



KIRK OF THE HOLY ROOD GRANGEMOUTH

Scottish Charity Number SCO 01603

Minister: Rev. Ronald Matandakufa
The Manse,
Bowhouse Road,
Grangemouth
FK3 0EX

Mobile: 07486052954

Tel: 01324 337885

Email: Rmatandakufa@churchofscotland.org.uk

Dear Sisters and Brothers

I hope and pray that this letter finds you well, I am doing fine, apart from the fact that since 1st July 2020, we have been having sleepless nights. As many of you will now be aware; God blessed us with a lovely baby girl. She is cute and adorable; indeed, words cannot express the joy of a new life, and the excitement in the Manse is intense. Both Petronella and the baby are fine, however I am concerned that no-one seems to be bothered that I am outnumbered, 3 girls in the house were too chatty, and now there are 4!!! Please pray for me.

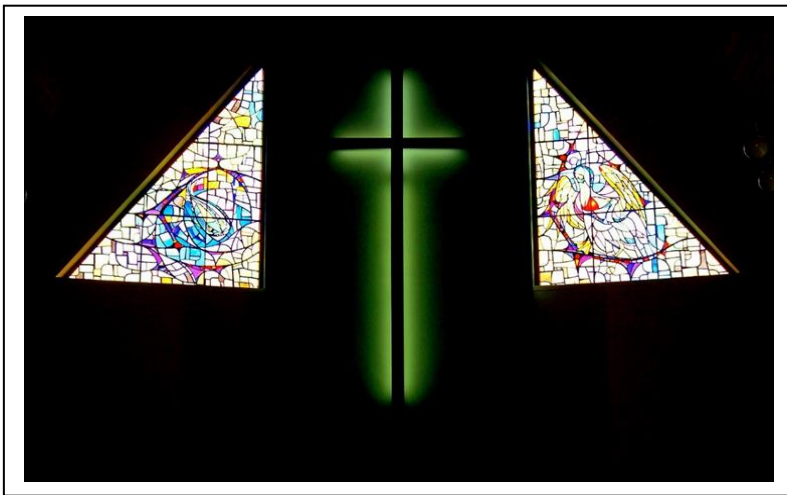


I would like to express my gratitude to all of you, for your prayerful thoughts and for celebrating with us. We feel loved, thank you very much KHR family.

The last few months have been difficult. Life under the Covid-19 restrictions was something we could never have imagined. Those restrictions affected every facet of life, and we had to make unthinkable adjustments without preparation. We are all looking forward to the day when they will all be lifted; however, we should be comforted that they are being eased gradually. This means many public places may now be opened, including churches.

The Scottish Government now allow places of worship to be opened for individual private prayers, funerals and weddings. This is greatly welcomed as a sign that life is returning to normal. For some of us the wait has been too long.

The Church of Scotland National Office has been working diligently and tirelessly with the Scottish Government, since the advent of this pandemic. They have issued guidelines and recommendations for congregations, on opening places of worship. These guidelines clearly state the requirements that have to be met, before opening our church buildings. The aim of the conditions is to keep people safe, and KHR is committed to doing just that.



We must set up measures to ensure health and safety is enhanced. Practices like hand washing, sanitising, cleaning of the building, data collection, social distancing, face coverings, just to name a few. Along with many other churches KHR has been working hard to satisfy those conditions.

I must point out that working out the practical logistics of these requirements, is extremely demanding, with age restrictions and health condition assessments having to be taken into account. The age profile of our congregation makes it difficult, as far as human resources are concerned. I would like to acknowledge the people behind the scenes who are working very hard to get us ready. More hands will be needed when we finally open, if you can help in any way please get in touch with Helen Scott our Session Clerk.

The necessary risk assessments and some of the maintenance work has been done. I am grateful for the great deal of work done so far. Now we are waiting for the rest of the maintenance work to be done and finally the approval of Presbytery. After this we will have a date for opening, and information will be circulated regarding the practicalities.

We should all retain a positive spirit; the road ahead is not an easy one. Some of us will still decide to shield for their own health reasons, others are fearful of coming out of their homes and mixing with groups of people. In the meantime, we will continue with our online worship services which are available on YouTube (search Grangemouth Churches live). We have also managed to set up a Sermon Phonenumber, mainly for those without internet access. The number is 01324 266990. Daily Reflections will continue on the Facebook page Grangemouth Churches at 11.30a.m, Monday to Friday. Please like and follow our Facebook Page: Kirk of the Holy Rood - KHR Grangemouth for more information.

There is a weariness that has come with the enforced lockdown. I would like to remind you of the words spoken by the prophet Isaiah. May we be encouraged by these words. *“Do you not know? Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion, but those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary they will walk and not faint”*. (Isaiah 40: 28 - 31 NLT)

As we trust and wait on the Lord, may, we receive new strength to sustain us both in this life and in the life to come.

Ronald Matandakufa

