



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: 17 JANUARY 2021

11.00 am Online Service at greyfriarskirk.com/online-services

7.00 pm "Refugio" online Communion Service at greyfriarskirk.com/online-services.
To take part in the communion portion of the service, please bring your own bread and wine to the viewing.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

While the current level of restrictions remains in force, there will be no Midweek Prayers or Sunday Worship in the Kirk. Midweek Prayers are available via Facebook Live each Thursday at 1:10 pm, either by visiting https://www.facebook.com/GreyfriarsKirkOfficial/live_videos or via our Kirk Facebook page.

Kirk Opening

The Kirk is now closed to visitors. We had hoped that it would re-open on **Thursdays** from **11:00 am to 3:00 pm** beginning on **17 February 2021**, the week of the school mid-term holiday, but in these current conditions, nothing can be certain. Please keep checking the website for the latest information.

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 at all on your bank balance! All that you need to do is quote Greyfriars Kirk's Charity number, which is SC003761.

Study Service: Sundays at 7.00 pm

This Sunday's Study Service at 7.00 pm will be a discussion of "spirit", "Spirit" and "spirituality". These words can be used in widely different ways, with very different and sometimes conflicting meanings. They are commonly used to refer to what is not physical, and human beings have been thought to be composed of a body which is physical and a soul which is not. In philosophy, this has led to many problems about the relation between body and soul, or the physical and the spiritual.

In the bible, human beings are essentially physical beings, made out of the dust of the earth, but into whom God has "blown" the "breath of life". The words of Genesis do not speak of God breathing his own Spirit into man, but of blowing into his nostrils the breath of life. When human breath ceases, then we are no longer living, but dead, and the meaning of the biblical word for soul is essentially living breath. The bible therefore knows no dualism of body and soul: when physical breath ceases, the soul or the very life of the ceases and the whole person is dead.

The biblical word for 'spirit' and 'Spirit' is "ruach" which means wind and this is the word that the bible uses to speak of God as Spirit or of the Holy Spirit. When used of God, the word simply means that God is not physical as we are and that he is present everywhere, like the wind. In that sense only God is Spirit, and we are not and never will be in the way that God is.

What then should be the meaning of "spirit" and "spirituality" when applied to human beings?

If you are interested in joining this special Zoom gathering, please get in touch to find out more: www.greyfriarskirk.com/get-in-touch or visit the [Study Service](#) page on our website.

Burns Song Project

Eleanor Harris, a member of Greyfriars, invites you to join her new Burns Song Project. Choirs around the world have discovered that, while singing together online is very different to in a room, it is still possible to enjoy many of the physical, mental, social and artistic benefits of singing. This series of one-hour Zoom sessions will be an opportunity to warm up our voices, learn some of the wonderful (and less well-known) songs of Robert Burns, and meet new people. Whether you're a complete novice, or an experienced singer needing some motivation to practice, you'll be very welcome to join in on Wednesdays at 5.30pm. Email eleanormharris@gmail.com to receive joining instructions and ask any questions.

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.