

The Kirk News

February 2019



February

Poor, poor February
Cold and dark and short
Every other month has
lots
Of days for fun and sport.
But February isn't long
Its days are cold and wet.
And it's as short as any
month
Can ever, ever get!

Helen H. Moore



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CALENDAR OVERVIEW:

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

(GCH= Gibson Craig Halls)

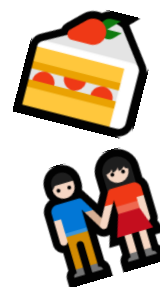
February	3	Sunday	10 am—Heriot Watt Founders Day Service
	5	Tuesday	10 am—Guild: The Rock Trust—Speaker: Kirsty Watt—GCH
	6	Wednesday	7.30 pm—Kirk Session—Church Sanctuary
	6	Wednesday	11-11.30 am—Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	10	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	12	Tuesday	2.30-4.00 pm—Tea and Tunes—GCH
	17	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk—Professor John Sawkins
	19	Tuesday	2 pm—The Guild: The Mistress—Speaker: Seonaid Wilson—GCH
	22	Friday	2—4.00 pm—Messy Church—Jesus is Baptised by John the Baptist—GCH
	22	Friday	7.30 pm—Who Dares Wins—Quiz—GCH
	24	Sunday	10 am—All Age Worship with informal Sacrament of Communion—Currie Kirk
March	3	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	5	Tuesday	10 am—The Guild: Half Forgotten Memories—Speaker: Alec Shuttleworth—GCH
	6	Wednesday	11-11.30 am—Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	10	Sunday	10 am—Worship—Currie Kirk
	10	Sunday	11.45 am—Fair Trade Lunch—GCH
	12	Tuesday	2.30—4.00 pm—Tea and Tunes—GCH
	17	Sunday	10 am—Worship—Currie Kirk
	19	Tuesday	2.30-4.00—Daffodil Tea: Guests Elma & Dudley Williams—GCH
	21	Thursday	7.30—Kirk Session—GCH
	24	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with informal Sacrament of Communion following worship
	29	Friday	2-4.00 pm—Messy Church—Easter—GCH
	31	Sunday	10 am—Mothering Sunday—All Age Worship Service—Currie Kirk
April	2	Tuesday	10 am—The Guild—Canine Partners—Speaker: Dale Gormley—GCH
	3	Wednesday	11-11.30 am—Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounge
	7	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree Service following worship
	14	Sunday	10 am—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
	21	Sunday	10 am—Easter Sunday—Worship—Currie Kirk with Sacrament of Communion
	28	Sunday	10 am—Worship—Currie Kirk



Don't Forget

Sunday Fun Club

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



Kirk News

The March issue of Kirk News will be available on Sunday 3 March for distribution



A Message from Easter

Dear Friends

I wonder if you have made any personal 'New Year resolution' for 2019? I have only one so far, and that is, time permitting, to get out in the Pentlands a little more. We're so blessed in Currie to have beautiful hills providing gorgeous views over Edinburgh and Fife.

There is something about being atop a hill that brings perspective. You are a little closer to the heavenly sky looking down below where everything looks a bit smaller, sometimes just that experience liberates our spirits with fresh air and fresh perspective. Up on high where the horizon expands, we can be transported above the demands of computer and phone, lifted for a short spell and away from the daily routines, business, burdens or obligations that can leave us trapped in myopic thinking.

The Psalmist knew this all too well when he wrote:

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121)

There is something wonderful when we can feel the ground under our feet, the sun on our skin, (*I know, yes the wind and the rain too!*). Billy Connolly said there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes.

Many bible stories feature mountain tops as places where God revealed his glory. Noah saw the rainbow of promise when his ark grounded on Mount Ararat. Moses received the ten commandments on Mount Sinai. Jesus revealed himself in radiant glory to Peter, James and John on the Mountain of Transfiguration—and his most pastoral sermon is the Sermon on the Mount.

Many people tell me when they are out in nature they feel closer to God. The Psalmist knew this all too well when he wrote:

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them? mortals that you care for them?" (Psalm 8)

We don't always have physically to climb a mountain to have a mountaintop moment. Sometimes we just need to close our eyes and open our hearts and we will see things from a heavenly perspective, the way God can show us how to see things.

The day before Martin Luther King was assassinated in 1968, he gave this speech about the Civil Rights movement. He said:

"Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. And so I'm happy, I'm not worried about anything ... Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!!"

Whether you feel that your life is high on the mountain or down low in the valleys, I pray that 2019 will be a year in which you grow that little bit closer to God.





Messy Church is up and running again after our Christmas break. Our theme for 22 February is “Jesus is Baptised by John the Baptist” and on 29 March we will be learning anew about the wonders of Holy Week and Easter.

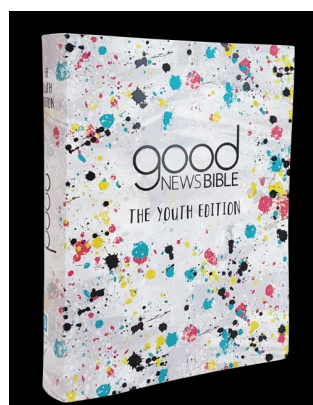
Children of any age are welcome—from babes in arms to those just finishing primary school. All children must be accompanied by an adult who stays to join in the fun.



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

Louise Lamont



The Gift of God's Word

Many of you will know I am involved in leading the Scripture Union (SU) group at Currie Primary School. Each week we go into school and spend 45 minutes with pupils: teaching them stories from the Bible and exploring what it means to be a Christian. This year we have seven children in the group ranging from P4-P7 (8-11 year olds). As part of each week we spend time looking up a memory verse and I'm always amazed at how well they remember them the following week. A child once told me that she learnt that week's verse whilst brushing her teeth that morning! It made me wonder what I spend time thinking about when I'm brushing my teeth, often nothing as useful as meditating on God's word!

Not all the children come from a Christian home, meaning they don't always have access to a Bible outside of the SU group. We help them know how to look up verses and stories in a Bible and then they have nowhere to use those skills outside of school; they have no place to explore God's word outside of the SU group. We wanted to change that. In previous years we have given Bibles to pupils in our group when they transition to High School, a gift we hope will encourage them to keep reading God's word as they move on from our group. This year we decided instead to gift Bibles to all the children when they join the SU group, not only to use during our time together in school, but also so they can read it at home.

We will help them to look up Bible stories and memory verses, highlight verses, make notes about what they read and hear—all in their very own Bible! As a group leader I am delighted that we are able to do this. It has been made possible through Currie Kirk agreeing to pay for the Bibles, so thank you, not only from myself and the rest of the team but from the children themselves.

Please will you pray for each child as they receive this gift? Pray that they will treasure the word of God; that they will devour the word of God eagerly and with enthusiasm; that they will learn about God and that, ultimately, they will come to know God personally and be transformed by reading His word.

Heather Merriman



Who Dares Wins Quiz

Friday 22 February @ 7.30 pm—Gibson Craig Hall

Tickets £5 from Kirk Office—includes refreshments



The Guild

A New Year—2019—and the Guild started it with a Supper and Quiz night. Disappointing with the numbers—perhaps we should re-think evening meetings. Not many of us wish to go out on a cold January evening. However, those who attended had a thoroughly enjoyable evening with good food, quizzes and prizes in the intimate atmosphere that only the GCH can give.



The Christmas Party was a great success. DEKOY was our entertainment, playing mainly 60s music. What a toe tapping band! many of us enjoyed a dance—memories!!—absolutely great fun and we hope that they will be able to return. So, if the Kirk is looking for a band, look no further.

On the 19 February we welcome Seonaid Wilson who will be speaking on “The Mistress”—an intriguing topic, but all will be revealed that evening.

Please remember anyone can come and enjoy the meetings—you do not have to be a member.

Isobel Webber, President



Good Book Group

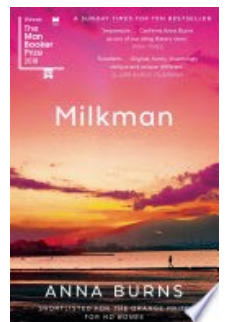
The book that we picked for November was **‘The Widow’s Watcher’** by **Eliza Maxwell**. Living in the shadow of a decades-old crime that stole his children from him, reclusive Lars Jorgensen is an unlikely saviour. When a stranger walks onto the ice of a frozen Minnesota lake in front of his home, her intentions are brutally clear and the old man isn’t about to let her follow through.

Jenna Shaw doesn’t ask for Lars help, nor does she want it. After he pulls her from the brink, Jenna finds her desire to give up challenged by their unlikely friendship. Her car has broken down and there is nowhere to stay. This does seem unlikely but there wouldn’t be a story if she had found somewhere else. The mechanic who comes to her rescue is Lars son and he forces his Dad to take her in. In Jenna, Lars recognises his last chance for redemption and in her quest to solve the mysteries of Lars past and bring him closure, Jenna finds the way out of her own darkness.

The truth that’s revealed threatens to shatter it all. When secrets are surrendered and lies are laid bare, Jenna and Lars find that accepting the past isn’t their greatest challenge. Can they afford the heart-breaking price of forgiveness?

As a group we liked the book, giving it a score of 7.3 out of 10. It is a contemporary novel which is part family drama, part mystery. The beginning of the book is hard as you discover what her tragedy is but the relationship between Lars and Jenna, as it develops, makes it a good read. The ending is a surprise as I didn’t see it coming but that could be because it’s a bit farfetched. It is heart-warming, sad but has hope thrown in.

Our next meeting is Monday 4 February in the Gibson Craig Hall at 7pm. Join us to discuss **‘The Milkman’** by **Anna Burns**.



“The Wise Men”

On Monday 17 December we had a visit from the Wise Men, their camel puppets and a sheep called Dave! *Out of the Box* came and put on a wonderful performance of the Christmas story as told through the eyes of the wise men. The hall was almost full and everyone who came had a fantastic time. Many people stayed for refreshments after the show. It was a lovely opportunity to speak with many families from our communities. Thank you to everyone who helped with refreshments and to *Out of the Box* for entertaining us. Look out for them coming back next year—you won't want to miss it!

Heather Merriman



Care Van Updates

Currie Kirk has committed to operate and staff the care van on the third Tuesday of each month January to November 2019. The care van is a joint venture between Bethany and Edinburgh City Mission and operates 364 nights of the year. This involves a team of 4 or 5 volunteers going out each night, serving soup and refreshments to the homeless in Edinburgh. We also take clothing with us. Each night we are out begins around 7.45pm and finishes around 11.30pm. Currie Kirk has a team of around 20 volunteers so we are each usually out every 3 or 4 months—if you'd like to join us or know more about the service please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you very much to everyone who bought a Christmas cake. I have raised over £300 which pays for the soup we take with us each night and will buy underwear for the homeless in Edinburgh. Personally I think there is nothing worse than wet socks!

If you are having any clear out or have outgrown any clothing, we are always desperate for men's clothing—jeans (Waist 32-34 preferably), hoodies, jackets and t-shirts as well as underwear.

As well as volunteering with the care van, Currie Kirk staffed two Winter Night shelters with Bethany this winter at North Leith Parish Church and Diadem. On these nights we cooked and served a two course dinner to around 60 homeless in Edinburgh who were then able to sleep in a dry and warm hall for the night. Diadem is a new place for this winter and the Night Shelter will be based there until 5 May 2019. Diadem was previously Stenhouse St Aidan's Parish Church whose congregation has now been united with Gorgie Dalry Parish Church. From what we saw when we were at the venue early January, there looks to be plans for turning the building into a community hub. If you would like any further information or are able to donate any clothing, please get in touch.

Fiona Pigott (466-1459 or fpigott19@gmail.com).



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/



Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre raised an amazing amount of £1,784 for Currie Kirk funds. It was a great success with Santa and his elf, the tinsel tearoom and lots of fun for all ages. Martin Wilson very kindly brought along his model railway which kept everyone entertained.

A massive Thank You to FACE who provided Santa's sleigh, everyone who donated, helped set up on the day, served teas and who came along to support.

Left is a snapshot of the event.



Hogmanay Charity Ceilidh Thanks

Dancing to Iain MacPhail and his Band in a packed Gibson Craig Hall, the 2018 Hogmanay Charity Ceilidh raised the fantastic sum of £1,406 for Prostate Cancer Research SCO39332. A huge thank you to all those who attended or gave generous donations and raffle prizes. Special thanks also to those who helped set up the Hall, serve refreshments and clear up at the end of a great night, welcoming in the New Year. Best wishes to everyone for 2019!

Viola MacPhail



Support Currie Kirk when you shop at Amazon



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price **to your selected charity**.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Continue using your existing account with them—nothing changes. On your first visit to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> you need to select a charitable organisation to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping—type Currie Kirk into the 'pick your own charitable organisation box' – Currie Kirk (Church of Scotland) will appear, then click on 'select'. They will remember your selection and then every eligible purchase thereafter will result in a donation.

Can I change my charity?

Yes you can—simply sign in to smile.amazon.co.uk and then select 'Change your charity' in 'Your account'. The donation they make is perhaps only 0.5% of eligible purchases, but in the words of a large Supermarket 'Every little helps' and if we all do a little, it could soon add up.

If you have any questions not answered above, please feel free to phone the Kirk Office.

Ishbel Massie

The Adventure Continues Into The New Year

Liam's Newsletter



Thank you everyone for all your support of my journey so far. I'm glad that from what I've heard you've been enjoying the newsletters.



Puerto Quetzal in Guatemala the port we joined in

Guatemala and onward

After one week of being on board we left Guatemala and sailed to El Salvador, our first sail on board. However before we left Guatemala I had my first connection day on shore. We did a presentation in a church about OM and the ship, about our goal of encouraging Latinos to go into mission work and help to share the good news of Jesus across the whole world.



We visited a small church in the mountains and although they were few they were so passionate about praising God and getting involved in mission work. It was such an encouragement to see. It was also my first time preaching. I shared the message of how the church can pray, give and go into missions based on what Jesus said.

What I will tell you now is this:

- We have been in Costa Rica but unfortunately had to leave early due to strong currents and mooring lines snapping.
- We then crossed the Equator, making it my first time in the Southern Hemisphere. We sailed to Ecuador to a port called Manta and spent 11 days there then sailed through a river to get to Guayaquil where we are now and will spend Christmas day
- We will be sailing over New Year

Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers and please message me with any questions or personal prayer requests.

Please email me if you would like a copy of Liam's Newsletter as this is only an extract. He is an amazing young man who gained his Queen's Badge with the 65th. There was never a dull moment when Liam was in the Company.

Isobel Webber

Walk Down Memory Lane



Thank you to Joyce Caffrey who submitted these photos along with many others—they will pop up in future issues.



An extremely interesting proposition for men who like to work with their hands enjoy a wee bit of banter and like making things—Interested????



In partnership with the 42nd Pentland Scout Group, the Scottish Men's Sheds Association and Currie Community Council are looking into setting up a Men's Shed in Currie, open to men looking for an outlet for their skills. Ideal for those perhaps living in isolation or loneliness so please share with anyone you think may be interested or benefit from attending.

Men's Sheds respond to men's need for camaraderie and provide opportunities to work together in a way that contributes meaning to their lives. The pioneering of the Men's Sheds concept in Scotland since 2009 by some of the SMSA has led to Scotland's communities in 2015 voicing a need for a dedicated association which inspires and supports all of Scotland's Shedders with its lifelong and life wide learning experience. The Scottish Men's Sheds Association became a Scottish charity in 2014, launched in 2015 and here we are in 2018 as the peak association for Men's Sheds in Scotland.

Visit their great site: <https://scottishmsa.org.uk> check it out then if interested let me know via curriecouncil@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Currie-Community-Council-162003307167929/>

Obviously, you will need more info and so, if I get a decent response our next step will be an open evening to present the benefits of MSA and to answer all your questions. This is open not only to all three villages of Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno but to anyone who wants to join.

Allister R McKillop
Chair
Currie Community Council



**Dementia Friendly Pentlands
LAUNCH**

MONTHLY DROP In SESSIONS

On the last Saturday of every month when two of the DFP Team will provide an opportunity for anyone to come for a chat and learn more about dementia and support available locally.

On Saturdays
26th January, 23rd February
23rd March & 27th April 2019
In Currie Library
10.30am- 2.30pm



For more information
Contact: dementiafriendlypentlands@gmail.com
Telephone: 07878979883

SC048360

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 Clairemaloney12@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—

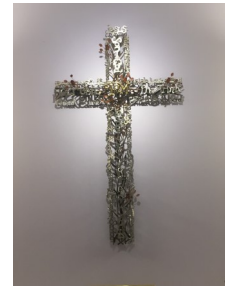
Cost £2 per person which includes refreshments and snacks.

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)

Robert Blaikie, 36 Dolphin Road
Audrey Campbell, 12 Rowantree Grove
Dorothy Cook, 13 Hailes Crescent
Shirley Lamb, 174 Cockburn Crescent
John Lindsay, 1 Cherry Tree Place
Mrs Leah McCue, 155 Curriehill Castle Drive
Elizabeth (Betty) Stewart, 35 Dolphin Road



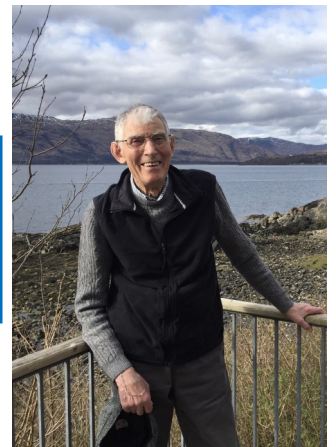
Please pray for the families

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

Willow Leal McCormick, daughter of Alexis and Douglas



Congratulations
to Tom Masson who celebrates his
90th birthday on 1 February



February Flower List

2019

3 Alan and George Forsyth
Mr and Mrs I Matheson

10 Donations to Kirk Flower Fund



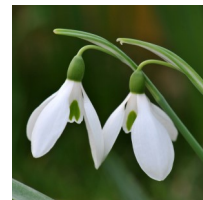
17 Mrs B Chambers
Mr and Mrs M Collins

24 Mrs E Chadwick
Mrs G Simpson

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 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
Offerings & Gift Aid Treasurer	Eunice Stewart eunicestewart48@gmail.com		449 6832
Data Protection Officer	Ron Dow Email: ronedow@blueyonder.co.uk		538 2313
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	
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 before or by Friday 22 February.**
Please insert the words “Kirk News” into the subject.

