



GREYFRIARS COMMUNITY NEWS

Keeping you up to date with what's going on in and around Greyfriars Kirk

The **Minister**, Richard Frazer, the **Associate Minister**, Ruth Halley, or the **Parish Associate**, Gillian Couper, 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
- Ruth on 07530 307 413 or by email at associate.minister@greyfriarskirk.com, or
- Gillian on 07530 307 413 or by email at parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com.

THIS SUNDAY: 17 OCTOBER 2021

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

7.00 pm Refugio – Holy Communion with silence and symbol.

NEXT SUNDAY: 24 OCTOBER 2021

11.00 am Special Morning Worship for the Festival of Science, Wisdom and Faith, with Holy Baptism- provide Track & Trace details at the door -

Midweek Prayers

Join us in-person each Thursday in the sanctuary from 1:10 - 1:30 pm for this special time of prayer and reflection.

Morning Worship - seating

For the better accommodation of the increasing number of events in the kirk, the arrangement of seats for the 11.00 am service will now be more similar to the previous traditional rows, but with space for social distancing as required.

Kirk Autumn Visitor Opening

The Kirk is open to visitors from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only. In November, opening will be on Thursdays only. Please check the website at greyfriarskirk.com/visit for 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 regular study service takes places on the first and third Sundays of each month.

The Study Service this week is a Bible Study on John 10, the well known chapter on Jesus as the Shepherd of the sheep. In the Old Testament, it is God who is the ultimate shepherd of his people through the king of Israel. David, the boy shepherd of his father's sheep in Bethlehem, is selected by God and anointed by Samuel to be the future shepherd-king of Israel (see 1 Samuel 16 and 2 Samuel 5:1-5). In time David therefore becomes the model shepherd-king of Israel who rules under the law of God and makes sure its provisions are carried out and there is no injustice or oppression of the poor, the weak and the defenceless.

In the New Testament, the image of "shepherd" becomes one of the most important ones for Jesus. It captures perfectly his intense love and compassion for people. He is the shepherd-king of God who seeks out the poor and the lost and gathers them up into his flock. In his love and compassion, we see the very love and compassion of God. To look into the face of Jesus, is to see the very face of God.

In chapter 10 of John, this is not yet clear, for there is still an intense debate among the people about the enigma of Jesus. Who is he? What is the relation between him and God? Is he the Messiah? The religious authorities try to arrest him for making himself equal to God, but many begin to believe in him.

Does chapter 34 of Ezekiel add anything to our concept of Jesus as the shepherd-king of Israel?

Can Ezekiel 34 help us to understand John 10?

Can it add anything to our concept of Jesus as the shepherd-king of Israel?

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.

Festival of Science, Wisdom & Faith, Greyfriars Kirk, 22-24 October 2021



There are those who say that science supersedes religion, rendering faith redundant. But reverence for the natural world, finding the answers to help humanity flourish and sustain the earth community, in all its diversity, are spiritual pursuits too, and many scientists attest urgent questions cannot be answered by science alone.

As we look forward to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow this November, join Greyfriars Kirk, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and other guests, for a weekend of events that celebrate what happens when experts and those interested in a variety of fields seek knowledge and truth together :-

Time Travel with Greyfriars Kirk and the Royal Society of Edinburgh,
Friday 22 October, 7.00 - 9:30pm

Three short sessions explore some of the people and events over the last 400 years that helped change humanity's understanding of the world, and continue to have impact today:

Witches of Scotland: "17thC Scotland: What it was like to be of that time, that place"

Stuart Monro, FRSE: "James Hutton: Enlightenment thinker with a legacy for the present day"

Rebekah Widdowfield: "RSE Futures Commission:

Debate and dialogue, academia and all of us"

A Sustainable World: Great Questions Lead to Great Works,
Saturday 23 October, 4.00 - 6:30pm

Do scientific knowledge or faith make us wiser? How do we determine what questions to ask and explore? Three talks explore how we can anticipate challenge and seek a sustainable world for all:

Prof. Wilson Poon, FRSE: "Educating 21stC Scientific Citizens in Wisdom"

Prof. Liz Grant, FRSE: "Fundamental to Flourishment: The Science & Practice of Compassion"

Alastair McIntosh: "Climate Science & Healing of the Nations"

Special Worship Service, "We cannot do anything against the truth" (2 Cor. 13: 8),
Sunday 24 October, 11.00 am

Find out more and book your space here:

<https://greyfriarskirk.com/festival-of-science-wisdom-and-faith>

With thanks to our partners: The Church of Scotland - Society, Religion & Technology;
Augustine United Church; St Columba's by the Castle.

Grassmarket Community Project - Activities to Join in

The GCP is running various online activities, and 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.

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**.

New Term Adventure

'One way to get the most out of life is to look upon it as an adventure' -William Feather

From the 11th October our activities will be held elsewhere as the build commences of the new Grassmarket Community Project café. We are so excited about this awaited adventure and incredibly grateful to Greyfriars, Charteris and Augustine's United Church for their support. The continued relationship which began decades ago when the Greyfriars' congregation in partnership with Grassmarket Mission started GCP, has continued to grow and will welcome a new part of the story. Although we will miss our usual territory at the GCP it will be an opportunity for adventure as we are temporarily rehomed in these beautiful buildings.

The build of the cafe will allow space for both the visiting tourists alongside the members who are attending the Project and reduce the incredibly busy foyer that masqueraded as a four-way-junction. Even though our members will be keen to return to their beloved Project, in the meantime the weekly activities will fill some different spaces in Edinburgh. Augustine's will house the weekly member activities: Tartan, IT, Health and Wellbeing, Reading and writing and more. Every Tuesday, Drop in meal and the Community Cinema will be hosted by the amazing Coffee Saints. Most importantly, through the activities and events, we will be having community across the city, creating spaces where people are welcome to be themselves and have 'a good place to be' (Grassmarket Community Project).

Eilidh Jones, student intern at the GCP

Coffee Saints - Monday Morning Meet-ups



Grassmarket Community Project have told us about a great new initiative they are starting in October – it is open to everyone. And of course part of the joy of a natter, is having someone to natter too – so if you have a spare hour on a Monday, and might enjoy a chat for any reason, please do consider going along and joining in. Here's what it is all about:

If you have found that you have lost touch with friends during lockdown, you have become isolated and missing social interaction or are looking to make new friends and have a good old natter, please come along to our Monday Morning meet up in Coffee Saints every Monday from 9:30 am- 11:30 am. This initiative between St Marys Cathedral and the Grassmarket Community Project will start on Monday 4 October. If you are a member of the Grassmarket Community Project (and if you are not, everyone is welcome to join!) you can use your discount card for 10% off teas and coffee and we will throw in the biscuits, smiles and chat for free. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to meeting you.

If you would like to volunteer to help facilitate our Monday Morning Meet-up please get in touch with Catherine catherine@grassmarket.org.

Edinburgh Presbytery "Cluster Group" – Art Viewing & Social, Wednesday 27 October

As part of an Edinburgh Presbytery "cluster group", with other city centre churches (St Giles, Canongate, St Cuthbert's, St Andrew's and St George's West and Greenside), we will be arranging some social events for congregations and communities to enjoy and get to know each other better. It's great to be thinking about how we can best serve the city centre together, with the diversity of people who are based here or who pass through. Rev Richard Frazer, elder Jamie Sutherland and Parish Associate Gillian Couper currently represent Greyfriars within this group, but everyone is very welcome to get involved or just to find out a bit more.

The first event will be an evening viewing of the Climate Change Art Exhibition at St Cuthbert's, for our congregations to meet socially, view the exhibition and enjoy some music on **Wednesday 27 October**. The event will be open from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, with a focus on a social gathering from 7 to 7:45 pm. It will be great to get a group together to go along. Please email Gillian if you'd like to join her and Jamie at this event: parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com. We will reciprocate with plans to welcome folk to Greyfriars in the coming months, all suggestions welcome!

Together Trust – Climate Change Art Exhibition

Our Precious and Precarious World

All Welcome, Entry Free

Tuesday 26th October – Saturday 30th
October 2021
12pm-5pm Every Day

The Parish Church of St Cuthbert's
5 Lothian Road
Edinburgh, EH1 2EP



Together Trust (formally
Edinburgh City Churches
Together) Registered Scottish
charity No. SC040773

You are invited to the
Art Exhibition on any day,
and the Opening

26th October 2021
12:30pm-1:30pm

All are welcome to the Climate Change Art Exhibition at St Cuthbert's from 26 October to 30 October from 12 noon to 5.00 pm each day. Come and see over 300 paintings, photographs and 200 sculptures produced by our homeless friends, school children, the girl guides, dementia groups and the elite artists of Edinburgh and beyond, all reflecting their concerns about Climate Change. Refreshments are served each day from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm and live music is provided from a number of organists, pianists and instrumentalists including several school groups. Entry is free and all are welcome.

The event is organised by The Together Trust (formerly Edinburgh City Churches Together) Registered Scottish Charity No SC040773 comprising St Cuthbert's, St John's Episcopal Church and St Andrew's & St George's West.

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 Ruth Halley (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.