



NEWSLETTER

Church of Scotland
Kingussie Linked with
Laggan and Newtonmore

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

NOVEMBER 2019

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

This newsletter will be coming to you as we begin the season of Advent. Advent is about anticipation and it is about coming – God coming to be with us in Jesus who was also known as Emmanuel, which means God is with us.

God is with us – it is the most amazing thought when you take two minutes to really ponder it. God is with us – the God who made all things, who has the power and imagination to set the universe into being, is with us. The one who needs no human affirmation has chosen to be with us. This means that there is nothing that can happen where God is not present. Nowhere we can go that God is not at our side. No adventure we take as in which God is not deeply interested. God is with us – it is the most comforting of thoughts when we need comfort, and the most challenging of thoughts when we feel afraid. For if God is with us, since God is with us, there is nothing that we cannot venture and try to reach others in his name.

In this newsletter you will see a short report of what Kingussie learned from the Future Focus Day – and what they intend to do with that learning. In that we know that God will be with us. You will see the various services which we are planning around the Christmas Season – and the challenge to each of us might be this – whom will you invite to come to these services? If God is with us, then we can make that invitation, knowing that the response is in God's and not our own hands.

2019 has been a difficult year for many people, and with the world and the nation wobbling onward as it seems to be, the promise of a new year may not hold the hope that it sometimes does. But God is with us, The challenge to us is to live each day as people whose lives show that they believe this.

Have a most anticipatory advent!

Your minister,
Catherine Buchan

BADENOCH CHORALE

The Chorale will be singing at the Christmas Carol concert on Sunday 15th December at 7.00pm, and as usual the Badenoch Fiddlers will also take part.

In September the Chorale did a concert in Glenmuick Church in Ballater and this was a real success and greatly appreciated by the local community.

The Chorale would like to thank all who attended their annual coffee morning at the beginning of October and boosted their funds for music and the regular use of St Bride's.

NEWSLETTER

This joint newsletter will be prepared for circulation in February, May, August and November. Information for this can be sent to Roy Alexander by e-mail at roya@a9partnership.co.uk



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

The next quarterly communion services for Laggan and Newtonmore will be held on Sunday 1st December at the usual times. The retiring collections will be for Practical Action.

LIBIS

Laggan and Newtonmore recently sent a donation of £1,050 to their partner church in Libis. Mirek Pfann thanked the congregation as follows, "We were really happy that Ian (Hall) was with us when we were celebrating the completion of repairs to our church. It was a nice gift to our celebration from your community. It was very nice of you to add this help which will enable us to reduce our debts significantly".

KINGUSSIE MANSE

This has now been sold and the funds will be held at 121 George Street, Edinburgh for future property expenditure on Kingussie Church or the joint manse in Newtonmore.

CONCERT

Advance notice of a concert in St Bride's on Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30pm when the Palisander Recorder Quartet will play. This concert has been arranged under the auspices of The Tunnell Trust.

BURNS SUPPER

There will be a Burns Supper in Laggan Community Hall on Saturday 25th January. Professor Margaret Bennett will give the Immortal Memory, Dr Hugh Dan Maclellan will propose the Toast to the Lassies and Kirsty Deans will reply. Tickets will go on sale in the New Year.

FUTURE FOCUS IN KINGUSSIE

Nine people attended the Future Focus Day in September. We were ably led by Ruth Nicolson from near Perth – and would never have guessed that this was her first time facilitating such a gathering. After looking at the ups and downs of the past fifty years of Kingussie Parish Church (not that anyone present went

back quite so far), and at the ups and down of the town, and where the people go in Kingussie to meet each other, we began to focus on what we would like to see for the future.

First of all we looked at the marks of a healthy church and gave ourselves a health check, and then, looking to both the areas where we are stronger and weaker we began to think of concrete proposals. All kinds of ideas for the church were raised, but in the end, and for now, we came up with three:

To focus on the linkage and seek a pattern of regular joint services.

To enhance Sunday morning by being more welcoming at the door and providing tables and chairs for fellowship after the service.

Within the next two years to organise a weekend or week of activities for the whole community, taking place in the church.

None of this is rocket science and all of it is doable. It is not the end of the process of being the best church for Kingussie that we can be, but it is a first step to moving forward towards that goal.



FINANCIAL REPORT

To date in 2019, the income of Laggan and Newtonmore has held up reasonably well and overall our financial position remains satisfactory. It will be interesting to see how the annual accounts work out given that some of the costs we pay are now shared with Kingussie.

The Union of Laggan with Newtonmore in order to facilitate the linkage with Kingussie has in terms of the contribution we make to Ministries and Mission had a detrimental effect on finances. The combining of the income of the two churches pushes us up the scale for the assessment, and while our scale figure for 2019 was £31,602, for 2020 it is £36,899, albeit that the increase is capped at 12%. This will be a real challenge for us as the fact that we are a Union does not increase our income or reduce our expenditure. The Church of Scotland needs to do some thinking if it wishes to encourage congregations to unite!



CHRISTMAS

Celebrating Christmas is a challenge with three churches to consider! For 2019 the arrangements will be as follows:-

Sunday 8th December

6.00pm Christmas service in Insh Church

Sunday 15th December

7.00pm Carol service in St Bride's with Badenoch Chorale and Badenoch Fiddlers

Friday 20th December

5.00pm Carol singing outside Kingussie Court House with our friends from the Catholic and Free Churches

Sunday 22nd December

11.00am Joint service for Newtonmore and Kingussie in Kingussie followed by a pot luck lunch
6.30pm Family carol service in Newtonmore Golf Club

Monday 23rd December

7.00pm Carol service in Laggan Church

Tuesday 24th December

11.15pm Joint Watchnight service with Newtonmore in Kingussie led by Rev Catherine Buchan
11.30pm Watchnight service in Laggan led by Roy Alexander and the Worship Team

Wednesday 25th December

10.00am Christmas Day family service in St Bride's led by Rev Catherine Buchan
10.30am Christmas Day service in Kingussie led by Rev Mary Ellen Thomson



COFFEE IN NEWTONMORE

This has reverted by popular demand to after the service and it gives us an opportunity to welcome visitors.



KINGUSSIE NEWS

A new web page for Kingussie Parish Church is presently under construction. Whilst it is in the early stages of development we hope it will be a source of information and newsy items for all to see, keeping everyone up to date with what is happening in our Church and sometimes beyond our boundaries.

Following the Harvest services of the Church and Kingussie Primary School the donations were destined for two much needed causes. The food bank in Aviemore and Ness Bank Church who, through Inverness Foodstuff Charity, provide meals for the homeless and the vulnerable on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Both organisations were delighted to receive our support.

Kingussie Parish Church craft stall was well stocked for a day or two until a host of visitors to the town came calling during our open day and left it looking like Mother Hubbard's cupboard. No complaints from the fundraising team!

Monday lunch continues on the first and third Mondays of the month with attendees enjoying a soup and pudding lunch. We are actively looking at encouraging more locals to come along and enjoy the food and the company.

It is pleasing to note that the numbers of babies, toddlers and their parents/grandparents / carers attending the Rainbow Babies and Toddlers group are being maintained.

A new boiler to heat the Sanctuary has been installed and is fully operational, just in time for the appearance of the first snow on the hills and the first snow plough being seen on the local roads.



LAGGAN TOILET

Laggan and Newtonmore have taken over the management of the Laggan public toilet from Laggan Community Association which has been wound up. Funding has been provided from the winding up to secure the operation of the toilet at no cost to the church for the foreseeable future. This is a good example of outreach!

FUNDRAISING

The collection for Crossreach at the September communion raised £153.
The Laggan sale raised £1,396.

PRESBYTERY

The induction of Rev Graham Atkinson to Abernethy linked with Boat of Garten, Carrbridge and Kincardine took place on Wednesday 30th October. Graham is a very welcome addition and his appointment increases the number of full time ministers in the Presbytery to four.



CALENDARS

Calendars of pictures of Badenoch taken by church members are now available at a cost of £5 from any of our churches. There are still plenty available.

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CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS

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