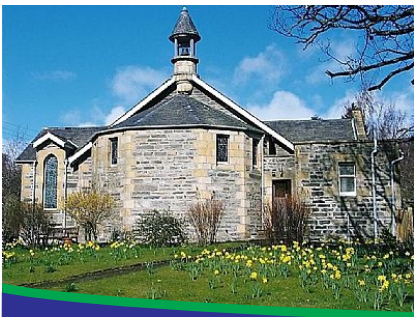


NEWSLETTER



Church of Scotland
Kingussie Linked with
Laggan and Newtonmore

www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk

www.kingussie-parishchurch.org.uk

MARCH 2022

FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR

Hello Everyone

Well, here we are in a new year...and who would have thought that we would still be under Covid restrictions and wearing masks- after nearly two years!

However, things are slowly improving, the signs of Spring are appearing, bulbs pushing up through the earth and new growth on the trees. These signs give us hope for the future. Over the last few months I have enjoyed being present at various services lead by our Locum, the worship teams and visiting preachers and getting to meet more people.

After a considerable amount of work, the Presbytery Mission Group has now completed the updated Presbytery Mission Plan and it has been submitted to the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. We hope and pray that it is accepted and then all congregations will be cited to attend the next Presbytery meeting to confirm their approval. If it still requires changes the Presbytery Clerk has agreed to write to George Street to ask if we can call a Minister under 'exceptional circumstances'.

In the meantime, we can start to prepare our Parish Profiles. These document the statistics and details of our parishes, and what activities take place around our communities. The profiles provide interested ministers with a detailed picture of our churches, congregations and parish communities.

I continue to be very thankful to Mary Ellen our Locum, to the worship team leaders and to all those who take part in the services. I am also very grateful to those who undertake the other roles which support and keep the Churches functioning. We must also remember that our mission is to proclaim the Good News, teach, baptise and nurture new believers and respond to human need by loving service. With good wishes and blessings.

Mary Stewart

Interim Moderator

Laggan and Newtonmore Church Accounts

In spite of Covid-19 curtailing our activities in 2021, our accounts for the year to 31st December 2021 show a healthy surplus of £15,038, on our ordinary activities due principally to two factors, the legacy from George Ian Main of £10,000 and the continued financial support of the congregation. Income from collections and Gift Aid increased from £42,983 to £45,049 though this was well below the 2019 figure of £52,061, with most of the reduction resulting from a drop in open plate collections, a result of fewer visitors. At the end of the year our unrestricted funds stood at £67,699 but with continued uncertainty regarding the future of our manse (and its trees!) some of this could quickly disappear depending on what we decide to do!

Joint Services

We are very grateful to the 'volunteers' who agree to lead our Joint Services at 10-30a.m. each month. Forthcoming details are

27 th February	- Kingussie	Alison Bardgett
27 th March	- Laggan	Tom Bowker
24 th April	- Newtonmore	To be arranged

Rev Michael Mair will be in Laggan in June.

Badenoch Chorale

The Chorale got back into action on Sunday 30th January, and it was great for the choir to be able to practice again. Our delayed coffee morning will be our next 'concert' and then hopefully we will be able to go out and about and visit some old haunts in the summer. Paul Allan who took over as our accompanist from Alan Buchan, decided to move South to be nearer to family – nothing to do with the performance of the choir! - but we are extremely delighted that Rebecca Lockyer, a qualified musician who has recently come to live in Newtonmore, is willing to take on the accompanist's responsibilities and as a trained pianist will hopefully also be willing to show us her own talent in the months to come.

The Coffee Morning is provisionally arranged for Saturday 12th March. Further details will be announced in church. We hope that the coffee morning can go ahead in spite of several Chorale members and our conductor and accompanist all succumbing to Covid recently.

Will Carey and Homelessness

Will is once again raising funds for the homeless via The Connection at St Martins in the Fields (where he worked 40 years ago). He is taking part in an 8 hour midnight marathon walk to do this. The just giving link for this is

www.justgiving.com/thelondonwalk-wcarey

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



www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk

www.kingussie-parishchurch.org.uk



WFO Envelopes – Laggan and Newtonmore

A new supply of WFO envelopes will shortly be available for use from April 2022. Envelopes will be given to those who have used them during the last year but there will be spare sets which Roy Alexander will be happy to hand out on request. These are more for use as a personal discipline given that Gift Aid can be claimed on small donations of up to £30 as long as we have a core of members signed up for the main Gift Aid scheme.

News from Kingussie Parish Church

Organ

Our organ continues to play beautifully in the hands of John Crombie. You can hear for yourselves by checking out the organ Facebook page, Kingussie Parish Church organ Sc021546, where John has continued to post pieces for all to enjoy each week. With Covid restrictions easing we have every intention of recommencing our concert diary as soon as it is safe to do so.

Fundraising/Craft

Raggy Bag Scheme – with Spring just around the corner, a little reminder, if you are clearing out your wardrobe, we continue to collect wearable clothes, shoes, hats, bags and belts. Give Eppy a call on 07893 925 588. Happy to collect. Thank you.

Craft Group recommenced late January. New faces are always welcome. Monday evenings from 7pm until 9pm. We are trying our hands at macrame, spot our efforts on the craft stall! Check out what's for sale on Facebook page Kingussie Parish Church Craft Group Sc021546.

The Duke of Gordon Hotel continues to do a sterling job selling items on our behalf. We look forward to welcoming their hotel guests back to the church Thursday open day starting 10th February.

Plans include a coffee morning and in June a plant sale.

Social Events

The plan for a fun social event previously put on ice some time ago is being thawed out and discussed once again. Our aim is to welcome everyone back to church, provide the opportunity to catch up and enjoy a supper together. Still collecting ideas.

A further coffee morning is on our radar. In fact, there is the desire to make it an annual event. Hosting our friends from Our Lady of the Rosary and Saint Columba Catholic Church, to help cement and grow our friendship.

Mothers and Toddlers

We are delighted to report that we have an active group of babies and toddlers accompanied by grown-ups, enjoying the interactions with others through playing and chat. It is so important at this time for little ones to recover and develop the skills and experiences lost due to isolation rules.

The Monday Lunch

A soup and pudding lunch is held in Kingussie Parish Church at 12.30pm on the first Monday of the month. Price £5. Anybody is welcome. Just come along or, if you wish further information, phone Jo Simpson (01540 661498). Transport can be provided. We hope to see you there!

Virtual Pilgrimage to Bethlehem

Pleased to report we reached our destination on the due date and arrived home safely in time for Christmas. £455 raised for church funds. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

WE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST, OR ARE WE?

These were the opening words of the service for this year's Racial Justice Sunday. We may all ask... What's it got to do with me? Is this something that people do ever consider?

On Sunday 13th February this was the subject of our Thought for the Day.

If we are honest with ourselves, we know only too well that in many aspects of public life, there are insiders and outsiders, some people are accepted, others rejected. Fortunately, this is something that is not seen in our three churches.

I recall my move in 1963 from Kingussie to Bedford, one of the most cosmopolitan towns in Britain. Having arrived from the Highlands, it was indeed a vast change and over time it has made me think how much harder it must have been for the families who arrived from Pakistan, Africa and European countries as well. Girls from India and Pakistan finished their education at the end of third year, with many returning to their home countries to arranged marriages.

We honour the customs of people who become part of this country, just as we honour the words "We're a' Jock Tamson's Bairns". In faith "We're a' God's bairns" – children of God. We are made in God's image and as such there is only one race, the human race. We may have different skin colours, but we are one people. In answer to the question about Racial Justice Sunday, yes, we do need to be aware that all are accepted and welcomed into our countries and communities. It is up to us all to ensure that this is the case!

Stay safe as restrictions are beginning to be lifted.

Rev Mary Ellen Thomson

Locum

...and it will soon be Easter!





Communion Services

There will be communion services in our three churches at the following times :

Kingussie 6th March at 10-30a.m.
Laggan 13th March at 9-30a.m
Newtonmore 13th March at 11-30a.m.

There will be retiring collections for Edinburgh Direct Aid in support of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon.

Libis

Please pray for Mirek Pfann and the Libis sister congregation in the Ukraine in these uncertain times. We pray that their lives will not be affected by the current rumblings of war and that there will be a peaceful resolution to the stand off.

Presbytery

As part of the future planning for the presbytery buildings it was decided that Kincardine Church was surplus to requirements but it is good to know that a charitable trust has recently been formed with the intention of sustaining its future. Kincardine was founded in or around the 7th Century by Celtic missionaries from Iona. The foundations of the existing building are 12th century. Services have continued to be held in the church periodically and hopefully will continue to do so.

Storm 'Damage'

Unfortunately, the service at which George Alder was to become an elder fell victim to the weather and another date will require to be fixed for this. Fortunately there was not too much property damage and apart from the St Bride's notice board being 'felled' by the wind and an emergency call to SSE when a tree in the manse garden came down over an external electricity supply, we seem to have escaped the tremendous damage done in our communities.

And from Tom Bowker

Covid has restricted Tom's activities but he is determined to get Messy Church back up and running in March. More information will be provided shortly.

The date and time for Dogo walks is coming soon! Stay tuned to Facebook (FXAbernethy South) and Instagram (fxabernethy).

Tom is also involved with the arrangements for the residential stay in the Easter holidays for all the children who will go to Kingussie High School in September. Our congregations are supporting this with a donation and a retiring collection at the joint service in Kingussie on 25th February. The other parishes in the south of Abernethy Presbytery are also supporting this.

Discover, Time to find the unexpected. This is Tom's blog so if you fancy a quick read with a bible thought head to <https://timetodiscoverfx.blogspot.com/>

The Manse

The survey report from D M Hall has now been received. Once several question on this have been answered, the Kirk Sessions will discuss the situation and hopefully come to some conclusion. It is difficult to prepare a Parish Profile for the purpose of attracting a new minister if we are unable to give an indication of where he or she might reside!

Laggan Connection

Many in Laggan and Newtonmore are known to Rev Dr Peter Millar who resided in Iona Cottage in Laggan for several years. Recently his son Eldon has appeared on our TV screens and in the press following his recent promotion to Major-General and he is now the senior link between The Queen (and the other four Royal Households here in the UK) and the Army, Navy and Air Force. However, his official title is National Defence Secretary and he is answerable to the recently appointed Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Anthony Radakin and The Minister of Defence, Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP in the Government. His first official engagement was to be introduced to the Queen and have lunch with her at Windsor Castle!

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