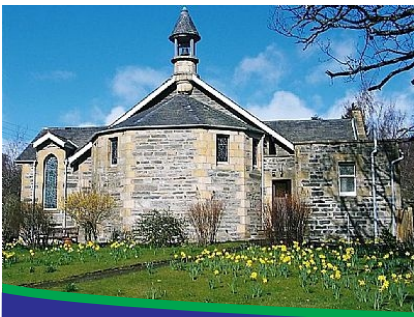


NEWSLETTER



Church of Scotland
Kingussie Linked with
Laggan and Newtonmore

www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk www.kingussie-parishchurch.org.uk

MAY 2022

From our Locum

On Sunday 15th May, Dr George Alder was ordained as an elder during a joint service for the Laggan and Newtonmore congregations. No objections were brought to the Kirk Session prior to the service and the Ordination was able to proceed as planned after the normal service. In accordance with Church law, we are obliged to follow the protocol for a Service of Ordination to take place. I would like to thank our Session Clerk and our Interim Moderator for their input. Congratulations to our new elder Dr George Alder.

Four members of presbytery including myself are attending the General Assembly in Edinburgh for a week. It is always a privilege to attend and there will be comment from the General Assembly in our next Newsletter.

Hopefully in the coming weeks we will begin to see some more sunshine and warmth to help us smile. How full of flowers the blossom trees have been this Spring and this has reminded me of the time I spent living in Canberra, Australia. In Summer our gardens should also blossom with sunshine and warmth.

Take care and enjoy your time as Spring flows into Summer.
Rev Mary Ellen Thomson

From our Interim Moderator

Hello everyone.

Well here we are now well into Spring and the blossom is on the trees, the Spring flowers are colourful and shades of green are all around us. I always seem to mention our surroundings when I am writing these lines for our newsletter, but with a background in horticulture and hobbies of flower arranging and art, I cannot but be inspired by my surroundings.

However, can you imagine what it is like to be surrounded by dusty, dry, parched land, devoid of growing crops and greenery. As I write, it is the middle of Christian Aid Week and the theme is 'Hungry for Hope'. This year the aim is to raise money for people in Zimbabwe so that they can buy drought resistant seeds. These will allow families to grow crops to sell, grow healthy food for themselves and learn new skills for alternative sources of income if agriculture fails. Their hope this year is with us!

The Presbytery Mission Plan has been submitted to the Church of Scotland offices but unfortunately, we have had no reply regarding it and now with the General Assembly taking place, everything comes to a halt for a few weeks. (The Presbytery Property Committee has a consultation with the General Trustees on 20th June regarding the use of church properties in the presbytery so hopefully some progress will be made after this meeting.)

Decisions need to be made regarding the manse in Newtonmore and the property groups are continuing to discuss this while we await answers from the General Trustees to some of our questions. We need to have patience - and ongoing prayer in relation to these matters.

I continue to be thankful to all those who undertake roles within our Churches, many going about their tasks quietly, and unseen.

Blessings to you all
Mary Stewart
Interim Moderator

Memorial Book

The church in Newtonmore keeps the Memorial Book on behalf of the local community and in normal times there is an annual service when everyone in the book is remembered. Meg Ferrier has looked after this for many years and she ensures that the book is updated when appropriate. Forms are available in the church vestibule and the cost of an entry is currently £15. Meg Ferrier can be contacted at Dalrunzion, Fort William Road, Newtonmore Telephone 01540 673447

Newsletter By E-mail

If you would prefer to get your Newsletter (and any other communications) by e-mail please contact your Session Clerk – Alison Armstrong or Sandy Peebles with your e-mail address. This would be more eco-friendly and save delivery time.

FOLLOW THE NEWS

If you are unable to attend church and have computer access, you can see all the news and the sermons on www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk





Communion Services

The next communion services will be held at the following times.

Laggan	5 th June at 9.30am
Newtonmore	5 th June at 11.30am
Kingussie	12 th June at 10.30am

There will be a retiring offering in Laggan and Newtonmore for Christian Aid

Badenoch Chorale

The Badenoch Chorale will have their first concert since 2019 in Laggan Church on Sunday 5th June at 6-30p.m. Members are looking forward to this occasion under the control of our new accompanist Rebekah Lockyer and conductor John Crombie. We have been very fortunate to obtain the services of Rebekah who came to live in Newtonmore at just the right time!

The Chorale have two further concerts in the diary –

Kingussie Church on 11th September 2022
Aberlour Church on 25th September 2022

and then it will be Christmas yet again!

Libis

From time to time attempts have been made to contact Libis, but with the war in Ukraine this has not been simple. The last we heard was that all the congregations in Ukraine, for which Mirek Pfann is pastor, were safe but we do know that Mirek was in hospital, and we have been trying to make e-mail contact with him. We pray for those in our twinned congregations in their current trying times.

Soup and Pudding

Soup and pudding lunches are back in St Bride's on the first Sunday of the month. At the first one after Covid lockdown, twenty ate together and proceeds from the lunch were for the benefit of Ukraine.

Joint Services

Two joint services are currently arranged. These are held at 10.30a.m. on every occasion.

29th May – Kingussie - Rev Tony Sparham
26th June – Laggan - Worship Group and David Moss - 'Moving Up Transition Weekend'

Rev Tony Sparham is part of the ministry team at St John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Rothiemurchus. He retired to the Highlands in 2016 to be closer to family. According to Google he is a Morris Minor enthusiast. Unfortunately, Rev Michael Mair

will not make it to Laggan in June as planned as he has been asked to preach at the closure of his old church in Dundee. He is, however, willing to make himself available for the joint service in Laggan on Sunday 25th September.

David Moss will give a presentation on the work we supported in preparing primary children for senior school at Alltnacriche.

The worship group will be meeting early in June to make arrangements for July, August and September and as these will need to take account of holidays, the full arrangements will appear on the websites and on church noticeboards.

Presbytery

When Presbytery recently met, they were addressed by Joel Hafvestein who is our partner missionary in Nepal. He is about to retire as chief executive of the United Mission to Nepal organisation and is passing the baton over to a Nepalese lady who has worked for the organisation for many years. Joel gave a resume of the work in which he has been involved, transforming some of the most remote and poverty-stricken parts of the country. Both Joel and his wife Fiona both grew up in Nepal and Presbytery wished them well in their retirement from UMN.

Presbytery also heard about the continuous debate over the formation of a Highland Presbytery. Seven out of the ten current presbyteries involved, voted to have one presbytery but three voted to have two or even three presbyteries. All voted independently so it is hoped that the three who did not vote for one presbytery will reconsider once they realise how the voting worked out.

Rev Graham Atkinson of Boat of Garten, Carrbridge and Abernethy will be the new moderator of the presbytery as of 21st June 2022.

Food Hub

The Badenoch and Strathspey Food Hub requires sugar, long life milk, cartons of juice, tomato ketchup, tines of fruit plus the following toiletries, toilet rolls, shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes and soap. Demand continues to be high.

Kingussie Parish Church

Craft Group

The Group held its final meeting for the session on Monday 2nd May. We enjoyed not only undertaking the craft work but also the social aspect of being able to meet with friends again. We will restart towards the end of August.

Within the next month or so we will diversify for a short period of time when we hope to have a small plant sale. Given the unpredictable weather we are experiencing, it is difficult to judge when said seedlings will be ready. However, we will let you know



what is being grown and an intended delivery date, thus providing an opportunity to place orders. Norma Hutton oversees this side line activity. Watch the church notice board for more details.

Thursday Open Days

We are taking a break during May, due to team members being unavailable. However, we will be back raring to go at the beginning of June. If you would like to become involved on a Thursday, give Eppy a call on 07803925888 or add your name to the list on Church noticeboard in hall.

KPC Organ

The Church organ continues to play beautifully. John Crombie, our organist, supplies a steady stream of pieces on a weekly basis for the organ Facebook page. It is very interesting to see where in the world people are listening to his pieces – Scandinavia, the Far East, the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA, Africa and UK, to name a few. Yes, the world is pretty much covered. You can listen too from the Kingussie Parish Church organ Facebook page.

Fundraising and Social

Our fundraising coffee morning in April raised just over £300. Thanks are due to all who came and contributed in any way. Those attending much enjoyed the music provided by John Crombie and of course the baking.

Following on from last year's ecumenical coffee morning, a repeat is being planned for 18th June 2022 from 10.00a.m. until 12.00 noon.

Monday Lunch

A Monday lunch is held on the first Monday of most months at 12.30p.m. in Kingussie Church. We have excellent soup and pudding from Loch Insh Watersports followed by tea and coffee at a cost of £5. The next get together is on 13th June when, instead of the meal coming to us, we are planning to go to Loch Insh to

enjoy the food with a lovely view as well! Transport can be provided. All are welcome. If you require any further information, please phone Jo Simpson on 01540 661498.

Facebook and Web Pages

Facebook pages and web pages continue to be updated daily with appropriate news items, the times of services and the Sunday Service. This allows anyone unable to attend Church on a Sunday the opportunity to be part of the worship service online.

Mothers and Toddlers

Mothers and Toddlers meet in Kingussie Church every Wednesday from 9-00a.m. Mothers and Toddlers from Newtonmore who also join in are also made welcome.

Prayer Meetings

These are held in St Bride's Church Hall on the third Friday of the month from 11-00a.m. to Noon. All are welcome to attend. The next dates are 17th June and 15th July.

Social Events

Saturday 6th August Stall at Newtonmore Highland Games
Sunday 14th August Picnic at Ardverikie

We hope to organise a Flower Festival in St Bride's at the end of July. Details will be announced shortly if all goes to plan!

Laggan and Newtonmore Finance

While it is true to say that we are currently in a healthy financial position in spite of paying for repairs to Laggan Church, a survey report for the manse and emergency tree work in the manse garden, the future is still a bit uncertain due to the state of the church manse which will require to be made wind and watertight, whether we decide to keep it or dispose of it. We have estimates for this work and for the removal of the trees and these bills will make a dent in our finances. If we keep the manse, we need to be able to convince presbytery that the manse is fit for a new minister

CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS

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and this means being able to comply with the current Church of Scotland regulations on such matters, thus ensuring that everything is up to standard.

The message at this time to all our members and adherents is to ask that you do your best to keep up your givings to the church so that in due course we can achieve our aim to call a new minister for ourselves and Kingussie. Please pray for a satisfactory conclusion to our aims.

Giving to Grow

This is the new name for the scheme whereby congregations contribute to Ministries and Mission in the Church of Scotland. The new scheme commences in January 2023. It is proposed as a more open and transparent scheme where instead of allocations being made on a three-year average of our income, it will be based on the most recent annual figures available and therefore capable of dealing better with movements in our annual income.

The scheme has three parts, Ministry Here, Ministry Elsewhere and Shared Costs. Ministry here will take 50% of income up to the cost of a minister, currently £45,000 per annum. Shared Costs will take 10% of our income, and as our income will not cover the cost of a minister, we will not be giving to Ministry Elsewhere and other congregations will be subsidising the cost of our minister. We will be left with 40% of our income for our own costs.

This does not mean that we should be complacent in our giving and the scheme is intended to be an incentive for mission. The national budget of the church will be related to local income and this is a positive move for the Church of Scotland. For the time being, until we appoint a new minister, we will still be eligible for a vacancy allowance!

Scotland's Garden Scheme

George and Beth Alder are again opening their garden at Shanvall, Glentruim from 1st July to 15th August. To arrange a visit, phone 01540 673213 or e-mail beth.alder@yahoo.co.uk.

Donations to Laggan and Newtonmore Church of Scotland.

