

KIRK OF KEITH: ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNE AND GRANGE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No 85

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Covid-19: Cancellation of Worship Services

All church gatherings have ceased until further notice, including Communion and Easter services, but we're busy looking at how to reach out to members in different ways. Please see the other materials delivered with this newsletter for suggestions to help keep connected and involved in the Church community at this difficult time. Safety, and the health of everyone, is of paramount importance.

Dear Fellow Christians,

This letter was difficult to write with all that is going on in our very troubled, frightened world, but then I thought again, not about the joy of Nutty Nanny rolling her painted eggs with Lacey, but how much the true message of Easter is being played. We have, over the past few weeks, seen human traits both good and bad, acts of selfishness, greed, fear, lack of faith, hope, Christian kindness, human kindness, humility and selflessness.

The guns of war throughout the world have taken second place to sombre bulletins on how many more have died from coronavirus and latest numbers of those who have contracted the virus. Our hearts and prayers go out to all affected by this plague; I say plague as we had locusts.

Why does it take something as tragic as this to put people into 'kind mode'? Do we need to see another sacrificial lamb going to the slaughter for our sins? As scripture says, and I repeat at funerals, weeping may be for a night, but joy comes in the morning. That's the Easter message.

That is why we celebrate Easter. Yes, we may have to curtail our Easter celebrations, but whether in church or in isolation, from Palm Sunday onwards, let us walk with Jesus, from that triumphant ride through Jerusalem, the betrayal in the last supper, the betrayal in Gethsemane, the torture-laden walk with a cross, bearing a crown of thorns, to hanging on a cross, but still caring for his flock. Then that ultimate sacrifice: death to forgive us of our sins. The sun always rises on a new day; eternal life, He lives!

Don't forget the meaning of Easter. Love thy neighbour, love one another as I do, remember Jesus' words and in some way, even if it's just eating a cackleberry (egg), the empty shell! This Easter; The Risen Christ: New Life.

This congregation is so devout at working together and in its ongoing efforts to find a new minister, something will hopefully be on the horizon soon. We sometimes must work through the hard times to reach that joy in the morning. Keep up the good work. Stay safe, look out and after each other and pray for our world. God's blessings to you all.

Rev Sonia Palmer, Interim Moderator

Fun week

We hope that we will be going on a Jungle Jamboree this summer. That's the theme of the holiday fun week which is due to run from 11th-14th August at St Rufus Hall from 9am to 12 noon. All primary aged children will be welcome along for fun, friendship, games, music, dance, craft, drama and snacks. Donations would be appreciated too. To book a place, or check the latest status, contact me at clansman16@hotmail.co.uk

Michael Newlands

Sunday Club

We have 10 children who attend regularly. We have been attending church at the beginning of the service and it's lovely to be back. The congregation love to see the children in church and tell me how much they enjoy them being part of worship. We have been meeting the ministry team to discuss the topic of the service, the lesson providing the theme for craft work in the hall. Recently we have been learning about Moses and his life from baby and how he grew up to serve God. Although we are not able to meet just now, we will overcome the current challenges and when we do there is always a place for children at Sunday Club, whether they are regular attenders or occasional visitors.

Beth Inglis

Youth Group

There's been lots of different things happening at youth group this year. We enjoyed attending worship at St Thomas' RC Church; we learned about the Stations of the Cross and had a visit from Therapets. I was great to see so many people turn out to the youth group ceildh with the Strathspey Fiddlers and help us raise £789. Thanks to our leaders for planning the evening and all who came along. We've been part of church worship, leading the congregation in prayer using British Sign Language. We said goodbye to Aidan Morrison, who left us to go to Plymouth for Naval training, but we hope to see him when he's home. Meetings have stopped just now but we are keeping in touch by social networking. **Sarah Green**

Botriphnie 200

Planning is underway to celebrate Botriphnie Church's 200th anniversary with a united service of praise on Sunday, May 24. The community bus will take people from Keith and worship will be followed by refreshments in Drummuir Hall so please do support this landmark occasion. We are looking for old photos, cuttings and memorabilia to show the many different occasions that have taken place in the church so please start looking these out. The date could be subject to change depending on latest Covid-19 restrictions so check social media and the church website for the latest updates. **Billy Stewart**

News from the Guild

John Aitken entertained us with tales from his time as headmaster at Keith Grammar School before giving an interesting insight into his retirement holiday to North Korea. In December we had a lovely Christmas lunch at the Royal Hotel. January started with a members' night in the hall and later that month we hosted the Country Quines who provided first class entertainment at our Scots night, three very talented young ladies. In February Ron Smith gave an illustrated and detailed talk on the life of Cee Elizabeth of Austria and we had a very interesting talk on stained glass by Carol Deadman. Elizabeth Copp shared her journey of Hadrian's Wall, one that she took with her sister and two friends, raising £4690.35 in aid of the PSP Association. **Margaret Christie**

Church register to 21 March 2020

FUNERALS

November – Irene Findlay

December - Johnny Davidson

Ruby Paterson

Muriel Rennie

Margaret Stewart

January - Elizabeth Morrison

Charlie Mackie

Margaret Harper

Elizabeth Richards

Maureen Sievwright

George Stables

Danny Ettles

Isobel Dalgarno

February - Mike Fraser

Sylvia Nicol

William Barron

Doreen Mitchell

Muriel Smith

Ina Park

March - Violet Innes

Mary Simpson

Alexina Sandy Cowie

Randall Webster

Lachie Russell