

**WELCOME TO KIRK OF KEITH:  
ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNE AND GRANGE**

**Minister: Rev Wiekus van Straaten**

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**TODAY, SUNDAY, 5 December (Second Sunday in Advent)**

10.15 am – St Rufus (Sunday Club meet in the hall)

11.45 am – Botriphnie

**REMINDER FROM THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

The regulation which makes it a legal requirement to wear a face covering in churches and other indoor public spaces has not changed and we urge every congregation to abide by the law and make it clear to all attendees that they must wear a face covering with the exception of those who are under the age of 12 or who have a genuine medical exemption. We also remind congregations of the requests from the Scottish government that we should invite individuals to keep a distance from other households and that we also keep a list of those who attend services for the use of Test & Protect in the event of a positive Covid case linked to the building.

**Wiekus's Weekly Words**

If you would like Wiekus to send messages to your phone you can send him your mobile number (which he will not share with anyone else and it will not be visible to anyone else) and he will send short messages on WhatsApp to you on a regular basis. This will all be done confidentially. His dedicated mobile number is **07341 370133**.

***FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS:-***

**(a)** The Welcome Committee will meet on Monday, 6 December at 7.30 pm in the hall.

**(b)** The Guild Christmas meal is on Tuesday, 7 December in the Royal Hotel 12.30 for 1 pm.

**(c)** The Fly & Friendship Club will meet on Thursday, 9 December at 2 pm in the Scout Hall. Face coverings should be worn except during tea time (price £1.50) which will be served at your seat. Please remember to bring a cup.

**(d) SUNDAY, 12 December – Third Sunday in Advent**

10.15 am – St Rufus (Sunday Club meet in the hall)

Duty elders – Lorna Allison, Mary Gray and Pat Winton

11.45 am – Grange

6 pm – Youth Group

**(e)** The Fly & Friendship Club will have a Christmas themed meeting on Thursday, 16 December at 2 pm in the Scout Hall. Face coverings should be worn except during tea time (price £1.50) which will be served at your seat. Please remember to bring a cup. Then on holiday until Thursday, 6 January.

**(f) SUNDAY, 19 December – Fourth Sunday in Advent**

10.15 am – United Service at St Rufus with Sunday Club Nativity

Duty elders – Doreen Strathdee, Norma Gray and Adam Murray

Please stay behind and enjoy the Family Lunch provided by the Welcome Committee. Cost £1.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS...**

**1) Message from Michael Newlands**

Dear all, Just a few updates from the Youth Group. Firstly, our next meeting, and our last for this year, will be on the 12th of December. We will meet from 6-9pm, have a wee Christmas movie night in and eat plenty as well! We are also doing annual gift giving for Christmas, and this year we are gathering items for MFR's Cash for Kids: Mission Christmas. We would very much like to encourage the congregation to join us in our efforts, and whilst all donations will be welcome, we are looking more specifically for gifts for older children. Any donation you wish to give can be handed in to Clarke's Pharmacy to Barbara. Finally, from all at the Youth Group, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**2)** The newsletters, etc are ready for elders to uplift and distribution. Thanks to Doris Smith and Mary Sinclair for wrapping the Christmas presents.

**3)** Would any member of the congregation like to help by becoming part of our Property Committee? We are very short of numbers and there are always bits of general maintenance needing done. Even if you can only help for an hour now and again it would be appreciated. Please contact Diane Morrison or Nicola Smith for more information.

**4)** Ann Hutton has agreed to take on the role of chair of the Welcome Committee with Sandra Gerrie remaining as Treasurer. We wish them well.

5) Two significant areas of public policy reform on which the General Assembly has made a clear position are currently being considered.

Both of the issues relate to the protection of vulnerable groups and upholding respect for human dignity and human life. The views of the Church are not party-political but which put the teachings of Jesus Christ at the centre: as healer, reconciler, friend and redeemer. Church members may want to be aware of the opportunities to share their opinion about the issues and contribute.

### **Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill**

A proposal for a Members' Bill has been introduced into the Scottish Parliament. A consultation is currently open and will run until 22 December 2021.

You can find details of how to respond to the consultation on the Church website, along with a link to the 2009 *End of Life Issues* report which forms the basis for the Church's current view <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-views/end-of-life>

### **Nationality and Borders Bill**

This UK Government proposal is currently being considered by the House of Commons at Committee Stage. Now is the time when we are asking people to contact their MP to express their views in order to influence the development of legislation. You can read more about our past advocacy on this issue here [https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/church-proposes-alternative-to-uk-government-asylum-reform-plans)

[events/news/2021/articles/church-proposes-alternative-to-uk-government-asylum-reform-plans](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/church-proposes-alternative-to-uk-government-asylum-reform-plans)

Further information on the Bill and resources on how to respond are available on the website of Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

<http://www.sfar.org.uk/get-involved/call-for-change/action-on-the-nationality-and-borders-bill/>

6) North-East Presbyteries Conference is on Saturday, 5 February 2022 and will be discussing Church in the Twenty-First Century. See poster at the door. To register and for more information contact: [joel.pierce@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:joel.pierce@abdn.ac.uk)

### **7) REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene level 1 by e-Learning**

It is a legal requirement that anyone who handles or prepares food and drink is appropriately trained and/or supervised. This course is suitable for anyone who handles and prepares food and drink and will be especially useful for anyone who bakes at home on behalf of their congregation. This will help ensure that all members and volunteers have received suitable training.

This course will take approximately 2 hours to complete, is interactive and participants will be encouraged to reflect on their food safety knowledge and skills. There are no tests or exams during or after this course.

This course is delivered through a third party training partner and is entirely online so you will need access to a computer or tablet with a suitable internet connection. At the end of the course you will receive an approved REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene certificate.

If you wish to register for the course there is an on line form  
<https://forms.office.com/r/SQncvKdWus>  
Alternatively contact Nicola for more information.

**8) Flowers for December donated by:**

5/12/21 – Allana Wynne

12/12/21 – Ella McKenzie

19/12/21 – Christmas

26/12/21 – Patricia Grant

Flower Fund – a few spaces have become available in the flower calendar. If anyone wishes to donate flowers, give money on an annual basis or take turns to arrange flowers please contact Norma on 882019.

**9) Could any elders who know of someone who should receive church flowers please put their details in the book in the counting room or let Nicola know.**

**10) June Cairns co-ordinates the rota for church transport and her contact number is 01542 882336.**



**Check out the Kirk webpage which can be found at [www.strufus.org](http://www.strufus.org)**

**Moray Fresh Start**

MFS aims to assist the resettlement of homeless in Moray by providing a pack of basic household items that help them to make a new beginning.

Please see our website - <http://www.morayfreshstart.org.uk/> for the type of items we needed.

For more information, and/or to arrange a donation, please contact us on 01343 550566 or email [contact@morayfreshstart.org.uk](mailto:contact@morayfreshstart.org.uk)

**Moray Food Plus+**

Please help those in need of emergency food by donating any long-life foods.

There is an increased need now due to the effects of Covid-19.

The items must be non-perishable (dried or tinned), in date, and not high in salt, sugar, or saturated fat. The blue box inside the main door at St. Rufus has been supplied for donated items.

Intimation sheets are edited by  
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