

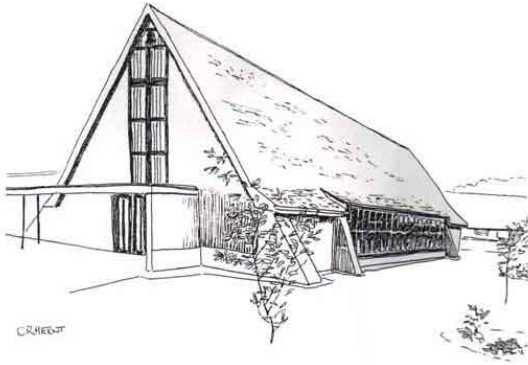


Grangemouth: Kirk of the Holy Rood Parish Profile



A prayer for the Church and Parish:

*'O Christ the master carpenter, who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased man's whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench may here be fashioned to a truer beauty by your hand.
Amen'*



Our Church family is friendly, prayerful, caring and hardworking.

WE ARE SEEKING A MINISTER WHO CAN HELP US TO:

- **show God's love in the Church and parish**
- **build on our strengths and talents**
- **share our future vision for our Church**

Our Vision

The Kirk of the Holy Rood, as part of the Church of Scotland, serves the parish and community where we spread the love of God and reach out to the wider world, sharing our faith and our blessings. It is a place where faith is nurtured, supported and strengthened through hearing the word of God and through prayer, praise and Christian fellowship. Our values are Christ's values, we live as God's children, loving our neighbours and showing respect and understanding of all faiths, backgrounds and cultures.

Church and Manse

The Kirk of the Holy Rood is situated at the heart of the parish on the eastern side of Grangemouth. The Kirk was begun in 1961 with services held in a local school until the building was completed and opened in 1963. Meanwhile the parish had been growing around it as the town expanded. Integral with the Church is a suite of halls which are well used by Church and community.

The Manse was built beside the Church in 1974 and has since had extensive modernisation and will be updated in conjunction with the new occupants to provide a warm welcoming family home with manageable gardens front and rear.



Our Kirk Session have agreed not to depart from the current practice of the Church in relation to human sexuality and its application to ministers and deacons in civil partnerships and same sex marriage.

The Town

Grangemouth was originally a port where the River Carron and the Forth and Clyde Canal joined the River Forth and on that site extensive docks were established and have become a prosperous container port. The petro-chemical industry has developed on the eastern flank of the town. There are other smaller industrial sites producing technologically sophisticated manufactures. The population is approximately 17,000. There is an excellent library, a sports complex with swimming pool, a stadium hosting athletic events, and four large public parks, bowling greens, tennis courts, ski slope and a golf course.

Grangemouth is well situated for access to the motorway system and rail links to Glasgow, Edinburgh and the north with various tourist attractions including the Kelpies and the Helix Park with canal walks to Falkirk Wheel.



The Parish

The Kirk serves a parish of approximately 2450 homes which are a mixture of local authority and privately owned. There is a Primary and a Secondary School, both having close associations with the congregation. There is also a Nursery. Also within the Parish there is a Roman Catholic Church and school. Again, we enjoy friendly co-operation with both. A Community Centre is also close by. Our town's newest High School, Carrongrange, with up to 190 pupils with Additional Support Needs opens this year. It is likely that the successful candidate will be invited to join the chaplaincy team in each High School.

The Sanctuary

The use of so much wood in the building of the Church was appropriate to Grangemouth. The port was used by local mills to import wood from the Baltic countries and this was a major factor in the establishment of the town. The laminated beams forming the roof were manufactured in the town. The stained-glass windows are made in the traditional manner and depict a fish and a pelican, both surrounded by thorns. The large areas of glass allow the gardens and trees to become part of the sanctuary. We have recently installed new lighting as part of a full re-wiring of the Church and halls. There is also a modern sound system and worship is complemented with a modern electronic organ. The oldest part of K.H.R. is the Crathie Bell which calls people to worship.



Worship

Sunday Services are held at 11am with an average attendance of 85/90 people in the congregation.

We have an experienced organist to accompany praise, mainly from CH4, and a small choir to lead us.

Services of Holy Communion, to which children are invited, are held at 11am five times a year with evening Communion on four occasions.

Services for Holy Week and Pentecost, and World Day of Prayer (including a service for children) are shared with other congregations in the town.

Members of the congregation participate in these services by reading from Scripture and leading prayer



During Advent, we hold a service for families and friends who have been bereaved. A Watchnight Service is held on Christmas Eve and a short family service on Christmas morning.

Each Sunday a time of quiet prayer is shared in the Session Room as a preparation for worship. After the service a cup of tea/coffee is available in the hall for a time of fellowship.

Our People

We have 320 members at present on the roll. We are blessed with a faithful membership, many with long association with the Kirk. There are 36 elders, 11 male and 25 female with 9 non-elder members on the Congregational Board.

Finance, Property, Fundraising and Outreach Committees have hardworking members to ensure the smooth running of K.H.R.

Our Sunday School numbers have dwindled over the years but we aim to provide a happy environment and interesting ways to learn about the Bible for those who come to join the Church family.

We have a team of gardeners who work tirelessly on the Church grounds keeping the grass cut and the flower areas colourful and tidy.



The Accounts

Again, this year we anticipate meeting our financial commitment to The Church of Scotland. Our Fabric Fund is in a healthy condition.

Contributions from the congregation to the financial needs of the Church are made by freewill offering, standing order and direct debit. There are separate freewill offerings made to maintain the Fabric Fund.

A further donation to funds is made by the congregation on Communion Sunday in June when we have a Giving Day for extra donations.

An enthusiastic fundraising group make valuable contributions from the various events they organise throughout the year.

A copy of the 2016 accounts is available on our website

Caring

Our District Elders offer a friendly interest in the families they care for. They provide a vital link to the Minister in times of illness or difficulty.

The Kirk Messenger, our magazine, is produced four times a year and distributed to the congregation. It contains news and information and is also available on the Kirk website for those who now live in distant places.

This year is the fortieth occasion when a Christmas meal followed by entertainment has been provided for our more elderly members.

We have a team of elders who keep in touch with members in care homes and visit regularly.

A monthly service of worship led by the Outreach Team is held in a sheltered housing complex within the parish.

We share in the regular services provided by the clergy in the town at a further care home in Grangemouth.

'The Drop-in Group' gives a warm welcome on Wednesday mornings to anyone who would appreciate a cup of tea and blether.

Each week the sanctuary is enhanced by flowers provided by members of our Flower Guild and arranged by ladies from the congregation. These are afterwards distributed to those happy to know that they have been in our thoughts and prayers.



On Friday mornings, a Community Kitchen provides a bowl of soup and a warm welcome to all. This continues with participation from other town congregations.

We provide facilities and support to a local group providing breakfast to children from two local Primaries in term time. In school holidays lunch is provided on two days each week. We support the local Community Care Group with an annual donation and the Holy Week collections, also providing premises for the bi-annual Fun Days.



Sharing

Under the leadership of the Outreach team the congregation members support various charities throughout the year, for example in the past the Little Princess Trust and the Forth Valley Talking Newspaper.



(Photograph courtesy of The Falkirk Herald)

Our Jubilee Project for Nepal provides financial support to mainly educational projects in remote villages as organised by The United Mission to Nepal. We value the contact we have had with this organisation over the last seven years.

At Easter, Harvest and Christmas cash is donated in various ways to support three chosen charities.

Last year we gave £2435 to these causes.

At Christmas, the congregation bring along toys and gifts to be distributed to children in the area by Social Services.

Our congregation have embraced the Falkirk Foodbank and each month donate food generously.

We have supported Christian Aid and hope to continue in the future.

We are blessed by having so many generous people who give in these ways, whatever their means, as a thank you to God for the blessings they have received.

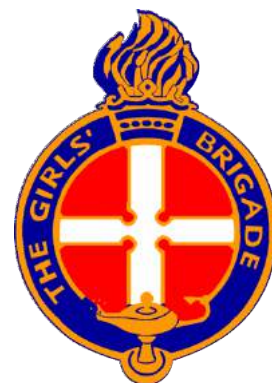
What's on at K.H.R.

On Monday mornings in term time the Parent and Toddler Group fill the hall with fun and friendship.

Our lively Girls' Brigade Company meets on Monday evenings from 6.15 - 7.30pm starting the Monday after the schools return from holidays. There are currently 20 girls attending every week ranging from age 5 upwards, making up three sections. The girls follow the Girls' Brigade programme of study. Educational, Spiritual, and Service which follows a theme for the year. There is an Annual Church Service and an Annual Parent's evening /prize giving.

Monthly Bible Study meetings are held to learn together from the Holy Book.

The Wednesday Drop-in Group has the kettle on at 10am.



Our Women's Association members number around 50 and hold their meetings at 7.30pm



on Wednesdays from September to April as they have done for 55 years. The syllabus provides a variety of topics and activities with worship at the centre.

On Friday mornings, the aroma of homemade soup fills the hall to welcome all to the Community Kitchen.

On Saturday mornings once a month, Falkirk Presbytery Prayer Promoters meet to share worship.

The halls are also used throughout the week by a variety of organisations from the community, e.g. Baby Ballet, Dance Classes and Youth Theatre.

Further information is available from:

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Website: www.khrgrangemouth.org/index.php