

Community Notes and News

Saturday 18 July 2020

The **Minister**, Richard Frazer, or **Associate Minister**, Ken Luscombe, are happy to speak to anyone to discuss any matter, whether you are a member or not, please contact either:

- Richard on 07715 069 041 or by email at minister@greyfriarskirk.com, or
- Ken on 07488 258 875 or by email at associateminister@greyfriarskirk.com.

Sunday Worship, 17 July, 11am

This week's services will be available on the Kirk's online services website page:

www://greyfriarskirk.com/online-services/

If you would like to join our weekly gatherings for conversation over a cup of tea after the service, please email Richard or get in touch: www.greyfriarskirk.com/get-in-touch/

Lockdown Bobby – travels around the world and innovation at home

We've had some wonderful responses to the project, which are being shared on the Kirk's social media, and in the Flickr Gallery that can be accessed through the web page.

www.greyfriarskirk.com/lockdown-bobby-project/

People have been experimenting with different materials – plasticine, das, Lilliput and even a bit of potato mash! We've

had photos from young and old, experience sculptors and complete novices. Some of you

may have caught Richard and others speaking to STV, BBC Radio Scotland and in a couple of newspapers here and there. If you'd like to hear or see any of these, get in touch with Gillian who can send you links (coordinator@greyfriarskirk.com).

Like the story of Bobby, the project is also travelling around the world. In week one the furthest afield was Somerset, then we received photos from Amsterdam and the latest is Argentina! Have you any far flung friends of family who might have some fun with this wee art project? Do tell them.



Those of you reading regularly will know that we hope to stage an exhibition in the Kirk with some of the pieces created and stories shared as part of our 400 year celebrations next year. If you are part of a social group, art group etc, it would be great if your group might like to contribute a work or two inspired by this project. Suggestions very welcome!

Study Service, Sunday 5 July at 7pm

The topic for the Study Service Zoom meeting at 7pm on Sunday is THE PLACE OF PRAISE IN CHRISTIAN LIFE.

The psalms are full of praise, thanksgiving, petition and lament. They extol God's deeds in faithfulness, steadfast love, truth, righteousness, compassion and concern for the poor. Psalm after psalm are full both of praise for all God is in his majesty and yet of personal prayer to him. It seems clear that such psalms could only have been penned on the basis of a real, very personal knowledge of God himself in which praise was the natural, spontaneous response. So seen, we could attempt to define *praise as the free articulation in word (and music) of encounter with the living God*. There is a very interesting relation here, between encounter with something of exceptional beauty, wonder, skill, etc, and the articulation of it in words or in the eloquent but non-verbal languages of music or painting, for example. This is because, while the encounter elicits a natural response in some kind of language, the language used helps greatly in our appreciation and knowledge of the object. We will also be exploring the importance of genuine praise and thanksgiving in our lives.

Access full study service notes, also some recordings and session transcriptions (coming soon) here: <https://greyfriarskirk.com/studyservice/>

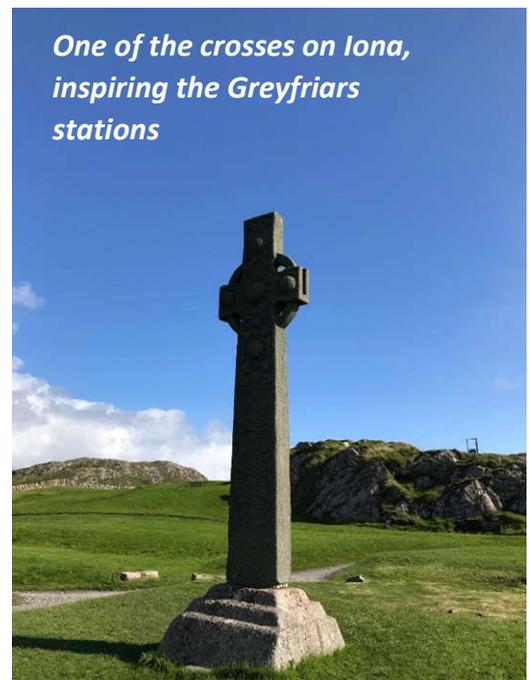
If you are interested in joining the study service, please get in touch to find out more: www.greyfriarskirk.com/get-in-touch/

COMING SOON: Lockdown Stations of the Cross in the Greyfriars Kirkyard

Traditionally Stations of the Cross are used in the time of Lent. Some churches have them permanently. The Lockdown is in a way a "Lent" too: God is with us in our uncertain times, God is with us in our suffering.

The Refugio team will be bringing 7 Stations of the Cross from the Iona Community to the Greyfriars Kirkyard shortly. A map illustrating their positions will be available on the Kirk's website soon. When this is available, please feel free to spend some time with each of them reading, reflecting and praying.

- If there are others walking this path please remember to keep a safe distance.
- Please leave the Stations in place for others to read and reflect on.



*One of the crosses on Iona,
inspiring the Greyfriars
stations*

Donations

With the church building closed to outside activity we are totally dependent on the generous financial support of our members, regular attenders, online visitors and friends.

As we cannot circulate the usual offering plate, the online alternative is through this link: www.paypal.me/greyfriars400. Although headings refer to Greyfriars 400 and Outreach, donations will be used for the same general Greyfriars Kirk purposes as regular offerings; ministry, the Kirk building and staff. Many thanks.

Pastoral Care at Greyfriars Kirk

The Kirk has an active group of volunteers, helping us to stay connected. If you would like to help out in this group, know someone that needs help, or would like a chat yourself please contact Associate Minister, Ken Luscombe (contact details at the top of this newsletter). Ken will enjoy hearing from you and can put you in touch with others too.

Future Services

Each week Greyfriars Kirk will continue to provide services online, shortly in advance, for many of us to come together in worship at the usual times:

- Main Service, 11am.
- Mid-week Prayers & Reflection, Thursdays 1pm.

Past services are also available to enjoy again, or if you were unable to join us at the time. You can find there here: www.greyfriarskirk.com/online-services/

Last Thursday, Richard Frazer led mid-week prayers from Greyfriars Kirkyard, inviting us all the “breathe” and reflect with beautiful music from composer Phamie Gow. At Greyfriarsrrs

Kirk Closure

The Kirk team is closely monitoring changes and plans announced by Scottish Government each week, as well as engaging with Presbytery and other groups to discuss options and guidance as these develop. At present there is no update, and the Kirk **remains closed**. We will provide updates on the situation if that