

ST. BRIDES PARISH CHURCH, NEWTONMORE

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2014

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From the Minister's desk...

As I write this we have just launched our stewardship campaign: Forward in Faith. But the time you get this in your hands our gathering on the 28th of August will be upon us or will be over. I am sure that it will have been a good evening of food, laughter, information and worship. However I also know that some of you will not be able to make it to that gathering. This does not mean that you will not be able to have some of the information that we will be looking at there: your visitors will come to you and deliver packs of information with a response form and an envelope, so no one need feel left out.

The stewardship campaign is the final element of a busy summer. Already we have seen many volunteers going out to deliver copies of Luke's gospel to all the homes in the parish, and quite a few of these volunteers have stories to tell of people who were glad to receive such a gift. And then at the beginning of August we had our usual presence at the Highland games, which raised just over £400 for church funds and showed the church's human face at the heart of this community.

And then there was the Holiday Club. The theme of the club was "Fit for a King" and in many different ways, most with a sporting theme, we tried to help the seventeen children who attended learn more about how God's forgiveness makes us fit to be followers of the King of Kings. We sang, we danced (yes, really) we did silly things, we made crafts, we played games, we read the Bible, we had quizzes and memory verses, and at the end the team of helpers, who were magnificent, were just about ready to drop, and the children said they had had a great time. If 17 children now associate church with God's love, and think of it as a place where we can laugh as we learn, then it was more than worth the effort!

After the stewardship campaign I will be taking two weeks of study leave. This is not extra holiday, but a time when I can attend a course to help me think through how the church is, or needs to be changing, and how we can be a changing church without losing our identity or the things which we value most about what has come to us from the past. Although most of our weekly worshippers are on the plus side of 50 years of age, one of the things that I value most highly about our congregation is that in the time I have been with you, I have always found you forward looking, and seeking to embrace new challenges and new people. There is fine line to walk between being only the church for today or only the church for tomorrow, and I know that as I lead your weekly worship, or help the Session plan new initiatives, I cannot always get it right for everyone. However by God's grace I will keep on studying to be the best minister for this church in these days that I can be, and I thank you for your encouragement to me to keep on doing that.

Your minister,

Catherine Buchan.

COMMUNION

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at our morning service, 11.15 a.m., on Sunday 7th September. All followers of Christ are welcome to join us around the Lord's Table. At the service a retiring offering for The Alzheimer's Society will be taken.



LOOKING AHEAD

August 28th 6.30 p.m. Forward in Faith Gathering, St.

Bride's church

August 30th 11-3, Church Open Day

August 31st Morning: service of blessing for Frazer Macadie

Afternoon: New session of Messy Church

Evening: Songs of Praise service at Cromdale church

September 7th, Communion Service, 11.15 a.m.

September 15th and 21st Rev. Doug McRoberts leads worship (minister on study leave)

September 28th Harvest Thanksgiving service

Messy Church



LAGGAN SALE

Many people look forward to the annual Laggan Church sale, famous for its teas and its venison. This year it will be held on Saturday 20th September, from 2-4 p.m. Teas will cost £3.00, but entrance is free if you are able to resist the wonderful home baking!

If you ever have to miss worship and want to catch up with the sermon, you can find it on the St. Bride's website, at www.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk. It gets posted there a couple of days after the relevant Sunday! You will also find the weekly notices and other information there. Check it out!

Church Office Bearers

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