



# NEWSLETTER

Church of Scotland  
Kingussie Linked with  
Laggan and Newtonmore

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

AUGUST 2021

## SUMMER GREETINGS FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and starting to enjoy a little more freedom, while still being careful and respecting the guidelines for our safety in these continuing Covid times.

In June, after being appointed Interim Moderator by the presbytery, I attended all three churches services and at the beginning of each service explained the reasons as to why we cannot call a minister to your parishes. However, as not everyone was able to attend, I thought it would be useful to explain this again.

At the General Assembly this year, carried out 'online' the Assembly passed a new Presbytery Mission Plan Act which will result in the numbers of Ministry posts being cut by 2025 to 600 plus 60 vacancies. From 1st June this year, with a few exceptions, no Church can call a Minister until a presbytery has prepared and had approved a new Presbytery Mission Plan. The deadline for this is 31st December 2022 and Abernethy Presbytery has appointed a Presbytery Mission Plan Committee, which is now tasked with updating our current plan which will be discussed at Presbytery meetings before being sent to Church of Scotland Headquarters for approval.

When our Kirk Sessions met jointly in June, it was agreed to appoint Rev Mary Ellen Thomson as a locum and this is currently being formalised. Mary Ellen has been kindly taking all three services and this is to continue until the last Sunday in July when there will be a joint service in St Bride's at 10-30a.m. A rota of services agreed by the Kirk Sessions will start at the beginning of August and more details are contained in a separate article in the newsletter.

As your Interim Moderator, I will be attending services now and again, where I hope I will gradually meet many of you and get to know you a little!

During this time of change and some uncertainty, please remember that we are all in this together, that we are followers of Jesus Christ and that we should take strength and encouragement from his word and teaching.

**With every Blessing,  
Mary**

### and from Rev Mary Ellen Thomson

Following our farewell gathering for Rev Catherine Buchan in the garden at St Bride's in mid- June, I have covered the services in all three churches. It has been a privilege to do these and touch base with you all. Our Interim Moderator Mary Stewart has explained in her Summer Greetings, how we will progress, and I am looking forward to becoming your Locum.

I have been kept busy with the Morning Services and other duties within the Church. I thank you for your kind words of welcome when I arrive on a Sunday morning to take your Services.

#### BLESSING

Remember all God has done. Rejoice in all he is doing  
Receive all he shall yet do. Put you hand in his, the God of  
past, present and future, and walk with him wherever he  
may lead, knowing that he will walk with you, always. Amen

### Kingussie Craft

Craft stall income is well down as one would expect, and the sale of the odd item and a recent Raggy Bag collection brought in £42.80. If you are clearing out your wardrobes and cupboards, please do give Eppy Mackay a shout as she is happy to collect wearable clothes, shoes, hats, bags and belts! Every mickle makes a muckle.

### 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)



## Church Organs

Currently all three of our church organs are in need of some TLC! The recent issues with the Kingussie organ will receive attention in August and a piano or keyboard will be used while work is taking place. It is the intention that the organ will be back in tip top condition by the end of the month.

The Laggan organ is also to be checked over in the coming weeks while the organ in St Bride's is not fully operational basically due to age! Alan Buchan did identify problems before leaving us and these have still to be followed up.

## Open Garden at Shanvall

George and Beth Alder have opened their garden at Shanvall, Glentruim until the end of August under the Scotland's Gardens Scheme. Donations benefit Laggan and Newtonmore Church. To arrange a visit contact [beth.alder@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beth.alder@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 01540 673213.

## Services

From 1st August, services will revert to the times that were in place before Covid-19 struck and upset the schedule. These revised times are:-

Laggan	9.30a.m.
Kingussie	10.30a.m.
Newtonmore	11.30a.m.

Two services each Sunday will be taken in rotation by Rev Mary Ellen Thomson with the third service being taken by the Worship Group. Every month, on the last Sunday of the month, there will be a joint service at 10.30a.m. when we hope that we can have a guest preacher. Kingussie will have the joint service on 29th August, Laggan on 26th September and Newtonmore on 31st October. Details of all the services for the next quarter will be placed on the church noticeboards in the hope of avoiding confusion!

## Badenoch Chorale

Everyone is desperate to get back singing and we have set a provisional date of Sunday 15th August for a restart. Singing with a facemask is not easy, but perhaps we will at least be able to refresh our knowledge of some pieces of music in anticipation of some future public performances.

## Thanks

Thanks to all who contributed to the presentation cheque for Rev Catherine Buchan. The sum collected was £2,000.

## A Plea!

The Rev Mary Ellen Thomson, our locum, will shortly be officially engaged for two days a week plus two Sunday Services. This is not a full time occupation so she cannot be expected to do as much as our minister did in the past. Accordingly, there is an great opportunity for members to assist with our ongoing work. Due to the ages of our members, we will be forced to 'buy in' some services but there are things that can be done without too much physical effort! Here are just a few suggestions.

- **Volunteer to help the Worship Team by doing a reading or preparing a prayer.**
- **A new Roll Keeper is required for Laggan and Newtonmore.**
- **Ann Hay would like to see a Flower List started again in St Bride's when we could again ask for flowers to be donated.**
- **We need someone to assist the Session Clerk with our communions in Laggan and Newtonmore and prepare the bread and wine for distribution.**
- **Door duty is a great way to meet people and anyone can volunteer to help with this**

Hopefully, some members will also have ideas of how they can assist and it would be nice to see a real team approach going forward. You do get more out of things by being involved and if we love the Lord Jesus Christ we should be prepared to do our best for the church. One or two people cannot do it all!



## The Virtual Pilgrimage to Bethlehem continues

The KPC virtual walk continues along the Camino de Santiago as we head towards St John Pied de Port. Although a virtual walk, it has not stopped us learning about the lands through which we are travelling, admiring ancient ruins, finding out about local delicacies and seeing the countryside we would be passing through, without the chance of a blister on the foot as the miles are covered.

There has been a common theme running through the history of each place visited...wars, brutality, and the seizing of land and valuables by neighbours intent on growing their wealth and power! History does indeed repeat itself with no sign of lessons being learned. In fact, the following words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow sum it up beautifully....'If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life, sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility' How would that not be good!

You can follow the journey on Facebook page ...Kingussie Parish Church Sc21546 Virtual Pilgrimage to Bethlehem.

## Finance in the Vacancy

During a vacancy Ministries and Mission contributions are reduced by £1,082 a month and this allowance will be allocated by the Church of Scotland between the two congregations. The cost we have to pay for having Rev Mary Ellen Thomson as locum is slightly higher than the sum we will recover. The Church of Scotland have indicated that the split of both should be 36% to Kingussie and 64% to Laggan and Newtonmore based on the historical income of the two congregations. In addition we will have some pulpit supply costs when we have guest preachers.

There are obviously some other financial considerations that will come into play, particularly with regards to the manse as while it remains unoccupied, we still have to pay council tax, insurance and any maintenance costs. A decision on the manse will be made shortly taking all factors into account and costs continue, for the time being, to be shared equally between the congregations. In summary the fact that we do not have a minister is unlikely to save us money unless we let out the manse or dispose of it. Every attempt to maintain our income going forward is of paramount importance!

## Presbytery

Presbytery is currently offering grants to the congregations in the presbytery to enable them to update their technical equipment in order to facilitate church services when the number of full time ministers is currently depleted. The overall purpose of these is to assist with mission.

Presbytery has also recently made a grant of £3,000 towards the work associated with our partner missionary Joel Hafvenstein in Nepal where Covid -19 cases have been many and funding for vaccines and support has been crucial.

## Laggan and Newtonmore Finance

Fortunately we have come through the first six months of 2021 unscathed by the pandemic thanks to the continuing great support from our contributors. In this period we had a small surplus! However, from July the amount we receive regularly from standing orders will reduce due to members going to live outwith our parish area. Currently we do have good resources but it is more than likely that these may diminish in the current six months. Thanks to all who continue to contribute to give generously. Please help by continuing to do this!

## What will the future hold?

Social distancing at 1 metre is now in place in church and on 9th August, this restriction may disappear. If this happens it should be possible to plan the resumption of some of the activities we had to drop so suddenly in March 2020. We lost concerts, Kingussie lunch club, Messy Church, Kingussie Rainbow Babies and Toddlers and Rhyme Time at St Bride's. We missed out on the Laggan sale and the Laggan picnic and other potential social events. We were not alone in having to put activities on the back burner!

So far arrangements are in place for two concerts. The first is on Wednesday 10th November in St Bride's when a violin and cello duo will entertain. They were previously booked to play during the time of the pandemic. A further concert is arranged under the auspices of the Tunnell Trust for February. Without restrictions it will be interesting to see what the 'new normal' holds for us.



## Words of Encouragement in tough times

The world is too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love. May your eyes be so blessed that you see God in everyone. Your ears, so that you hear the cry of the poor. May your hands be so blessed that every thing you touch is a sacrament. Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love. May your feet be so blessed that you run to those who need you. And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love, YOUR love, changes everything.

( From Peter Millar-A Candle in the Window from June 2021)

### B&S Therapy Gardens Open Days

Join us to find out more about our activities at Am Fasgadh allotments, Kingussie.

We will celebrate the Good Es of gardening:

- **Environment**   ○ **Educate**   ▪ **Engage**
- **Eat**   ▪ **Enjoy**



**Refreshments will be provided**

#### Dates and Times

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2-3pm**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2 -3pm**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2 -4pm**

For more information email: [bstherapygarden@gmail.com](mailto:bstherapygarden@gmail.com)

**Or call Jinty Moffett: Tel 01540 661414, or  
Jen Barrett: Mob 07501 723673**



Our open days have been funded by The Green Health Fund. Find out more about the Green Health Project at

<https://www.thinkhealththinknature.scot/>

**Badenoch and Strathspey Therapy Gardens SC044544**

### CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS

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