



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: 27 JUNE 2021

11.00 am In-person service at the Kirk, with Holy Communion - **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.

NEXT SUNDAY: 4 JULY 2021

9.30 am In-person service at the Kirk, with Holy Communion.

11.00 am In-person service at the Kirk, with Holy Baptism.

Following the morning service, we'd like to invite you to share in fellowship with one another at a **Greyfriars Family Picnic** in the Kirkyard, celebrating the ministry of the Revs Anne and Philipp Ross and the blessing they have been to our community. Please bring your own picnic items and follow Scottish Government guidelines regarding social distancing between family groups. We're excited to share this time together! Should you have any questions, please connect with the Kirk office at contact@greyfriarskirk.com.

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!

Beginning on **Tuesday 29 June**, the Kirk will be open to visitors from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm daily except Sundays and Mondays (with a short break for Midweek Prayers on a Thursday). Please keep checking the website for any days when the Kirk will be closed for other events.

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 6: the significance of Jesus' humanity**. If there is any one chapter in the Gospel of John which can be designated as its beating heart, it is arguably John 6. This is because it is the chapter which has the fullest and most sustained account of the significance of the humanity of Jesus, for here **Jesus says that unless we eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood there is no life in us**, for the person "who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life". **Jesus goes on to say he will raise people up at the last day "for my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed"** (John 6: 53-55).

The chapter begins with Jesus feeding the five thousand in a great act of "messianic shepherding". Just as Moses had fed the Israelites with manna in the wilderness, so Jesus feeds them in the hills across the lake of Galilee. Later in the chapter, he uses the incident to say first that it was not Moses who fed them but God from heaven, and then that the true bread of God is that which comes down from above and gives life to the world. When the people ask him to give them this bread he says **"I am the bread of life"** (John 6: 32-35).

How are these words to be understood? John has already emphasised in chapter one that Jesus is the eternal Word (and Son) of God who has become flesh, the word used in the New Testament for what is frail, has no permanent life, and is sinful. Here Jesus is saying that his flesh is life-giving flesh. **Is John saying that Jesus took frail, mortal flesh on himself and made it his, but that his flesh is now living, life-giving flesh? And what is it to "eat" the flesh of Christ?**

Can we take "flesh" here as meaning everything that Jesus was and in his humanity? As human beings, we are flesh, bones, blood, heart, stomach, brain, etc. in an inseparable unity in which no-one element can continue to exist except as part of a whole living human being. Is Jesus then ultimately saying to us **"I in my risen humanity am your eternal life"**?

When people questioned the concept of eating his flesh and found it difficult, what are we to make of Jesus' words **"It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail: the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."** (John 6: 63).

Is it significant that it was the eternal Word that became flesh?

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.