



GREYFRIARS COMMUNITY NEWS

Keeping you up to date with what's going on in and around Greyfriars Kirk

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 SUNDAY: 1 NOVEMBER 2020

11.00 am In-Person Services: book your place at <http://bit.ly/greyfriarsinperson>
Online Services at greyfriarskirk.com/online-services

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Thurs 1.10 pm Midweek Prayers at the Kirk (Live-streamed on Facebook and available at our [Online Services](#) page)

Kirk Opening

The Kirk is open each **Thursday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm** for visitors throughout the autumn and winter. Do come and enjoy the space while it is open. Please check the website for latest information on the day of your visit.

Don't Forget to Book Ahead for In-Person Services

We are delighted to be holding in-person services once again. We want to assure you that your safety and the safety of our ministry team and staff is our top priority. Don't forget to [book in online](#) to ensure you have a space reserved at the services. Bookings will close when all the spaces are filled, or two hours before services, whichever comes first. If anyone comes without a booking they will be very welcome but can only be admitted if there is space within the 50-person limit. To start your booking, visit <http://bit.ly/greyfriarsinperson>.



All Saints Day Service

Our online All Saints Day Service, where we remember those we have lost through the course of the year, will be up and available to view on the Kirk website on Sunday the 1st of November at 6:00 pm here at this link: <https://greyfriarskirk.com/2020/10/allsaintsday>.

Radical Welcome Course: Thursdays in November

As congregations and community centres, we want to be places of hospitality and sanctuary. We want to be open for all. How can we go beyond being friendly, beyond being inclusive, to becoming radically welcoming? In four evening sessions on the 5, 12, 19 and 26 November from 8-9 pm we will:

- look at the history of our congregations and community
- reflect on our personal experiences of being excluded but also welcomed
- ask what kind of congregation and community we want to be
- challenge ourselves by aiming to become a radically welcoming place that inspires, empowers and blesses the people around us

Please come and be part of this journey. To receive the Zoom invitation with the link please email aross@churchofscotland.org.uk.

Hunting for a Laptop

As in-person services begin at the Kirk once more, we are hoping to integrate technology for playing video clips and having the words to the hymns up on the projector screen in the sanctuary, with an eye to fully live-stream Sunday services online in the future. One thing that would help to simplify this process is to have a simple laptop to use on Sunday mornings. If you have an old laptop that you aren't using anymore, would you consider donating it to the Kirk to help us to continue journeying down this new tech road? We're excited about the new avenues to connect with others, and if you'd like to donate, just contact the office at communications@greyfriarskirk.com. Thank you very much!



Giving to the Kirk

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 as widely, 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.

Please Visit Your Kirk Gift Shop

We love to welcome friends from near and far to the Kirk shop. There are many special bespoke items to see. Did you know that we have a special selection of Christmas items that would be perfect as gifts? Stop by the Kirk shop on Thursdays between 11 am and 3 pm to browse our selection. The shop is closed for the week commencing the 2nd of November, but we'll be open again at 11 am on the 12th of November and can't wait to say hello!



Study Service: Sundays at 7pm

Each week, Bob Walker hosts a study service on Zoom, investigating passages from the Bible as well as from subsidiary and supportive texts through the lens of systematic theology. The aim is to understand the bible and Christian doctrine as a whole.

The Study Service topic for Sunday is "The eternal covenant with Israel". The phrase comes from the well-known blessing at the end of Hebrews, chapter 13 (13.20). In contrast to a "contract", which is a conditional agreement between two parties (I will do this IF you do that) a "covenant" is an unconditional agreement between them in which each party promises unconditionally to keep their side of the agreement.

The format of the covenant between God and Israel is that God promises, "I will be your God, & you will be my people." The most significant thing here is not just that it is unconditional, but that God promises both sides of the covenant. In other words, he promises not only to be their God, but to make Israel his people and in the great events at Sinai they enter into the covenant to be his people.

How can God promise both sides of the covenant? And how are we to understand the biblical assertions (in both Old and New Testament) that God will never break his covenant with Israel and therefore that it is indeed "eternal"?

In the global situation what can we most instructively learn from the very personal and collective nature of Israel's relation as a people to God in "the eternal covenant" in which we and all nations are now called to be participant?

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

www.greyfriarskirk.com/get-in-touch or visit the [Study Service page](#) on our website.

Crossreach's Heart for Art Exhibition

Our friends at Crossreach's Heart for Art are holding a special virtual exhibition of work from groups all over Scotland, showing at Elcho Artspace from 1-30 of November. To access the exhibition, please visit www.elchoartspace.art.



Edinburgh World Heritage's Kirkyard Project

Please join Edinburgh World Heritage's (EWH) Graveyards Project Manager Dr Susan Buckham plus special guests for the launch of the Greyfriars Kirkyard community project at a special Zoom event on Monday 2 Nov at 6pm, in which EWH hopes to involve more individuals in understanding and supporting their work within Greyfriars Kirkyard.

This will include an overview of the history of the Kirkyard, stories from volunteers and information about how to get more involved in their special new project titled "Making Lasting Impressions". If you decide to participate in the project, you can expect to get involved with fun new approaches to storytelling, conducting visitor surveys, using digital photography to record gravestones, and helping to set up a 'friends of Greyfriars Kirkyard' group.

To learn more or sign up, visit https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-lasting-impressions-the-launch-of-the-greyfriars-community-project-tickets-125938713081?mc_cid=8f5de684c5&mc_eid=8ee5bfd940.

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 editor at officeassistant@greyfriarskirk.com. Any thoughts, large or small, very welcome.