

WELCOME TO OUR CELEBRATIONS!



Compared to the immensity of 'Deep Time', a phrase coined by the Geologist James Hutton, one of the many Enlightenment figures associated with Greyfriars Kirk, 400 years is the mere blinking of an eye. That being said, these last 400 years have seen the world transformed more radically than any period during human history.

The Reformers who founded Greyfriars were deeply committed to universal education, especially for those whose lives were blighted by poverty. The Presbyterian form of church governance, won for Scotland by the Reformers, sowed the seeds for representative democracy, something cherished and struggled for throughout the world today. The insights of science and reason that have shaped the modern world were gleaned in that ferment of valuing learning and cherishing individual conscience that was the heart of the Reformation struggle.

These are just some of the things that we believe are worth celebrating in the first 400 years of the Greyfriars story.

Those who have ministered and served here down these 400 years have trusted that the faith we seek to live by can never be contradicted by the truths we discover. Holding faith and reason in creative tension has been the joyful, essential task of many here at Greyfriars. But, in recent years we have been learning that science and technology, unrestrained by spiritual and ecological limits, can threaten the flourishing of all of life. We have also learned that faith, if it is not respectful of scientific insight and new understanding, can become an irrelevance.

The current Climate Emergency, the urgent need to reimagine democracy and the calls throughout the world for justice for the poor, remind us that for all the achievements of modernity, there is much wisdom still to be sought if the earth community to which we belong is to thrive.

As we celebrate 400 years, you will see in our programme how we intend to do this, in word and song, in action and art and in reimagining our role in the community as a catalyst for social action, spiritual nourishment and the building of communities of wellbeing.

We hope you will join us and see this milestone year as a watershed in the life of this church that has been at the heart of Scotland's cultural life for 400 years. We hope you might help us too. For we trust that what is best about our faith still speaks indispensable wisdom into the challenges we face in the future.

Richard Frazer

Minister, Greyfriars Kirk



GREYFRIARS
an inspiring community



CELEBRATORY EVENTS 2020

January & February

Greyfriars at 12: 21st Century Structured Improvisation

Thursday 13th February, 12 pm

SCO Chorus Concert: *Spem in Alium*

Saturday 29th February, 7.30 pm

March, April & May

Greyfriars at 12: 20th Century Concert Accordion Duo

Thursday 12th March, 12 pm

Dunedin Consort & Scottish Ensemble Concert

Seven Last Words from the Cross

Friday 27th March, 8 pm

Greyfriars at 12: 17th Century Concert Corde en Ciel

Thursday 9th April, 12 pm

Holyrood Art Club Annual Exhibition

18-24th April, 10.30 am
(Sat 11am, Sun 1.45 pm)-5.45 pm

Moments for Poetry and Reflection

Saturday 18th April, times TBC
Compline 7 pm

Refugio Sunday 19th April, 7 pm

Come & Sing: *Brahms Requiem (In English)*

Saturday 25th April, time TBC

17 Churches: Walk & Talk, Potluck Supper

Sunday 26th April, 3-7 pm (TBC)

Greyfriars at 12: 18th & 19th Centuries

Thursday 30th April, 12 pm

Greyfriars at 12: Five Centuries Organ Recital

Thursday 14th May, 12 pm

Heart & Soul Sunday

Sunday 17 May

Jazz services with the Heart & Soul Swing Band, 11am
Heart & Soul Festival, Princes St Gardens, afternoon

June, July & August

Festival of Science, Wisdom & Faith

Friday 5th June: Pecha Kucha based-event, Scottish Enlightenment, with Niamh Nic Daeid, Val McDermid & Stuart Monro

Saturday 6th June: Great Questions... with Sue Black, Richard Holloway, Wilson Poon and Hermione Cockburn

Sunday 7th June: Jazz—Freedom and Form; Science and Art

Parish Boundary Walk with Readings & Reflections

Sunday 5th July, afternoon

September & October

Flower Festival

24-28th September, 10.30 am
(Sun 1.45 pm start)- 6.00 pm

World Animal Day

4th October

Special Pet Blessing, 3 pm

Community Film Screening: *Greyfriars Bobby*, 5 pm

Special Worship: Three Churches

Sunday 25th October, 11 am

November & December

Edinburgh Royal Choral Union Concert

Saturday 7th November, 7.30 pm

Prayer Labyrinth

Friday 15-19th November, times TBC

SCO Chorus: *Christmas Journeys*

22nd December, 7.30 pm

INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION?

The *Celebrate 400* programme is still being confirmed, so check our website at greyfriarskirk.com/celebrate400 for the latest news, plans for Interfaith service with Rev John McCulloch, Good Friday event with Alistair McIntosh, laser light show and much more!