

KIRK OF KEITH: ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNIE AND GRANGE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No 77

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Dear Friends

Ministers: An Endangered Species

David Whyte has retired as our locum minister – after becoming a good guide, comfort, strength and friend to many in the congregation and community. Well done for your generous gift to him. We wish him well in deserved rest.

Eckhardt Bosch has come and already has made an impact – North Church Holiday Club, Rothiemay Messy Church, St Rufus Manse socials, assistant to me at funerals, Whittley art exhibition, fitting in to the school chaplaincy team at Primary and Grammar Schools. He has been conducting more Sunday services at St Rufus, Botriphnie and Grange than at North Church since David's retirement. Much of that is above and beyond the allocation of 37.5 hours a week that is in his contract with the Ministries' Council.

Rozelle Bosch has been a volunteer preacher (her studies at Cambridge do not allow her to receive preaching fees), so we are all the more in her debt for her thoughtful and friendly conduct of worship.

Eckhardt and I share the pastoral visiting when there are requests for counsel and help. We are currently sharing the funerals between us. If this becomes too much for us, or if the conduct of Sunday services becomes too much for Eckhardt and Rozelle, then the Kirk Session will consider employing another locum. Meanwhile, a considerable saving in costs is being made, as the congregation is still being given the usual vacancy allowance to reduce its Ministry and Mission allocation paid to central church funds by £10,920.

Megan Cambridge, a candidate for the Lay Readership (a voluntary ministry) in the Scottish Episcopal Church, is doing her practical training with the Church of Scotland in Keith. I am her supervisor, and she assists me in both parishes, so she will also conduct worship in St Rufus, Botriphnie and Grange.

That still leaves scope for those who would offer to be part of a volunteer worship team and take part in services from time to time. This would be especially helpful at Christmas time when the narrative of Christ's birth is so well already told in our carols and readings. Leading worship is also a role of a choir, and a spin off from the joint church's choir's preparations for the Rotary Club carol service might be participation in the Christmas Eve services.

The Presbytery has awarded us a Discretionary Allowance of £1,678 towards Eckhardt's parish assistant work. Our Ministry and Mission allocation will be reduced by that amount as a way of recognising that we will be paying some travel, communication and project costs associated with his employment.

Meanwhile, our Nominating Committee are continuing their work to attract a new minister to the congregation. They have not just relied on the traditional ways of advertising a vacancy. We in the ministry are an endangered species, and ministers can choose from among a wide range of possible parishes to serve. In these circumstances, the suitability of the manse is a crucial factor. Your Congregational Board is to be commended in agreeing to spend nearly £9,000 to upgrade the central heating system to make the manse affordable to heat for a future minister.

So – an endangered species – but are we ministers to be likened to rare toads, or scarce eagles?

I would rather be an eagle – looking out for your interests.

Rev Alastair Gray, Interim Moderator

Youth Group

We've started back again and so far we've had a planning meeting and games nights and we are all really looking forward to our annual weekend to Tomintoul. This is always a busy weekend and we will have a trip to Landmark, a day of games and lots and lots of yummy food, singing and laughs. Our wonderful leaders do a great job in keeping us entertained. Our next regular meeting will be at St Rufus Hall on Sunday, 22 October at 7pm. Come and join us – youth group is lots of fun!

Sarah Green (13), Youth Group member

Sunday Club

We have 20 children at Sunday Club who all attend regularly – 18 in primary and two in nursery. We have been learning about the parables - The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, The Lost Son, The Good Samaritan and The Feeding of 5,000 People. We have heard stories, taken part in drama, craft work and created relevant posters to display in the hall. We are making church posters for Harvest Thanksgiving and will visit Turner Memorial Hospital on Remembrance Sunday, and will have created posters for both the church and hospital. We will be doing our nativity play at St Rufus on Christmas Eve at 10.15am – please come and support the children. Any child who wants to come along to Sunday Club will be made most welcome. Any adult assistance, even on an occasional basis, would be welcome too. Any queries please call me on 01542 887940 and I will try and answer them!

Beth Inglis, leader

Christmas Fayre

Don't forget...the Christmas Fayre at the Longmore Halls on Saturday, 28th October from 10am to 2pm. There will be all the usual stalls and refreshments, please come and support your church's biggest fundraising event of the year and help make it a success. If you can't make it along on the day, you can give your support by purchasing raffles which are on sale now, £1 per ticket, with a selection of fabulous luxury hampers as prizes.

Flower Fund

Church arrangements are much enjoyed for their beauty and colour, and are greatly appreciated when shared with our parishioners afterwards, who may be ill or have suffered a bereavement. Would you consider making an annual donation to the church fund? It could be in memory of a loved one or to remind you of a special occasion or anniversary in your life. Volunteer arrangers are also required to add to the pool of people who provide the beautiful floral arrangements every week. For more details, please contact Norma Gray, flower fund convener, on 01542 882019.

News from the Guild

On the session opening night, we were greatly entertained by the Myrtle Scott Trio, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed and wished that it could have lasted longer. It certainly gave an excellent start to this year's theme, 'BE BOLD BE STRONG GO IN LOVE'. We have a full and varied syllabus ranging from talks on cancer, South America and Christmas in the jungle. There is our popular quiz night on 30th October and a Scots Night with Joyce Dawson and children on 22nd January. We have talks on Linus Quilts and a musical evening with Rory Smith. Our last meeting on 9th April will be the Military Wives Choir and I'm sure you'll agree a fantastic way to end the Guild year. These are but some of the diverse topics which illustrate that the Guild goes from strength to strength. New members are always welcome to our meetings, which are every second Monday in our Church Hall at 7.30 pm.

Dorothy Matthews, secretary

Russian Choir Concert

On Wednesday, 15th November at 7.30pm in Keith North Church, there will be a concert by 'Resurrection' – the Voskresenije Choir of Saint Petersburg, Russia. This unaccompanied vocal ensemble, conducted by Jurij Maruk, will perform a programme of Russian sacred music (40 minutes), and then, after a tea interval, a programme of Russian folk music (30 minutes). They have performed a number of concerts in Scotland over the last few years and are always very well received and appreciated. More information is on their website <http://voskresenije.blogspot.com>. Tickets £8 (£4 school age children) are available from the Kirk Shop, and at the church door on the night.

Forthcoming Services

Saturday, 8 October – United Harvest Thanksgiving at St Rufus, 10.15am, followed by teas and homebakes and Traidcraft stall, retiring collection for Christian Aid

Sunday, 29th October - Holy Communion, St Rufus 10.15am & 6pm; Botriphnie 11.45am

Sunday, 5th November – Holy Communion at Grange, 11.45am.

Parish Register to 30th September 2017

Baptisms

"We are baptised into union with Jesus Christ"

April - George John Milne - son of John and Alison

April - James Duncan Weir - son of Iain and Hazel

June - Arthur Andrew McLennan - son of Gordon and Amanda

Marriages

"Jesus was also invited to the wedding"

April - Bethany Strachan and Bruce Morrison

July - Taylor Page and Chay Pirie

Funerals

"I was dead, but now I am alive for evermore"

April - Cyril Milne

Betty Thain

Sheila McKenzie

Jimmy Edward

Acky Morrison

May - Helen Clark

June - Jack Harper

Gordon Chalmers

Ralph McDonald

Maisy Third

Dot Sangster

Eric Shepherd

August - Grace McWilliam

Morag Clark

Elsie Pearson

September - Bob Rettie