

# The Kirk News

July / August 2019



Sunflowers always face the sun,  
They make our days so bright.  
And as we face the Son of God,  
We travel in His light.

Then joy will fill our lives on earth,  
Though troubles come our way.  
He is our refuge, sure and safe,  
To guide us every day.

*Elma Helgason*

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## CALENDAR OVERVIEW:

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

*(GCH= Gibson Craig Halls)*

July	3	Wednesday	11-11.30 am—No Prayer Meeting
	7	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk—Worship Committee
	14	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk—Rev Alan Childs
	21	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk—Professor John Sawkins
	28	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk—Rev Dr David Fergusson
	29	Monday	10 am—12.30—Holiday Club—Juniper Green Church Hall—to 2 August. (See page 4 for information)
August	4	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree service following worship
	7	August	11-11.30 am—Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	11	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	18	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	25	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship
September	1	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree service following worship
	3	Tuesday	10 am—Guild—Fiona Sutherland “Join up the Dots” Crossreach—Guild Project
	4	Wednesday	11-11.30 am—Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	6	Friday	7.00 pm—Guild Quiz Night, GCH
	8	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	15	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk—Guild Rededication Service
	17	Tuesday	2.00 pm—Guild—Rolf Billes “Continuity and Change”
	20	Friday	7 pm—Fund Raising Concert—GCH
	22	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	29	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship

## Currie Kirk—The ‘LOOP’ System

Many of the congregation who wear hearing aids have been experiencing erratic and intermittent hearing loss issues with the LOOP system installed in the Kirk. The LOOP system which was installed in the 1980's was integrated into the new Audio Visual (AV) System four years ago and by and large has worked consistently over that period.

At present, it is not consistent. The original company who installed the new AV system made some minor adjustments to the LOOP part about a month ago, but this has sadly not worked. Consequently, I have actioned an independent review of the LOOP system by another company and this is in progress.

It's been a very frustrating time for all but if I could encourage you to be patient for a wee bit longer, then this would be greatly appreciated.

When I have more information I will of course advise you.

Gordon Clephane  
Session Clerk

## Kirk News

The September issue of Kirk News will be available on Sunday 1 September for distribution



# A Message from the Manse

***Dear Friends***

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, during the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, thousands of folk made a pilgrimage to Stonehenge to watch the sunrise. No one has ever fully understood why the stones were erected at Stonehenge but the accepted theory is that the stones were erected to mark the position of the sunset during the winter solstice and the sunrise for the summer solstice—the longest and shortest days of the year.

It is incredible that over three thousand years ago, people wanted to make some record of the rhythms of the sun and the movements of the cosmos.

Even when humanity could only conceive of a flat earth, we were mesmerised by the meaning and the beauty of the created world upon which we live within the vastness of stars and space and a sun that rises and sets and a moon that moves predictably and meaningfully through monthly phases that influence the earth and its tides.

The Psalmist recorded in Psalm 8

When I look at the sky, which you have made,  
at the moon and the stars, which you set in their places—  
what are human beings, that you think of them;  
mere mortals, that you care for them?



Earth from the Moon—NASA

As people of faith, we do believe God cares, not only cares but is involved and even intervenes. When the angel told Mary that God wanted to bring his Son, a human and divine man into the world Mary asked, how can this be possible?

The angel replied, “With God, nothing is impossible!”

When we look back at the history of humanity and the mess we have sometimes made of the gifts God has given and the mess humanity still makes of many things, we remember that with God, things are possible. This is an historical time when many people are passionately fighting to secure the environmental safety of our fragile and delicate planet, and that is to be commended. We all need to do our bit.

This year on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July we commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of humans landing on the moon . . . taking one step for humankind.

It was a tremendous leap and all the world wanted to watch. What we do not often hear about from this huge Small Step is that when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin approached this new place upon which no human being had ever walked, the astronaut Buzz Aldrin was also an elder at Webster Presbyterian Church and before he headed into space in 1969, he got special permission to take bread and wine with him to have communion with his Lord and Saviour on the moon.

A good reminder that with God, nothing is impossible.

I have a lot of good ideas for the next year. I hope to get some youth together to venture on a mission trip.

So please pray. We are sometimes short of time or funds but I know. ... well, you know also . . . nothing is impossible with . . .

God Bless and have a great summer.

Easter

# Holiday Club!—29 July—2 August

**S**pace Academy is the theme for this year's holiday club which will take place from Monday 29 July to Friday 2 August. Throughout the week we'll explore the biblical story of Daniel. Each morning will be packed full of stories, games, songs, drama, crafts and silly challenges. It's open to anyone in P1-7 and runs from 10 am—12.30 pm in Juniper Green Church Hall. Come and join in the fun!

Heather



## Holiday Club

Bible Stories

Games

Songs

Snacks

Crafts

**29th July—2nd August  
2019**

**Juniper Green Church**

**10-12.30**

**P1-P7**

£10 for the week.  
£5 for subsequent  
children in the  
same family.

To find out more and reserve a place  
email: [familyworker\\_jvp@outlook.com](mailto:familyworker_jvp@outlook.com)



**SU Scotland**

SU Scotland is registered in Scotland as a charity (no. SCO 11222) and as a company limited by guarantee (no. SC54297). Registered office: 70 Milton Street, Glasgow G4 0HR.



## !Summer POP-UP Cafe!

**Gibson Craig Hall**

**Every Tuesday 10.30—12 Noon  
Coffee—Tea—Homebaking**

**Contact: Viola MacPhail—07806 806920**

**All proceeds to Christian Aid—SC039150**



# The Guild

## Quiz Night

Friday 6 September 2019 at 7 pm

Gibson Craig Hall—All Welcome—Tickets available from the Kirk Office

Adults £5 includes refreshments  
Children FREE.

Proceeds to Guild charity “Crossreach”

The Guild returns on Tuesday 3 September at 10 am in the Gibson Craig Hall where once again we welcome “returning” and “new” members. We enjoy fellowship together over a cup of tea/coffee prior to the meetings commencing.

Our Rededication Service this year is being held on Sunday 15 September in Currie Kirk to coincide with Guild Week.

Congratulations to one of our members—Dorothy Curr—on receiving the British Empire Medal (see page 7).

All Welcome—looking forward to another great year with the Currie Guild.

Isobel Webber  
0131 451 5112



## Crazy Crafters Quiz—Number 2

Thank you to all who wracked their brain on the last quiz. Obviously, it proved a bit too challenging as no-one submitted an entry with all the right answers, which are published below. Four people managed to get 28 answers (but none of them got stuck on the same questions)!. The first person out of the hat with 28 correct was Irene Johnston. The next quiz is now available, and I am led to believe it is much easier, so I hope you will again support us!

Ishbel Massie

- |                 |                    |                |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Fort William | 11. Crook of Devon | 21. Methil     |
| 2. Balmoral     | 12. Coldstream     | 22. Kirkwall   |
| 3. Falkirk      | 13. Bathgate       | 23. Leuchars   |
| 4. Oban         | 14. Kippen         | 24. Motherwell |
| 5. Bonyrigg     | 15. Penicuik       | 25. Nairn      |
| 6. Peterhead    | 16. Skinflats      | 26. Biggar     |
| 7. Poolewe      | 17. Portsoy        | 27. Larkhall   |
| 8. Montrose     | 18. Stirling       | 28. Moffat     |
| 9. Broadford    | 19. Prestonpans    | 29. Ladybank   |
| 10. Dollar      | 20. Bannockburn    | 30. Tongue     |



# Knitters of Currie and Beyond .....



To all our knitters who have been busy knitting hats and jumpers for the Syrian refugees in Lebanon just to say:

*The target has been set ..... for 50 Jumpers and 500 hats*

*And the deadline to be met is 30 September 2019.*

*Can we do it? Of course we can as long as we 'K- E- E- P K N I T T I N G'*

Please hand in all jumpers and hats during the month of September to the Church Office or leave in the Reception area at the Church.

Margaret Watson

## Care Van.

As many of you know members of Currie Kirk volunteer once a month go out with the Care Van handing out soup and rolls, coffee and biscuits to the homeless in Edinburgh. We also hand out clothes and are always desperate for men's jeans and jackets, sleeping bags and blankets—if you're having a clear out please consider handing on any of the above items to myself, Gordon Clephane or the Gibson Craig Hall.

I'm delighted to report that there is now a new Care Van! All very modern and well equipped for the purpose (as long as the doors are well shut so the soup flasks don't roll along the floor)!

Currie Kirk had a team out in June—whilst we were serving soup at Waverley Bridge, I met someone I worked with over 30 years ago who is now classed as homeless. He admitted to having some mental health problems and was living in temporary accommodation in Leith until he got himself sorted out. When I mentioned I thought I recognised him he knew me instantly and remembered all the colleagues we had worked with at that time. He had married, moved away, left his wife and then returned to Edinburgh without a job or a home. Sadly his wife is an alcoholic and continuing to drink. It certainly brought back a lot of memories from the early 1980s and I was pleased to be able to share these with him. On the same night I managed to speak to one of the regulars and asked him about another regular who always turned up at the Care Van and at the night shelter, always neatly turned out and clean. He had been in hospital with a serious illness and was then persuaded to go and live with his son and family in Edinburgh. Tuesday night brought home yet again that homelessness can strike at any time but also that we can support even in such a small way. The people we serve and talk to were certainly in my prayers on Tuesday night.

This year I am taking part in the Edinburgh Kiltwalk (24 miles) on Sunday 15 September in aid of Bethany Christian Trust. If you'd like to sponsor me please get in touch. £3 helps provide 3 homeless people with a packed lunch, a hot drink and advice from the Care Van; £15 helps provide support and accommodation for a young person who may otherwise be homeless.



Thanks,

Fiona Pigott



## New Elder

Fiona was ordained as an Elder on Easter Sunday along with Hamish Leal, Louise Lamont and Shona Moyes.

# *Congratulations— Dorothy Curr BEM*



Dorothy Curr was honoured last month for 47 years of continuous voluntary work at two Edinburgh nursing homes. She received the British Empire Medal from the Lord Provost at the City Chambers.

She began volunteering at TOR Christian Nursing home in 1972. During that time her duties included bathing the elderly, serving on the Board of Management for 14 years and more recently helping serve teas. When TOR closed three years ago many of the residents moved to Manor Grange Nursing Home where Dorothy continues to help serve teas every Monday.



## CHRISTIAN AID—the Kelpies Canter

**W**ould you like to take part in a family friendly 5km sponsored walk around the Kelpies structure and discover some secrets in the Helix Park? If so, Christian Aid would like you to join them. Last year, this event raised £3,300 so that our global neighbours can live a full life, free from poverty!

Things will kick off with a lively warm-up and a snack before embarking on the walk, and on the great lawn there will be potted sports and beat the goalie. The Kelpies Canter is a fantastic day out for families, friends and communities. Bring a friend, and let's make this event one to be remembered!



**When:** Saturday 31 August, 10:30am. Registration from 10am.

**Where:** The Helix Park, Falkirk

**Registration:** Please e-mail: [Glasgow@christian-aid.org](mailto:Glasgow@christian-aid.org) to register and if you send them your name and address they can get a poster, information guide and sponsor forms in the post to you.

Ishbel Massie

# Edinburgh —New Appeal



Many of you will remember the knitted hats and clothes delivered back in 2018 to the Syrian Refugees in Aarsal, Lebanon. Currently the situation is quite desperate with the Lebanese Government putting pressure on the refugees to rebuild their shelters in an unrealistic timescale, else return to Syria. Below is some information on the situation there and if you would like to help, please donate as directed.

Gordon Clephane  
Session Clerk

In 2013-14 some 100,000 men, women and children poured across the nearby Syrian border into the small town of Aarsal in Lebanon. They were escaping the indiscriminate shooting & barrel bombs that were destroying their homes in Syria. Now they were 'refugees'. The UNHCR & other agencies supplied tents to provide them with basic shelter from the elements.

By using their savings or small amounts of money earned from odd jobs and work in the fields, many refugees were able to improve their tents, building partition walls of blocks to separate off kitchen and washing areas, sometimes adding an extra partition or room. And if possible outer walls and solid roofs were added to protect them from Aarsal's extreme climate—heavy snow in winter and searing heat in summer. A shelter shared by families of 6 to 10 adults and children is always going to be cramped and uncomfortable; but still many were able to create something like a home. Until now.

The Lebanese government has decreed that block walls in refugee shelters must not exceed 1 meter in height. This is justified "on security grounds": official statements say that with higher walls, tents could become defensible bases for terrorism. This is hardly credible: it is just another ratchet in the pressure which the Lebanese government is putting on the refugees to return to Syria, despite the well-attested prospect of even greater hardship and real danger there.

It is estimated that some 15,000 children and their families in 4,000 tents or brick shelters, are affected by the ruling. The Lebanese army at first proclaimed Monday 10 June as the deadline for compliance. Terrified that they would be arrested or their tent bulldozed, many refugees started to comply, breaking down the walls which they had struggled so hard to build up, which had given some basic privacy to family members, and, most important of all, some protection from severe winter storms.

The deadline has now been extended to 30 June, to give time for the enormous and painful task of demolishing block-built walls and rebuilding with plastic sheeting and timber and to find means of disposing of the rubble. NGOs at work include Edinburgh Direct Aid, many of whose helpers and friends in Aarsal have been directly affected by this. It is taking full responsibility for some of the smaller encampments. If all goes as planned, the cost of its initial commitment will be close on \$10,000. But already the team are coming across many unexpected contingencies—small outlying camps that are not officially registered, and vulnerable individuals such as widows and disabled needing special help. EDA is a small charity already committed to vital projects for the refugees in Aarsal. But this work is essential and urgent to ensure these families have some sort of shelter.



## WHAT CAN YOU DO IN THE FACE OF SUCH ENDLESS SUFFERING, TO HELP RESTORE A LITTLE TRUST IN COMMON HUMANITY?

To make a financial donation: for the costs of dismantling and rebuilding shelters whose occupants are unable to do the work themselves; for the cost of wood and plastic sheeting to replace concrete; and for the clearing of rubble in the narrow alleys in the camps

See the donations page of EDA's website—[www.edinburghdirectaid.org](http://www.edinburghdirectaid.org)—select "Shelter Materials and Rehousing" or send a cheque payable to Edinburgh Direct Aid, 29 Starbank Rd, Edinburgh EH5 3BY.





This year's Parents' Evening took place on Sunday 2 June. It was a great evening where the Boys showed everybody what they have been doing over the past nine months.

The Anchors played a game based on Daniel and the Lions Den, Juniors showed one of their favourite activities and the older boys pitched their ideas for a new Christian themed product to a group of Dragons. The winning idea was a computer game based on the stories of the gospels.

On the evening we presented various awards. Seven boys achieved their President's Badge. Unfortunately, two were not able to join us on the night and we will present their badges at a later date. To achieve this badge they undertook volunteering within the BB or the church with three boys supporting Heather to run last year's holiday club and the others helped at Anchors and Juniors. They also had to complete a Christian Faith course run by the BB and participate in the various activities we do on a weekly basis. It was nice to present so many of these to our S3 boys and we wish them the best of luck as they start their journey to gain the Queen's Badge.

We are now taking a break for the summer and will start back in September.

Michael Knott

## Walking Group



Members of the walking group spent a very pleasant afternoon with Angus and Sheena MacPhie at their lovely home celebrating his 80th birthday. It was a most enjoyable day with good company, good food and drink, plus a lovely panoramic garden, and culminating with a very nice piece of birthday cake. I'm sure we all left with a spring in our steps!!

Sandy

## Data Protection Officer

Delighted to announce that we have a new Data Protection Officer by the name of Vanessa Martins. Vanessa works for the Royal Bank of Scotland in the external reporting team that produce all the accounts for the bank and has a broad knowledge of GDPR regulations and what is required in order to comply with the laws.

Vanessa took up her new role on 1 June and I'm sure you will want to join with me and wish her every success in the years ahead. Vanessa and her boyfriend are frequent worshippers in the Kirk. Should you wish to contact Vanessa, her e-mail is: [vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com](mailto:vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com)

Gordon Clephane  
 Session Clerk

**Dementia Friendly Pentlands** are running monthly "Drop-in Sessions" in **Currie Library** on the last Saturday of every month when two of the DFP Team will provide an opportunity for anyone who would like to learn more about dementia, and support available locally, to come along and have a chat. For more information contact: [dementiafriendlypentlands@gmail.com/](mailto:dementiafriendlypentlands@gmail.com/)

# 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 <a href="mailto:coordinatorCDC@gmx.com">coordinatorCDC@gmx.com</a>	07562 142885	Friday by referral
Dunedin Dance Academy	Claire Robertson	07731 466147	Wednesday
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 <a href="mailto:Clairemaloney12@yahoo.co.uk">Clairemaloney12@yahoo.co.uk</a>	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 <a href="mailto:hello@thesensorysessions.com">hello@thesensorysessions.com</a>	07525 270427	Thursday: 10.00—12 Noon
Shoogly Peg Theatre Company	Zoe McRae	07884 133357	Friday: 6.30—7.30 pm
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 <a href="mailto:annemariacrozier@blueyonder.co.uk">annemariacrozier@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	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 & Tunes Dementia Café 2019




**A cafe held at Gibson Craig**  
**On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every**  
**month**  
**2:30 till 4:00**  
**Fun & Laughter**  
**Singing & Dancing**  
**Tea , Coffee , Snacks**  
**£2 pp**  
**Entertainment is Free!!**  
**11<sup>th</sup> June/9<sup>th</sup> July**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Aug/10<sup>th</sup> Sept**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Oct/12<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
**10<sup>th</sup> December**



# Family News

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

Mrs Janet Jane Andrew, East Calder  
Mrs Grace Murray Greig, 22 Blinkbonny Road, Currie  
Mrs Jean Henderson, Morlich House, Edinburgh

Please pray for the families



## Weddings



**Claire Webber** and **Douglas Harley** were married at Winchburgh on 15 June.



**Julia Cryan** and **Iain Thomson** were married at Currie Kirk on 22 June.

## Baptism



*Jesus said "Let the children come to me"*  
(Luke 18:16)

**Zoe Anne Reid**, daughter of Grant and Malgorzata (Gosia) Walaszczyk Reid



## Blessing

Easter officiated to bless Tom and David Lowe's 10 years together on 8 June

## July/August Flower List

### July

- 7 Mrs E Patton
- 14 Flower Fund Donations
- 21 Mrs B Dow
- 28 Flower Fund Donations



### August

- 4 Flower Fund Donations
- 11 Mr and Mrs R Barr
- 18 Mrs W McLauchlan
- 25 Mrs R Milligan

Should anyone wish information regarding donations to the Flower Fund please contact Margaret Matheson:  
m.matheson@blueyonder.co.uk; or telephone 075190 45866



# 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 Administrator: Nina Valvona Email <a href="mailto:currie_kirk@btconnect.com">currie_kirk@btconnect.com</a>	Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am—12.30 pm	451 5141
Session Clerk	Gordon Clephane Email: <a href="mailto:gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk">gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk</a>		449 2313
Treasurer	Eddie Pigott Email: <a href="mailto:pigottsef@icloud.com">pigottsef@icloud.com</a>		466 1459
Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer	Eunice Stewart <a href="mailto:eunicestewart48@gmail.com">eunicestewart48@gmail.com</a>		449 6832
Data Protection Officer	Vanessa Martins	<a href="mailto:vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com">vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com</a>	07847 274395
Weddings/Funeral Officer	Sandy Harper		449 4258
Organist	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Gibson Craig Halls bookings	Ann Proudfoot	<a href="mailto:ckgchbooking@gmail.com">ckgchbooking@gmail.com</a>	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	Contact Church Office		451 5141
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—Email: <a href="mailto:familyworker_jvp@outlook.com">familyworker_jvp@outlook.com</a>	Sunday—9.45– 11.20 am	
Messy Church	Contact Heather Email: <a href="mailto:familyworker_jvp@outlook.com">familyworker_jvp@outlook.com</a>	Last Friday of the month Gibson Craig Halls from 2.00—4.00 pm (term time only)	
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 September issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to [isobelwebber@btinternet.com](mailto:isobelwebber@btinternet.com) before or by Friday 23 August.**  
**Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**

