

KIRK OF THE HOLY ROOD

JANUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER



SCN: SC00160

Welcome to this our first newsletter of 2021. I hope that you are well and looking forward to the new year with hope that 2021 will prove to be better than the year past and that we can look forward feeling positive.

Kathryn Bennie, Editor. Tel: 485292



May I start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. I do hope you managed to have a lovely Christmas given the restrictions. For our part we had a quieter Christmas than our usual big family gathering but we enjoyed our day spent with our youngest daughter and son-in-law. Hopefully we can all make up for it next Christmas. You will all no doubt know that after the Watchnight Service we had to close the church once again. We hope this will only be for three weeks but we will keep you informed. In the meantime Ronald is putting a service on Zoom . He also hopes that it will go on Facebook and You Tube. If you would like details of joining on Zoom your Elder has them or feel free to call me on 486780 and I can give you them. There is also a telephone line for those not on the internet. If there is anything you would like to know and I can help please feel free to contact me.

You will be wanting to hear how the Presbytery Plan is going but unfortunately though some progress was felt to being made that will all be on hold again until the Group asked to assess the buildings can meet after this lockdown ends. Be assured that we will be letting you know how things are going when we get the news.

Stay Safe and look out for each other.

Helen Scott Session Clerk



Parish Register



Since our last newsletter we have lost the following members:

John Savage, Rita Williamson and Helma Dawson.

2 Corinthians 1:3 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort."

Christmas Collection for CHAS



Many thanks to all who donated to our Christmas Gift for the Children's Hospices. Your generosity means we have £411 to send. A wonderful total in these different circumstances. Betty



How to find us online, check out our Facebook page which is..... Kirk of the Holyrood -KHR Grangemouth or our website which is khrgrangemouth.org



Again a big thank you for your continued support to the Foodbank and in particular for the fantastic sum of £440 which has been raised by your donations to buy jackets for school children. Your continued support is much appreciated.

The next Foodbank collection is in the church hall on Monday 1st February, 11am to 1pm.

From The Manse ... Do not give up!

2 Corinthians 4:16 (NLT)

"That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day."

Happy New year to all of you! I am glad and excited that God has allowed us to see this New Year and to be part of what he is doing in our generation.

Our joy and excitement for the New Year are not inspired by a perfect previous year. I am sure you would agree with me that last year was far from being perfect. The year had unique challenges that demanded difficult adjustments and it left permanent scars on some of us. However, our joy and excitement for the New Year should come from Knowing that God is not done with us yet.

Considering what is happening both in the world and in the church, it is hard to believe that God is up to something good. Paul encourages the believers in 2 Corinthians Chapter 4 not to give up.

Outwardly we may be wasting away, but inwardly we are being renewed day by day. "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (v17).

If I could say one thing to you at a time like this; it would be, "don't lose heart and don't give up!"

We must keep moving because God is not done with us yet. We may not always know and understand how, but scripture assures us that God is working his purpose out, in and through us.

Romans 8:28 Paul gives us this assurance, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

The greatest temptation we must overcome is the temptation to lose heart. Whenever people lose heart, they tend to put life on hold and stop moving forward. They stop doing what they must be doing because of the present challenges and uncertainty of the future.

My prayer is that we may keep moving in this New Year. Albert Einstein said, "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep you balanced you must keep moving."

At the start of the year, let us not lose the determination to move forward. The apostle Paul puts it this way, "... but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead." If we give up and stop moving forward; life will not wait for us. With or without us life goes on.

Therefore, we could choose to stay behind, lock ourselves in the past, thinking of what could have been. Or we could decide to move on, never give up and taking a chance knowing fully that God is not done with us yet.

Happy New Year

Ronald



It has been decided to postpone the start of this course until things are more settled and we will notify you when we are ready to start the course to allow anyone interested to register.

Church Family News..

Eleanor Neilson has been made a Trustee for the Falkirk Foodbank. Eleanor has supported the Falkirk Foodbank for some time delivering our donations, sorting food packages and delivering to those needing the packs. It is good to hear that her commitment has been recognised in this way.

Congratulations Eleanor.



Prayer Psalm 42

As the deer pants for streams of living water so my soul pants for you O God.

Why are you downcast O my soul?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God for I will yet praise him my saviour and my God.

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God of love and forgiveness we humbly come before you thanking you our Father for keeping us close to you.

We name in our hearts our loved ones asking for your protection and keeping them in our prayers.

Father lift us up to join with you in worshiping you and giving you all the glory.

God of your people we ask for hope to face a new day and to get strength only you can give.

At this time Father we need to feel a joy with all the changes taking place, a reassurance of prayers being spoken and answered.

As we travel on this journey may we know we are not alone, you Father are only a breath away
Amen.

Finance



I hope you all had a lovely Christmas, despite the challenges of the restrictions.

Thank you to everyone who got in touch with me over the festive period.

I was delighted to receive your

Christmas cards with their good wishes. I don't have addresses for some of you, so please excuse me, if I didn't manage to get a card to you.

Thank you also to everyone who contributed to our freewill offerings and fabric fund, whether at one of our services, or by passing on or posting your donations. I am also very grateful (and humbled) to have received many donations over and above normal giving, whether via the Open Plate / Retiral or otherwise.

It will be a struggle for me to balance the books for 2020 but given that we have been subject to restrictions beyond any we have ever faced before, it is not surprising. It is certainly not down to lack of commitment or effort from our members. We have worked wonders at times.

May I take the opportunity to wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Stuart

And Finally

As we go into 2021 we would like to reassure you that the monthly newsletters will continue until we are back to our normal weekly services when all can attend without having to book your place. For this to happen we rely on your elders who have been delivering and in the early days even printing the newsletters for their districts. Their continued commitment is greatly appreciated.

As this newsletter is being prepared the Scottish Government has just announced the latest restrictions and we are into tougher lockdown until the end of January at the earliest. To keep up to date with KHR news please check our website, Facebook page and weekly notice in the Falkirk Herald.

Stay safe and keep well.