

KIRK OF KEITH: ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNE AND GRANGE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

I was picking rowans at Rothiemay and a local worthy said, 'I hope you are leaving enough for the birds.' I replied that I had a deal with the birds. They would clean up the top of the tree where I could not reach, and I would only pick from ground level. The birds thought it was a good deal.

When we have more than enough, there are memorable expressions to go beyond our basic language: 'My cup runneth over' (Psalm 23:5); 'Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need' (Luke 12:31); 'God's love has been poured out into our hearts (Romans 5:5); 'Grace abounding' (2 Corinthians 9:8); 'I'm feasting on the manna from a bountiful supply' (from Charles Mile's hymn 'Dwelling Beulah Land); 'There's a routh o' mair where that came frae' (Scots); 'An ample sufficiency' (John Galsworth's 1922 novel, The Forsyte Saga); 'Heap plenty' (Bahamian), 'Loads' (James Bond).

These phrases came to mind as I look out over the harvest of fruits and vegetables and grains in the gardens, hedgerows and fields around us this autumn. We escaped the worst of the drought that left livestock needing to start on their winter feed back in August further south. Our farmers will get a good return for their labours this year.

In the wider picture of life, we have plenty to live for as well as enough to live on. That is a good advert for Christian faith, and our worship on Sunday is a good expression of that. When our cups run over, the surplus should be a benefit to others.

Some practical ways of expression that plentiful supply are to give away what we cannot keep, share what we cannot contain, unburden ourselves of what we cannot carry, share good news that we can hardly wait to tell, make space for more because we have freed up the available space in the larder of life.

Happy harvest days, Alastair Gray, Interim Moderator

News from the Guild

It's the start of another year and this year's theme is "Seeking the Way" and the topic is "The Unexpected Journeys". The syllabus for 2018-2019 is diverse and stimulating, where we will be making some journeys. We have speakers giving talks on the Camino de Santiago walk, The Holy Land and Orphans in India. As usual we have a variety of musical evenings and our ever popular Quiz Night. These are just some of the evenings in the syllabus. We are all looking forward to our Christmas meal on the 3 December as not only is it great fun but an excellent way to end the 2018 part of the session, although a venue hasn't been decided on yet. The 2019 Coffee Morning will be held on 16 February at St Rufus Hall. New members are always welcome to our Guild meetings which are every second Monday in our Church hall at 7.30pm. **Dorothy Matthews**

Sunday Club

We have been busy at Sunday Club as usual. We have been learning about Adam and Eve and all the animals that God created and we have drawn pictures showing Noah and his ark and the children have enjoyed putting their own interpretation on to these stories. We created pictures representing harvest time which helped decorate the church for the harvest thanksgiving service which we took part in, saying a prayer and performing a world harvest-themed celebration song. The children that come along every week are always keen to tackle any subject. If any child wants to join us, or any parent wishes to find out more about Sunday Club, I'd be happy to provide more information, just give me a call on 01542 887940. **Beth Inglis**

Christmas Fayre

Please support the Christmas Fayre at the Longmore Halls on Saturday, 27th October in any way you can. It opens from 10am with teas and coffees served from 10-11.30am and soup and sweet lunches from 12 noon. This year's stalls will include bric-a-brac, bottle, cake and candy, produce, books, Traidcraft, new items, crafts, raffles and much more. Be sure to buy a ticket to be in with a chance of winning one of our luxury Christmas hampers.

Youth Group

The Youth Group is in full swing and we've hit the ground running. We'll be having talks from Mary Whittaker, minister to the deaf, as well as from my dad about Remembrance. We've been planning our fundraiser so watch this space. The Youth Group helped out at the Fun Week as well and did an amazing job. It's a great chance for them to show their leadership skills and we can just hope that they will become the church leaders of tomorrow. If they do decide to keep going throughout the church then the future is perhaps not so bleak after all.

Our annual trip to Tomintoul was great. We made our usual trips to Landmark and the Old Fire Station for our bacon rolls. That's always a highlight. The enthusiasm of our youth is certainly infectious and encouraging. We have our favourite hymns, "Brothers and Sisters" and "Make Way", but the Youth Group also requested specific hymns this year to bolster our evening worship and we engaged in late night discussions, with the topics chosen by the Youth Group.

We are certainly lucky to have a Youth Group in our church, and it's especially heartening to see members not just sit back and listen to what's being said in worship or discussion, but instead take the lead and ask the questions they want answered and shape worship in a way that will make it meaningful to them. With hopefulness in my heart and inspiration from our group's enthusiasm, I look forward to this coming year and as ever, I am truly grateful to these young people for their contribution to our church, as well as to the leaders for giving up their time and talents to help keep the Youth Group running. **Michael Newlands**

Communion Dates

Sunday, 28th October –St Rufus at 10.15am; Botriphnie at 11.45am

Sunday, 4th November – Grange at 11.45am

Retiring offerings for the Sunshine Playgroup

Parish Register to 30 September 2018

WEDDINGS

June - Senel Ozkapici and John McDonald

July - Rachel McKay and Mark Andrews

Hayley-Rose Henderson and Michael Newlands

September - Paula Johnston and Anthony Laird

BAPTISMS

August - Jack Craig Blakeman, son of Lisa and Richard

September - Molly Evie Esson, daughter of Claire and Max

FUNERALS

April - Douglas Dey

Margaret Christie

Elizabeth McDonald

May - Jessie (Nancy) Dickson

Leslie Bisset

Gilbert Duncan

Sandy Duncan

June - Phyllis Leith

Helen Milne

July - Harriet Murray

August - Ida Smith

Robert Gill

NEW COMMUNICANTS

June - Ellie Roberson, Bradley Robertson, Jack Robertson and Gina Robertson

NEW ELDERS

June - Sandra Gerrie and Que Henderson