

LAGGAN AND NEWTONMORE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND KIRK SESSION
Minutes of meeting held via Zoom on 27th July (interruption in meetings due to Covid 19)

1.Welcome. Rev. Catherine Buchan opened the meeting with a Bible reading and prayer.

2.Present. Rev Catherine Buchan, Alison Armstrong, Graham Grant, Campbell Slimon, Phyllis Henderson, Roy Alexander, Mary Kirk, Ian Hall, Beth Alder, Morag Barr and Jean Slimon joined 7.40pm
In attendance George Alder

3.Apologies. Lesley Gorman, Ray Ritchie, Jean Burnard, Hilda Saunders, Heather Bruce, Ross Noble Anne Moore has indicated she wishes to be an emeritus elder
It was suggested Jean Burnard and Ross Noble become emeritus elders on health grounds, Catherine will discuss with them.

4.Approval of Minute of Stated Annual Meeting held on 8/3/2020.

2020 needs to be added to the date, subject to this **Approved** : Phyllis Henderson, **Seconded** : Roy Alexander.

Approval of Session Minutes held on 27/1/20.

Burns needs his apostrophe removed, and the line on p22 under Financial Report about the beadle stating, *Hilda has indicated she would like to stand down*, removed. Subject to this **Approved**: Roy Alexander, **Seconded** : Phyllis Henderson.

5. Matters Arising. Children and Family Post, Presbytery have agreed to appoint 2 full time Fresh Expression workers covering the north and south, and will no longer have the children and families post. Gillian is coming back to work part time from furlough soon and will work with Catherine until the posts are filled. Business size cards – ongoing, **Communications team**. Christmas trees Catherine to see Rob Ritchie – on going. **Alison** Session Teams. These were updated and new version will be attached to minutes. 'Service in a drawer' is now in its drawer. New Baptismal book – purchased. New church advert is in the paper and current standing order cancelled.

6: Moderator's Report. Catherine felt it important to record that we are living in a time of world pandemic, have been in lockdown, churches are closed with worship taking place online. She wanted to record her thanks to Ian for putting the service together each week, and Alison, Eppy and Helen Peebles for putting info on various social media sites. Given that this may continue for some time, she suggested **Ian** find someone else able to do it in his absence, possibly Helen Peebles. Alison also requested we look at upgrading our website as it can only cope with small files. This was agreed, and suggested to also contact Helen. **Alison** also to contact Colin Macphail re being a back up person to put things on the church website.

Weddings have all been re-scheduled, one is happening in St.Bride's on September 22nd 3pm. Various funerals have taken place, mainly graveside. The only church member to have died is Etta Miller.

Looking forward, Catherine is planning to hold prayer services in the church, but not on a Sunday as there are too many things people will miss. Prayer services are something new. There will be 2 a week 72 hours apart so as the church can be cleaned. Sandy Peebles from Kingussie Property team, and

George and Catherine have decided St. Bride's is the most suitable for now. Sunday worship will continue online for foreseeable future.

Rhyme time, Messy Church and general work with children cannot resume as before, due to restrictions still being on adults and social distancing etc.

6. Re-opening St. Bride's. The church will open for the first prayer service on August 3rd 6.30pm, then Thursday 6th 7.30pm. People to advise ahead of time if they are going, contact details to be kept for 21 days (probably telephone number) Various signs will be there to follow, sanitizer etc available (Roy to check his order is coming). The toilet will not be available. One person to help Catherine to welcome people, and a 1st Aid person needs to be present. Catherine will contact the church cleaner who will need to be trained in Covid cleaning . people can offer 1 person a lift in their car so long as the person sits in the back seat with a mask on. The services will be advertised on church noticeboards website and word of mouth to start with.

George is working his way through the Church of Scotland check list for buildings.

7: Laggan Toilets They re-opened today (27th July), Agnes is back from furlough to clean them and Sheena has provided notices as to keeping it clean. The comfort scheme will continue for 3 months to allow the handover of the toilet to the Laggan Trading Company, who own the land and who Highland Council want to hand it on to. LCT are to pay for a new septic tank and claim the money back from the Council and residents. Catherine emphasised the septic tank must get sorted as the Church would be liable under the new comfort scheme and can't be responsible for ongoing expenses. Alison had been advised to ensure septic tank is in effective operational order and have it signed off as such before entering into any new agreement.

8: Safeguarding report : No recent updates from the Church of Scotland safeguarding team as most workers are still on furlough.

9: Financial Report: (attached) Roy read from his report detailing the current financial position. A lot of envelope payments have been transferred to Standing Orders.

It was agreed the Laggan church should continue to be insured as it will continue to be empty beyond August 5th when the current Covid policy ceases. Catherine to send Roy an email about it and Roy to contact Church of Scotland Insurance .

10: Property Report (attached). George went through highlighting all the ongoing work. Catherine advised the St. Bride's organ is broken.

11: Reports from other Session Groups. These have obviously not been meeting face to face, but Outreach have had had some discussions. It is felt, sadly, that the Church picnic could not take place with current restrictions in place, and that after the end of August would be too cold.

It is too early to say if the church sale will happen, but it looks unlikely. It was suggested an online sale of the venison could happen, with purchasers collecting their orders from the church garden. It was felt important that this generous offer of venison continue to be accepted. Campbell to contact Simpson game and the Estates. **DRAFT**

12: Presbytery Report (attached) Ian shared some points from a busy meeting, Gordon Strang is now Presbytery moderator, there are plans to create a Presbytery of the Highlands. Congregations are able to spend £10,000 on their buildings, beyond this amount they must check with Presbytery. There are ongoing discussions about church buildings and how they can best be used, or not.

13: AOCB It was asked if other churches in the Presbytery are planning to open. Our prayer services will be the first, most are waiting till Phase 4 of Scottish Government's Plans.

Catherine will ask for photo contributions for the 2021 calendar.

It was agreed to continue to distribute as many newsletters as possible digitally when the August edition is available.

Ian still has some Try Praying booklets, which he will keep for next year.

Church online presence will continue beyond lockdown, **Catherine** will circulate Ian's mind map of questions re developing this, for discussion.

DRAFT

14. DONM Monday 28th September 7pm. Venue/method still to be decided.