



# St. Bride's Parish Church Newtonmore

# NEWSLETTER



[www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk](http://www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk)

NOVEMBER 2017

## FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Dear all,

When you get this newsletter, we will be moving towards advent and the world around us will be insistent that we think about Christmas. So, let's think about Christmas. We know all about that, of course as it happens every year. We will celebrate the coming of Christ into the world as a baby. Stop there and think: we will be celebrating – because this is the thing most worth celebrating since the world began – the coming of Christ – which means the anointed one, the one set apart by God, God's Son - into the world – that's not just the world of 2000 year ago, but our world, the world of your life and mine – as a baby – in the most un-god-like way you can imagine, with no fanfare, no power, no privilege. Sometimes we get so used to Christmas that we can become blasé about it.

So that we don't do that, this year we want to do something a little different. We will still mark the four Sundays of Advent, we will join with Laggan church in the Dalwhinnie carol service on the 17th (see the calendar for details), and we will have a watchnight service at 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve followed by Christmas Family worship on Christmas morning at 10.30am. But the next Sunday, the 31st, which is bang in the middle of the Christmas season, whatever the world may think, we are doing something different. In the morning we will join with Laggan at Laggan, at 10.30am. And in the afternoon, at 4 o'clock, we want everyone possible to join with the Messy Church congregation in a celebration of the Christmas story, followed by a party tea. Don't say it's not for you, because it is, and don't say you can't be bothered, because if you can't be bothered to celebrate Christmas with your church family, then what is there that is more important? We are looking forward to it already and will see you there!

**Your minister, Catherine**

## PRESBYTERY

Catherine has recently taken over as interim moderator for Alvie and Insh and Rothiemurchus Aviemore churches. It is hoped that at the December meeting of Presbytery, these churches will be given permission to call a minister on reviewable tenure.

Barbara Black who did some of her training with us to become a Reader has been successful and will be formally acknowledged at the December meeting of Presbytery.

The Presbytery Planning Committee has called a meeting of Session Clerks plus an elder from each congregation to share their thoughts with regard to a future Presbytery Plan.

## PATH OF RENEWAL

The Kirk Sessions of Laggan and ourselves agreed that we should apply to be part of this mission initiative. Although we applied, there was no guarantee of being selected but while 40 churches throughout Scotland are already involved, only 22 have applied for the next 40 places so we anticipate being involved in the programme in the new year.

## COMMUNION

The next quarterly communion is on Sunday 3rd December 2017 at 11.15a.m. The retiring collection on this occasion will be for Christian Engineers in Development (see separate note).



## 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](http://www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk)



## December

3rd	Communion at Memorial Book Service	11.15am 6.00pm
4th	Light up a Light (Village Square)	6.00pm
10th	Christmas Soup and Pudding	
16th	Concert with Badenoch Chorale and Fiddlers	7.30pm
17th	Carol Service in Dalwhinnie	6.30pm
24th	Morning Worship Watchnight Service	11.15am 11.15pm
25th	Christmas Day Service	10.30am
31st	Joint service in Laggan (No service in St Bride's) Joint service with Messy Church in St Bride's	10.30am 4.00pm

## MEMORIAL BOOK SERVICE

This will take place at 6.00pm on Sunday 3rd December 2017.

## BADENOCH CHORALE

The Chorale sung Faure's Requiem in Dunkeld Cathedral in September. This was a very enjoyable experience for the choir but the publicity for the concert could have been better!

The coffee morning in St Bride's on Saturday 7th October was well supported and the Chorale funds benefited to the extent of £468. Thanks to all who supported this effort.

On Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm, the Chorale will join with the Badenoch Fiddlers for a Christmas concert. Entry will be by donation.

There will be the usual selection of carols and fiddle music and there will be a guest appearance by the son of a well known local musician!

## CHRISTIAN ENGINEERS IN DEVELOPMENT

This organisation exists to demonstrate the love of Christ by enabling Christians with engineering and allied skills to help the poorest communities overseas. Angus Armstrong of Laggan gave an overview of his involvement when he spoke at our service on 10th September, and Kirk Session agreed to support his work with our December

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

This will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November when St Bride's Church will be open for prayer between 9.00am and 5.00pm. You will receive a prayer card with this newsletter to encourage you to come to the church and pray or to pray at home.

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING

St Bride's had their Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October when all our donations went for the homeless in Inverness. Below is a picture of part of the Harvest Thanksgiving presentation in Libis.



Harvest thanksgiving in Libis





## TWINNING VISIT



### Prague

In mid-October, four of us (Ian Hall, Jo Cumming, Alan Buchan and I - Lesley Gorman) spent a long weekend in Libis and Kostolek, near Prague in Czech Republic as part of the church's twinning project.

We were given a very warm welcome at the airport by Mirek, the minister, and Jiri who then took us to our respective hosts where we received yet another very warm and open welcome which helped us feel a part of their church family immediately.

On the Saturday, after meeting at the church, we were taken to Libochov, a small village where we were given a guided tour of a large ruined water mill being restored by the community, browsed the craft and food stalls at the village fair, walked up a hill to an old mausoleum with stunning views of the river and distant hills and then went on to see some very large heads carved into a cliff faces close by. After this, Lubos took Alan and me to Milnek to view the gruesome sight of hundreds of human remains neatly stacked in the vault of the local church! That evening, we were kindly invited to dinner with Michel, Terese and their two young children who live in a flat in the manse.

On the Sunday we all went to the Harvest Thanksgiving service in Libis. Jiri and Barbora had decorated the church with a beautiful display of produce from their

garden (as well as making a two course dinner for everyone!). We each had a part to play in the service – Alan played several voluntaries and a hymn on the organ, Ian passed on greetings from Laggan and led a hymn in English with the chorus in Czech and I led a prayer in English which was translated by Ondrej – Barbora's son. For communion, everyone gathered in a circle round the communion table and Mirek used both Catherine's usual wording (including offering each other a sign of God's peace) as well as Czech as a special gesture, effectively bringing the two parishes together.

After a lunch with everyone, a large group went on a walk through fields, woods and the riverbank nearby – in bright autumn sunshine and stunning colours, before gathering again for an informal pot-luck supper and plenty of Czech and Scottish songs.

Monday was spent sight seeing in Prague, led by Stephani (mother of Christina – for those of you who know her) and included meeting Martina who was instrumental in setting up our twinning. Late afternoon, Ian and Jo headed off to visit friends and Mirek drove Alan and myself back to the airport.

Many thanks to all our brothers and sisters in Libis and Kostolek who helped make our stay so special.

Lesley Gorman



### CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS Charity No SCO 05490

Minister: **Rev Catherine Buchan**  
The Manse, Fort William Road, Newtonmore PH20 1DG  
Tel: 01540 673238 E-mail: catherinebuchan567@btinternet.com

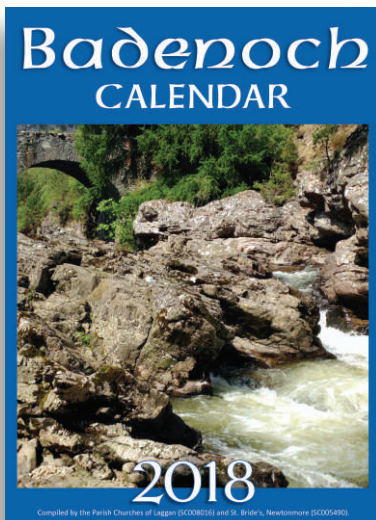
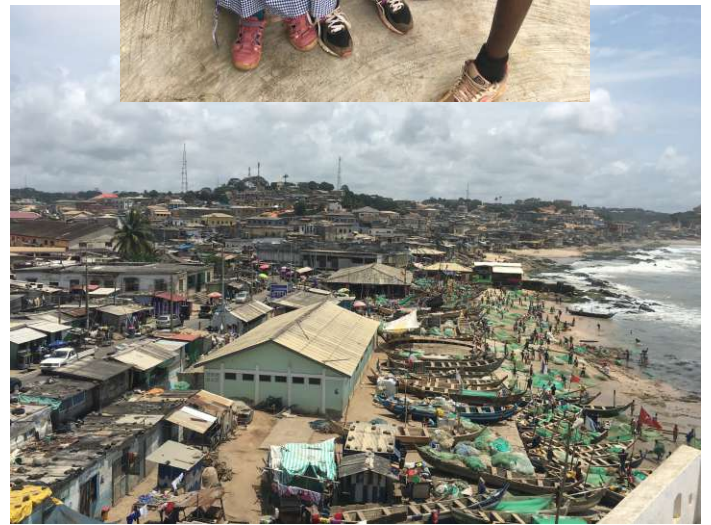
Treasurer and Acting Session Clerk:  
**Roy Alexander**  
Lochnagar, Main Street, Newtonmore PH20 1DR  
Tel: 01540 673422 E-mail: roya@a9partnership.co.uk





## JENNIFER BUCHAN IN GHANA

At the start of September, I left Scotland to spend six weeks in Ghana. While I was there I spent some time volunteering in an orphanage, teaching English and Maths at a school and did some shadowing in a local hospital. It was a very enlightening experience. I also enjoyed seeing sights in Ghana on a couple of weekend trips on safari and to the coast. Although sometimes challenging, living in Ghana taught me a lot and I witnessed much in daily life which was an eyeopener. I'm grateful for the experience and especially to those in the church who helped me raise funds so I could go!



# CALENDARS

Badenoch calendars, produced with photos taken by members of St Bride's and Laggan churches, are still available for sale at £5 each. Roy Alexander has the supply.