

# Community Notes and News

## Saturday 10 October 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](mailto:minister@greyfriarskirk.com), or
- Ken on [07488 258 875](tel:07488258875) or by email at [associateminister@greyfriarskirk.com](mailto:associateminister@greyfriarskirk.com).

### This week's services

**Sunday Service**, 11am, 11 October - available at [www.greyfriarskirk.com/online-services](http://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 15 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.

### In-Person Sunday Services

We are delighted to be able to hold in-person services again here in the Kirk, and are excited to welcome you back to the sanctuary. We want to assure you that your safety and the safety of our ministry team and staff is our top priority. Below, you will see that we have outlined the guidelines within some frequently asked questions about what being back at Greyfriars will look like during this unique time. To learn more about in-person services or to book in, visit [www.greyfriarskirk.com/inperson](http://www.greyfriarskirk.com/inperson).



## In-Person Services FAQ's

- **Can I just turn up to a service as usual?**

No. We will require you to [book in advance](#). This will help us to keep within the limits for number of people allowed at each gathering.
- **Do I have to provide my contact details?**

Yes. We're required to maintain attendance records to assist in the Test and Protect scheme. Your details will be stored in accordance to our Privacy Policy which is available [here](#).
- **Will you be live-streaming these gatherings?**

Not at the moment. We'll still have our pre-recorded Sunday service each Sunday at 11am which you're welcome to join us for on our website at [greyfriarskirk.com/online-services](http://greyfriarskirk.com/online-services).
- **What time will the service start?**

Services will begin on Sundays in the Kirk at 11 am. We recommend arriving early.
- **How long will the services be?**

The gathering will be 45-50 minutes long.
- **Can I sit wherever I want?**

The Duty Elders or Beadle will show you to a seat when you arrive. Where reasonably possible, we ask that you remain seated during the gathering.
- **Can I sit with other people?**

To maintain physical distancing, we will seat people 2 metres apart. Where possible, we will aim to seat those in the same household together although this will not always be possible.
- **Has the building been cleaned?**

Yes. As well as having a deep clean before reopening, we have increased the amount of cleaning we are doing. Among other things, this involves wiping down all touch points between gatherings.
- **Can I bring my children?**

Yes, absolutely. Unfortunately, crèche services will not be available, but children are welcome at our services.
- **Will I have to wear a mask?**

Yes. The current Scottish Government guidance is for all congregation members to wear masks inside buildings. If you are exempt from wearing a mask because of a medical reason, please just make the Duty Elders or Beadle aware of this when you arrive.
- **Do I need to bring hand sanitiser?**

We will provide hand sanitiser at all entrances/exits to the church as well as at toilets. However, you're very welcome to bring your own as well.
- **Will we be allowed to sing?**

The current guidance is that there can be no congregational singing.
- **Will I be able to use the toilets?**

Yes, the toilets will be open for use. Only two individuals will be permitted in the ladies and gents toilet at a time.
- **Will there be an offering?**

If you would like to give financially, at the moment we'd prefer this to be done online. There is a tap-to-give £3 contactless point at the Kirk exit for in-person

giving. Feel free to "tap" as many times as you wish! There will also be an offering plate at the door. You can donate online by clicking [here](#). The headings refer to Greyfriars Outreach and Greyfriars 400, but all the money you give will be used to support Greyfriars Ministry.

- **Is there tea and coffee afterwards?**

No. Under the current guidelines we aren't able to serve tea/coffee/refreshments at any gathering.

- **Will there be time to chat to people at the end?**

To promote physical distancing, at the end of the gathering, people sitting closest to the exit will be asked to leave first. As per Presbytery and Scottish Government guidelines, we also remind you that any gathering outside the church must be limited to a maximum of 6 people from not more than two households. Please disperse quickly after the service ends. If you would like to talk to another household within the legal limits, it would be best for you to do so away from the church, to maintain safe physical distancing for all.

Ready to sign up for services? Book your place at <http://bit.ly/greyfriarsinperson>.

## **Three Churches Service: No In-Person Services on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October**

We are delighted to announce that we will be sharing a special Three Churches service on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October at 11 am with our ecumenical partners at St. Columba's by the Castle and Augustine United Church. This service will take place online, and be available for viewing at our online services page ([www.greyfriarskirk.com/online-services](http://www.greyfriarskirk.com/online-services)). Due to the service taking place online, we will NOT have in-person services here at the Kirk on that date. In-person services will continue as usual on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



## **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](mailto:aross@churchofscotland.org.uk).

## 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](http://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 and Spend Day!

Do you shop on Amazon? You can support the Kirk with just one click, and make your donation go further next week! If you shop Amazon Prime Day deals on 13 & 14 October, you can make a difference: Simply shop online at the website [www.smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC003761](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC003761) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, and AmazonSmile will donate a percentage of your total purchase price to the Kirk.



## Come and Visit the Shop

We love to welcome friends from near and far to the Kirk shop. There are so many special bespoke items to see. We especially love to snack on the shortbread in its special Greyfriars Bobby tin! Stop by the Kirk shop on Thursdays between 11 am and 4 pm—we would love 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.

Interested in joining this special gathering? Please get in touch to find out more:  
[www.greyfriarskirk.com/get-in-touch](http://www.greyfriarskirk.com/get-in-touch).

## **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](mailto:communications@greyfriarskirk.com). Any thoughts, large or small, very welcome.***