



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: 15 AUGUST 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>.

NEXT SUNDAY: 22 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 is taking a break in August, partly because of numbers on holiday, but also to give us a chance to consolidate what we have learned so far from the Gospel of John. Regular meetings will resume in September.

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.

Lunchtime Concerts at the Kirk

It gives us further delight to announce the resumption of lunchtime concerts at the Kirk, on Thursdays at 12 noon. The next two concerts will be, on 19 August, a piano and cello recital by George Gillow and William Harris; and on 26 August, a piano recital by Richard Beauchamp, who until recently was Head of Keyboard at St Mary's Music School.

Urban Pilgrimage: Herstory.

On Sunday 29 August, The Local Church invites us to share in Urban Pilgrimage: Herstory. Herstory remembers and celebrates the stories of several women whose lives have positively helped to shape the city and world in which we live.

The Herstory Pilgrimage will last around 1 hour, stretching from the Mound to George Square. This will happen in groups of 6-8 people with a guide. We will start at St Columba's-by-the-Castle (gathering 9-9.30 am) and end in Greyfriars Kirkyard with a celebration service with Communion at 11 am.

If you would like to join in the Herstory Pilgrimage, please register by emailing Rachel Fitzgerald (centre.manager@augustine.org.uk) by Thursday 26 August to book a place/s in a group. Please let Rachel know the names of everyone you are registering to participate.

The outdoor service at 11 am in Greyfriars Kirkyard, which does not require registration, will be a Communion service, for which we would ask you to bring your own bread and wine / juice. After the service at Greyfriars, you are very welcome to stay in the Kirkyard and eat a BYO picnic if you would like to.

If you are interested and able to be one of the guides for a small group, there is a training session on Saturday 14 August at 9.30 am, meeting at Augustine United Church. To register for this please email Laurence Wareing (laurence.wareing@augustine.org.uk).

After many months, it will be wonderful to have an opportunity to meet and worship with our ecumenical friends and partners once again!

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 evening **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.

Scribbling pens

"You can make anything by writing." - C.S. Lewis

Reading and writing is not only a skill but a path to expression, creativity and freedom. Every Wednesday morning this session has the tutor pulled in every direction for his assistance and expertise. Each member works on their own goals and aspirations. While poetry is penned on one side of the room, preparation for writing qualifications are written on the other. Stories, both autobiographical and fantasy, fill lined paper and words are spelled out and read. There are those who are more confident and those who are embracing new challenges, who sit at spaced-out desks, those who need a helping hand and those who are busy by themselves. Reading and writing has the potential to empower, and practice is the key to that recipe. We are not in need of 'Hemingways' or 'Austens' but of patient and encouraging volunteers to help support these vital sessions on Wednesday mornings from 11 until 1. Not only does improved literacy help us to connect to our surroundings and other people, but we are more able to embrace imagination. It opens up doors to stories not read or written yet, to the destination of the bus driving past, and the ingredients on the back of the food packaging. Words surround us, help us and astound us. Are you in?

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.