



St. Bride's Parish Church Newtonmore

NEWSLETTER



www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk

AUGUST 2016

FROM THE MANSE

I hope that, weather apart, you had a good summer. In this area summer is often a busy time for us, as we live in a place where people like to visit. Some of us are involved in tourist-related activity, and others just have lots of friends and family passing through or coming to stay. In church we have the chance to welcome visitors from various places as well. I was most touched when on the last Sunday of July there was a French couple in church, worshipping with us, although they are Roman Catholics, because it was important to them to come to church and be with God's people the Sunday after a Priest was murdered in Rouen. We never know why our visitors might be among us, but our job – and you are good at this – is to make a welcome for all.

In August we had our usual tent at the Highland Games, with soup and baking. This year we were also giving away bags of blessing: small paper carriers with the church picture on the front and an invitation, a Bible verse bookmark, some tablet and a tea bag in each one. It is important that when we do things in the community we show that we are not just one more group or charity, but that we are the church of Jesus Christ.

Looking ahead, on September 9th we will have the privilege of a visit from acclaimed Christian musician, Ian White. Ian has been to Newtonmore before, maybe twenty years ago, and on that occasion I am told that the village hall was standing room only. However, memories are short, so we want to encourage all our friends to come to the church for a concert that will be a bit different. Ian's style is more easy listening than rock and roll, and he has made a special project of singing the Psalms to his own arrangements.

Many of you will remember how in 2015 we undertook the Community Bible Experience and read right through the New Testament. This Autumn we are planning to do the same, with a section of the Old Testament. More details to come.

As we move from summer into autumn, as the visitors thin out and the routines of life change, may we remember that in the times and seasons God is with us, and may we use every opportunity given us to come close to him in love and service.

Yours minister, Catherine

PRESBYTERY MATTERS

Roy Alexander was recently elected as Moderator of Abernethy Presbytery for the forthcoming year. This office is more often held by a minister but it is not unusual for a church elder to hold this position.

It is a particularly challenging time for Abernethy Presbytery due to the vacancies in several parishes and a new Presbytery Plan is currently under consideration to take account of this.

Ross Noble has recently retired as a freely elected elder in Presbytery and Phyllis Henderson has done likewise having served her period as St Bride's Presbytery elder. Donald Barr has taken over from Phyllis as our Presbytery elder.

Presbytery has recently agreed to a new format for meetings to allow more time for discussion and worship. This was prompted by a desire to ensure that everyone at meetings felt able to take part.

HIGHLAND GAMES

Thanks to all who assisted in any way with the tent at the Highland Games on Saturday 6th August when the sum of £404 was raised for church funds from the sale of soup and goodies. This is always a good way of showing that there is an active church in Newtonmore!

COMMUNION

The quarterly communion is on Sunday 4th September 2016 at 11.15am when the retiring collection will be for the Homeless in Inverness.

MESSY CHURCH / RHYME TIME

Rhyme Time has already recommenced for the winter session and meets every Tuesday morning.

Messy Church recommences on Sunday 28th August at 4.00pm. All welcome.

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-





DONALD BARR REPORTS...

You would expect the Church of Scotland to take its religion seriously. What I had not quite realised until I was a Commissioner (delegate) to the General Assembly in May was how seriously it takes its democracy. If it moves, form a committee, elect a convener, discuss the issue, vote, report to the Assembly, which may then further discuss and debate, and finally by one of two methods vote 'yes or no'. Method 1. A neat personal electronic voter with the result appearing on one of several screens. Method 2. Express approval or disapproval by the slightly ominous rumble of up to 1400 feet tapping on the wooden floor.

On current controversial issues the Church of Scotland was firmly on the side of remaining in the E.U. but pressing for some changes. We are presently and historically opposed to Trident.

There were two lively and close debates over whether, as an organisation with deep reservations about the use of fossil fuels, we should be retaining our shares in oil companies and whether we were opposed to all kinds of corporal punishment including a parent smacking a child. The decisions were 'no' to the former, (we should retain influence) and "yes we are" to the latter.

I remember, as a wee boy, watching a black and white TV report on the General Assembly and being mightily impressed by the Psalm singing of the all-male elders and ministers. I was even more impressed by attending the full colour live both-genderversion!!

BADENOCH CHORALE

The Chorale's next engagement is a joint concert in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church, Fort William on Sunday 25th September when we will perform in conjunction with a relatively new male voice choir from Fort William.

On Saturday 8th October 2016, the choir will be singing at its annual coffee morning in St Bride's Parish Church from 10.00am to noon. This has proved to be a very popular event in the past and hopefully there will be a good support again this year.

MANSE NEWS

I recently returned from an SU holiday at Lendrick Muir, near Kinross. Over the past five years I have attended many of these holidays. They include doing many fun activities, for example, zip lining and kayaking as well as teaching from the Bible. Camp has opened many doors for me and allowed me to meet many amazing people. Now I am also starting to attend camp as a trainee leader! *Jennifer.*

TWINNING

It is nearly a year since we had the eight visitors from Libis and Kostelec visit us here in Laggan and Newtonmore. Although since then we have remembered our partners in our prayers and some private communications have been exchanged, we have not done much more to take our twinning forward. Maybe it is time for another visit? Last year we said that now we have made our initial contacts, visits would be shorter, less formal, and involve fewer people. So if there is a couple of people who fancy a weekend in Libis, if we let our partners know, they will be happy to host you. You will find enough English is spoken that you do not need to feel completely out of things. And although the air fare to Prague from Edinburgh is not high, we can also ask the Church of Scotland to help with expenses for visits which promote inter-church twinings. If you think you might like to take on this mild adventure – and especially if you were not one of the visiting group last time – then please speak to the minister.

CONCERTS

IAN WHITE CONCERT

Ian White, who is best known for his series of recordings of settings of the Psalms, will give a concert in St Bride's on Friday 9th September at 7.30pm. Ian is a friend of Geraldine Cassidy who has been instrumental in arranging this concert for us. Ian White did perform in Newtonmore many years ago in the Village Hall, and we hope there will be good support for this return visit. He does not do many concerts so we are very fortunate that he is coming to Newtonmore.

KOSMOS

Kosmos will pay a return visit to St Bride's on Friday 11th November and entertain with music for violin, viola and accordion. They have been making a name for themselves and a few weeks ago performed on BBC radio. Harriet Mackenzie who has also played in St Bride's as part of the Sutherland Duo (October 2011) and Retorica (April 2015) is now also performing regularly as a soloist and recently recorded a CD with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Put the date in our diary!

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