

The Kirk News

December 2018 /
January 2019



Wishing all A Happy Christmas

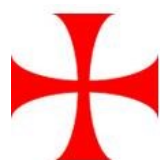


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THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CURRIE KIRK

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE CROSS PATHS



CALENDAR OVERVIEW:

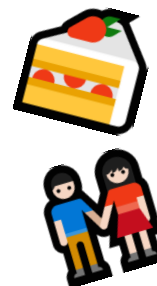
Why not cut out this handy calendar and put it on your fridge!!

(GCH= Gibson Craig Halls)

December	2 Sunday	10 am —First Sunday in Advent, with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	4 Tuesday	10 am —The Guild—Itch to Stitch, Margaret Boe—GCH
	5 Wednesday	11-11.30 am —Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	8 Saturday	2—4 pm —Christmas Fayre—GCH
	9 Sunday	10 am —Second Sunday in Advent
	11 Tuesday	2.30-4.00 pm —Tea and Tunes
	14 Friday	2.00-4.30 pm —Messy Church—Christmas—GCH
	15 Saturday	11 am—2 pm —Quiet Time and Reflective Service, Currie Kirk
	16 Sunday	10 am —Third Sunday in Advent—All Age Family Service and Nativity Play, Currie Kirk
	17 Monday	6.30 pm —“Out of the Box” Family Christmas Show with Puppets—GCH
	18 Tuesday	1.00-4.00 pm —Guild Christmas Party—GCH
	23 Sunday	10 am —Fourth Sunday in Advent with Lessons and Carols, Currie Kirk
	24 Monday	5.30 pm —Family Christingle & Pyjama Service—followed by refreshments—GCH
	24 Monday	11.30 pm —Watchnight Service, Refreshments will be served from 11.00, Currie Kirk
	25 Tuesday	10 am —Christmas Day Worship, Currie Kirk
	30 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship
2019		
January	6 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	7 Monday	7.00 pm —The Good Book Group, GCH Lounge
	8 Tuesday	2.30—4.00 pm —Tea and Tunes—GCH
	9 Wednesday	11-11.30 am —Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	13 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk
	15 Tuesday	7 pm —Guild Supper Night
	20 Sunday	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk with Sacrament of Communion
February	27 Sunday	10.30 am —Joint Valley Service, Juniper Green Church
	3 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	5 Tuesday	10 am —Guild: The Rock Trust
	6 Wednesday	7.30 pm —Kirk Session—GCH
	6 Wednesday	11-11.30 am —Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	10 Sunday	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk
	12 Tuesday	2.30-4.00 pm —Tea and Tunes—GCH
	17 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk
	19 Tuesday	2 pm —Guild: The Mistress—Speaker: Seonaid Wilson
	24 Sunday	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship



Sunday Fun Club



Gibson Craig Halls—9.45-11.20 am—4 years +

Kirk News

The February issue of Kirk News will be available on Sunday 3 February for distribution



A Message from The Manse

Dear Friends

As people of faith, there is always the challenge of how we divide our time between the sacred and the secular aspects of life. This becomes exacerbated at Christmas when the expectations for a commercial experience often outweigh what the story really means to our lives.

We live in an every-day demanding world and we often feel we have to try to “make time” for the presence of God, separate from these demands. As a parent of three kids in High School, with two sets of rugby kits, dancing outfits, work clothes, and other laundry to wash on a daily basis, I encourage you all to seek God not only in sacred places but in your daily demands and routines: on your bus rides; in your conversations with friends; your nagging thoughts, or worries; and moments of wishing you were not feeling alone. It doesn’t matter how busy you are, you can still be left feeling you are alone, trying to find meaning in all that is going on with your daily life, with political life, with the mess of the news that you hear day to day. Whilst our country navigates its way through uncertainty, so often we are doing so in our personal lives as well.

Christmas is about remembering, above all, that God came and comes to be with us. Jesus is not a remote historical figure from Nazareth. He, above all psychologists that present on the television, gave us a way to seek a heavenly perspective on day to day living and he made it abundantly clear that God does not sit in a high or holy place waiting for us to attend. God is with us in the nitty gritty stuff, helping us to keep a perspective on things that matter (people, family, caring, health, wellbeing and love) and helping us to let go of the things that don’t—particularly nonsensical commercial expectations of Christmas!

God is with us in both the sacred and the secular. The messy birth in a barn during a time when Herod was committing genocide amidst his own people is a testimony to the fact that God felt he had to do something to prove that when God asked his prophets to proclaim: He is “Immanuel” (God with us). He meant it. The birth of this child, comes to us again each year, renewing our hope, re-inspiring our witness, reinvigorating and restoring our belief that the sacred is right here. God is right here in the day to day.

God bless you this Christmas

Easter





“The Wise Men”, and Out of the Box Pantivity!

Come along to the Gibson Craig Hall on Monday 17 December at 6.30 pm for a show which promises to be a great family event! Using actors, puppets, original music and a guiding star, this Christmas musical follows the story of the wise men (and their camels!) as they are led to Jesus.

The event is free but you need a ticket. Tickets are available from the Currie Kirk office, Heather Merriman, Rev Jim Dewar or at Molly’s Deli in Juniper Green.



Make sure you don’t miss this fantastic Christmas event and bring all the family with you!

Christmas Fayre—Saturday 8 December

The Christmas Fayre this year will be held on Saturday 8 December, 2.00—4.00 pm. All the proceeds will be going straight into Currie Kirk funds. Santa is booked and will be appearing on his sleigh in the Gibson Craig Hall car park.

The Tinsel Tearoom is back and will be in the Guide hut, serving tea/coffee and home baking. Tickets will be £3 to include refreshments, children free.

There will be the following stalls—if you’re able to help out at a stall or would like to contribute anything please get in touch with anyone in the M&O committee or the Kirk office:

- Tinsel tearoom—some elves to help serve and wash up
- Tombola—two stalls—one for the adults and one specifically for children
- £1 stall—please wrap a present (value £1 or more) and mark it LADY, MAN, BOY or GIRL
- Home baking—both to serve and sell: Jams/Chutneys: Crafts/Soft goods
- Water or Wine? – Pick a bottle and be lucky (it contains wine!) or unlucky (it’s water!!)
- Guess the weight of the cake, sweets in the jar, teddy’s birthday
- Wooden ornaments, jewellery, Christmas cakes, bird boxes, Christmas present ideas
- Children’s activity corner—allowing the adults to enjoy their afternoon tea whilst the children are making some craft.
- Other fun activities and stalls for all ages

Most of all, please spread the word and come along on the 8th – it’s sure to be a great afternoon!!



Armistice 100 A Nation's Thank You

By Alastair Cameron

'A Nation's Thank You' was part of a programme of events to mark the centenary of the First World War. 10,000 people walked in a procession past the Cenotaph at Whitehall, after the main parade, to remember and pay their respects.

Having been fortunate in getting tickets for myself and our daughter, Emma, in the ballot, I approached Easter Smart and asked her about laying a wreath on behalf of the Kirk. I was delighted to receive a positive reply. The Lady Haig Poppy Factory in Edinburgh hold a huge range of designs for wreaths, and I discovered they already had a Currie Kirk logo stored.

The event itself was a hugely positive experience. On Sunday 11th, Emma and I reported as instructed for security checks and allocation to one of several 'columns' into which the procession was grouped, waiting on The Mall while the main parade took place. The wait passed easily due to excellent weather, great facilities for the participants (including coffee and muffins!) and interesting chats. We met a lady wearing the medals and carrying some original photos of her grandfather, who had served on the Western Front; a couple who had family medals from the Second World War; and even the grandson of First World War Victoria Cross winner and medical officer Harold Ackroyd. There were ex-forces people among the crowd, and representatives from schools, the Coastguard and the Police and a few others wearing kilts too.

While we were waiting, we took part in the short service which was conducted at the Cenotaph. Being part of a crowd of 10,000 people singing 'Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past' and the National Anthem, and reciting The Lord's Prayer, was moving. Later, we were still waiting while some veterans were dispersing. The disabled veterans and Chelsea Pensioners came past and it was wonderful when our participants burst into spontaneous applause.

We walked out through Admiralty Arch and down onto Whitehall, to process past the Cenotaph. As we approached the Cenotaph, we handed our Currie Kirk wreath to some Scouts, who laid it carefully by the memorial. We dispersed onto Birdcage Walk, and headed to King's Cross for our journey home.

A fantastic experience was made all the more special by representing our local community, and helping to make connections between people in Currie and the main national event in London. We were glad to participate, and honoured to be able to represent the Kirk.



Praise Evening for Jak's Den Charity

On the 6th October we enjoyed an evening of Praise in the Gibson Craig Hall under the guidance of Stuart McGowan, whom many of you will know from his BB days in the 65th. Many of the old tried and tested favourites were sung along with some new ones from the 20th century—perhaps next year we might even tackle some from the 21st century.

A collection was taken for the Children's Cancer Charity Jak's Den, based in Livingston and the sum of £230 was raised. Allison Barr, Chief Executive, Team Jak Foundation, wrote expressing her thanks for our kind donation and enclosed a Poster of their thanks.



Gordon Clephane



Link to Hope—Family and Elderly Christmas Shoebox Appeal—2018

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.

Currie Kirk is one of the Area Collectors in Scotland and we were delighted to collect 39 boxes: 38 from Currie Kirk and one from an elderly lady in Morningside.

My thanks to members of the M&O committee who helped pack several shoe boxes from items handed in by members of the congregation.

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

Gordon Clephane
M&O Committee

Bathgate Brass Band Concert—Thankyou



It was a delight to welcome back the Bathgate Brass Band to the Gibson Craig Hall on Thursday 25 October. At an almost sell-out performance, this highly acclaimed and award winning band entertained us with a selection of 8 pieces in Part 1 of the concert. I have to admit I didn't recognise any of the titles in this section, but once the band struck up and the first chords were played, the piece suddenly became known to me.

One entitled Albion Treasures included the pieces Highland Cathedral, Amazing Grace and Danny Boy which were all quite moving and three solo performances under the baton of guest conductor, Kenny Latham, had the audience enthralled.

After a wee coffee break, Part 2 kicked off with six more pieces, most of which I recognised. Misty Eyes, She, Mr. Blue Sky and the Lion King were all skilfully performed with gusto and passion and it was a real delight to be part of a very appreciative audience who left the Halls uplifted and looking for their return next year.

Even though the concert was free, there was an opportunity to make a donation to the event. The wonderful sum of £735.70 was raised, out of which the Band kindly made a generous donation of £150 towards Church funds.

Roll on next year, did I hear you say.

Gordon Clephane
M&O Committee

Christmas Fair
Currie Community Centre

Lights on at 6:15pm - Santa's Grotto - Music - Tea
Coffee - Mulled Wine - Cakes - Stalls - Elf Competition

**Saturday 1st December
6pm to 8pm**

Come See Santa!
Children's Competition:
Dress up as one of Santa's elves
and you could win a special prize!

Currie Community Council



The Guild

As we now find ourselves half-way through our 2018/2019 session, we are looking forward to our Christmas Party in December and we look back on the amazing speakers who have entertained us in 2018. From Rev Dr Alistair Donald, who shared his experiences as a Chaplain at Heriot Watt, to the hardship that boys and men suffered building the Forth Bridge and our highly entertaining talk on Golden America—here is a man who can find roads in US that no one has travelled before! At the Rededication Service of the Guild, six long service certificates were awarded to Sarah, Dorothy, Catherine, Margaret, Sheena and Erica. This now totals 30 certificates and 909 years of membership which have been awarded since 2017.

We restart on 15 January 2019 at 7 pm with a fun evening, which includes supper and quiz—who knows—it will be entertaining. It is so good to have time to get to know each other and enjoy each others company.

I would like to wish all who attended any of the Guild meetings, either as a member or visitor, a very Happy Christmas.

We remember in our prayers those who have been unable to attend due to illness and wish them all a speedy recovery.

Isobel Webber
President



Currie Kirk Minibus—Gift Aid

Thank you to all who have donated to the Minibus this year. Did you know that you can Gift Aid your donations? If you pay income tax, the Minibus Trustees can claim tax on your donations for the past four years.

If you would like to gift aid, please get in touch with the treasurer who will be delighted to let you have a form for completion in confidence.

Isobel Webber
Treasurer (451 5112)



Hogmany 2018 Charity Ceilidh

In aid of Prostate Cancer Research

(SC039332)

Tickets £15

Dancing to Iain MacPhail and Friends

Gibson Craig Hall

Monday 31 December 2018

8 pm till 12.45 am

Light Refreshments

Bring your own bottle and glass!

Raffle





Luke Wathan, UK Ambassador of the Smiles Foundation in Romania, spoke in the Kirk on Sunday 25 November. He spoke about a call from God to go and work in Romania ten years ago. The

Smiles Foundation began working against poverty there 20 years ago. The Foundation is a Christian Charity with projects throughout North West Romania. He has been working in Oradea and the surrounding Bihor County to help to support families, children, the elderly and homeless who are in desperate need of a helping hand.

From the cornerstone of the **Family Care Project**, “Smiles” currently supports nearly 200 families on a monthly basis with food packages, medication and social assistance, and has reached out to many special communities.

A Hands On Mission Experience with Smiles is a great and simple way to organise a short term mission trip to eastern Europe. Luke encouraged the Kirk members to get involved. Around 10 mission trips are arranged each year to join as an individual, family or church group. Special trips can be arranged for Church and Educational Challenges and School Groups for Educational Experiences. He encourages youth groups to get involved and also encourages anyone, no matter their age, if they have a skill, to give consideration to joining him in Romania.



For further information or an application form contact: info@thesmilesfoundation.org

Night Shelter—Thank You

The Bethany Night shelter would like to say a big THANK YOU to Mark McGill, our local butcher, for his donation of pies when Currie Kirk’s volunteers ventured out on 15 November to look after the homeless.

Fiona Pigott

God Walk with Me

God walk with me as I go home this night
All through the darkness and into the light
Keep me beside you the whole long night through
Safe in your love, as I belong to you.

Thank you for being there for me always
Stay close beside me through all of my days
My heart is full of this great love for you
Spread all my love to friends my faith renew.

Strength in your presence I have always known
Calmness and peace comes from you God alone
Keep close beside me all the long long way
Doing your will, dear God, by night and day.

Written by May Wright of Dunlop Guild in Ayrshire—this can be sung to the tune of Highland Cathedral. Submitted by Helen Clayton.



ALONE ON CHRISTMAS DAY?

No need to be

If you live in Currie and are going to be on your own on Christmas Day, join us for lunch at the Gibson Craig Hall at 12.00—2.30 pm. There is no charge and transport can be provided if necessary.

Booking before 11 December is essential. Email: hamish@hamishleal.co.uk or call him on 449 3288



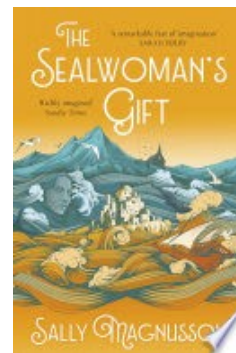
The Good Book Group

The *Sealwoman's Gift* by Sally Magnusson was our October read. I'll be totally honest—a book based on 17th century Icelandic tales, was not one that I would normally read, but that's one of the great things about a book group—it really encourages you to read books you might ordinarily have passed by. This was definitely the case for me with "The Sealwoman's Gift".

This novel is a fantastic mix of real events and saga. The book is based on, what to me was a completely unknown piece of 17th Century history, when Barbary pirates from the Mediterranean plundered coastal areas around northern Europe taking and enslaving inhabitants in places like Algiers and Tunis in northern Africa.

One major source of information for the book was the writings of Olefur Egilsson, a Lutheran pastor who was taken in 1627 and who returned the following year to try to raise a ransom from the king of Denmark to release his compatriots. The novel itself centres on Olefur's wife Asta, whose story has been imagined by Sally Magnusson. The story raises important questions about the effects of exile, especially when it concerns the weakening of the faith you were born with and living with a different culture.

We felt the book was incredibly well written. The characters are complex and credible. The descriptions of life in the bleak, but beautiful landscape of Iceland, compared with the comparative luxury and warmth of Algiers makes the novel compelling. A winner for our group, scoring 7.75/10.



Our November read is *The Widow's Watcher* by Eliza Maxwell. It's a 'free read' for December, with our next meeting on Monday 7 January in Gibson Craig. (7 for 7.30pm).

Ann Sanders



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	Sandra Renton	449 3527	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
Fitness Class	Laura Westwater-Crown	07841 917035	Tuesday 7.30—8.30 pm
Highland Dancing	Michelle Marshall	339 4704	Wednesday
Move It or Lose It	Janet Corbett	07769 345845	Wednesday: 2.30—3.30
Nether Currie Baby and Toddler Group	Margaret Milton	07743 067588	Friday: 9.30—11.30 am (term time only)
Octagon Club	Claire Maloney Clairomaloney12@yahoo.co.uk	07999 410721	Wednesday
Pilates Class (Fuschia)	Steph Bain	07773 270780	Wednesday: Noon—1 pm
Senior Citizens	Jean Smith	449 5596	Monday
Sensory Session	Lorna Carr hello@thesensorysessions.com	07525 270427	Thursday: 10.15—11.30 am
Summer Pop Up Café	Viola MacPhail	449 4664	Tuesday: 10.30—12 Noon
Tea & Tunes	Allister McKillop	449 6394	2nd Tuesday of month
Yoga	Anne Marie Crozier annemariacrozier@blueyonder.co.uk	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'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.

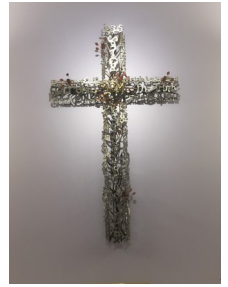
Family News

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

Lilly Hemmings, 282 Lanark Road West

Campbell Reynolds, ex 26 Corslet Road

Please pray for the families



Congratulations to Janet Smart
mother of Catherine Clephane who reached 100 on the
21 November 2018.



December/January Flower List

2018

2 Mrs S Law

9 Donations to Kirk Flower Fund

16 Donations to Kirk Flower Fund



2019

6 Mrs E Smith

13 Mrs J McColl

20 Donations to Kirk Flower Fund

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Kirk Flower Fund during 2018. This is very much appreciated and provides flowers for distribution to members of the church who are ill or bereaved.

Thanks also go to our team of ladies who arrange the flowers each week and also those who bunch and deliver them each Sunday, all essential duties carried out for many years.

Should anyone wish information regarding donations to the Flower Fund please contact me, Erica Porteous at 2 Pentland View or 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 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
Sunday Fun Club	Heather Merriman	Sunday	07986 002195
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 February issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 25 January. Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**

