



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

THIS SUNDAY: 20 DECEMBER 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

Wednesday 3.00 pm and Thursday 5.00 pm Christmas Eve service
Friday 10.30 am Christmas Day service

Booking details are in the **Christmas Services** paragraph below.

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.

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 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 discussion topic for Sunday will be a follow up of last Sunday's talk on the virgin birth. The discussion at the end was exceptionally interesting and we emerged with a strong sense of the importance of the virgin birth.

We looked at the strong biblical evidence for it in Mark, John and Paul as well as in Matthew and Luke. We also looked at how the consensus of New Testament scholarship today follows the compelling evidence from the early church fathers that John 1.13-14 was originally about the virgin birth of Christ, not about those who become children of God.

When we then considered the theological significance of the virgin birth, one of the most interesting points was that today the virgin birth is seen as a sign of Jesus's divinity but in the early church it was quite the reverse, because it was seen as a witness to his full humanity.

What is important is that the virgin birth is not a theory of explanation of how it happened, but simply an account of what did happen, and that actually both the full divinity and humanity of Jesus are equally important. We also saw that while the virgin birth is only the outward sign of what happened (God becoming fully man while remaining full God in the one Jesus), it is a model and pattern for the way that God always acts with us. Thus, when we come to faith, our faith is

a gift of God, and yet it is our own genuine faith. For the New Testament, the grace of God means that these two facts go together and are not in conflict.

Two of the follow up topics/questions for us on Sunday are the relation between the "first Adam" in whom all die and the "second Adam in whom all are made alive" (Romans 5), and the relation between the so called "physical or earthly" man and the "heavenly" or "spiritual" man (1 Corinthians 15). A Chinese student member of the group currently doing a PhD in Edinburgh has kindly agreed to outline the topic and questions for us.

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.

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. Any thoughts, large or small, very welcome.