



CALENDARS



**2019 calendar
A4 size**

A4 Badenoch calendars, produced with photos taken by members of St Bride's and Laggan churches, will soon be available for sale at £4 each from either Catherine or Roy.

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St. Bride's Parish Church
Newtonmore

NEWSLETTER



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; Rhyme Time begin and adapt into what it currently is; people arrive, people leave, and lots of people get older (everyone, in fact, even the babies!). 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 9th 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

WELCOME BAGS

For some time, the Outreach team of the Session has been developing welcome bags to be given to people moving into the village. They contain information about living here – essential phone numbers and the like – and a word of welcome from St. Bride's. The bags are now ready and are housed in the middle cupboard of the window cupboards in the hall. Beside them is a notebook in which people are asked to write the address to which they are taking the bag and the date. What we need everyone's help with, is knowing when someone moves in. Can you keep your eyes open for people moving into vacant homes near you, and when this happens, can you either let Catherine or Jean Slimon know, or simply get a bag and deliver it yourself to welcome your new neighbour.

COMMUNION

The next quarterly communion is on Sunday 2nd September, 2018 at 11-15a.m. The retiring collection on this occasion will be for the charity Cardiac Risk in the Young.

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.stbrides-newtonmore.org.uk





BADENOCH CHORALE

The next concert for the Chorale is in Aberlour Church on Sunday 23rd September, 2018 at 6.30p.m. when there will be a programme of new items mixed with favourites from the choir library.

The annual Coffee Morning will be held in St Bride's on Saturday 6th October from 10.15a.m. to Noon and the Chorale will be providing musical entertainment at this popular event.

CHURCH CALENDAR 2019

A calendar is in the course of preparation for 2019 from photos representing the parishes of Laggan and Newtonmore submitted to the judging panel. This year it will be an A4 size and it will be available at £4 per copy. An outline of the calendar is on the back of this Newsletter and initial orders can be placed with Catherine or Roy Alexander. Copies will be available shortly.

HIGHLAND GAMES

Thanks to all who supported our stall at the Highland Games in Newtonmore on Saturday 4th August either by providing goods for sale or helping with the stall. The sum raised was £419 and thanks are again due to Jean Slimon for organising this. It is good to have our church represented in this way.

PRESBYTERY

Our minister Rev Catherine Buchan is now Moderator of Abernethy Presbytery until June 2019. On Tuesday 4th 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. 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.

CHURCH FINANCE

Our finances have been hit recently by two large items of expenditure! These were the major repair to the church vestibule roof and the provision of a new heating boiler in the manse as the previous one had an oil leak. Redecoration of various bits of the church property is also in hand.

CHURCH FLOWERS

There are still dates available in 2018 on the calendar at the back of the church if you would like to donate church flowers. The suggested donation is £25.

JENNIFER BUCHAN

In South Africa

Hello All

I recently spent the first six months of this year at a place called LIV village just outside Durban in South Africa. There are millions of orphaned and vulnerable children in South Africa, mostly because of HIV and Aids. LIV is faith based and focuses on a solution to help this crisis. Children are placed into a family environment with a trained foster mother to love them, a school to educate them and a community to meet their needs.

The LIV model is long term cluster foster care, where children will have a sense of belonging in a homely environment. The homes are built in clusters of eight to ten houses, modelling African village life. This helps the children to find 'home' and close connection within the cluster and in the village itself. Each home has a fully trained House Mother who may bring two biological children and she will be given up to six children to foster and take as her own. The Mother is also responsible for demonstrating what a life of faith looks like to her children.

I was living in the village, taking part in a six month discipleship programme focusing on identity, vision and serving LIV and the local community called 'LIV4Change'. The first three months included teaching and intentional discipleship. There was also a varied programme which allowed us to get out into the community and also serve a range of projects in which the LIV village is involved.

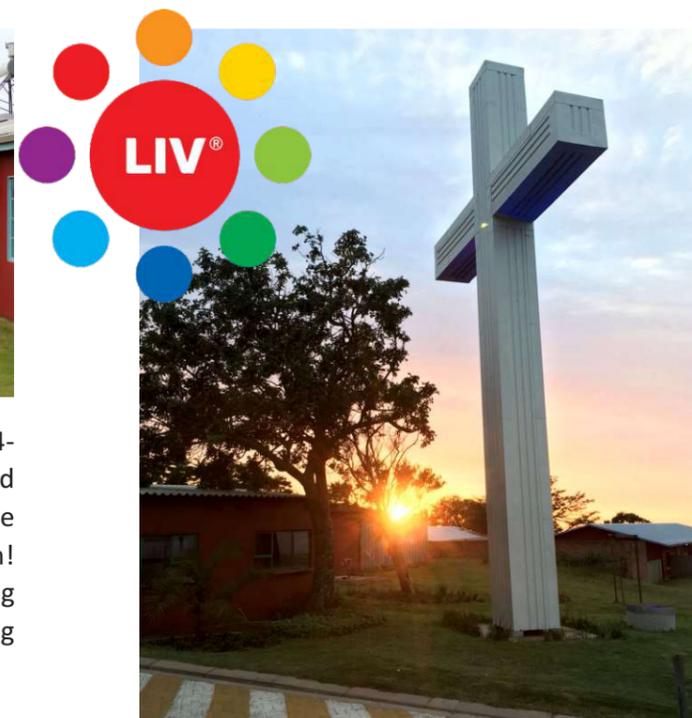
This was then followed by a three month internship in a specific department on the village. I spent time in the music department assisting in lessons, teaching lessons and also helping to organise the music departments on the village. The school day started at



7-30a.m. and we would finish tutoring about 4-00p.m. We worked weekends and this involved helping with various youth programmes on the village. The programme itself was very full on! However there was never a dull moment as living with twenty one friends there was always something going on!

I really enjoyed spending time with the kids and they taught me a lot. The Mothers were some of the most inspiring people I have ever met and their faith literally cannot be shaken by anything. They have learned not to take things into their own hands but trust that God will provide in phenomenal ways.

One of the things that really challenged me but ended up being one of my favourite things was that during the programme we were required to get up at 6-00a.m. every morning to spend the first hour of the day with Jesus. At first this was challenging as after reading a few chapters and having a small conversation, I would ask God "What else do you



want me to say?" But the Lord worked in my heart in a way which I learned to enjoy this time, spending more time in his word and listening to his voice. This time with Jesus was actually one of the most valuable things I got out of my time at LIV village and it was in these moments that I heard God's voice most clearly. It is a reminder to us all that it is so important to involve God in the everyday and not to rely on our own strength but on his.

I had an amazing time, the village is an incredible place, a taste of heaven and throughout my time God revealed endless things to me.

JENNIFER

