



# 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](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).

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## THIS SUNDAY: 6 DECEMBER 2020

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

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## Kirk Opening

The Kirk is now closed to visitors, and will re-open on **Thursdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm** beginning on **17 February 2021**, the week of the mid-term school holiday. Do come and enjoy the space while it is open. Please check the website for the 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>.



## Christmas Services at the Kirk

We are delighted to hold several in-person Christmas Services here at the Kirk during the Advent period. This will include two Christmas Eve services (one on the 23rd of December at 3 pm, and one on the 24th of December at 5 pm) as well as our usual Christmas Day service at 10:30 am. The Christmas Eve service will also be available on the [Online Services](#) page on our website, and the Christmas Day service will be streamed on [Facebook Live](#). Due to coronavirus restrictions, spaces at each service are limited to 50 people, including staff. **Bookings are essential for attendance**, and you can book your place online for any of the services, as well as learning more, by visiting [www.greyfriarskirk.com/christmas](http://www.greyfriarskirk.com/christmas).

## 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](http://www.paypal.me/greyfriars400). Although headings on this page refer to Greyfriars 400 and Outreach, all donations will be used for the same general Greyfriars Kirk purposes as regular offerings; ministry, the Kirk building and staff. Many thanks.

if you are shopping on-line with 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 in this way without any monetary impact on your bank balance! All that you need to do is quote Greyfriars Kirk's Charity number, which is SC003761.

## Study Service: Sundays at 7 pm

The topic of the Study Service on Sunday is THE VIRGIN BIRTH. The place of the virgin birth in Christian history and faith has often been questioned. It has been argued that only Matthew and Luke make any reference to it and that it is not necessary for Christian faith, but the biblical evidence for it is actually such wider than thought. While only Matthew and Luke refer to it explicitly they are the only gospels that make a point of narrating the birth of Jesus. There are significant allusions to it in Mark, John and Paul. There are several verses (Mark 6.3, John 1.13, Galatians 4.4, 1 John 5.18) where the language is such that they can only be taken as definite allusions to the virgin birth.

It is highly significant that there is very strong evidence from the Christian fathers of the 2nd and 3rd centuries that John 1.13, for example, about being born "not of bloods, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a husband, but of God" was originally in the singular, referring to Jesus, and not in the plural, referring to all those who are "given power to become children of God". Harnack the great liberal New Testament scholar and theologian argued that the verse was indeed originally singular and modern scholarship has followed that.

It is also very significant that in speaking of the birth of Jesus, Paul never once uses the word used by the New Testament for birth, and uses an entirely different word. In Galatians 4.4, for example, the word he uses does not say "born" of woman but "became" or "made" of woman.

In other words, he refuses to use the only word used by the New Testament for human birth and uses a word which does not signify normal human birth.

If the strong biblical evidence is to be followed, it means that Christ was not born by any antecedent human action or desire. Joseph was set aside, Mary did nothing, she was simply given the good news by the angel and her response was simply one of gratitude. As such, Mary has rightly become the model of faith and the model for reception of the good news of the gospel of the unconditional love and forgiveness in the finished work of Christ - "let it be unto me [us] according to your word".

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) or visit the [Study Service page](#) on our website.

### **Pastoral Care at Greyfriars Kirk**

The Kirk's pastoral volunteers enjoy staying in touch with the congregation and community. If you would like a chat, please contact Ken Luscombe (contact details at the top of this newsletter).

*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.*