

LAGGAN AND NEWTONMORE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND KIRK SESSION

Minutes of meeting held in St. Bride's 25th November 2019

DRAFT

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

2. Present. Rev Catherine Buchan, Alison Armstrong, Hilda Saunders, Beth Alder, Campbell Slimon, Phyllis Henderson, Jean Slimon, , Ross Noble, Roy Alexander, Lesley Gorman, Mary Kirk, Morag Barr, Donald Barr, Ian Hall, Anne Moore.

In attendance George Alder.

3. Apologies. Heather Bruce, Ray Ritchie, Jean Burnard, Graham Grant, Donald Barr.

4. Approval of Minute of 23/9/11 Approved Campbell Slimon **Seconded** Phyllis Henderson

5. Matter Arising: Children and family post – job description details still being discussed. Safeguarding, no updates from Church of Scotland. The Manse register has been sent to Presbytery .

Libis money has been sent and a thank you letter received, which will be circulated and a copy printed for each church. Catherine has asked Kate Downie to make cards for Newtonmore people who are home from hospital, Lesley will distribute, and Anne will give her card to Laggan people.

Youth survey – Beth wrote to Suzy Farrant who replied, but her reply still caused concern re the assumption that everyone completing it would be part of a local church and would receive support, and the fact that they weren't required to have an Ethics committee. Beth has written again and we are awaiting the reply. Pot luck lunch Kingussie – Phyllis has met with Jean Munro – it is to be cold food only and no mince pies as there are always loads. A list will be put in each church for people to say what they are bringing. Laggan are invited too, though they will still have their own service at 9.30am, Kingussie and Newtonmore will have a joint service. Coffee time in St Bride's – after discussion it is to be after the service. Laggan toilets – process is working, Agnes has had her payslip and Roy has invoiced for £100 from the council.

6. Moderator's Report. Catherine had a good holiday which was needed as life is extremely busy with 3 churches. She will be on holiday Mon 6th – Sun 12th Jan.

She has met with the group appointed to sort Christmas arrangements , there will be a family carol singing event at Newtonmore Golf Club on Dec 22nd (time), a family service in Laggan on 23rd at 7pm, a combined watchnight service for Newtonmore and Kingussie in Kingussie, and a Watchnight service in Laggan, led by Roy, with help from Ian and Lesley. On Christmas day Catherine will lead a family service in Newton more at 10am, and Mary-Ellen will lead a worship service in Kingussie at 10.30am. All these details will be on Christmas cards distributed to Newtonmore, Laggan and Kingussie (for the first time). Jean Slimon organises the distribution team for Netonmore. Laggan elders will need to decide how to do it, as last year cards went inside the Splash, but the Splash no longer exists.

Kingussie held a Future Focus day in September and one of the things which emerged was that they would like more contact with the other churches as part of the linkage, including joint services. It was suggested this could be when there is a 5th Sunday of the month. It was also felt that it would be good to mark the one year anniversary of linkage in April, with a joint extra communion service. Messy Church is also going to be advertised in Kingussie.

Catherine expressed her sympathy for Donald's ill health and praised his immense contribution as an elder and confirmed he will now be an elder emeritus. Catherine will send him a card expressing our thanks and best wishes.

6. Safeguarding Report. No updates

8. Financial Report. (previously circulated). Assets at the end of October were £62,856 which included the money transferred for the Laggan toilet costs. There are outstanding fabric issues which will cost money. The rise in our Ministries and Mission contribution seems unfair and we are awaiting a response from 121 George St.

9. Property Report. (Attached) George reported that it had been decided that when there were several pieces of similar work needed in the 3 buildings

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