



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: 11 APRIL 2021

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

Midweek Prayers

We are delighted to announce that in-person Midweek Prayers have returned to Greyfriars Kirk. Join us each Thursday in the sanctuary from 1:10 - 1:30 pm for this special time of prayer and reflection.

Sunday Services

Bookings for attending our in-person Sunday Service are now live on the Kirk website (link below in blue). Please ensure that you book in advance if you would like to attend a service, as there are only 50 spaces available for each week. We look forward to welcoming you back. Have questions about the service? Please review the frequently asked questions, available on our website at:

<https://greyfriarskirk.com/inperson>

Kirk Opening

The Kirk is still closed to visitors. Provisionally, it will re-open on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** as soon as 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 Study Service will be embarking on a study of the Gospel of John. As this will take some time, two Sundays a month will therefore be reserved for going right through John and attempting to understand it as a whole. In chapter one, John is clearly setting out the major themes of his gospel and this week we will focus on the first half of chapter one (up to verse 18) and see how the opening Prologue (verses 1-5) outlines the key concepts which John will continue to build on and elaborate in the rest of the gospel. The gospel of John is so profound, yet so simple, that it can never really be studied enough, or read too often. It is from it, for example, that we are given the best picture of the inseparable relation between Father and Son and the best feel for what the doctrine of the Trinity is all about.

In the five-verse prologue followed by the next 13 verses, John goes right to the kernel of his gospel: the very Word through whom the whole universe was brought into being, who alone is its true life and light, the eternal Word become flesh, the Son of God become man, the one who because he alone is at the heart of God and knows God, he alone is the one who can make God known and has become man alongside us to do so.

The person of Jesus Christ, very God become man without ceasing to be God, he alone is the life and light of humanity. Everyone else can only point to him. He is the one who "takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29), who was baptised for us, who gives us the Holy Spirit (v. 33), who is the Messiah of Israel (v. 41), the one whom Moses and all the prophets looked forward to (v. 45), the Son of God and King of Israel (v. 49), the Son of man in whom heaven and earth have been joined and in whom we can see heaven open and know God (v. 51). To know Jesus is to know God and to know Jesus is to have life and life eternal.

These are the themes that John continues to develop, deepen and weave together throughout his gospel so all might "believe that Jesus is the Christ (the anointed Messiah), the Son of God, and believing have life in his name" (Jn 20:31).

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](https://www.salesforce.com)) 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.

Heart for Art Kiltwalk Fundraiser

This year the Heart for Art team decided to take part in virtual Kiltwalk, to raise money for the Heart for Art service. The event takes place on **23 – 25 April**.

Heart for Art relies on the generosity of supporters to help people with dementia transform their lives through creativity and the arts. In light of the coronavirus, the Heart for Art team is working remotely to help vulnerable people across Scotland through these difficult times. The threat that isolation and loneliness can have on the health and wellbeing of our participants is very real. Your donation could provide a lifeline for some of the most vulnerable people in our society. **Fundraising £50 will ensure that 2 people with dementia have all the art materials needed to engage with their programmes.** Together with your help, we can work to change this! You can sponsor the Heart for Art team by donating to: <https://virtual.thekiltwalk.co.uk/fundraising/ScotlandsVirtualKiltwalk2021-MaureenDigby> or you can take on any Kiltwalk Inspired challenge you wish (go for a walk of any length, a run, cycle, jump on a trampoline . . . you decide on your challenge!) by registering for the VirtualKiltwalk.

This year The Hunter Foundation will also be very kindly be adding a 50% top up on all your fundraising too - so for every £1 you raise, they will add an extra 50p! To qualify for this boost, you must set up your online fundraising page during the Kiltwalk registration process; they will provide you with a link when you register. Heart for Art would be grateful for any contributions that could be raised. For more information on what's involved, you can visit www.thekiltwalk.co.uk.

How do I register?

Registration for the virtual event in April is now open! Head to the [Kiltwalk page](#) to get signed up today! The registration fee for the Virtual Kiltwalk Weekend is £12.80 for adults and £6.50 for children. Once you're registered, a JustGiving fundraising page will automatically be created for you to share on your social channels. Heart for Art would love for you to join their team.

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.