

KIRK OF KEITH: ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNE AND GRANGE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends,

I think everyone and their granny has seen the musical, The Sound of Music, at one time or another. Talking of grannies it was my paternal granny who took me to watch it at the Gaumont Picture House in Ayr because no-one else would go with her but I recall being fed popcorn and hotdogs so it wasn't a bad day's outing. For those of you who haven't had the pleasure there's lots of songs from teenagers and a nun and also from a guy who looked like my old headie, who walks about with his hands behind his back — he plays(?) the guitar as well. That more or less sums it up. One song in particular comes to mind — So long farewell, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. I don't know the rest of the words but I suppose I mention the title because it kinda sums up my parting shot from Keith St Rufus, Botriphnie and Grange. I am being sent out to pasture for a wee while and so this will be my last item for the newsletter — I can hear Esther saying, well I hope the next Interim Moderator will get their contributions in on plenty of time!

I was happy to be appointed as your IM for the second time in a row but I made it clear to the committee, who twisted my arm, that I would do it for a year and then I would stand down and the reason for that was simple, I felt that some of my colleagues should be doing their turn as IM's especially as I have served in this capacity seven out of the eight years that I have been in Moray Presbytery. Anyway enough crying into my hankie — you have a good parish, but this you know anyway, and good people. The vacancy hasn't been that long so take heart — with prayer and conviction and a bit of luck someone will realise how fortunate they would be to work in this part of the country and with people such as yourselves.

I have enjoyed working with you and I wish you every blessing for your future journey, which is always exciting albeit challenging, and if I can survive, The Sound of Music, everything and anything is possible.

Every Blessing, Rev Douglas Stevenson

A Time of Change Again

It's time for change within our congregation as we say farewell to the Rev Douglas Stevenson, at least in his capacity as Interim Moderator. We have been fortunate to have benefited from his wisdom and knowledge and we give thanks for the guidance, encouragement and support he has given.

Nicola Smith, Session Clerk

News from the Guild

On the opening night of our session we were entertained by Gospel Singers Elma Fraser and Isobel Campbell which was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. It certainly gave an excellent start to this year's theme which is BE BOLD BE STRONG GO IN JOY as everyone left in a joyful mood. We have a full and varied syllabus ranging from talks on Mary Slessor, Biblical Gardens and Refugees. There is, as usual, our popular Quiz night held on the 31 October. A Scots night with Joyce Dawson and Children, the Buckie Blethers and a talk and slides on China are just some of the diverse topics covered in this session. New members are always welcome to our Guild which meets every second Monday in our Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Dorothy Matthews, Secretary

Sunday Club

This session started continuing the theme of Fun Week with David and Goliath. We created shields and displayed them on castles which we made from boxes. We also made Towers of Babel. We heard stories about Abraham and Sarah and made posters of families living in the hills and other families who chose to make their homes in the valleys. We are making posters to decorate church for Harvest Thanksgiving. We have about 30 children who come regularly but not many of them go to church first, although we do encourage them to attend.

Beth Inglis, Leader

Fun Week

Numbers were a little down this year but there was plenty of fun to be had. We had a medieval theme and looked at how God can be our sword and shield, and how we should still be kind to our enemies.

A fair few of the Youth Group took part in the drama stories. We had the Watt family return for their quest to find King Arthur to return him to the throne, instead of having to suffer through the reign of the evil Baron Pong-a-lot. Samson and Delilah went on their holidays this year, away to the sunny climes of Costa Del Elgin, but left some very worthy successors in the form of David and Goliath. We had our singing and dancing as well which was a real delight to see. Sharon Henderson came to help us out with that. My moves are worse than dad dancing and my singing isnae much better, so we're grateful for Sharon coming to teach the singing and dancing and we're grateful to the kitchen ladies who kept us fed and watered.

My role this year was much freer due to the fantastic helpers we had. Their expertise and organisation far exceeded my own and I'm thankful to have such a great folk willing to give up their time for the young folk of Keith.

Matthew 19:14 - Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these".

Michael Newlands

Youth Group

At our prize giving service, members did readings and joined in prayers of intercession and people said it was great seeing the Youth Group taking part which set ideas in motion. A large number helped during Fun Week and were given extra responsibilities, mainly through drama roles, and did well as seen in the Fun Week service with David and Goliath of worthy note. Great fun was had at our annual trip to Tomintoul with usual highlights the trip to Landmark, the ceilidh, dressing up and our karaoke contest. Worship focussed on taking our problems to God, faith and how they should never hide their light from the world. We must be mad, but we've decided upon a sponsored Wake-a-thon for our annual charity fundraiser. On November 5, we'll be staying up all night to raise funds for North East Sensory Services, inspired by a talk we had by Bruce Cruickshank. Then come the morning we'll be walking down to church for the service. If you would like to donate, please speak to myself, Barbara or any youth group member. I'm grateful to everyone who supports us throughout the year as well as the brilliant leaders we have who give up their evenings and weekends without complaint. When it comes to our Youth Group, I'm often reminded of this quote, "1 Timothy 4:12 - Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."

Our Youth Group certainly embody this. In their speech and their conduct, and just their general manner, they certainly are an example to us all.

Michael Newlands

Christmas Fayre

Our annual Christmas Fayre with coffee morning and soup and sweet lunches is at the Longmore Halls on Saturday, October 29 from 10am to 2pm. As this is our major fundraiser of the year we seek your usual kind support both in terms of volunteering to help, spending money at the many stalls and donating cake and candy, produce, good as new, bric-a-brac, books, bottles and raffles.

Communion

The decision has been taken by Kirk Session to revert to issuing Communion Cards and these are being distributed to every member and should be handed in to any one of the four upcoming Communion services. A total of 1,000 cards are being issued and it would be great if every single one was handed back at Communion! The Rev John Morrison will be conducting Holy Communion on Sunday 30th October in St Rufus at 10.15 and 6pm and also at Botriphnie at 11.45am. The Rev David Whyte will take Holy Communion at Grange on Sunday 6th November at 11.45am.

Parish Register to 30th September 2016

Baptism

September - Charles Peter Pirie son of Charles Pirie and Taylor Page

Weddings

April - Diane Russel and Richard McAndie

April - Lynn Strachan and David Stewart

May - Victoria Foad and Sean Clark

June - John McLean and Gail Sinclair

June - Lucy Davidson and John Pirie

July - Lisa Davidson and Kyle Murray

August - Clair Morrison and Mark Esson

August - Louise Stewart and Ellis Mutch

August - Carole Matheson and Laurence Quinlan

Funerals

April - Albert Craig

April - Robert Green

May - Margaret Logan

May - Alex Innes

June - Evelyn Smith

August - Jean McIntosh

August - Edwin Robertson

September - Mary Hay

September - John Sinclair