



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: 6 JUNE 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. The following week, it will be open on **Thursday 24 June** and **Saturday 26 June**. The following month, we expect to open for the same four hours daily except on Sundays and Mondays. 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](https://www.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 **PENTECOST AND THE UNVEILING OF JESUS**. The gospel of Mark is well known for its emphasis on the so called "Messianic secret", the fact that Jesus was careful not to let people know who he really was and actively discouraged people he had healed from telling others about him. He preaches the coming of the kingdom, but is careful not to say that he is the king of the kingdom. Somewhat similarly in John, Jesus can say to the Samaritan woman that the living water he can give is "a spring of water welling up to eternal life". To the Jews he can speak of himself as the bread of life, the one to whom Abraham and the prophets looked forward, the good shepherd of the sheep. To Martha he could say "I am the resurrection and the life" and to his disciples in private "I am the way, the truth and the life". Throughout his ministry, Jesus was careful to reveal himself little by little and only step by step by word and act combined. This was because he knew that people could not possibly recognise him as the Messiah he had come to be (the suffering servant of Isaiah 53) who would suffer and die for the sins of the people) until he had completed his mission.

Even when Jesus' disciples recognised him as Messiah and he had explained more than once he had to suffer and die, Jesus knew his disciples could not take it in then, and so several times he told them they would only understand once he had sent his Spirit to them to bring them to full understanding of all he had said and done.

In his ministry on earth he could preach the kingdom, but could not say the kingdom of God had come in him. He could say he was the giver of living water, but not that he himself was that living water, that his flesh was the bread of life but not that in all he was as man he was himself that life. He could pronounce the forgiveness of God to people but could not say that in his resurrection he himself was that living forgiveness, that he was not just the giver of life and truth, but himself life and truth. In other words, he could not say that all he was offering to people, he actually was himself in his risen humanity.

Pentecost changed all that, for the disciples' minds and hearts were opened to full understanding as the Spirit unveiled Jesus as he actually was, in the glory of his risen humanity, in all its significance, "the Author of life" as Acts 3:15 calls him.

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.