



St. Bride's Parish Church Newtonmore NEWSLETTER



www.spanglefish.com/stbrides

FEBRUARY 2015

FROM THE MANSE

Welcome to the new-look newsletter! The editorial role has been taken over by Roy Alexander, and I am very grateful to him for doing this. At a recent Messy Church we were thinking about what it means for us to be the Church together, and I pointed out that it is only when various people do different things in the church that we really function as a church at all. A church that is all about (and where every task is done by the minister) is not a church. It is one person and a group of spectators.

In St. Brides I am pleased to see various people taking responsibilities, helping in worship, looking after the building, planning the Messy Church, leading the Rhyme Time, helping with the soup and pudding lunches and so much more. It is a sign of a healthy church when lots of people have something to do, and whatever you do is not unimportant in making us a rounded church community.

It is a sad truth that whenever groups of ministers get together there seems to be a certain amount of moaning goes on. I was at such a gathering recently and having heard the usual gripes I said "I have the best congregations." We are not the biggest congregation, but we do work at things together, and I know that I have your support in the new initiatives which we try.

One of these is the Bible Study where we are currently the middle of our study. I know that many of you are attending the Bible Study groups and more of you are reading along through the New Testament at home without coming to the groups. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm! As one person, who has been reading the Bible all her life said, "Reading it this way is completely enthralling." If you have not tried it yet, there are still a few copies of "The Books of the Bible, the New Testament" at the back of the church, and anyone can start the weekly readings any time, even if you will be a bit behind the study groups.

Your minister,
Catherine Buchan

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.spanglefish.com/stbrides.

NEWS FROM MESSY CHURCH

The Messy Church goes from strength to strength. Each month we average 35-40 people, including the team, and the sense of purpose and unity that has developed is very encouraging. In November of last year we tackled the theme of money and giving in a Christian context - one of the crafts which we used was a sparkly gold play-doh which was very popular. In December we looked at the Christmas message, which January saw us working out what it means to be church together. This was an important theme, as Messy Church is not a just a church club, but it is church, worship, just done in a rather different way. The crafts with which we begin the sessions are all related to the theme or story, and it all comes together when we gather to think, usually actively, about what we have been doing and what the Bible says. The afternoons finish with us eating together, having time to talk, to think informally about our theme or story, and we always remember to celebrate the up-coming birthdays for the next month.

In the past we have celebrated a very simple communion with the Messy congregation, which is something we hope to do again soon, and it looks like the next baptism at the church may happen on a Messy afternoon as the baby - not yet born - will be joining a Messy Church family. Anyone is always welcome to come and see what goes on, and if you would, please come prepared to join in!



TWINNING

St. Bride's and Laggan have been invited to send people in April 2015 to the churches in Czechoslovakia with whom we are interested in joining in a formal twinning arrangement.



COMMUNION

There will be our usual quarterly communion on Sunday 1st March 2015 at 11.15am. There will be a retiring collection for Tearfund a founding member of the Disaster Emergency Committee. After the service there will be the monthly Soup and Pudding Lunch.

CONCERT FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Roy Alexander has organised a concert for Christian Aid to celebrate his forthcoming 75th birthday. This will take place on Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 7.30pm in St Bride's when the music will be provided by Retorica, consisting of Harriet Mackenzie (violin) who has played in St Bride's with both The Sutherland Duo and Kosmos, and Philippa Mo (violin) her regular partner in this duo. Harriet is now in great demand all over the world and due to her friendship with Roy is not taking a fee for her part in the concert. All donations will be given to Christian Aid.

BADENOCH CHORALE

The Badenoch Chorale are taking part in both the Inverness Music Festival and the Badenoch and Strathspey Music Festival at the beginning of March. As well as participating as a full choir, the ladies and gents will also be taking part as separate ensembles. The adult evening for the local festival is on Thursday 12th March 2015 in Kingussie High School.

EASTER SERVICES

The extra services at Easter will this year be as follows:-

Maunder Thursday	2nd April 2015 at St Bride's	7.30pm
Good Friday	3rd April at Laggan	7.30pm

There will be an Easter Day service on Sunday 5th April at the usual time.

ADVERTISING AT THE EILAN

Arrangements are being made to advertise St Bride's at the Eilan. We are grateful to Newtonmore Camanachd Club for kindly waiving the rentals.

FINANCE

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2014 again had a surplus and it was good to build up our bank balance which stood at £25,293. No two years are the same and in 2014 we benefitted from one off donations to the Stewardship Campaign, a legacy of £1,000 and an increase in tax recovered as a result of the new scheme for gift aid on small donations of up to £5,000 annually.

Our Stewardship Campaign did result in an increase in givings from some of the congregation but given the age of many of our members, it remains a success if we more than balance our books! Thanks to all who contributed in 2014.

STATED ANNUAL MEETING

Our Stated Annual Meeting will take place after the service on Sunday 8th March 2015.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 6th March. We will join Laggan and Kingussie congregations for a service in Laggan Church at 2.00p.m. This year's material is produced by the women of the Bahamas.

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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