

NEWSLETTER



Church of Scotland
Kingussie Linked with
Laggan and Newtonmore

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

AUGUST 2020

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

It is three months since the last newsletter, three months in which lots has happened and on some fronts little has changed. Life is like that sometimes. In those three months we have moved out of full lockdown, and had some glorious weather – and some really cold wet days. We have seen the visitors return among us in droves, and the schools finally open their doors again. We have exclaimed at the idea of having to wear masks to go shopping and have then got used to the, so that masks can now be used almost as a fashion accessory! And we have continued to have to be careful about meeting in groups, especially inside.

At the beginning of August we made the decision to re-open one of our buildings, and the easiest one to open up was St. Bride's church. This is because it has chairs which could be moved to accommodate mandatory social distancing. We did not try to open for Sunday worship, as you all know how you like to worship on a Sunday and some of that is not possible just now. Instead we have been running prayer services on Monday at 6.30 and Thursday at 7.30. The difference in timing is to accommodate the recommended 72 hours between uses of the building – work it out on your fingers if you don't believe me!

These services are not long – after all you have to wear a mask and no one wants to sit too long with a mask on – although they follow different patterns, they are reflective in tone. Everyone is welcome to them, but do tell me first which one you want to attend, so that I have your details for track and trace and just in case we ever get more people wanting to come than we can legally accommodate.

Our main Sunday worship remains online on either church website or the Kingussie Church Facebook page. It can also be reached on your telephone by dialling 01540 210322. This will take you to the latest service and you can listen to it all on your phone!

Having the service remotely like this is better than nothing, but of course we do miss each other. However, at the time of writing this (I know things can change) we are allowed to gather indoors with two other households. So why don't you arrange with a friend or neighbour to listen in together? That way we can maintain some of the bonds of fellowship and friendship which have been formed through years of worshipping God together. To maintain our identity as not just individual Christians but a church

for this community takes a little effort from us all, and this is just one way that you might like to try.

As to the future, we do hope to have the other two buildings open in the next month or so, but whether that will be on a Sunday or some other day, remains to be seen. We are all walking through uncharted territory these days, and it behoves us to keep our eyes fixed on God, and our ears open to what His Spirit is telling us as we find our way forward for the good of all.

Your minister,
Catherine Buchan

News from the Kingussie Organ Working Group

Delighted to report we had a communication from the Italian organist Georgio Revelli. You may recall Georgio was due to perform in the Church possibly in November of this year. Now we know that is not possible, however he is still keen to visit and play for us here in Kingussie. This would be towards the end of 2021. All things being well we will be delighted to welcome him then.

Church Calendar

We are hoping to produce another photo calendar of scenes from our parishes for 2021. The work to select the pictures has begun, and we will hope to have the calendars ready sometime after the middle of September, so in plenty of time for overseas posting. How you can acquire one remains to be seen, but an enquiry to either of our treasurers, or to the minister should always be able to help you (contact details at the end of this newsletter).

Not happening for now

Because of the restrictions imposed to prevent the spread of Covid 19 we are currently unable to run the Kingussie lunch club, or the Messy Church, the Kingussie Rainbow Babies and Toddlers, and the Newtonmore Rhyme Time. We will keep these events under appraisal as circumstances change.



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



Kingussie Social and fundraising

Several of our members have continued to put their talents to very good use over the past months. We are so very grateful for their continued support. There are a number of items accumulating for sale so we are putting some serious thoughts into how we can do this safely and within the many regulations we now face.

Raggy Bag collections have recommenced, so if you have cleared out your wardrobes and you have put aside any wearable clothes, shoes, bags, belts or hats and you would like to help raise some funds for our Church give Eppy a call and we can arrange a collection (01540 651676).

We are truly delighted that Kit and John have found a new home closer to their family and are moving away, but equally sad that we are losing them both. Haddington's gain is Kingussie's loss. We wish both of them well as they write the next chapters of their life. Kit's contribution to life in KPC will be sorely missed.

Laggan Sale and money matters

Sadly, it is obvious that the Laggan sale is not able to go ahead this year. As well as being a loss to the community life, this will be a loss to the church funds. So just a reminder that giving to our churches can be done by bank transfer or by writing a cheque!

Laggan and Newtonmore Church of Scotland: Sort code 80 22 60, Account 18658560 and Kingussie Church of Scotland: Sort Code 80 05 40, Account 00501949

PARISH of LAGGAN MINISTERS

Rev. Thomas Titterington came to Laggan from Port Glasgow and shortly afterwards got married to Sigrid Fangel of Copenhagen whose father was a Minister in that city. It was a grand wedding with a carriage and white horses pulling the happy couple through the streets of the Danish capital. A newspaper reported that Ewan Ormiston (grandfather of Ruaraidh) a very tall handsome gentleman and wearing a kilt added colour to the scene.

They were to have three children Annie, Eric and Ida and when Sigrid's father retired, her parents came to stay in the three storey Manse. So it became a very happy family home.

This was at a time when Services were held throughout the Parish, Kinloch Laggan School, Garvamore, Glentruim School, Cluny and Ivybank. All these involved an afternoon cycle of up to a twelve miles round trip. Mr Ritchie was the missionary in

Dalwhinnie.

Mr Titterington is fondly remembered as a gentle man and a keen rugby follower. He was a diabetic and such was the congregation's concern about his health that they helped raise money to buy him a car. When he got his car, Sigrid could accompany him. Whilst he was a tall gentleman and had to bend to avoid hitting his head on the doorways of the traditional cottages, Sigrid was small and is remembered disappearing into the Glentruim school kitchen and returning with a basin which she turned upside down and placed as a cushion on the small organ seat to be able to play.

It was in 1954 that electricity was installed in the Church and Donald (Pendy) Macdonald was no longer needed to pump the organ. He had to attend three church services and sometimes four each Sunday! Unfortunately his mother broke her leg at this time and Mrs Titterington became the organist.

Sigrid was very active in the community and held the Women's Guild in the Manse. There were also elaborate nativity plays in the church where the Star was pulled along a wire from the rear of the church by the beadle, Willie Laird, hidden in the pulpit. One time it stopped half-way. A muttered, "The damn thing has stuck" could be heard throughout the church. Sigrid also held wonderful Christmas parties in the Manse with the tree decorated Danish style.

At this time, farmer and broadcaster Captain Ben Coutts of Gaskbeg, was Session Clerk. He suggested that the Women's Guild should decorate the church with flowers. A Fabric fund was started with a £500 anonymous donation. The Spey island, which belongs to the Church, was padlocked against gravel extraction. There also appeared in the Minute. "Captain Coutts stated that a sheep, not sheep, as reported by the beadle, had been frequenting the churchyard. This sheep was a three year-old wedder belonging to Mr Slimon, Breakachy. The sheep had been captured and returned to owner. It was understood that the animal was now dead!"

After nine happy years the Titteringtons moved to Abdie and Dunbog in Fife. Johnston and Sigrid are buried in Laggan Kirkyard alongside her parents, Frits and Emy Fangel.

Contributed by **Campbell Slimon**.

NOTE By coincidence, Johnston was billeted with Roy Alexander's granny in Leith for part of the second world war and his appointment to Laggan was a catalyst in introducing Badenoch to Roy and his family.

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