



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 or by email at minister@greyfriarskirk.com, or
- Ken on 07488 258 875 or by email at associateminister@greyfriarskirk.com.

THIS SUNDAY: 14 MARCH 2021

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

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 that 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 topic for the Study Service this Sunday is "A theology for Lent?" The season of Lent can and should be one of the most important periods of the Christian year, for in it we remember all that Jesus willingly suffered for us to conquer sin and death and in his resurrection re-establish us in fellowship with God and one another. Lent can be a time of great reflection and renewal in faith, understanding and Christian life.

The Eastern Orthodox Church takes Lent much more seriously than the Western Church in general but also makes much more of the resurrection, for it sees Lent as a time of looking forward (as Jesus did) to the joy that lay ahead in the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Without the resurrection, the cross has ultimately nothing to say to us, for it is the resurrection that tells us that in Jesus we are forgiven and re-instated as God's dear children.

How then, do we hold in balance, solemn reflection on what the cross meant for Jesus with the joy of the resurrection? It is emphasised in the gospels that even the disciples forsook Jesus and that he died alone, one man for the piled up, collective sin of the whole world, and Jesus himself knew from the Old Testament prophets before him that it had to be that way.

In retrospect it can be seen that it indeed had to be so, for the ultimate meaning of the cross is that as Paul discovered (see Philippians 3) we have no righteousness of our own and must die with Christ on the cross in order to be raised to new life with him. Paul in Philippians 3 sees that much as he had tried to keep the law, all his supposed righteousness was in fact hollow (he actually uses the word "dung" here) and that our whole aim should now be to be found in Christ and in his righteousness, not ours.

In the light of this, at the heart of our solemn reflection on the passion of Jesus there should be a realisation that we cannot accompany Christ to the cross but have to let him die for us in order to be brought to life with him in the joy of the resurrection.

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.

After a break next week, the Study Services will resume on Palm Sunday, 28 March.

Parish Minister / Associate Minister Job Posting

Besides being a parish church in the centre of Edinburgh, over many years Greyfriars has developed a ministry to people on the 'edge', through the Grassmarket Community Project and the Greyfriars Charteris Centre. We are now looking for someone with experience in and a focus on pastoral care who will take forward that ministry, not only walking alongside our remarkable, outward looking and generous congregation, but serving the other groups that make up the Greyfriars community.

Interested in the post, or know someone who might be? For more information, visit the Kirk website at www.greyfriarskirk.com/jobs.

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.