

KEITH: ST. RUFUS, BOTRIPHNIE AND GRANGE

The Five Marks of Mission

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (This is about telling the Christian message of forgiveness, purpose, hope and love.)

Public gathering of the congregation to meet with God and mutual fellowship of the saints through the ministry of the Word, the ministry of the holy sacraments, prayer, hymns, and offerings.

The congregation will direct itself to the members of the church through congregational ministry in order to build up the congregation to fulfil its calling.

Services are livestreamed and there is also a midweek reflection with topics suitable for younger people. We have a dedicated WhatsApp group chat and a quarterly newsletter distributed to every household.

We take part in the remembrance service, the rotary carol service (hosted in St Rufus Church), Holy week services and thinking day service – all of which are ecumenical.

Future plan is to instal large screen TV or projector equipment to enhance worship.

2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers (This is about how we help people to grow as followers of Jesus.)

Baptism conversations with prospective baptism parents where the Gospel and the meaning of baptism is shared with them by the minister.

The ministry to the youth is an integral part of the comprehensive congregational ministry in which God comes to the youth through his Word through preaching, teaching, equipping, pastoral care, and ministry which will be primarily undertaken by the Sunday Club and the Youth Group.

The Faithful Witnesses Course will be presented to equip any laity to introduce people to the Kingdom of God through faith and repentance in Jesus Christ and to full participation in the community of faith (church) as an expression of the Kingdom of God. The congregation will then direct itself through intensive specialised congregational ministry to the unchurched who are formally still members in order to reach them actively and bring them into fellowship with Christ and fellow Christians.

The establishment of small groups is envisaged where wee groups of people are coming together on a regular basis, and where they can experience true fellowship, friendship, care, spiritual growth and where they can put their gifts and talents to use for the benefit of others.

The Guild will invite and encourage both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enable them to express their faith in worship, prayer, and action.

We have an active and regular updated facebook page and a website.

Our annual Christmas fayre is well supported and is very much a community event.

3. To respond to human need by loving service (This is about how we demonstrate the love of Christ through our actions.)

Pastoral care will be given to the needy, the sick and the vulnerable by the minister, elders, and the pastoral care group by visiting them for encouragement, comfort, and support.

Taking flowers and greeting cards to people in need.

Help provide transportation to those who need it.

Welcoming Committee will be welcoming people to worship services.

Fly & Friendship is a very successful group. It is open to men and woman of all ages and of any faith. They meet to enjoy a fly cup and friendship (hence the name) as well as enjoying entertainment – musical, quiz, bingo, talent show etc.

The parish minister will solemnise marriages in a religious ceremony.

The congregation will ensure that deceased parishioners are buried or cremated in a Christian manner.

The minister will team up with the local school chaplaincy to provide spiritual comfort and support across the school community, at times in challenging and demanding situations.

Christian aid is regularly supported and have a volunteer co-ordinator.

World day of prayer is also supported.

We have themed services on the recommendation of Church of Scotland.

Members support in many ways through various committees/groups – Teas after some services, flower display, readings each week, picnic and parties, fundraising, property, welcome, finance and many more behind the scenes work.

4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation (This is about how we promote and support God's ways of justice and peace.)

The congregation will make visible God's command to preserve creation and life, and His righteousness and reconciliation are proclaimed by joining forces with initiatives and organisations advocating these matters.

By offering help and promoting this attitude when you see someone in trouble, whether he or she is lost, confused, upset, or has fallen, don't act like you don't see the person.

Information and services offered by Presbytery and General Assembly will be utilised to promote and support God's ways of justice and peace.

Speak out against harm, abuse, prejudice and discrimination when noticed by following safeguarding procedures.

Focus on these matters during worship services and other congregational meetings.

*Encouraging people to support local, national and international charities, including –
Keith Community Larder*

Moray food plus

Moray fresh start

Guild projects

Fairtrade

Shoebox appeal

As well as many members being involved in other charities.

We are always receptive to supporting the work and needs of other charities.

Recently held a collection and donated to the Unitary reformed church of South Africa.

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth (This is about being faithful stewards of this amazing home that we share with all living things and play our part in tackling the crises it faces.)

To help our congregation widen and develop its understanding of effective stewardship, the stewardship team which offer a range of resources, practical guidance, promotional material, and services will be consulted.

Information and services offered by Presbytery and General Assembly will be utilised to promote healthy stewardship.

*Support initiatives and organisations advocating for healthy environmental matters.
We've taken part in the Our trees project.*

Focus on these matters during worship services and other congregational meetings.

Future plans are to become more of an eco-friendly church.