

# ST. BRIDES PARISH CHURCH, NEWTONMORE NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2013

Scottish Charity Number SCO005490

From the minister's desk

At a recent Session meeting I was asked if I would write something for this newsletter about Messy Church. Messy Church is one of the big stories of St. Bride's this year, having started at the end of September and met on the last Sunday of every month since, including a Messy Christmas and as Messy Easter celebration.



So what is Messy Church? It is a two hour - more or less - session for all ages where we explore a story or a theme from the Bible through hands-on craft work, first of all. So when we explored Pentecost at the end of April, we had crafts which made use of light, to remind us of the tongues of fire which the disciples saw when the Holy Spirit was given them; we had a large collage of a hot air balloon, to bring together the idea of fire and the rushing wind which was heard when the Spirit was given, and the idea of God's Spirit being like the breath of life for us. We also made paper aeroplanes - we later used them in a creative prayer - we decorated cakes with icing shaped like doves, and we made kites. And through all of these things, those who were helping lead the different crafts were sharing different aspects of the Bible story conversationally.

After that we come together for about 15 minutes of more formal worship, with singing, prayer and a presentation about the story or theme, and then it is through to the hall to eat together: eating together was an important feature of the early church, and really helps to bind us as a group, or congregation.

Because that is the point of Messy Church. It is not a way to get people to start coming to "normal" church, though of course if people do, then they are more than welcome. Messy Church is church, but done differently. If you like it is an expression of church running parallel to the more traditional service on a Sunday morning. There is overlap between the two congregations, but both are part of the St. Bride's and Laggan church family.

The numbers coming to Messy Church has varied, but usually we have had between 20 and 25 children with almost the same number of adults present. Children must come accompanied (but adults are allowed to come even if they don't bring a child, and there are some who do so). So give God thanks for Messy Church and for the team of people who are prepared to put in the work and time to lead it: it is making a real difference to people in our parishes.



Your Minister, Catherine.





## COMMUNION

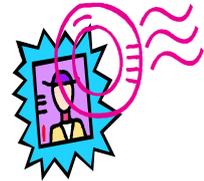
The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at our morning service, 11.15 a.m., on Sunday 2nd June. All followers of Christ are welcome to join us around the Lord's Table. At the service a retiring offering for Christian Aid will be taken.

### *Placement*

*On June 2nd Mrs Mary Ellen Thomson will begin a year's placement with us as her probationary training prior to eventual ordination as an Ordained Local Minister. Mary Ellen, who is well known to us, will be with us on most Sundays and be taking part in activities and meetings during the week as well.*

### **Stamp project**

The 2013 Stamp Project, which will receive the money gained from sale of used stamps, is an ecological project run by the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (the church with whom we hope to find a twinning partner). It is one of the ways that the church is trying to show people that they care for God's creation. Please remember to cut off your used stamps and put them in the red box by the church door.



## LOOKING AHEAD



June 2nd Communion  
June 6th Athenaeum Winds concert, St. Bride's 7.30 p.m.  
June 15th Day conference about congregational twinning, Fort Augustus  
July 2-16th Minister on holiday  
July 21st Laggan church picnic at Ardverikie  
August 3rd Newtonmore Highland Games  
August 25th New session of Messy Church

*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](http://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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