

# NEWSLETTER



Church of Scotland  
Kingussie Linked with  
Laggan and Newtonmore

[www.kingussielaggannewtonmorechurch.com](http://www.kingussielaggannewtonmorechurch.com)

JANUARY 2024

## From our Interim Moderator

As you will gather from reading the Newsletter progress is being made with the search for a new minister following the election of a Nominating Committee and I ask that you keep them in your prayers as they set about this important task on your behalf. All matters relating to the committee's business are confidential and cannot be discussed with anyone outside of the committee. This is very important so please do not ask questions of any of the committee who will present you, in due course, with the Sole Nominee whom they think will be the right minister for the charge. A Sunday will be set apart for that person to preach and then you will have the opportunity to vote for or against them becoming your minister.

Before this stage can be reached, the committee require to agree the final Parish Profile covering the parishes of Kingussie and Laggan and Newtonmore and then they can advertise, inviting ministers, or candidates seeking their first charge, to apply for the vacancy. Once CV's have been examined, the committee will decide on the applicants they would like to hear preach, and, if and when appropriate, will interview them. We pray that there will be a good response and a choice of applications. We can only be patient and wait and see.

# Easter

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been.  
Forth, he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain,  
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen.

*Love is come again,  
like wheat that springeth green*

CH4 417 John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872 – 19580

As I write this in the early morning, I am thinking of the Easter season which is nearly upon us. We are just over one week away from Palm Sunday when we celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, leading us into Holy Week. We are fortunate to be able to celebrate Communion on Maundy Thursday in St Bride's at 7-00p.m. on the day it was instigated by our Lord. On Good Friday in Laggan at 7-00p.m. we think of the crucifixion of our Lord, reminding ourselves that he died for each one of us and on Easter Day in Kingussie at 10-30a.m. we rejoice, celebrating the rising of Christ, a sharp contrast to Friday.

I hope to see you at least at one or more of these special services. I wish you a very happy Easter when it comes.

“Come see his hands and his feet, the scars that speak of sacrifice, hands that flung stars into space, to cruel nails surrendered. So let us learn how to serve, and in our lives enthrone him; each other's need to prefer, for it is Christ we are serving. This is our God the Servant King, he calls us now to follow him, to bring our lives as an offering of worship to the servant king.” (Graham Kendrick)

Take care and God bless

Christine - Interim Moderator

## Newsletter By E-mail

If you would prefer to get your Newsletter (and any other communications) by e-mail please contact your Session Clerk – Alison Armstrong or Sandy Peebles with your e-mail address. This would be more eco-friendly and save delivery time.

## 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.kingussielaggannewtonmorechurch.com](http://www.kingussielaggannewtonmorechurch.com)





## Nomination Committee

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February the following were appointed to the Nomination Committee. Angus Armstrong, Jill Warner, Eileen Feilen, Carole Gutteridge and Roy Alexander will represent Laggan and Newtonmore while Sandy Peebles, Bob Stirling, Eppy Mackay and Jinty Moffett will represent Kingussie. The committee will be chaired by Sandy Peebles with Jill Warner as vice chair and Roy Alexander as the secretary. Now that we have permission to call a minister and have a nomination committee in place, we can now advance our search for a new minister to serve us.

A profile for the parishes is being prepared and a subcommittee is considering what type of minister we would like to encourage. An advert will shortly be placed on the Church of Scotland website where churches looking for a minister normally advertise.

## Badenoch Chorale

The Chorale are currently practising for a Coffee Morning in St Bride's on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. This will be a fundraiser for the Chorale to assist with the purchase of new music and pay for the heat and light for the use of St Bride's for practices. Entry will be by donation.

Following the coffee morning the Chorale will be practising for a return visit to Dornoch Cathedral on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June. It will be good to go back to sing again in that lovely space. Dornoch Cathedral has just celebrated 800 years of worship.

The Chorale has a new accomplished accompanist in Carolyn Turner who has taken over from Bex Lockyer. Thanks are due to Bex for the time she spent with the Chorale and it is good that Carolyn has agreed to take over. We are pleased to see Alan Simpson back singing with us after a long period of illness.

## Presbytery

The new Highlands and Hebrides Presbytery is now up and running! Hubs have been setup for presbytery meetings and members can attend a hub or lock on to Zoom. The local hub for members of the old Abernethy Presbytery is in the church hall in Kinraig and our elders Beth Alder and Roy Alexander attended the first meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March. It proved to be a bit of a marathon and lasted three hours but hopefully business will be conducted more swiftly in future as there was a lot of initial business which is unlikely to require the same amount of time. The next meeting will be in June using the same format and then there will be an in-person weekend in Aviemore in September when there will be a chance to become more familiar with the main personnel.

## Dates for the diary

Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Badenoch Chorale coffee morning 10-00a.m. to Noon
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Maundy Thursday Communion in St Bride's Church at 7-00p.m.
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday service in Laggan at 7-00p.m.
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Sunday service in Kingussie Church at 10-30a.m.
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Guest preacher Rev Michael Mair in St Bride's at 11-30a.m.
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Stated Annual Meeting for Laggan and Newtonmore
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Helping Hands lunch in Laggan Hall at Noon to 1-30p.m.
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Organ recital in Kingussie Church at 7-00p.m.

## Property matters

The manse continues to be work in progress and various options are being assessed. Quotes for essential work in the manse have been submitted to Chris Mackay for consideration. and affordability may have to be taken into account. Meanwhile some planning options are also being explored.

Substantial and unexpected work was required on the roof of St Bride's. What was thought to be a simple repair grew arm and legs due to water damage over a long period. Further roof work is required once the weather is more settled. Work on the church steps was started but the weather intervened and hopefully all the necessary work will be completed soon. One 'clear out' day has already taken place and another will be held shortly to tidy things up in anticipation of getting a new minister.

## Laggan and Newtonmore Accounts

The accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 were recently approved by the Trustees (Kirk Session) and have since been independently examined. They will be presented in a simplified form to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting following the service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

In summary the accounts show that our general income was down by £5,512 over the previous year. General expenditure was down by £4,900 and at the end of the year our general funds amounted to £55,873. Our main expenditure was our contribution to the funds of the central church of £16,115, church fabric expenditure of £9,545 and manse expenditure, including making it wind and watertight, of £11,547. As mentioned previously, our finances will change substantially when we find a new minister and face financial challenges.



## WFO Envelopes in Laggan and Newtonmore

More details on our financial requirements will be sent out in due course if and when we are in a position to call a minister! In the meantime, we need to encourage regular giving and in a change from the procedures of the past, all donations on a weekly basis under £30 automatically give rise to Gift Aid under the small donations scheme, so there is no need to record these donations. To encourage regular giving, offering envelopes for the next year will be available to uplift from the back of the church and donations given in this way will therefore be anonymous, but hopefully regular! Our expenditure will increase substantially when we find a minister, so this is an opportunity for us to be better prepared.

## Laggan Church

Highlands and Hebrides Presbytery have now approved the sale of Laggan Church and procedural matters have now been passed to the General Trustees to prepare the sale particulars. This may not happen quickly while titles are investigated, and you will be kept informed as matters progress. In the meantime, it has been confirmed that sale proceeds will come to Laggan and Newtonmore after deduction of a sale fee. Services can continue in the church until such time as a sale is made and it will then depend on the purchaser as to whether services continue thereafter. Irrespective of the sale, our parish remains Kingussie linked with Laggan and Newtonmore. Interestingly Alvie Church and Kincardine Church have recently been purchased by the estates surrounding them.

## Kingussie News

There will be an organ recital on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7-00p.m. when the Dutch organist Diederik Blankesteyn will play. He has previously played when John Crombie was on holiday.

The community cafe continues to operate every Thursday from 10-00a.m. to 4-00p.m. and it has been rewarding to see the regular visitor numbers increasing. There is lots of friendly chat when coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits are served throughout the day and soup and bread are available at lunchtime. Music by John Crombie in the morning is enjoyed as is the company of a group from Kingussie High School who regularly volunteer in the afternoon.

The craft stall continues to contribute to church funds and all the work given for sale is appreciated. Thanks are also due to those who assist with the Sunday coffee rota!

In the pipeline... a film night and a music event with pupils of Kingussie High School.

Attention will be given at a forthcoming meeting to the church website which is not fully operational.



## Pulpit Fall

Those attending St Bride's recently cannot miss the beautiful pulpit fall made by Carole Gutteridge specially for Lent. This was the second one Carole had prepared and it is great to see her great embroidery skills used to beautify the church. Thank you to Carole for doing this.



## Bible Study

A bible study group has recently been set up organised by Joy and Angus Davidson. It meets once a month on the afternoon of the second Friday of the month and normally conducts its studies on the bible readings for the previous Sunday. Anyone who is interested should speak to Joy or Angus.

## A Prayer

We pray to God to eradicate all the misery in the world  
That understanding may triumph over ignorance  
That generosity triumph over indifference  
That trust triumph over contempt  
That truth triumph over falsehood

(A Zoroastrian prayer)





## Angus Armstrong in Rwanda

I have spoken in Church about the work of CED a couple of times now and have always been heartened by the response people give. The last time I spoke was in January 2023 when I shared a little about a trip to Rwanda, and as a follow on to that, I returned to Rwanda in the first half of February this year. This was to be a fact-finding tour as we explore new ways in which we can help folk there to help themselves.

I travelled North, South, East and West looking at rainwater harvesting projects, specialist filters, mud houses, a number of schools and a number of churches. Everywhere you go people would like help with all sorts of things. Some are just not within the remit of CED but many are and it is hoped that a programme of projects will come out of this trip to help more people stand firmly on their own two feet.

I have kindly been invited to give another short presentation in St Bride's on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May at the Laggan and Newtonmore joint service. This will be an opportunity to hear and see a little more of this beautiful country.



### CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS

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