



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: 5 SEPTEMBER 2021

- 9.30 am** Holy Communion at the Kirk - provide Track & Trace details at the door.
- 11.00 am** Morning Worship at the Kirk, with the Blessing of this year's Edinburgh Riding of the Marches, attended by the Lord Provost and other participants.
Provide Track & Trace details at the door.

NEXT SUNDAY: 12 SEPTEMBER 2021

- 11.00 am** Morning Worship at the Kirk - 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

The Study Service topic for this Sunday is UNDERSTANDING HOLY COMMUNION. What is it that actually happens at Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist as it is called in different churches? The whole history, development and meaning of Holy Communion as we have it is totally fascinating and raises deep questions. Different branches of the one universal Church hold to varying perspectives on what is central in the service and emphasise different elements of it.

There are three main elements to Communion, 1) the "**Anamnesis**", act of remembering; 2) the "**Oblation**", "**Offering**", or sometimes "**Sacrifice**" even if it is just called our "Sacrifice of Thanksgiving"; 3) the "**Epiclesis**" (calling down the Holy Spirit upon the elements) or simply the "**Consecration**" of the elements (setting the bread and wine apart from "all common use").

As we consider the whole historical development of our understanding of the Eucharist, from the early church to the medieval, Reformation and modern periods, we can begin to see how different presuppositions shaped consequent understanding and led to fundamental questions and different answers:

Influential presuppositions and possible rejoinders

1. Christ is absent from us. For real feeding on him, therefore, the bread and wine have to become his actual body and blood. **Possible answer:** Christ is absent visibly, but risen, always immediately present to us and connecting us to himself through his Spirit.

Therefore for him to feed us with his risen life and the fruits of his passion, the bread and wine do not need to be changed as such.

2. Christ's sacrifice is not sufficient in and of itself for our ongoing sins and therefore there has to be a continual confession of sins and a re-offering of Christ up to the Father through the sacrifice of the Mass and an offering up of him in prayer to the Father. **Possible answer:** Christ's sacrifice was sufficient once and for all and for all sin, past, present and future, and is freely offered to us in the gift of himself to us in the Eucharist. Our participation in Holy Communion therefore is indeed a remembering of all Jesus has done for us, but in such a way that this memorial is a living encounter with the risen Christ. In joyful thanksgiving we are fed with the fruits of his passion and refreshed in faith as we look forward to and proclaim his coming again.

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.

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.