

Community Notes and News



Saturday 25 July 2020

Associate Minister Ken Luscombe is very happy to speak to anyone to discuss any matter, whether you are a member or not, please contact either him: 07488 258 875 or associateminister@greyfriarskirk.com. Richard is currently on holiday.

Sunday Worship, 26 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 Ken or get in touch: www.greyfriarskirk.com/get-in-touch/

Lockdown Stations of the Cross in the Greyfriars Kirkyard - now installed

7 Stations of the Cross from the Iona Community have been installed in the Greyfriars Kirkyard. These are in the form of laminated signs and short texts for contemplation, reflection and prayer. They tell the story from less traditional perspectives: the Woman's with the Alabaster Jar, the Bethlehem In-keepers, the Roman Centurion's and others. Please enjoy these as you are able. You can find them at the Retaining Wall between the headstones in the middle of the Kirkyard, as depicted in the photo below.



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: “Christ puts away the linen wrappings and dons the apron with those who mop the floors clear of the deadly virus. He puts on the scrubs with a nurse and cares for those afflicted. He supports them in their exhaustion. He breathes with the breathless and gives them strength and hope. Christ holds those who are suffering and dying on their own Good Fridays. And those who have passed away are with him still - held and loved” (from the Seventh Station).

Branding/Marketing Project - Furlough Volunteer Role

The Kirk is looking for an experienced Branding/Communications person to provide advice on what we are doing well, what could be improved and what opportunities we could be developing across the Greyfriars family of organisations. We think this role would ideally suit a person who is currently furloughed from their regular employment.

If you are interested or you know someone who might be, you can find out more here:

[www.aai-employability.org.uk/
branding_marketing_project_with_greyfriars_kirk_furlough_volunteer_role](http://www.aai-employability.org.uk/branding_marketing_project_with_greyfriars_kirk_furlough_volunteer_role)

Study Service, Sunday 26 July at 7pm

Marie (enjoys art in spare time)

In the past few years I attended life drawing classes, which I loved. I hadn't done any drawing since school, so it was great to get back into it. When I saw the Lockdown Bobby project it motivated me to get some clay and get involved.

I managed to persuade my two student children to have a go also. We spent a lovely few hours this afternoon, tinkering away making models of our beagle Ben and various other dogs. I'm looking forward to finding out about armatures next week. I'm sure people will enjoy connecting with their inner artist, it is very therapeutic

PS—mashed potato... Love it, that really is genius! Can it get any better?! >>>>>

Selina (professional sculptor)

Mark Coreth is an exceptional sculptor, a fountain of knowledge and lots of fun! I've been following his lockdown sculpture safari on Instagram.

Everyone should have a go at sculpture. Lockdown Bobby is a fantastic project and I encourage everyone to have a go!

Kazue (new to sculpting)

I used to be a visiting scholar to Edinburgh, when I enjoyed being in both Greyfriars Kirk and Grassmarket Community Project. Even after I returned to Japan, the online service and activities have been a great help to me—especially amid the uncertainty and isolation, though a “lockdown” has not been strictly imposed here so far.

I couldn't find plasticine, so used “paper clay” instead. The model is my family's dog! Thank you so much for giving us opportunities to participate and connect together like this.

John & Dorrie (creative with materials)

We heard about ‘Lockdown Bobby’ on Radio 4 this morning and as with the rest of the world Bobby is a much loved character in our home. He was taught to us in primary school in Scotland, so we've had a go at recreating Bobby with mashed potato! Bobby will be reformed tomorrow as a topping for a Shepherdess Pie. Dorrie tells us the mashed potato is made from ‘Pomme de Terrier’!! [At Greyfriars Kirk we thought it might be Maris Pupper :-)]

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/

Study Service

Sunday's Study Service will look at the presence and omnipresence of God

How is God present to us? In worship, we speak of coming into the presence of God, but as Psalm 139 makes clear God is present everywhere. How? Paul speaks of Christ and of the

Spirit as being "in us" but what is meant by "in" here? "In" is a spatial word, which we use to speak of something being "in" something else, such as tea in the cup, or birds in the air. Before God created the universe there was no space, because as Einstein saw, space only came into being with the beginning of the universe. Also God made the universe and humankind out of nothing to have their own reality which he continually holds in being.

What then is the relation between us who are in space and God who is not part of the universe and therefore not "in space" in the way that we are? There is clearly a fundamental and very necessary relation between God and creation, for he maintains it in being, but the relation is not a spatial one. As Creator of creation & space, God is automatically present to all of it, continually holding it all in being and able to work within it. He is therefore always intimately present to us. It is thus ***better to think of God as being "present TO all creation" than being "present IN all creation"***. There is another all important point. ***It is because God is other than us, that we can have knowing communion with him in Christ: for genuine communion can only be with someone other than ourselves, not ourselves.*** Part of the great wonder of creation is that we are not God, not divine in any way, yet made to know him who is fundamentally "other" than we are. If God is always present to us, the answer to the question why we speak of coming into God's presence, would seem to be that this refers to our presence to God, not his to us, which leaves the question, how do we come to know his presence?

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