

## LAGGAN AND NEWTONMORE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND KIRK SESSION

Minutes of meeting held via Zoom on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 (note change of date from the one proposed in the minutes) **DRAFT**

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

**2: Present** Rev Catherine Buchan, Alison Armstrong, Campbell Slimon, Phyllis Henderson, Beth Alder, Morag Barr, Jean Slimon, Graham Grant, Lesley Gorman, Ian Hall, Roy Alexander, Mary Kirk

**In attendance:** Mary Stewart, Interim Moderator

**3. Apologies.** Ray Ritchie, Heather Bruce, Hilda Saunders

**4. Approval of Session Minutes held on 19/04/2021**

**Approved** Phyllis Henderson, **Seconded,** Ian Hall

**5. Matters Arising.** Communications team including Kingussie, is Eppy, Roy, Helen and Alison. Church website. Helen is working on it. Presbytery funds for broadband in church £4000 is available for our linkage, Sandy and Ian are looking to apply for this to look at putting broadband into the churches. Ian has done a lot of research and produced a report Preparing Our Churches for Digital Use (attached) He read out various proposals, it was felt Option 2 would be best where a service is recorded in one church and taken to the other two on a memory stick. This could then be broadcast via Data projector. There would be practicalities to work out, and people trained in using the technology. It was agreed that Ian submits a business plan to Presbytery, which also includes the cost of broadband and a new data projector for St. Bride's. Community Food Table Catherine contacted the Co-op, it is to continue in Kingussie only in the new charity shop, but it is there for everyone to access. Church email address Catherine has set it up, Alison has had a trial run. A new zoom licence will need to be obtained by **Alison** or **Mary S** or **both**. CoS document on reopening churches was circulated to elders by Catherine. Letter from Rev. Andrew Kimmit on sponsored Spey walk for Christian Aid was circulated to elders and put on website, over £5000 has been raised. Church sale Campbell is liaising with Jamaha estate re pricing venison. Green energy suppliers and St Brides Bells updated in Property Report. Outside table in St. Bride's garden Catherine spoke to Mary, it was agreed it would be moved to the gravel where it would be varnished, and perhaps a patio area made on a portion of grass so it could be on hard ground.

**6: Minister's Report:** There has not been a Communion in church for over a year. It is now possible to have it in person with restrictions. However there is no time for this with 3 services happening every Sunday. This may change as Mary Stewart will be responsible for organising worship. However there has been online Communion at the prayer service and Catherine proposed that she send out the zoom link for this with the newsletter, and anyone who would like to join in Communion in her last week on June 9<sup>th</sup> can do so. This was agreed.

**7. Mission and Buildings report:** Kirk session has been asked by Presbytery to discuss and then report back on the question *'If you were freed of buildings, what mission to your community would you*

*conduct and how?’* The subsidiary question ‘*What helpful questions have you learned from the year of Covid19?’* might be helpful.

It was pointed out Presbytery question should have specified *freed from church buildings* as whatever other building is used in communal worship will have responsibilities attached. For clarification a manse does not count as a church building.

Discussion included the following:

Online church has been popular often with people who do not come to church. Why is it difficult to cross the threshold, might it be that church is a bit like a club for those in the know, and not inclusive enough?

Could we worship in more places in the community like village hall, or school where people may feel more comfortable coming. In this way the church is going out to the community.

Some events like Rhyme Time and Messy church really need to happen in a building, as there needs to be storage space. A lot of young mums are happy to come to the church for Rhyme Time, and then come to Messy church, we wouldn’t want to lose this contact.

So maybe more user friendly events of interest to people could be held in the church, film nights, book group, discussions on Sky tv religious programmes (with discretion as to which were chosen). St Bride’s is more adaptable as a building, but Laggan Church could become a heritage museum which could also hold church services.

A lot of things already happen outwith church buildings, Helping Hand lunches, picnics. Some events could be held in the St.Bride’s garden, using the tent we have for the Highland Games stall.

It would be important to continue to be present in schools, contact could be made with the head teacher after summer by someone who is good at speaking to children.

It was felt there had been a good discussion and that this should be continued at another meeting before a report is sent to Presbytery at the end of September.

**8: Safeguarding.** No updates.

**9: Financial Report:** Bank Balance 31/12/20 £65445, 30/4/21 £65040

Gift Aid claim just submitted £3544.50, compared with £5393.50 in 2020. Reduction due to drop in community donations, regular recovery virtually the same as last year.

It was agreed that Heather Bruce and Alison Armstrong be added as signatories for the St.Bride’s bank account, with Catherine’s name being removed from the St.Bride’s and Joint account. The original Laggan account is to be closed.

The organists did not get paid during lockdown, but it was agreed they should be paid for what they are doing now. **Roy** to advise Alan and Liz.

**10: Property Report : (previously circulated)**

There are possibly 4 keys for Laggan church.

George’s idea of a new barrel on the hall door lock was agreed. It was also suggested a number to contact should be displayed in case someone turned up with a key which no longer worked.

The bell is fixed for now but will need further work.

The manse has a drainage problem, it could be to do with tree roots growing in.

A full condition survey will soon be taken on the manse, and then decisions made on whether to sell, or rent it .

**11: Reports from other Session Groups:** Pastoral Group (report previously attached) Helping Hands are maintaining the village defibrillator and will apply for a wind farm grant for ongoing costs. The Community council will have overall responsibility.

It is hoped to restart Helping Hands Community lunches soon, though at first it will be drop in coffee mornings as these are easier to manage with covid restrictions.

Mains home are allowing more visits.

**12: Presbytery Report : (attached)** There was discussion about what the the role of Presbytery is and what role they should fulfil, and whether they should approach another Presbytery for support. No definite decisions were made.

Mary Duncanson is the new Business convener.

**13: AOCB** - Roy is going to seek out another organist.

It is the General Assembly next week, being held virtually. The Church of Scotland is facing difficult times at the moment , two reports worth reading are the Faith and Nurture Forum and Trustees report.

**15. DONM** There is some uncertainty over the vacancy position which will be clarified by the General Assembly, but we also need a meeting to arrange worship from 20<sup>th</sup> June. A provisional date of 7<sup>th</sup> June was agreed, this will be with Kingussie Session and Interim Moderator Mary Stewart.

The meeting closed in a time of open prayer. **DRAFT**