

LAGGAN AND NEWTONMORE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND KIRK SESSION **DRAFT**
Minutes of meeting held Laggan Hall September 23rd 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, Hilda Saunders, Graham Grant, Beth Alder, Campbell Slimon, Phyllis Henderson, Jean Slimon, , Ross Noble, Roy Alexander, Lesley Gorman, Mary Kirk, Morag Barr, Donald Barr, Ian Hall.

In attendance George Alder.

3. Apologies. Heather Bruce, Anne Moore, Ray Ritchie, Jean Burnard.

4. Approval of Minute of 22/7/19 Approved Jean Slimon **Seconded** Graham Grant

5. Matter Arising: The stall at the Highland Games was well manned and set up, but take up of soup was low as it was very hot. Children and family post – job description details still being discussed, as Gillian thought the post was for the whole area not just the southern end (ie Kingussie, Laggan and Newtonmore). Catherine to meet with her and the Aviemore minister to discuss further. If Gillian doesn't take the post then other support will be sought. Stand up banners have arrived and were used at the Laggan sale. Manse register - see property report. Laggan door duties- George has updated the list and will circulate to door team and put a copy in the church.

6. Moderator's report.

It is nearly a year since the union of the churches. It has gone well, a lot has been learnt in the process, and some things are still to be addressed.

The Highland Presbytery met at Dornoch to discuss future meetings as the 9 Presbytery's will have to come together to form one under changes ordered at this year's General assembly. Due to the geographical spread it will not be practical to have monthly meetings so alternatives will have to be found.

The Nominations Committee of the Church of Scotland, on which Catherine serves is particularly busy helping sort out the right people to staff the new bodies which will take the Church's work forward. With so much change going on, it is important to remember that faithful people are still meeting to worship and going out to serve in communities up and down the country : the rest is just finding a way to give support to this work.

There will be a flu clinic at St. Brides on Nov 6th.

Remembrance Sunday, Laggan service will go ahead at 9.30am then move to the War Memorial for 10.30am. Newtonmore will be the same time 12.30pm. There is a wedding in St.Brides on 29th February 2020.

Catherine will be on holiday from 12th-17th November.

7. Safeguarding Report. All individuals in the church who come into regular contact with children will have to go through basic disclosure, those who do children's work will still be subject to PVG checks, which are now going to be updated every 5 years. **Mary** to check with CofS if they will see to this.

8. Financial Report. (previously attached) Giving in St. Bride's has fallen slightly in line with the congregation being smaller in the summer months. Laggan will get VAT back from the money spent on the lights.

Roy has written to 121 to question the Ministry and Mission calculation which has gone up due to Union and Linkage, which seems unfair as these were done voluntarily and ultimately save money. £75 was put into the account from the Bank of Scotland for the hassle they caused over the mandate.

For clarification – open plate is money placed in the offering bags, yellow envelopes are non gift aid and the other envelopes are gift aid.

The Laggan sale raised about £1400, more than last year though the number staying for tea was less. There is a suggestion the time moves to 10.30am.

9. Property Report. The noticeboards are up, thanks to all who helped.

The group have focussed on the manse and jobs divided into different projects. Various statutory reports have lapsed and need to be updated. A rough idea of costs of necessary work is £10-£15k, Kingussie will pay half.

The manse schedule was signed, and a copy will be emailed by **George** to Presbytery to be attested. The next meeting is on 9th October when other matters will also be discussed. It was agreed that Roy be informed of spending plans, and all major amounts have to be agreed by Session.

10. Libis. It was agreed the church would donate £1000 (and add any additional donations) which is approx. the cost of a window. **Ian** to inform Mirek and get bank details to be passed on to Roy.

11. Reports from Other Session Groups. Outreach – It has been a busy time with the Picnic, stall at the games and Sale. The next meeting is Oct 14th. **Pastoral Care** – Anne has completed the Laggan church and community cards (with sheep). **Catherine** to pass on list of those who have been in hospital so they can get one. Helping Hands lunches are restarting. **Children and Youth Group** **Catherine** will arrange a meeting with the group and Gillian assuming she takes the post.

12. Presbytery Report (attached) Ian highlighted several items from his report. Godly play is a way of using toys to enable children to interact with Bible stories. There is training available, anyone interested should speak to Catherine.

September to December is a season of prayer for CoS and the changes which are being made after the General Assembly.

13. ‘Well equipped spaces in the right places. As discussed at last meeting Session is required to discuss this item which looks at the use of church buildings. Sandy Peebles, session Clerk at Kingussie attended a workshop and has given Catherine a document about it all to be read and discussed. There are still some workshops and a webinar on Oct 7th as well as an online report which anyone can read and complete the survey. (details attached) Catherine suggested the property group may like to take it on. **George** will arrange a get together with Ian and possibly Roy and Lesley.

It was suggested the next time session meets in Laggan it should be in the church, which could also be a possible music venue.

14. CofS Communications. Mission and discipleship Council has sent every congregation a copy of Conversations of Discipleship which is intended to deepen the culture of discipleship. Copies were taken for people to look through.

The Assembly Trustees have appointed their first Chief Officer, Dave Kendall, who will have the overall executive responsibility for the Trustees ‘employees and budgets. He is an elder at West Kirk East Kilbride, and Director of Programmes at the Advanced Nuclear Research Centre of Strathclyde University, and will take up his new role on 1st Nov.

Following an instruction from the 2019 General assembly an annual youth attitudes survey has been initiated, and a request sent to each Session to circulate it. This is open to all 11-30 year olds. Having looked at it Alison felt unsure at the nature of some of the questions. Catherine asked **Beth** to look at with her professional hat on, and comment to CofS if necessary.

13. Laggan Toilet (report previously attached). The Building will be managed by Laggan community Trading Ltd from 1st October, this includes responsibility for the septic tank. The day to day

management will be done by the church, specific details are in the report. This will be reviewed after 3 years.

14. Retiral offerings: Dec 19 Communion Practical Action, **Christmas offering** Salvation Army Inverness (for homeless) **March Communion** Tear Fund **June Communion** Christian Aid, **September Communion** Crossreach

15. AOCB Christmas – the Light up a Life Services at Newtonmore at Kingussie are held at the same time, so it is proposed the Newtonmore one is at 6pm, Kingussie 7.15pm.

Catherine suggested people from both churches meet with her to creatively discuss Christmas. Roy and Beth will represent Laggan and Newtonmore.

Kingussie Church are holding a potluck Christmas lunch on Sunday Dec 22nd and have invited Laggan and Newtonmore Church. **Jean Slimon** suggested that a member of the outreach team meet with someone from Kingussie to discuss what to bring. It was also agreed that there would not be a soup and Pudding lunch in Newtonmore in December.

There are mixed feelings as to whether coffee time before the service at St Bride's is working. **Catherine** will ask the congregation's opinion over a few weeks and for them to let Roy or Jean know, there will then be an informal discussion with the elders. It was suggested the time should be advertised on a noticeboard on the main street.

Campbell will write on Church headed notepaper to thank the Estates for their very generous contribution of venison for the Laggan sale.

The Helping Hands lunch will also be attended by the Badenoch shinty dementia group, and various items of memorabilia will be on display.

DONM Monday 25th November , Newtonmore, 7pm

The Meeting closed in prayer.

DRAFT