

# The Kirk News

March 2019



## In this Issue

Calendar Overview  
Sunday Fun Club  
Message from the Manse  
Lenten Studies  
Fair Trade Lunch  
New Face—Old Ways  
Ishbel—A Big Thank You  
Messy Church  
Kirk Administrator

Kirk Singers  
The Guild  
Minibus  
The Good Book Group  
Data Protection Officer  
Edinburgh Direct Aid  
Fish Wrapper  
Shoe Boxes have arrived  
Men's Sheds

The Rock Trust  
Community Activities  
Tea and Tunes  
Family News  
Who Dares Wins  
Flower List  
Who's Who



## CALENDAR OVERVIEW:

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

*(GCH= Gibson Craig Halls)*

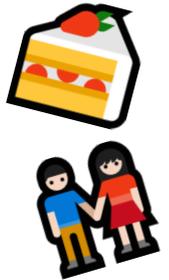
<b>March</b>	<b>3 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	<b>4 Monday</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b> —Good Book Group—GCH Lounge
	<b>5 Tuesday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —The Guild: Half Forgotten Memories—Speaker: Alec Shuttleworth—GCH
	<b>6 Wednesday</b>	<b>11-11.30 am</b> —Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	<b>6 Wednesday</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b> —Lenten Studies—Sharing the Faith—Currie Kirk
	<b>10 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Worship—Currie Kirk
	<b>10 Sunday</b>	<b>11.45 am</b> —Fair Trade Lunch—GCH
	<b>12 Tuesday</b>	<b>2.30—4.00 pm</b> —Tea and Tunes—GCH
	<b>13 Wednesday</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b> —Lenten Studies—Sharing the Faith—Currie Kirk
	<b>17 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Worship—Currie Kirk
	<b>19 Tuesday</b>	<b>2.30-4.00</b> —Daffodil Tea: Guests Elma & Dudley Williams—GCH
	<b>20 Wednesday</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b> —Lenten Studies—Sharing the Faith—Currie Kirk
	<b>21 Thursday</b>	<b>7.30</b> —Kirk Session—GCH
	<b>24 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Worship Currie Kirk with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship
	<b>27 Wednesday</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b> —Lenten Studies—Sharing the Faith—Currie Kirk
	<b>29 Friday</b>	<b>2-4.00 pm</b> —Messy Church—Easter—GCH
<b>31 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Mothering Sunday—All Age Worship Service—Currie Kirk	
<b>April</b>	<b>1 Monday</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b> —Good Book Group—GCH Lounge
	<b>2 Tuesday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —The Guild—Canine Partners—Speaker: Dale Gormley—GCH
	<b>3 Wednesday</b>	<b>11-11.30 am</b> —Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	<b>7 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	<b>14 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Worship—Currie Kirk
	<b>16 Tuesday</b>	<b>7—9 pm</b> —The Guild AGM with cheese and wine—GCH
	<b>17 Wednesday</b>	<b>7 pm</b> —The Stations of the Cross—Our Lady’s, Currie
	<b>18 Thursday</b>	<b>7 pm</b> —Maundy Thursday Service—Balerno Parish Church
	<b>19 Friday</b>	<b>7 pm</b> —Good Friday Worship—Currie Kirk
<b>21 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> — <b>Easter Sunday</b> —Worship—Currie Kirk with Sacrament of Communion	
<b>28 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Worship—Currie Kirk	
<b>May</b>	<b>1 Wednesday</b>	<b>11.11.30 am</b> —Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	<b>5 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	<b>6 Monday</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b> —Good Book Group—GCH Lounge
	<b>9 Thursday</b>	<b>9.30 am</b> —Meet GCH—Guild Outing
	<b>12 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Worship Currie Kirk—Kirkin’ of the Currie Community Council
	<b>19 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Worship Currie Kirk—Christian Aid Sunday
	<b>26 Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b> —Worship Currie Kirk with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship



**Don't Forget**

# Sunday Fun Club

**Gibson Craig Halls—9.45-11.20 am—4 years +**



## Kirk News

The April issue of Kirk News will be available on Sunday 31 March for distribution



# A Message from Easter

***Dear Friends***

**W**hen we lived in Aberdeen, the wonderful Mark Paterson, Curator of the Cruickshank Botanic Garden grew a labyrinth prayer path out of crocus bulbs for our students. As you can see, it was one of nature's beautiful Spring gifts. Labyrinth prayer paths (like the one in Balerno) invite us to revisit an ancient form of contemplative prayer.

With a labyrinth we follow a path. We begin out in the world, but as we walk the winding trail to the centre, we leave the cares of the world behind because the centre represents the heart of God. At the centre sometimes you will find bread and wine, a seat, a green space, or a candle as a symbol calling us to be present with God and find refreshment before following the rhythmic path back out to the world.

The crocus labyrinth gave us a focal point for Lent, and whenever I see crocus flowers I am uplifted and reminded that Lent (from the French to go slowly) is indeed a time to slow down the pace of life to draw closer to the heart of God and to be refreshed in order to serve the world better. In remembering Christ's ministry and journey to Jerusalem, we are called to seek his guidance so as to share his compassion. Lent brings to focus the needs of others and invites us to respond, to support social causes, to help to alleviate hunger or need, to witness to the resurrection hope by simply showing our neighbours, our friends and folk we've yet to meet that we care.

This season also unveils the greening of the earth once more. All around us snowdrops, crocus flowers and daffodils are pushing up once again from the cold ground, reminding us of Christ's resurrection promises to bring new life even after sadness, loss or death.

This season of growing is testimony that we ourselves are called in Christ to grow. One of Currie's covenant promises in the Local Church Review was to rejuvenate the eldership and to strengthen the leadership within Currie Kirk. So I am excited to invite you along, if you can make it, to attend four Wednesday evening studies during Lent, where we will explore what it means to share the faith. Do come if you can.

I hope you can take the time you need to put God at the centre this Lent.

God bless,

Easter



Crocus Labyrinth—Cruickshank Gardens Aberdeen

## Lenten Studies—Sharing the Faith—Currie Kirk

Wednesday 6 March at 7.00 pm  
Wednesday 13 March at 7.00 pm  
Wednesday 20 March at 7.00 pm  
Wednesday 27 March at 7.00 pm



## Fairtrade Fortnight 2019



*Snack Lunch £4.50; Children £2; Proceeds to Christian Aid SCO31950  
on*

*Sunday 10 March 2019 from 11.45am in Gibson Craig Hall*

*£4.50 includes soup, bread, cheese, homebaking, tea and coffee*

Tickets from Viola MacPhail 449 4664

## New Face—Old Ways

**B**y the time you read this, there will be a new face in the Kirk Office. Despite that, the opportunity to continue collecting various items for different causes will still continue, although a few changes have taken place in the last couple of weeks.

**Mobile phones**—these used to be collected by Christian Aid—sadly that is no longer the case and so these can no longer be accepted.

**Used postage stamps**—these too were collected for Christian Aid—again, they have stopped collecting them, but I am now taking them to the World Mission. This will mean that they are going to a different cause each year (currently the Ukraine), so please continue to save throughout the year, and drop them off at your convenience.

**Books**—during **March and April**, we will again collect books for the Christian Aid book sales that take place during Christian Aid week (12 – 18 May). They may be dropped off during office opening hours, or if you require them to be collected (Currie, Balerno and Juniper Green only), please phone me (number below), and I will arrange to do so at your convenience.

**Greetings cards** and **stylus pens** can continue to be purchased, which supports the minibus fund, but perhaps the easiest collection of items which we can possibly all support, is that of the plastic milk bottle tops (not 'look alike' fruit juice—they are different). These go to help a Cancer charity in the Borders. The Corner Café saves theirs and a member of the congregation kindly collects them weekly, so please follow their example and support a good cause—they can be posted through the letter box if the office is closed. Ask your neighbours to save theirs too.

Thank you all for your support in these 'ventures' and in other ways, over the last 4½ years during which I have worked in the office, it has been appreciated, and I hope you continue that support to Nina, my successor.

Ishbel Massie 449 4693

# A BIG BIG THANK YOU to Ishbel!

Moving down from Aberdeen in 2015, I had a lot to learn, not only about Currie Kirk, but about Parish ministry. But there at the helm of the office was Ishbel. I was blessed to find that I was in the more-than-capable administrative hands of another teuchter fae Aberdeen!

Ishbel more than welcomed me. From the start she was an anchor and a fount of knowledge. Indeed, she has proved to be a backbone for my three years of ministry in Currie—always going the extra mile, working well beyond the parameters and hours of the job in order to help me, you and the Kirk be at our best.

So what can I/we say to you Ishbel as you retire, other than thankyou!

Thank you for your willingness to learn, to wait out, iron out and sort out all our issues with technology. You patiently aided us on our steep learning curves through photocopier mayhems, audio-visual mishaps, data protection melt-downs. You stuck it all out so that each and every system now works better, and as a consequence, we work better!

The congregation and community have so greatly appreciated your presence in the office on weekdays—as a place to pop in, share news, ask questions, seek help and be a part of what is going on.

Thank you for making events run smoothly from the Talents Social to the Minibus Auction to all the other little things of busy life in the Gibson Craig Hall that slip by. With you in the office everyone knew the funeral detail, the wedding and worship detail was covered . . . You are a hard act to follow.

Most of all, at a personal level it was lovely to work with you and also with you and Gordon together as a team—a team who could take life seriously but never without the ability to laugh . . . and I know we will continue to laugh.

We all hope you enjoy this next chapter of retirement and a bit of free time to start some new challenges. We also hope your immense personal commitment to some of Currie's ministries such as Christian Aid and the Kirk minibus will continue!

Thanks again and God bless you in your new time of retirement. I know you are not one to sit about or sleep in so I read this poem and thought of you!

*Easter*



## The Lie-in by Chrissy Greenslade

I'm going to have a lie-in,  
Tomorrow I'll be free,  
Instead of getting up at six,  
In bed I'll drink my tea.

I think of all the resting  
And reading I can do,  
It'll be a pleasure sleeping  
For an extra hour or two

I won't set my alarm clock  
This feeling it is grand,  
I can go to bed much later  
As I have eight hours in hand.

Now six o'clock is dawning  
There must be some mistake  
I cannot stay in bed,  
I'm far too wide awake!





Messy Church's theme for 29 March is "Easter" and we will be learning anew about the wonders of Holy Week and Easter.

Children of any age are welcome—from babes in arms to those just finishing primary school. All children must be accompanied by an adult who stays to join in the fun.



At each meeting we have games, songs, crafts, a short video and sometimes a drama to re-enact the Bible story. All meetings finish with tea, coffee, juice and biscuits affording an opportunity to get to know the other people there.

Meetings start at 2 pm in the Gibson Craig Halls and finish between 3.30 pm and 4 pm. Do come and join us. For further information, contact Louise on 466-3472 or email [elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk)

Louise Lamont

## Kirk Administrator—New Appointment

I am pleased to announce that we have appointed a new Kirk Administrator for the Church and her name is Nina Valvona. Nina lives locally in Currie and she starts with us on Friday 22 February 2019.

Nina will be working with Ishbel during Ishbel's last week in February and I know you will want to wish Nina every success in her new position.

Gordon Clephane  
Session Clerk



*l/r Back Row: Geoff Rae, Allan Watt, Tom Masson, Alistair Hardie, Gordon Cranford. Front row: Sandy Harper, Bill Wood, Eleanor Smith, Marcus Stout.  
Angus Macphie (not in photo).*

## They said it wouldn't last but it did!

Twenty five years ago this month the Currie Kirk Singers gave their first live performance in the Gibson Craig Hall. The occasion was the Kirk's AGM. Our minister at the time, the Rev Dr Willis Jones, invited a group of men from the church to provide some entertainment for the people attending the AGM. In Willis's words the church AGM could be 'a bit dull and boring' and the idea was that we should provide a little humorous entertainment. And we did! And the audience laughed!

And here we are twenty five years on; we're still going and our audiences are still smiling! So, maybe we got something right back in 1994?

Our numbers have fluctuated over the years but we currently have nine singers and our pianist Eleanor Smith. As we approach the end of our 2018/19 season I believe we will carry on next year.

Marcus Stout



# The Guild

Our year continues apace. We have had some memorable speakers this year: The Rock Trust which brought home how many homeless teenagers there are in Edinburgh. Sometimes, through no fault of their own, find themselves homeless. The Trust provides accommodation and help for them: see page 13 if you would like to volunteer or learn more about the great work it is carrying out.

Seonaid Wilson spoke of her time as a junior headmistress in Glasgow, the Borders, Aberdeen and Edinburgh. No health and safety in those days; her time spent in Easterhouse was a challenge and an amusing experience. We now look forward to Tuesday 5 March and hearing “Half Forgotten Memories” with Alec Shuttleworth. Some may remember him when he was a DJ on Radio Forth and now a Church of Scotland minister.

We also look forward to our Daffodil Tea on the 19 March, where we will be raising funds for our project namely to build and support a home for abandoned street children in Pune, India; and to build a rehabilitation centre for rescued victims of human trafficking. Please come along and support our project and enjoy home baking and a chat.

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of Marion Cameron a Past President of the Currie Guild—our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

**Tuesday 19 March  
2.30—4.00 pm—Gibson Craig Hall**

**Daffodil Tea**

**in aid of the Guild Project  
“The Free to Live Trust”**

**Guest: Dudley Williams on piano**

**Tickets £3 from Guild Members or pay at  
door.**



Donations of Home Baking and an item for the Tombola stall would be appreciated. Donations may be handed into the Kirk Office. There will also be daffodils on sale.

## Currie Kirk Minibus

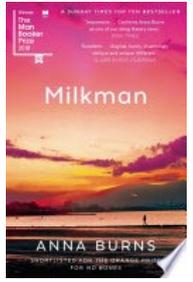
The Kirk is looking for a few more drivers for the Minibus on Sunday mornings. Qualifications—Driving licence for at least two years, over 25 and under 70.

The Currie Kirk Minibus Fund operates as a registered Charity Number SC012965. New Charitable Trustees are also required from our June Annual General Meeting.

Please contact Bill Hume, Convener 449 4036—Isobel Webber, Treasurer 451 5112 for further details if you are able to help.

# Good Book Group

We chose “Milkman” by Anna Burns as our January read as it had recently won the Man Booker prize. Milkman certainly wasn’t an easy read. The writing style was definitely challenging with very long sentences and very few paragraph breaks. No characters or places have names, which also made the story, initially at least, rather confusing. Many of our group simply gave up the will to carry on with it!



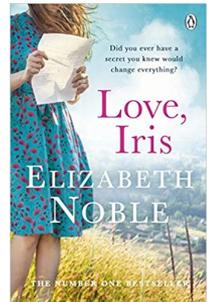
For the few of us that did manage to persevere, and adapt to the style, what unfolded was a story that was humorous and also thought provoking—the sort of book that stays with you for a long time after you’ve finished it.

Set in Belfast during the height of the Troubles in the 70s, the narrator of the story is an 18 year old Catholic girl. We are taken back to the bad old days of sectarian violence and people living in areas of their own religion. Day to day life is driven by gossip and rumours, with people worried about what they do, who they associate with and where they go. Even going to hospital is a no-no for people in the area, in case you are approached and turned into an informer.

With this as a backdrop, there is a tale which is full of dark humour. Our narrator has a ‘maybe-boyfriend’ who rumour has it might be in possession of a car part with a British flag on it, meaning he is in danger. Meantime our narrator is receiving unwanted advances from Milkman, who is rumoured to be a senior ranking paramilitary. This, of course, puts her in a difficult situation too. Alongside these problems we also have terrorists becoming scared of groups of women who refuse to observe the curfews they set, and so the story goes on, showing us the absurdities of day to day life in the community.

For those that read the whole book, the average score was 7.25/10. Unfortunately, the writing style put off so many that the final score for the group was a little over 3/10.

Our next read is Love, Iris by Elizabeth Noble.



Ann Sanders

## Data Protection Officer Required—Can you help?

If you are motivated by the confidentiality of data and how it is protected and monitored then this is a must for you. Perhaps this job might suit someone with a Technical Background in Quality Assurance or just a keen interest in processes and procedures. The Job involves about four hours per month, ensuring that we as a Church comply with GDPR regulations and that any new directives from the Church of Scotland are properly understood and implemented. Full training will be given.

If the above is something that interests you, please contact the Session Clerk, Gordon Clephane, on 0131 449 2313 or e-mail: [gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk), in the first instance.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Gordon Clephane  
Session Clerk

## EDINBURGH DIRECT AID APPEAL

Over the past few years Currie Kirk has helped deliver winter clothes to EDA for delivery to refugees in the Lebanon. This year the winter storms have wreaked havoc and destruction, causing widespread flooding amidst sub zero temperatures. They are in desperate need of financial support and have set up an emergency appeal fund. Please click on link below if you would like to help this desperate situation.

Gordon Clephane

### Emergency appeal for refugees in winter storms—January 2019



*Flooded tents in West Bekaa*



*Arsal after Storm Norma, before Storm Miriam*

This winter is the worst ever for refugees in north Lebanon. Two powerful storms in January have caused widespread flooding and wind damage to the tents of thousands in the Bekaa valley, while above the valley those in the remote town of Arsal have been overwhelmed by deep snow, with night time temperatures remaining below zero.

The storms have been largely unreported in the UK media, but Google Storm Norma Lebanon or Storm Miriam Lebanon, and you will find plenty about them.

As soon as the seriousness of the situation became apparent Maggie Tookey of Edinburgh Direct Aid flew out to help and coordinate relief work in Arsal. She has been reporting increasing numbers of appeals for help from destitute refugees living in remote camps. Many are now having to share cramped tents with their neighbours, as their own have collapsed under the weight of snow or are leaking in the slow thaw. Travelling to collect or deliver the aid on untreated icy roads is difficult and dangerous.



*A icy tent entrance in Arsal*



*Delivering bread as Storm Miriam comes in*

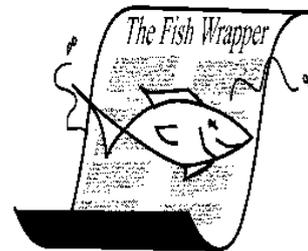


*Clearing a path to the EDA school*

Edinburgh Direct Aid has set up an emergency appeal fund that is being spent on the most immediate needs—oil for stoves, food, and wood and tarpaulin to mend or rebuild damaged tents. All contributions will be used at once to provide life-saving support.

You can pay online at [www.edinburghdirectaid.org](http://www.edinburghdirectaid.org), where you can also read more about the situation, and some of Maggie's stories of her recent work there. Or you can send a cheque payable to Edinburgh Direct Aid/Storm to Edinburgh Direct Aid, 29 Starbank Rd, Edinburgh EH5 3BY.

Thank you!



Many of you will remember the Fishwrapper articles that Jane Fucella sent to us from their ministry in Thailand. A few weeks ago I received the following Fishwrapper 73 which details what is happening in Thailand with Dodo's Aids project and also what the Fucella family have been up to. Mike Fucella is the Minister in the Church of Scotland in Biggar.

A fascinating read which I hope you will enjoy.

Gordon Clephane  
M&O committee



Happy New Year! It's over two years since we last wrote a Fish Wrapper. After five and a half years in Biggar and six and a half in Scotland we still continue to enjoy living here. The beautiful countryside around us is a daily blessing, as well as the community that we are a part of.

Parish ministry and all it entails continues apace. All the normal challenges, demands and joys of serving in the church. It is exciting to see people come to faith and others grow. We have particularly enjoyed taking people through the excellent course 'Freedom in Christ'. Over 30 people have gone through the course

and we will be starting a new group next week. It's thrilling to see the difference in folk when they understand who they are in Christ and how they can be really set free from guilt, unforgiveness and other issues that have held them back. The Prayer Course ([www.prayercourse.org](http://www.prayercourse.org)) is another resource we have used and seen people's prayer lives transformed. Jane and Elly, a young mum in the church, run both courses and it's been a real thrill and privilege to work together and see Elly grow in confidence and her gifts.

Of course, in parish ministry there are challenges—mainly to do with people not liking change! Opposition is never far away and it's occasionally a real challenge to be gracious. Something we would value prayer for please. And, as has been the case our whole lives, not having enough hours in the day to do everything we feel needs to be done or we would like to do!! We are, however, both learning more and more about what it means to work out of rest, rather than resting when you drop. We really try to protect our day off.

As well as the normal church activities, for the last year and a half we have been involved in something new and exciting. The Gillespie Centre on the High St in Biggar is owned by our church. It has been a café and community centre since it was renovated several years ago. However, it was run by a separate association independent of the church. For a long time there was an intentional desire on the part of the association to keep it separate from the church, which we were sad about. In May 2017 the Association voted to hand the Centre back to the church. The official hand over didn't happen until 1 October 2017, but since the May before, the church was very involved in running it. It was quite a rocky start with one or two loud voices in the community opposing the handover. However, we saw many answers to prayer and it has been really exciting to see God honouring the faithfulness of the team who have worked so hard. We have remained 'in the black' and are seeing some great new initiatives as we seek to serve the community! The Knit and Natter group is thriving, the lunch club for the elderly continues to meet every week and the dementia group once a month. We now have morning prayers in the Centre, in the 'quiet' room that Elly designed. The short 15-minute service is open to everyone Tuesday to Saturday. So far numbers are very small—but we are sure that just having a regular pattern of prayer in and for the Centre will mean we see God doing great things there.

Running the cafe has meant Jane has turned her hand to something completely new! Not only has she been volunteering in the servery of the café, but several Saturdays a month, and quite often if the cook is away or sick, she runs the kitchen i.e. cooks the food for the café! She had no idea how much fun it would be. It's been a brilliant way to be more actively part of the community—there are so many ministry opportunities in the Centre. Many of the people who come in are lonely or have special needs that we can meet just by being there and open to getting alongside folk. There is a great team spirit amongst the volunteers and a real desire to see it work. There are also exciting possibilities for ministry in the future. We are both on the management group which reports to the Kirk Session—and again it's great to be part of such a fantastic team.

Jane continues her involvement with Interserve, particularly on the International Council which she is now chairing. This involves a fair amount of travel and gives the opportunity to return to Thailand at least once a year. Please pray that the Lord will give her all the wisdom, energy, sensitivity, diplomacy and passion that she needs to do this job. It is wonderful to be involved in something that she is passionate about and has a worldwide focus. Pray for Mike when Jane is away—since Jane left Barclay, at the beginning of 2017, we have really got back into the habit of working as a team in ministry, so it's hard to be apart.

We remain in regular contact with Dodo and the AIDS ministry in Sangklaburi. It is great to be able to visit and catch up. Please continue to pray for Dodo as she copes with daily challenges. The most important news for the project and Dodo's family is that they have finally relocated. They were under threat of eviction for a long time as the presbytery evicted everyone living on the church property in order to build a new (in our opinion, white elephant) hospital. God's timing and provision were perfect—at the last minute they were able to buy a house about 5km out of the town which is better than anything they could have imagined. Oh—and other important Dodo news is that she has become a granny! Iris is a beautiful little girl and is actually living with Dodo whilst her dad (Suchard, Dodo's son) does his military service (mum is a nurse in Chiang Mai).

Aylie had a tough final year at school following the death of her friend Luther, mentioned in the last Fish Wrapper. She developed PTSD and nightmares left her very tired. However, treatment helped her a lot and she is now much better. She is in her second year at Stirling University studying Heritage and Tourism—a course supported by Historic Scotland. At this stage she is doing the tourism bit, which she is not enjoying. However, she is holding out for the history element of the course, which will be 3rd and 4th year, as history is what she is passionate about. She lives in a shared house about 20 minutes' walk from the university campus and 7 minutes from a great church that she dips in and out of. Aylie and Rachel are very close, despite the distance they live from each other. Over the last couple of years they have enjoyed city breaks together in Paris and Barcelona. Aylie's main financial and time priority now is learning to drive. She also DJ's a university radio show once a week.

Rachel continues to work at St. Thomas's hospital in London. She now has a permanent job as a staff nurse in A&E (and yes, we watch 24 hours in A&E with a new perspective!) She finished her time in the Community of St Anselm at Lambeth Palace in June 2017, although she continues to meet with her spiritual director every couple of months. After leaving the community she stayed with a friend of Jane's—Sophie, from Limsfield days, before moving into her new flat in October 2017. She is part of an Eden team—a group under The Message Trust who place teams in urban deprived areas to live and work with the local church. Rachel is a part of a team that live on the Lancaster West Estate—her flat is one of the low blocks next to Grenfell Tower that you see every time it is on the news. It's a tough gig! This is a highly traumatized community. The girls' youth group she helps with lost teenagers in the fire and many of the survivors are still living in temporary accommodation. However, she is really enjoying living in a multicultural community. She is going to Arabic 'after school' classes—mainly for kids—and is making slow progress. Please pray for her, the team and the local church they are part of, as they serve in this place. In September 2018 she travelled with a Christian Medical Fellowship team to Erbil in Northern Iraq, to help with clinics for refugees. A month later she went 'home' to Thailand with Jane to help do admin for a large conference for Interserve. She has not lost her love for travel and is currently planning a trip to South Africa in March 2019 for the wedding of one of her flat mates from her year with St. Anselm's.

We love having people visit and stay with us. Our visitors' book is an interesting read. Please come! We have lots of space. Spaghetti supper continues on Thursday nights—kids who first came as babies are now in nursery school! It is a great community builder, as anyone in our street (and often further afield) is welcome to come and eat with us.

We may be looking for house sitters in the summer—get in touch if you might be interested. As we go into a new year we want to thank you again for praying for us over the years. Thank you to all who send news much more regularly than we do—we love hearing from you. Thanks too to those who keep in touch via FB. Social media may well have its negatives, but it is really lovely to be able to see pictures and hear news of friends across the world.

With our love,

*Mike Jane  
Rachel + Aylie*

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

# Shoe Boxes Have Arrived—Feedback below

Many of you who helped to provide Christmas shoeboxes last November requested some feedback after they were delivered. The article below describes their journey. Day one is set out below. Days 2 & 3 will follow.

Gordon Clephane  
M&O committee

## Shoebox Delivery Diary 2018

We arrived in Bulgaria to the remnants of snow and proper winter cold before travelling up through hills clad with whitened forests and bordered by mountains on each horizon, followed by a flat expanse of farmland regularly dotted with cruising or perched buzzards and massive tractor dealerships. However, the contrast between the beauty of the country and life for some of its residents soon became apparent as we drove into an area known as a major centre for human trafficking. We went to visit villages that our project managers have relationships with and are trying to help people so that there is less temptation to look abroad for jobs—which in many cases don't exist but by that time it is too late.

We headed into a neighbourhood with narrow, deeply potholed streets, wandering dogs, walls roughly patched with whatever came to hand, and clearly no building controls. A man was breaking up a wood partition in the street with a large axe, while behind him stood an old horse and cart ready to remove the pieces. Nobody's behaviour indicated that this was anything unusual.

We were giving shoeboxes to two groups in this community, the first of which were packed into a small room used as a church, with just a few decorations to indicate its purpose. The crowd of mainly children accompanied by mothers or grandmothers excitedly waited for their gifts and in the main opened them straight away, sometimes showing us their favourite items. As we came out, the kids clustered around our photographer, throwing exuberant shapes and showing themselves to be children no different to those back home despite their poverty.



The second group was also in a church, nondescript from the outside, but clearly purpose-converted inside with an overhead balcony included. But here the similarity to churches known to us ended, with exposed, unfinished concrete steps up to the higher level, big holes in the walls of the entrance lobby, bare light bulbs and a sheet of polystyrene serving as a notice board. Yet this room was full of noisy anticipation, the children cheering every time a box of presents was brought in. The volume only went up as the shoeboxes full of presents were handed out, with donated football scarves being a favourite, and one lady crying as she received a hot water bottle.

However, this time many did not open their boxes, something our local project leader said demonstrated the prevalence of crime and dog-eat-dog nature of life in such a deprived area. Nevertheless the occasion and experience was one of great joy and it was good to be a part of bringing that to them.



# Men's Shed

## JCB "Pentlands"

**Friday 8 March @ 10.30 am till 12.00 Noon**  
**42nd Pentland (Currie) Scouts Hall**  
**99 Forthview Crescent**

*"A chance to learn about Men's Sheds  
A chance to belong  
An opportunity to Work together  
Come for the work—stay for a blether"*



### **How we are ending youth homelessness in Scotland**

**Our Vision:** An End to Youth Homelessness in Scotland.

**Our Mission:** To prevent youth homelessness and to support young people to build better futures.

**Our Strategy:** We aim to ensure that every young person in Scotland has access to expert youth specific services to assist them to avoid, survive and move on from homelessness. We work to ensure that the public, policy makers, commissioners and practitioners understand the issues, make decisions and take action which will help us to end youth homelessness.

**Our Thinking:** We believe that accommodation, support, education and employment are the best routes off the streets and away from the misery that accompanies homelessness; leading to a better future for our young people.

#### **Want to get involved?**

There are a number of ways that you can support our work:

#### **Fundraising**

We suggest using Justgiving or Virgin Money Giving to raise funds online, but if face to face fundraising is more your bag, you can download a sponsorship form and collect donations yourself.

#### **Ethical Gifts**

Give an ethical gift and help a young person moving into their first home. How Ethical Gifts works:

1. Decide whether you want to purchase a physical gift from our wish list of home items, or whether you want to donate towards a specific package of support / crisis pack.

2. For wish list items – purchase them directly through our Amazon wish list

Otherwise, make your donation online or by BACS, and let us know what you want to donate towards.

#### **Volunteering in our Support Services**

**Nightstop Edinburgh** We are currently looking for Nightstop Hosts. Nightstop Edinburgh and Nightstop West Lothian are always on the lookout for new volunteer hosts. All hosts undergo full training, are regularly supervised, and have 24 hour contact with staff. Hosts provide emergency short term accommodation (from 1 to 3 nights- but can be extended).

#### **Contact us**

For more information on our services or how you can support our work, please check out our website at [www.rocktrust.org](http://www.rocktrust.org)

# Community Activities

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

	Contact name	Tel No:	Day
Balerno Bridge Club	Sandra Renton	449 3527	Monday
Currie and District Local History Society	Douglas Lowe	449 4349	Monday Evenings twice monthly October to March
Currie Community Council	Allister McKillop	449 6394	2nd Monday of each Month —not July & December
Currie Day Centre	Dorothy Simpson <a href="mailto:coordinatorCDC@gmx.com">coordinatorCDC@gmx.com</a>	07562 142885	Friday by referral
Dunedin Dance Academy	Claire Robertson	07731 466147	Wednesday
Fitness Class	Laura Westwater-Crown	07841 917035	Tuesday 7.30—8.30 pm
Highland Dancing	Michelle Marshall	339 4704	Wednesday
Move It or Lose It	Janet Corbett	07769 345845	Wednesday: 2.30—3.30
Nether Currie Baby and Toddler Group	Margaret Milton	07743 067588	Friday: 9.30—11.30 am (term time only)
Octagon Club	Claire Maloney <a href="mailto:Clairomaloney12@yahoo.co.uk">Clairomaloney12@yahoo.co.uk</a>	07999 410721	Wednesday
Pilates Class (Fuschia)	Steph Bain	07773 270780	Wednesday: Noon—1 pm
Senior Citizens	Jean Smith	449 5596	Monday
Sensory Session	Lorna Carr <a href="mailto:hello@thesensorysessions.com">hello@thesensorysessions.com</a>	07525 270427	Thursday: 10.00—12 Noon
Shoogly Peg Theatre Company	Zoe McRae	07884 133357	Friday: 6.30—7.30 pm
Snack Lunches	Viola MacPhail	449 4664	Tuesday
Tea & Tunes	Allister McKillop	449 6394	2nd Tuesday of month
Yoga	Anne Marie Crozier <a href="mailto:annemariacrozier@blueyonder.co.uk">annemariacrozier@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	07887 526116	Monday: 10.30—11.30 am
Yoga	Monica Evans	07986 600432	Tuesday: 8—9 pm
Zumba Exercise Class Thighs, Bums & Tums	Tom Lowe	07980 692929	Thursday: 10.15—11.15 am



## Tuesday's Tea and Tunes

A café for those living with dementia.

Second Tuesday of each month—

2.30-4.00—Gibson Craig Hall—

Cost £2 per person which includes refreshments and snacks.

Good food, good company, good times provided as well as entertainment from a diverse group of friends and volunteers including pupils from Currie Community High School.

# Family News

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

Marion Cameron, 14 Jubilee Court, Dunfermline  
Muriel Graham, 28 Muir Wood Road  
Alison Rowse, 338 Lanark Road West  
Melville Schofield, 25 Rowantree Grove



Please pray for the families



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

Elora Eve Faichney, daughter of Kerry and Bruce



**Christian Aid Week—12—18 May**

**Who Dares Wins Quiz**—thanks to all who came along and enjoyed a fun packed evening—where we discovered that a cauliflower was not classed as a vegetable!! The total sum raised for Church Funds was £350.  
Many thanks to Hamish and his team for organising.

## March Flower List

**2019**  
**3** Donations to Flower Fund  
**10** Mrs S Ramsay  
**17** Mrs M Douglas  
Mrs M Fraser



**24** Mrs M Sutherland  
Mrs A Williamson  
**31** Mrs L Airs  
Currie Kirk Guild

Should anyone wish information regarding donations to the Flower Fund please contact Erica Porteous at 2 Pentland View or on 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 Administrator: Nina Valvona Email <a href="mailto:currie_kirk@btconnect.com">currie_kirk@btconnect.com</a>	Tuesday—9.30 am—12.30 pm Wednesday—9.30 am—12.30 pm Thursday—9.30 am—12.30 pm Friday—9.30 am—12.30 pm	451 5141
Session Clerk	Gordon Clephane Email: <a href="mailto:gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk">gordon.clephane@blueyonder.co.uk</a>		449 2313
Treasurer	Eddie Pigott Email: <a href="mailto:pigottsef@icloud.com">pigottsef@icloud.com</a>		466 1459
Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer	Eunice Stewart <a href="mailto:eunicestewart48@gmail.com">eunicestewart48@gmail.com</a>		449 6832
Data Protection Officer	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Weddings/Funeral Officer	Sandy Harper		449 4258
Organist	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Gibson Craig Halls bookings	Ann Proudfoot	<a href="mailto:ckgchbooking@gmail.com">ckgchbooking@gmail.com</a>	449 7739
Gibson Craig Halls Caretaker	Jim Ness		07504 420671
Hospital Transport Coordinator	Elizabeth Wood		538 0363
Deputy Coordinator	Jim Ure		449 6498
Life and Work	Eileen Chadwick		449 2559
Magazine Distributor	Jean Dick		451 5141
Boys' Brigade Captain	Michael Knott    Anchors Juniors Company/Seniors	Thursday 6.00-7.00 pm Thursday 7.00-8.30 pm Sunday 6.30-8.30	440 3216
Mini Bus Sunday lift organiser	Margaret Russell		449 5917
Mini Bus Bookings	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	531 0416
Guild	Isobel Webber	Tuesday	451 5112
Sunday Fun Club	Heather Merriman—Email: <a href="mailto:familyworker_jvp@outlook.com">familyworker_jvp@outlook.com</a>	Sunday	
Messy Church	Contact Louise	Last Friday of the month Gibson Craig Halls from 2.00—4.00 pm (term time only)	466 3472
Walking Group	Moira McDonald	Third Sunday of each month	466 1115



## The Kirk News

Can now be found on the Currie Kirk Website with one click to <http://www.curriekirk.org/>  
Kirknews—why not mark it as a favourite. **Articles for the March issue should be sent—using a  
Word attachment—by email to [isobelwebber@btinternet.com](mailto:isobelwebber@btinternet.com) before or by Friday 22 March. Please  
insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**

