

KIRK OF KEITH: ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNIE AND GRANGE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No 83

October 2019

Dear fellow Christians journeying with Christ,

Well, a busy summer has passed and many events have taken place from the picnic, prizegiving, fun week, coffee mornings, and of course holidays for the more fortunate of us. I write this letter basking in the sun celebrating a family wedding and sharing good times with joy.

We now move into another busy time for young and old celebrating the harvest and how God provides for us with all our needs to keep alive.

From Genesis we hear how God created this small planet into a place where his people could live, he hoped, in love and peace. Maybe one day, if we all pray hard enough and survive Brexit, this will come true! There will be a world where food, wealth and friendship is shared.

On a local level that will be happening at the Christmas Fayre. This takes place on Saturday 26 October and it's an important day, as it reflects so much of what the church is about in one day – faith, fellowship, giving and service. Please support it however you can. If you can't make it along, please consider buying raffle tickets for the chance to win one of the wonderful Christmas hampers. If you are free, please go along and join the coffee morning, browse and spend at the many stalls and enjoy a soup and sweet lunch.

Let's celebrate the coming of Advent sharing and caring as Jesus did and keep going with those healing prayers for others and for a minister to answer the call to come to Keith.

Thank you all once again for all your support in my role as Interim Moderator. I must say that it's all due to the help of the elders and members of the congregation that keeps this a blessed and happy church.

Sorry you can't join me in the sun but I'm sending you all the warmth of God's love.

Blessings, Rev Sonia Palmer, Interim Moderator

Communion Call

A plea from the Kirk Session – please make a special effort to attend the upcoming Communion services.

Attendance rates have been steadily declining over the years and from a membership of almost 900, only 180 people attended the Communion services in April.

All are welcome to the Lord's Table; please do take the time to take part in the Sacrament of Holy Communion as a profession of your faith and as a sign of your support and commitment to our church. This is particularly important at a time when we have a vacancy.

Interim Moderator Rev Sonia Palmer is happy to give Home Communion to members who are no longer able to attend church. Any elder will be happy to arrange this for you, or contact Rev Palmer directly on 07748 700 929. **Nicola Smith, Session Clerk**

Guild

The new session began with a very entertaining musical evening by the Myrtle Scott Duo. The Rev Sonia Palmer conducted the Guild dedication at Botriphnie, and developed her sermon theme of companionship as guest speaker at our meeting the following evening. To celebrate 125 years of The Guild, several members gathered at Boogie Woogie to enjoy a meal. There are lots more interesting evenings to follow, and old and new members are welcome to attend.

Margaret Christie, Minute Secretary

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday, October 26 – Church Extravaganza, Longmore Halls, from 10am.

Sunday October 27 – Communion at St Rufus, 10.15am; Communion at Botriphnie, 11.45am

Sunday, November 3 - Communion at Grange, 11.45am

Fun Week

Around 30 children attended this circus-themed week of crafts, games and singing, with Sharon Henderson leading the dancing. Magic-Faces came to do balloon animals and Lauren Hay did face painting. The children's participation in Sunday worship gave us all a boost – they even did some sign language. Sincere thanks to everyone who supported us. Roll on next year! **Michael Newlands**

Sunday Club

We have around 10 children who regularly attend Sunday Club. We have been looking at Jesus' miracles and doing associated craft, quiz and artwork activities. After our session in the hall, Sunday Club now comes down to church for the end of the service and this is working well.

The children love making the annual trip to Turner Memorial Hospital on Remembrance Sunday and we will be returning this year, delivering our poppies. Soon after that we'll be launching into rehearsals for the Nativity – more about that in the December newsletter. We're always keen to see new children at any time, even occasionally. Parental help is also appreciated. **Beth Inglis, Leader**

Youth Group

We look forward to getting to know our three new starts as the year progresses. We're not long back from our Tomintoul weekend and our reputation certainly precedes us because we were recognised as the youth group from Keith.

There was dressing up and group song and dance. We had our trip to Landmark and a karaoke competition. We engaged in worship, with Sonia coming to give us Communion. Worship is always a special time with singing, reflection and various devotionals to celebrate our life with God. It has such a wonderful atmosphere, and great enthusiasm with the singing, peppered with a good dollop of laughter. All this has led to the magnificent phrase being uttered – 'Gie it laldy for the Lord'. A phrase we will certainly try to live up to. Thanks to all of the leaders and all the young people who make this group truly spectacular. **Michael Newlands, Leader**

Parish Register to 25 September 2019

BAPTISMS

March - Oscar Simpson, son of Keith and Lynette Simpson

FUNERALS

March - Margaret Cowie

Tom Smith

Isobel England

April – James McBain

Colin Winton

Iain McWilliam

May - Alastair (Ally) Green

June – James Rennie

William Cameron

Iona Duncan

July – Madge Morrison

Sheila Poppy

Duncan McKelvie

Katherine Ingram

August – Alex (Leslie) Ross

Margaret Farmer

Alan Greig

John Riddoch

Watson Smith