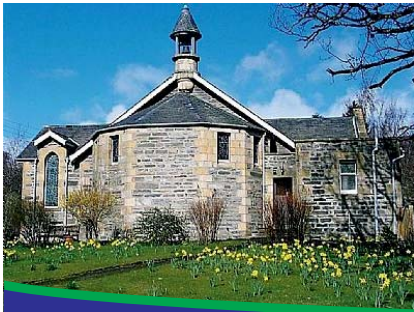


# NEWSLETTER



Church of Scotland  
Kingussie Linked with  
Laggan and Newtonmore

[www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk](http://www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk) [www.kingussie-parishchurch.org.uk](http://www.kingussie-parishchurch.org.uk)

AUGUST 2022

## From our Interim Moderator

Hello everyone,

As I start to write this message, it is a rather a hot day outside! At least there is a bit of wind to keep me cool! Our summer this year has been a bit erratic at times - with really warm days; some heavy rain; and also very windy days!

Most of you know I'm very involved with Badenoch and Strathspey Therapy Gardens, and with our own allotment, and vegetables and flowers at our house, you could say I am a bit 'into' gardening!

This erratic weather has impacted on the flowers, fruit and vegetables. The flowers have been beautiful, as shown at the lovely Flower Festival in St Bride's Church at the end of July, but are having a shorter season to bloom, whereas the fruit has been excellent with heavy cropping - and laden apple trees! And then people are experiencing mixed results with their vegetables this year.

Our lives often reflect our gardening situations - they can be a bit erratic! Things go well and life runs smoothly and productively, then the winds of change blow wildly and disrupt the peace, and then when things are dark and cold we feel alone, sad and miserable.

We must remember that God has had a hand in all this productivity, and he has a hand in our lives too - he is there whatever the weather - or the situation and sometimes we just have to be patient - a bit like we have to be with our Presbytery Mission Plan. The latest draft of the Plan will be discussed at the September Presbytery meeting. I have also been in conversation with one of the General Trustees regarding the Newtonmore Manse and I await some guidance from them.

As the summer draws into autumn, our children will now have returned to school, and young people will be preparing to head off to college and university. We pray for God's presence in their lives, and the lives of those teaching and guiding them, I continue to give thanks for all those involved in our Church and Community.

Blessings to you all  
*Mary Stewart*

## From our Locum

It was a great delight to have the Flower Festival at St Bride's Church on the 30th and 31st July, the Church looked resplendent and many visited and admired the floral arrangements. There were teas, coffee and cakes served. Those who attended enjoyed seeing people who they perhaps hadn't seen for some time.

The weekend of the 6th and 7th of August saw the return of the MacPherson Gathering, with The Games on the Saturday, the opening of the refurbished Museum.

On Sunday 7th August there was the Joint Service at Kingussie Parish Church, when we welcomed members of the Clan MacPherson who joined us after a break of two years due to the pandemic. Following the closing Hymn Mr Bill MacPherson led the Tribute to Cluny MacPherson who had died during the pandemic. His son who is now Cluny MacPherson and his family were at the Service. Their eldest son played a tribute to his Grandfather on the pipes which he had played at the Funeral.

Last Sunday 14th August it was a delight to attend the picnic at Kinloch Laggan. Adults and Children who attended had the opportunity to be in the water swimming or in canoes. All present took time to enjoy the hamburgers, home baking and tea or coffee. It has always been a well organised event enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who worked to make the return of the Picnic a superb success.

Take care all and enjoy the sunshine as long as it lasts.

LEAD US AND BLESS US.

God our maker, Star-giver, warm us.

God in Jesus, storyteller, call us.

God the Holy Spirit, traveller, caress us.

God of all our nights and days lead us and bless us.

*Ruth Burgess*

*Mary Ellen Thomson*

## 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](http://www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk)





## Kingussie News

The Organ continues to play very well and has had some minor fixes and retuning in advance of the August concert by Henry Wallace. Entry to the concert is by donation and refreshments will be served. The organ Facebook page has regular traffic from many around the world tuning in to listen to John Crombie playing both sacred and secular pieces. There is a donate button now on the page. Small donations are always welcome – and appreciated.

The Craft Group is looking to restart towards the end of August.

The Ecumenical Coffee Morning and Plant Sale was enjoyed by those who attended and it was lovely to welcome friends from both the Catholic Church and the Free Church in Kingussie. It is the hope that this will become an annual event.

Looking forward to Christmas, there is a discussion regarding a joint carol service around the Kingussie Christmas Tree, involving all the churches.

The joint church service with Laggan and Newtonmore on Sunday 7th August was attended by members of the Clan Macpherson and it was good to welcome their members back after the enforced break of the last two years. The singing was superb, and many stayed for coffee and a chat.

## Prayer Meetings

**16th September at 11.00am**      **Laggan**  
**21st October at 11.00am**      **Newtonmore**

All welcome. If you would like to join in a prayer meeting but are unable to attend, please let Mary Ellen know

There is a prayer meeting in Kingussie on Friday 19th August at 11.00am (but printing timescales may not have allowed this to be circulated).

## Mrs Dorothy Saunders

Recently news was received of the death of Mrs Saunders, the wife of the Rev Campbell M Saunders who was first minister of the new St Bride's Church following the combination of the fabrics of St Columba's Church and St Andrew's Church completed in May 1958. She apparently had very happy memories of life in Newtonmore.

## Some Old History

The death of Mrs Saunders prompted some research into the founding of St Bride's. The fabrics of the two buildings were combined following a substantial donation from a 'devoted and respected' member of the congregation who met three fifths of the cost! (Although I remember the church being constructed, I have no recollection of Miss I St Clare Douglas! Can anyone enlighten?).

It is also recorded that in May 1937, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland disjoined Newtonmore from the parish of Kingussie and united St Columba's Church and St Andrew's Church (the former United Free) as the parish church of Newtonmore. From having been for many years the daughter-church of Kingussie, in 1975 Newtonmore became the sister-church of Laggan when the linkage was approved.

The bell from St Columba's Church still hangs in the St Bride's belfry and rings out every Sunday morning. However, it is no longer necessary to use a bell rope. Phew!

## Badenoch Chorale

Practices started again on 14th August after the summer break and in the next few weeks we will be tidying up repertoire in advance of the next two concerts in Kingussie Church on Sunday 11th September at 7.00pm and Aberlour Church on Sunday 25th September at 6.30pm. It is a few years since the Chorale sang in Aberlour where we were given a warm welcome so it will be good to go back again. Unless another concert or coffee morning appears on the horizon the next performance will be at Christmas!

## Calendar of Events

**Tuesday 23rd August** – Concert in St Bride's with Christina Lawrie (Piano) and Marcus Buchan-Stevens (Violin) at 7.30pm for church funds.

**Thursday 25th August** – Organ recital in Kingussie Parish Church by organist and choirmaster of Greyfriars Parish Church in Edinburgh.

**Sunday 4th September** – Communion in Kingussie.

**Sunday 11th September** – Communion in Laggan and Newtonmore.  
Retiring offering for CrossReach

**Sunday 25th September** – Joint service in Laggan with Rev Michael Mair at 10.30am.



# Flower Festival Weekend

## 'God's Creation'

At the end of July there was a wonderful display of flower arrangements in St Bride's Church, made by members from Kingussie, Laggan and Newtonmore congregations and the community. Some of these were made by former members of the Newtonmore Flower Club, as the club has now ceased, and people missed the opportunity to arrange flowers.

Teas and coffees were served on the Saturday, and Alison Bardgett preached on the Sunday morning, on God's Creation.

Grateful thanks have been expressed to all those who contributed to the success of the weekend, and the donations of over £300 will be divided between Scripture Union at Altnacreiche, and Badenoch and Strathspey Community ConnXions (new name of B&S Community Transport Company)



## CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS

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## Presbytery News

Negotiations to form a new presbytery for the Highlands go on and on with no conclusion yet on the horizon. Most of the current presbyteries are of one mind but as with many things, there are always dissenters.

Presbytery has a new moderator Rev Graham Atkinson, minister of Abernethy, Boat of Garten and Carrbridge. He took up office in June 2022 and will do this for a year.

Alvie Church by Loch Alvie has been sold to the Alvie estate and they will control its future use. Kincardine Church is likely also to leave the care of Abernethy Presbytery as it is intended that this should be part of a new charity.

Presbytery is still in consultation with the General Trustees regarding the future of the other churches in Presbytery and continuing delays in this procedure, which reflects on to the granting of permission to call new ministers, is a source of real frustration!



## The Manse

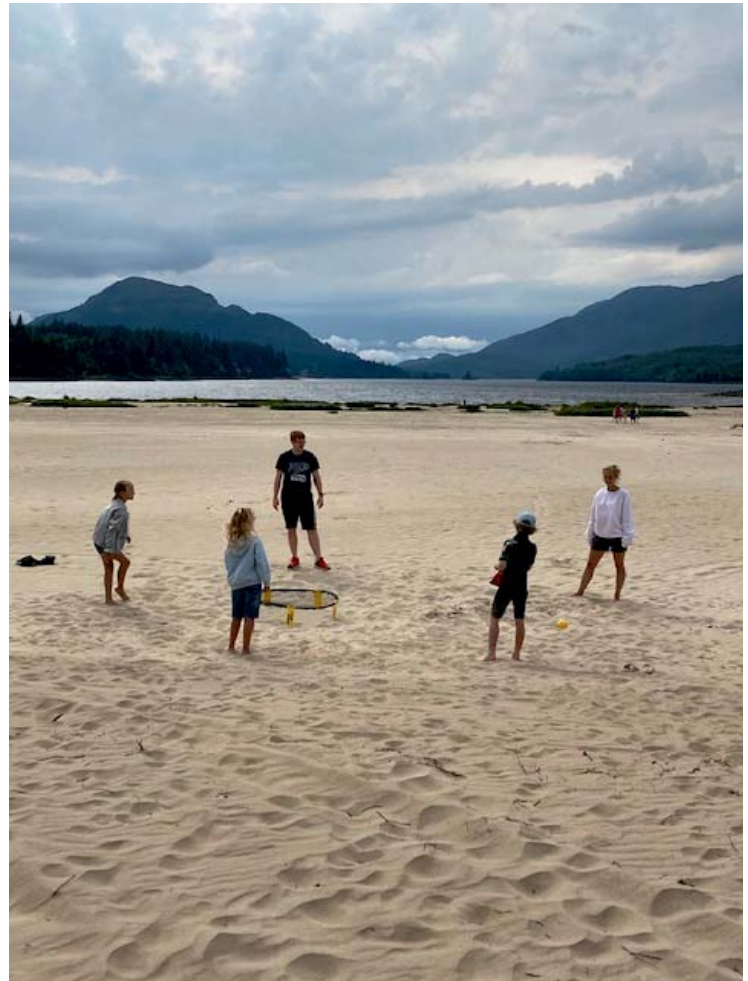
The neighbours have seen the light! Over the years the manse trees have done their best to cut them off so no doubt they are very happy! Work will shortly advance to make the manse wind and watertight as we await the deliberations of 121!



## Loch Laggan Picnic

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August the people from the community and Church, had a lovely picnic and bar-b-que. Despite the grey skies it remained dry, and although the wind increased during the afternoon everyone enjoyed the time together.

Our Fresh Expression worker Tom Bowker is pictured playing games with some of the young people on the 'extensive' sands at Loch Laggan.



## Highland Games

The churches were represented at the Newtonmore Highland Games with the usual tent of refreshments. The sum raised was £233 and thanks are due to all who assisted.