

Welcome to the July newsletter. Today's news from the Government as I am preparing the newsletter is positive in that it is looking like the restrictions may be lifted in August. I know for certain that I am very much looking forward to that as I am sure you all will be too. Until then I hope that you all keep well and that you can enjoy the summer with the thoughts that better times are ahead.

Kathryn Bennie, Editor. Tel: 01324 485292



Here we are again another month gone by and how did we get to be halfway through the year? We are just back from a lovely week in Arran. We go every year just to wind down and see somewhere different. I didn't realise how much I missed going last year until I drove off the ferry at Lochranza. It was lovely but like all good things it had to end. This will be my last article for the newsletter as Session Clerk. Kathryn Bennie will be inducted into this post on the 11th July. This will be a special service as we are also ordaining 3 new Elders. Now that we can take a few more people and we are singing in Church even if it is with our masks on I would ask that you try to support these people as they commit to looking after the people of our Church. I have enjoyed being your session clerk though it was a steep learning curve for me. A lot has gone on in the last 4 and a bit years. You the congregation along with my fellow Session members have kept me going. I would ask you to give the same support to Kathryn. Stay safe and please feel free to get in touch if I can help
Helen Scott Session Clerk



Heavenly Father thank you for who you are and you are here anytime we call to you. Gracious Father we come before you with thankfulness that we are here waking up to a new day, some of us carrying burdens, physical pain, tiredness and gratefulness that you carry us through all the difficulties we have in common with one another. Lord we pray for our family, friends and neighbours that maybe we haven't spoken to for awhile. May your Holy Spirit give us the strength to act on this. Encourage us to get back to church and feel part of your people. Lord Jesus we hand over to you the Church of Scotland's Moderator Rev. James Wallace an elder in his church and wanting to do your work in Scotland and abroad, keep him safe and guide him in this work. Thank you for our minister Ronald for his diligence and the closeness he walks with you and the word he brings to us through his services. May we all be Blessed as we take time to read our bibles and hear your voice Amen.



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

From The Manse ... One day at a time!

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today (Matthew 6:33, 34 NLT).

From Saturday 22nd to 27th of May 2021, the Church of Scotland held its General Assembly.

I followed the discussions with interest, and I can confirm that the church is indeed at a critical time and the future is uncertain.

Many of us had our hopes on the General Assembly of 2021 to bring about clarity on the future and to make the road ahead. Well, it did, but not in the way we expected. The Assembly suspended all Presbytery plans and set new ministry numbers that Presbyteries should plan around.

The Falkirk Presbytery currently have 33.2 Full-time Equivalent ministries, this was reduced to 15.5 FTE Ministries. The suspended Falkirk Presbytery plan had set the number of ministries at 17.5. This means from the suspended plan, we need to cut down 2 more ministries, to bring the number to 15.5 FTE Ministries.

To be honest this is not good news. One might say the General Assembly made things worse. We might not have expected this and some of us may not agree with the move, but we cannot run away from the fact that the church is facing a huge crisis and doing nothing is not an option.

Now, what do we make out of all this? Even though the direction has been marked, the future remains uncertain. All I can say to you is "*Keep the heid*". To use Jesus' words, "do not worry about tomorrow." Just take one day at a time.

The principle of living "one day at a time" is woven throughout the fabric of Scripture. God supplied the Israelites with manna daily (Exodus 16:4). Our heavenly Father's mercies are new every morning (Lamentations. 3:22-23). Jesus taught His followers to ask for their "daily bread" (Mathew. 6:11) and to refuse to worry about tomorrow (v.34). It is a lesson we seem to learn with difficulty, but one that holds the key to life and peace. God wants us to deal with each day's problems as they come and not to worry about what might happen tomorrow.

What we fear and worry about in the future may not come. A godly woman who had lived long enough to learn some important lessons about life said, "I have had a lot of troubles in my life, and most of which never happened!" We may be burdened by worries about what might happen tomorrow, about the days ahead that seem dark and full of difficulties. Let us not forget that the grace and guidance of God are given to us like manna in the wilderness, one day at a time!

The situation that we are facing as a Kirk may seem overwhelming, we may drift toward hopelessness or despair, wondering how we will be able to see it through to the end. We may ask ourselves this, are we going to manage the change demanded by the crisis we find ourselves in? (cont...)

There is no easy answer to this crisis. However, what we need to know is that when tomorrow seems too long to endure, God wants us to trust Him one day at a time and not be worried about what tomorrow might bring us. So, let us live and enjoy the present.

During these difficult times, I am encouraged by an old Country and Western-style Christian song written by Marijohn Wilkin and Kris Kristofferson called "One day at a time." Here is what the chorus says, "One day at a time, sweet Jesus, that's all I'm asking from you. Give me the strength to do every day what I have to do."

I think this should be our prayer. May God teach us to take one day at a time and grant us the strength to do every day what we must do, trusting him for all the days that lie ahead.

God bless you!

Ronald

Matthew 5:4

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted"
Sadly we have lost two members since our last newsletter.

Mrs Nan Learmonth
Mrs Mary Robinson

Our hearts and thoughts are with their families and friends.



Foodbank Collection

Monday 5th July

KHR Hall. 11am to 1pm

Due to a large supply of cereal we have been giving out extra supplies and ask for this collection if you could please not donate cereal. Thank you.



A Note From The Treasurer

Our June communion service also saw our Day of Christian Giving. We were unable to hold a formal day in 2020 due to Covid restrictions, so it has been a relief for me to see this year's event take place. The number of envelopes we received this year is similar to "normal" years, but the amount of money we have received has already surpassed previous years, and by a fair bit too. Moreover, I would imagine there may be one or two more envelopes to come in. I am delighted to report that over £3000 has been donated by our members and friends so far. My humble thanks go out to you all. It shouldn't surprise me, given the proven generosity of everybody involved with our church, but there are still times when I am taken aback, and this is another. Please accept my sincere thanks.

Thank you also to those who completed the Gift-Aid registration forms. This allows me to reclaim from HMRC a further 25% of donations from any taxes paid by donors. As you can imagine, this can make a significant difference.

It was pointed out to me that I didn't give out an address where donations could be sent. I apologise for this oversight, and if anybody wishes to use the postal service, my address is:
15 Glengarry Crescent, Falkirk, FK1 5UD

It has been great to resume singing at our services, I hope you have enjoyed these as much as I have. If there is anything I can do with regard to the printed hymn sheets, that would assist you further, please let me know. Thank you and take care of yourselves.

Stuart



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated Birthday Wishes to Joyce Thomson and Hugh Watson who both celebrated birthdays in June and at the time of preparing this newsletter we hear that Ronald will be celebrating his 40th on the 28th June, Happy Birthday Ronald!!

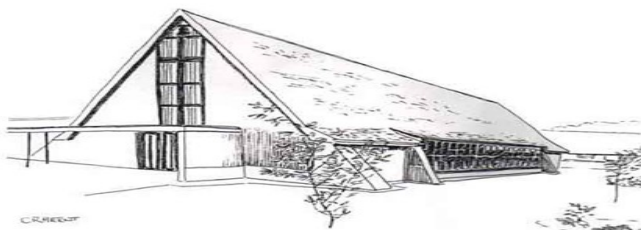


Great family news from Mrs Dorothy Crawford, her daughter-in-law Dr Melanie Cross has been given an OBE for her work in FVRH over COVID-19 and her other daughter-in-law Fiona Crawford has passed exams for ministry. Double celebrations indeed.

Women’s Association

I would hope that we can get back to having meetings even socially distanced ones in September. It is still a waiting game and who knows which way things will go. What I would like is if you the members could let me know if you want us to start up again and if so what format would you like it to take. Would you prefer an afternoon instead of an evening. Give me a call on 01324 486780 or speak to me on a Sunday morning.

Helen Scott



We look forward to welcoming you in church each Sunday.

If you would like to attend a service in person please telephone Betty Sutherland to be added to the weekly list. Telephone 01324 484392

We hope to see you soon.

HELP WANTED

Grangemouth Churches with Kersiebank Project will be hosting The Big Breakfast for children throughout the summer holidays on Wednesday & Thursday each week between 10am and 12 noon within the Kersiebank Project building in the town centre. Volunteers are being sought to be able to run this very worthwhile venture for children in our town so if you feel that you could give some time, even a day or two, please speak to Ronald who will give you further details or give Ronald a call on 07486052954.

And Finally.....

Each week Ronald records the service and this can be watched on YouTube or on our Facebook page. If you are unable to attend in person and have access to these electronic platforms please take time to join in our worship in this way.