



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: 23 MAY 2021

11.00 am In-Person Service at the Kirk -- **no booking required**, provide Track & Trace details at the door.
Online Services -- watch on your YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/greyfriarstv>.
To take part in the communion portion of the service, please bring your own bread and wine to the viewing.

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. Watch online at <https://bit.ly/greyfriarsmidweek>.

Kirk Opening - at last!

The Kirk will re-open to visitors on **Thursday 27 May**, from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm with a short break for Midweek Prayers, and we expect quite soon to add opening hours on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Please keep checking the website for the latest information.

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 this week is a bible study on John 4. Here John continues to elaborate on themes already tackled and give clues of others to come. Throughout his gospel, John interweaves the human life of Jesus with the most wonderful theology, for the story of Jesus is the story of the Word become flesh, God himself living among us, walking about, meeting people, engaging them in conversation, opening them up to know the Father and himself as the Son of the Father.

This is beautifully illustrated in the story of the encounters of Jesus in chapter 4, particularly in his meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well but also with the official at Capernaum whom we learn from Matthew 8:5-10 and Luke 7:1-10 was a Roman centurion and at whose faith Jesus marvelled.

There are several significant themes in this chapter:

- Jesus is the giver of "living water" and the water he gives us is "a spring of living water welling up to eternal life".
- the time coming when true worship of God the Father is universalised, for as God is Spirit, so true worship must be "in spirit and truth".
- Jesus is the long awaited Messiah who unfolds all the truth.
- the food that nourished Jesus was much more than the bread necessary for human life: it was knowing and doing the will of the Father.
- the discovery by "heathen" Samaritans that Jesus was "indeed the Saviour of the world".
- the recognition by people outside the Jewish faith that here was actually the Saviour of the whole world.

Master theologian and master story teller that John is, he understands and knows how to narrate the outwardly very ordinary events of Jesus' human life along with their profound theological significance, all of which he presents woven impeccably and indissolubly together.

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.

Ecumenical Orchard/Gardening Group at GCP

We still exist! The pandemic has not hindered our apple and pear trees from growing and blossoming. What a sign of hope! The group will meet weekly on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 12.30 to care for our little orchard but also to do gardening at the Quiet Garden at St Columba's. We're now running as a GCP group in ecumenical partnership. If you want to join us in digging, sowing, planting, pruning and eventually harvesting, please drop me (Anne Ross) a line: aross@churchofscotland.org.uk.

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Grassmarket Community Project - Activities to Join in

The GCP is running various online activities and from the 26th April a limited number of activities in the centre. 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! Online there is Scottish History, Community Choir, a book group, cinema chat, mindfulness 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. In person activities include Art, Reading and Writing, Tartan Skills and IT where people are gaining skills to go online as well as many other useful tips.

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.

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.