



# The Kirk News

July / August 2017



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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

July	2 July	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk—Rev Alistair Donald (Chaplain to Heriot Watt University) with Prayer Tree Service following worship:
	2 July	2—4 pm—Strawberries 'n' Sinatra—GCH
	9 July	10 am—Worship—Currie Kirk—Rev Bill Brown
	16 July	10 am—Worship—Currie Kirk—Rev Murray Chalmers
	23 July	10 am—Worship—Currie Kirk—Grant Gordon
	30 July	10 am—Worship—Currie Kirk—Rev Keith Ross, 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
	25 August	7 pm—Stewardship Social—GCH
	26 August	7 pm—Stewardship Social—GCH
	27 August	10 am—Worship—Currie Kirk, with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship
September	2 September	7.30 pm—Maasai Warriors—Currie Kirk
	3 September	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	5 September	10 am—Guild First Meeting—GCH
	9 September	10 am—Coffee Morning—GCH—Currie Kirk Mini Bus
	10 September	10 am—Worship—Currie Kirk
	17 September	10 am—Worship—Currie Kirk
	19 September	12 Noon—Snack Lunches Resume—GCH
	19 September	2.30 pm—Guild—GCH
	24 September	10 am—Worship—Currie Kirk, with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship
	29 September	2—4 pm—Messy Church—GCH

## Your Favourite Hymns

It appears that we have had a lot of elections lately, so many thanks to everyone who took part in another one.

There were 106 favourites, nearly everyone different. There were 8 which were chosen twice, 7 got 3 votes and 1 got 4. You can check the board in the Reception Area to see the full list.

Obviously, they can't all get an airing. It is up to Easter to decide which ones she thinks appropriate to use in the services.

**WILL YOURS BE ONE OF THEM?**





# A Message from The Manse



## Dearest Friends

Summer is upon us and we've already enjoyed a few 'Scottish' scorching hot days. I say 'Scottish' because a hot day here rarely competes with a scorching hot day elsewhere in the world. Our family are headed to Baltimore for July where a heatwave is something wholly different and less pleasant than a heatwave in the UK.

One of our warmest weeks in May was during the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. At lunchtimes, hundreds of Church of Scotland ministers and elders relaxed on the lawns of Princes Street Gardens. Everyone was so friendly, upbeat and chatty in the warmth.

People always seem friendlier on warm days—it is a lot easier to relax, smile and chat in the sun than on those other days when we're all running for cover from rain or sleet, or cowering under an umbrella hoping the wind won't whip it inside out! Generally, no matter the weather, folk in Currie are always friendly! We are a village and a community and that friendliness is, especially, true in the Kirk.

So far this 2017 I have been encouraging each of you to think about the gifts and talents you bring. All of us have different God-given gifts. Sometimes these are special gifts of the Holy Spirit like wisdom, hope, the ability to build peace, discern or pray—but all gifts matter and God wants us to grow to use our gifts to serve others and fulfil our God-given potential. Below are some suggestions of gifts you may have. I am sure you have other gifts too.

Something else we've been doing in 2017 is rewriting the remits of our groups and Committees. At the end of holidays, in the autumn, we will host a 'Stewardship of Talents Social' when we will invite you to join us for some fun and food and perhaps sign up to the things you'd enjoy most in the life of the Kirk.

Paul wrote to the Roman Church:

*'In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show kindness, do it cheerfully.'*

In the meantime, I wish you a good, blessed and relaxing summer. Wherever you spend your time, I hope the weather is kind.

Easter

If you look below, do you recognise any gifts you have to offer?



# Snack Lunches

Snack Lunches closed for the summer in May, having raised over £3,000, a wonderful sum for charity during the 2016-17 season. At the AGM it was decided to donate £220 to each of the following charities:

- ♦ Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Cerebral Palsy Care
- ♦ Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh Research into Endometrial Cancer
- ♦ Ovarian Cancer Research
- ♦ Scottish Network for Arthritis Research in Children
- ♦ Currie Kirk Minibus Fund
- ♦ Breast Cancer Care
- ♦ Simpson Special Care Unit for Neonatal Babies
- ♦ Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance
- ♦ Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Scotland
- ♦ Christian Aid
- ♦ Alzheimer Scotland—Action on Dementia



£300 is also to be given to the Gibson Craig Hall and £105 spent on training courses for food handlers. £100 will be retained for equipment for serving Snack Lunches.

Many thanks indeed to all who supported Snack Lunches, whether as volunteer helpers or customers consuming the delicious soup and home baking! We will resume Snack Lunches at Noon on Tuesday 19 September when all are welcome.

BUT we are always looking for people, men as well as ladies, to help with Snack Lunches, whether in serving customers, making soup, baking or clearing up dishes. If you would be interested in helping in any way, please contact **Viola MacPhail 449 4664 or 07806 806920.**

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Bill Sutherland, retired Hallkeeper at the Gibson Craig, for all his help in setting up the Hall every week with tables and chairs for Snack Lunches, then clearing them away again over the years. Always cheerful and willing to help, Bill will be very much missed by all the teams at Snack Lunches.



## ***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***



Liam, Peter, Lucas, Finlay, Duncan and Mark

June marks the end of the BB session but it's been a busy month. At the start of the month we had our Annual Display where we awarded six Queen's Badges. The Queen's Badge is the highest award in The Boys' Brigade and involves community volunteering, developing skills and working in a leadership capacity within the BB.

We also entered the annual athletics competition against six other BB companies. We are delighted to announce we won on a sunny evening in Musselburgh.

Finally, it's a big congratulations to David Kong who has been elected to serve a two-year term as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament representing The Boys' Brigade in Scotland. Within this role he will be canvassing the opinion of the whole membership—nearly 18,000 young people in Scotland—and represent their interests to decision makers.



Michael Knott  
 Captain



Farmers of the Future—Helping at The Royal Highland Show!!





You may remember that last November the Guild appealed for help to knit woollen hats for the 70,000 Syrian Refugees in Lebanon who were living in tents in freezing conditions in a town called Aarsal. The news soon spread throughout Currie and beyond and by the end of the month we had over 600 hats to give to Edinburgh Direct Aid to deliver to the refugees along with many bags of warm clothing donated by members of the congregation.

Since then the Guild, and friends of the Guild, members of the congregation, the Senior Citizens club, the ladies at the Craft and Chat class at Currie Library and many more have continued to knit and we have taken another 550 hats to the EDA depot at Granton where they are always gratefully received.

On our last visit we were told there are now 100,000 refugees living in Aarsal!

We will continue to knit until 31 October when it will be a year since we started. Who knows, we may even gain an entry into the Guinness Book of Records! To help us do so, but more importantly to help the refugees please 'KEEP KNITTING' over the summer months.

Completed hats of any size, style or colour can be handed in to the Church Office along with donations of wool as well please. Knitting patterns and wool are available there too if you would like to help.

Finally a 'Date for your Diary':- Ann Thanisch from Edinburgh Direct Aid will be coming to speak to the Guild about the work it does for refugees, not only in Lebanon but also in Bosnia on Tuesday 7 November 2017 at 10am in the Gibson Craig Hall. Please come and join us.

Margaret Watson



## The Guild

Time passes so quickly and it is now time for me to take over from Freda as President—following in her footsteps will not be an easy task as she knows more about the Guild than I will ever learn—However, I am looking forward to the challenge and with the support of the Committee who, I know, have been busy organising speakers for the new session for us all to enjoy it should be a good year ahead.

Though the Guild has now finished and will commence again on the 5 September you can still meet with your friends at the Pop up Café on a Tuesday—see page 4.

I thought I would share one of the many photos from my camera taken at the Chelsea Flower Show—this was an amazing exhibit—that is another one “ticked off” my “must do” list.

Looking forward to seeing new and old members in September.

Isobel Webber  
President



The Guild has changed its meeting times for next Session.  
The evening meetings have been changed to 2.30 in the afternoon. Apart from the Scots Night and the AGM which will be evening meetings.  
Morning meetings remain unchanged.

# Maasai Warriors are coming to Currie Kirk— Saturday 2 September at 7.30 pm



**T**he **OSILIGI MAASAI WARRIORS**, a seven piece group from southern Kenya, will give a special performance at **Currie Kirk on Saturday 2 September at 7.30pm**. They perform authentic tribal song and dance as well as their famed Maasai jumping and, over a number of years, have visited schools, churches and theatres throughout the UK with great success. The show is both entertaining and informative and includes some audience participation and a question and answer session on the lives of the Maasai. Maasai beadwork will also be available for sale on the night.

In recent years, the group has worked with a small charity—Osiligi Charity Projects—leading to the transformation of their local community with new water stations, a new church/community centre, a new medical centre and, most impressively, a new, state-of-the-art primary school currently sponsoring around 200 children.

Tour organiser Jim Wilkie said, “The Warriors offer great family entertainment and have found immense popularity throughout the UK. We are delighted to be coming to the historic Currie Kirk.” Our minister, Easter Smart, said, “The energy and freedom of African music and dance has such a power to uplift our spirits. I am very excited to welcome the Maasai Warriors and enjoy an experience from Kenya in Currie!”.

So come along and join us and The Osiligi Maasai Warriors at Currie Kirk on Saturday, 2 September at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Gordon Cranford (07572 861 123) or from the Currie Kirk office, Gibson Craig Halls, 156 Lanark Road West, Currie (0131 451 5141), priced £8.00 for adults and £4.00 for children under 16.

Gordon Cranford  
Convener, Social and Fellowship Committee

## Iona Scotland’s Holy Isle—Sandy Harper

On a visit to Iona Scotland’s Holy isle  
With like minded friends from church,  
Having travelled over land and sea  
The journey took a while,  
It was good to linger on the shore  
Where it’s magic made me smile.

With accommodation in the Bishop’s house  
A home to share together,  
A truly lovely place to stay  
In fellowship and harmony.  
A time to pray, and a time to laugh  
As an extended family.

Each day we’d take a different walk  
Exploring hills and glens,  
And enjoy the peace and tranquillity  
As we tread the white sands on the shore,  
And watch the various birds in flight  
I couldn’t ask for more.

The nearby isle of Staffa I really had to see  
Another lovely island with lots of history,  
The ferry dropped us at the quay  
But I didn’t feel so brave,  
As I scrambled round the edge of the rock  
Heading for Fingal’s cave.

At last I reached the entrance  
And what a scene I found,  
A massive cavern reaching far inside  
With a special echoing sound,  
I just sat on a stone at peace with myself  
Listening to the rising tide.

Iona is a treasure, the isle I came to see  
Lots of beauty everywhere on land or on the sea  
It really is a peaceful place, as I soon became aware  
A holy place, a special place, a place that’s always there,  
For all the many visitors who come along to share  
**Yes I’ll always have my memories of the isle that  
captured me.**





## Mungo's Well

This well can be found on the south bank of the Water of Leith about 50 yards east of Currie Brig. Although it has a stone surround and gives every appearance of great antiquity this is not the true St Mungo's Well. This is to be found deep under the adjacent railway embankment. In former times it is very likely that this was the well from which the hamlet of Currie drew its water. The cottages, the old school and any passers by would know its refreshing waters. The Manse (at that time) had its own well but possibly Robert Palmer at the Schoolhouse used this well at his back door!

Currie was very lucky in that iron well heads from water mains gave clean water to the people as early as mid-Victorian times. St Mungo's Well takes its name from Mungo or Kentigern who founded the Christian community in Glasgow. Since he knew Carnwath well it is likely that he knew this area too.

Mungo in his missionary zeal sent out preachers to many places. A small stone cell would be built and a Preaching Cross set up. Sensibly, the sites chosen were usually beside a well or stream. One man covered a wide area with several centres. From these bases Mungo's young men would preach, teach, administer the sacraments, legalise marriages and say prayers for the dead. It is virtually certain that from Kildeleith (the chapel on the Leith) grew the parish and the Kirk of Currie.

(The above was written many years ago by the late Miss Betty Dagg for a project for Boys who were completing their Queen's Badge by doing work in the community—they tidied up the well—Ed.)



## Strawberries 'n' Sinatra



**Sunday 2 July—Gibson Craig Hall**

**(2—4) pm**

**Tickets £5 from the Kirk Office**

The Mission & Outreach Committee has organised a Strawberries 'n' Sinatra event.

Afternoon tea will be served and the entertainment will be provided by Graeme White, who has a fantastic repertoire of the "Rat pack" songs and music.

All proceeds to Christian Aid.



# The Good Book Group

## The Versions of Us by Laura Barnett

**E**va and Jim are nineteen, and students at Cambridge, when their paths first cross in 1958. Jim is walking along a lane when a woman approaching him on a bicycle swerves to avoid a dog. What happens next will determine the rest of their lives.

We follow three different versions of their future—together, and apart—as their love story takes on different incarnations and twists and turns to the conclusion in the present day.

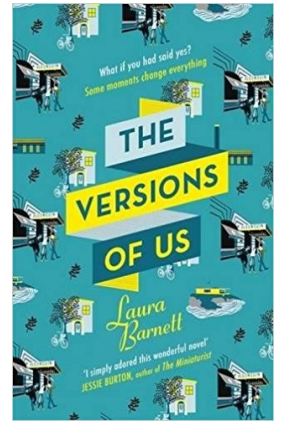
*The Versions of Us* is a debut novel about the choices we make and the different paths that our lives might follow. What if one small decision could change the rest of your life? *The Versions of Us* explores the idea that there are moments when our lives might have turned out differently, the tiny factors or decisions that could determine our fate, and the precarious nature of the foundations upon which we build our lives. It is also a story about the nature of love and how it grows, changes and evolves as we go through the vagaries of life.

It is a confusing book to read unless you are good at remembering details. I found it easier to read all of version one first then two then three in each of the parts.

Edinburgh Book Festival is on from the 12—28 August. If you have never been then it is worth a visit even if you pick an author you don't know as it is not how good the book is but how good they are at speaking. Laura Barnett, author of the *Versions of Us* is going to be there this year.

We return after a good summer of reading to meet on the first Monday in September in the Gibson Craig Hall.

Carolyn Steven



**Currie Kirk Mini Bus—Coffee Morning—9 September  
10 am—12 Noon**

**Can you help with any of the undernoted?**

**Baking  
Books  
Holiday Gifts  
New and Unwanted Gifts**

There will be a Jewellery Stall run by Shona with all profits to the Minibus  
Calendars will be on sale—so get your 2018 calendar early

You will be pleased to hear that Peter is baking cakes and for a donation you can enjoy one of his bakes  
(catch him on You Tube as he demonstrates his baking)

All donations will be gratefully received—the Minibus needs your help—thank you in advance.

Please telephone:  
Isobel Webber, Treasurer  
(451 5112)  
or  
Ishbel Massie  
(451 5141)

# 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 <a href="mailto:coordinatorCDC@gmx.com">coordinatorCDC@gmx.com</a>	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

**Thought for the  
Day**

**Good Deeds  
make great  
Communities**



# Family News

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

Cathy Gifford, 23 Stewart Avenue

Christine Todd, 33 Thomson Road



Please pray for the families

## Baptism:

Kyle Ian Hepplewhite , Son of Kath and Ian Hepplewhite



## Wedding

On Friday 16 June Annie Barr and Robert Fleming were married  
in Currie Kirk.



## Margaret Gordon (Pastoral Care)

It is with a degree of sadness that I have to announce the retirement of Margaret Gordon from pastoral care activities in Currie Kirk. Margaret has given over 30 years loyal and dedicated service in this role and we wish her every blessing for the future.

Gordon Clephane, Session Clerk

## July/August Flower List

### July

- 2 Donations to Flower Fund
- 9 Mrs E Patton
- 16 Mrs B Dow
- 23 Donations to Flower Fund
- 30 Donations to Flower Fund

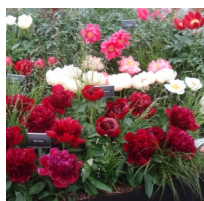


### August

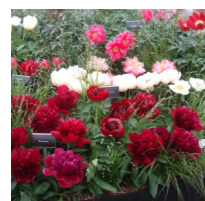
- 6 Donations to Flower Fund
- 13 Mrs M Greig
- 20 Mrs R Milligan  
Mrs W McLauchlan
- 27 Mrs N Wardall

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 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	<a href="mailto:ckgchbooking@gmail.com">ckgchbooking@gmail.com</a>	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 September issue should be sent—using a Word attachment—by email to [isobelwebber@btinternet.com](mailto:isobelwebber@btinternet.com) before or by Friday 25 August 2017. Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**



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