remember members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty, as well as all those who have been involved with and affected by war and conflict. Originally declared a special day in 1919 by King George V to remember the soldiers killed in the First World War, now we remember soldiers from all wars who have given their lives.

As the First World War was formally declared over “at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month”, we traditionally hold two minutes of silence throughout the Commonwealth on **11th November** every year. In addition, the second Sunday of each November is known as Remembrance Sunday, and church services remember our fallen soldiers while the Queen, members of the Royal Family, politicians and old soldiers lay poppy wreaths at the Cenotaph in London (near the Houses of Parliament).

Leading up to Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday we buy small paper “poppies” to show that we are remembering the sacrifices of those who died, and also to raise money to support serving and ex-Service personnel and their families. People who have lost a loved one in service put small wooden crosses near war memorials around the country, and local branches of the Royal British Legion lay wreaths.”





The Guild

Thank you to those who attended the Guild's Coffee Morning on 15 October—thank you also to those who contributed books, bric-a-brac and baked. As ever, the Church and community supported our efforts in raising the magnificent total of £568.50 toward the Guild's project. The more solar ovens we can provide for the indigenous people in Bolivia the more their health and family life will improve so, on their behalf, thank you.

The Guild now looks forward to Susan Veitch from the Sick Kids Foundation on 1 November at 10 am; the Rededication Service in the Kirk on Sunday 6 November; and Professor Geoffrey Palmer who will be giving us a talk on Scottish Caribbean History on 15 November at 7.30 pm. All Welcome.

Please see the article on Page 4—a challenge has been set to the Guild—100 hats by 27 November!!!

Freda Robertson
President



A Big Thank You!

Yvonne and I would like to thank each and every one of you who supported us at the Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 30 September.

Our mum, Margaret (Liddle) started hosting the Macmillan Coffee Morning 10 years ago in memory of our dad, George and wanted to give something back to Macmillan. Year on year with the help and support of her many friends and family she managed to increase her donation till finally last year whilst undergoing her own treatment for ovarian cancer she broke her own record and raised an amazing £1,111. Following Mum's death in March, Yvonne and I decided to carry on the coffee morning in Mum and Dad's memory. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the support we were given, with donations of home baking and more especially people turning up on the day to support us and remember Mum by partaking in her favourite pastime of all, drinking coffee and eating home baking!

We would like to announce that we managed to raise a phenomenal £1,350!

Once again a massive thank you, we couldn't have done it without you all.

Audrey Mavor

What is free on the approach to Christmas?



Not very much, or nothing at all, I suspect will be the answer most of us would give. Before the 'big day' though, many of us will be getting visits from the postie. Most of these items will have a stamp on them (although not the brown envelopes!). I know it does not seem like a year since I last made this plea—and it does not just apply at Christmas—but this serves as a timely reminder that for no monetary cost to yourself, you can help Christian Aid to help others, simply by saving the stamps and popping them through the letterbox at the Kirk Office. Please be good enough to use a pair of scissors and cut round the stamp leaving approximately ¼ inch all the way round.

Ishbel Massie

The Bathgate Band Concert



A great turnout, a terrific band and a wonderful evening! The Bathgate Band's concert at the Gibson Craig Halls on 20 October proved a roaring success as the band entertained us with a superb programme of music under the talented direction of Anne Crookston. With traditional Brass Band marches, music from the silver screen, hymns of praise, traditional Scottish tunes and more, these accomplished musicians, resplendent in their brand new uniforms, provided a stunning performance with something for everyone. Hats off to the soloists who deserve a special mention, in particular, "The Two Imps" who delighted the audience with their xylophone duet.

Many, many thanks to those who donated on the night, raising an impressive £770 for the band. Needless to say, the band is delighted!

A huge thank you also to all those who helped on the night and to everyone who helped behind the scenes in planning and organising the concert.

Sandra Cranford

Situation Vacant

Gibson Craig Hall Booking Clerk—1.7 hours per week

Further information from Grant Gordon—449 2554

Community Activities

The Gibson Craig Halls are 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	Wednesday
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 Day Centre	Dorothy Simpson coordinatorCDC@gmx.com	07562 142885	Friday by referral
Highland Dancing	Michelle Marshall	339 4704	Wednesday
Octagon Club	Terry Maloney	07514 664292	Wednesday
Nether Currie Baby and Toddler Group	Jennifer Nicol	449 4481	Fridays of the month 9.30 am to 11.30 am (term time only)
Pilates Class	Steph Bain	445 3690	From 14/9; Noon—1 pm
Senior Citizens	Jean Smith	449 5596	Monday
Snack Lunches	Viola MacPhail	449 4664	Tuesday
Yoga	Monica Evans	07986 600432	Tuesday: 8-9 pm
Zumba Exercise Class Thighs, Bums & Tums	Tom Lowe	07980 692929	Thursday: 10.15-11.15 am Tuesday: 10—11 am

60s Disco—thanks.



Three swingers in party mood!!

Thanks again to everyone who came along to the 60s Disco in aid of the British Heart Foundation. We raised £670 and along with matched funding from Lloyds bank and Gift-Aid, BHF received over £1170. I think everyone who left at the end of the night were asking when the next disco will be!! Massive thanks to the DJ and all the willing helpers.

Fiona Pigott.

Family News

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

Isobel Johnstone, 38 Forthview Road

Please pray for the family



Alyson Lesley Warren and **Chin Kai Lim** were married at Dundas Castle on Saturday 22 October 2016 by the Rev Dr Easter Smart



November Flower List



6 Mrs D Brown
 Mrs B Smith

13 Mrs A Williamson
 Mrs V MacPhail
 Mrs M Preston

20 Mr & Mrs A Goudie
 Mrs J Perry
 Mrs J Dick

27 Mrs D Collins

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has generously donated to the Flower Fund during 2016. Each Sunday the flowers in church are taken to members who are unwell, are bereaved or who may be celebrating a special birthday or anniversary and this is very much appreciated. Unfortunately, over the years the list of those giving has decreased, therefore, should anyone wish to donate to the Flower Fund please get in touch with me.

Thanks are also due to the team of ladies who bunch and deliver the flowers each Sunday. Most of the ladies have done this for many years despite being involved in other church duties. If you feel you can become part of this team and deliver flowers approximately five times over a year please let me know soon before I make the rota for the next six months.

Finally, there is a small team of ladies who arrange the church flowers for the Sunday service, again this team has also decreased over the years. Should you feel able to help with placing flowers in the church please let me know and I will give you any information you may require.

Thank you All,
Erica Porteous, 2 Pentland View, Currie
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 Halls, 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 & Data Protection Officer	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 Halls 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	Michael Knott Anchors Juniors Company/Seniors	Thursday 6.00-7.00 pm Thursday 7.00-8.30 pm Sunday 6.30-8.30	440 3216
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	Rev Dr Easter Smart		449 4719
Currie Kirk Singers	Gordon Cranford	Various	449 4639
Guild	Freda Robertson	Tuesday	449 2593
Kidz@Currie	Elaine Rae	Sunday	451 5384
Pop-up Family Church	Contact Church Office	Last Saturday of each month Gibson Craig Halls from 3.00 pm—5.00 pm except June, July, August & December	451 5141
Walking Group	Rena Milligan	Third Sunday of each month	449 2017



The Kirk News

Can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/Kirknews>—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 18 November 2016. Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**

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