



The Kirk News

June 2017



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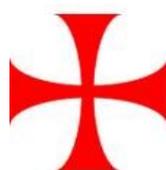
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THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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)

2017

June	2 June	7 pm —The 65th Edinburgh (Currie) Company Boys' Brigade Display—GCH
	4 June	10 am —Worship, Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	5 June	7 pm —Good Book Group
	11 June	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk
	13 June	7.30 pm —Minibus AGM—GCH
	18 June	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk
	25 June	10 am —Worship, Currie Kirk, with Sacrament of Communion
July	2 July	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	9 July	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk
	16 July	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk
	23 July	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk
	30 July	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk, with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship
August	6 August	10 am —Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	13 August	10 am —Worship— Currie Kirk
	20 August	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk
	27 August	10 am —Worship—Currie Kirk, with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship

Currie Kirk Minibus Fund

AGM—13 June—7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Halls

Please come along to the AGM and find out the workings of the Fund and how you can all help with the running costs of the bus in the coming years.



Message from The Manse

As I write this, I am reeling from a full day at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. After a solemn communion came the report of the World Mission Council. The convenor, Rev Iain Cunningham, gave a lovely speech about the need to support the ministry of women, not only in Scotland but throughout the world. He affirmed the ministry of women in the bible like Mary Magdalene and Lydia who played an active role in the early life of the church. He expressed a sadness that in our worldwide church the contribution of women's gifts are not always valued. The convenor mentioned that this was not only true in the third world. He said that former US President Jimmy Carter had recently resigned from the Southern Baptist Church because it won't recognise the ministerial gifts of women or allow them ordination.

The report went on to tell us about the plight of Christians around the world who are suffering in places of conflict or persecution. We discussed at length what we can do about our brothers and sisters in Palestine and Israel and suggestions came forth as to how to try to support those Palestinian Christians and people who are refugees because of the increasing Jewish settlements.

However, the really hard-to-hear part of the report came not, as I suspected, about Syria but the plight of our brothers and sisters in South Sudan. Even in a country where the majority of people are Christian, tribes are fighting against tribes and the bloodshed on the killing fields is worse than ever before. We were told that the leaders from Sudan could not get visas to attend the General Assembly, that the church of South Sudan is, "hanging on by its fingertips in a situation of total wretchedness and bloodshed."

We were asked to pray. And I could only think how lucky we are in Currie to worship God in a place of safety and peace. One poignant reflection the convenor had made earlier was to reflect upon a heroine of mine—Mary Slessor. Mary Slessor was born in 1848 in Scotland and in her youth she felt God was calling her to help and heal and bring the message of Christ to Nigeria. Her work and strong personality allowed her to be trusted and accepted by the locals while spreading Christianity, protecting native children and promoting women's rights. She is credited with having stopped the killing of twins among the Efik tribe—a particular ethnic group in Nigeria. According to the convenor, Slessor was once told by a tribal leader that it was too dangerous for her, as a woman, to go inland or to interfere with tribal warfare because 'the woman has no power.' Mary Slessor replied to the tribal man, that it is not the power of the woman that can make any difference but the power of the woman's God. So far the General Assembly is inspiring! It's only day one but I hope to tell you more. As we pray for Sudan, I thought about the poem by Maya Angelou set out on the next page.

In the meantime, God bless you,

Easter

Your Favourite Hymns/Psalms

Recently we had one of Easter's favourite hymns. Easter has agreed to include some of OUR favourites during summer services

WHAT'S ON YOUR LIST?

Old/New/Sunday School/Redemption Hymns etc the choice is yours. Put your request in the box in the reception area or hand to Helen Clayton. Give the first line or the number, plus your chosen tune (if there is more than one)—just something that will help the Minister to identify it—eg Psalm 23 has lots of tunes to choose from.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? LET'S RAISE THE ROOF!

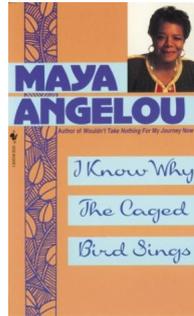
Helen Clayton

I know why the caged bird sings by Maya Angelou— a poem about emancipation

A free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wing
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.



The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn bright lawn
and he names the sky his own

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.



The River Walk—Sunday 18 June

A reflective walk in the city inspired by the writing of Margaret Silf.

The River Walk is an invitation to reflect on our faith journey by walking with reflective materials along the path by the Water of Leith in Edinburgh. By still waters, and occasional rapids, we are invited to connect once again with the living water which flows in and through us.

The walk starts from the Water of Leith Visitor Centre (24 Lanark Road, Edinburgh), please register with us there between 1 pm and 3 pm and collect your material. Walk at your own pace, alone or with friends, with reflective material provided in a printed booklet and audio guide. The River Walk is inspired by Margaret Silf's river reflections, and developed by Susan Mansfield, creator of the Passion Walk.

In the evening, please join us for—

An Evening with Margaret Silf

Sunday 18 June, 7.30 pm, St James Church, Goldenacre. Join the acclaimed writer and speaker on Christian spirituality for talk of rivers and journeys and much more.

For more information or to book, email me on reflectivewalks@gmail.com or call 07879 014344. The Walk costs £7, the evening event £5, or pay £10 for both. Booking is essential, we cannot guarantee to have enough material for walkers who have not booked.

Margaret Gordon



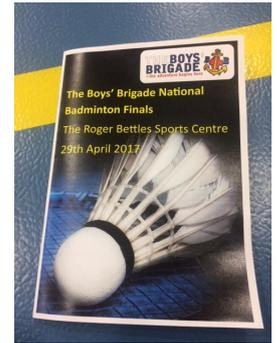
The 65th Company—The Boys' Brigade's Annual Display is being held on Friday 2 June at 7 pm in the Gibson Craig Hall. Anchors, Juniors and Company Boys will be presented with their awards and prizes. This is always a fun night and it would be great to see members of the congregation come along and join in our celebration of the year. We have a lot to celebrate!

At the end of April the boys who formed our badminton team won the UK and Republic of Ireland BB National Badminton competition, beating over 100 teams, for the third year in a row. The team consisted of six boys - David Kong, Jason Wang, Peter Sawkins, Lucas Johnston, Liam Packwood and Sam Raphael.

As always in the BB, there has been a large emphasis on volunteering and charity work this year with support given to a range of different causes including Syrian refugees and Cancer Research UK. This continued when we gave our support (and muscles) by helping set up Morningside United Church's Christian Aid book sale. Admittedly the boys went to Luca's afterwards for ice cream so it wasn't hard finding volunteers!

Looking forward to seeing you on Friday 2 June.

Michael Knott
Captain



Gibson Craig Halls Caretaker—Can You Help?

Most of you will now know that Bill Sutherland has retired from the position of Caretaker of the Gibson Craig Halls.

The question now is, where do we find a replacement? Not an easy answer as Bill did so much.

What we'd like to propose is that the job be divided up amongst a number of volunteers who would be prepared to open and close the Halls on a daily basis. You choose the day and times that would suit you. We would also need a co-ordinator to plan the rotas for the volunteers to allow a smooth service for all our Hall Users. Some additional house keeping would also be involved.

If this is something you think might be of interest to you and you want to learn more about, please contact the Session Clerk, Gordon Clephane, on 449 2313 or e-mail, gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk or see him at Church, and he will be delighted to give you more details of what is required.

At present, my grateful thanks go to the small band of helpers who are kindly helping out with the above.

Gordon Clephane
Session Clerk



The Guild

The Guild's summer outing was blessed with wonderful sunshine—Harlequin coaches were unable to take us at the last minute (not good for Moira's nerves!!), however, it was our gain as Living High Travel of Dunfermline sent us a luxury coach! Travelling to Selkirk where we stopped for morning coffee and a tour of Lochcarron Mill, which still produces tartan. Some decided to forego the tour and sit in the sunshine. Travelling through beautiful countryside to Eskdalemuir where in the distance we saw the Temple rise up behind the trees like a mirage. The peace of the area with all the birds was quite magical. The temple itself—beautifully decorated—was not so peaceful—with the sound of the drums and gongs—you would definitely not nod off during this service!.



Onwards to our evening meal at the Cardrona Peebles, where the staff could not do enough for us, our own room, excellent meal and then they arranged the undernoted photo—homeward bound to Currie—all agreeing it had been a wonderful day out.

The Guild commences in September—come and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

Isobel Webber
President



Fresh Start—An Edinburgh Charity, has kitted out 24 properties for recently homeless people with beds, sofas and other essentials which were in CALA show homes. The charity says the furniture donation from CALA is vital to help get people back on their feet, ensuring those who otherwise have nothing can enjoy the best start in their new properties.

Jen McQuistan of Fresh Start says “CALA was absolutely delighted when we let them know that the donation allowed us to furnish 24 separate properties. “I don't think they'd realised we'd be able to do so much. This is so important, because many people we work with have absolutely nothing when they first receive their keys. Often they don't have the social or financial support to buy the bare necessities—so having their new home furnished takes a great worry off their minds”.

(This article was submitted by Elizabeth Wood and was taken from a daily newspaper—Ed)

IONA—An island of peace—A Retreat



The lucky few who ventured to Staffa were treated to a display as the Puffins came out to welcome them.



The Chapel in Bishop's House—Easter led all services



*Bishop's House
Where good food and
great hospitality can be
found.*



When ...

When I am looking for God and He is hard to find—I will take my seat in Iona Abbey, lift my eyes and look around;

When the peace of Jesus evades me I will take my place in Bishop's House Chapel and immerse myself in the sound of chatter and laughter from the dining room next door;

When dark thoughts enter my head the ever changing hues of light on the shore line and houses of Mull will chase them away;

When, my heart pumps evil through my veins I will filter it out with the fine white sand from Iona's beaches; and

When, I need the love of Christ to comfort and encourage me I will take the hands of the friends, old and new, and I will smile.

Graham Wright



First Class hospitality at Bishop's House; pleasant walks, lovely beaches and visits to the Abbey. An uplifting time among friends and fellow travellers on our journey of faith—Bill Wood



The pilgrims were asked for a few quotes for the Kirk News—all in italics.

So relaxed—Iona is blessed

A wonderful time of spiritual refreshment and fellowship—with some retail therapy!! - Hilary and Jessie.

Coming Soon to Currie Kirk ...

The Osiligi Maasai warriors will be giving a special performance in Currie Kirk on Saturday evening, 2 September—a spectacular event not to be missed! Visit their website at <http://www.osiligiwarriors.co.uk/>. Look out for more details about the show and how to get tickets in the next edition of Kirk News.



Christian Aid 2017

In true Christian Aid week style, the weather turned against the volunteers with a lovely wet day on the first Monday! Fortunately things improved and I take this opportunity to thank them all very sincerely for their efforts for yet another year. Without them, and the contributions you gave when they called, the sum collected through the door to door collection of £4,887.06 would not have been possible.

Sadly, not everyone in the parish received an envelope this year due to a lack of volunteers and additionally, some full streets are now 'no cold calling zones' as designated by Trading Standards. We are rightly prohibited from knocking on the doors in these streets, and also on those who display such stickers indicating that they do not wish cold callers. I am sure we all have an appreciation and respect as to why these changes have arisen, but of course it does have a knock on effect for Christian Aid. If you wondered, therefore, why you did not receive an envelope this year, or you received an envelope but not a return visit, the answer may lie above.

For those of you who have also been going a little 'nuts' trying to complete the musical quiz—thank you for supporting it. The winner is Elizabeth Wood, Juniper Green, and to put folk out of their misery, the answers are listed below.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Beatles | 11. Hollies | 21. Eagles |
| 2. Doris Day | 12. Dean Martin | 22. Tommy Steele |
| 3. Oasis | 13. Elvis Presley | 23. Moody Blues |
| 4. Black Sabbath | 14. Buddy Holly | 24. Guns N Roses |
| 5. Beach Boys | 15. Judas Priest | 25. Fleetwood Mac |
| 6. Vera Lynn | 16. Max Bygraves | 26. Swinging Blue Jeans |
| 7. Little Mix | 17. T Rex | 27. Dusty Springfield |
| 8. Rolling Stones | 18. Cliff Richard | 28. Frankie goes to Hollywood |
| 9. Wet Wet Wet | 19. One Direction | 29. Pet Shop Boys |
| 10. Louis Armstrong | 20. Arctic Monkeys | 30. Mike and the Mechanics |

In whatever way you contributed, Christian Aid is most appreciative—so thank you all.
Ishbel Massie

Currie Kirk Mini Bus—Coffee Morning—9 September Help with International Stall required!!

Whether you are going to Portobello, Portugal or Peru or even further afield can you help with the international stall at the coffee morning—a souvenir of little expense to brighten up the lives of the buyers. A tea towel or maybe a pencil or pen—nothing too expensive—just a wee souvenir to help the bus run for another year.

Isobel Webber, Treasurer



Summer POP-UP Café!

Every Tuesday from 10.30 am till 12 noon

Gibson Craig Hall

Coffee—Tea—Homebaking



All Welcome

Contact Viola MacPhail—07806 806920

Gift Aid

The Gift Aid Scheme allows me to collect for the Kirk a tax rebate, direct from HMRC, of 25% of the donations made by those who give under the scheme. At the end of each tax year I write a letter of thanks to each donor in the scheme and provide a statement showing the donations they made and the tax I have reclaimed. The statements for the tax year 2016-2017 were issued in May.

If you are a taxpayer and give to the Kirk but did not receive a statement, the most likely reason is that you are not recorded as a Gift Aid donor. Please let me know and I can then arrange to treat your donations as Gift Aid so that the Kirk will benefit by an extra 25% of what you give.

Thanks for your help.

Ron Dow
Offerings and Gift Aid Treasurer

giftaid it

Christian Aid Coffee Morning 2017 A very big thank you to everyone who attended or donated delicious home baking and to all those involved in setting up, serving and washing up. We made the splendid sum of £341.07 which was donated to Christian Aid.

Many thanks from Mission and Outreach Team

The Kirk News

If you have enjoyed receiving your magazines—your distributor will be calling either in June or July. A suggested donation of £2 will help towards the printing.

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
Currie and District Local History Society	Douglas Lowe	449 4349	Monday Evenings twice monthly October to March
Currie Community Council	Madge Barker	449 3450	2nd Monday of each Month —not July & December
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 (Fuschia)	Steph Bain	445 3690	Wednesday: Noon—1 pm
Pentland Gymnastics	Alison McLean	07731 429625	Tuesday
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

Sunday Morning Hospitality and Fellowship— Can you help?

Sharing hospitality and enjoying fellowship is an important part of life in Currie Kirk and, more than ever, members of our congregation are choosing to stay after Sunday morning worship to enjoy a chat and catch up with friends over a cuppa and a biscuit (or two!). If you have yet to participate in this time of fellowship, please give it a go—it's an opportunity to relax in each other's company and catch up on what's happening in the Kirk and the world at large!

The extended and refurbished facilities we now have at the Kirk provide an ideal and much admired venue for this and every week we have teams of volunteers who prepare and serve refreshments, and clear away afterwards. If you feel you could help as a member of one of the teams providing Sunday morning hospitality, please speak to me or any member of the Social and Fellowship Committee. Obviously, the more people who can take a turn at helping occasionally on a Sunday morning, the easier it will be for everyone. It would be great to hear from you.

Thanks,

Gordon Cranford,
Convenor, Social and Fellowship Committee
449 4639



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
Gift Aid & Offerings Treasurer & Data Protection Officer	Ron Dow 48 Thomson Drive Email: 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	Ann Proudfoot	ckgchbooking@gmail.com	449 7739
Gibson Craig Halls Caretaker	Vacant		
Hospital Transport Coordinator	Elizabeth Wood		538 0363
Deputy Coordinator	Jim Ure		449 6498
Kirk House Bookings	Isobel Paterson		449 6182
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	449 4639
Guild	Isobel Webber	Tuesday	451 5112
Kidz@Currie	Elaine Rae	Sunday	451 5384
Messy Church	Contact Church Office	Last Friday of each month commencing September—Gibson Craig Halls from 3.00pm—5.00 pm	451 5141
Walking Group	Moira McDonald	Third Sunday of each month	467 0682



The Kirk News

Can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/Kirknews>—why not mark it as a favourite. **Articles for the July/August (Summer) issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 23 June 2017. Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**



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