



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: 19 DECEMBER 2021 (FOURTH IN ADVENT)

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

FRIDAY 24 DECEMBER 2021 (CHRISTMAS EVE)

5.00 pm Family Service of Lessons and Carols - provide Track & Trace details at the door.

SATURDAY 25 DECEMBER 2021 (CHRISTMAS DAY)

10.30 am Holy Communion - provide Track & Trace details at the door.

SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER 2021 (BOXING DAY)

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.

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.

CoCo Counselling at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre

If you are looking for alternative ways of giving this Christmas, please consider supporting someone struggling with their mental health. Leaflets with further information from CoCo Counselling can be found on the table in the Kirk porch.

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 this Sunday is a Bible Study on John 12, the stage in Jesus' life where the cross is becoming imminent and he begins to make this clear. Knowing what it means, he says "now is my soul troubled" and asks should I pray "Father save me from this hour?". He answers the question with a resounding NO and says that it was for this very purpose that he has come.

As God himself, Jesus has become man in order to stand in our place and take the loving judgement of God on us. This judgement is of course also his own judgment, for as the Son of God, he is equally divine with the Father. But now he is man (and for ever man as the resurrection shows), come to take the sins of the world on himself, confess them and undo them on the cross and in the resurrection.

Jesus knows therefore that this hour is the hour of supreme pain but much more importantly of supreme triumph, the hour when he is going to be "glorified". Outwardly he may seem to be a victim, but from start to finish he is breathtakingly in control of all that happens to him. The cross is actually the judgment of the world.

The chapter goes on to emphasise the unbreakable bond between Father and Son. To believe in the Son, IS to believe in the Father, and to see the face of Jesus, IS to see the face of God. Seen in this way, the cross is God himself taking our own suffering to himself, not only to judge it in the negative sense, but in the positive sense to put it right and usher in eternal 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.

BBC TV Christmas Services from Greyfriars

The Watchnight service *Christmas Celebration* is scheduled to be broadcast on Christmas Eve, Friday 24 December, at 23.45 pm. The programme will last for 45 minutes, and was recorded in the Kirk a few weeks ago.

The programme *Reflections at the Quay, Christmas Special* is scheduled to be broadcast on Christmas Day, Saturday 25 December, at 11.00 am. It will last for 1 hour, and several of the music items in it were recorded in the Kirk at the same time as the Watchnight service.

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.

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

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.

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.