



# St. Bride's Parish Church Newtonmore

# NEWSLETTER



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

NOVEMBER 2016

## FROM THE MANSE

This newsletter comes to you at the beginning of Advent, when we begin our preparations for our Christmas celebration. And this year there is a change in our pattern of Christmas celebration. If you look in the "Christmas Services" section of this newsletter you will see that on Christmas Eve, it tells you that we are joining with our friends in Laggan church for a Watchnight service. The Session discussed long and hard before they made this decision, but it seemed good to us to celebrate with Laggan, instead of spreading ourselves more thinly over two concurrent services, which is what we have done up until now.

However, we know that not everyone who wants to attend the service will be able to get themselves to Laggan, which is why from November 20th there will be two lists in St. Brides. One will be for those who would like a lift to the Christmas Eve service, and the other for those who can offer a lift. In addition, when the usual church Christmas Card goes out it will include the minister's phone number so that those who can ask for or offer a lift can identify themselves. Finally, we will be putting up posters about the Christmas services around the village and will be concentrating on the hotels and guest houses, so that no one need be without a place to worship on Christmas Eve or, indeed, on Christmas Day (when folks from Laggan will be joining us in St. Bride's at 10.30 a.m.).

This is a change, and while most of us do not mind changes when they involve someone else, we are frequently less happy when they mean that we must be affected ourselves. This is human nature, but you do not need me to tell you that it is not really a Christian response to the world! As Christians we are called to work together, putting ourselves out, so that one way or another the good news of Jesus may spread in the world. So whether it is a matter of a Christmas service, or whether it is to do with the plans for the future of the presbytery, which would see changes in the way ministry happens in all our churches, we must remember that we are called on to love our neighbour as ourselves, which means putting others first. When we do this, the light which came into the world at Christmas with the birth of Christ will spread.

**Yours minister, Catherine**

## PRESBYTERY MATTERS

Roy Alexander as Moderator recently hosted a social visit for members of the Presbytery and spouses to the collection in Am Fasgadh. Due to the fact that unlike ministers, he does not have Sunday commitments, he is also currently attending Sunday services in all the other churches in the Presbytery while he is Moderator.

The new Presbytery meeting format is working well and discussions have so far focused on Caring for People and Empowering Local Leadership.

A new Presbytery plan is currently in draft form and discussions are taking place with all Kirk Sessions regarding a possible way forward for ministerial support in the future, given the projected shortage of ministers. In our current situation with a minister in post for Laggan and Newtonmore, any proposal is unlikely to affect us until our linkage becomes vacant at some point in the future.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Sunday 18th December

Carol service in Dalwhinnie at 6.30p.m.



### Saturday 24th December

Watchnight service in Laggan Church at 11.00p.m.

### Sunday 25th December

Family Christmas Day service in St Bride's at 10.30a.m.

Our soup and pudding Christmas lunch will be held on Sunday 11th December following the church service. Please note that anyone requiring or offering transport to the Watchnight service should contact the minister as soon as possible

## 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-)





## PRAYER

Do you believe in the power of prayer? Do you pray often enough? Here are some people whom you can include in your prayers.

- The ministers, OLMs, readers and other volunteers who take services in Presbytery churches every Sunday and look after pastoral matters.
- The team who lead Messy Church as they plan each month and lead families in creative worship
- Those in the Presbytery tasked with introducing the draft Presbytery plan to Kirk Sessions.
- Those who lead worship in the Mains care home every second Monday at 2-30p.m. and for those residents for whom this is the link with a life-time of worship.
- The congregations of Tomintoul, Inveravon, Aviemore and Alvie and Insh who have no permanent minister.
- Our Kirk Session and those on the Session groups as they develop the new way of leading our church.

## COMMUNION

The quarterly communion is on Sunday 4th December 2016 at 11.15a.m. when the retiring collection will be for the Christmas appeal for Save the Children. This appeal is to be made towards giving children both at home and abroad a brighter future.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

The Badenoch Chorale and Badenoch Fiddlers will combine for their annual carol concert on Saturday 17th December 2016 at 7.30pm. in St Bride's.

## BURNS SUPPER

The Social Committee are arranging a Burns Supper in Newtonmore Golf Club on Tuesday 24th January 2017 at 7.30p.m. An interesting programme is being prepared and this will include the appearance of Stuart Anderson (accordionist) with Grant Frazer who toured together as Scotland Sings. Campbell Slimon will do Tam o' Shanter and John Hutchison, the Chairman of the East Lochaber Laggan Community Trust, will do the Immortal Memory. Tickets will be available in mid December.

## PRESBYTERY MATTERS ON THE ROAD

The Church of Scotland has been holding roadshows all over Scotland in an attempt to get views on how the church should move forward given the sharp reductions in membership, in ministers and in elders. Around sixty attended the roadshow in Inverness and loads of different ideas and points of view emanated from the discussion. It is generally recognised that hub ministries will have to be introduced but things move (too) slowly in the Church of Scotland and although recommendations from those roadshows will be presented to the General Assembly in 2017, they are unlikely to be ratified until 2018!

## FINANCE

Our income is down a bit this year partially due to the fact that we have not had as many Sunday visitors as usual, but we are currently in surplus for the year and have a reasonable balance in the bank. We are however about to face a catch up situation in the maintenance of the manse and the property convener is currently 'on the case'. This work will make a dent in our bank balance so please do your best to give regularly to keep our funds in a satisfactory state.

## MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church has been going well over the last two months when we have been looking at some of Jesus' parables. The visual made for the parable of the sower is currently sitting in the vestibule. The last Messy Church is on 27th November as the last Sunday in December is Christmas Day.

## BUBBLEGUM AND FLUFF

The Messy Church team and the presbytery youth adviser will be joining forces in the first week of December to offer a two hour programme entitled 'Bubblegum and Fluff' to all Primary 6 pupils at primary schools between Aviemore and Gergask. On four mornings, different school groups will come to St Bride's to have an in-depth, hands on look at the Christmas Story. This is a new departure for all and the team would value your prayers for themselves and all the children who will be participating. Why 'Bubblegum and Fluff'? Well why not ask a child after they have been and see if they can tell you!

## 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

**Session Clerk:** **Ross Noble**  
Creageiro, Church Terrace, Newtonmore PH20 1DT  
Tel: 01540 673392 E-mail: rrossnoble@btinternet.com

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