



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: 28 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: <https://bit.ly/greyfriarsdonate>. Although headings on that page refer to Greyfriars 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 right back to Greyfriars Kirk. 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 of the Study Service on Sunday is PALM SUNDAY: THE KING IN SOVEREIGN CONTROL. The Study Service this week will take the form of readings and discussion of passages on Holy Week selected from T.F. Torrance's 'Incarnation'. Tom Torrance was a distinguished member of Greyfriars and the two volumes of his lectures at New College have been described as "a landmark in theology".

The selected passages paint an unforgettable, unique picture of Jesus in sovereign control of all that happened to him. Torrance writes :

"There can be no doubt about it that Jesus deliberately forced the issue. At last when the time drew near he marched straight upon Jerusalem and threw everything into the crisis, pressing the nation to come to an ultimate decision, pressing the people to the supreme point when as a whole people they would take a decision in the solidarity of their sin in resistance against the revealed grace of God. That was the Christ who came not to bring peace but a sword, who came to cast fire upon the earth. And so Jesus kept pressing hard upon the people, deliberately provoking evil to its final and complete reaction and then set himself to deal with it by the finger of God, in holy love. It was an act of aggression on his part for which he had long prepared. He invaded the realm of the strong man in order to bind him, invaded by suffering and by love, in order to bind him by atonement. The cross was the culminating point of the struggle when he touched people at the very roots of their being, at the point where sin was most deeply entrenched, and did the tremendous deed that reversed all things." (Incarnation: the person and life of Christ, page 155).

The preparatory reading for Sunday will be pages 138-40 and 150-59 of a section entitled "Jesus the king of the kingdom". Study service members will read and then discuss in turn passages on the unfolding dynamic of Holy Week. The selected passages provide a penetrating insight into the mission and purpose of Jesus, fulfilled so dramatically on the cross in his "It is finished" and his committal of himself (and us with him) in prayer to his Father. Three days later, the victory of Jesus is revealed in bodily resurrection, the astounding beginning in him of the new creation.

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.

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.

Any experienced systems software developers in our midst?

One of the things we have been doing this year is to review some of the systems that we use across the "Greyfriars family": the Kirk, the Grassmarket Community Project and the Greyfriars Charteris Centre. We are investigating a system called Salesforce to help us with aspects of outreach and with bringing our three places together. We wondered if we might have any individual within our midst who has experience with the programming/development aspects of Salesforce ([CRM Software & Cloud Computing Solutions - Salesforce UK](#)) or similar systems? Please let Gillian know: celebrate400@greyfriarskirk.com.

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.