

Community Notes and News

Saturday 26 September 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](tel:07715069041) or by email at minister@greyfriarskirk.com, or
- Ken on [07488 258 875](tel:07488258875) or by email at associateminister@greyfriarskirk.com.

This week's services

Sunday Service, 11am, 27 September - available at 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). Sunday services will continue online at present.

Midweek Prayers, 1:10pm, Thursday 1 October – this will take place at the Kirk once more. This short service provides space for reflection and thought, you are warmly welcome to join. Recordings are still being added to the website, later in the day, for those who wish to view from home.

Kirk Opening

The Kirk is open each **Thursday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm** for visitors.

Do come and enjoy the space while it is open. Please check the website for latest information on the day of your visit. We will provide updates in this newsletter on future services and any additional opening times.

All Saints Day Service

As we begin to transition to the autumn season, do make plans to join us for our online for our All Saints Day service on the 1st of November at 6 pm. This will be a time to remember those that we have lost in the course of this year. For more information, please watch this space, as well as our social media.



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.

Helping the Kirk with Amazon Smile

Outreach Manager Steve also suggests: "if you do are using AMAZON please can you pay via AMAZON SMILE? This is their way of giving a proportion of your purchase amount back to your CHOSEN CHARITY. Again, you can help the Kirk this way without any monetary impact on your bank balance! All you need to do is quote Greyfriars Kirk's Charity number which is SC003761."

Come and Visit the Shop!

Our beautiful shop is open every Thursday from 11 am to 4 pm. Stop by and peruse our selection of books, sweets, cuddly toys and more. This week, we wanted to highlight our Advent calendars, specially designed to feature the city of Edinburgh and Scotland as a whole (check out the photo- you may spot LOTS of familiar sites ♥). They make wonderful holiday gifts—come by and take a look!



Study Service has re-started: Sundays at 7pm

The Study Service format for the fourth Sunday of each month is for a member of the group to give a short opening talk followed by a brief response from Bob. This is to encourage members of the group to articulate ideas or questions they have as a basis for the group and then the general discussion. This week Jamie Sutherland is doing the talk and he writes:

"Calvin saw the intimate connection between knowledge of God and knowledge of ourselves. As a Christian humanity he always held the two together, teaching that God makes himself known to everyone and that the universe is the theatre of his glory. But because of our sin and the deception of the fall we manufacture our own image of him, for our minds are a "perpetual factory of idols".

John Calvin opens his Institutes of the Christian Religion by observing that human wisdom involves knowing God and knowing ourselves. Calvin observes that we find ourselves turning to God in the times where we begin to reflect on our own faults. In doing so, we come to learn that we are different from God, which helps us to gain better knowledge of ourselves. What does Calvin's insight mean for us as Christians? Can we really come to know God and how? And can we ever really come to know ourselves objectively?

When we look to God and begin to know him, we are led to reflect on our own character and begin to realise we are flawed, imperfect people in face of God's love, mercy, and justice (Psalm 14, 1 John 1:8). Is Calvin then right that knowing God and knowing ourselves are really two parts of the same joint truth. Certainly, when we come to both know who God is and know that we are

different from him, we can begin to see reality more truthfully, and can begin to see our own flaws more clearly, leading us to appreciate God's love and righteousness.

Thinking about how we know God and know ourselves raises many questions about the Christian life. If as Calvin describes, it is often by coming to see our own faults that we begin to seek God, how is this possible when our flaws often prevent us from seeking God? What does this tell us about God's nature that he makes it possible for us to know him? And how do we seek God without accidentally falling back on ourselves? (Romans 10: 2-3)."

Interested in joining this special gathering? Please get in touch to find out more:

www.greyfriarskirk.com/get-in-touch.

Special Survey

We are continuing to plan how to reopen the Kirk for in-person, face to face Sunday morning worship as well as continuing our online services. Visit www.bit.ly/greyfriarssurvey to take a short survey to share your thoughts. Thank you to all of those who already submitted a response!

Pastoral Care at Greyfriars Kirk

The Kirk's pastoral volunteers enjoy staying in touch with many in the congregation and community. If you would like a chat yourself, please contact Ken Luscombe (contact details at the top of this newsletter). Friendly ears and warm conversation awaits anyone who would like this, at any time throughout the year.

If you would like to send in any comments, ideas, requests or queries, please email the office at communications@greyfriarskirk.com. Any thoughts, large or small, very welcome.