

The Kirk News

July/August 2018



Wishing our readers a Happy Summer

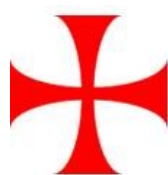


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THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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)

July	1 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk, with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	8 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk—Rev Dr Alistair P Donald
	15 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk—Grant Gordon
	22 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk—James Esentia
	29 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk—John Sawkins
	30 Monday	10 am—12.30 pm —Holiday Club—GCH
	31 Tuesday	10 am—12.30 pm —Holiday Club—GCH

Holiday Club

TEAMBUILDERS

30 July—3 August—GCH—for children of all ages

Contact: Heather Merriman: familyworker_jvp@outlook.com

August	1	Wednesday	10 am—12.30 pm—Holiday Club—GCH
	2	Thursday	10 am—12.30 pm—Holiday Club—GCH
	3	Friday	10 am—12.30 pm—Holiday Club—GCH
	5	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk, with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	5	Sunday	2.30 pm—Holiday Club Celebration Service—GCH
	12	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	19	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	22	Wednesday	7.30 pm—Session Meeting—Currie Kirk
26	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship	
September	2	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk, with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	4	Tuesday	10 am—Guild, SEEMA Project, Avril Duncan—GCH
	9	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	11	Tuesday	2.30—Tea and Tunes
	16	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	18	Tuesday	10 am—Guild, Rev Dr Alistair Donald, Chaplain, Heriot Watt University
	18	Tuesday	12 Noon—Snack Lunches commence—GCH
	23	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	30	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Sacrament of Communion



Tuesday's Tea and Tunes

A café for those living with dementia.

Second Tuesday of each month—

2.30-4.00—Gibson Craig Hall—

Cost £2 per person which includes refreshments and snacks.

Good food, good company, good times provided as well as entertainment from a diverse group of friends and volunteers including pupils from Currie Community High School.



A Message from The Manse

Dear Friends

The real test of Christian life is how much we care. Baron Von Hegel said profoundly, “Christianity taught us to care. Caring is the greatest thing. Caring matters most.” The Gospel message is a testament to caring, even in the face of enormous difficulties and challenges. There are always needs around us.

When Rev John Munro preached in Currie on 24 June, he reminded us that the Church exists, not for those who belong but for those beyond. He quoted Bonhoeffer saying, “The Church is the Church only when it exists for others ... not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men and women of every calling and background, what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.”

These quotes remind us to take our understanding of the church far beyond such ideas of a building or a denomination or a religious club with members. Jesus takes us beyond limited thinking. For the Church is a worldwide movement. Jesus instructed his disciples, “Go to all nations. . .” and He is still involved in the movement, prompting us and inspiring us, calling us and moving us forward, to break down barriers and to care for all.

Currie Kirk is blessed to be caring for people of all ages, backgrounds, and varied abilities. We are part of a community of schools, charities, local organisations and councils who work together to care for old and young alike.

This year is the Year of the Young Person in Scotland and it has been a joy to celebrate the achievements of our young in Currie over the year in Art, Drama, Sports, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, The Boys’ Brigade Queen’s Badge, and all other fund-raising, volunteering and community service in which our young take part. I am especially excited about the visit this month of eighteen youth from Mendocino California who will meet up with some of our young folk from Currie. I am also excited for Heather Merriman’s joint Holiday Club with Juniper Green Church in the Gibson Craig Hall. (details on page 4)

We often tell people that “we go to church.” But in truth, that is silly because we ARE the church. The New Testament reminds us that, “we are a holy nation, God’s own people” (1 Peter 2:9). This is why we can truly enjoy being Christ’s friends, ambassadors, and faithful servants, showing God’s care to each one we meet.

I wish you every blessing and some rest and relaxation too, over this summer break,

Easter

Kirk News

The September issue of Kirk News will be available on Sunday 2 September for distribution

Holiday Club

TEAMBUILDERS

30 July—3 August 2018—10.00—12.30 pm
Gibson Craig Hall



The theme for this year's holiday club is "Teambuilders". Throughout the week we will look at five different characters in the Bible who were part of God's team and discover more about what it means for us to be on God's team.

The week will be packed full of stories; games; songs; drama; crafts; snacks; and FUN!! The club will run from 10.00-12.30 each morning for children who are just finishing Primary 1 up to those finishing Primary 7. If you would like to be involved in the holiday club, even only for a morning or two, then please get in touch with me, I would love to have you on the team.

There are many roles that you could take on so whether you are:

- ◆ Highly active and enjoy having lots of fun with excited children; or
- ◆ Happier to be preparing snacks quietly in the kitchen; or
- ◆ You have a secret passion or skill that could come in handy

Then please do get in touch with me or send me an email: familyworker_JVP@outlook.com

I am certain we can find a place for everyone. Come and join in the fun @ **HOLIDAY CLUB THIS SUMMER!!!**

Heather Merriman
Tel: 07986 002195

Plastic Milk Tops



Some weeks ago, following media reports on plastic waste, I had a conversation in the office with Helen Clayton and said that 25 years ago when I worked in Fife, we had collected plastic milk bottle tops for charity, and similarly in an office in Edinburgh some 10 years ago. I had no knowledge as to what exactly happened to them, but I wished I could find a source that still took them for a good cause.

Anyone who knows Helen, will know that she can be like a dog with a bone—and guess what—she appeared in the office with contact details for someone in Slateford Longstone Church who organises such a collection! I am pleased to say that I have since spoken to the lady in question and would like to encourage you to help too.

Where would they go? Ultimately, St Peter's Church in Galashiels, where they are sorted and sent to the Polymer Factory. It takes 1.5 million tops to make a tonne and 9 tonnes to fill a skip! The factory makes the plastic into tiny balls which go on to make fibre optic cable covers as used with computers, television, telephones and even periscopes for submarines. In the last five years £12,000 has been raised towards all types of palliative care with the Oncology Department at the Borders General Hospital, Marie Curie, Macmillan Nurses and the Lavender Trust who help with relaxation treatments.

What will we collect? **ONLY milk bottle tops** (from the plastic bottles) with a 2 or a 4 within the triangle in the lid. Although fruit juice lids **look** similar, they are **not** acceptable. Please may I encourage you not to throw them into landfill, but ensure they are **thoroughly washed** and pop them into the church office, or through the letterbox if the office is closed.



Ishbel Massie

Snack Lunches



Interdenominational Snack Lunches are now closed for the summer, having raised over £3,000 during the 2017-18 season—amazing! At the AGM in May, the volunteers present decided to donate £500 to each of the following charities:

Tuesday's Tea and Tunes, a monthly café for people with dementia and their carers
Sepsis Trust, raising awareness of the symptoms and need for rapid treatment of this potentially fatal infection with its 40% mortality rate
The Rock Trust, working to support young homeless people in Edinburgh

£500 is also to be given to the Gibson Craig Hall and £117 will be retained in case we need to replace serving materials for Snack Lunches. This year, we have also earmarked in principle the sum of £1,000 to buy new equipment for the Gibson Craig Hall Kitchen which, it is hoped, will help with the onerous task of clearing up—washing and drying an average of 150 items of crockery plus four heavy soup crockpots every Tuesday is not easy!!

Did you know that Snack Lunches has been running successfully at the Gibson Craig for 30 years?

Since Snack Lunches' inception in 1988, we are delighted to have disbursed some **£40,000 to good causes**, while providing a welcoming, friendly setting for an average of 30 customers each Tuesday. We offer an interesting range of homemade soups, served with bread and cheese and there's tea and coffee with lots of home baking made by the volunteers, all at very reasonable prices. Lunches are open every Tuesday at 12 noon to 1.30pm from mid-September to mid-May. We pay for the use of the Gibson Craig Hall and we reimburse any relevant expenses to the volunteers, who range in age from 50-80+.



Our customers are aged from 90+ down to youngsters with a parent or grandparent in tow but everyone is welcome, of any age and from any area. It's busy, but fun—and there's always someone to chat to!



Many thanks indeed to all those who have supported Snack Lunches at one time or another over the last 30 years, whether as volunteer helpers or customers. We will be restarting Snack Lunches at 12 noon on Tuesday 18 September when a very warm welcome awaits you in the Gibson Craig Hall!

And of course, we are always looking for more people to help with Snack Lunches, men as well as ladies, whether it be serving customers, making soup, baking or clearing up dishes. If you would be interested in helping in any way, we'd love to hear from you!

Please contact **Viola MacPhail 449 4664 or 07806 806920** for more information.



Jim and Gordon proving that they don't share a jacket!!! They really have one each!—but in which century was it purchased?—it is now back in fashion—which proves if you keep something long enough





A photograph showing a narrow, busy street in a densely populated urban area, likely a slum. The street is flanked by multi-story buildings with corrugated metal roofs and balconies. People are walking on the street, and a small cart is visible in the foreground. The buildings appear old and crowded, with laundry hanging from some balconies. The street is paved and has a few people walking, including a person on a bicycle in the foreground. The overall scene depicts a typical urban environment in a developing country.

Red light district of Pune, India

- The Currie Guild is delighted to support this project and all funds raised from our Daffodil Tea and Coffee Morning will be allocated to help alleviate the suffering in Pune, India.

Our first meeting commences on Tuesday 4 September at 10 am when we are delighted that Avril Duncan will be speaking on our project and giving us an update. Once again our project team have come up with exciting speakers for next session and we look forward to welcoming back all our “old” members and looking forward to welcoming some “new” faces. We are a friendly bunch who enjoy fellowship and FUN so please come along to any of the Guild meetings.

SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSShhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh



Remember, Remember the 21 September!!

As the summer is now upon us and the school holidays have started, the last thing that will be on your mind is something that is taking place in September. In real terms though, it is not very far away and so if you are having a revamp in your home during the holiday period and decide you have something that is too good to put out, but you no longer have use of, please bear our silent auction for the Kirk Minibus Fund in mind.

The September Kirk News will give a bigger list of what you may find on offer, but in the meantime, to whet your appetite, you will have the opportunity to bid for large and small, pretty or practical. There will be paintings, bookcase, a Blackberry, new leather shoes, a couple of hours of Tidy Tim time, and a computer chair to name but a few. There are a total mix of items, but we would love to add more to our existing collection, so donations will be very welcome. If you have something that requires collection, please phone me to arrange, otherwise items may be brought to the Church Office. We hope to make this an enjoyable evening whether or not you end up being successful in your bidding, or simply come along to watch for the fun of it. Refreshments will be available to enjoy as you while away a couple of hours.

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Wedding at Currie Kirk!

On Friday 22 June a Mock Wedding was staged for Primary 1—the pictures below show the happy couple taking their vows and leaving the church—what a lovely day with the sun splitting the sky. We hope that in years to come that it will still be shining when they really do decide to tie the knot!!



This is the famous poem that gave the title to the film about Mandela's life. The poem that kept him going during his imprisonment on Robin Island.

Invictus by William Ernest Henley



Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.

Neil Macpherson MBE

Neil Macpherson was a piper, pipe major, composer and piping instructor who devoted his life to continuing the piping and pipe band traditions through his work with The Boys' Brigade and in his belief that playing the pipes gave youngsters a sense of self-worth. His efforts were rewarded with official recognition and invitations to perform in prestigious venues at home and abroad.



Neil was born in Dundee in 1925. His parents were both Highlanders and his father played in the Dundee Police Pipe Band. In 1935, the family moved to Broughty Ferry, where Neil joined The Boys' Brigade and learned to play the pipes with Jock Nicholson, of the MacKenzie Pipe Band. Playing a set of pipes inherited from his uncle Duncan Macpherson, who had played with the Manchester City Police Pipe Band, Neil went on to join the MacKenzies, who later merged with the Caledonian Pipe Band to form the MacKenzie Caledonian Pipe Band. His pipes were passed on to the band, following his death in 1999, and are still played by Pipe Major Neil Nicholson.

Following a spell with the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough, where he continued to play his pipes at every opportunity, Neil returned to Scotland in 1957, moving first to Edinburgh. In 1959, he settled in Currie, Midlothian, where he joined the local parish church.

A fellow churchgoer, Jack Dyer, suggested that he and Neil form a Boys' Brigade Company attached to the church and in 1961 the 65th Edinburgh (Currie) BB Company was born. As part of his officer's role, Neil decided to teach the pipes and within a short time the 65th company was marching on parade behind its own pipe band. Word of the band's prowess reached the producers of the BBC's Blue Peter and they were invited to perform on the programme.

The band also went on to Beat the Retreat at Edinburgh Castle every year and was invited to appear on This is Your Life when the Edinburgh-born Olympic Games gold medallist Allan Wells, himself a former member of The Boys' Brigade in the 9th Company, was featured on the television show in 1982.

In 1983, The Boys' Brigade marked its centenary and as part of the celebrations, the 65th band was invited to play at the Royal Albert Hall in London and at Ibrox Stadium, where Neil choreographed highly involved marches and selected and taught tunes to BB bands from all over Scotland. That same year the Edinburgh Battalion BB Pipe Band was invited to perform at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the 65th took part in this with Neil as Battalion pipe major. They repeated this in 1986, 1990, 1991, and 1992 and having spent hours rehearsing the tunes chosen, Neil was proud when the army pipe majors commended his boys' high piping standards.

Through its association with the Danish BB, the FDF, the 65th company visited Copenhagen and during this trip the pipe band played in the prestigious Tivoli Gardens on a bill with internationally recognised performers.

Neil's dedication was such that in these pre-personal computer and laser jet printer days, and while working full-time as an engineer with Ferranti for thirty years, he would notate each piper's part himself on manuscript paper he laid out with Indian ink and a ruler. He also spent hours looking through old music books for suitable repertoire and composed tunes including the winner of the Dundee Battalion BB Centenary Pipe March Competition in 1991.

He was appointed MBE in 1989 and was presented with his medal by the Queen at Buckingham Palace, a proud day and well-earned recognition for a tireless worker on pipe music's behalf.

Extracted from: Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame

End of an Era



On Thursday 26 April Isobel Patterson and Jean Crabbe hung up their aprons for the last time as they said goodbye, not only to the Kirk House but also to the many walkers that had visited the Kirk House religiously over many years.

Every Thursday for the last 13 years in Jean's case and 11 years for Isobel, they have played host to the many walkers who have used the Kirk House as a meeting and eating venue at the end of a successful days walking over the Pentlands. Isobel and Jean had spent the previous two days making soup, baking cakes, fruit loaf and scones which the hungry walkers appreciated and ate with gusto. It was a place of chat, laughter, meeting old friends and new in a place they all loved to congregate in and it was down to Isobel and Jean who made it very welcoming and inviting.

I was lucky to be present on their last day and saw how much the walkers really appreciated the effort and commitment that Isobel and Jean had put in over all those years—an activity they loved to do.

After a hearty last lunch, Isobel and Jean were presented with cards, gifts and flowers from the appreciative walkers. Speeches were delivered and photos taken and an invitation to Isobel and Jean to a garden marquee lunch in one of the walker's homes in June.

On behalf of Currie Kirk, may I extend our warm thanks and admiration to Isobel and Jean for their many years of commitment and joy they brought to the lives of so many walkers and wish them a happy and well earned retirement.

Gordon Clephane
Session Clerk

Care Van Appeal!!

We are in desperate need of men's clothing—jeans (Waist sizes 30, 32), t-shirts (size small, medium) and sweatshirts for the homeless in Edinburgh.

The Care Van continues to go out every night of the year with the exception of Hogmanay (due to the logistics of the city) and Currie Kirk continues to man the van once a month. We have had a few recent recruits which we are very grateful for.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Fiona Pigott.



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
Balerno Bridge Club	Ken Brown	449 5314	Monday
Currie and District Local History Society	Douglas Lowe	449 4349	Monday Evenings twice monthly October to March
Currie Community Council	Allister McKillop	449 6394	2nd Monday of each Month —not July & December
Currie Day Centre	Dorothy Simpson coordinatorCDC@gmx.com	07562 142885	Friday by referral
Dunedin Dance Academy	Claire Robertson	07731 466147	Wednesday
Highland Dancing	Michelle Marshall	339 4704	Wednesday
Octagon Club			Wednesday
Nether Currie Baby and Toddler Group	Margaret Milton	07743 067588	Friday: 9.30—11.30 am (term time only)
Move It or Lose It			Wednesday: 2.30—3.30
Pilates Class (Fuschia)	Steph Bain	07773 270780	Wednesday: Noon—1 pm
Senior Citizens			Monday
The Sensory Session			Thursday: 10—10.50 am
Summer Pop Up Café	Viola MacPhail	449 4664	Tuesday: 10.30—12 Noon
Taekwon Do—Ninjas			Saturday
Tea & Tunes	Allister McKillop	449 6394	2nd Tuesday of month
Yoga			Monday: 10.30—11.30 am
Yoga			Tuesday: 8—9 pm
Zumba Exercise Class Thighs, Bums & Tums	Tom Lowe	07980 692929	Thursday: 10.15—11.15 am Tuesday: 10—11 am

!Summer POP-UP Cafe!

Gibson Craig Hall

Every Tuesday 10.30—12 Noon

Coffee—Tea—Home Baking

All proceeds to Christian Aid SC039150

Contact Viola MacPhail—07806 806920



Family News

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

Mrs Fiona Roberts, 34 Thomson Crescent

Please pray for the family



Polwarth Church Labyrinth



Experience a moment of calm—A moment of well-being—by Walking a Labyrinth

Walking a Labyrinth helps to find stillness and space within ourselves. As we travel along its winding path, we try to let go of all that burdens us.

Pausing in the centre, we may reflect quietly on where we are in life—perhaps on what is good or on what steps we might take to make it better.

Returning along the path again, we may experience comfort and a sense of well-being which may help restore and refresh us on our journey in life.

To arrange a visit please email Margaret: labyrinth@polwarth.org.uk

July/August Flower List

July

- 1 Donations to Flower Fund
- 8 Mrs E Patton
- 15 Mrs B Dow
- 22 Donations to Flower Fund
- 29 Donations to Flower Fund



August

- 5 Donations to Flower Fund
- 12 Mr and Mrs R Barr
- 19 Mrs M Greig
 Mrs W McLauchlan
- 26 Mrs R Milligan
 Mrs N Wardall

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 contact 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
Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer	Eunice Stewart eunicestewart48@gmail.com		449 6832
Data Protection Officer	Ron Dow Email: ronedow@blueyonder.co.uk		538 2313
Weddings/Funeral Officer	Sandy Harper		449 4258
Organist	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Gibson Craig Halls bookings	Ann Proudfoot	ckgchbooking@gmail.com	449 7739
Gibson Craig Halls Caretaker	Jim Ness		07504 420671
Hospital Transport Coordinator	Elizabeth Wood		538 0363
Deputy Coordinator	Jim Ure		449 6498
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	Second and last Friday of each month Gibson Craig Halls from 2.00—4.00 pm (term time only)	466 3472
Walking Group	Moira McDonald	Third Sunday of each month	466 1115



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 July/August issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 24 August 2018. Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**

