

Community Notes and News

Saturday 17 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, or
- Ken on [07488 258 875](tel:07488258875) or by email at associateminister@greyfriarskirk.com.

This week's services

Sunday Service, 11am, 18 October – in-person at the Kirk ([booking required](#)) and available at www.greyfriarskirk.com/online-services. If you would like to join our weekly Zoom gatherings for conversation over a cup of tea after the service, please email Richard (above).

Midweek Prayers, 1:10pm, Thursday 22 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 live-streamed to Facebook, and available later to view as well.

Kirk Opening

The Kirk is open each **Thursday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm** for visitors. In November, we will shift to **Thursdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**.

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 Have Resumed

We are delighted to be holding in-person services again here in the Kirk. 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 and updated 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.



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 (50 total). Booking will close when spaces are filled, or two hours before the services, whichever comes first.
- **Do I have to provide my contact details?**

Yes. We're required to maintain attendance records to assist in the Test and Protect scheme. You're 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.
- **What time will the service start?**

Services will begin on Sundays in the Kirk at 11 am. We recommend arriving early.
- **Where can I park?**

If you chose to drive to the Kirk, please try to park on Chambers Street, leaving spaces in the Kirkyard only for those with mobility issues. Thank you!
- **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 25th of October**

We are delighted to announce that we will be sharing a special Three Churches service on the 25th 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). 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 1st 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 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.



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.

Donations

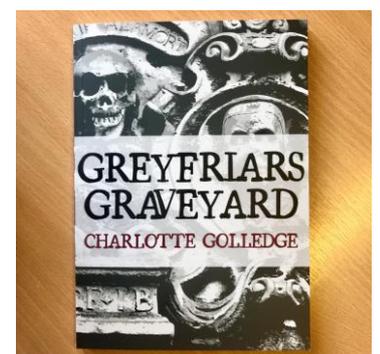
With the church building closed to outside activity we are totally dependent on the generous financial support of our members, regular attenders, online visitors and friends.

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.

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. This week, we have been really drawn to the book "Greyfriars Graveyard" by our good friend Charlotte Golledge, telling the story of the Kirkyard with lots of unique insights along the way.

Stop by the Kirk shop on Thursdays between 11 am and 4 pm—we would love to say hello!



Study Service: Sundays at 7pm

The Study Service topic for Sunday is "The Father's "sending" of the Son & the Son's "sending" of us". In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." We will be examining the importance of the relation between the two sendings, the strong parallels between them as well as the important difference. One of the key points is that

in sending the Son, the Father remains with the Son and works with and in him ("God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself" (2 Cor 5.19), just as when Christ send us, he remains very much with us, working in us and through us through his word and Spirit. We cannot bring in the kingdom, for only Christ can and the power remains his.

One of the main themes of John is that Jesus has been "sent" by the Father and Jesus himself speaks of that many times. The Greek work *apostello* (from which we get the work 'apostle') conveys the meaning of someone being sent with the authority of the sender. The synonym word, *pempo*, also used many times, almost interchangeably with *apostello*, conveys the same meaning of 'send' but more as a natural follow-on word and therefore without the same stress on the authority conveyed.

When the Father sends the Son it is natural to think of him as remaining in heaven and imagine a separation between them, but with God it is not so. The function of the word "send" is not to suggest any separation but to convey that the full authority of the Father has been given to Jesus and therefore that what Jesus says and does is the very voice of the Father who backs him up to the hilt. Such is the bond of love between Father and Son that there can be no wedge between them and Jesus can say, "I am in the Father and the Father in me" (Jn 10.38, 14.10,11) The relation is such that the person who hears, believes, sees and knows the Son, hears, believes, sees and knows the Father (Jn 3.34, 8.37-47, 12.44-5, 14.7). "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father", said Jesus (Jn14.9), or as Karl Barth has said like Luther before him, "I know no God but the man Jesus".

As one God, Father, Son and Spirit are different and have different roles but are inseparable in their working, for in all that God does, in creation as in redemption, Father, Son and Spirit are at work together, in different ways, the Father in the Son through the Spirit. The role of the Spirit is to reveal Christ to us and unite us to him in love and understanding. When Christ says those remarkable words, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you", he is calling us to be his ambassadors, promising to be with us himself, through the power of the Spirit, to work in and through us in his mission.

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

Dunedin Consort at Greyfriars

We were pleased to host Dunedin Consort recently in the Kirk for a recorded concert, the first since the lockdown.

Entitled **Nature's Voice**, this intimate orchestral programme saw them join forces with soprano [Rowan Pierce](#) for a programme inspired by the sounds of the natural world. Alongside well-loved pillars of the Baroque repertoire, such as Vivaldi's 'Autumn' and Handel's 'Sweet Bird', they perform a few lesser known gems too, including Alessandro Scarlatti's exquisite cantata *Bella madre dei fiori* ('Thou lovely mother of flowers').

The concert is available free to view on the Dunedin Consort [website](#) (where you will also find the programme notes, and texts and translations), on their [YouTube](#) channel, or on [Facebook](#).

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.