**Divine Healing Fellowship (Scotland) PAPER 1**

**Scottish Charity Number SC012091**

**Assistant chaplain - Rationale**

At Braehead House, the Divine Healing Fellowship offers support and hope to those who are broken in body, mind or spirit. We believe in offering Christian Healing ministry to all who request it. Healing comes in a variety of ways: through listening, encouraging, talking, guiding, understanding, spiritual exploration and, of course, through prayer. Physically ill visitors have experienced renewal or healing in their bodies. Those who have come depressed or lost or addicted have found hope. Those with life damaged stories have found release and hope. And those needing peace and rest have found it in retreat and in the walled garden.

To date, the Fellowship has relied on one resident chaplain and many volunteers. But we have arrived at a point where we need additional paid staff to respond to the increased demands on the ministry. There is also a need to release the current chaplain from her over commitment on day to day running of the centre. This will allow her to use her creative gifting in a more hands on approach to develop the work. The assistant chaplain will take on some of the current chaplain’s tasks but mainly be involved in moving the ministry forward alongside the chaplain.

We see the assistant chaplain helping in the following new areas of ministry:

* Developing support for church leaders who are in need of personal or spiritual renewal. Current events like the pandemic are highlighting new pressures on church and community leaders and the general public. We envisage a need for support which the Fellowship is well able to give. To develop this work will require additional staff, hence the need for an assistant chaplain.
* Developing church retreat events for church leaders and church members
* Expanding the prayer healing ministry to offer training for church leaders and church members wishing to establish such ministry in their local context
* Developing a future use of Braehead House and grounds for churches and other community organisations working with the poor and marginalised.
* Focussed retreat events such as physical healing, emotional/spiritual healing, generational problems and healing and researching the impact of music and art therapies in the Christian healing ministries.

3 February 2021