



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: 12 SEPTEMBER 2021

11.00 am Morning Worship at the Kirk, with Holy Baptism - provide Track & Trace details at the door.

NEXT SUNDAY: 19 SEPTEMBER 2021

11.00 am Morning Worship at the Kirk - provide Track & Trace details at the door.

7.00 pm Refugio – Holy Communion with silence and symbol.

SUNDAY FORTNIGHT: 26 SEPTEMBER 2021

11.00 am Morning Worship at the Kirk, with Holy Communion - provide Track & Trace details at the door.

Midweek Prayers

In-person Midweek Prayers have resumed in 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 check the website at greyfriarskirk.com/visit for any days when the Kirk will be closed for other activities or 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

Resuming our study of the Gospel of John, the Study Service topic this week is ***JOHN 9: the conflict between light and darkness***. One of the central themes of John is the coming of Jesus as the light of the world. The light is light and life, but the coming of this light inevitably means that the darkness of the world is inescapably highlighted as such, and people are forced to choose between the light which is light and life, and the darkness which is sin and means death.

In John 9, it becomes clear that the increasing clash between the light of Jesus and the darkness of the religious authorities, highlighted in the previous chapters, has reached its decisive parting of the ways between them. On the one hand, Jesus is the light and life who heals a man blind from birth not only physically but mentally. The response of the religious authorities on the other hand is to excommunicate him from the synagogue. In so doing, they unwittingly mark themselves as sinners, as the ones who are truly blind and in their darkness refuse even the light which has come to heal them and give them life.

Jesus by contrast finds the poor excommunicated man and gathers him into the fold which he as the Good Shepherd of the sheep is beginning to construct.

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**.

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.

Concert at St Columba's by the Castle

Edinburgh Central Amnesty group is putting on a concert to raise funds for Amnesty International, in this its 60th year. It will on Sunday 19 September at 7.30 pm, at our ecumenical partner church St Columba's by the Castle, 14 Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2PW. The concert programme features an eclectic mixture of music by some of the finest musicians in Scotland, and poetry by the renowned New Zealand poet Lynn Davidson.

This is the link to the Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/173132301552933?ref=newsfeed>

And this is the link to the Eventbrite page where tickets can be bought:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-concert-for-amnesty-at-60-tickets-167327833053?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Greyfriars Charteris Centre – Refurbishment Update & Team Introductions



The image shows a newsletter header for 'CHARTERIS COMMUNITY NEWS' dated 'September 2021'. The header has a red background with a white circular logo containing a red 'C'. Below the header, the text reads: 'Introducing Ruth and Gillian: Hello Charteris friends We are starting to get excited about the opening of the Centre following refurbishment, it's looking splendid! We've been finding about the groups and organisations based at the centre, and all the activities, creative energy and community support these involve. Hopefully we will meet many of you in the coming weeks, at an event, over a cup of tea, or in passing at the Centre.' To the right of the text is a photograph of two women, Ruth and Gillian, smiling outdoors in a grassy area.

The Greyfriars Charteris Centre was established in 2016 as a Centre for Community, providing a place of connection with communities of all kinds: location, people, faith, need, interest, aspiration and much more. The Centre has been undergoing a significant refurbishment this last year, with very limited activity on site. However, we are now nearing completion, and Daniel and the team at the Charteris Centre are started to get quite excited about fully re-opening in October, all going to plan! With that in mind, a monthly newsletter has been restarted this month to share some of the great activities, events and community groups that enjoy use of the Centre. An open day will be planned and we hope that many of you will come along, to see the place, meet some of the team, find out about what is happening there and give your support. You can see the newsletter here: <https://www.charteriscentre.com/news>. If you would like to get the monthly newsletter by email, please email info@charteriscentre.com for this. Ruth, Richard and I are really excited about joining Daniel on his team for some of the week going forward, to help create opportunities for communities to connect, and curate some faith events in the beautiful sanctuary space there. If you'd like to find out more, share ideas for activities and events, or get involved in any way please contact one of us. Exciting times!!

Gillian. <https://www.charteriscentre.com/contact>

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.

Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh (Church of Scotland), Scottish Charity number **SC003761**