

# NEWSLETTER



Church of Scotland  
Kingussie Linked with  
Laggan and Newtonmore

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

DECEMBER 2023

## From our Interim Moderator

As I sit at my computer this slightly dull morning before heading off to Edinburgh for a Diabetes Tech Can't Wait Campaign Launch at the Scottish Parliament, I am conscious that we are nearly at Advent when we prepare for the big event of Christmas and what it really means. Where does all the time go? In the lead up to Christmas, we have quite a number of things taking place in our Kingussie and Laggan and Newtonmore Parishes as you will see in this newsletter.

For the first time since our minister Catherine Buchan left, we can be a little more certain that we will be given permission to seek a new minister. In a few weeks we hope to be able to hold separate congregational meetings to elect one joint Nomination Committee, representative of both congregations, to be given the job of searching for a new minister. I pray that you will seriously consider whether or not you would wish to be nominated. In due course we will hear from Presbytery how many are to be on this committee and the number from each congregation. There will be an intimation in church as to when the meeting will take place and how to put or have your name put forward. If there are more nominees than places, there will be a vote.

The Worship Group recently met and arranged services until the end of February and this list has been approved by the two Kirk Sessions. There will be quite a number of services around the Christmas weekend so you will not be spoiled for choice. You will be welcome to come to all or any as you wish.

I pray that together we will look forward to Christmas and feel and know what Christmas is really about, The celebration of the Birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Please take care and best wishes.

Christine

### EDITOR COMMENT

I am sure we all wish Christine a Merry Christmas and in so doing also thank her for her dedication to helping us as our Interim Moderator since the beginning of 2023.

## PRESBYTERY PLAN

After months of discussion the Abernethy Presbytery Plan was finally agreed, and this will now continue into the new Highlands and Hebrides Presbytery until the next review. As it stands the Church authorities want Laggan Church to be sold and off their books by the end of 2024. There are a number of steps in the process, and these will take a few months. At some point, the local community will be consulted as to the future use, but in the meantime if numbers continue at a reasonable level, church services will continue to be held, though not necessarily every Sunday.

The approval of the plan means that Kingussie linked with Laggan and Newtonmore can now start the process to find a minister and recently voting rolls for the congregations have been finalised. A vacancy committee will be appointed shortly to take the search forward.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Services will take place as follows

Christmas Eve 7-00p.m. in Newtonmore  
11-00p.m. in Laggan  
11-15p.m. in Kingussie

Christmas Day 10-30a.m. joint service in Kingussie

Around Christmas the following will also take place. Sunday 10th Carols in Laggan, Saturday 16th Ecumenical carol singing around Kingussie Christmas Tree. Times for these have still to be finalised and as mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, the Badenoch Chorale will give a carol concert on Sunday 17th.

## 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)





## A SHORT REFLECTION

As we think of Israel and Gaza...

How can we comprehend it God, this beauty and this pain.  
How does it hold together? Is there a pattern and a purpose?  
How can we comprehend it, your beauty and ours - who are made in your image? Our pain and yours - who chose to share our lives? We cannot hold it together – but it holds us.

Help us to see pattern and purpose - and our part in the weaving world.

By Jan Sutch Pickard

## PROPERTY MATTERS

There is now a new fence between St Bride's and the Old Manse. It has taken years to get agreement on this and there is now an opportunity to tidy up our area at the back of the church, including tidying out the sheds we have. It is planned to have a Work Party on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December to advance this.

The roof of St Bride's has now had a once over and quite a bit of work has been required to repair damage caused by the weather and wear and tear.

The front steps have also had some attention to patch them up and make them safe.

An effort will also be made to tidy up aspects inside the church.

## THE MANSE

Discussion is still taking place regarding the manse and whether we should keep it. The cost of bringing it up to the required standard is substantial and the current accommodation requirements for a minister, are now flexible and not cast in stone! Chris Mackay is preparing a discussion document to be considered by both Kingussie and Laggan and Newtonmore Kirk Sessions. Meanwhile an application has been made to Highland Council to see if there may be development options for the site.

## FINANCE

It will shortly be the end of another year and a time to review the finances of our two congregations. It will be interesting to see how the finances work out for the year when we do not have as many services in each church. A fair bit has been spent making the manse wind and watertight and Kingussie have contributed their share to this expenditure. When a new minister is appointed, a special effort may be needed to comply with Church of Scotland requirements.

## BADENOCH CHORALE

At the end of September, the Chorale held a very successful concert in Kingussie Parish Church when a varied programme of song and instrumental music was presented. Unfortunately, the usual Autumn coffee morning was not held due to a difficulty with dates. Currently the Chorale are preparing a selection of carols for the annual carol concert in St Bride's Church on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7-00p.m.

## PROPERTY CONVENER

We are very pleased that Chris Mackay has agreed to take up the role of Property Convener for Laggan and Newtonmore, and his commitment to the task is very welcome. Chris divides his time between Edinburgh and Newtonmore but following his recent retirement from legal practice, he will be spending more time here and his experience will be very welcome. He has been presented with a fairly lengthy 'to do' list!

## ABERNETHY PRESBYTERY

As previously intimated the presbytery will cease to exist on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 when the new Highlands and Hebrides Presbytery takes over. The final meeting will be on 5<sup>th</sup> December when ex-members of presbytery will be invited to join in a celebration of communion with current members.

It will be sad to see the end of the local connections and friendships which have built up over the years and while some current members will continue on into the enlarged presbytery, church life will certainly not be the same and the decision to unite some 129 congregations into the new presbytery will undoubtedly have some growing pains and be subject to some scrutiny!

## BIBLE STUDY

We are keen to start some bible study in Newtonmore on a regular basis. Please speak to Angus or Joy Davidson if you are interested.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

- December 6<sup>th</sup> Film afternoon in Laggan Church at 2-00p.m.  
Miracle on 24<sup>th</sup> Street
- 7<sup>th</sup> Talk on Climate Change: Dermot Williamson at 7-00p.m. Entry by donation for Save the Children Gaza Appeal
- 10<sup>th</sup> Carols in Laggan Church at 7-00p.m.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Film evening in Laggan Church at 7-00p.m.  
Arthur Christmas
- 16<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Carol Singing round the Kingussie Christmas Tree 4-00p.m.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Badenoch Chorale in St Bride's at 7-00p.m.



## HIGHLANDS AND HEBRIDES PRESBYTERY

The new Presbytery Clerk Rev Rory Macleod from Skye took up his duties on 1<sup>st</sup> November and faces a challenge to get this new presbytery up and running. In the initial years the presbytery will receive a grant for central church funds, but the rest of the cost required to make the presbytery manageable, will need to come from presbytery dues levied on the congregations. At this time, it is difficult to envisage exactly what staff will be required, but finance and buildings will require paid staff. In the initial years, the dues that require to be levied should be acceptable but if inflation continues and congregational incomes diminish, it could be a different story. Currently, Roy Alexander is part of a small band of volunteers from different presbyteries assisting the Presbytery Clerk in drawing up a budget, certainly not an easy task!



## KINGUSSIE NEWS

The organ continues to play well and is continuing to attract numbers following the Organ Facebook page as well as being appreciated by visitors to the church weekly open day.

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 there will be a music event of Christmas Cheer. John Crombie will be playing Christmas music in the morning and in the afternoon, it will be provided by a Wind Group from Millburn Academy and others. Tea, coffee and cake will be available throughout with a soup and bread lunch at lunchtime. All welcome and entry is by donation. There will be craft stalls to browse with the opportunity of purchasing stocking fillers.

The church has been successful in securing funds for outreach projects from the Co-op Community Fund 2023/24 so it would be very welcome if you cast your vote for the church when you

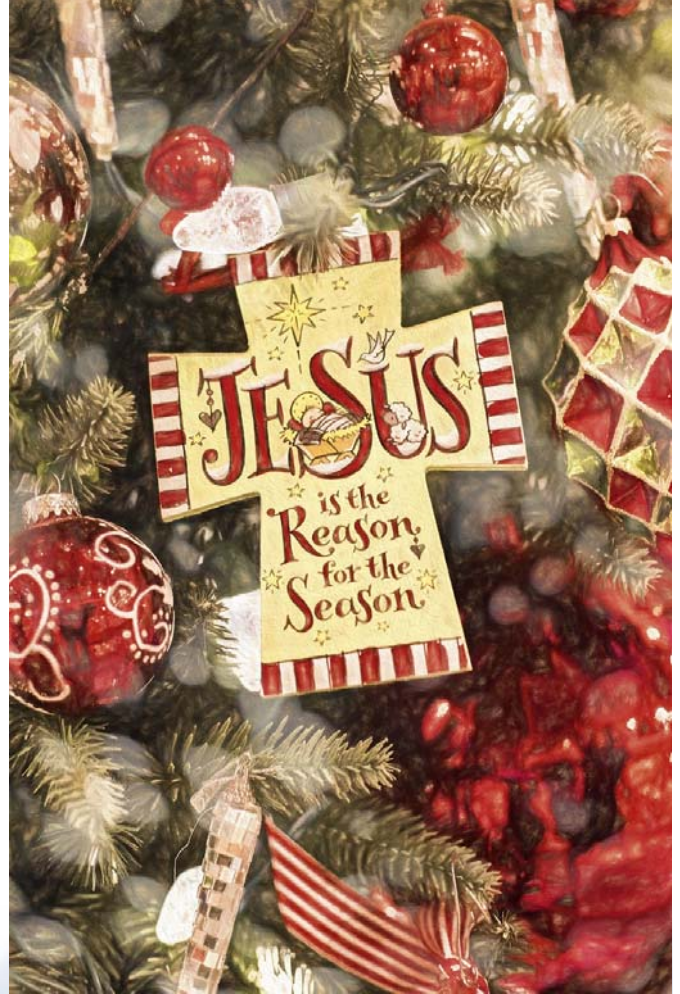
shop in the Co-op. The receipt of funds in November 2024 will ensure the continuation of the Community Café and allow for the purchase of shoes and jackets for local families when children at our local schools need a helping hand. Thank you in advance for your support.

The craft stall continues to provide a valuable source of items on behalf of the church including pens.

The Thursday Community Café continues to provide a welcome venue for church members, locals and visitors. We are grateful to members of the Catholic and Free Churches for their continued support.

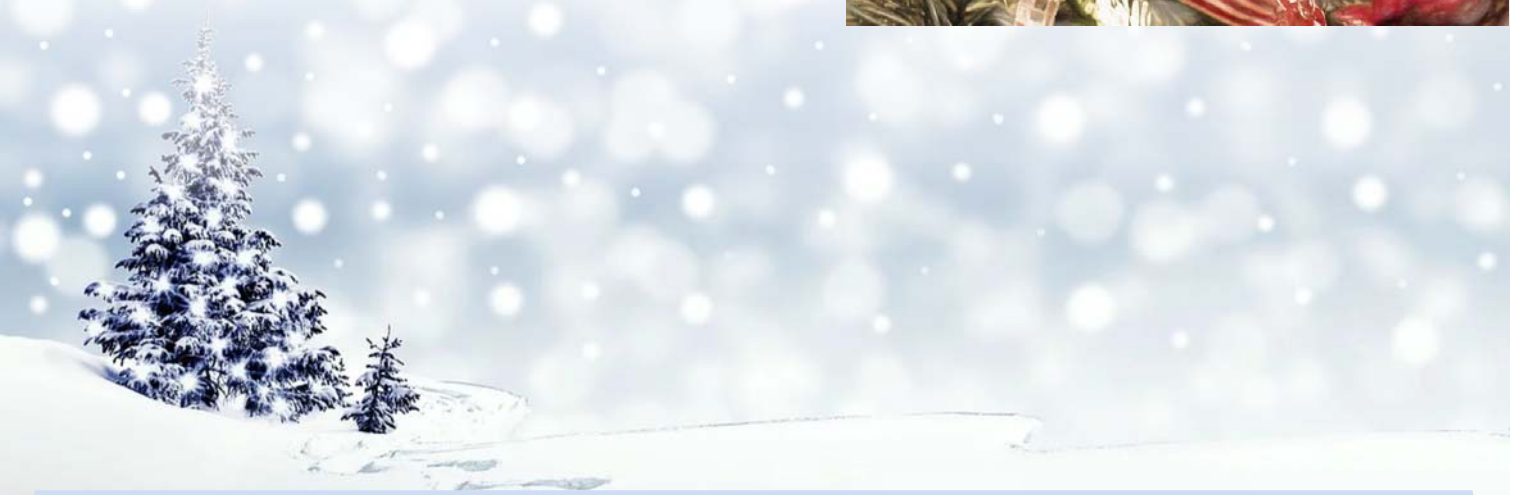
Thanks to all who support these ventures. You are all much appreciated.





## WEBSITE

Please be aware that this has been redesigned and the address is now [www.kingussielaggannewtonmorechurch.com](http://www.kingussielaggannewtonmorechurch.com)



## CHURCH OFFICE BEARERS

### Interim Moderator:

**Christine Ritchie** Tel: 01479 873419  
E-mail: interimmoderatorkln@gmail.com

### Kingussie

#### Session Clerk:

**Sandy Peebles** Tel: 01540 661965  
E-mail: sandy@ats.me.uk

#### Treasurer:

**Peter Cooper** Tel: 01540 662453  
E-mail: petercooper102@gmail.com

#### Property Convenor:

**Sandy Peebles** Tel: 01540 661965  
E-mail: sandy@ats.me.uk

Charity Numbers SCO05490 | SCO21546

### Locum:

**Mary Ellen Thomson** Tel: 01540 667226  
E-mail: marythomson835@btinternet.com

### Laggan and Newtonmore

#### Session Clerk:

**Alison Armstrong**  
E-mail: alisonmabel@hotmail.com

#### Treasurer:

**Roy Alexander** Tel: 01540 673422  
E-mail: roya@a9partnership.co.uk

#### Property Convenor:

**Chris Mackay** Tel: 07817 831884  
E-mail: c.mackay@btinternet.com