



# St. Bride's Parish Church Newtonmore

# NEWSLETTER



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

AUGUST 2015

## FROM THE MANSE

As we enter the last third of the year, there are a couple of things coming up about which I am excited and I hope you will be as well. One is of course the visit of eight people from our twinned congregations in Libis and Kostalec. On September 26th Mirek, the minister, whom we have met before, will be arriving with representatives of his congregation to spend a week with us. You will find more details about this visit and what we hope it will contain for our guests, elsewhere in this newsletter. What I hope will come out of the visit is a better understanding of how our four congregations can work together and be helpful to each other. Our two churches here in Scotland are slightly larger and seemingly more active than the Czech congregations, but that does not mean that the giving and receiving must all be one way.

Just before the Czech visitors arrive, I am taking the best part of a week of study leave to give me time and space to work out a way of supporting the adults who come to our Messy Church and Rhyme Time, and who are ready to explore a bit more about the Christian Faith. Currently I am planning to devise four evenings where we can think about where people are with the idea of faith, and what it means to be a Christian in 21st century Scotland. Once these are prepared and ready to be used, I hope that there will be a few people from these groups (or others, of course) who will want to spend the time thinking about these things.

Something else which is not unrelated to our work with Rhyme Time and Messy Church is a conference which the presbytery is hosting on September 12th (Saturday) in Aveimore, called "How will our Children have Faith?". This is a question that many of you have when you think of your own children or grandchildren, so if you are free, I hope you will think of coming along. It is even more helpful if you let me know in advance, so that I can register your intention to attend, and give the organisers some idea of numbers!

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Meanwhile as a church we will continue to meet together for worship, and to seek opportunities to have fellowship and express our friendship in caring for each other as we see need. Caring for one another is one of the marks of a Christian community, and I am glad to say it is one which I have always found to be consistently and well done by the people of St Bride's.

Your minister, Catherine.

## TWINNING VISIT

On September 26th, just after the Laggan sale ends, eight people from our partner churches in Libis and Kostalec will arrive at Newtonmore station. We look forward to seeing our friend, Mirek Pfann, the minister again. With him he is bringing Mirka and Lubos Renkovi and their adult daughter, Martina, Jiri and Barbora Blachovi, and Tereza and Michal Praslickovi. Soon these will not just be difficult names for us but real people, which is exciting.

The group will be housed with members of our congregations, and that is all arranged. We look forward to having them with us at both of our services on the Sunday, some at one service and some at another, though Mirek will come to both. And then we hope that most of the group, if not all, will attend Messy Church on the afternoon of Sunday 27th. During the course of their stay we want to show them what we as a church do in our schools, at the Mains, and with the Rhyme Time group, as being involved with the local community is something that is more of a challenge in their situation. We also have plans to take them for a day to the Folk Museum. Other members of the congregations are being asked to host some or all of the group for a few hours at a time, so that as many of us as possible can get to know our guests.

On the Wednesday night (30th September) it is proposed that we hold a Scottish night in St Bride's Church for all the members of both of our congregations, with food and Scottish music and entertainment. The planning for this is in its infancy but it is intended that detailed plans, including the co-ordination of the food requirement, will be available soon. Some of us might find ourselves bringing tableware for eight and then taking it home again to wash up! Please plan to come to this evening, which will be a lot of fun for all of us, as well as a way to honour our guests.

On the Friday evening we plan to say goodbye to the visitors with a more low key pot luck supper in Laggan Hall. It is intended that a timetable of the whole week will be available by the middle of September, so that we can all see what is happening when and with whom. Once the visit is over we hope also to have a draft plan of our twinning agreement available for consideration.

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



## NEWS FROM MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church restarts after the summer on Sunday 30th August at 4.00pm. For the three autumn sessions we will be considering the theme of following Jesus by looking at some of the stories of people whom he called.

## PRESBYTERY

Abernethy Presbytery has new mission partners who will be visiting in October 2015. Joel and Fiona Hafvenstein both grew up in Nepal where their parents served with United Mission to Nepal. They are returning to Nepal to help the same mission team respond to and prepare for disasters like the earthquake of April 2015.

Look Joel up on Google to see some of his work in Afghanistan and latterly in the Middle East and Latin America. It is quite a story!

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

In recent months we raised £296.75 for Souper Sunday in aid of HIV Aids. This was a joint effort with Laggan Parish Church. For Christian Aid, we were able to send a cheque for £198.75.

## BADENOCH CHORALE

The Badenoch Chorale are signing in Dornoch Cathedral on Sunday 27th September at 7.00pm when they will perform Mozart's Coronation Mass followed by a selection of appropriate music from their expanding repertoire.

On Saturday 10th October, there will be a coffee morning in St Bride's Parish Church to raise money for choir funds. As last year, the Chorale will sing periodically throughout the coffee morning.

The June concert took place in Kingussie Church due to some difficulties with arrangements for the Aviemore Centre. The concert was a great success and nearly £1,000 was raised for the purchase of mountain rescue equipment.

## HIGHLAND GAMES

The church tent at the Highland Games raised £376 for church funds in spite of the wet weather. Thanks are due to all who helped and braved the inclement weather.

## FINANCE

Income has continued to be steady and collections are up by £1,077 in the first seven months of the year. This represents an increase of 8%.

## COMMUNION

There will be the usual quarterly communion on Sunday 6th September 2015 at 11.15am. The retiring collection on this occasion is for Blythswood Care.

Everyone is welcome to join us around the Lord's table.

## BAPTISMS

The baptism at Messy Church duly took place on 31st May 2015. This was followed by a further baptism at Rhyme Time on Tuesday 14th July when many of the regular parents and children assembled to witness one of their members being christened. It was certainly a baptism with a difference and a great and lively time was had by all.

## SCOTTISH NIGHT

Phyllis Henderson is on the lookout for volunteers to host a table for this event on Wednesday 30th September. No cooking is required! Hosts will be required to dress the table and supply crockery, cutlery and glassware. Please let Phyllis know by mid September if you are willing to do this. Look out for further information in the church intimations.

## CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS

<u>Minister:</u>	Rev Catherine Buchan, The Manse, Fort William Road, Newtonmore PH20 1DG Tel: 01540 673238 E-mail: catherinebuchan567@btinternet.com
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