

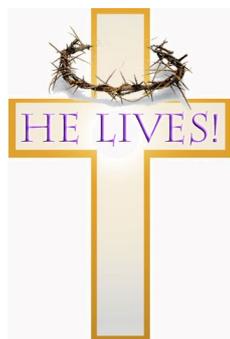
THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CURRIE KIRK

WHERE FAITH AND LIFE CROSS PATHS

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CLIPBOARD

The Magazine of Currie Kirk

April 2016



A Message from Easter

Dearest friends,

I was invited to write about **Prayer** for this issue of Clipboard. Currie Kirk folk are committed to prayer. In Sunday worship we pray for our community and world, joining our prayers together with people around the world from diverse denominations and many faiths.

On the window sill of Currie Kirk sits a lovely '**Prayer Tree.**' People are free to write prayers, or names of people they wish to have prayed for, on paper leaves and then place them on the tree. Just writing these and putting them on the tree is an act of prayer being offered up to God.

On the first Sunday of each month, some of us remain after the worship to offer the prayers on the Prayer Tree together and to add our own needs, or the needs of loved ones, whom we think might need prayer. In the Kirk, there is also a confidential prayer group called, the 'Prayer Covenant.' When anyone may feel they would like prayer for themselves and others, they need only ask myself or the Prayer Covenant secretary, Eileen Chadwick. Hence, when we say to people, "would you like us to pray for you?" we mean it, and we will, but we are always careful to keep appropriate respect and confidentiality. Sometimes when we pray for someone and we don't know what the trouble may be, we still lift their names to God in faith. God knows what that person needs at this time and we trust that God will be involved.

There is a group who gather together on the last Wednesday of every month in the Gibson Craig Hall to explore different ways of praying because there are many ways of praying. We trust God always responds however we seek to communicate.

1. Some people don't mind praying in public or in groups; but for others, prayer is an intensely private matter;
2. On the one hand there can be loud Pentecostal, emotive prayers; on the other there are some who can only pray in silent contemplation;
3. Some people write prayers in journals day by day so they can look back and see how God answered them; others feel that painting or expressing themselves in music and art is where they meet God; and
4. Some commune with God in nature. And for others, it is that quick chat to God while stuck in a traffic jam getting to work that counts.

In our Lent Studies we learned about Brother Lawrence, a Carmelite Monk, who was a cook in his monastery in France during the 17th Century. His experience of prayer through letters and memoirs are compiled in a book called, ***The Practice of the Presence of God.*** For Brother Lawrence there was little difference between peacefully communing with God while he was making an omelette, than when prostrating himself at the altar for communion.

However we pray, it is important to understand that the God whom Jesus came to tell us about is a God who is loving and involved. That said, we cannot put demands on God and there are times when waiting for answers to prayer is hard. Recently, our Church has supported the nationwide initiative ***Trypraying.*** The title says it all. Whatever the circumstance, no matter how unimportant or hard—just try it—try asking God to be involved. It can't hurt and most likely it will bring new blessings and perspectives beyond your expectations.

God Bless

Easter

EASTER REFLECTION

“The great gift of Easter is hope—Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake”.

Basil C Hume, (1923-1999) Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster



Love Overcame

Love overcame
Emerging from a cold tomb
All the truth, majesty and creativity of a living God
Transforming a broken heart
Making a quiet return, in a still and sorrowful garden
The grave stone rolled away, to release redemptive love
Jesus resurrected and restored
Comforts a weeping woman
Speaks with travellers on a journey
Meets with his faithful friends
And they bow down before Christ alive
And acknowledged that the Saviour has arrived
That the word of God has come alive
And that the extraordinary transformation of heaven and earth,
Is complete

“Love Overcame” copyright © 2014 Julie Palmer



Fairtrade Fortnight Lunch

A very big thank you to everyone who attended or donated soup and homebaking and to all those involved in setting up, serving and washing up. We made the splendid sum of £343.20 which will be donated to Christian Aid for use in the Third World.

Viola MacPhail
Mission and Outreach Team



Lenten Studies

For the past four Wednesdays a group of us led by Easter and Grant have met in Currie Kirk to discuss Psalms 100, 130, 23 and 127. We opened with a prayer then read the psalms aloud—this was done as a reader and respondents. Following this we listened to taped comments on the questions relating to each Psalm. All of this was done in the Kirk itself which lent a certain poignancy and gravitas to the words and the feelings behind them.

Then it was our turn. After being placed randomly into groups, we retired to the social area to discuss the questions posed in the booklets. Many of the questions were extremely searching and I felt myself having to dig deep to formulate answers to them. Certainly within the various groups there was not always total agreement as to the “correct” answer. People responded according to how different situations in their lives had affected their way of thinking. As we discussed topics such as what is worship, does being a good Christian guarantee a reasonably problem free life, does God keep a tally of our sins versus our good deeds, assisted suicide, work/life balance and even IVF, we shared confidences amongst much laughter—yes, laughter!! - and thoughtful responses to the questions. Finally each group reported back to the rest and it was interesting to hear what others had to say and how often the same questions had been interpreted differently by different people.

One more taped summary to listen to followed by the saying of the Grace and we were finished for the evening.

How did it affect me? Time spent in meaningful discussion with others is always a blessing as is the opportunity to learn a little bit more about those we not talk to all that often. The words of the psalms and the meanings hidden in them have certainly left me with a great deal to consider. It was uplifting and it was humbling in equal measure. How often have we read the familiar words of Psalm 23 without really dwelling on the deeper meanings within them?

To paraphrase Points of View, more please.

Louise Lamont

New Neighbours?

Although the housing market is still not brilliant, people are moving house, and you may well find that you have some new neighbours this summer. If so, please pop a Welcome Leaflet through their door.

The Welcome Leaflets have been specially designed for new residents with the words “Welcome to Currie” on the front. They contain lots of information; especially contact telephone numbers, which we hope will enable new residents to quickly settle into our community. Supplies of the Leaflets can be obtained from the Church Office, or you can pick some up in the Reception area of the Church when next at worship.

This is an important way of reaching out to new people and it takes very little effort. When you see a “For Sale” sign disappear, be ready to deliver the Welcome Leaflet!



“The following article appeared in the March issue of “Life and Work” and it was thought that it might be of interest to Clipboard readers.”

A medieval parish

John R Hume traces the rich history of Currie Parish Church, now in a suburb of Edinburgh.

CURRIE is now primarily an outer suburb of Edinburgh, but the village and parish were, until well into the 20th century, distinct parts of the county of Midlothian, with their own character.

The elegant little parish church, today the home of an active and varied congregation, should be seen in this light, a symbol of the particularity of this part of the valley of the Water of Leith.

The area was, from the 18th century, a focus for industries which served the city of Edinburgh – paper-making and snuff manufacture.

The parish sits below the Pentland Hills, which were the principal catchment for the river. By the end of the 19th century the parish contained three reservoirs for the water-supply for Edinburgh – Clubbielaw, Harelaw and Thriepmuir – evidence of the abundance of water flowing through the area.

The low-lying parts of the parish were rich agricultural land, and there was a series of notable mansions, historically largely occupied by such men as judges, near enough to the capital to be convenient, and far enough away to be comfortably rural.

The first paper mill in the parish was Kinleith, at Currie, which was founded in about 1792. It produced hand-made paper, made using linen rags from Edinburgh.

During the 19th century the village of Balerno, south of Currie village, developed as a notable centre of paper-manufacture, with its own churches.

Balerno Paper Mill was founded in 1810, also making hand-made paper. In 1831-32 paper machines were introduced in both the Kinleith and Balerno mills, greatly

increasing productivity. The Balerno mill had two machines, making it one of the largest in Scotland

To the east of Currie village Juniper Green was built as an outer suburb of Edinburgh, also with its paper mill and churches. The settlement of the parish was encouraged by the opening of the Caledonian Railway in 1848, with a station at Curriehill, and more particularly by the construction of a loop line from the Caledonian to serve both Currie and Balerno more directly.

This line, which was steeply graded, and sharply curved, had an intensive passenger service from Princes Street Station in the heart of Edinburgh from 1874, when it opened, until 1943, when it closed for passengers. It continued to serve the paper mills until 1967.

The mediaeval parish, at one time known as Killeath was administered as part of the Archdeaconry of Lothian, and seems to have been a dependency of the collegiate church of Corstorphine, the next parish to the north.

The present parish church seems to have replaced the mediaeval one (which was dedicated to St Mungo) in 1784.

Fragments of the choir of the earlier church survive to the east, as do a number of earlier tombstones.

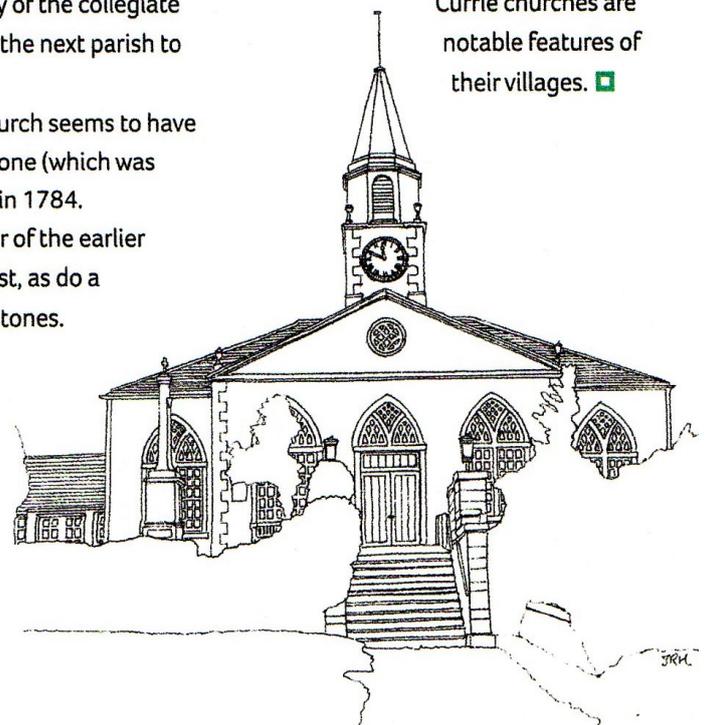
The 18th-century building was designed by James Thompson of Leith. In 1835 it was remodelled internally by David Bryce, when the present gallery and pulpit

were probably inserted. The minister at that time, the Rev John Somerville, was, like many country clergymen of the time, a man of many interests.

He invented several items used in the sport of curling, and a ‘safety gun’, to reduce the risk of accidental discharge. In 1848 the large multi-paned windows, with ‘Gothick’ timber tracery, designed by David Cousin, of Edinburgh, were installed. The elegant steeple, with its clock stage, is probably part of the 18th century building,

The use of Gothick windows gives the building a very light and graceful appearance. The closest comparable Scottish church building is the parish church of Catrine, an Ayrshire cotton-mill village. Here the church was originally built in 1793, and the Gothick windows were inserted probably when the cotton-mill complex was modernised in the late

1820s. Both Catrine and Currie churches are notable features of their villages. ■





The Guild

Since the last Clipboard we have enjoyed several events. The Guild had a very successful Quiz Night on 1st March, it was just a pity the weather prevented some of our members from attending, then the following evening a few members visited Balerno who were the hosts for the annual Joint Valley meeting and were entertained by Balerno Church Choir. Our last event in the March calendar was on 15th March—our much looked forward to “The Daffodil Tea”. We always enjoy being entertained by Dudley and Elma Williams. Unfortunately due to illness, Elma was unable to attend but Dudley bravely held the fort. Mary Skinner, our Project Treasurer, has assured us although there may be some adjustments we have cleared £400 from this event. It was nice to see Meg Watson back among us after her operation.

Our thoughts are with the family of Helen Buckingham, a member of the Guild, who died very suddenly, also the family of Mary Thorpe who is critically ill in St John’s Hospital. However we can give thanks that Margaret Davidson has had a successful operation and is recovering at her daughter’s home in the Borders.

The Guild is quickly coming to the end of the session but before that we have some more enjoyable meetings to look forward to in April.

Freda Robertson

Do you have difficulty walking to church?

If you are finding it increasingly difficult walking to church, remember that the church runs the minibus every Sunday morning giving a ‘door to door’ service for the elderly or infirm. If you travel by bus you will often get the opportunity to join the many people who stay for a cup of coffee and a chat and enjoy a bit of fellowship, if you so desire. If you feel you can benefit from this, and at the same time retain your independence, please contact Jean Pringle on 449 7716 who will be happy to give you further information.



The Cross

A young man was at the end of his tether, seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer “Lord, I can’t go on”, he said. “I have too heavy a cross to bear”.

The Lord replied, “My son, if you can’t bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door and pick out any cross you wish”.

The man was filled with relief and said, “Thank you Lord”, and he did as he was told.



Upon entering the other room, he saw many crosses; some so large—the tops were not visible. Then he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall.

“I’d like that one, Lord”, he whispered. The Lord replied, “my son, that is the cross you just brought in”.

When life’s problems seem overwhelming, it helps to look around and see what other people are coping with. You may consider yourself far more fortunate than you imagined.



The Boys have progressed to the final of both the National Masterteam and the Badminton. We wish them well—the final of the Masterteam is being held in Hamilton and the final of the Badminton in Northern Ireland—hotel has been booked along with the flights so its an exciting time being a member of the 65th. The Boys also won the cross country which was held in Holyrood Park—the team is pictured below—looks a bit wind swept!

The Company collected Easter Eggs for The Trinity Centre Food Bank—a total of around 180 have been collected and delivered and the Company would like to thank members of the congregation and family and friends for their support. The eggs were delivered on Monday 21 March so that they could be placed in the Family Food Bags for distribution prior to

Easter. The photograph shows Easter with David, Peter and Michael with some of the Eggs which surrounded the font on Sunday.

Both David and Peter are in the National Masterteam and Badminton finals and are a credit to the Company. Peter has been helping with the audio visual for his Queen's Badge and enjoying the challenge.

David and Duncan met the First Minister at a Youth Rally at the Corn Exchange on 21 March. Quite a few "selfies" were taken as you can see!!

The Anchors and Juniors visited Edinburgh Castle—where they were shown armour, and were given the chance to hold a sword—very exciting—and were then given a tour of the castle.



The Cross Country team from *l to r*: Lucas; Andrew; Liam, John; Duncan; Mark; and James.



The Juniors and Anchors are once again collecting Sainsbury Vouchers for equipment. The box is situated in the large hall of the Gibson Craig or you can post them through the office door.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Christian Aid Week 2016 (15–21 May)

As you read this it will only be no more than six weeks until someone knocks on your door asking if you would like to support the work of Christian Aid. As a charity, it has a vision – a very simple one – ‘to end world poverty’.

Christian Aid, with its partners and supporters, stand alongside poor communities who work tirelessly to lift themselves out of poverty. In the last couple of years, Christian Aid has:

- reached millions of people caught up in the Ebola crisis and conflict in the Middle East;
- come together in tens of thousands to demand urgent action on climate change;
- played a key role in bringing about ground-breaking legislation that makes it harder for big corporations to avoid paying tax;
- helped hundreds of thousands of people get access to better services, and prepare for climate extremes and disasters;
- tackled discrimination against women and marginalised groups; and
- strived to make markets work for poor communities so they can become financially self-sufficient.

Perhaps we as individuals feel that this is ‘someone else’s problem’ - but we CAN help. Yes, we can support Christian Aid financially to the extent to which we are able, but we can also ‘donate’ a couple of hours of our time, to be involved in the house to house collection. You don’t have to be a regular church goer to have a conscience. By taking this small commitment of time, you can be part of a team who can boost the finances of the charity to enable them to achieve their vision—a vision I am sure every one of us would like to see come to fruition.

Please seriously consider being involved in this very worthwhile cause. As I write this, ideally I require another 40 people to cover either a street, or part of a street (depending upon its size). One small commitment by you, makes a huge difference to the millions of starving people in the world today. Please do phone me to volunteer your services.

Ishbel Massie
449 4693

Kidz@Currie

We operate a Creche catering for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers and a Sunday Club for Primary and Secondary school age. Children are invited to join the congregation for the start of the Church service at 10 am and then leave part way for Kidz@Currie.



St George

The 23 April is St George’s Day. St George is the patron saint of England. There is not a great deal known about St George. There is a lot of myth and legend, the most famous legend is of course that he slayed a dragon. However he is also famous for being a Christian martyr.

He is believed to have been born in place called Cappadocia which is now in Turkey in the 3rd century AD. He came from a Christian family. When his father died his mother took him to Palestine and he then joined the Roman Army. The Roman emperor who ruled at the time was Diocletian and he began a campaign against Christians. George objected to the persecution of Christians and resigned from the army. George tore up the Emperor’s order against Christians and this maddened the emperor. Diocletian then put George in prison and tortured him. George stayed strong and refused to say he was no longer a Christian.

Unfortunately for George Diocletian ordered George to be beheaded. The emperor’s wife was very impressed by George’s faith and courage and converted to Christianity herself but sadly came to the same end as George.

Good Book Group

The Group's latest 'read' was *Brooklyn* by the Irish author Colm Toibin.

The novel, first published in 2009, received an extensive amount of recognition and critical acclaim winning the Costa Novel Award in 2009 and in the same year was on the long list for the Man Booker Prize. Two years later *Brooklyn* was short-listed for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. Favourable reviews also appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Observer* Newspapers, the latter reporting that *Brooklyn* was one of 'the 10 best historical novels'.

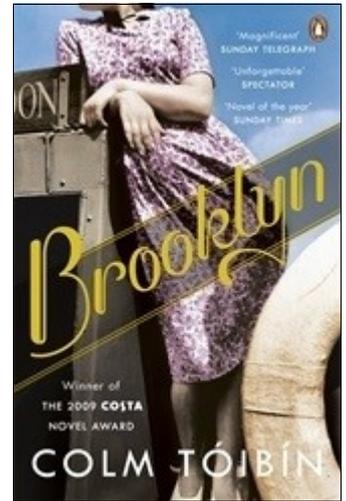
Arguably, the ultimate accolade came when *Brooklyn*, scripted by Nick Hornby, was made into a feature film, released last year.

Brooklyn tells the story of an Irish immigrant adapting to her new life in America. Eillis Lacey, the main protagonist, was a young woman living on the West Coast of Ireland in the 1950s and struggling to find work, enter Father Flood, a Catholic priest from New York City. He tells Eillis of the wonderful opportunities and excellent employment prospects in New York. On the basis of that meeting she decided to emigrate to Brooklyn, New York. Initially, life is difficult as her job in a department store is boring, she attends Bookkeeping classes in the evening and the boarding house where she is living is run by the strict Mrs Madge Kehoe! Added to that, letters from her sister Rose, her mother and brother make her homesick.

Eillis' circumstances then change as she settles into her new life. She qualifies easily from her bookkeeping course and meets Tony, a young Italian plumber whom she later marries in secret. Fate, however, intervenes when Eillis' sister Rose died suddenly and she returned to Ireland to mourn. She fitted into town society with ease, meeting Jim, a local pub owner. She hadn't told anyone about her marriage and Tony's letters to her remained unopened as she procrastinated about extending her stay. That was until the local gossip, who happened to be the cousin of Eillis' New York landlady, informed her she knew about her secret marriage.

This was a major turning point in the book. Eillis told her mother the truth about her marriage, posted a farewell note to Jim and booked her return passage to New York...

The subject matter of *Brooklyn* promoted much interesting and enlightening discussion, as members of the group spoke of their personal experiences of emigration and about the desperate hardship people faced, at that time that left many Irish and Scottish people no choice but to seek a better life by emigrating. The group gave *Brooklyn* a score of 6.4.



Bridging with "Fred"

I really should look at the holiday brochures with much more care in future—when booking the cruise to the Caribbean I naturally assumed I was going to all the islands!!! It turned out to be a total of "three" - all other days, apart from one—when we stopped off at the Azores—on a Sunday (shops closed), were at sea. What to do? No Wi Fi; No contact with the outside world, it turned out to be the best holiday yet. So peaceful—lots to do on the ship and experiences that I would never dream of taking up.

First morning at sea I decided to go to Beginners Bridge—and I was hooked—it turned out to be one of the most popular courses—run by husband and wife Paul and Val—starting at 9.45 each day, but it soon became 9.30 and then 9.25—the enthusiasm was great. Now home I am not at a standard to join either Louise or Ron but somewhere there must be a club who would welcome all new to bridge and encourage further—that is my task—after all with Michael taking over the BB I will have plenty of time on my hands!!

Any one for Bridge (beginners only need apply) please get in touch.

Isobel (451 5112)



Community Activities

The Gibson Craig Hall is used by various groups during the week and, if anyone is interested in joining a group, please telephone the contact noted below.

	Contact name	Tel No:	Day
Baby Ballet	Claire Robertson	07731 466147	Wednesday
Balerno Bridge Club	Brian Rose	449 5335	Monday
Blue Sky Pilates	Claire McDonald	07872 349073	Thursday
Children's Dance	Carol Campbell	339 2315	Friday
Currie and District Local History Society	Douglas Lowe	449-4349	Monday Evenings twice monthly October to March
Currie Community Council	Madge Barker	449 3450	
Currie SWRI	Lucy Airs	449 2565	Second Tuesday each month (except July/August) at 7.15 pm
Currie Day Centre	Elspeth Frame	449 3603	Friday by referral
Highland Dancing	Michelle Marshall	339 4704	Wednesday
Judo	Jo Imrie	01506 884633	Tuesday: 4-5.30 pm
Octagon Club	Alastair Hardie Terry Maloney	453 3556 0751 466 4292	Wednesday
Parents & Toddlers	Dawn Thomson	478 1106	Friday
Senior Citizens	Jean Smith	449 5596	Monday
Snack Lunches	Viola MacPhail	449 4664	Tuesday
Yoga	Monica Evans	07986600432	Tuesday: 8-9 pm
Zumba Exercise Class	Tom Lowe	07980 692929	Thursday

Volunteers required for Church cleaning

The time has come, the Walrus said,
to talk of many things—
of vacuuming—and polishing—
sweeping—dusting—midst other things!!



We have five cleaning teams on board at present—with four people (male and female) in each. It takes a team roughly 2 hours to clean the Church. It would be lovely if we could find some more volunteers to swell the ranks—which would be beneficial at holiday times in particular.

I have one lady volunteer ready and willing to be part of another team. Could you give two hours of your time every few weeks to keep our Kirk clean?

Please phone me on 449-2468 if you think you can help, or would like more information.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Margaret Innes
Cleaning Co-ordinator.



Family News

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

Tom Templeman, 4 Easter Currie Terrace

Isabella Edwards, (formerly Corslet Crescent)

Mary Bradly, 24 Easter Currie Crescent

Helen Buckingham, 12 Dolphin Gardens West

John Easton, 12 Dolphin Road



Please pray for the families

April Flower List



April 2016

3 Mrs J Caffrey, 38 Thomson Road

10 Mrs J Dick, 101 Currievale Drive

17 Mrs H Clayton, 17 Rowantree Grove
Mrs M Malcolm, 41 Nether Currie Crescent
Mrs F Pigott, 27 Riccarton Drive

24 The Wight Family, 1 Gracie Crescent Fallin
Mrs N Hogg, Waulkmill Loan
Mrs J Robertson, 7 Bonaly Gardens, Colinton

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 give to me at 2 Pentland View, Currie.

Erica Porteous—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 Hall, Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5NY Secretary: Ishbel Massie e-mail currie_kirk@btconnect.com	Tuesday—9.30am—12noon Wednesday—9.30am—12noon Thursday—9.30am—12noon Friday—9.30am – 11.45am.	451 5141
Session Clerk	Grant Gordon email: gggordon@btinternet.com		449 2554
Treasurer	Eddie Pigott Email: pigottsef@icloud.com		466 1459
Gift Aid & Offerings Treasurer	Ron Dow 48 Thomson Drive ronedow@blueyonder.co.uk		538 2313
Weddings/Funeral Officer	Sandy Harper 16 Pentland View		449 4258
Organist	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Gibson Craig Hall Caretakers & bookings	May and Bill Sutherland 56 Thomson Crescent		449 7747
Hospital Transport Coordinator Deputy Coordinator	Elizabeth Wood Jim Ure		538 0363 449 6498
Kirk House Bookings	Isobel Paterson		449 6182
Life and Work	Eileen Chadwick		449 2559
Magazine Distributor	Jean Dick		449 6374
Boys' Brigade Captain	Jim Webber : Anchors Juniors Company/Seniors	Thursday 6.00-7.00 pm Thursday 7.00-8.30 pm Friday 7.00-9.30 pm	451 5112
Teen Café	Viola MacPhail	Friday	449 4664
Mini Bus Sunday lift organiser	Jean Pringle		449 7716
Mini Bus Bookings	Isobel Webber		451 5112
Banner Group	Janet Robertson	Tuesday	441 1499
Care Van	Fiona Pigott	Once a month	466 1459
Pastoral Visitors	Rev Dr Easter Smart		449 4719
Currie Kirk Singers	Tom Masson	Various	449 2561
Guild	Freda Robertson	Tuesday	449 2593
Kidz@Currie	Elaine Rae	Sunday	451 5384
Messy Church	Contact Church Office	Last Friday of each month Gibson Craig Hall from 2.00 pm—3.30 pm except June, July, August & December	451 5141
Walking Group	Rena Milligan	Third Sunday of each month	449 2017



Clipboard

Clipboard can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/clipboard/> - why not mark it as a favourite. **Articles for the May issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 22 April 2016.**

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