



Ready 2 Share

Culsalmond & Rayne

Congregation

Ready 2 Share: A Message from Mary

Many of you will remember that some time ago we followed a Stewardship Programme under the theme READY2SHARE, a memorable phrase which speaks so clearly about congregational life. We have therefore decided to reuse the phrase in this updated version of our booklet.

All my life I have had the privilege of being closely involved in at least one Christian congregation. The nature of each of these congregations has above all been shaped by its identity as a **Christian** congregation, as those involved have sought to live lives of service and witness as disciples of **Jesus Christ**.

However it has also been very obvious to me, as a child and now, that each of these congregations is a **community**. It is this aspect of Christian life which is sometimes lost sight of today as there are societal pressures for people to understand their faith as a private matter. The notion of faith as something private and not to be talked about is a notion which we sometimes come across within our culture. But such an idea cannot be found in the Bible. There we see the followers of Jesus meeting together regularly and engaging with each other in worship and in good neighbourliness. Again and again and again they seek out each other's support and encouragement as they try to live out their faith and values within their communities and society.

It is my prayer and hope that every one of us may seriously consider the particular part we can play within our **faith community** for each one of us has a unique and important contribution to make.

With my love and prayers, Mary

Ready 2 Share in Harvest

This year it has taken an unusually long time for the Harvest to be completed and we recognise the anxious times those involved in agriculture have had.



As part of our usual thanksgiving we collected food for Aberdeenshire North Foodbank and Aberdeen Cyrenians.

Both organisations work extremely hard to make life easier for many vulnerable families and individuals and they are always very happy to receive our gifts.

Thank you so much for your generosity!



Ready 2 Share Commemorating the Reformation

Our congregation is really privileged to be hosting a special Service organised by Gordon Presbytery to commemorate the 500th Martin Luther Anniversary and the Reformation. Dr Marie-Luise Ehrenschwendtner from Aberdeen University will be telling us something of the story of Martin Luther and Gill has helped to plan the music. This Event is for everyone from all the congregations in our Presbytery area and for our friends from other Christian traditions. We really encourage you to join us all for a very special occasion.

MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION

IN WORDS AND MUSIC



500 YEARS

6.30pm

REFORMATION SUNDAY 29th OCTOBER

Please Note that Morning Worship on 29th October will be a United Service in DAVIOT at 10.00am.

Ready 2 Share in Remembrance

Our usual Remembrance Events take place on Sunday 12th November. Our Service is at 11.30am in Rayne Church followed by an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. Thereafter we meet at around 1.00pm for an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at the Old Parish Church in Culsalmond, now so beautifully repaired.



Ready 2 Share in Communion

We will be celebrating Communion on Sunday 19th November at the usual time of 11.30am.



Ready 2 Share in welcoming our visitors

We quite often have visitors from other parts of the world. One of the most important things that all of us can do is to look out for visitors and to ensure that they feel welcome. They may also want assistance, for example, with revisiting their roots and looking for ancestors. We have details which may facilitate their enquiries.

The beautiful flowers donated to the Church assist in our welcome. We really appreciate both arrangements and simple bunches. Let your elder or someone at the Church know if you would like to contribute.



The thoughtfulness and hospitality we show is no less than part of the mission of the Church.

Comments from previous visitors include

- *A lovely church - homely, comfortable and welcoming*
- *A friendly and warm congregation*
- *Wonderful disabled access*

Ready 2 Share in Good Neighbourliness

We recognise that many of you are involved in all kinds of good neighbourliness within the context of family or friends, neighbours and elsewhere. As a congregation we get involved in many different situations and we often suggest areas in which people can get involved. Here are two examples of such invitations:

- Aberdeenshire North Foodbank is looking for volunteers, for example to assist on a regular basis or to assist with the occasional supermarket collections. If you are interested in more information we can put you in touch with one of the Culsalmond & Rayne Foodbank volunteers or give you contact details.
- Our local Christian Aid group also appreciates help with events

Ready 2 Share in Congregational Life

There are our regular services

- All age family services on the last Sunday of each month during school term time
- Special services for Christmas, Easter, Pentecost
- Baptisms
- Marriages
- Funerals

But we have also

- Celebrated the restoration of Rayne Bell-Tower at our heritage weekend
- Organised a Songs of Praise at Culsalmond Old Parish Church (followed by strawberries and icecream !)
- Shared celebrations with Daviot
- Worked alongside Inverurie & District Churches Together
- Hosted Afternoon Teas
- Developed our links with local organisations and schools

Are you Ready 2 Share in the wider work of the Church?

We are a parish in the North East of Scotland but are of course linked worldwide through the Church of Scotland and the whole family of Reformed and Presbyterian churches. The small leaflet which comes with this Newsletter mentions some of the wider work of the Church of Scotland and explains how a proportion of your giving goes to help some of wider work,.

Ready 2 Share in Worship

Our regular time of worship is 11.30am



Ready 2 Share in What's Happening

As well as our flyers and weekly intimations we now have our own website. Please go online and check it out!

<http://www.culsalmond-rayne-daviot.org.uk>

Ready 2 Share: Looking Ahead

We may of course arrange other events but the following may be of assistance:

Very soon we hope to show a couple of **Films** in Meikle Wartle Hall. Please look out for detailed arrangements in the Inverurie Advertiser.

Many of you have enjoyed our **Advent Wreaths** during recent years. This year Hazel Gauld will be making the wreaths at home. If you would like to order a wreath please contact Hazel directly on (01467) 621052.

Our main Christmas Service will be our 6.30pm **Christmas Eve Service**. Details of other Christmas Events will be available on our Culsalmond & Rayne & Daviot Fliers.

WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW IDEAS !

Ready 2 Share: New Members

Please let Mary know if you are interested in exploring Church Membership

Ready 2 Share : Finance

During 2016 we were delighted to complete restoration work on the Rayne Church Bell Tower and are very grateful for a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a smaller Grant from the All Churches Trust to fund this project.



We have also recently completed internal and external work on the vestry which we had to fund ourselves.

There are always ongoing property matters, and, even more importantly, the ongoing costs of the congregation's work. If we want to make a difference within our community we inevitably have costs.

As you can see there are plenty of ways in which you may want to give of your time and talents in the church. Another way in which you can make a real contribution is in your giving.

We hope the following information may be helpful:

Regular giving obviously assists us in forward planning. It is possible to make arrangements to use a Standing Order.

Those who are taxpayers can assist us by signing a Gift Aid declaration which enables the congregation to reclaim the tax already paid on the amount of the offering, providing we know that the money comes from them.

If you are NOT a taxpayer we are still able to claim back some tax on **loose money** in the offering boxes.

We are very grateful for all contributions and endeavour to use them responsibly.

Ready 2 Share: Aberdeen Cyrenians Case Studies

The following two stories illustrate the incredible ongoing support offered by the Cyrenians:

JENNY came to our Clifton Road Project at the age of 19, after years in care and various foster homes since the age of 5. She had already been using and was addicted to illegal drugs, including heroin, which she funded through prostitution by the time she was referred to Aberdeen Cyrenians.

Jenny did not find it easy to settle at the project and initially avoided engaging with a support plan. She has made several attempts to get off drugs, from just trying to stay in and going 'cold turkey' to having a place booked at a rehabilitation centre, which she pulled out of at the last moment.

She is now on a methadone programme and is doing well. She is tackling other issues in her life that have been ignored for some years and is clearly enjoying her success.

JOHN had been homeless and sleeping rough for several years and when he arrived at the project he was very obviously malnourished. He had been using various illegal drugs but had managed to wean himself off of heroin and at that point was drinking excessively.

The staff at Wernham House worked with him to meet his basic needs and soon John's health and well-being quickly began to improve. It was apparent that rough sleeping had taken its toll but slowly John began to respond to the support he was receiving from the project staff and began to embrace the ethos of the project.

Today John is much more confident in his own ability and his self esteem has improved significantly. Although it is early days, staff can see there is real potential for John to eventually move forward with the right amount of support. John is delighted to be setting his own future goals and will be able to achieve these in ways that were not possible for him in the past.

Ready 2 Share: Contact Details

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