



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: 11 JULY 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 Summer Visitor Opening

The Kirk is 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 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 this week is a Bible Study on **John 7, Jesus at the feast of tabernacles: who is this man?** John 7 is the great chapter when the questions about who Jesus was began to come to a head in a fierce and decisive controversy that divided opinion and set the scene for all that was to follow.

The feast of tabernacles was the last of the 3 great festivals of the Jewish year (see Leviticus 23). In preparation for it, people made booths or shelters to remind them of their wandering in the desert and of incidents there, such as Moses' striking of the rock in the wilderness to release

abundant water for the whole people. As part of the feast, the people processed for seven days in a row from the temple down to the fountain that fed the Pool of Siloam and the priest filled a golden vase from the running waters as the choir sang verses from Isaiah 12. They carried the vase back to the Temple through the Watergate, proceeded round the altar singing prayers from the end of Psalm 118, then poured the water over the altar.

The eighth day, the last day of the feast, was a day of rest and solemn waiting, when the faithful could pray for fulfilment of the prophetic hopes of Israel, such as the flood of living water flowing out of Jerusalem (Zechariah 14.8) or water gushing from below the threshold of the temple (Ezekiel 47.1). It was at this solemn moment that Jesus stood up and cried "If anyone thirsts, let them come to me and drink... Out of their hearts shall flow rivers of living water."

As we look back in hindsight to the fiercely divided opinions about Jesus, it is difficult, knowing what we do now, to put ourselves in the situation of those at the time and ask how would we have weighed up the different arguments. Given only what people knew then, what would have been our judgment?

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/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 **11th & 18th July** and **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.

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.