



# St. Bride's Parish Church Newtonmore

# NEWSLETTER



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

FEBRUARY 2017

## FROM THE MANSE

In his item about the Presbytery, Roy, who is the current Moderator of Presbytery, has highlighted the continuing shortage of ministers within the Kirk. The way that we are used to thinking about the church, and organising ourselves has, up until now, been heavily dependent on having ministers for every parish, but the way that the current and future numbers of ministers seems to be going, either parishes will, in the very near future, have to become immensely bigger, or else we will have to think about more than half the parishes in Scotland being without a minister.

Traditionally we have called being without a minister being "vacant", which is perhaps an unfortunate term. The New Testament talks of the ministry of the whole people of God and its writers expect a church to make use of every member for its ongoing life of worship, fellowship, mission and service. It is a very healthy way to think of the church, not as the group of people who have someone decide things and do things for them, but as the group of people whose faith in Christ motivates them to use the gifts God gives them to work together to show God's love to each other and the world.

One of the things which we have been doing in St. Bride's over the past few months, is to begin to set in motion the various little groups, answering to the Session, which oversee different aspects of the life of our church: worship, outreach, children and youth work, finance and property, social events and pastoral care. While these groups are in their infancy, I see them as beginning a process which will, in a sense, "future-proof" the church. If we have groups of ourselves who are helping us all reach out, or care for each other, if we have a team, maybe put together between St. Brides' and Laggan, which can lead worship, at least occasionally, then we will be in a good position to face any changes in the form or even the governance of our church which may come our way.

Moreover, we will find that by taking responsibility and having more and more of us actively involved in the life of the congregation, we will get more out of our church. Those who are already involved with the Messy Church experience can bear witness to the fact that the more they work together, and the more effort they put in, the more they get from being part of Messy Church.

In this newsletter I should also like to pay tribute to the Messy Church team for another reason. Back in the beginning of December it was mostly the Messy Church

team who put together the phenomenal "Bubblegum and Fluff" programme for all the P6 children in the Strath. Explaining the Christmas message in activity, game, puppetry, drama and all sorts of other ways, children and teachers alike were impressed by the programme. But our presbytery Youth worker Gillian Orr, whose brain child this was, said that she, who has worked with many teams, has never worked with such an amazing team as this: who fitted together, trusted each other and carried the programme forward so seamlessly.

As we move into the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday is March 1st) maybe part of your Lenten challenge to yourself could be to see how you can be more involved in giving of yourself to the work of the church: and if that giving involves sitting in your chair and praying faithfully, believe me, you will be very much part of all the teams!

*Yours minister, Catherine*

## COLLECTIONS

As no doubt you are aware, there are three ways to contribute to church funds – by standing order direct to the bank, by weekly envelope or by casual donation into the weekly collection, and if there is a Gift Aid form completed, even better!

In St Bride's we are very fortunate to have a number of members who are willing to give the church over £1,000 a year and if it were not for these people, we would be in a totally different financial position and to lose one or two, would certainly make a big hole!

It is very important that all our members/adherents realise this and consider what they can do to assist, if not regular givers. Sets of envelopes commencing in April 2017 are now available from the Treasurer Roy Alexander. These are a good discipline for regular giving particularly if you are unable to attend church regularly. All givings are treated in total confidence by the Treasurer.



## 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-](http://www.stbrides-)



## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Our annual accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 were approved by Kirk Session on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January and will be made available to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting after the service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

The accounts show a reduced income in 2016 as compared to 2015 for various reasons, but because of necessary fabric expenditure which has only recently been completed the surplus of £1,166 shown for the year is a bit misleading and as a consequence, the budget for 2017 shows a projected deficit of £2,155 assuming income is maintained.

A copy of the simplified accounts can be obtained from the Treasurer on request if you are unable to attend the Stated Annual Meeting.

## CONCERT

The next concert in St Bride's is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm when the Icaria Duo playing harp and flute are the musicians. This concert is sponsored by The Tunnell Trust and tickets will be the usual prices of £7 and £5. Both performers studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

## BURNS SUPPER

Eighty five attended the Burns Supper arranged by the social committee in the Golf Club on 24<sup>th</sup> January. The event was a great success and we are very grateful to Chris Thomson (Piper), Campbell Slimon (Tam o' Shanter), John Hutchison (Immortal Memory) and Grant Frazer and Stuart Anderson (Entertainment) for making it such a successful and entertaining evening.

## COMMUNION

The next quarterly communion is on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 11.15am. There will be a retiring collection for Alzheimer's Scotland.

## BADENOCH CHORALE

Following a successful appearance at the Old High Church, Inverness lunchtime concert series recently, the Chorale is now working towards the adult night of the local music festival on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017, the Chorale will sing in Kingussie Parish Church at a concert to mark the restoration of the Kingussie organ. Fauré's Requiem will be the main work.

## PULPIT SWAP SUNDAY

This Presbytery initiative will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March when we will be welcoming Rev Donald Walker, minister of Abernethy linked with Boat of Garten, Duthil and Kincardine who is taking the services in Laggan and St Bride's. Rev Catherine Buchan will be taking services in Abernethy on that Sunday.

## PRESBYTERY

Deliberations on a new Presbytery Plan continue and realistically the presentation of a new plan seems to be a long way off. Representatives of the Presbytery have met with senior members of the Church of Scotland Ministries Committee in seeking a way forward, but the substantial expected drop in the projected number of ministers in the Church of Scotland by 2020 is proving to be a real challenge, as this will affect our current Presbytery allocation of 7.3. Our draft plan was based on two hubs, one in the north and one in the south of Abernethy Presbytery and while this may still be our plan, finance considerations will be one of the elements which will have to play a big part in future discussions.

Watch this space but do not expect a quick resolution.

## CHURCH FLOWERS

In recent years there has not been much activity on the flower calendar and we rely very heavily on Ann Hay to provide us with fresh flowers Sunday by Sunday. If you are interested to mark a special occasion, please put your name on the list. The suggested donation is £25.

## CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS Charity No SCO 05490

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