

A Message from the Moderator

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

Dear all,

Everyone has been stunned and shocked by the events of Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka. Churches the length and breadth of Scotland have joined with others throughout the world in praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ since that awful day when Christians gathered to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and lost their lives so violently.

We have remembered too, those in the hotels targeted.

Our congregation of St. Andrew's Colombo are very much in our hearts at this time. We give thanks for their safety and also for their courage and for the courage of other congregations, in continuing to meet for worship.

The TV news has shown white ribbons being hung as a sign of solidarity and peace in the churches and on the streets of Sri Lanka. Please could you consider encouraging people in your community to do the same? Could they tie white ribbons (made from sheets perhaps?) to the gate or fence of your church? Could you display them internally?

It would be good to have a photograph taken that could then be sent to the Church of Scotland social media pages so that our church family in Sri Lanka and the nation at large, can see they are very much in our thoughts and our prayers.

I know many prayers have already been offered. This tiny action is offered simply as a physical symbol to those who have gone through so much, of the love we hold them in.

You may also be aware of the crowdfunding initiative being led by Rev Dr Liam Fraser, Campus Minister at Edinburgh University on JustGiving. It has already raised over £1740. These donations will be channelled as soon as possible through St Andrew's Scots Kirk and the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka to help with their relief efforts. The link to the JustGiving page is:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/srilankabombings?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20190428_114260.

I know there are other initiatives that can be supported too, which is wonderful.

Please keep praying!

Rt Revd Susan M Brown
Moderator
General Assembly of the Church of Scotland