



St. Bride's Parish Church Newtonmore

NEWSLETTER



www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk

AUGUST 2017

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Summer is traditionally a time when people take a holiday, relax in the finer weather, have time to reflect and to plan. Of course, in an area where the weather is unpredictable and the main industry is tourism, summer doesn't work out that way for everyone! For some it is the busiest time. However, if a minister doesn't get some planning and reflective time in the summer months, then the chances are that she won't get any at all, because once the schools go back, almost before we know it, it is Christmas!

This summer I have been reflecting on the need for praise and action to be the central points of our faith. The older I get, and as I watch my children grow up I can begin to feel quite mature, the more I realise that Jesus said very little about what to believe, compared to what he said about how to live. Obviously, there are essentials to what Christians believe about God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, but Jesus summed up his teaching as love the Lord your God with your heart soul, mind and strength

and love your neighbour as yourself. The first part of this is shown by the second. We cannot claim to love God if we do not act in love to the people he created in his own image who are all around us. And not just some, and not just sometimes.

To keep our focus on this, we need to take time to reflect on the God whom we love; on who God is and what in Jesus God does for us, and then the loving action that we do is a part of our praise, and praise becomes a part of our lives, not an additional thing that we do for an hour on Sunday.

In the meantime, please mark 25th October in your diaries – it is a Wednesday. On that evening you can give your praise and your faith a shot in the arm if you come to a concert in St. Bride's which is being given by a swing duo, known as "Out of the Ashes". This couple comes highly recommended by one of the members of Laggan church, and we are looking forward to hosting them here.

Your minister, Catherine

ABERNETHY PRESBYTERY

Presbytery has not met since June when Rev Alison Burnside was elected Moderator for the coming year. Donald Barr is continuing as our presbytery elder and Roy Alexander, who is the convener of the presbytery Finance and Property Committee, continues as a freely elected elder.

At the June meeting, members received a presentation on the Path of Renewal from Rev Neil Meyer. His church in Kintore is already involved in this programme.

COMMUNION

The next quarterly communion is on Sunday 27th August 2017 at 11.15am. Please note the change from the usual first Sunday in September! There will be a retiring collection for Blythswood Care working in Serbia (see article).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 27th August - Communion
- Messy Church recommences
- 3rd September - Rev Mary Ellen Thomson
- 10th September - Worship Team
- 23rd September - Wedding at St. Bride's
- 30th September - Laggan sale (afternoon)
- 25th October - Concert in St. Bride's "Out of the Ashes"

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

Following a very successful concert in the Crown Church in Inverness in June, members of the Chorale have been enjoying a summer break. The next concert is in Dunkeld Cathedral on Sunday 17th September at 3.00pm.

The annual coffee morning will be held in St Bride's on Saturday 7th October 2017 from 10.15am to noon when the Chorale will be providing the entertainment.

BLYTHSWOOD CARE

Blythswood Care is renewing their appeal to provide essential food aid to migrants currently stranded in Serbia. Blythswood has been helping to feed people escaping from Syria and other conflict zones for nearly two years, but with more border restrictions now within Europe, several thousand migrants are effectively stranded within Serbia.

Co-workers in Serbia have shown great compassion to these strangers in their midst and while providing them with appropriate food, have recognised the social needs of people uprooted from their own homes and culture.

The "Blythswood Care Bananas" appeal was promoted at the High Field Sports Fair in Moy at the beginning of August. You can donate to this appeal at www.blythswood.org/bananas.

PATH OF RENEWAL

A few weeks ago, Rev Catherine Buchan, Campbell Slimon representing Laggan and Roy Alexander had an initial meeting with representatives of the programme. The next stage is that we have to attend one of the regional conferences at the end of September and these will be followed up by a meeting with the Kirk Sessions.

TWINNING

Things have been a little quiet on the twinning front of late and we have not heard too much from our friends in Libis and Kostelec. However, we hope to move our partnership forward with another visit. The weekend of 13-15th October four people from our two congregations, Ian and Jo Hall, Alan Buchan and Lesley

Gorman (and maybe a 5th person, still to be confirmed at time of writing) will make a visit to the Czech Republic to meet our partner churches. One of the things that we hope they can do is to help our partners to appoint someone other than Mirek, the minister, as the lead person in taking the twinning forward. Ministers tend to get caught up in a lot of things, and Mirek also has oversight of some Czech churches in Ukraine to take his time and attention. We will look forward to hearing from our visitors when they return.

THANKS

Jennifer Buchan is very grateful to all those who have shown an interest in her plans for her Gap Year, especially those who organised and attended an impromptu coffee morning in June which raised £235 to help towards her expenses. Jennifer leaves on 3rd September to spend six weeks in Kumasi, Ghana where she will be working in a hospital for three weeks and in an orphanage for the rest of the time. She is still finalising plans for the rest of the year, but it is unlikely that she will be at home for more than a couple of months.

HIGHLAND GAMES

Thanks to all who supported our stall at the Newtonmore Highland Games either by producing goods for sale or helping on the stall. This year we raised £564.35 for church funds, a big increase over the last two years. Special thanks to Jean Slimon who organised this.



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