

KIRK OF KEITH: ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNE AND GRANGE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No 79

April 2018

Dear Friends

A vacancy can often be a time when a congregation feels it is in limbo with no vision or driving force. The best vacancies can be quite the opposite. The vacancies that are most attractive to a potential new ministry are the ones where the congregation have been busy and have enhanced their sense of being the church and having a ministry to their parish. It is often a time when a congregation fall back on their own resources and find that there are many talented folk around. They may enter into a greater sense of partnership with neighbouring congregations and find that to help everyone. They may try different styles and patterns of worship or fellowship. They may be able to use some financial resources they are saving during a vacancy to do much needed fabric repairs and useful alterations.

I get the sense that these are happening in various degrees in our congregation. There is a growing sense of partnership within Keith and district churches. We see that in our weekly ministry and administration planning meeting, and in the growing way in which we support each other's churches events. In Keith we have seen it take on an ecumenical dimension with Megan Cambridge doing her training for the Episcopal Church Lay Readership with me. The concept of 'Hub Ministry' is gaining acceptance throughout the whole Church of Scotland. That will lead to ministers having a sense of calling to an area rather than just to one congregation. It will mean the pooling of resources, not just of ministry, but of administration and of particular practical skills. Another advantage is to save our congregation about £1,000 a month in reduced ministry costs.

In Keith, we are already a kind of unofficial hub ministry. It is from the example of our kind of situation that the wider church will learn and develop patterns to serve the future when there will only be 500 parish ministers between 1000 congregations, together with parish assistants like Eckhardt, and lay readers like Megan. These steps that we take together now will help us be the church in Keith for generations to come. As we come to the season of Easter and Pentecost, we see the church coming together from different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, all united by the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the mission to pass on that good news. I hope we can do the same in our own time in Keith.

With best wishes, Rev Alastair Gray

News from the Guild

The Guild has had a wide variety of speakers. Joyce Dawson came along in January accompanied by her talented group of children to help us celebrate Scots Night. We had talks on Linus Quilts for Girls and Christians in Borneo, and Dr John Harrington joined us to share his life story and his involvement in rallying. Our annual coffee morning raised £790 and was enjoyed by all. The World Day of Prayer, this year in St Rufus, was a victim of the bad weather and was postponed for three weeks.

At our AGM Norma updated us on the six Guild Projects which we support by money raised from our annual sponsored walk and silence which takes place in May.

The last event of the year is the Spring Evening on Monday, 9 April in St Rufus Church when Kinloss Military Wives Choir will be performing. This is open to everyone at a cost of £5 to include light refreshments. Our new programme will start in September and meetings are open to both men and women. Why don't you come along and see what we are all about? You will be given a warm welcome.

Joan MacBeath

Sunday Club

We've had a busy year with 20 children who attend regularly, made up of four in nursery and 16 in primary. We've shared many stories about Jesus's life. We had great fun making palm trees which you will see displayed in the hall alongside our other posters and crafts. We appreciated having Michael Newlands visit to talk to children about Communion and we had our own version of this celebration; the children enjoy having visitors join them in activities. We also held our version of a 'baptism', with the nursery section joining the primary section and both getting on very well. We play games, colour in pictures, tackle quizzes and word searches related to different Bible stories. Sunday Club would not operate without the support of the leaders

and youth group helpers to whom I give grateful thanks for giving up their time; also the bus drivers who safely ferry the children to the hall from church. If any child wants to come along, or any adults would like to volunteer, please get in touch, you will all be made welcome.

Beth Inglis

Youth Group

Since we started back after the Summer we have gained five new members, which has been a great boost. Our trip to Tomintoul was its usual success, with everyone getting on brilliantly and we had our usual compliments from the local community about how polite and well-mannered our group are.

Our annual fundraiser, the Wake-a-thon, was another brilliant night filled with games, movies on big projector like our own mini cinema and the boys converted the small room into a 'man cave' equipped with three games consoles and of course plenty of food to keep us going till morning and our bacon butties. The Youth Group then participated in the service, a delight to see. Putting fun and games aside, the Youth Group managed to raise a phenomenal £950! So well done to all of them for raising that money, and also the leaders for managing to stay awake all night!

In January, we had the Year of the Young People Service at St Rufus and Grange Churches. Both congregations very much enjoyed seeing the young people involved in the services again, and I feel it should be mentioned that not only did the young folk participate in the service, or if they weren't taking part they came to support those who were, the Youth Group also wrote the prayers and the children's address. Each of the young people who attended should be commended for not only coming to support each other in the daunting task of speaking in front of everyone, but also for their hard work in writing their own bits. It goes to show how hard working, and how creative, the young people in our church are.

Watch out in April for the return of "Oor Youth Group's Got Talent". Another chance for our young folk to show off their own unique talents, from singing and dancing to a few funny sketches. It's set to be a very entertaining night so be sure to get your tickets! The Youth Group are also putting together their own video to celebrate the Year of the Young People, and to show off just how much we do, so watch this space! All in all, well done to our Youth Group for their continuing hard work and for their own unique contributions to our churches!

Michael Newlands

Communion Dates

Sunday, 29th April –St Rufus at 10.15am; Botriphnie at 11.45am

Sunday, 6th May – Grange 11.45am

Parish Register to 31 March 2018 - Funerals

October 2017

William Fordyce

Apologies to the family of the late William Fordyce for the error in his name printed in December's newsletter

December 2018

Denise Johnson

James Thain

Irene Ingram

January 2018

Walter Rutherford

Alexander (Sandy) Reid

Douglas (Dougal) French

Roderick (Roddy) Stewart

Joey Law

February 2018

Denise Maver

Mary (Winnie) Coull

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Duff

March 2018

Joan Allan

Sheila Strathdee

Graeme Smith