



St. Bride's Parish Church Newtonmore

NEWSLETTER



www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk

FEBRUARY 2018

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Dear All,

The minister's desk is a place which is getting rather full of paper these days, as interesting documents and books are waiting for my attention as we set out on the Path of Renewal. At the beginning of January I had a three day conference with other ministers who are at the same stage of this project, and I found it stimulating and exciting.

What we are doing on the Path of Renewal is, eventually, to rediscover what it means to be church here, really here, here in Newtonmore, and now. Not here and fifty years ago, or ten years ago or even one year ago, but now and looking ahead. We are not asking "How do we get more people to come to church?" so much as "Why is the church here, what are we supposed to be, and therefore to do?" And because for some of us this is a new thought, we need to take time to think it through properly. We will do this in various ways, beginning with our Sunday services. Session meetings will also have an element of helping us see things more clearly, and I would like to remind you that Session meetings are always open to anyone to attend. If you are interested to hear what we will be doing in the Session meetings for the Path of renewal, then please do come along.

Another event, for those who are interested is a morning conference for churches who are on this path, which will take place in Inverness at The Barn Church, Culloden on Saturday March 24th from 10.00am to 12.45pm lunch included. This is not just for ministers or even elders, but for anyone who wants to find out more and hear what other churches on this path are discovering.

Meanwhile, we continue to seek to be the best church for this village that we can be. And there is always something new to take forward. For instance, on Sunday March 4th there is to be a family film afternoon from 3 p.m. till about 5.30 p.m. The feature film "Treasures of the Snow" will be shown, which is the story of three children living in the Swiss alps, maybe a hundred years ago or a little less, and the happenings in their lives through which they find that faith in God can help them. It is a great story, full of drama, and seeing the scenery alone is worth coming for. We will be issuing invitations to the Messy Church families and through the school, but please also consider yourself invited, whether you come with a child or not! There will be a tea halfway through the film.

And then we come to Holy Week and Easter, which fall quite early this year. Some of my favourite services in the year are the quiet reflections we have during Holy Week, and I look forward to preparing for the Easter celebration with you.

Your minister, Catherine

COMMUNION

The next quarterly communion is on Sunday 4th March at 11.15a.m. On this occasion, the retiring collection will be for Dachaidh which organises home care in our local area. Please note that all communions will now take place on the first Sunday of the month.

FOLLOW THE NEWS

If you are unable to attend church and have computer access, you can see all the news and the sermons on www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk





BADENOCH CHORALE

On Sunday 28th January, the Badenoch Chorale took part in a project aimed at recording the first verse of every hymn in CH4. On that evening the first verses of twenty nine hymns were recorded and the results should be available to download later in 2018.

On Saturday 28th April the Chorale will perform The Armed Man by Karl Jenkins. This concert will take place in Kingussie Church at 7.30pm.

The Strathendrick Singers will be visiting in May and there will be a joint concert with the Badenoch Chorale in St Bride's. Full details have yet to be confirmed.

STATED ANNUAL MEETING

The Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday 18th March. Copies of our annual accounts will be available at the meeting.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts for St Bride's were approved by the Kirk Session on Monday 15th January 2018. These show a surplus of £2,124 for the year. Income rose by £2,000 due to an increase in open plate collections and the number of local funerals during the year. Expenditure rose by a similar amount due to increased fabric expenditure. At the end of the year our funds amounted to £28,573.

It is interesting to note that St Bride's is actually the poorest church financially in the presbytery. Most other churches have had access to legacies, endowments or perhaps even a manse sale during their history. We have managed well over the last few years but the age of our congregation continues to be a worry for the future in terms of our finances.

MEMORIAL BOOK

The Memorial Book in the church belongs to the Newtonmore Community though many may not be aware of this. It is kept in the church for safekeeping. In recent years it has not seen a large number of new entries but it remains a space where relatives can be remembered locally. Forms for adding entries are always available in the church.

FILM AFTERNOON

“Treasures of the Snow”

Sunday March 4th 3 p.m. All welcome and tea provided.

CHURCH FLOWERS

The Flower Calendar is on the board at the back of the church! Ann Hay organises the fresh flowers every Sunday but requires financial support to do this. If you are interested in marking a special occasion, please put your name on the list. The suggested donation is £25.

JENNIFER BUCHAN

Jennifer is now working and learning at LIV village outside Durban in South Africa. After a rocky start she has settled in well and is enjoying her busy days, which include teaching music! If anyone wants it, her address is:

Care of LIV Village
P.O. Box 1817
Verulam, 4340, South Africa.

Her email is jenniferbuchan17@yahoo.co.uk and here is Jennifer's update.

It has been a very strange month but I would not change it at all! There are twenty one people participating in my programme and I live in a house with ten of them. It took a few weeks to settle into the early nights, early mornings and full on days, but I am getting the hang of it. A lot of my time consists of Biblical teachings and the rest is made up of helping around the village in different ways.

Temperature wise it is quite nice and I am not missing the cold weather!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sunday March 4 th	Communion Service 11.15 a.m.. Film Afternoon 3 p.m.
Tuesday March 13 th	Session meeting 7 p.m.
Sunday March 18 th	Stated Annual Meeting
Saturday March 24 th	Path of Renewal meeting in Inverness 10.30 a.m.
Sunday March 25 th	Messy Church 4 p.m.
Thursday March 29 th	Maundy Thursday service with communion, St. Bride's 7 p.m.
Friday March 30 th	Good Friday service, Laggan 7 p.m.
Sunday April 1 st	Easter Celebration! 11.15 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS Charity No SCO 05490

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