

LAGGAN AND NEWTONMORE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND KIRK SESSION
Minutes of meeting held in Laggan Church 27th January 2020 DRAFT

- 1. Welcome.** Rev. Catherine Buchan opened the meeting with a Bible reading and prayer.
- 2. Present.** Rev Catherine Buchan, Alison Armstrong, Graham Grant, Campbell Slimon, Phyllis Henderson, Ross Noble, Roy Alexander, Lesley Gorman, Morag Barr, Anne Moore,
- 3. Apologies.** Heather Bruce, Ray Ritchie, Jean Burnard, Beth Alder, Jean Slimon, Mary Kirk, Ian Hall
- 4. Approval of Minute of 25/11/19 Corrections:** Donald Barr's name removed from those present. Under Matters Arising : Potluck lunch Kingussie 22nd Dec, Jean Slimon was also present.
Approved subject to above corrections Roy Alexander **Seconded** Lesley Gorman
- 5. Matter Arising:** Children and family post –Catherine will discuss it with the business committee of Presbytery, and proposes a job description is drawn up for a part time children and family worker to cover the south part of Presbytery. If Gillian does not want this job, it will be advertised. Youth Survey, no updates from Church of Scotland. Kingussie pot luck lunch. It was agreed this was very successful, though there could have been more from Newtonmore at the joint service. Phyllis has written to Jean Munro to pass on our thanks. Laggan Christmas card distribution. Alison wanted to record her thanks to everyone who helped so willingly, as this was Laggan church's first year of distributing them, (the Splash had done it last year, but no longer exists). Godly Play Taster day This has now moved to 7th March, Catherine will confirm with Lesley and Mary. There will be full training in May or June, you have to have done taster training before going on this. Business size church info cards, Ian Hall of communications group to follow up on this. Burn's supper Campbell felt this had gone well and raised £1000 for the Anne Grant memorial. Other grants will be applied for and Campbell will keep us informed. All the organisers and cooks were thanked.
- 6. Moderator's Report.** Christmas period had been very busy, including the schools there were 9 services in 6 days. With the linkage and the union, and therefore 3 churches to cover for the first time at Christmas, things were different this year and it was felt all services had gone very well. The carols at the golf club was very attended with a lot of non-church people.
Looking forward to Lent, Catherine would like to have midweek devotional services on the Thursday evenings in St. Bride's. These will be an opportunity for some creative worship. There will also be Holy week Services in Kingussie this year.
It was agreed it would be good to have a united service to celebrate a year of the Union, this will be on April 26th in St. Bride's.
This is our last year of Path of Renewal. Catherine's mentor will be coming to a session meeting and would like to meet some people during the day to talk about where we feel we are at, bearing in mind the theme of Path of Renewal is taking the gospel where the gospel is not.
- 6. Safeguarding Report.** There was paperwork needing to be completed which Catherine and Mary have done. These can now be attested. The safeguarding activity audit list, which Kirk Session should be aware of was read out. A copy of this is attached.
- 7. Attesting of Books.** Phyllis has the Church roll up to date, this now has names of members and adherents from Laggan and Newtonmore Churches. This was attested. A new baptismal roll book will be purchased by Catherine and as there have been no baptisms a blank book will be attested. The Kirk session Minutes were attested.

8. Ministries and Mission Contribution System Survey. A survey had been circulated by Church of Scotland to see how much people knew about M and M. Roy has completed it, but Catherine read out the questions for Session members answer. One of these was if we knew where the money actually went to: answers suggested were paying for the minister, mission partners and other work throughout the world, other staff, a small amount to the social care council, General Assembly. The division is in fact 86% of all money going to the Ministry part, 14% to Mission.

In discussion it was agreed it was important to be able to pay our own minister. In answer as to how satisfied we were with the amount we pay, it was commented that it seemed unfair the contribution rose in a linkage as you were actually saving the church money.

In answer to the question about what should be retained from the current system, it was felt we should know more about it before we could form an opinion.

8. Financial Report. The accounts and a review of the accounts have been previously circulated. The figures include the money transferred from Laggan Church for the toilets and from the fabric fund (both restricted) and recovery of VAT from the lights. It was agreed that the 2 endowment funds could be moved into the Laggan fabric fund. Money will need to be spent on fabric work this year in both churches. The open plate donations look bigger because they now include both churches. There was discussion about the beadle's role in St Bride's, Hilda has indicated she would like to stand down. Roy will talk with her, and there will be further discussion as to whether a paid role is necessary for a beadle. On the condition that Ian Hall's name is corrected from Ian Hill on p7, the accounts were approved and thanks expressed to Roy and financial team for all their effort.

9. Property Report (Attached) The work has started to install the manse stove. Things have been held up due to unforeseen circumstances, but it is anticipated to be finished by the end of January. Session approved expenditure of up to £1000 for a feasibility study for a kitchen and toilet in Laggan Church. These will be necessary if the church is used for more public events.

10. Report from Outreach Team (Attached) It was agreed that one banner should be kept in each church. There was a proposal to offer teas on the day of the flu jags in St. Bride's. This will be discussed nearer the time. Phyllis requested Christmas cards were printed earlier so those which need posted could go with the newsletters. There was also a request that the names of those in church groups be made available. (Alison will attach to minutes)

Pastoral team – there will be a Helping Hands lunch on Tuesday 28th January.

11. Presbytery Report – no meeting since the last Session meeting.

12. Letter from Ardverikie Estate: Alison read out a letter Catherine received from Phil Lloyd, Estate Manager at Ardverikie, saying they would still supply Christmas trees free of charge to Laggan, but they will no longer supply to Newtonmore as they felt there will nearer estates who could do this. Catherine will speak to Rob Ritchie of Newtonmore Community Council to see who they get their tree from.

13. Stated Annual Meeting : It was agreed this would be a joint service on Sunday March 8th at 10.30am in Laggan Church, with the meeting after the service.

14. AOB Roy had raised the question of what would happen if the person doing the service at St Brides or Laggan in place of Catherine was unable to attend due to snow or other factors. It becomes the Session Clerk's responsibility to ensure worship happens. It was agreed Catherine would have a simple service outlined and placed 'in a drawer' in each church. Alison or another Laggan elder would see to Laggan and Roy and/ or Lesley in St Bride's (or anyone else appointed).

Publicity – the Insh service had not been advertised in the Strathy, so several regulars had not gone. Catherine had suggested at the Kingussie Session that all 3 churches go on the one advert, with Catherine’s name going on as the minister but details of who was leading each service not included. Different events like Insh and Messy Church would go in when appropriate. Eppy MacKay from Kingussie has offered to arrange this. It was agreed that Catherine should ask Eppy to let Roy know when to start this and Roy would cancel the current standing order.

Roy reminded us that Agnes’ wages for the toilets would increase in April in line with minimum wage regulations.

15: DONM: 23rd March 7 pm St Bride’s Newtonmore.

DRAFT