

LAGGAN AND NEWTONMORE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND KIRK SESSION
Minutes of meeting held via Zoom on November 10th 2020 DRAFT

1.Welcome. Rev. Catherine Buchan welcomed everyone including members of Kingussie Session for the Christmas discussion and opened the meeting with a Bible reading and prayer.

2. All Things Christmas:

Plans made by Christmas Planning Group to take Christmas outside and help provide some light and hope : Laggan Christmas tree to go outside (as requested by Laggan Community Council) Church bells to ring at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve, Laggan church to have pictures projected on the outside wall, illuminated stars and festive words on the railings.

St.Bride's to have an outdoor nativity scene (possibly with a modern twist) a reverse advent calendar cupboard where people can leave gifts to be distributed to those who might need them, and a smallish Christmas tree. Children from both schools to be given a laminated star and invited by Catherine via a recorded assembly to write a message of hope on it and tie it on one of the Christmas trees. Festive words also to be placed on railings. Bells to ring at 6pm.

Kingussie Church to have the Yew tree on the left hand side lit up with loads of lights, Gilly has obtained funding for this.

New items discussed and agreed during the meeting. Kingussie children also to get laminated stars (subject to Catherine speaking to new headmistress) and tie them on railings. Kingussie and Insh bells also to ring, and a tree to be decorated at Insh – Gilly to ask if funding could be extended for this. Tea light, lamps etc to be placed in windows during bell ringing, people to stand outside and clap/ring a handbell and sing a carol (if comfortable doing this) after the bells have stopped ringing. Notices to be placed in Main Street of Newtonmore and Kingussie advising people of this.

Two services to be recorded, one for Facebook on Christmas Eve, and a Lessons and Carol one for the fourth Sunday in Advent. Roy to arrange a gathering at the golf club for those who are on their own to watch a Carol service on tv. Christmas cards to be delivered to everyone, outlining events happening.

Kingussie elders left at this point .

2.Present. Rev Catherine Buchan, Alison Armstrong, Campbell Slimon, Phyllis Henderson, Roy Alexander, Beth Alder, Morag Barr, Jean Slimon, Graham Grant, Lesley Gorman.

In attendance George Alder

3.Apologies. Ian Hall, Ray Ritchie, Mary Kirk, Heather Bruce, Hilda Saunders

4.Approval of Session Minutes held on 16/9/2020.

Approved Phyllis Henderson, **Seconded,** Roy Alexander

5. Matters Arising. Business size church info cards, **Communications team** as Jean Noble has had to leave the group and Ian hall has stepped back, the group will need **new members.** Church website **lan** is progressing finding someone to cover putting the service online in his absence . **Alison** has not yet been able to meet with Colin Mcphail to go over website procedure, due to Covid visiting

restrictions. She suggested the website is upgraded at some point as it seems a web presence is going to continue to be important after covid and we need one which can host videos and be a bit more lively looking. Catherine may set up a Laggan and Newtonmore Facebook page as another way of publicising events and news. Laggan toilets. The transfer of the toilets to Laggan Trading Company is ongoing. Comfort payments have been extended to the end of January. The cleaning out work has been completed but more work is needed though they are currently open. Estates and church sale Campbell has written to the 5 Estates, Ardverikie replied saying they support the church via their Open gardens day, Jamaha won't give a financial contribution but hope to offer support in kind, Coul sent a cheque for £250, Campbell will write to thank them. Replies awaited from Cluny and Ben Alder. Church Calendar Catherine to ask Jill Warner to see if Laggan hotel would take some copies to sell. Laggan Prayer Services have started and going well, 12 people have been coming. Monday evening one in St. Bride's to continue, Catherine to look into moving the Thursday evening one to the afternoon, to enable Glengrove residents to go. Christmas cards Jean Noble is busy with caring for Ross, so Catherine has selected a photo to be used, Beth will arrange Laggan distribution, Jean Slimon will arrange Newtonmore's, Roy to negotiate with Grovers and check numbers for Laggan. Remembrance services took place on Sunday 8th November under the Church's responsibility as the local British Legion have disbanded. Blythswood Boxes – details were distributed. Organists, Roy spoke to Liz who was happy not to be paid for the first quarter.

6: Minister's Report: There have been 2 recent deaths of members, Neil Campbell and Rita Drummond. The December wedding in Laggan has been postponed for a year. On the Church of Scotland Website there is a link to a listening exercise with is a questionnaire about how people throughout the church have experienced faith and church during the corona virus pandemic. We are all encouraged to complete it. On Monday 23rd November in Abernethy Presbytery there is a conversation with Michael Harvey about how the church has helped to reach out to others which will be available via the internet. Catherine will forward details to anyone interested and also try to get links for any evening meetings for those who can't make the afternoon.

7: Financial Report: A survey of churches throughout the Presbytery has shown that many churches have suffered a loss of income due to lack of hall rentals etc. Laggan and Newtonmore are fortunate not to be in this position. There are no Mission and Ministry contributions for December and in 2021 our contribution to this is to reduce by £4330. There will also be no Presbytery charge in 2021. The insurance issue has been sorted with the increase not happening.

8: Property Report : George to follow up repairs to the Newtonmore Vestibule.

9: Reports from other Session Groups: Outreach group are arranging Christmas card distribution and involved in Taking the Church Outside planning. Pastoral group have been keeping in touch with people by phone.

10: Presbytery Report . The Presbytery plan has been passed and approval has been given to appoint 2 Fresh expression workers, but there is one more stage before the posts can be advertised. There was a weekend General Assembly Weekend at the start of October, and the buildings issue was

highlighted. Each session has to read the Well Equipped Spaces in the Right Places document and answer 2 questions by the end of January,

1) What is the mission of our congregation and

2) How far are each of our buildings necessary/helpful in fulfilling this mission.

Catherine will send the link to the document and we will meet in January to consider our answers.

As the move towards a Highland Presbytery continues, 4 zoom conferences have been arranged, Beth has attended the first of these, with about 40 people in attendance. The formation of the Highland Presbytery has been delayed until a year in May.

13: AOCB - None

14. DONM Tuesday 19th January 2021 7.00pm to discuss Buildings issue and maybe accounts..

The meeting closed in prayer. **DRAFT**