

KIRK OF KEITH: ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNE AND GRANGE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

“There are too many meetings and not enough parties in the Church.” (Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury)

Let's put that good advice into practice this December. Contrary to what people from warm sunlit countries believe, we in the northern latitudes do not become more ill or depressed in December. We make the most of the shorter hours of daylight and often become more sociable in the evenings visiting each other, or having interests and social events for the last third of the day. Frosty air is healthy. There is winter beauty to admire and birds to feed.

The times to gather in church in December are more like parties than meetings. Christmas services, concerts and socials are times of celebration. We defy the darkness with light, we ease off our workloads with an end of year time off work. And most of all we, 'Come, and join the celebration, it's a very special day, come and share the jubilation, there's a new king born today!' (Valerie Collison)

Yes, Christmas is the way in which God breaks into our dull routines, dark forebodings, disinterested outlook, complaining natures, and sceptical pessimism. Church worship is enlivened, social gatherings are happy. Children's performances are full of wonder, stories fire our imagination, music lifts up our spirits, contact is renewed with folk and they seem nearer and dearer.

And this is all because God decided to transform the world, not with political hustings, theological debating chambers, gathering of world leaders, world health forums or educational meetings. No, rather, in the worlds of a Christmas song by Graham Kendrick: 'Heaven invites you to a party, to celebrate the birth of a Son, Angels rejoicing in the starlight, singing 'Christ your Saviour has come.' And if you are having parties, think about some ways in which poorer vulnerable people, even strangers, can share your joy. They may not come into your house or be at the same place of social gathering, but you might provide for them in some little way. In the words of an old Welsh carol, 'All poor men and humble, all lame men who stumble, come haste ye nor feel ye afraid; For Jesus, out treasure, with love past all measure, in lowly poor manger was laid.' (Translated by Katherine Emily Roberts)

With best wishes for this Christmas party season.

Rev Alastair Gray, Interim Moderator

News from the Guild

Here we are almost half way through the 2017-18 session and to date we have had varied and lively meetings with a wide range of topics and guests. We recently held our Quiz Night which had a large attendance and was very much enjoyed by everyone. We still have a variety of guest speakers to look forward to including Rev Shuna Dicks giving a talk on South America and a musical evening with Rory Smith.

We are all looking forward to our Christmas party to be held in the Royal Hotel on the 4 December as not only is it great fun but an excellent way to end the 2017 part of the session.

2018 will see an excellent variety of guest speakers, musical evenings and of course our coffee morning. New members are always welcome to our Guild meeting which meet every second Monday in our Church hall at 7.30pm.

Dorothy Matthews, Secretary

Use It, Or Lose It

The church is for life, not just Christmas, and members of the Kirk Session have made their concern and disappointment known at the reduced numbers attending Sunday worship, particularly in our rural churches. Please show your support for the services conducted in your local community by making the effort to attend as regularly as you can. If numbers fall further, it may be hard to argue the case to keep our rural churches open and certainly no one wants to see them close.

Nicola Smith, Session Clerk

Sunday Club

Our latest craft work project resulted in the children creating striking Remembrance Sunday cards and posters. We hand delivered the cards and posters, along with a small gift, to patients Turner Memorial Hospital and sang songs for the patients who greatly appreciated our visit. We will be performing our nativity play at the united service at St Rufus on Christmas Eve, please come and support our children in their starring role.

Beth Inglis, Leader

Youth Group

The sponsored wake-a-thon was a great success, raising £974 with monies still to come in. We turned the hall into a wee private cinema, watching films on the projector. We played giant Jenga and the boys turned the small room into a games room/mancave with three games consoles on the go. We also had plenty to eat, bacon rolls in the morning and of course Youth Group members took part in the service on the Sunday.

Michael Newlands, Leader

Drivers

Would you like to attend church but getting there is a problem? We have a rota of drivers who offer a door-to-door lift service to and from church co-ordinated by June Cairns. Contact June on 01542 882336 for more details. June would also like to hear from any drivers who would be willing to help on a volunteer basis from time to time.

Forthcoming Services

Sunday, 17th December – Rotary Songs of Praise, St Rufus, 7pm

Sunday, 24th December – 10:15am United service led by children and young people
6pm Christingle at Grange Church; 11.30pm Watchnight at St Rufus

Sunday, 31st December – 10.15am Joint united service, St Rufus

Parish Register to 24th November 2017

Funerals

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

October - Norman Esslemont

Willie Forsyth

November - Sandy Buchan

James Wilken

Margaret Milne

William Anderson