

The Kirk News

December 2017 /
January 2018

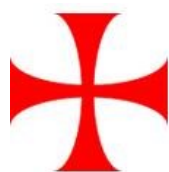


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THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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)

2017

December	3 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	5 Tuesday	10 am —Guild—GCH—"Advent and Christmas"—Speaker: Tom Gordon
	6 Wednesday	11-11.30 —Prayers for All, GCH—Lounge
	9 Saturday	11 am—3 pm —Reflective Service: Service will take place at 12 Noon—12.30 followed by Communion
	10 Sunday	10 am —Advent worship: Festival Choir with Lessons and Carols
	16 Saturday	7 pm —Currie Community Carols—GCH
	17 Sunday	10 am —Family Advent Worship
	19 Tuesday	1 pm —Guild—GCH—Christmas Party with Rosy Carmichael; Craft; & Gifts
	24 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk
	24 Sunday	6.30 pm —Christmas Eve—Family Christingle & Pyjama Service in GCH. All children are welcome from 5.30 to make their Christingle lanterns before the service.
	24 Sunday	11.30 pm —Watchnight Service, Refreshments will be served from 10.30 pm, Currie Kirk.
	25 Monday	10 am —Christmas Day Worship, Currie Kirk
2018	31 Sunday	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk, with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship

2018

January	7 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	14 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk
	16 Tuesday	6 pm —Guild—GCH—Scots Night with the Bo'ness Belles
	21 Sunday	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk, with Sacrament of Communion.
	26 Friday	2.00-3.30 pm —Messy Church—GCH—Noah
	28 Sunday	10.30 —Joint Valley Service—Juniper Green Church
February	4 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	6 Tuesday	10 am —Guild—Glimpses of Quakerism—Speaker: Alison Burnley
	11 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk
	18 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk
	20 Tuesday	2.00 pm —Guild—The Golden West—Speaker: Fred Daniels
	23 Friday	2.00-3.30 —Messy Church—GCH
	25 Sunday	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk, with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship
	27 Tuesday	7.30 pm —Joint Valley Guild—Rev Ian Gilmour—Slavery & Song—Slateford Longstone



Kirk News

The Kirk News for February/March will be issued on Sunday 4 February 2018



A Christmas Message from The Manse

Dear Friends

It's cold and dark outside and we are in the journey from Advent to Christmas—a journey which invites us to decorate trees with lights, to tell the old old story, to share mince pies and mulled wine and to wish everyone peace and good cheer.

This is also a time of year when we are bombarded with charity appeals and leaflets which remind us that elsewhere for many people life is far from peaceful or full of good cheer. We are invited to donate to charities involved not only with helping vulnerable people in our own cities, but also trying to assist the famine in Somalia, the cholera epidemic in Yemen, the refugee crisis across so many lands.

Perhaps these charities remind us that the world was not very different when Jesus was born than it is now. There were tyrant kings and cruel governments and Jesus as an infant was forced to flee as a refugee to Egypt. We remember that he came as a light to the world, and as a means to bring hope and peace. In the Magnificat Prayer, his mother Mary proclaimed, “the Lord, Has filled the hungry with good things”.

This is why our generosity not only to one another but to the rest of the world matters. Christ came to live and lose his life to show that there is another way, a better way than the ways of tyranny and violence, oppression or cruelty. Somehow in the midst of our still troubled world, his light still shines . . . it shines through people like you.

I wish you a peaceful, and indeed, very Merry Christmas.

God bless,

Easter

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His* 
presence

The Best Christmas

It's the best Christmas ever
when someone gets a gift
beyond their wild imaginings and dreams.
It's the best Christmas ever,
When expectations shift,
and spirit-songs have hope among their themes.

It's the best Christmas ever -
the Gift above all else
is offered now from Love's own treasure-store.
It's the best Christmas ever;
as Grace comes down for all,
To fill our homes, to bless our lives once more.

From "A Blessing to Follow" by Tom Gordon

Currie Community Carols

Saturday 16 December at 7 pm

Gibson Craig Hall



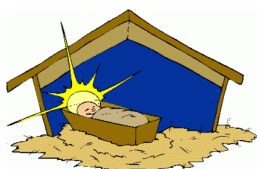
All Welcome

Christmas Wordsearch



There are 15 words to find
(in all different directions)

Christmas Tree
Joy
Carol
Tinsel
Merry
Poinsettia
Manger
Present
Mary
Donkey
Shepherd
Jesus
Star
Angel
Inn



C	Y	L	O	R	A	C	N	F	O	L	Z	B
Q	H	V	S	E	W	L	R	N	J	E	T	P
M	E	R	R	Y	B	A	H	L	K	G	N	R
A	X	U	I	P	T	O	V	C	R	N	B	E
R	H	C	X	S	Q	L	K	V	I	A	I	S
Y	D	S	D	Y	T	I	N	S	E	L	C	E
M	R	K	O	E	A	M	J	O	Y	A	V	N
F	E	J	Y	K	F	B	A	R	P	O	M	T
X	H	C	T	N	D	K	P	S	C	F	H	J
T	P	L	P	O	I	N	S	E	T	T	I	A
V	E	I	C	D	N	R	W	C	Z	R	A	S
C	H	R	N	X	Z	I	M	A	N	G	E	R
N	S	Y	T	N	J	E	S	U	S	U	X	E



The Guild



Congratulations ...

The motto of The Guild—Whose We Are and Whom We Serve. In 1887 Dr Archibald Cherteris successfully petitioned the General Assembly to establish the Woman's Guild. Some say that churches could not function if it was not for The Guild!

At the Rededication Service on Sunday 19 November 18 ladies were presented with Long Service Certificates totalling 546 years of service to The Guild.

Thank you to Peter who took the picture from the Gallery in the Kirk and succeeded in making it a special day.



Total—a magnificent 2,203 hats—all sizes and knitted for all ages now on their way to Arsal, a town in Lebanon. The photograph shows some of the knitters who have participated in this amazing "Knit Off".

It is fast approaching midway through the Guild Session. In December we have Tom Gordon who will be speaking on Advent and Christmas. Meeting commences at 10 am—All Welcome.

On 19 December it will be our first Christmas Party lunch and Rosy Carmichael will be demonstrating how to make crafts, gifts and decorations. She will also have some

for sale. In January we have our Scots Night at 6.00 pm when the Bo'ness Belles will be entertaining us.

Mackenzies will, once again, be catering so let Moira (Tel: 467 0682) know if you wish to attend either or both the events.



One of our Guild ladies husband's makes bird boxes—he is a member of the Rotary Club and sells these for £10 with all proceeds going to MS Research. If you would like one—makes a great Christmas present—please get in touch

with Duncan Law on 449 3352.

Isobel Webber

Photograph taken at the Coffee Morning for the Guild project "Prospects in Scotland"



Family Christingle & Pyjama Service

24 December—5.30 for 6.30 pm

Gibson Craig Hall

“Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.....”

Does this sound like your house on Christmas Eve? Mine neither. If you want to start your celebrations with some peace, dress the children up in their onesies, jammies etc and head for the Gibson Craig Halls for the Pyjama Service at 6.30pm. Come a little earlier at 5.30pm and they can make their own Christingle then spend some quiet time doing some Christmas crafts and puzzles before the service starts.

Then hear again the wonderful story of Jesus’ birth accompanied by lots of singing.

Afterwards join us for some refreshments before heading homewards.

Do join us.

It’s great fun. Oh and you don’t have to have a child with you.

Louise Lamont



Link to Hope—Family and Elderly Christmas Shoebox Appeal—2017

A big thank you to all who took the time to fill shoe boxes for families and the elderly living in Romania, Moldova, the Ukraine and Bulgaria. It was wonderful to see so much thought going into the contents of each box and you had obviously taken time to plan and pack your shoe boxes accordingly. Very impressive.

Currie Kirk is one of the Area Collectors in Scotland and we were delighted to collect 65 boxes: 43 from Currie Kirk, 5 from the Royal Bank of Scotland at Gogarburn and a young lady who drove through from Cambuslang on the night before the pick-up with 17 boxes.

My thanks to Ishbel and a couple of BBs’ who were on hand on Friday 10 November to help transport the boxes out to the Link to Hope Charity Van.

Will keep you updated on the shoe box travels after Christmas.

Gordon Clephane
M&O Committee





The Story of Noah



Join us on the last Friday in January 2018 to learn the story of Noah and his Ark and how God helped him to save the animals, fishes and birds that make up our wonderful world.

Messy Church is a fun way to learn about the Bible and the amazing stories in it. We do a mixture of crafts, games, songs and videos. At the end of every session there is a chance to get to know each other better over a drink and a snack.

Messy Church is open to children of all ages accompanied by an adult of any age. If you need any further information, please contact Louise on 0131 466-3472 or email : elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk.

All are welcome so please come along.

Louise Lamont

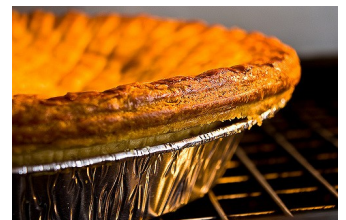


Bethany Night Shelter.

As well as being part of the Bethany Care Van teams, Currie Kirk will be involved in the Night Shelter on two nights this winter. Whereas the Care Van goes out every night of the year apart from 31 December, the Night shelter runs nightly from October to April. Bethany use a number of city centre church halls to allow homeless people a chance of a hot meal, dry and warm bed for the night and a general place of refuge. This year each night will allow 50 users to take up this offer with the numbers going up to 65 through the months of December, January and February. Each church which volunteers prepares, cooks and serves a two-course meal at the venue and leaves enough food for the Bethany workers and breakfast.

We are very grateful to all our volunteers who come along and help to prepare and serve dinner—it is always a mixture of highs and lows from within the church team and with the users we meet each night. We are also immensely grateful to Mark McGill who donates steak pies every year to feed 50 people, and there's always enough left over for seconds!

If you'd like to know more about the work of Bethany Christian Trust please check out their website: <http://www.bethanychristiantrust.com>



Fiona Pigott
Mission and Outreach

FreshStart

Helping people make a home for themselves



Cookers for Christmas Appeal for 2017 has now been launched.

Can you help?

Any donation to help Fresh Start buy a cooker for someone who has no means of cooking their Christmas Dinner, may be handed to Elizabeth Wood.

This month, Fresh Start is appealing for:

Dinner Plates, Toasters, Vacuums, Kettles, Irons and Dusters

Thank you for all your support.



Thought for the New Year When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled



When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.



Howard Thurman

Data Protection and Privacy Update

The Clock is ticking.....



It is well over a year since Currie Kirk, as required by the Church of Scotland introduced a Data Protection Policy to safeguard the Personal Data held about the people we deal with as members, associates, donors, employees, hall users, suppliers etc. The legal basis for this is the Data Protection Act 1998, which places obligations on the people and organisations who hold or process Personal Data and gives rights to the individuals whose data is held.

The Data Protection Policy, which includes our Privacy Policy, can be found on the Kirk website by following the link 'Data Protection Policy'. A paper copy can be obtained from the Kirk Office. There is also an article introducing the subject in Kirk News October 2016.

I believe that a periodic reminder of the rights and obligations which The Data Protection Policy covers is appropriate and, to this end, I have contacted all those Office bearers, team leaders, Kirk Secretary and others who hold and process Personal Data on behalf of the Kirk. If you hold Personal Data on behalf of the Kirk and I have not contacted you, please let me know.

There is also another reason for reviewing our practice.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a new EU law that will replace the Data Protection Act 1998 and will apply in the UK from 25 May 2018. The GDPR strengthens the rules around Personal Data and requires organisations to be more accountable and transparent. It also gives people greater control over their own personal data. The government has confirmed that the UK's decision to leave the EU will not affect the commencement of the GDPR.

The UK law has not yet been enacted, and so we can't be sure what all its ramifications will be, but it seems wise to review our procedures now since the new law is expected to build on the existing legislation. The Church of Scotland will be issuing further guidance to churches early in 2018 and so you can expect to hear more then.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please let me know.

Ron Dow
Data Protection Officer



Annual Reminder for Christian Aid

We are just about to approach the period when most of us get a few cards with 'real' stamps on, rather than the franked ones that appear on our bills!! May I again ask that you cut your stamps with a ¼ inch border (please use scissors!) off the envelopes and pop them in through the letter box of the Kirk Office. This is a very simple way of helping Christian Aid as these are then sold in foreign countries to stamp collectors. Although I make this appeal at this time of year, it is an ongoing exercise, and stamps may be handed in at any time.

Please support this cause – it costs you nothing, but a few minutes of your time.

Ishbel Massie

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
Currie and District Local History Society	Douglas Lowe	449 4349	Monday Evenings twice monthly October to March
Currie Community Council	Madge Barker	449 3450	2nd Monday of each Month —not July & December
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 (Fuschia)	Steph Bain	445 3690	Wednesday: Noon—1 pm
Pentland Gymnastics	Alison McLean	07731 429625	Tuesday
Senior Citizens	Jean Smith	449 5596	Monday
Snack Lunches	Viola MacPhail	449 4664	Tuesday
Yoga	Anne Marie Crozier	07887 526116	Monday 10.30-11.30 am
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



65th Edinburgh (Currie) Company
(Registered Charity No. SCO34640)

November is always a busy month in The Boys' Brigade. The Anchors and Juniors celebrated 100 years of Junior Section by having a party at the World of Bowling. Meanwhile, the competitions for the Boys in Company Section have begun. The boys sailed through the first round of the annual UK wide quiz, Masterteam, winning their heat by 16 points. We experienced a lot of success at the swimming competition too winning many of the individual races. The team came second overall. Before Christmas there will also be football, badminton and table tennis competitions so it's all very busy.

We welcomed Heather this month too who gave an excellent session on the importance of team work and we look forward to working with her again in the future.

Michael Knott
Captain

Family News

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

Walter Brown, 30 Thomson Crescent, Currie
Alison Harrow, 25 Rowantree Avenue, Currie
Flora Ryan, 34 Belmont Road, Juniper Green

Please pray for the families



Welcome

Mr John and Mrs Mary Birrell, 45 Riccarton Crescent, Currie

The picture of the Kirk on the front page is a sketch by Dr Fan Wang, Assistant Professor at Heriot Watt University who has kindly given his permission for it to be used.



Thank you to all who purchased crafts, gifts and pens at the Craft Sale in the Kirk on Sunday 19 November—a total of £260 was raised for the Minibus.

December/January Flower List

2017

December

3 Mrs S Law

2018

January

7 Mrs E Smith



January

14 Mrs J McColl

21 Donations to Kirk Flower Fund

28 Joint Valley Service

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to Currie Kirk Flower Fund over the past year. This is very much appreciated. Thank you also to the ladies who arrange the flowers each week. Due to ill-health our numbers have decreased and a thank you goes to those who have had to step down after arranging the displays for so long.

Many thanks to the team of ladies who dismantle the pedestal, bunch and deliver flowers on a Sunday. Most have done this duty for many years and can see how the recipients who are ill, bereaved or celebrating a special occasion in their life are pleased to know that the church is thinking about them.

Should anyone wish information regarding donations to the Flower Fund please contact me, Erica Porteous at 2 Pentland View, Currie or telephone 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 Email 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	Gordon Clephane Email: gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk		449 2313
Treasurer	Eddie Pigott Email: pigottsef@icloud.com		466 1459
Gift Aid & Offerings Treasurer & Data Protection Officer	Ron Dow 48 Thomson Drive Email: 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 bookings	Ann Proudfoot	ckgchbooking@gmail.com	449 7739
Gibson Craig Halls Caretaker	Vacant		
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		451 5141
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	Margaret Russell		449 5917
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	531 0416
Guild	Isobel Webber	Tuesday	451 5112
Kidz@Currie	Elaine Rae	Sunday	451 5384
Messy Church	Contact Louise	Last Friday of each month commencing September—Gibson Craig Halls from 2.00pm—4.00 pm	466 3472
Walking Group	Moira McDonald	Third Sunday of each month	467 0682



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 February/March issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 26 January 2018. Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**



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