



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: 30 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>.

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 17 June**, 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.

Communications Coordinator

Greyfriars Kirk is looking for an experienced, energetic and detail-oriented individual to serve as our Communications Coordinator. This full-time role encompasses a myriad of aspects - could you be the person we are looking for?

Visit greyfriarskirk.com/jobs to learn more about this role, and about how to submit your C.V. and cover letter.

Closing Date: Sunday 13 June 2021

Study Service: Sundays at 7.00 pm

The Study Service topic this Sunday is A TRINITARIAN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPIRIT. How can we best come to begin to appreciate Christian teaching on the Trinity, one God in three persons. By far the best way, it seems to me, to get a feel for what this means is to read the Gospel of John, again and again, concentrating on what Jesus says about his relation to the Father, about his and the Father's relation to the Spirit, and about the work and role of the Spirit.

What we begin to sense is that somehow Father, Son and Spirit are different from each other, that they have different roles, and yet that they are inseparable from each other and always work together in everything that "they" do as the one God. What we begin to realise is that when the word "persons" is applied to God, it doesn't mean three entirely different individuals as it does when applied to human persons.

Instead it means that though Father, Son and Spirit all have their distinct and very real identity, they are inseparably related to each other. In fact it is their being in such profound inter-personal relation that makes them what they are. Somehow, from all eternity Father, Son and Spirit are one God existing in profound dynamic mutual-relation and are therefore personal in a way that we as humans cannot be.

In the Gospel of John, it is Jesus who alone is the way, the truth and the life. The Father gave all things into his hand (John 3:35) and in his life Jesus fulfilled all the Father's will in his humanity on earth (John 17:6-8). Now in his risen humanity in heaven, Jesus remains for ever the way, the truth and the life. All he did as man on earth he did through the power of the Spirit, and now it is through the same Spirit, his Spirit, that he shares with us his way to the Father, his truth and his risen life.

The work and role of the Spirit, therefore, as Jesus describes it, is to witness to him, to open his disciples' minds and hearts (and ours) to understand and receive his word that he might dwell in us through it and we be fed with his risen life (John 14-16). Jesus continues to work and speak in and to us, but having completed our salvation he is now free to share it all with us, through and by the power of his Spirit in us. The New Testament therefore speaks of the Spirit as "the Spirit of Christ" and Jesus three times (John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13) calls the Spirit "the Spirit of truth".

The work of the Spirit, therefore, is to point us to Christ, to be a witness to him as the truth, to open our minds and hearts to convince us of all that he is for us, and to so unite us to Christ in love and understanding that we partake of his risen life.

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.

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.