

Community Notes and News

Saturday 5 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 or by email at minister@greyfriarskirk.com, or
- Ken on 07488 258 875 or by email at associateminister@greyfriarskirk.com.

This week's services

Sunday Service, 11am, 6 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 10 September – this will take place at the Kirk once more. This short service provides space for reflection and thought, you are warmly welcome to join.

Refugio – 20 September

The next Refugio service will take place at 7pm on Sunday 20 September, also at the Kirk. Like midweek prayers, to keep everyone safe we will ensure appropriate social distancing. Please wear a mask and sanitise your hands. For the communion, please bring your own elements – a piece of bread or a cracker and something to drink. We will consecrate these together.

Kirk Opening

The Kirk continues to be open during September at present: **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). Please check the website for latest information on the day of your visit.

Don't forget – "Second Sundays" (and Thursdays following), coming soon.

A new "Second Sunday" initiative is starting in September. A short evening Zoom gathering will be set up, following the second Sunday of each month (so the first on 17 September – apologies for the error last week), 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.

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.

Amazon Smile

The Kirk's Outreach Manager Steve also suggests another great way to help out:

“Are you doing lots of on-line shopping? We are not going to debates the merits or otherwise of on-line shopping here! But 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.”

Do you like shortbread?

If answer is yes, please consider purchasing some at the Kirk shop. The shop is well stocked with gifts and one of the two line items of perishable goods held is our bespoke labelled Farrah's Shortbread at £4.00 and it comes in a nice tin drum. It's delicious but the best-before date is Feb 2021. In a normal year we would have sold all our stock however because of the Kirk closure we are facing the prospect having to discount or give it away and make a loss. Therefore can you HELP the Kirk by buying a tin or two? We do offer 20% off to congregation, Kirk volunteers and members of staff but perhaps on this occasion you might consider waiving the offer. Just ask the staff and we will get the shop open for you.

Goodbye to Tommy Steel

This month we say goodbye and best wishes for new adventures to Tommy Steel. Woodwork master-craftsman, social enterprise entrepreneur and champion for social equality and justice. If you would like to pass on your wishes, email coordinator@greyfriarskirk.com.

After 16 years at the Grassmarket Community Project, Tommy is moving to Spain and, in true Tommy style, has already started engaging with a great community initiative out there where no doubt his talents and experience will continue to benefit many around him. We look forward to hearing about it all in future. Tommy was integral from the start at the GCP, contributing an incredible amount of enthusiasm, energy, leadership and hard work, offering friendship to members and supporters from all walks of life. **¡Buena suerte, Tommy!**

Study Service re-starts: Sunday 6 September at 7pm

The topic for Sunday is THE PERSON OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN. There are seven so called "I am" sayings of Jesus in the Gospel of John,

"I am the bread of life", "I am the light of the world", "I am the good Shepherd", "I am the resurrection and the life", and the threefold "I am the way, the truth and the life". There is also his saying, in discussion with the Jews, "before Abraham was, I am".

Why does John in his gospel not just recount Jesus' actions (feeding the five thousand, raising someone from the dead, teaching the truth, showing the way, etc) as the other gospels do, but emphasise that Jesus IS himself the bread of life, the resurrection and life, the way and the truth? What is the significance of all the "I am" statements of Jesus?

In the prologue to his gospel, John speaks of Jesus as the Word of God and says: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

If we see the "I am" sayings in the light of John's prologue, and put the two together, it would seem that what John is saying is: he who was in the beginning with God, was God, and in whom was the life and light of humanity, has become flesh himself in order that the life he was and is as God he might now be for us in his risen flesh. In other words, if as God, Jesus had life in himself, then the significance of Jesus becoming flesh for us, is that he now has that same life in the flesh of his risen humanity and therefore can speak of himself as the bread of life. If this is so, then John is pointing to the supreme life-giving significance for us of Jesus' living person in heaven.

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/

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.