



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 07808 472 464 or by email at parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com.

THIS SUNDAY: 21 NOVEMBER 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: 28 NOVEMBER 2021

11.00 am Morning Worship - 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 Winter Visitor Opening

The Kirk will be open to visitors from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm on Thursdays 2 and 9 December. 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 place on the first and third Sundays of each month.

The Study Service topic for this Sunday, led by Lindsey, is a Bible Study on **JOHN 11: I AM the resurrection**. If every chapter of John is astonishing in depth, John 11 can claim to be most so, because here the astonishing nature of John 1, developed in every chapter since, is thrust starkly to the fore. Jesus Christ in his person is **himself the resurrection and the life**.

Here in the raising of Lazarus, Jesus deliberately sets out what he is in himself, what he is for all of us, what he was about to demonstrate in his own death and resurrection. The Pharisees saw so clearly what it meant, and it so **"spooked"** them, that they had no choice but either to fall in with Jesus or put him to death.

The high priest announced it was better for one man to die for the whole people and in so doing unwittingly spoke the truth, but in an infinitely deeper and truer way than anyone could have imagined. The death and resurrection of Jesus means that instead of thinking of our death as in the future, we should see Jesus as our resurrection and life here and now. With Jesus as our side, there is no longer any fear in death for he has conquered it.

The reason we die is no longer that we all do so, but that Jesus died and rose for us, and we share in what he is and has done for us. **Here and now, in the midst of our frail mortality, he is our resurrection and life.**

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 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.

EDINBURGH'S CHRISTMAS 2021

NATIVITY CAROL CONCERT

Sunday 28 November 2021

3pm

Free

St Andrew Square

Everyone is welcome to come along and sing Christmas Carols with **St Columba's Choir** and the **Salvation Army Brass Band** at the annual Nativity Carol Concert.

The collection this year is for Bethany Christian Trust.



The Moderator of Edinburgh Presbytery, Dr Derek Browning will give the Christmas message; Bishop John Armes brings prayers for the city and Archbishop Leo Cushley blesses the Nativity Scene.

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EDINBURGH
CITY CHURCHES
TOGETHER

an Underbelly
event

Advent reflections at St Columba's



Enjoy 20 minutes of quiet reflection by candlelight in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town.

Every Monday in Advent at 3.00 pm, St Columba's by the Castle offers the opportunity to de-stress from the busyness of the pre-festive period. Whatever your religious affiliation or lack thereof, you are most welcome to enjoy calm, candlelight, silence, poetry, and readings for 20 minutes. You can stay as long as you want and light a candle at any time.

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 at 1 Little King Street. 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

Climate Change lecture series

CHANGE IN A TIME OF CHAOS
A Series of Science & Faith webinars with St Columbas-by-the-Castle
Tuesday 7th December at 20:00
Post COP 26 - celebration or wake?
With Ian Murray MP
St Columbas-by-the-Castle Episcopal Church, Edinburgh. SCO16571

The seventh lecture in this series will be at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 7 December, by Ian Murray MP.

Post COP 26 - celebration or wake?

Now that COP26 is over, what are the real life problems of managing change which are facing politicians? And how realistic are hopes for a Just Transition? Ian Murray will explore some of the real politik issues which he and colleagues have to address. He will be joined on the panel by Sarah Boyack, a Labour MSP, and Claire Miller, a Green Party Edinburgh City Councillor.

Ian Murray is a member of the Scottish Labour Party and for seven years prior to being elected to Westminster he served as an Edinburgh City Councillor for the wards of Liberton and Liberton/Gilmerton. He has been the MP for Edinburgh South since 2010, serving on the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee and the Environmental Audit select Committee. In 2011 he was appointed as Shadow Minister for Trade and Investment and since 2020 has served as the Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland.

Please register in advance at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3xsaTbp4ST2A4OhAZNQMzw

Scottish Love in Action

Scottish Love in Action have been based at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre for many years. Without our main Fireworks fundraiser event we are working hard to spread the word about our Diwali Dinner so everyone can join in to help us raise funds. Truscott Property are once again match-funding the event which is fantastic. We are hoping the Diwali Dinner will appeal even more this year now we are allowed to come together inside and in person to celebrate. Diwali Dinner has been launched and registration is now open through our website <https://www.sla-india.org>.

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 at 1 Little King Street 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

About Hedgehogs

Here is news from Moira Grant of Falkirk, who is a volunteer at 2 local rescues, a Hedgehog Champion with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS), and a member of the Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species (PTES).

How long is it since you last saw a hedgehog? The UK has lost a third of its population since 2000, and their numbers are declining as fast as tigers in the wild. They are now officially classed as vulnerable to extinction in the IUCN's Red List for British Mammals. There are many reasons and it's sad to think that, for future generations, such a fate would make this lovely, prickly God's creature only a character in storybooks. Here are 10 simple tips to help them.

1. Link your garden with a Hedgehog Highway. Hedgehogs travel between 1-2 km a night searching for food and a mate. Leaving a small gap in your fence the size of a CD case will let hedgehogs through but be too small for pets. BHPS/PTES sell snazzy little recyclable Hedgehog Highway signs, for a few pounds. Ask your neighbours to do the same!
2. Create a wild corner in your garden so that they can snuffle around for insects.

3. Tidy up netting and litter which can trap hedgehogs due to their spines. Even rubber bands dropped by the postie can become embedded in their skin, causing a slow, painful death.
4. Put out food and water. You can supplement their diet with wet dog or cat food (preferably not fish based). No bread, milk or mealworms, which are all extremely bad for them. For those who are into simple DIY you can make a feeding station to stop other animals having a free supper - details on the BHPS website/YouTube.
5. Stop using chemicals especially slug pellets. Hedgehogs are a gardener's best friend as they eat slugs as well as many other beasties which would otherwise be devouring your prize flowers and vegetables.
6. Check before mowing or strimming. Hedgehogs often sleep in long grass or hedges during daytime and won't run away if they hear a mower, resulting in horrific injuries or death. Use gloves to move a single hog to safety. If there's a family, call the BHPS for advice on 01584 890801, the SSPCA on 0300 999 999 or Google to find your local Hedgehog Rescue.
7. Be careful with bonfires or simply burning leaves. Piles of debris are irresistible to a hedgehog looking for somewhere to hibernate or nest – build it on the day of burning to avoid a tragic end, or if you have to build it before then check carefully with a pole or broom, not a spade or fork. They are usually in the centre.
8. Make a home for hedgehogs. A log pile is one of the best features to encourage all kinds of wildlife, and easy to make. It will encourage insects and provide nesting opportunities all year around. Alternatively, you can make your own hedgehog house – download instructions from the BHPS website.
9. Keep an eye out for hedgehogs when driving at night, and let it get over the road safely if you see one. If you see it too late try to steer so it will pass under the middle of the car where it is least likely to be harmed.
10. Record hedgehog sightings, including dead ones, on The Big Hedgehog Map website. This is important in building up a picture of where they are most active and how we can encourage local populations. A hedgehog seen during the day is usually in need of help and you should contact one of the organisations above. If you'd like to do more, you can become a Hedgehog Champion by registering on the Hedgehog Street website, where you can find lots of resources to make your gardens, neighbourhood and parish all hedgehog-friendly zones.

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.