

# KIRK OF KEITH: ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNIE AND GRANGE

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**Issue No 84**

**December 2019**

### **Dear Friends**

As we move into Advent and the season of reflecting on the anniversary of our Saviour's birth, we look back on the past year.

What a busy time the St Rufus, Botriphnie and Grange congregation has had. Bicentenary celebrations, Easter and what a joy seeing the communities coming together in inter-faith worship.

What a pleasure seeing the schools, children singing songs, and fun week showing that music and dancing can tell a story. All groups within the church work away tirelessly, from the property committee beavering away keeping our buildings safe, the finance committee keeping the books in the black, social events, external groups, Fly and Friendship, the team that decorates the church, the tea ladies, Iain playing the organ with such passion, our Beadles and Elders...the list is endless, and most important is the congregation, connecting with the Lord on His day and supporting church events.

I have had the pleasure and joy of being Interim Moderator for a year and working with the nominating committee to find a permanent shepherd for this flock. God will listen and at the right time a shepherd will appear.

As we move towards Christmas let us remember those who like our Saviour have no roof over their heads. I ask you to buy The Big Issue to help the homeless, but let's remember all those across the world who will not be having a happy Christmas and will be hoping for a happier New Year and include them in our prayers. We should, in our prayers, remember those in our congregation and community who have lost someone this year, and who will find Christmastime difficult. If you know someone is their own then remember it's just as easy to cook for two, three, four or more.

So, let's echo the angel's song, "Glory to God in the Highest and peace to men on whom his favour rests". Peace on earth; pray for realisation that this is the only way to co-exist. Peace on earth, good will to all men! Who knows what lies ahead in 2020, where our journey goes from here? With parliamentary change and Brexit on the horizon, we can all play our part in trying to encourage peace. Read your Bibles, pray and love thy neighbour as thyself, and be sure to buy The Big Issue and offer some hope to the homeless.

May you all have a wonderful, loving, memorable, happy Christmas and may the New Year bring you coal for your fire, God's blessings in abundance, love and "Peace on Earth Goodwill to Men".

Let's all pray for a peaceful life together in God's love.

**Rev Sonia Palmer, Interim Moderator**

### **Publicity**

With earlier advertising deadlines introduced as the result of the Banffshire Herald being published on a Tuesday, weekly kirk notices will no longer be advertised in its church notices columns. Please refer to the weekly intimations sheet, which is also uploaded to the website and is available to view under the 'catch up' tab. Regular church announcements will also be found on the church's Facebook page.

### **Fundraising committee**

This is a new group that has been formed to look at different ways of generating income for our church. One of our first events will be an afternoon of entertainment in St Rufus Church on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March. This will take a Scottish theme, involving talented performers from the local community, and teas will be served. Please pop the date in your diary and support the committee in its efforts. To that end, any suggestions for future events to raise funds, particularly new and different ideas, would be welcome.

**Susan Hutcheon**

### **Nominating committee**

As we look ahead to a new year and a fresh push to help us find a minister, we're pleased to welcome Willie Dingwall to the committee. The weekly prayer for the future keeps minds focused on our quest to find a shepherd to lead and guide us, and please keep this cause in your own thoughts and prayers. **Fiona Simpson**

## **Sunday Club**

Remembrance Sunday saw our annual trip to the hospital and the whole of Sunday Club enjoyed being there with the patients, who thanked us for coming. In a departure from tradition, instead of a Christmas party in the hall, we are going on a bowling trip instead. Sharon Henderson has joined us in rehearsals for the Christmas performance – please come and see the children in church on Sunday 22 December. If we have any spare time after all of that, we will get creative and make some Christmas decorations.

There's always plenty of room for new children to come and join the fun – give me a call if you'd like your child or grandchild to drop in for a session, even just occasionally, on 01542 887940 **Beth Inglis**

## **Youth Group**

It's been a quick couple of months since the Youth Group were at Tomintoul. We've held our regular sessions, with a very interesting talk from Keith & District Heritage Group about Keith during war time. It certainly gave us food for thought and a greater appreciation for our local history. Very soon, Youth Group members who went out to volunteer in India will be talking to us about that, and we look forward to it. We'll also be having our Christmas meal which is a nice way to end the year.

Never one to give folk peace, which I'm sure Hayley would agree with, I've set a challenge to the Youth Group to start reading one chapter of Luke's Gospel each day, starting on the 1st December. Given that there's 24 chapters, it gives us the full story of Jesus, just before Christmas. After all, Jesus is the reason for the season. I'll be joining the Youth Group in this, and each day we'll have a chat about the chapter we read. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, and we'll see you in the New Year. **Michael Newlands**

## **News from the Guild**

There has been plenty of variety in the Guild programme. Nigel Bodiam, a dedicated follower of the Desert Rats, came dressed for the occasion, brought weapons to view, and enthralled members with an interesting presentation. Gordon Castle Ed Bollam gave an illustrated and enlightening talk on the history of the estate and development of the garden. Our annual quiz with Charlie Simpson and Ryan was another highly amusing and entertaining evening. Keith fire fighters gave an interesting presentation with and advice on safety in the home. On behalf of the Guild I wish everyone a healthy and happy 2020. **Margaret Christie**

### **Service Dates**

**Sunday, 15th December** – Rotary Carols, 7pm St Rufus

**Sunday, 22nd December** – United service including Sunday Club nativity, St Rufus 10.15am

**24th December** – Christingle, Grange 6pm.

**24th December** – Watchnight Service at St Rufus, 11.30pm.

**25th December** – Service at Keith North Church 11am

**29th December** – Joint service with Keith North in St Rufus Church, 10.15am

**Sunday, 26th January** – healing service, St Rufus 6pm

**Sunday, 23rd February** – healing service, St Rufus 6pm

### **Parish Register to 23rd November 2019**

#### **BAPTISM**

**October** - Georgia Stables, daughter of Tony and Elaine Stables

#### **FUNERALS**

**October** - James Dean

Gladys Murphy

Margaret Falconer

May Morrison

Audrey Henderson

**November** - Nellie McGregor