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**LAGGAN AND NEWTONMORE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND KIRK SESSION**  
**Minutes of meeting held in St. Brides 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.00pm**

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

**2. Present.** Rev Catherine Buchan, Alison Armstrong, Roy Alexander, Morag Barr, Donald Barr, Hilda Saunders, Jean Burnard, Graham Grant, Beth Alder, Campbell Slimon, Anne Moore, Lesley Gorman, Mary Kirk, Ray Ritchie, Phyllis Henderson, Jean Slimon.

In attendance 3 members of the congregation.

**3. Apologies.** Heather Bruce, Ian Hall, Ross Noble

Catherine introduced Rev. Liz Crumlish who heads up the Path of Renewal. Liz advised that there would be a day conference in September in Perth which we are invited to. Part of the remit is to re-think church in a time when there is a culture of non-interest. She highlighted the role sharing stories plays in creating energy and interest, and the afternoon of the conference will be a chance for various congregations to share their stories of different ways they have engaged with people.

Liz was encouraged by the various ways we were engaging with the community, Messy Church, music events, church picnic etc, and reminded us it was not necessarily about doing more but thinking about the ways we did things.

After a time for questions and comments Liz was thanked for her stimulating talk.

**4. Approval of Minute of 28/1/19. Approved** Morag Barr **Seconded** Graham Grant  
**Approval of Minute of 3/3/19. Approved** Beth Alder **Seconded** Campbell Slimon

**5. Matter Arising:** Laggan books were attested. Safeguarding still to be attested. **Catherine and Mary to follow up.**

Work on notice boards is being dealt with by the Property Committee.

Ian Hall is our elder for the General Assembly

Anne Moore is happy to continue as LCA rep, there is a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April to discuss its future.

**6. Moderator's report.**

Voting at the Laggan and Newtonmore Church SAM and Kingussie Church SAM resulted in approval for the linkage. This will be confirmed by Presbytery on March 30<sup>th</sup>, followed by a 14-day period when complaints or comments can be made. The Service of Linkage will be in Kingussie church on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and times of services will change on April 28<sup>th</sup>, Laggan 9.30am, Kingussie 10.30am, St. Brides 11.30am. For the first two months Catherine will be taking the service at Kingussie every Sunday. She will be meeting with Mary Ellen and the worship teams to discuss service cover. She thanked everyone for the positive way in which all the changes were being received and was in turn thanked for the enthusiastic way she had led the process.

Catherine will be on holiday from 10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**7. Safeguarding Report.** **Mary** has some safeguarding leaflets and will order more so each elder can have one.

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**8. Office bearers:** As a result of the Union, certain office bearer's posts had to be confirmed. Beth Alder will be World Church Representative, George Alder Health and Safety Co-ordinator, Alison Armstrong Church and Society Contact, Heather Bruce Life and Work Promoter.

George, Phyllis and Jean (Slimon) had met to discuss Food and Hygiene protocol. It was agreed that a list of those who had done the necessary training should be given to Jean (Catherine to ask via announcements?) Jean would then ensure that a relevant person was present when ever food was being produced at church events.

**9. Financial Report.** Roy presented his report (attached). One item of note was a donation received with the covering note which included the words 'change is never easy but I am impressed how Catherine is going about it.'

**10. Property Report.** Campbell presented it (attached). He also reported that some routine maintenance had been carried out, including roof repairs to Laggan Church for £685 including VAT. This was approved by Session, and Property Group were given permission to take decisions re small pieces of work, only those involving large sums need be approved by Session.

Laggan Property Register and St Bride's Property Register were attested by Session. George will send an electronic copy to Presbytery.

Manse register is a big piece of work, and George is in the process of completing it and will be attested in due course. George was thanked for all this work.

**11. Report from Pastoral Group.** Lesley reported Catherine had attended the first meeting, and the aim of the group was to offer care for each member and adherent in our community. She will inform the team of anyone she thinks needs a visit, especially post bereavement if she is called to other duties. Helping hands was explained and discussed, it was felt Newtonmore was well covered for this now. The possibility of a Men's shed was also discussed. Ailsa has withdrawn from this group due to other commitments.

**Outreach Group:** Phyllis read the report. The Church picnic will be the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, Sale 21<sup>st</sup> September 10am – 12, setting up the night before. Highland Games are on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

Regarding the noticeboards the group suggested there be a sign to indicate the church we are twinned with and a small Fairtrade sign, which was agreed. The Welcome packs are to be updated, Anne Moore is working on a small attractive welcome leaflet for Laggan Church, which will have the charity number on it, details of the service, Minister's contact details and website address.

Catherine clarified that the Church is Laggan and Newtonmore Church of Scotland, and the individual church buildings are Laggan Church and St. Brides.

Campbell updated news from the Heritage Group. A gate allowing access from Gaskmore to Gaskbeg is in place, allowing access to the war memorial. This was done with money from the Burns supper.

There is a proposal to hold a Burns supper in Laggan, with the church cooking for it. Campbell to liaise with Sheena and the Outreach group to see how many would be needed to help, and report back to session, before a decision is made.

**Children's Group** has yet to meet. Catherine will attend the first one, Mary to arrange it.

**12. Presbytery Report.** Catherine reported the main business had been discussing the various vacancies in the Presbytery. Charles Finnie from Hawick is to be the minister at Aviemore, Alvie and

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Insh in May. There is a joint presbytery meeting with Lochaber Presbytery on 30<sup>th</sup> March in Laggan Hall, all invited.

**13. Christian Aid.** Roy had been to a Christian aid meeting in Inverness and was impressed at the work they are doing and would like the church to be involved more. The retiral offering after the June Communion will be for Christian Aid. He will have Christian Aid envelopes during Christian Aid week in May, and will do a service on it on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**14. AOCB** Phyllis explained Friend's of St Vincents had purchased Manger lifting equipment and are gifting one their one to the Fire Brigade. She wondered if the churches would be interested in getting them. This will be investigated further as there would need to be people trained to use them.

Catherine was asked by Eileen to remove newsletters containing her contact details from the website, and she also does not want her name mentioned in minutes which may go on the website. Alison has removed the newsletters. It was confirmed by those elders present whose contact details are on current newsletters that they are happy to go on the website. Elders present also confirmed they are happy to have their names on the minutes on the website, but no names will be given of those attending from the congregation.

Jean (Slimon) pointed out the next soup and pudding lunch is on Easter Sunday and it was agreed not to have one then. There will be one after the Christian Aid Service, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Campbell advised that Catherine has joined the Shinty Dementia Memories group. There are going to be meetings in each community and it is hoped the Laggan one will be at a Helping Hands lunch. There is going to be a box available to put various items of memorabilia in.

**DONM Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May Laggan Hall, 7pm** (Please note it is a Tuesday, as Monday is a Bank Holiday)

The Meeting closed in prayer.