



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: 1 AUGUST 2021

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

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>.

NEXT SUNDAY: 8 AUGUST 2021

11.00 am In-person service at the Kirk - **no booking required**, provide Track & Trace details at the door.

7.00 pm Music, Poetry, and Silence for Healing — at the Kirk.

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.

Kirk Summer Visitor Opening

The Kirk is open to visitors from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm daily except Sundays (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 at greyfriarskirk.com/visit

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 resume on Sunday 5 September, after its annual break.

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.

Letter from Enid

Precious Greyfriars Family, it was my incredible honour to stand before the congregation at Greyfriars Kirk (both in person and at home) and be brought to tears as our Session Clerk Mr. Elliot shared about my journey as your Communications Coordinator at Greyfriars. What a wonderful blessing it has been. I was too worried about crying and embarrassing myself to share any words then, but I would like to now.

This sacred place and you, my precious friends and community, have blessed me beyond measure. Thank you. Thank you for being my encouragers, my mentors and always telling me how to properly pronounce Scottish words, no matter how much I butchered them. Thank you for your patience as I learned and grew over these last nearly four years, especially as I ran frantically from place to place (making SO much noise on the sanctuary floor with my high heels!). Thank you for teaching me how to listen well to our vulnerable neighbours, how to slow my pace to see the beauty in our spaces and how to be a rebel in the very best of ways, disrupting systems that need to be disrupted, and holding fast to truths that matter. Thank you for making me always feel that this space, this role, was more than just a job. You all made me feel so useful, and that is the heart of what we all yearn for — to feel that we are part of something special.

This time as your Communications Coordinator was my calling, and I will treasure it deeply. I love you all so very much. I look forward with great anticipation to hear of what adventures are next on the horizon for this wonderful Greyfriars family.

With gratitude and immense affection, Enid

Ecumenical Orchard/Weekend Gardening Group at GCP

Our wonderful volunteers continue to take care of our apple and pear trees and complement the work of the GCP Herb Gardeners as well the beautiful quiet garden at St Columba's by the Castle. **The group will meet weekly on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 12.30.** We run as a GCP group in ecumenical partnership, so GCP's Volunteer Co-ordinator Kevin Radzynski is the best person to contact if you want to join the group or be put in touch with the lead Volunteers for some digging, weeding, sowing, planting, growing, pruning and harvesting. Contact **Kevin** via kevin@grassmarket.org or text or call him on **07562 627 989**.

Evenings of Music, Poetry & Silence for Healing

After 18 months of loss, fear, and isolation, it is time to heal; to share times of lament and to look forward. The sanctuary at Greyfriars Kirk is always a place of welcome to all. Over the next two months we have planned a series of special evenings of quietness and reflection – a time for sharing our loss, for healing and hope. The evenings will include piano improvisations for meditation by the composer and musician Phamie Gow, periods of silence, readings, and opportunities to grieve and to remember. There will also be people on duty simply to listen to your story.

Music, Poetry & Silence for Healing will take place in Greyfriars Kirk at 7.00pm on Sunday evenings **8th & 22nd August**.

Please feel free to drop by at any time between 7 and 8 pm and do tell your friends and family.

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.

Click to connect

“Our generation has the ability and the responsibility
to make our ever-more connected world
a more hopeful, stable and peaceful place.” - *Natalie Portman*

Clicks are not the only sound that fill the IT suite at GCP. There are many requests circulating the room, some technical and others more simple. Through the big open window, passers-by trundle past on foot, in cars or by bike, unaware of the learning happening on the other side of the glass. Each member, following a self-directed task with the prompting of staff and volunteers to learn more, engrossed silently (sometimes) in their task. Thankfully our resident expert Kevin (also our volunteer coordinator!) is here to guide and help set goals for future learning. The last year and a half has highlighted the epic need for access to this way of connection and brought to the forefront an awareness of the great digital divide. Whether trying to connect with others, becoming a proficient typist, navigating the computer or researching the web, the IT group creates a space where questions are encouraged. Two classes a week on Mondays and Thursdays creates platforms for those who want to have free time to explore or those who would like more structured learning experience. As with many of our activities we are always in need of extra hands to prompt ‘where to click.’ Expertise is not essential but patience and a love of tea and biscuits will be welcomed.

Contact Kevin Radzynski to get involved:

kevin@grassmarket.org

07562 627 989

Eilidh Jones, intern and student at the GCP

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.