



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: 28 FEBRUARY 2021

11.00 am Online 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 restrictions are in force, there will be no Midweek Prayers or Sunday Worship in the Kirk. These services are recorded in the Kirk in advance, and can be viewed live on our YouTube channel, or online at any time on the Kirk website – see the details below.

Kirk Opening

The Kirk is now closed to visitors. It will re-open on **Thursdays** from **11:00 am to 3:00 pm** when the current restrictions are sufficiently eased. Please keep checking the website for the latest information.

Greyfriars YouTube Channel

We are excited to announce that we have now transitioned Sunday Services and Midweek Prayers from Facebook Live to our **YouTube** account. This new platform makes our services better than ever, as it is built just for videos. Want to watch our services live? Just visit the Greyfriars Kirk YouTube channel at the link below at 11 am on Sundays (for Sunday Services) and at 1:10 pm on Thursdays (for Midweek Prayers). Can't make it to a service live? Never a problem - all of our videos will be available to you at any time via our Online Services page on the Kirk website. We look forward to you tuning in!

📺 Watch on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/greyfriarstv>

📺 Watch on our website: <https://bit.ly/gfk3cs>

New Virtual Tour of Greyfriars!

Have you missed visiting and looking around the Kirk? We have certainly missed welcoming you and all our many friends. We are VERY EXCITED to announce that we have created a virtual tour of Greyfriars just for you! Pan, click and zoom in on some of our favourite treasures and hidden secrets. Click the link below to start your adventure! 🖱️

<https://greyfriarskirk.com/virtualtour>

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

The Study Service on Sunday will take the form of a Bible Study on one of the most intriguing and important biblical passages, Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12. There are 4 so called servant songs in Isaiah, 42:1-7, 49:1-6, 50:4-10 and the last, 52:13 – 53:12, known as "the suffering servant".

The great prophets of the Old Testament came to the stage when they were given to understand that the covenant promise of God, **"I will be your God and you shall be my people"** could only be fulfilled in a radical renewing of the covenant or by a servant figure. In Jeremiah 31:31-34, it is a renewed covenant in which God would write his law in the hearts of his people and they would all know him. In Ezekiel 36:22-37, God would put a new heart and spirit into them instead of their heart of stone and pour out his Spirit on them, 37:1-14.

For Isaiah, it became clear that the logic of the covenant could only be fulfilled through a "suffering servant" taking on himself the sins of the whole people, suffering for them, making amends and bringing them to healing. This is a truly remarkable passage, with several surprising elements to it. Not least is the way in which Isaiah 53 narrates the story of someone who was despised, rejected, stricken for the sins of the people, and put to death unjustly, yet someone who in hindsight was seen to have died for the people's healing and restoration.

It becomes clear that it is in fact God who is behind the suffering servant and that the servant is fulfilling the will and purpose of God. Who is this suffering servant?

Jewish interpretation can point to it being the people of Israel who are the corporate servant of God. For Christians and the New Testament, it is Jesus. The two interpretations are not necessarily completely contradictory, for in the New Testament Jesus is seen as the one who gathers up the whole mission of Israel to the Gentiles and fulfils it, until the time when Israel itself is re-united with them to form one new humanity under Christ. See Romans chapters 9-11.

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.

St Columba's by the Castle Webinar Series: Change in a Time of Chaos

Our ecumenical partners at St Columba's by the Castle are hosting a series of webinars online on the topic of "Change in a Time of Chaos". The third lecture in this series, given by Dr Rachel Howell, Lecturer in Sustainable Development at Edinburgh University, will focus on personal and political action on climate change. The lecture will take place **this Wednesday, March 3**, at 7:30 pm.

In addition, our own minister, Rev Richard Frazer, will be a special panellist on this lecture. To learn more, or to register your place, please visit the link below:

<https://www.stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk/learn/change-in-a-time-of-chaos/>

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.

Grassmarket Community Project - Activities to Join in

The GCP is running various online activities while we continue with lockdown and social restrictions. These activities are a great opportunity to socialise with others in the Greyfriars and Grassmarket communities, learn something interesting, or have a bit of fun! There's Scottish History, Community Choir, a book group, cinema chat, mindfulness (with the previous Probationer Minister at Greyfriars, Urzula) and more. There are also coffee break sessions, at which it's always particularly nice to see some new face, and good for those that just want to drop in for a bit. Check all these out here: [Plan C – Grassmarket Community Project](#). You are very warmly welcome to join in! If you'd like any more information, to receive the regular community bulletin saying what's on, or to speak to someone at the GCP, you can call 0131 225 3626 or email info@grassmarket.org.

But first, GCP have a very short registration process where they need some basic information from you. Please complete the form at this link (you only have to complete it once !):

<https://grassmarket.org/membership-volunteer-form-2021/>

and then they'll arrange a quick call. GCP need to do this for online safety, and after that you can join the classes or activities as little or as much as you like whenever you like.

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.