



The Kirk News

December 2016 /
January 2017



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CALENDAR OVERVIEW:

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

(GCH= Gibson Craig Halls)

- December:**
- 4 Sunday 10 am**—Advent Worship, Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
 - 6 Tuesday 10 am**—Guild Meeting—Visit to Antarctica—Speaker: Gordon MacKinlay—GCH
 - 11 Sunday 10 am**—Festival Choir Advent Service, Currie Kirk
 - 17 Saturday 11 am—3 pm Reflection Day** in Currie Kirk with service at **12 pm**
 - 18 Sunday 10 am**—Children’s Nativity
 - 20 Tuesday 7.30 pm**—Guild Christmas Party—GCH
 - 24 Saturday 6.30 pm**—Christmas Eve—Family Christingle & Pyjama Service in GCH. All children are welcome from 5.30 pm to make their Christingle lanterns before the service.
 - 24 Saturday 11.30 pm**—Watchnight Service, Refreshments will be served from **10.30 pm**, Currie Kirk
 - 25 Sunday 10 am**—Christmas Day Worship, Currie Kirk
 - 31 Saturday Hogmanay Ceilidh** in GCH—8 pm (see page 8 for details)

2017

- January**
- 1 Sunday 10 am**—Worship, Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
 - 8 Sunday 10 am**—Kirkin of the Rotary Club of Currie and Balerno
 - 15 Sunday 10 am**—Worship, Currie Kirk
 - 17 Tuesday 2.30 pm**—Guild—Beetle Drive—GCH
 - 22 Sunday 10 am**—Worship, Currie Kirk, including Sacrament of Communion
 - 29 Sunday Time to be confirmed**—Joint Valley Service—Balerno

- February**
- 5 Sunday 10 am**—Worship, Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
 - 7 Tuesday 10 am**—Guild Meeting—Scrambling into a little education in the 1800’s—GCH
 - 12 Sunday 10 am**—Heriot-Watt Anniversary Service, Excelsior per cantum (Chamber Choir)
 - 19 Sunday 10 am**—Worship, Currie Kirk
 - 21 Tuesday 7.30 pm**—Guild—Joint Valley Meeting—Guests: Quern—GCH
 - 26 Sunday 10 am**—Worship, Currie Kirk, with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship





Christmas Message from the Manse

Dearest friends,

It was exciting to catch a glimpse of the 2016 'supermoon' lighting up northern skies. This time of year we yearn for light as we approach the winter solstice. Light is such an important theme in scripture. The first thing created by God according to the book of Genesis was light.

'God said let there be light and the light was good. God separated the light from the darkness and he called the light day and the darkness night.' Genesis 1:3-4

When the prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of Jesus he wrote,

*'The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,
Upon them a light has shined.'* Isaiah 9: 2

The ancient peoples awaited the coming of a Saviour when God would send someone to be a light to a dark world. We remember at the holy birth whilst wise men followed the light of a beautiful star, Angels appeared to Shepherds and the glory of the Lord was shining all around.

Light keeps us safe. It lights our path and shows us the way to go. We sing of Rudolph's glowy bright nose guiding Santa's sleigh on a foggy Christmas Eve. Light lifts our spirits. It warms our hearts, homes and souls. Even a little candle can bring comfort and peace. Many people recently lit a candle for Aleppo to offer a unified prayer of hope. In Currie we are knitting hats and giving clothes and chocolate boxes to provide some light to others to show we care.

Soon we will decorate our houses with fairy lights and stars. We will make our Christingle lanterns on Christmas Eve—to remember God's gift of his Son, the Light of the World.

Even though we know that there are powers of darkness at work in our world—creating war and suffering, yet still we can proclaim with joy that His light of eternal truth still

'shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.' 1 John: 5

However you spend Christmas, don't ever doubt that Currie Kirk is a place of care and prayer—a place of 'light' hearted goodness, kindness, warmth and fun.

Enjoy yourself, stay safe and be merry. Wishing you every blessing this Christmas Season.

Easter



A Poem for Christmas—Eileen Chadwick

Twas the night before Christmas and the tree lights
had blown

The shops were all shut, so I let out a moan
I'd no money left, my savings all gone
And the tree looked so shabby, so very forlorn
The turkey was staring at me with a frown
I'd kill for a sherry my sorrows to drown

But the children, excited, were running amok
Fighting and squabbling over Dad's biggest sock
Their letters all written to Santa and posted
"It'll be the best Christmas this year", they all boasted
Their presents are wrapped and hidden from sight
Stockings hung up to be filled in the night
Into their jammies, their faces all shining
Nobody is crying, nobody is whining

On best behaviour lest he decides not to come
Bedrooms all tidied and teeth have been done
Into their beds with eyes screwed up tight
If he sees they're awake he won't come in the night
Just time for a story and then down to sleep
To dream of white snow, ever so deep
He'll come with his reindeer and land on the roof
Though they'll be fast asleep and see not a hoof

If only the myth was a fact, I could rest
And be, not a mother, but simply a guest
What joy that would be with no turkey to cook
With no sprouts to prepare I'd be let of the hook
No Christmas pudding to sink in the middle
Or presents to wrap—oh what a fiddle
No Auntie Maud with her finicky ways
All trussed up so tightly in her new flesh pink stays

No rushing round shops looking so frantic
Just listening to carols it would be so romantic
I could polish my nails even those on my toes
I could put on a face pack then powder my nose
Swan around in my housecoat sipping champagne
Light lots of candles to help me keep sane
But, the essence of Christmas has lost all its charm
What angels, what shepherds, what babe in a barn?

He didn't foresee this when He came down to earth
On that first Christmas morning when Mary gave birth
No Christmas crackers and no Christmas shopping
No Santa Claus with reindeers a-hopping
No Argos catalogue worn to a frazzle
And no Christmas trees with their lights all a-dazzle

No office parties with people so tipsy
They'd stand on a table and dance like a gypsy
No family squabbles over who to invite
And no Christmas pudding with its brandy alight
I've lost all my fizz my energy zero
And my darling husband, oh what a hero

"I'll just nip to the pub and get us more wine"
"Cos I expect you'll be cooking, when will we dine?"
"Have you ironed my shirt and where are my keys?"
"Have we got paper hankies, I'm going to sneeze"
Dragging my feet, I climb up the stairs
As I kneel by my bed and offer my prayers
I think of tomorrow and all it will bring
My heart is so heavy my soul does not sing

No Christmas spirit abounds in my head
Just worries and problems whiz round instead
Tired and weary I toss and turn in my bed
Did I set the alarm have the pets all been fed
Then just as I'm dropping off into sleep
I hear a strange noise, "Could that be a sheep"
Light pierces the window so bright I can't see
Some fool with their headlights, who can that be?
I crawl to the window and open the drape
Am I sleeping or dreaming, am I fully awake?
For there in the garden all covered in snow
Are shepherds and wise men—well what do you know?
Up the path to the shed where there shines a bright
light

Angels are winging their way in full flight
The Christ child is there in my very own shed
I cannot sleep now; I can't go back to bed
For he's brought us all gifts which he knows we all seek
Peace, Love and Mercy for those who are meek
Bountiful gifts for mankind to share
If we can but accept them, they will always be there.





Kirk Session Meeting

At the Kirk Session meeting held on Wednesday 16 November Grant Gordon intimated his wish to lay down the reins as Session Clerk of Currie Kirk. Over the past 26 plus years Grant has been instrumental in guiding Currie Kirk to where it is today. His knowledge of all aspects of the Kirk over that period of time cannot be underestimated and he has skilfully and passionately guided us through many difficult and testing times with patience, understanding and commitment beyond normal expectations. Also, his ability to write and deliver thoughtful and learned sermons with a degree of “highland” humour have left many of us feeling he should have given up banking a long time ago and gone into the ministry. He has led worship 99 times—Easter remarked that he had to do at least one more to make it 100!

Grant has been Session Clerk at Currie since 1 January 1990. He said at that time it was an escape valve from working in the bank! He was ably assisted by the late George Murray and more recently by Roddy Macdonald. His appointment was made by the Rev Gordon MacLean followed by Willis Jones; Keith Ross and Lezley Stewart. He quoted Ecclesiastes 3: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven”. Fortunately, for Currie Kirk, Grant will remain on the Finance; and Communication Committees and also oversee the new building until it is handed over by the builders to the Church. Grant will continue as Session Clerk until a new appointment is made.

Former Member of Currie Kirk Honoured by Pope Francis

A former member of Currie Kirk, Very Rev Dr Sheilagh Kesting, who is also a former Moderator of the General Assembly, has been awarded one of the highest honours in the Roman Catholic Church for her work to build good relationships among churches in Scotland.

In a historic first Dr Kesting has been invested as a Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great by Pope Francis. The award, in recognition of her many years of ecumenical work, is seen as a tangible sign of the good relations between the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church.

It is the equivalent of the papal “kighthood” awarded to men. Sir Tom Farmer is one recipient in Scotland of this rare honour.

Dr Kesting is the first Church of Scotland minister to receive the award and the Roman Catholic Church says it has only been awarded once before to a non-Catholic woman in the United Kingdom.

Dr Kesting was invested as a Dame of the Order of St Gregory on Sunday 6 November by Archbishop Leo Cushley of St Andrews & Edinburgh in the presence of the Catholic bishops of Scotland.



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. Kidz@Currie enjoy stories, arts, crafts and games.

All welcome—please come along and join us!

Colour in the Angel





Good Book Group



Our November read was *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George and it was a book that divided the group. The book was originally written in German but I think it has been translated well. It is a warm hearted, occasionally sentimental account of letting go of the old loves to make room for the new ones.

Parisian bookseller Jean Perdu received a letter 20 years ago from his lover Manon which he had never opened. Ever since then Jean had devoted his life to his floating bookstore, the Literary Apothecary, a barge docked on the Seine. It appeared as if he could look into the souls of the customers and choose the books which could make them better. When Catherine moved into his building, he gave her an old table and a stack of books to help her get over her break up from her husband. In the drawer of the table Catherine found Manon's letter which she persuaded Jean to read. Instead of leaving him as Jean thought, she had returned to her husband to die. In the letter her last request was for Jean to visit her. Overwhelmed by the news of her death and of the mistake of wasting his life over a dead woman, he lifts anchor and sets off on a journey with his neighbour Max, a novelist running away from fame.

If you like descriptive books then you will like this one. I found it similar to *The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared*. Some found the story unbelievable but it deals well with someone going through the stages of mourning. The plot moves along slowly but this may be deliberate to echo the journey of the barge. Overall it was marked a 6 but the marks ranged from a 4 to an 8.

Our next book is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. Get reading and join us at our next meeting on Monday 5 December.

Carolyn Steven

The Kirk Minibus—Thank You



The Trustees of the Minibus Fund would like to thank Jean Pringle for all her hard work over the past years, organising the Sunday Lifts and co-ordinating with the drivers the route for pickups. We wish her well, and hope that she now has some free time on a Saturday evening, when she moves soon to her new home in South Queensferry.

We would also thank Margaret Russell for taking on this task from Jean—she can be contacted on 449 5917 if you wish a lift in the bus to and from the church on Sunday mornings. There is no charge made for this service.

The Trustees of the Minibus would also like to thank all who have supported the running of the bus in 2016—donations received are acknowledged, but this is a special thank you to all those who are anonymous. The Kirk Office has yellow "sunshine" bags which can be filled with pennies and change. The total handed in this year was £64.08—a lot of pennies!! The Minibus Committee would also like to thank Ishbel & Margaret who manned a stand at the Winter Market with all proceeds going to the Minibus.

Bill Hume



What is free on the approach to Christmas?

Last month I asked that you be good enough to remove the stamps from the envelopes you receive at Christmas time (and indeed all the year round) by cutting with scissors a 1/4 inch border round the stamp. From the time you read this, cards are likely to start dropping through your letterbox, so please—don't put that envelope through the shredder until after you have cut off the stamp. The office does not have to be open for you to drop them off—simply put them in a wee poly bag and pop them through the Kirk Office letterbox. This really is a good way to play a small part in helping the wider work of Christian Aid.

Ishbel Massie



The Guild

At the Guild’s meeting on 1 November, Susan Veitch from the Sick Kids Foundation, talked on the support that it gives to the Family Support team to make sure that the last thing parents need to worry about is where they can stay. This is particularly important when families have travelled from some distance away. She thanked the Guild for the support—the donations for the evening totalled £220.30—through the sale of the huge number of Christmas cards. Susan has asked that thanks be passed on.

Meg’s target of 200 hats for Syrian refugees in the Lebanon is well on the way to being exceeded. At the meeting on 16 November, as well as those set out on the table, a further 25 hats were produced. More are in the pipeline and the total will be announced in the Kirk at the end of November.



On 15 November, Professor Palmer spoke on the history of the Caribbean and the ties between Jamaica and the Gibson Craigs who lived at that time on the land which is now the Heriot-Watt Campus. It was a revelation also to know that Gladstone came from Leith and was our MP for Midlothian. He also informed us that there are more Campbell’s in the Jamaican phone directory than anywhere else in the world—2,500.

On 6 December we are looking forward to hearing Gordon MacKinlay speak of his Visit to Antarctica and then its on with the party frocks for the Christmas Party on 20 December at 7.00 pm where Elma and Dudley will be entertaining us.

In the New Year on 17 January we are holding a Beetle Drive and this takes place in the afternoon at 2.00 pm.

All Welcome to any of the Guild meetings and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you wish a copy of the full syllabus.



Freda Robertson
President, 449 2593

Link to Hope—Family and Elderly Shoebox Appeal Received 115 Boxes from Currie!

A very big thank you to all those generous people who donated shoeboxes wrapped in Christmas paper and filled with necessities and goodies for refugee families. A total of 115 brightly wrapped shoeboxes were uplifted from Currie Kirk Office on 12 November by the Link to Hope Organisation—a wonderful response from our community that will bring much needed help and joy to families and elderly people in great stress and trauma in time for Christmas.

Mission & Outreach Committee



Hogmanay Charity Ceilidh 2016

In aid of research into Parkinsons
(SCO37554)

Dancing to Iain MacPhail and his Band

Saturday 31 December 2016
Gibson Craig Hall, Currie
8 pm to 12.45 am

Light Refreshments—Raffle
Bring your own bottle and glass

Tickets £15

Contact: Viola MacPhail
Tel. 449 4664 or 07806 806920



SCOTTISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC HALL OF FAME

The Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame was started in 2005 and is dedicated to giving acknowledgement and recognition to musicians and industry people who, by their dedication and hard work, have supported and influenced the development of Scottish traditional music during their lives. Into this category falls Iain MacPhail, who has made an outstanding contribution to Scottish music, and who was inducted in November 2016.

For more than five decades as accordionist, dance band leader and composer Iain has made his distinctive mark in the world of Scottish traditional dance music, combining the essential swing with harmonic sophistication.

He has composed some 350 tunes, and it's a rare Scottish dance band that doesn't have a few MacPhail compositions in its repertoire. His reputation as an innovator, in terms of his arrangements and band sound, has seen Iain and his band constantly in demand for dances, theatre, broadcasting and cabaret as far apart as Shetland and Brazil. His passion for playing, promoting and teaching Scottish traditional music internationally is fuelled by the simple maxim that "music comes from the heart and pride in our culture".

Iain grew up in Kilberry, Argyllshire—a place generally more associated with piping than with accordion playing—and indeed learned the pipes while in the Scouts, but he became hooked on accordion at the tender age of four when, the story goes, he hauled his father's button row accordion out of its case and was found playing The Rowan Tree. Iain's father, Dugald, was also a bandleader.

We are fortunate in Currie to have Iain at New Year—so phone Viola for your tickets.

Space does not allow for the full report from the Hall of Fame—for the full one check out the undernoted website:

<https://projects.handsupfortrad.scot/hall-of-fame/iain-macphail/>



Good News from Nether Currie Primary



The winning design by Isla and Iona K of Nether Currie School of the Curriculum Map Design competition. “We were inspired by our local community and wanted to represent the school. We chose the Pentland Hills because we wanted a nice scenery and background. We wanted to use our imagination and include the hill behind the church” said Isla and Iona

Nether Currie Primary has great news—the Eco Group representatives last year entered the Scottish Environment Protection Agency 2016 Environment Competition and attended the finalist’s ceremony at the Scottish Parliament where they were announced as the overall winners.



Easter accepting contributions for the Foodbank

When introducing the First Minister’s Reading Challenge, the children were asked who was the first Minister?

‘EASTER!’, they all called out—the Minister is obviously held in high regard at Nether Currie.



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

A visitor familiar to us all visited the three sections of The Boys’ Brigade. That visitor was Verity. She met our Anchor Boys and Juniors who were very keen to get to know more about her and how she would help a blind person in the future. She also met the Company Section boys who were keen to find out what happens if she doesn’t make it as a guide dog—ever the optimists!

The boys also have continued their success in the various competitions that they entered winning both the Masterteam and the basketball.

As a treat this month the older boys went on a historical tour of Edinburgh visiting the Royal Mile and the narrow closes running either side. They were shown the golden hands outside the City Chambers and were told the tale of the horse outside that has pigs ears because the council would not pay for the statue.



Michael Knott
Captain

Community Activities

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

	Contact name	Tel No:	Day
Baby Ballet	Claire Robertson	07731 466147	Wednesday
Balerno Bridge Club	Brian Rose	449 5335	Monday
Blue Sky Pilates	Claire McDonald	07872 349073	Wednesday
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 Day Centre	Dorothy Simpson coordinatorCDC@gmx.com	07562 142885	Friday by referral
Highland Dancing	Michelle Marshall	339 4704	Wednesday
Octagon Club	Terry Maloney	07514 664292	Wednesday
Nether Currie Baby and Toddler Group	Jennifer Nicol	449 4481	Fridays of the month 9.30 am to 11.30 am (term time only)
Pilates Class	Steph Bain	445 3690	Wednesday: Noon—1 pm
Senior Citizens	Jean Smith	449 5596	Monday
Snack Lunches	Viola MacPhail	449 4664	Tuesday
Yoga	Monica Evans	07986 600432	Tuesday: 8-9 pm
Zumba Exercise Class Thighs, Bums & Tums	Tom Lowe	07980 692929	Thursday: 10.15-11.15 am Tuesday: 10—11 am

Care Van Clothing

If you are clearing out wardrobes before Christmas to make way for the presents, we are always grateful for sweatshirts, t-shirts, jeans, trainers and outerwear in men's sizes to offer to the homeless we meet monthly. Please contact Gordon Clephane on 449-2313.

Winter Market

We raised £581 at the Winter Market on Saturday 19 November which will go to Braidburn School, and in particular, the hydrotherapy pool there. The Market was a great success, this was our second year hosting this event and we had a great mix of stalls—Usborne books, Avon, Stella & Dot Jewellery, The Kilted Artist, LB With Love, Ron Grigor and his paintings, Caleli gifts, Bottlz Up (painted bottles) among some of the talent. Ishbel and Margaret ran a stall for the Kirk minibus.

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who came along to buy or sell! We hope those who came also enjoyed the wine and mince pies.

Thanks,
Fiona Pigott
On behalf of the Mission & Outreach Committee

Family News

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

Elizabeth Lowe 39 Deanpark Avenue, Balerno

Please pray for the family



Diamond Wedding

On 26 October 1956 Wilma and James McLauchlan were married in the Highland Parish Church in Edinburgh



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

Arlo Peter Hutton—parents Karyn Jamie Pittman and Michael Alistair Hutton



Congratulations to Duncan Cameron on being Dux of the Junior School at Balerno High.



December/January Flower List



December

4 Mrs S Law

15 Mrs J McColl

22 Mr & Mrs I Matheson

January 2017

8 Mrs E Smith

29 Joint Valley Service

For further information regarding donations to Currie Kirk Flower Fund please contact Erica Porteous,
2 Pentland View, Currie or call 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 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 & Data Protection Officer	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 Halls bookings	May Sutherland to 31/12/16 Ann Proudfoot from 1/1/2017		449 7747 449 7739
Gibson Craig Halls Caretaker	Bill Sutherland		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	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	449 4639
Guild	Freda Robertson	Tuesday	449 2593
Kidz@Currie	Elaine Rae	Sunday	451 5384
Pop-up Family Church	Contact Church Office	Last Saturday of each month Gibson Craig Halls from 3.00 pm—5.00 pm	451 5141
Walking Group	Rena Milligan	Third Sunday of each month	449 2017



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 20 January 2017. Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**



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