



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: 25 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>.
To take part in the communion portion of the service, please bring your own bread and wine to the viewing.

NEXT 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.

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 this week is a Bible Study on **John 8: Jesus the light of the world**. John 8, as we have traditionally had it, opens with the beautiful story of the woman taken in adultery and brought to Jesus for judgment. The story is undoubtedly genuine and has probably found its place there as an illustration of the healing light and life that Jesus is.

Once we have read it, we should then read from the end of John 7:52 straight into 8:12 because the two chapters belong intimately together. Both have their setting in the feast of tabernacles and both need to be understood out of what happened in it. John 8 should therefore be seen as a continuation of John 7 and the controversy it details about Jesus and his relation to the Father. Indeed, John 8 deepens the controversy, bringing the clash between the Jewish authorities and the word and truth of Jesus to a final head in his statement, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am'.

What John 8 adds to John 7 is the metaphor of light. In the Old Testament light and life go together as the gift of God. In the New Testament they are likewise seen together and Jesus is both. John 7 is about Jesus the living life-giving water of life. Chapter 8 is about Jesus as the light of the world: whoever follows him 'will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' (Jn 8:12). The light of the word of Jesus reveals the truth and the truth sets people free (8:31-32). But this is a word which the world in its darkness cannot hear (8:43) until he has been lifted up on the Cross and he has sent his Spirit to open people's ears and hearts.

An important element of the feast of tabernacles for the Jews was remembering their 40 years wandering in the desert, led by the light of the pillar of fire to lead them by night, and part of the celebrations was lighting in the Temple's Court of the Women a massive Golden Candlestick which lit up the whole temple area and the housing beyond. This is the dramatic context in which Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world'.

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 **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.

Busy table moments

'Food can be a vehicle for social change. It brings people together in a way that very few other activities can.' -*Anim Steel*

I have always loved the sound of a full room having a lovely time, that moment when you stop and take notice of snippets of laughter, deep conversation and the occasional silence as everyone relaxes. What better setting for connection and conversation than a homemade meal? This happens every Wednesday night at the GCP Drop-In. Before the clock has even struck five, an expectant, respectful queue has arrived ready to be welcomed by eager staff and volunteers. Even behind a face mask, you cannot beat the power of a smile and a warm welcome. The room, transformed into a socially distanced café, quickly fills and an abundance of tea and coffee have been served, with a shocking amount of sugar. Within the bustle, relationships are forming. The loud, rolling food trolley brings shouts of excitement as the favourites are brought in, 'compliments to the chef!', 'we missed you last week!' and of course, 'what's for pudding?'

There have been many important meals in history, some documented, others not. Perhaps our meals are not captured in one special moment but in many little moments - an opportunity to show care, kindness and of course community. My favourite, yet often surprising night of the week always has room for more to be part of the team. Started by the Greyfriars congregation decades ago in partnership with Grassmarket Mission, Augustines United Church, St Columba's by the Castle and now financially supported by all three Churches plus St Giles - this service, this community outreach is needed now more than ever. Please volunteer (you can do just 1 evening a month).

You could be the smile, the trolley roller, the one who stops and catches the moments, even just for a second.

Contact Kevin Radzynski to get involved:

volunteer@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.