

KIRK OF KEITH: ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNE AND GRANGE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No 82

April 2019

Dear Friends, fellow Christians on God's Journey:

As Easter approaches, we are journeying through Lent, but let's look back at the last few months, and how St Rufus, Grange and Botriphnie congregations have worked so hard together.

Often after Christmas we can feel deflated. We have celebrated Jesus' birth, had parties, services, food and joy, then come the winter blues. But the bicentenary and nominating committees got into gear and started to forward plan. I often use the journey of Ruth for the Guild's theme this year of seeking the way to reflect on our journeys. Ruth following Naomi to seek faith in the Lord.

The Bicentenary celebrations were wonderful, seeing the whole community coming together to celebrate 200 years of the church and what does church mean? Yes, family, we had an open church manned by a dedicated team, services, opened with Megan and Keith & District Silver Band, and living stones. A night of talent led by the youth group, an organ recital by Iain Carr, celebrations led by Presbytery moderator Stuart Duff with the dedication of the wonderful banner, all the primary Schools descended on the church, children singing and having fun, then a coffee morning which raised a tremendous amount for funds but most of all saw the community gather again. We ended the week with the joy of a baptism and a celebration of Strathisla Pipe Band's 100th birthday.

We must remember those who have been behind the scenes baking, giving up hours to man the church, making teas, printing off services, meeting and greeting. How fortunate we are to have a church family who can go that extra mile. Now a rest for my waistline, those home bakes were temptation!

In Lent, it's usual to give up something like chocolate or treats. This year I decided that I would give up being judgemental and seeing people for who they really are and that can be really hard even as a Christian, but we have to reflect on how Jesus would have treated his fellow human beings. Remember before trying to remove the splinter from someone else's eye look at the log in your own!

So, let's move forward. To Holy Week, sharing services with our fellow Church communities, to sharing the joy of another baptism, but most of all to joining together in prayer to seek a Shepherd for this flock and seeking God's help for those who are sick and lost in our community and remembering how Jesus suffered for us.

The power of prayer is not always understood, but I hope through our prayers for the future, our healing services and bereavement services we can all find comfort. Have a blessed, joyous Easter. He has risen rejoice, and may your Easter eggs multiply! **Love and Blessings, Rev Sonia Palmer**

Nominating committee

We have a new parish profile which reflects the many ways in which we work together for the good of our church, the wider community and the world. We've been encouraged by the positive publicity surrounding the fantastic St Rufus 200 celebrations, and the Youth Group's great achievement in reaching the finals of a national youth awards. Both events saw many column inches of coverage in local and regional newspapers and featured on Church of Scotland social media, and we hope this will catch the eye of a potential candidate! We will continue to work together and pray together, in seeking our next minister to support us in carrying out God's work. **Fiona Simpson**

Sunday Club

We have a dozen regular attenders whose enthusiasm is infectious as they set about making posters, taking part in quizzes and games and listening to stories. We enjoyed working with the Youth Group for the bicentenary youth service and we hope this supports our older members' transition to youth

group. We look forward to joining forces with them again. If anyone would like their child or grandchild to attend Sunday Club, even on an occasional basis, they would be made very welcome – simply pop up to the hall or call me for more information on 01542 887940. **Beth Inglis**

Guild

The Guild's AGM reflected on a busy year with excellent speakers, brilliant musicians, a successful coffee morning, a fun quiz, our usual sponsored walk and silence and two enjoyable meals. We close this session with a Spring Evening with the Huntly Quines in the hall on Monday, 8 April at 7.30pm. Please come along – you will be given a warm welcome. The Guild supports the Church, Sunday Club, Youth Group and the Fun Week financially as well as Christian Aid and the six Guild projects. Feel free to come along to any meeting to see what goes on. We're always looking for new members – young or old, men or women! **Joan MacBeath**

Youth Group

The Youth Group's ceilidh raised £1150 and it was a fantastic evening, enjoyed by many and the British Legion was packed – thanks to all who came along. We joined together with Sunday Club to deliver a bicentenary services. Youth Group instrumentalists performed musical pieces and Sunday Club performed a song and dance for the congregation. One Youth Group member delivered a Rev I.M Jolly sketch from the pulpit, and the youngsters did the readings and prayers. We may have the makings of a good ministry in the future. The overall theme was the talents of youth and their contribution to our church, and the church as a wider body. We can only hope and pray that these young people will continue to share their talents with the church, well into the future so that they too can inspire the younger generations into the church with their talents. Barbara and myself travelled to Glasgow for the Youth Link national awards. We did not win but we did receive a finalist's plaque that will make its way into church very soon. I'm grateful to all of the Youth Group leaders for their hard work and for giving up their time; thankful to the leaders of Sunday Club for joining us in the youth-led service, and also to members of both groups who took part in the service. We as a church are lucky to have so many young people involved in our groups, especially having such a talented bunch of young people as well. **Michael Newlands**

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday April 28 – Communion at St Rufus, 10.15am; Botriphnie 11.45am.

Sunday, May 5 - Communion at Grange, 11.45am

Saturday, May 18 – Christian Aid coffee morning, St Rufus Hall, 10am-12 noon.

Parish Register to 31 March 2019

BAPTISMS

March - Grant Edward Weir, son of Hazel and Iain

FUNERALS

November –Rona Dingwall

December –Isobel Bell

William Anderson

Robert Cormack

George Morrison

January - Dean Cruickshank

Rose Sievwright

Allie Smith

Phyllis Milne

February - Rita Hutt

Isabella Fettes

March - James Simpson

George Paterson