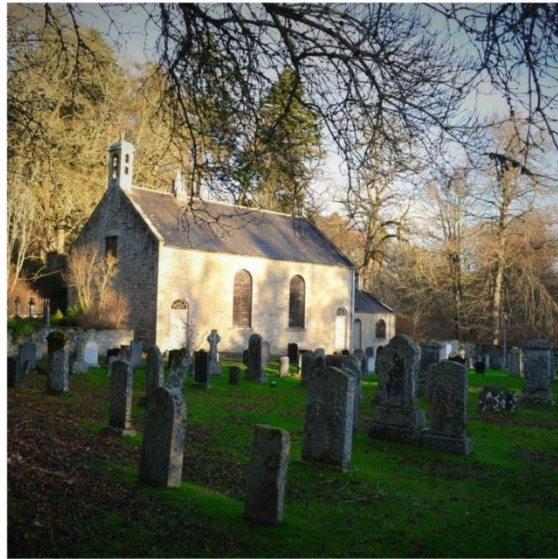


KIRK OF KEITH: ST RUFUS, BOTRIPHNIE AND GRANGE

Parish Profile October 2017



Hello...we hope our parish profile reflects our congregation's enthusiasm and commitment as we seek to find out new minister. You'll find we are active in worship, prayer, outreach and service and look forward to having a minister to lead us on our journey.

Keith is a great place to live and work; it has a friendly and safe community and is within easy reach of coastline and the hills, with effective transport links, good health and education provision and great independent shops and services. Lots of information follows and please do get in touch with any questions you may have – useful contacts are given at the end of the document.

Fiona Simpson, Nominating Committee Convener



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PARISH AND COMMUNITY

We are a united congregation with three places of worship – St Rufus in Keith, Botriphnie in Drummuir and Grange, three miles from Keith. The manse is located opposite St Rufus Church, on Church Road in Keith while our church hall is a short distance away in the town's Turner Street.

Known as the Friendly Town, Keith is situated midway between Aberdeen and Inverness and within the Moray local authority area. It has good transport links, with regular and reliable bus and train services to the two cities and connecting with the rest of Scotland.

The town itself has a good shopping centre, with a great range of independent shops, as well as a large Tesco superstore and petrol stations, health centre and community hospital.

Keith has two primary schools and rural schools in the Keith Grammar catchment area include Botriphnie and Crossroads (Grange). Its sports centre contains a swimming pool with steam and sauna room, gym and sports hall and there's an astro-turf pitch, golf course and tennis courts, a library with computer suite and a mobile library that visits rural areas.

There are so many clubs and groups in Keith that it's hard to know where to start -- from Zumba to Archery, Pipe Band to Stagestars Performing Arts School. As well as church groups, our own hall is in much demand from Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, exercise and support groups to name but a few.

Once the textile industry was dominant in the area but now the main source of employment comes from farming, distilling, and the service sectors.

Two landmark events are the TMSA Music Festival, held on the second weekend of June – St Rufus Church is one of the venues used for competitions – and the two-day Keith Country Show in August, renowned for its impressive livestock displays.

Just like our town, our congregation has a strong spirit of community and as at 31 December 2016 membership was 1058.

Together with the town's other Church of Scotland, namely Keith North Newmill, Boharm and Rothiemay, we have a shared parish assistant, Eckhardt Bosch. Our Interim Moderator, Rev Alastair Gray, is parish minister at Keith North.

KIRK SESSION AND CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

Our Kirk Session comprises of 58 elders in total with an average of 40 attending session meetings.

We have an active and committed Congregational Board of 47 members of whom 37 are elders. The Board looks after our finances, properties and fellowship and meets immediately before any scheduled Kirk Session meeting, approximately five or six times a year.

SERVICES AND WORSHIP

A service is held every Sunday in St. Rufus Church, Keith at 10.15am. Services are held in Botriphnie and Grange Churches on alternative Sundays at 11.45a.m. There are occasions when United Services are held, sometimes followed by teas, coffees and homebakes being served in church, allowing churchgoers to enjoy fellowship and friendship. Local schools use St Rufus for end of term services. Music for hymns is played on the organ by our self-employed organist, Iain Carr and we have a choir. Communion services are held twice a year, in April and October. Baptisms, marriages and funerals are that of a normal parish church of this size.

OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Sunday Club - Pre-school and primary aged children are very welcome into Sunday Club which starts in church and moves up to the hall for activities, crafts and games - and always lots of fun. We currently have around 20 children and a committed band of leaders who take the sessions. Sunday Club observes the events of the Christian calendar, and uses activities, crafts, games, music and dance to explore and express parables and stories from the Bible. The children regularly make posters to decorate the church including Easter, Harvest Thanksgiving and Remembrance. They bring cheer to hospital patients with an annual visit on Remembrance when they present gifts and cards and sing songs. They also take centre stage with their performance of the Nativity Story at our Christmas service.



Youth Group – About a dozen kids ranging in age from 13-18 meet once a fortnight at St Rufus Hall for games, talks and activities. Youth Group is led by our youth worker Michael Newlands, assisted by parent volunteers. The Youth Group takes an active part in church and community life, helping out at fund-raising events, assisting at Fun Week and raising funds for their residential weekend at the St Michael's Centre in Tomintoul and for charities and good causes chosen by the teenagers themselves. The youth group have a great time on a summer trip to Codona's Amusement Park in Aberdeen. Our youth group is open to all young people in our community and whether they are a church member or not they are all very welcome to join.



Fun Week - Each August, four fun-packed days of arts, crafts, games, drama, dance attracts between 35 and 50 children daily, supported by youth group and adult leaders. The fun week fosters Christian messages and culminates in the children and leaders giving the final instalment of their drama at morning worship at St Rufus.

OTHER GROUPS AND INFORMATION

Guild - We have a faithful band of Guild members that meet fortnightly and follow the Church of Scotland Guild themes and support Guild projects – this is in addition to our own church projects and good causes. Quizzes, musical evenings, talks and outings are enjoyed by members.

Restore – An informal weekly meeting in St Rufus Hall offering a warm welcome, a listening ear and a chance to reflect and pray for anyone who is feeling tired or worn out.



Bible Study - A Bible Study meets regularly with members getting together to read, analyse and interpret Scripture to gain a deeper theological and spiritual understanding. It is a great chance to meet up in a friendly and informal atmosphere, have a chat and get to know each other in the spirit of fellowship.

Ecumenical Connections - We enjoy good relations with all other churches in Keith – Keith North, Newmill, Boharm and Rothiemay (Church of Scotland); St Thomas' (Roman Catholic) and Holy Trinity (Scottish Episcopal). Joint services involving clergy from each of the churches are held from time to time, including during Holy Week and during summer holidays.

Pastoral Care - The pastoral care team is made up of Session and Board members. Regular visitations are made to the aged and infirm members of the congregation and to the two care homes in Keith, also to the local hospital. Three elders look after the pastoral care of the Minister.

Fly and Friendship Club - The Fly and Friendship Club meets every Thursday afternoon. It is open to anyone regardless of religion or age. It has a membership of 75 aged from 51 to 96 years old and a programme that is varied with a good mix of activities. Guest speakers and entertainers of all ages are invited along and there's also bingo and quizzes and a good sing-a-long. The club has visited three local schools to be entertained and enjoy a Christmas meal out. According to members the best parts are the variety each week, the friendship and of course the blether over a cup of tea and 'fancy piece'.



Christian Aid and other work to help others – We have a range of awareness-raising and money spinning events for Christian Aid's vital work, through quizzes, a coffee morning and pledges. We support the local Foodbank and have a collection box for grocery donations in church. We also have a regular Traidcraft stall and access to order items from its catalogue.

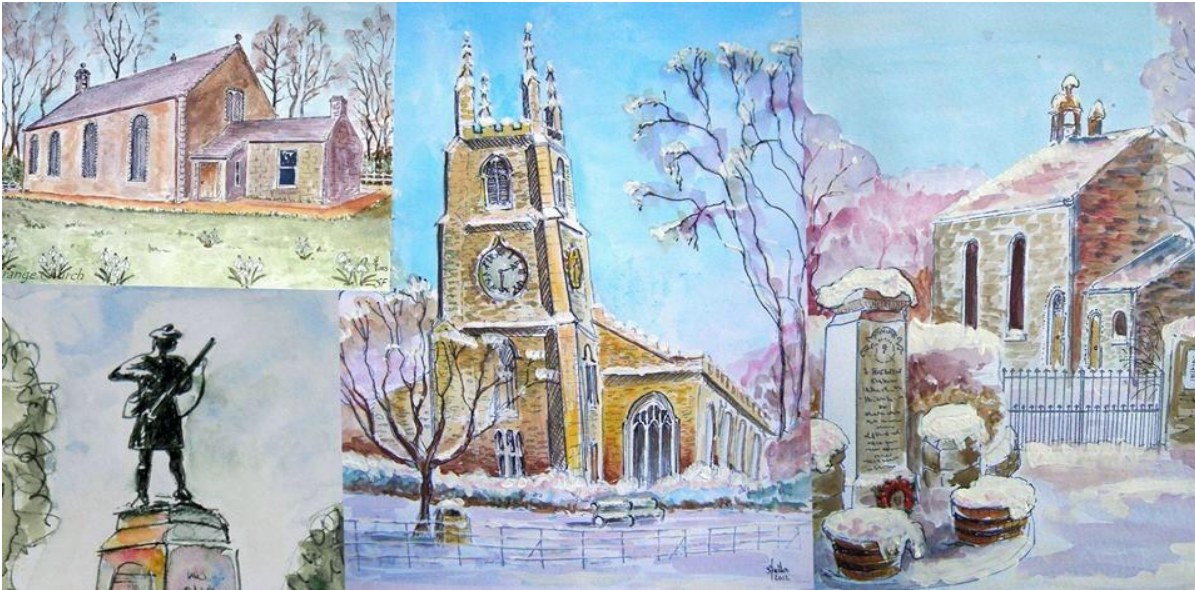
Communications - A weekly intimations sheet keeps churchgoers up to date with the life of our church while a quarterly newsletter is delivered to every home in the parish and issued by post to members living out with the boundaries. We have a website at www.strufus.org and are active on Facebook where you'll find lots of details of our latest news and events: <https://www.facebook.com/KirkofKeith/?ref=ts>



Some of the highlights in our church calendar are:

- Holy Week - when we join in prayer and reflection with other congregations in the town
- Youth Group Talent Show – performed to the public over two nights in April
- TMSA Worship – Musicians visiting Keith for the TMSA festival weekend join with us at St Rufus to enrich our worship with their music, song and stories
- Family picnic – summer seaside excursion by bus to Hopeman on the Moray Firth, with delicious eats, sandcastle competitions, football, rounders, races and fun for all ages
- Sunday Club and Youth Group end of session prize giving followed by church lunch
- Summer Concert - St Rufus Church is a regular host of a concert by the Chamber Philharmonic Cologne. Generations of musicians have been trained over many decades in that ensemble, who in terms of their musicality, are unparalleled around the world.
- Fun week – summer holiday activities for primary-aged school children culminating in a church service showcasing their stories, learning and talents
- Christmas Fayre – day-long fundraiser held in late October, with coffee morning, soup and sweet lunches, many different stalls, raffles and Santa’s Grotto.
- Christmas services – including the Sunday Club nativity, Christingle services at Botriphnie or Grange and watchnight service at St Rufus
- Rotary Songs of Praise – hosted at St Rufus, the biggest church in town, and drawing together local clergy, schools and community for festive worship
- Organ recitals – our talented organist Iain Carr plays a wide repertoire, from classical Bach to contemporary Queen.
- Coffee mornings – we enjoy fellowship, and what better way than to get to know one another than at fundraising coffee mornings, held for the Guild, Christian Aid, and Picnics and Parties Committee throughout the year

A BRIEF HISTORY



A little background to the three churches which are united as one congregation.....

St Rufus – The former parish church was in the old churchyard at Auld Toun near the River Isla and dated back to mediaeval times. It was rebuilt in 1569 and then abandoned in 1819 when the new church was built to cater for the new town. The organ built in 1890 by Nicolson of Malvern is imposing and has a wide range

Botriphnie – Located in Drummuir, five miles south west of Keith St Fumac had a church dedicated to him in the late 12th Century followed by a new building in 1617 the south isle of which remains in the churchyard, a tablet on which records this as the burial place of the Stuart family. The present church dates from 1816-20. A lower session room and vestry were added in 1901.

Grange – Three miles east of Keith, this parish Church was built in 1795-6 with a two-storey porch, session house and vestry added in 1888-9. The organ behind the pulpit was built in 1902 and restored in 2007-8.

PROPERTIES

Churches - Our three well-maintained churches are traditional in their accommodation and layout with organs being the primary music source.

Manse - The detached manse in Church Road is adjacent to St Rufus Church. It has oil central heating and an easily maintained enclosed garden to the rear. The generously-sized rooms are entirely suitable for family accommodation and a recently added extension provides an additional shower room/toilet and a family-sized kitchen. Any alteration to the decoration would be carried out to our minister's taste. There is off-street parking adjacent to the front garden. The manse is within walking distance of local schools, shops and the railway station. Demolition of the existing garage would free an area for an external church office – our minister's views would be pivotal in carrying this proposal forwards. We have a rolling maintenance and decoration programme.



Church Hall - There is a separate hall which is centrally heated and has a kitchen, toilets and stage. It is used for many church activities and is well used by external bodies. Our main fund-raising events are held in a public hall where the accommodation is suitable for the larger numbers attending from the wider community.

WHAT WE'RE LIKE

- Friendly and sociable
- Open to change
- Young and young at heart
- Energetic and hardworking
- Down to earth
- Driven to achieve God's work through worship, faith and fellowship

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

- Prayerful and practical support
- A good financial base

WE WOULD LIKE A MINISTER WHO HAS:

- Good pastoral skills
- Fresh ideas

AND IS:

- Open minded and inclusive
- Fellowship-friendly
- Community focused
- Spiritually warm

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT KEITH AND DISTRICT

- Keith was the first area in Scotland to receive Scots Toun status, recognising the efforts by schools, organisations and the community to preserve and promote the Scots tongue, particularly Doric

- The town is located at the heart of the world-famous Malt Whisky Trail but now also boasts craft breweries
- The UK's most northerly heritage railway, the Keith and Dufftown Railway, operates tourist trains along an 11 mile line between the two towns
- The world's only kilt making training school is located in Mid Street and attracts students from all over the world
- Scotland's first post-reformation saint, John Ogilvie, was born at Drum Na Keith in 1619. A memorial to the saint exists in the town's St Thomas' RC Church.

USEFUL CONTACTS AND LINKS

Our church website is www.strufus.org

For information about what it's like to live and work in Keith and Strathisla, and a guide to what's on, visit the community website www.inkeith.com

Our parish is in Moray Presbytery www.moraypresbytery.org.uk

Convener of our nominating committee is Fiona Simpson, 28 Fraser Place, Keith, Banffshire, AB55 5EB telephone: 01542 887505 email: fiona_22@hotmail.co.uk

Our Interim Moderator is Rev Alastair Gray, Keith, telephone 01542 886840; email agray@churchofscotland.org.uk

The Vacancy Committee looks forward to hearing from you!

We are, from left: Peter McWilliam, Billy Stewart, John Clarke, Barbara Robertson, Alex Rutherford, Fiona Simpson, Diane Morrison, Nicola Smith, Esther Green and Mike Denchfield. Missing from photograph - Michael Newlands.

