

# KIRK OF KEITH: ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNE & GRANGE

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**Issue No 89**

**October 2021**

### Dear Friends

Every believer is supposed to live out their faith in a way that actions and words spread the Kingdom of God. Some people get it right, but most of us think we're too weak, or foolish, or untalented, or bashful, or anything along those lines. The upshot, of course, is massive damage to God's Kingdom.

Only a few are willing to stand in God's service when He needs millions of witnesses across the world. We can, however, make a difference! Each of us can carry out our responsibilities! It is not so difficult or impossible, if one analyses Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, particularly 2 Corinthians 4:7.

We as Christians must recognise that we have something of immense value to people; "a treasure," in Paul's words. What exactly is this unique feature? This is the Gospel knowledge that we have. We know that sinners can find salvation in Jesus Christ. We understand that we are no longer responsible for our misdeeds and, as a result, will not inherit eternal damnation.

We know we will inherit eternal life because we believe in Jesus Christ. Yes, we have the solution to humanity's most pressing issue: the Fall. This expertise is desperately needed around the world. Every human being on the planet is looking for a solution to the sin problem, whether consciously or unconsciously. As a result, we hold a treasure, comparable to a 10-carat diamond. It is something that every human being on the planet wishes for. That is why we do not need to sell our treasure - we do not need to intimidate or force people into God's Kingdom. We don't have to make a reason for the treasure to exist. God has done it in the past and continues to do so today through His Holy Spirit. All we must do now is give the world what it wants.

God also does not expect us to do superhuman feats. If He expects us to express our faith, He understands that we are vulnerable beings. He created us and so knows us better than we know ourselves. As a result, He is aware of our flaws. He understands how readily we fall; He understands how easy we do the wrong thing even when we know it is wrong. As a frail clay jar contrasts dramatically with the value it contains but is also the only and safest storage site at the time, so it is true that in our sinfulness we may see it as an honour that God finds us worthy to store the treasure.

Finally, what if we fail? What if the prize is too big for the clay jar to hold? If we sin, do we dishonour God by admitting our frail sinfulness? So, how will God's riches be revealed to the world? God has a plan in place for that as well. He is all-powerful; He can deliver the wealth, clay jar and all! He can still save the treasure, as well as the clay jar that smashes. It means two things: God will preserve and forgive us, ie cure us, and God will never allow His Kingdom to be squandered due to our flaws. The almighty God, you see, stands behind it all. It is like a parent letting their child take a cup to the kitchen while they walk behind them and keep their eyes on the way. Let us take courage and tell the world about Jesus Christ!

**Rev Wiekus van Straaten**

### CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre will be held at the Longmore Halls on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> November from 10am-12noon in a smaller format to comply with Covid 19 safety. There will be teas and coffees but no soup and sweet lunches. Look out for the big raffle, lucky squares, bottle stall, good as new, crafts and lucky bags. Please support this much-needed fundraiser however you can. Your district elder will have tickets for the luxury hamper raffle priced at £1 per ticket (£5 per book) and see also Facebook for opportunities to purchase other fundraising tickets.

### Diary Dates

**Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> October** – Communion 10.15am St Rufus; Grange 11.45am

**Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> November** – Christmas Fayre, Longmore Halls, 10am-12 noon.

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> November** – Communion at Botriphnie, 11.45am

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> November** – Remembrance Sunday Service at St Rufus, 10.15am

## **SUNDAY CLUB**

Sunday Club returned in August and we have 10 children who attend regularly. There are three newcomers and three who go to Youth Group. We meet at church first and after taking part in the first part of the service we walk to Sunday Club and this is working well. We've had stories about Adam and Eve and Noah and created a poster of Noah and his Ark. We all enjoy listening to stories, completing quizzes and drawing pictures and we have two arks that smaller children love playing with. We made posters for the Harvest Thanksgiving and attended the service. We're already excited to be taking part in Nativity at Christmas service. **Beth Inglis, Leader**

## **YOUTH GROUP RETURNS**

It is with great joy that we have finally been able to open the Youth Group again. The Summer Holidays can sometimes feel like a long time, but this pandemic-induced sabbatical seemed to take forever. The important thing is though, we're back!

Sadly, we have lost a number of our older ones who have naturally progressed on to other things such as finding work or going off to university. Our loss is certainly the world's gain as they start to take their first steps outside of our humble wee toon. I'm sure I speak for all the leaders, and indeed the congregation, by wishing them well in all their endeavours and we will miss them greatly.

Happily though, we have welcomed back some old members of the Youth Group but also some new members too. Hopefully they find their time with us fulfilling, educational but most importantly, fun. Whilst we are trying to learn our way round this new world of ours with all of the incumbent restrictions, we are still moving ahead with plans for the coming weeks and for the Christmas period as well. Hopefully we will find ourselves closer to something resembling normality in the coming weeks and months, but we in the Youth Group have never really embraced normal so we will carry on as best we can.

Numbers are very low with this new Youth Group so I ask you all to try your best to encourage friends and family who have young people around them, to think about joining the Youth Group. I'd also like to ask you all to pray for the Youth Group. Just wish us well and for a bit of growth. **Michael Newlands, Leader**

## **GUILD RESUMES**

On 7th September the Guild met for the first time since Covid and welcomed Rev van Straaten who gave us a very informative and light-hearted insight into his journey into the Ministry and his calling to St Rufus. On 5th October our guest was Mr John Aitken who delighted us with an illustrated and informative talk on Old Cullen. The Guild meetings are now held first Tuesday of the month in St Rufus Hall 2-4pm and new members are always welcome. **Margaret Christie, Minute Secretary**

## **CHURCH REGISTER to 10 October 2021**

### **BAPTISMS**

#### **June**

Harry Alexander and Alfie Ronnie  
Esson

#### **October**

Molly Reid

### **FUNERALS**

#### **April**

Helen Bain  
Margaret Livingstone  
Christine Thomson  
Brian Wright

### **FUNERALS (cont)**

#### **May**

William (Wullie) Duguid  
Ann Duncan  
William (Bill) Barclay

#### **June**

Jack Cree  
Helen Reid  
Margaret Morrison  
William (Bill) Morrison

#### **July**

William (Bill) McLean  
Alexander (Sandy) Oag  
Stuart Begg

### **FUNERALS (cont)**

#### **August**

Neil Duncan

#### **September**

Margaret McWilliam  
Graeme Green  
Isabella (Bunty) Barclay  
Jean Thomson  
George Angus  
George Shand  
Sally Knight

#### **October**

Nigel Bodiam  
Sheena Mackie

