

Community Notes and News

Saturday 29 August 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.

11am Service, Sunday 30 August 2020

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 (above). Although the Kirk is open, Sunday services will continue online at present.

Midweek Prayers, Thursday 20 August 2020, 1:10pm

This week's midweek prayers will take place in the Kirk's Gaelic aisle, for those who wish and are able to come. Please do check the Kirk website on the day though, in case of any updates. A recorded version will be added to the website after.

Kirk Opening

The Kirk continues to be open during September: **Mon to Fri, 11am to 4pm** <https://greyfriarskirk.com/visit/>

Space for quiet reflection and prayer, enjoy a wander and re-acquainting yourself with the Kirk and Kirkyard, and if you would like to meet with a member of the ministry team please get in touch (above).



Poetry Evening – Wednesday 2 September, 7:30pm

A third poetry evening will take place this week. The first two have been lovely events. We have enjoyed readings from poets Henry Marsh and Angela McSeveney, and then opened the floor to others.



Whether you would like to contribute a reading, or simply come along to enjoy hearing others, you are very welcome to join. Richard will circulate Zoom details in this week's news email. If you are not receiving this, but would like to join this event please email him (email above).



You can listen to previous readings here: <https://greyfriarskirk.com/music-and-poetry/>

What is Church? And other questions... Second Sundays, coming soon.

A new "Second Sunday" initiative is starting in September. A Zoom gathering will be set up, on the second Thursday of each month (so the first on 10 September, in the evening), to engage in friendly, open discussion, inspired by the "Second Sunday" sermon that month (13 September). Richard will be preaching on 13 September and lead the first proceedings. More information to follow, watch this space.

Greyfriars 400 Years: Timecapsule for 500 Years

Although much of the planned programme this year was cancelled, Greyfriars will still mark four centuries of continued worship and community on Christmas Day 1620. One of the ideas planned for the end of this year, is to create a time capsule intended for the Greyfriars congregation and community to open in another 100 years – perhaps on display in the Kirk somewhere as an intriguing reminder of this anniversary.

We were lucky to be able to plant six fruit trees in the Kirkyard, in partnership with the Church of Scotland, The Orchard Project and a kind donor. This is part of a twinning initiative with Hungarian churches, who have a long tradition of churchyard orchards. The sixth was planted on 20 March, the day restaurants and pubs were ordered to close and "lockdown" started in earnest. Various volunteers have visited the trees to water them during lockdown, as part of their daily exercise. When I visited early in lockdown, I was incredibly sad to find one of the trees snapped off at the base. I couldn't bear to leave it there and brought it home with me. When I visited the next week, I was cheered to see the tree had miraculously regrown! (I later found out it was replaced by Chris, from The Orchard Project, which was very kind of him.) I thought this young tree might be a lovely addition to the time capsule, when the congregation will hopefully be enjoying some older, larger and healthy fruit trees. They certainly seem to be flourishing now with all the rain.

It would be really good to get suggestions from others about what should be placed in this time capsule, with as many contributions, from as many different individuals and groups within the community, as we can fit. Please get your thinking caps on and drop me an email with any ideas, large and small. Given the events of this year, it feels even more important to capture a snapshot representing of our community and the time of its 400th anniversary.

Gillian Couper: coordinator@greyfriarskirk.com

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.

Englishman, Scottish charity, Welsh location! Kiltwalk for GCP



Friends of the Grassmarket Community Project are also finding innovative ways to help keep this much-needed community going. Kevin Robinson is completing the Kiltwalk challenge this September for a fantastic fourth year, despite battling cancer. The challenge is virtual, allowing individuals to complete walks wherever they are. Kevin plans to complete his distance on a Welsh campsite, proudly sporting a kilt that he hopes will have the locals' heads turning! Kevin and his wife Sally, who is also joining in the challenge this year, stumbled across the GCP during a holiday in Edinburgh,

somewhere they love and visit regularly. The inclusive nature and ethos of the GCP really struck a chord with Kevin, who has walked the Kiltwalk for GCP since. Kevin's story is truly inspiring and we really hope to help him have a smashing year this year! Donations and messages are really lifting his spirit and spurring him on. If you are able to make a small donation please consider cheering him on:

<https://edinburghkiltwalk2020.everydayhero.com/uk/kevin-3>.

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.