

Community Notes and News

Saturday 24 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, 25 October – This week's service is a special **online-only** gathering with our ecumenical partners at Augustine United Church and St Columba's by the Castle. Join us online at www.greyfriarskirk.com/online-services at our usual time of 11 am on Sunday morning, following by a Zoom gathering.

Midweek Prayers, 1:10pm, Thursday 29 October– This service will take place in the Kirk sanctuary. The short twenty-minute time for prayer provides space for reflection and thought, and 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.

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 this Sunday 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.

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

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. Don't forget to book in online to ensure you have a space reserved at the services. Booking will close when all the spaces are filled, or two hours before the 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 learn more about in-person services or to book in, visit www.greyfriarskirk.com/inperson and review updated the FAQ's below.

Updated 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 all the spaces are filled, or two hours before the 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.

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](#). If you have booked in advance your name will automatically be on the list.

I'm nervous about distancing. What will that be like?

In accordance with government guidance, we require that attendees to the service say at least two metres apart at all times. We know that sometimes folks forget, so don't be afraid to say "I just need to back up a bit" if you are feeling that someone is getting a bit close.

As you enter the Kirk, you will be directed by a Duty Elder to a seat. If you would, stay in your seat as much as possible to allow our one-way system to move smoothly. Inside the Kirk, seats will be spaced two metres apart. Please do not move any chairs.

Once the service ends, we would love to encourage you exit the sanctuary in a timely manner to chat with folks outside the Kirk in our beautiful Kirkyard.

Will you be live-streaming these gatherings?

Not at the moment. We'll still have our pre-recorded Sunday service each Sunday at 11 am 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.

How long will the services be?

The gathering will be 45-50 minutes long.

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!

Can I sit with other people?

To maintain physical distancing, we will seat individuals or groups 2 metres apart. Where possible, we will aim to seat those in the same household together in a group 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 and we have set out a space for them at the back of the church.

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?

Unfortunately 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 should 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. 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>.

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

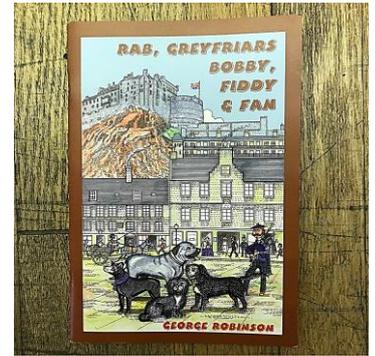
With the church building closed to outside activity we are totally dependent on the generous financial support of our members, regular attenders, online visitors and friends.

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. We have a great selection of books on everyone's favourite Skye terrier, Greyfriars Bobby, including *Rab, Greyfriars Bobby, Fiddy & Fan*, written by our friend George Robinson. These wonderful books make great gifts for the holidays.

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.

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.



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.