



St. Bride's Parish Church Newtonmore

NEWSLETTER



www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk

MAY 2016

FROM THE MANSE

Changes in St. Bride's

At the Stated Annual Meeting of St. Bride's congregation in February the members of the church voted for us to change from what is known as Model Constitution, to a Unitary Constitution. This means that instead of managing the life of the church through a Congregational Board and a Kirk Session, we will have just the one body, the Kirk Session. They will manage the life of the congregation through various teams of people, most of whom will not be elders (although there will be at least one elder on each team). Each team will have oversight over a different aspect of the church's life. At the time I am writing this, we are planning that these teams should be:

- Worship committee – Sundays, Mains Home services and special services
- Finance and fabric committee – fundraising, buildings maintenance including manse, church garden
- Youth committee – Xplorers, Messy Church, Rhyme Time and any future developments
- Pastoral Care committee – prayer group, elders visits, special visits, presbytery elder
- Outreach committee - Come Again Sunday; contacting new people in the parish, newsletter; stall at the Newtonmore Highland Games; Christmas card etc.
- Social committee – lunches, concerts other church events.

These committees will not be set in stone. They reflect the life of St. Bride's as it is now, but nothing in the church is or should be static, and as the church grows and develops we may need at times to change the remits or even the titles of some committees.

We hope to begin working in this way during June and July, and currently the Session is considering who might make good members of the committees – considering all of our members and adherents. It may be that you will receive a visit or a phone call asking you to serve! It may be that you feel you would like to serve on one of these groups. If that is the case, don't wait to be asked, but contact the Minister or the Session Clerk!

We only go forward as God works through each and every member of the church.

Yours minister, Catherine

THE MODERATOR'S CHALLENGE

On a very cold Wednesday 4th May, three ministers from Abernethy Presbytery took part in the Moderator's Challenge when between them they cycled past all the churches in the Presbytery. Rev Gordon Strang did from Inveravon to Boat of Garten via Cromdale, Grantown, Dulnain Bridge and Carrbridge, Rev Donald Walker from Tomintoul via Abernethy to Boat of Garten and Catherine cycled from Laggan via St Bride's, Kingussie, Insh Village and Aviemore to Boat of Garten. In all 85 miles were covered. There were climbs covering 2886 feet! The total raised for St Andrew's Refugee Service of the Presbyterian Church in Cairo from our Presbytery will be over £2500 – a worthwhile effort with a lot of pain! Well done to all three.

BADENOCH CHORALE

The Chorale made a very successful appearance again at the Badenoch and Strathspey Music Festival retaining the coveted Burnard Trophy. Both the women and men sing separate items as well as the choir items. However, the competition is improving!

On Sunday 29th May the Chorale are signing in Nairn when the principal items will be Faure's Requiem.

HIGHLAND GAMES

We intend to have a tent again at the Newtonmore Highland Games on Saturday 6th August. This venture requires physical support as well as the provision of eats and drinks for sale in aid of church funds. Further details will be made available nearer the time.

COMMUNION

The quarterly communion is on Sunday 5th June 2016 at 11.15am when the retiring collection will be for Christian Aid.



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



CLERK TO THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

With the new Unitary constitution coming into effect, we will no longer have a Congregational Board. The Church wants to thank all who have served on it – some for far more years than they expected! The greatest vote of thanks goes to Mrs Kate Downie, whose service as Clerk to the Board can be measured, not in years, but in decades! Throughout these decades she has produced Minutes which as well as being accurate, have been the most beautifully scripted in Badenoch! A token of appreciation was presented to Kate at the last ever meeting of the Board on May 16th.

PRESBYTERY MATTERS

Our minister, Catherine Buchan, is delighted that her term as Clerk to the Presbytery of Abernethy will be completed on 28th June. In some ways this will free time up to give more energy to general presbytery matters, but it will also give more time for her two parishes. For the next year the Ppresbytery Clerk will be the retired minister, Rev. Jim MacEwan who previously held this position before Catherine. However there are many changes afoot in Abernethy Presbytery, and those who represent the churches in that court are always trying to find ways in which the various churches can work together more closely and assist each other when help is required.

MESSY CHURCH

Since Christmas Messy Church as looked at the Psalms and the Proverbs, before focussing on Easter for two sessions, one of which included a very informal, but moving sharing of bread and grape juice in an all-age communion. In May the theme will be Jesus' ascension to heaven, and will look at the question "What is he doing there?" And in June we will look at the coming and work of the Holy Spirit. Messy Church meets on the last Sunday of every month except July, from 4 till about 6, and is for all ages. The only rule is that children need to bring an adult.

STEVE AISTHORPE

On Friday 13th May, Steve Aisthorpe, our local Mission Development Worker (Church of Scotland) launched his new book – the Invisible Church: Learning from the experiences of churchless Christians. If you would like a copy of the book, please contact Catherine. The cost of the book is £14.99

'Steve Aisthorpe makes a very valuable contribution to our understanding of the growing number of Christians who are active in Mission but not part of local congregations. His insights drawn from extensive and careful research, make us think afresh about what God is doing in the Western World.'

NEWS OF OUR PARTNER CHURCHES

The Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCB), of which the churches in Libis and Kosteletk are members, has recently come under attack because of the welcome which they openly extend to refugees arriving within their country. As one of the few churches to welcome refugees whatever their religion, they are members of an organisation known as "Hate Free". Recently their offices in Prague were daubed with the words "Death to Hate Free" all over the building. We remember our friends in prayer, giving thanks for their courageous and Christian stance.

RHYME TIME

The last meeting of Rhyme Time before the summer will be on Tuesday 28th June. The group has met almost every week since the beginning of September, with up to twenty toddlers and their carers coming on any given week to enjoy singing, stories and rhythmic and rhyming fun. Recently a birthday party was held – for everyone's birthday over the course of the year! Mary, Ray, Morag and Frances who run the group will be glad of a rest over the summer, but the toddlers will be ready to return and pick up their drum sticks or shakers when the schools go back after the holidays.

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