

**LAGGAN AND NEWTONMORE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND KIRK SESSION**  
**Minutes of meeting held in Laggan Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> May 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, Hilda Saunders, Jean Burnard, Graham Grant, Beth Alder, Campbell Slimon, Anne Moore, Lesley Gorman, Mary Kirk, Ray Ritchie, Phyllis Henderson, Jean Slimon.

In attendance George Alder

**3. Apologies.** Morag Barr, Donald Barr, Ian Hall, Ross Noble, Heather Bruce,

**4. Approval of Minute of 25/3/19** **Approved** Lesley Gorman **Seconded** Phyllis Henderson

**Approval of Minute of SAM 17/3/19** **Approved** Beth Alder **Seconded** Roy Alexander

**5. Matter Arising:** Safeguarding books attested. Safeguarding leaflets available. Health and Hygiene list, Catherine to follow up. Manse register ongoing. Burns Supper Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020, any profits to go to Mrs Grant's Memorial Stone. Children's group meeting has been held, a lot of ideas discussed including events at Easter and in the school holidays.

**6. Moderator's report.**

Ian and Catherine attended this year's General Assembly. There was a lot of business discussed, including the replacing of the Council of Assembly with a group of 12 Assembly Trustees. Also over the next 5 years the number of Presbyteries are to be reduced to 12, which will affect our Presbytery, though we have already started discussions with Lochaber and Inverness.

The work of the Path of Renewal, which we are part of, is ongoing. Catherine circulated a leaflet outlining the 4 parts of it and how they link together. (attached) Reports from the Assembly are available on the Church of Scotland website.

A rota of who is leading church services was circulated. It has been a busy time for Catherine dealing with the various issues. It may be that Kingussie and Newtonmore have to be flexible in their dates for informal communion, usually the first Sunday of the month. Laggan may now also be able to have one.

Catherine will be on holiday from August 9<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**7. Safeguarding Report.** Ron and Carol are going through the disclosure process.

**8. Ministries Development Staff Post.** Under the Presbytery Plan, once Catherine was the minister of Kingussie, we were entitled to 0.5 of an MDS post. However due to the shortage of ministers many positions are being filled by MDS workers, and The General Assembly have now imposed a moratorium in appointing any new ones till October. Gillian Orr has a 0.5 MDS post in our presbytery, employed as a youth worker. However, as the ongoing PPlan doesn't have a youth worker, it is proposed, with her agreement, that she is employed as a children and family worker. It was agreed that Catherine should arrange a meeting with both Sessions in June and invite Gillian to come and talk about the proposed role.

Aviemore and Alvie's new minister will be inducted on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Libis Church window.** Our partner church has been renovating their church and are having an opening ceremony which Ian is going to. Phyllis noticed in the newsletter that they needed new

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windows and wondered if we could contribute to the cost of one. This was agreed, and **Ian** will be asked to find out more about costs when he is there.

**9. Financial Report.** Laggan collections for the last period are £3832, Newtonmore £9440 which is slightly up. The bill for the work on the Laggan roof was £685.

**10. Property Report.** Orders for the church noticeboards will be placed when the St Brides insurance claim has been approved. The Laggan and St Brides property registers have been sent to Presbytery.

**11. Outreach Group** The picnic has been booked for Ardverikie on 28<sup>th</sup> July. Anne is working on the welcome cards. A bigger tent for the Highland games has not been resourced, but Ron suggested bigger tent pegs might work. Phyllis suggested getting a stand-up banner, as it would be easier to put the church name on and may also attract more people. It was agreed to get 2, **Roy** will speak to Ian Grover. The group are happy to invite members from Kingussie church to appropriate meetings.

**12. Presbytery Report.** Various Assembly reports were discussed at the meeting. Mary Stewart will be the Moderator from June onwards. Go For It will be changing to the Growth Fund, and will have a bigger pot of money to distribute. Parishes can apply for projects which are in line with its aims.

**13. Laggan Door Duties.** As Catherine is now not there every week to set up, it would be good to remind door duty people of the things that need to be done before and after the service. **George** to update and circulate to the relevant people and place a copy in the vestry (with the combination number of the padlock on it.)

Jean Slimon advised St Brides members that door duty list for July – September is waiting to be filled.

**14. Laggan Benevolent Fund and Toilets.** With LCA folding, various responsibilities must be handed to other groups. It was suggested that the Church take the Benevolent Fund which exists for the 'good of people in Laggan', and the money kept specifically for this. This was agreed.

The toilets, which many people from the church use, receive £100 per month from Highland Council. Agnes and Tiggy clean it, donations cover some of the other costs and LCA would give £6000, if the Church was prepared to take it on. It is estimated that £2000 p.a is needed. It was agreed that the church would take it on for an initial period of 3 years, and that Jane Tansley would continue to process the pay for Agnes.

**15. AOCB.** Now that coffee is served before the service at St Brides there is some confusion as to who sets it up etc. It was agreed **Hilda** would put on the water and set up the trolley when she opens the church and look for **people** happy to serve, the **door duty people** would bring milk, and biscuits to be provided via money from the treasurer. It will be served from 10.45 -11.15am.

Beth reported positively on her attendance at the Hope in the Rural Church Conference. There is to be a new worship event, Filling Station, held monthly in Aviemore which will be a more informal type of worship, and is not intended to replace church. More details can be found at [thefillingstation.org.uk](http://thefillingstation.org.uk). The Rev Chris Blackshaw is a farmer in Ayrshire who engages with farmers, where a lot of support is needed with mental health issues. Pilgrimage routes in Scotland are becoming more popular, for more information see [www.srf.org.uk](http://www.srf.org.uk).

Campbell has heard via LCC that Highland Council advised that space was limited at Laggan cemetery, but there was a possibility of exploring additional ground (the glebe). At present 2 single lairs (side by side) may be available on the occasion of the first family member's death but can't be booked ahead.

**DONM Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July St Brides, 7pm**

The Meeting closed in prayer.