The Kirk News

December 2019 January 2020





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CALENDAR OVERVIEW:

Why not cut out this handy calendar and put it on your fridge!! (GCH= Gibson Craig Halls)

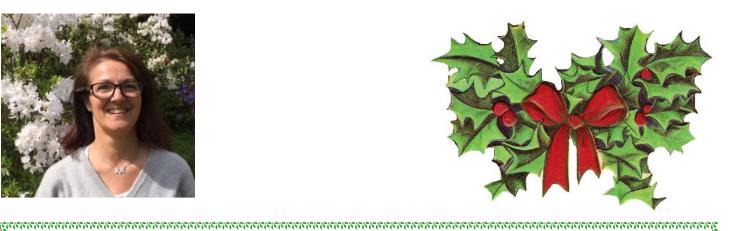
December	1	Sunday	10 am—First Sunday in Advent with Prayer Tree service following worship			
	2	Monday	7 pm—Good Book Group—Lounge, GCH			
	3	Tuesday	10 am—Guild—Voice of Carers across Lothian—Emma Pattinson			
	4	Wednesday	11-11.30 am—Prayer Meeting, GCH Lounges			
8 Sunday			10 am—Second Sunday in Advent—Worship Currie Kirk			
14 Satu		Saturday	11 am—2 pm—Quiet Time and Reflective Service, Currie Kirk			
	15	Sunday	10 am—Third Sunday in Advent—All Age Family Service with Nativity Play, Currie Kirk			
	15	Sunday	6.30 pm warm up for 7 pm—"Carols for Currie"—GCH—Refreshments provided.			
	17	Tuesday	1 pm—Guild Christmas Party followed by James Cagney—Song & Dance Man			
	20	Friday	6.30 pm—Out of the Box Puppet Show—The Three Wise Men, Juniper Green Church			
	22	Sunday	10 am—Fourth Sunday in Advent with Lessons and Carols			
	24	Tuesday	6 pm—Christingle & Pyjama Service—GCH			
	24	Tuesday	11.30 pm—Watchnight Service, Refreshments will be served from 11 pm Currie Kirk			
	25	Wednesday	10 am—Christmas Day Worship, Currie Kirk			
	29	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with informal Sacrament of Communion following			
			worship			
2020						
January		Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Prayer Tree service following worship.			
		Sunday	6.30 pm—Company/Senior BB Section= GCH			
		Thursday	6 pm—Anchors & Junior BB—GCH			
		Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk			
		Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk with Sacrament of Communion			
		Tuesday	2 pm—The Guild—Crappit Heids & Barley Bannocks—Maureen Kelly			
		Tuesday	8 pm—Care Van			
	26	Sunday	10.30 am—Joint Valley Service, Juniper Green Church			
February	2	Sunday	10 am—Heriot-Watt Anniversary Service—Currie Kirk			
	3	Monday	7 pm—Good Book Group—Lounge, GCH			
	4	Tuesday	10 am—The Guild—Experiences of a Paramedic—Neil Proven			
	5	Wednesday	11-11.30 am—Prayer Meeting—GCH			
	9	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk, with Prayer Tree service following worship.			
	16	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk			
	18	Tuesday	2 pm—The Guild—Confessions of a Moderator's Wife—Margaret Barr			
	18	Tuesday	8 pm—Care Van			
	23	Sunday	10 am—Worship Currie Kirk.			

Kirk News

The February/March issue of Kirk News will be available on Sunday 2 February for distribution







Christmas Message from the Manse

T'is the season to be jolly—when countless choirs are rehearsing for cheery Christmas concerts and Community Carol singing along with Nativity Plays and all the chaos enjoyed.

Music is central to Christmas celebrations. As we practise and prepare, I wonder how many of us take time to appreciate what a rich inheritance we have in our Christmas music, with all its familiar words and uplifting melodies.

Martin Luther, wrote, "I am strongly persuaded that after theology, there is no art that can be placed on a level with music affording joy, peace and strength to the heart." Take for example, that "glorious song of old," we know from the Carol:

> It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, From heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

On a wintry night in Boston, 1849, a New England minister, Edmund Sears, penned the words that came to him while he read Luke Chapter 2. He sent the words to an editor, who published it. Sears was writing at a time of social unrest in the United States. This was the period of the Fugitive Slave Law, and Civil War was looming between the North and South. How could the hope of the Christ-child's birth speak to such times? Sears wanted to express the longings of the toiling masses.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife The world has suffered long; Beneath the angel—strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong; And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring; O hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing.

This poem speaks just as profoundly to our world now, as it did then. We yearn for hope and need to be reminded that in God's realm, love is the answer. We could not fit all the verses in but here is another.

> For lo!, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold, When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendours fling, And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

Meantime, God bless you this Christmas and in the year 2020.

Easter



Bathgate Brass Band Concert—Thankyou

t was a delight to welcome back the Bathgate Brass Band to the Gibson Craig Hall on Thursday 24 October. At $oldsymbol{ol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{oldsymbol{ol{oldsymbol{ol{oldsymbol{ol}}}}}}}}}}}}}$ selection of pieces—some known, some unknown. One of the most moving pieces was by Dame Evelyn Glennie. It had the audience almost moved to tears. In contrast, we had a stirring piece based on a song written by Louis Armstrong but this time amended by a Glaswegian composer. To finish off the first half, we enjoyed theme tunes from the movies, including a rendition of some of John Williams' scores such as Private Ryan from the film starring Tom Hanks.

After a wee coffee break, Part 2 kicked off and included pieces with a religious theme, the theme tune from Star Wars, which was awesome, some Scottish well known tunes, which we all sang to, and the finale, which was one of my favourites—American Trilogy, as sung by the late and great Elvis Presley. I have to say the Bathgate Band, under the musical direction of Mark Good, did the piece proud and they then followed it up by an encore of 'My Way' by Frank Sinatra. Every piece was skilfully performed with gusto and passion and it was a real delight to be part of a very appreciative audience, who left the Halls uplifted and looking forward to the Band's return next year.

Even though the concert was free, there was an opportunity to make a donation to the event. The wonderful sum of £575 was raised, out of which the Band kindly made a generous donation of £150 towards Church funds.

Roll on next year, did I hear you say?

Gordon Clephane Mission, Outreach and Fellowship Committee

Trenches Unforgotten, 9 November-Thank you

very big thank you to the members of Balerno Parish Church, 'One Bar's Rest' who, through song, pictures and narrative, presented a moving and poignant account of the testimonies of soldiers, who survived the horrors of the first World War.

The amount donated was £481.40, which will be split between the charities, 'Hope for Heroes' and 'Poppy Scotland'.

Thanks also to The Guild who provided a great spread of baking which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Gordon Clephane

Mission, Outreach and Fellowship Committee

The total is in:

an astonishing £7.56 million was raised during Christian Aid Week 2019!

Over 10,000 churches took part in celebrations supported by 40,700 amazing volunteers in churches and communities across the UK and Ireland. Over 7,500 signed our petition urging the chancellor to use his influence to drop the healthcare debt for the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone. 33,678 resources were downloaded from our website and 2,079 Big Brekkie packs were ordered.

All of these individual actions from delivering an envelope to donating at your church's coffee morning, bring us closer to our aim of transforming the lives of the poorest communities in our world. Your gifts have such an important impact. Over the past year, Christian Aid has helped provide vital healthcare in Sierra Leone:

- Over 58,000 people have access to well-built health clinics, helping nurses to save lives.
- 64,000 people have received hygiene training, helping mums and children to fight off illnesses.
- 1,300 women are able to save and pay for things like transport to their nearest clinic, through community savings groups.

Thank You.

(A letter received from Christian Aid—Sophie Brightwell, Christian Aid Week Team):





Advent Calendars

Well done and many thanks to all who donated advent calendars for the Food Bank at Wester Hailes. We delivered 235 calendars. Thanks to the Guild Members, The Boys' Brigade, Church Members and the Community of Currie and beyond.



Christmas Pudding & Custard

The Food Bank would like our help to be able to give every family, using the Food Bank, a Christmas Pudding with Custard.

If you can help can you hand in your donations to the Kirk Office or to any Guild member. The custard has to be of the packet variety as shown.

Deadline for donations **Tuesday 17 December**.

Thank you in advance.



s the first part of this session comes to a close, we can look back at the amazing speakers who have entertained us. Some serious, some not so serious and the rest just pure amazing and very funny. We look forward to Emma Pattinson, who will be our speaker on the 3 December, giving us a talk on the Voice of Carers across Lothian and our Christmas Meal, when Peter Kendrick will be entertaining us with James Cagney: Song & Dance Man.

January brings Maureen Kelly (who is always entertaining) on Crappit Heids & Barley Bannocks—this takes us nicely into our second session of 2019/2020.

Thank you for all your support this session and, with encouragement, I have learnt a new skill—baking!! The Guild provided the baking for Trenches Unforgotten and this was much appreciated by the actors who took part and the audience, who thanked us after the performance.

I wish all Guild members a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2020.

Isobel Webber

Knitters of Currie and Beyond:

huge thank you to everyone who knitted not only hats this year but jumpers too for the refugees in war torn countries. We received 747 hats and 98 children's jumpers also scarves and mittens. Also thank you to the people who supplied the wool without which this project wouldn't have been such a success.

S S

The knitting was delivered to Edinburgh Direct Aid in Granton during October and should now be well on its way to the refugees.

It is now four years since we started knitting and we will be happy to continue to collect and deliver to EDA for another year. Hats, jumpers, scarves and gloves of any size or colour will be most appreciated.

Donations of wool can be left at the Gibson Craig Hall Office and completed articles can be handed in during September 2020.

Many thanks, Margaret Watson.





65th Edinburgh (Currie) Company

(Registered Charity No. SCO34640)

s we move towards the New Year, there is much for the congregation to be proud of within the BB. Starting with our youngest members, we now have a healthy 15 Boys. This is the second year in a row where our membership has been in the mid-teens. We have also welcomed a new leader to Anchors, Justin. He has moved to Edinburgh for university and was involved with the BB in Wigan. Welcome onboard!

Our Juniors have also grown this year and are having fun doing all their usual games and activities. This section has also seen an increase in membership which is very encouraging for the future.

Rather surprisingly, the seniors have been doing well in the national competitions. They have made it through to the second round of the badminton competition and the masterteam (it's a quiz). Who'd have thought?! We did win these competitions a few years ago and we hope that our Boys today can emulate the Boys who have gone before them.

We always have room for more boys so if anyone is looking to join us in the New Year, they are more than welcome to come along!

Michael Knott Captain

Who was the Little Drummer Boy?

It was Betty Clark. No one guessed so the Editor will donate the selection box to The Guild!!

Bethany Christian Trust

urrie Kirk has finished its rota for 2019 on the Care Van—the van goes out 364 days of the year, armed with soup and rolls, tea and biscuits, and clothes which have been donated. This year we have received a few cash donations from members of the public passing by and noticing what's happening. I use this money to buy men's underwear and can be found in charity shops looking for Waist size 32" jeans and other bargains.

We have also volunteered twice at the Care Shelter, cooking and serving dinner for up to 60 homeless. Sadly Diadem, which had temporary planning permission for 2018/2019 winter, has had to wait and has only recently received full planning permission as a winter care shelter. Readers may have read about Diadem which was to be a permanent shelter with proper beds and showers!! Now that planning has been received, Bethany will open its doors at Diadem on 1 December. So far this winter, it has meant that the Care Shelter has been moving from church to church, with the users not always knowing where to go. The steak pies which we served are provided by Mark McGill Butchers, Currie—a huge thank you to Mark for his generosity in supplying steak and pie toppers for 60! Those whom we served had a huge dinner that night with dumpling and custard to follow—I think they were all asleep before we left at 11pm.

I'd like to thank everyone who volunteers with the Care van and the Care shelter—there have been a few nights when the thought of staying in a central heated house or going out in the rain has been a tough decision to make and I'm grateful to everyone who has made the commitment to help out. A big Thank You also to everyone who has donated clothes for us to take out on the van—men's jeans, sweatshirts, jackets and

If you're interested in helping with the Care Van please get in touch—we've got a busy 2020!!

Fiona Pigott

Fpigott19@gmail.com; 07685-678990



The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

Hogmanay Charity Ceilidh in aid of



Scotland SCO40914

Dancing to Iain MacPhail and his Band
Tuesday 31 December 2019
Gibson Craig Hall, Currie
8pm to 12.45am

Tickets £15

Contact Viola 449 4664

Bring your own bottle and glass

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201 Not Out!

ere you aware that the Kirk clock was not striking the hours for a couple of weeks?—because a pound and a half (0.7kg) of lead broke off from the hammer, and fell about 10 feet (3 metres) to the bell loft floor below, whilst underneath Gordon MacKinlay was ringing the bell for morning service.

The clock-operated bell-striking arrangement was then removed by Iain Matheson and further dismantled by me. That did not prevent rope-pulled ringing of the bell, by its internal clapper.

As well as the lead piece which fell, its other half was distorted and loose, the pivot bush was slack on the arm, and the spring had failed. The clock striking mechanism pulls down on a wire on the far end of the arm, the hammer lifts, then is released to hit the bell outer edge, as often as needed. The spring lifts the hammer off so as to leave the bell sounding. However, the spring had broken leaving the hammer actually resting on the bell—so that hand ringing then made the bell hit the hammer side, the lead distorted, and the pivot bush loosened.

The spring and pivot were welded and brazed

respectively by my colleague Ryan. We hammered the lead pieces back towards their original shape, and secured them by additional strapping so that they should remain in place, particularly as the hammer will not now be struck sideways by the bell, then refitted the hammer mechanism in its original place.

The clock striking parts were clearly made by hand by

a blacksmith, and show long-time wear. The clock mechanism has had a plate attached at a later date, reading as follows—"Currie 1818 This clock was got in 1818 by subscription, set on foot and completed by the Reverend John Somerville, then Minister of the parish, he at the same time contributing largely



himself. The first hour the clock measured after set up was from 12 to 1 on Wednesday 22 July and the first hour it struck was 11 o'clock on Friday 24 July 1818. See parish record 1796-1828, page 205".

The clock mechanism as pictured is then enclosed in its wooden box. Formerly the projecting shaft on the right raised the weight driving the pendulum, and that on the left raised the weight driving the striking mechanism. Winding, using the original handle, was done every Saturday morning by The Boys' Brigade (so I've been told). When the clock was fitted with an electric drive, the parts no longer

used were kept, so that the clock could be restored to its former way of working if wished. More recently, the drive was modified. Now changing from GMT to BST and back is by a switch!

The photo of the bell from below shows, on the right, the rope and pulley for hand ringing, when the whole bell swings, and on the left the arm and hammer of the chime.



Bill Hume

Dementia Friendly Pentlands are 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/

Love Actually

very Boxing Day people across the land resolve that next Christmas will be different. In January, when the bills arrive, they promise that next Christmas will be simpler, less indulgent and cheaper. According to Money Supermarket, almost 10% of people will still be paying for Christmas well into next year. Perhaps next year, by refusing to conform to every tradition and everyone's expectations, we will recapture the wonder, the magic and the awe of Christmas and 'remember what it's all about'.

November magazines include articles on how to approach Christmas—'Twenty Six Ways to Simplify Christmas'; or 'Five Reasons Why I'm Not Simplifying Christmas'. There are some radical work-saving, stress-busting, money-saving strategies out there. One woman recommends leaving the Christmas tree fully decorated all year. Hers has been in the corner of the sitting room, festooned in tinsel, baubles, lights and all, for sixteen years. It's

true. For most of the year it is wrapped in sheets with the reminder, 'Do not open until December'.

Perhaps, after all, even on Christmas Day, reflecting on how simple or how lavish it has been is to miss the point. Maybe, as we approach Christmas, we do not need a to-do-list and a credit card so much as a Grinch-like revelation:

'Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!

What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?

What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!'

(Dr Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!)

Please note that Session decided, at its meeting on

26 November, for a trial period of one year to publish the Kirk News bi-monthly. The next issue will be February/March and published on 2 February.

A German proverb goes: 'The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing'. That seems a pretty good definition of simplicity to me: recognising the extraneous and superfluous for what it is and focusing on 'the main thing'. Authentic simplicity has to be an inward reality before it bears the fruit of an outward lifestyle. Attempts to create the outer beauty without the inner actuality are doomed to legalism and frustration.

'The main thing' is to recognise the

significance of that first
Christmas, the Nativity. The
birth of Jesus Christ was
marked by astonishing
simplicity. The highpoint of
history, the climax of eternity,
was not marked with
grandeur, pomp and pageant.
Rather, a pregnant teenager
had no option but to deliver
her child in the stark and
smelly surroundings of a
stable, the only warmth
provided by the body heat of

sheltering animals. The first visitors were shepherds, who were considered the lowest of the low. Jesus, the Bible tells us, did not come with majesty and opulence, but 'full of grace and truth', to reveal God—a God who is love—and to bridge the gap between us and that lavishly loving God.

Christmas is ultimately about love ... actually. As Christina Rossetti's carol puts it, 'Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas.' Perhaps, as we make our plans, we should be less concerned with how simple or extravagant our Christmas will be. Perhaps the touchstone of all that we do should be love: and how we respond to the extravagant love of God and how we love those around us.

Mission & Discipleship Church Without Walls Team



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
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: 9.30 am—11.30 am
Shoogly Peg Theatre Company	Zoe McRae	07884 133357	Friday: 6.30—7.30 pm
Snack Lunches	Viola MacPhail	449 4664	Tuesday—12 Noon–1.30 pm
Tea & Tunes	Allister McKillop	449 6394	2nd Tuesday of month
Yoga	Anne Marie Crozier annemariecrozier@blueyonder.co.uk	07887 526116	Monday: 10.30—11.30 am
Yoga	Monica Evans	07986 600432	Tuesday: 8—9 pm
Zumba Class	Lynne Langmead	07927 208134	Tuesday: 7—8 pm
Zumba Exercise Class	Tom Lowe	07980 692929	Thursday: 10.15—11.15 am



Family News

Obituaries: Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

(John 11:25)

Janet McFarlane, 4 Marchbank Grove, Balerno

Florence Maud Thomson, 111 Muir Wood Road, Currie

Please pray for the families





Mrs Catherine Gordon, 376 Lanark Road West, Currie



Currie Kirk raised over £4,000 for Christian Aid in 2019.

Shoebox Appeal

A massive Thank You to everyone who donated and filled a shoebox or donated items to complete one. We had a total of 68 shoeboxes, which were collected by Blythswood at the beginning of November, and will be distributed to various countries in Eastern Europe.



December/January Flower List

December 2019

- 1 Mrs S Law
- 8 Flower Fund Donations
- 15 Flower Fund Donations
- 22 Festive Decorations
- 29 Festive Decorations



January 2020

- 5 Mrs E Smith
- 12 Mrs J McColl
- 19 Flower Fund Donations
- 26 Joint Valley Service

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Kirk Flower Fund in 2019.

The flowers are enjoyed and appreciated by so many

Should anyone wish information regarding donations to the Flower Fund please contact Margaret Matheson: m.matheson@blueyonder.co.uk; or telephone 075190 45866



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 to Friday 9.30 am—12.30 pm	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	Vanessa Martins	vanessa.martins93@yahoo.com	07847 274395
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	Contact Church Office		451 5141
Hospital Transport Coordinator	Elizabeth Wood		538 0363
Deputy Coordinator	Jim Ure		449 6498
Kirk Flowers	Margaret Matheson	m.matheson@blueyonder.co.uk	075190 45866
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	451 5141
Mini Bus Sunday lift organiser	Margaret Russell		449 5917
Mini Bus Bookings	Contact Church Office		451 5141
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—10 am—11 am	
Messy Church	Contact Heather Email: familyworker_jvp@outlook.com	Last Friday of the month Gibson Craig Halls from 2.00—4.00 pm (term time only)	
Walking Group	Moira McDonald	Third Sunday of each month	466 1115





The Kirk News

an 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 February/March issue should be sent—
using a Word attachment—by email to isobelwebber@btinternet.com before or by Friday 17 January.

Please insert the words "Kirk News" into the subject.