

The Kirk News

April 2019



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CALENDAR OVERVIEW:

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

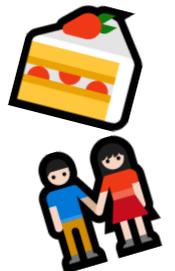
(GCH= Gibson Craig Halls)

April	1	Monday	7.30 pm—Good Book Group—GCH Lounge
	2	Tuesday	10 am—The Guild—Canine Partners—Speaker: Dale Gormley—GCH
	2	Tuesday	7.30 pm—Prayer Meeting—Currie Community Church
	3	Wednesday	11-11.30 am—Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	4	Thursday	7 pm—Balerno Parish Church—Heart & Soul Swing Band
	7	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	14	Sunday	10 am—Palm Sunday—Worship—Currie Kirk
	16	Tuesday	7—9 pm—The Guild AGM with cheese and wine—GCH
	17	Wednesday	7 pm—The Stations of the Cross—Our Lady’s, Currie
	18	Thursday	7 pm—Maundy Thursday Service—Balerno Parish Church
	19	Friday	7 pm—Good Friday Worship—Currie Kirk
20	Saturday	2 pm—Edinburgh Big Footprint Walk	
21	Sunday	10 am—Easter Sunday—Worship—Currie Kirk with Sacrament of Communion and Admission of New Elders	
28	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk	
May	1	Wednesday	11.11.30 am—Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	3	Friday	2 pm—Messy Church, GCH
	5	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	6	Monday	7.30 pm—Good Book Group—GCH Lounge
	9	Thursday	9.30 am—Meet GCH—Guild Outing
	12	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	17	Friday	7—10 pm—Quiz Night with Ron Grigor—GCH
	19	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk—Christian Aid Sunday
	20	Monday	9—12 Noon—Monday Madness—Primaries 1-7—GCH
	26	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship
28	Tuesday	7.30 pm—Session Meeting—Currie Kirk	
31	Friday	2 pm—Messy Church	
June	2	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	3	Monday	7.30 pm—Good Book Group—GCH Lounge
	5	Wednesday	11-11.30 am—Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	6	Thursday	1—4 pm—Celebrating Communities, GCH
	9	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	15	Saturday	11 am—3 pm—Summer Fete—GCH
	16	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk
	23	Sunday	10 am—All Age Service, Currie Kirk followed by BBQ/Picnic
30	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Sacrament of Communion	



Don't Forget Sunday Fun Club

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



Kirk News

The May issue of Kirk News will be available on Sunday 28 April for distribution



A Message from Easter

Dear Friends

As I read the draft of this Kirk News, my name is, well, repeated a few times. It is a privilege to have a name associated with the Resurrection of Christ as I was born on that Sunday ... a little while ago.

During Lent, when we read through the passages of scripture before the crucifixion, we can see that the disciples could not understand what was happening, nor what was going to happen, (even when Jesus had tried to explain).



Jesus' followers could not get their heads around anything at the time. It was all a bit shocking, worrying, frustrating, even frightening. But after the Resurrection, they were able, by Godly grace to look back, and see with great insight the meaning of everything Jesus had said and done. It finally all fell into place. It all became the story they had lived their lives by and they wanted others to understand this is a story you want to live your life by!

Soren Kierkegaard wrote, "Life is lived forwards but only understood backwards!"

It was only after the Resurrection that the people who chose to follow Jesus understood the importance of the choice they had made to align their lives with this Divine man who heralded a new covenant for people with God—a covenant built upon love and forgiveness; a covenant based upon a relationship with God which is all about living fully, hopefully and compassionately.

Life is full of choices. The disciples each had to choose whether to follow Jesus or not. Peter, Andrew, James and John were all fishing contentedly when they were called to follow. They chose to go. In a similar way we are called to make choices in our own lives.

Sometimes the choices are easy—like what to eat for dinner. Other times the choices are huge. What shall I decide to study—what subjects shall I take? Whom should I marry? Shall we have children? How can I reinvent my life and my identity now that my loved one has died or left?

The great thing about the Resurrection promise is that God is with us every step of the way as we live forward, even if we will only see his handiwork backwards.

Never doubt that you are not alone on this journey, however hard. It's a wee choice to make—ask God to be involved. Wait and see!

God bless,

Easter



The Guild

At the Guild meeting on Tuesday 5 March we were fortunate to have as our speaker the Rev Alex Shuttleworth, who presented a Long Service Certificate to Eleanor Jack. It was a most enjoyable morning reminiscing on Half Forgotten Memories. Eleanor had not been able to attend the Dedication Service when the other ladies received their certificates.



Thank you to all who supported the Daffodil Tea on the 19 March. It was a lovely afternoon with lots of friends meeting for home baking and a chat. The sum raised for the project was £500. Special thank you to Bill Douglas who donated bunches of daffodils and to Dudley who entertained us at the piano.

Our Session is coming to a close on the 2 April at 10 am when we look forward to welcoming Dale Gormley who will speak to us on the topic Canine Partners. Prior to our AGM the Guild's Spring Rally is being held in Balerno Parish Church on 4 April with the Heart & Soul Swing Band—you do not require a ticket for this event. Come along and enjoy the evening. The AGM is on Tuesday 16 April at 7 pm followed by cheese and wine—all welcome.

The summer outing takes place on Thursday 10 May to Loch Katrine and if you would like to come along please get in touch with Moira on 466 1115.

Isobel Webber

The Edinburgh Big Footprint walk will take place:

On Easter Saturday the 20th of April, Meeting at Polwarth Parish Church, at 2 pm.

The Right Rev Susan Brown, Moderator of the Church of Scotland and our own General Secretary, Iain White will be leading the walk. The walk will be from Polwarth Parish Church to the Slateford Viaduct and back and should take around an hour. Refreshments will be available at Polwarth Parish Church after the walk. Please get in touch with Isobel on 451 5112 if you would like to join the Guild/BB/GB on this walk.

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, in the first instance.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Gordon Clephane
Session Clerk



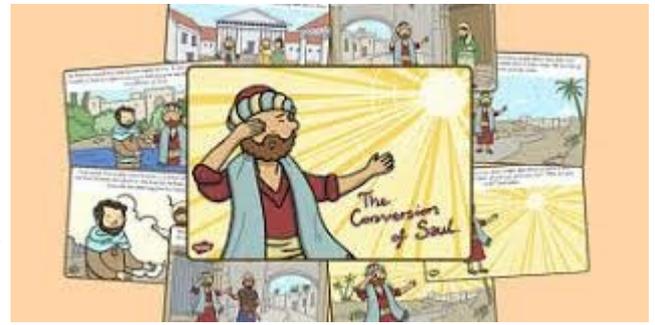
There will be no Messy Church at the end of April. Instead there will be two meetings in May. The first one will be on Friday 3 May when our theme will be “Paul’s conversion on the road to Damascus”.

The second will be on Friday 31 May with topic still to be decided. This will be the last Messy Church until September.

If you haven’t been before, please think about joining us for 2 hours of crafts, games, stories and songs all set around a Bible story. Children of any age are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult who stays with them to join in the fun.

Alternatively you may wish to become one of the helpers. We are always looking for new people to join our team. 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 any further information, please e-mail Louise on elf.lamont@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 466-3472.



Kirk Administrator

Nina Valvona is the new Kirk Administrator for the Church. If you have not already popped into the Kirk Office please do so—she will be pleased to meet you.



New Banners in Kirk

Thank you to Janet Robertson and her Banner Group for the lovely Banners which now adorn our entrances into the Kirk—they make us feel really welcome.

This banner reflects a beautiful vision of Currie Kirk below the Pentland Hills that surround Currie and the arable land in our Parish, as well as the flowing currents of the Water of Leith.

Prayer Meeting in Currie Community Church—Tuesday 2 April at 7.30pm

Our Family Worker, Heather, is holding a Prayer meeting on Tuesday 2nd April at 7.30pm in the Community Church, adjacent to Currie Kirk. All are welcome to attend.

Juniper Green Parish Church has also been invited. This is an opportunity to pray for Heather and her outreach to families in the community.

Gordon Clephane
Session Clerk

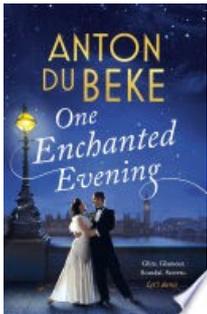
Good Book Group

“Love, Iris” by Elizabeth Noble is a Richard and Judy Book Club 2019 pick and Sunday Times top 10 best seller. In comparison to our last book this is a straight forward read. It is written in a familiar style with two main interlinking characters; Tess and Gigi. Iris forms the common link between them.

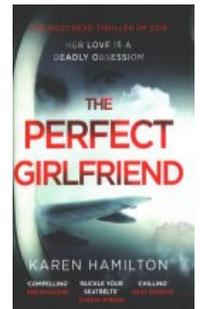
The title of the book had been changed from “Letters to Iris” to “Love, Iris” by the publisher. This sparked some discussion as to how the titles related to the story and what “Love, Iris” means. Does the title “Love, Iris” mean a gift from Iris? You can decide if you have read the book.

The story is very much about relationships. The relationships between Tess, her mother and grandmother and Gigi and her family. As they do in real life the relationships between the characters shift and change over time in a believable way. The outcome of the romantic relationships are predictable as the story progresses. The change in the relationship between Tess and her mother as Iris’s illness progressed particularly gratified the group. The letters to Iris are only found when Iris is admitted to a care home following an illness. They reveal secrets from her past which she has never shared with her family but had a profound effect on her.

Overall the description of the book as a heart warming read holds true and it gained a score of 6.2.



We selected the following books for our April and May meetings respectively.
One Enchanted Evening by Anton Du Beke; and
The Perfect Girlfriend by Karen Hamilton



Currie Kirk Minibus

Driving the Minibus on Sunday mornings is a particularly useful contribution to Kirk life, and it has been going on for over thirty years now. However quite a number of those who have faithfully driven the bus for years are now over 70, so we need more people to help the six presently on the rota. Please could you consider whether you could help?

The Minibus Charity is also in need of additional Trustees soon, to cover the practical details of keeping the bus running, as our Constitution expects office-bearers to step down for at least a year after six years in office. No age limit, no need to drive the bus, only a few necessary meetings each year! Again, please consider whether you could help, and we can tell you more about what’s involved and answer any questions.

Bill Hume, 0131 449 4036 mail@billhume.plus.com

Food Bank—Easter Egg Collection

Following on from the success of last year’s Easter Egg collection for the Holy Trinity Food Bank at Wester Hailes Church, The Boys’ Brigade and the Mission and Outreach Committee have again decided to join forces and repeat this community initiative.

If you wish to make a donation, please bring your eggs to Currie Kirk on any Sunday up to and including Palm Sunday, 14th April. Alternatively, please hand into Nina in the Church Office.



Thanks in anticipation for your continued support.

Gordon Clephane
M&O Committee

**Riding for the Disabled
 Easter Extravaganza**

**Easter Hat competition
 Roll your eggs
 Meet our ponies
 Hot dogs & home baking
 And lots more...**

Fun for all the family



**Date : Sunday 21 April 2019
 Time: 11am-3pm**

Location: Riding for the Disabled, Ravelrig Gait, Balerno , EH14 7EH



Save the Children.

You are invited to Afternoon Tea at St Joseph's Hall, Balerno on Monday
 29 April—2—4 pm
 This will be the last event of Currie & Balerno Branch after 40 years of
 fundraising.

We would like to thank you for your support and to help us celebrate.
 All donations Welcome.

RSVP to Kay 449 6186 or Barbara 441 7620

Save the Children Fund is a registered charity in England & Wales (213890) and Scotland
 (SC039570)



The photograph above was taken at a Guild concert in 2010
 and the one on the right was a "Mixed Currie" concert both
 submitted by Betty Clark

Memory Lane



Days 2 and 3

Another cold, crystalline day with whispering mist over the fields and clouds of starlings viewed through a roadside parade of delicately frosted trees. As the sky cleared we saw landscapes both beautifully wild from sweeping hilly vistas to the slow, long-winged flight of a crane overhead, but tough to inhabit, witnessed by horse-drawn carts carrying cut branches for firewood, people working a field by hand, frequent ruined houses and long abandoned petrol stations.



Amongst all this we visited a school, a kindergarten, a special needs children's centre and an orphanage. They were very strict on the taking of photos so we have avoided showing photos of the children's faces. At the first there was a contrasting mix of times and cultures, with stern Bulgarian leaders facing hand-drawn Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles across the room and unguarded metal stoves heating classrooms where girls wore t-shirts featuring Elsa from Frozen. Here bright-eyed, well behaved kids all received shoeboxes and compared favourite items, particularly toothpaste and brushes, more football scarves and a small



plastic robot.



Moving to the kindergarten, a carpetful of children almost effervescent with excitement waved and smiled through the doors at us, and once released, rushed the table with the shoeboxes on like a small, brightly-coloured tidal wave. Happy mayhem ensued with pink gloves, plasticine, chocolate Christmas puddings and note books being waved at us before it was time to clear up and leave.



However as we drove away, there was a reminder of the reason for our work here, for the rearmost section of the kindergarten was unusable, being in complete disrepair with windows broken or entirely missing. A local pastor who organised our visit later told us that in the schools most were very poor with 90% not having any gifts at Christmas, and teachers themselves bringing in materials and clothes to enable their pupils to attend. The shoeboxes were so prized because the cost of them could often be equal in value to an entire months child benefit.



The special needs centre next on our list was run to a very high level with clearly happy children, and as a result its manager had been tasked with bringing similar standards to the nearby orphanage. Having negotiated the rough streets between the two, deserted and edged with care-worn houses, we met a mixture of young people ranging from under ten to nearly adult, and from native Bulgarian to Iranian refugees. We weren't sure how our boxes for families would work here, but all were opened and explored, nervous silences broken, and items compared and displayed. One lad, training to be a



builder, was so impressed with his tape measure that he immediately set about taking the dimensions of the rooms heating units, while another, on seeing the football scarves, defied the language barrier to ask if we had any for Chelsea!

Hopefully over time the situations of these young people will be improved by the new director of this home in meaningful and long-lasting ways, but all those we met today have significant challenges in their lives, challenges which they seemed to be managing better than many of us might, and it was wonderful to see their resilience and give them small gifts that their current support isn't able to provide.

Today (Day 3) we had two new groups of people to meet and taking photos was ok. First we travelled to a primary school where the older boys unloaded all the boxes themselves with an endearing mix of helpfulness, male bravado and actually impressive stamina.

We then gave out the shoebox presents in the playground and watched them opened in joyfully chaotic scenes up and down the school steps and on nearby terraced areas before being invited in to meet the director. He wanted to thank us for our visit and collect information so he could write an article about Link to Hope and our time there in the school paper.



In return we asked about his schools and if any of his children had difficulty attending. He said some did, in particular ten pupils, cared for by one grandmother in the village, who was amazingly also responsible for another fourteen non-school age youngsters! Later we visited her. It is a small house and many of the children sleep on the floor. One set of parents had left the country to find work, one had simply moved away and the other couple had learning difficulties but were at least still there to support. We went to visit her. She found a beautiful scarf and gloves in her box and fortunately at the school her grandchildren received some more shoeboxes with sweets and toys in.



This and another village we visited were in the south of the country, reached through the beautiful Rhodope mountains, their ridges interlaced with banks of gently translucent mist, and then along the banks of a wide but quite empty river, over which drifted pure white egrets, contrasting starkly with the frequent broken remains of past industries.

The mayor of the second village, part-way into the hills, met us in a public square-like area where he had gathered some of the community's more elderly people. In these places the old can feel abandoned and forgotten as the young move away to find work, leaving only them and a dying settlement.

In addition some of these, for a variety of reasons, had never in their life received a present. Many were given today as they clustered chatting and joking around our van, and one man in particular was moved to tears by his gift.

We then walked further into the village to visit in their homes some who were unable to come out to us. This was very special as we were able to meet and fully acknowledge them as individuals. The first house we went to was a lady who scrambled to get up to greet us and Pastor Hari gave her a pink hot water bottle as well as her shoebox which made her very happy.



The next house we went to we learned that their names were Josef and Cilica, 86 and 89 respectively, and Gressimire, 67. All lived in homes which would be uninhabitable by our standards, heated only by small wood-burning stoves and no means of retaining that heat other than to remain in the stove room, which all of them did. Josef said he never expected to receive such a gift, even when he eventually went to heaven. Lovely hot water bottle with a blue knitted cover was very popular.

While Gressimire, having bashfully put on new earrings was also overjoyed with her new scarf. She declared that she'd wear it to the market and everyone would be jealous. Despite their very obvious poverty people opened boxes of precious chocolates and offered hospitality to us. We could not refuse. This said so much about the situation of these people, and also a lot about their attitude to possessions—quite humbling and a real challenge to us.

Written by Roger Harrison

For more Shoeboxes Photos and information please go to www.linktohope.co.uk We look forward to your support for our 2019 Shoebox Appeal



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 coordinatorCDC@gmx.com	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 Clairomaloney12@yahoo.co.uk	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 hello@thesensorysessions.com	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 annemariacrozier@blueyonder.co.uk	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 Brown, Davidson House
William Hewat, 13 Forthview Crescent
Rab Burnett McCulloch, 41 Muir Wood Drive



Please pray for the families

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

24 March 2019 Charlotte Jane Penny, daughter of Caitlin and John



31 March 2019 Skye Fiona Elle Montgomery, daughter of Stephanie Montgomery

Currie Kirk Singers

On behalf of Colinton Cottage Home I would like to say a big thank you to Currie Kirk Singers for their excellent entertainment on their recent visit.

Greatly appreciated by all and hope to see them again next year.

Nan Muirhead

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/

April Flower List

2019

7 Mrs H Clayton
Mrs J Caffrey
Mrs M Philip

14 Mrs J Dick
Mrs M Malcolm
Mrs M Ritchie



21 Mrs F Pigott
Mrs J Robertson

28 Mrs N Hogg

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 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
Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer	Eunice Stewart eunicestewart48@gmail.com		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	ckgchbooking@gmail.com	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: familyworker_jvp@outlook.com	Sunday—9.45– 11.20 am	
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 May issue should be sent—using a
Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 19 April. Please
insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.**

