



## LAGGAN CHURCH SALE

The annual church sale will take place on **Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 10.00-12.30**. Please note that we are trying a new thing by having a morning sale this year. There will still be venison and teas (morning coffees) Elvira's jewels and all the usual events, but it will be earlier in the day.

At the sale you will also be able to buy the 2019 church calendar, with local pictures and a Bible verse for each month. This year the calendars will be smaller, and also cheaper, at £4 each.

This year we are printing some local wintry pictures into Christmas cards, which will also be available on sale day.

### Church Office Bearers

Minister: Rev. Catherine Buchan, The Manse, Fort William Road, Newtonmore PH20 1DG 01540 673238. [CBuchan@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:CBuchan@churchofscotland.org.uk).

Session Clerk, Mr Campbell Slimon, Feisth Buiddhe, Breakachy, Laggan PH20 1BT 01528 544722 [scsslimon@gmail.com](mailto:scsslimon@gmail.com)

Treasurer, Mrs Eileen Feilen, Birch View, Dalwhinnie. 01528 522272 [eileen\\_feilen@excite.com](mailto:eileen_feilen@excite.com)

Clerk to the Congregational Board, Mrs Sheena Slimon, Feisth Buiddhe, Breakachy, Laggan PH20 1BT 01582 544722 [scslimon@gmail.com](mailto:scslimon@gmail.com)

# LAGGAN PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



## AUTUMN 2018

Scottish Charity Number SCO08016



### From the minister's desk...

At the beginning of July I marked my nine year anniversary as the minister of Laggan and St. Bride's Newtonmore. Nine years, and I have not regretted for one day of them that I accepted the call to come here. This reads like the beginning of a farewell, and it is not. But, as you know, we have come to a time of change in our churches. Personally, I am all for change, as when we get too comfortable in our ruts, we can too easily forget what the purpose of the church is: to worship God and to serve others in the name and love of Christ. However, I know that the idea of change is one that we do not all greet happily.

In these nine years we have seen family services come and go; Messy Church come and thrive; people arrive, people leave, and lots of people get older (everyone, in fact, even the children!). We have held study groups, learned lots of new hymns, and even come to like them, and have seen members of the congregation begin to take the occasional service. So, change has been happening all along and it has been fine; better than fine, in fact.

The change that is coming now is a structural change, when we go into a Union with Laggan, and become Laggan and Newtonmore Church of Scotland. To do this, there is a formal basis of Union, quite a simple document, which is to be considered by the congregation – the Kirk Session has already seen it. So that we can do this, we are going to hold a congregational meeting after the service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September. The Basis of Union will be available to everyone at that meeting, and everyone who is in any way associated with the congregation, not just those who are formal members, are welcome to attend and be heard. After this, the Presbytery will arrange for a service of Union to be held sometime in the autumn.

This is a formal change, so we have to make a big fuss about it and carry out the correct procedures. In reality, I do not think that this structural change in the church's governance will make as much of a change as some other things that we have already done.

In any case, we remember that we live in a world of change, but that, as the letter to the Hebrews tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday,

today and forever." Our task is to worship and serve him in a changing world. Your minister, Catherine Buchan

### COMMUNION

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at our morning service, 10.00 a.m., on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. All followers of Christ are welcome to join us around the Lord's Table.

On Communion Sunday it is our custom to take a retiring collection for a charity. On this occasion, we will give to Oxfam.



### PRESBYTERY

Our minister Rev Catherine Buchan is now Moderator of Abernethy Presbytery until June 2019. Presbytery recently decided that the September meeting each year should be held in the church of the Moderator and not always in Boat of Garten as in recent years. This being so, on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September the Presbytery will be meeting in St Bride's at 7.00p.m. for their annual communion service.

Meetings of presbytery are 'open' meetings so all welcome. If you would like to join presbytery for communion or for the business that will follow you will be made most welcome.

### BADENOCH CHORALE

The annual Chorale Coffee Morning will be held in St Bride's on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 10.15a.m. to noon. The choir will be providing musical entertainment at this popular event.

**CHURCH DOOR.** Due to some low-level vandalism in the church, the door has been locked, with the key being available at the shop. It is hoped that this will be a temporary measure.