



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: 5 DECEMBER 2021 (SECOND IN ADVENT)

9.30 pm Holy Communion - provide Track & Trace details at the door.

11.00 am Eucharist (Holy Communion) service with our ecumenical partners Augustine United and St Columba's by the Castle - provide Track & Trace details at the door.

7.00 pm Refugio – Holy Communion with silence and symbol – see note below.

NEXT SUNDAY: 13 DECEMBER 2021 (THIRD IN ADVENT)

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

Refugio is an evening service of Holy Communion set in the context of silence, symbol and reflective prayer, taking its name from the shelters where pilgrims, walking the mediaeval route to Santiago de Compostela, would stop and find rest on their journey. It is usually held on the third Sunday of each month, but this December it will be on the first Sunday.

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.

Kirk Winter Visitor Opening

The Kirk will be open to visitors from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm on Thursday 9 December. Please check the website at greyfriarskirk.com/visit for days when the Kirk will be closed for other activities or events.

Greyfriars Thursday Lunchtime Concerts

The last of this year's Greyfriars lunchtime concerts will be given at 12 noon this Thursday, 9 December, by Hattie McGregor (cello) and Finlay Hay (guitar).

Charteris Community Concert in Greyfriars

There will be a **free** concert in the Kirk at 7.30 pm on Thursday 9 December with performances by members of the Charteris Community.

Cadenza Choir Concert in Polwarth

Cadenza Choir, directed by Jenny Sumerling, have been regular performers in Greyfriars. They are pleased to announce that they have finally been able confirm ticket arrangements for their Christmas concert, their first concert in two years, which will be on Saturday 11 December at 7.30 pm in Polwarth Parish Church (in Polwarth Terrace, EH11 1LU). Tickets can be bought from choir members, directly from their Concert Manager (07903 104 557) or via [Eventbrite](#) (note: additional fees apply for Eventbrite).

The arrangements are a little different this year, to ensure the event is as safe as it can be for all attending, and so there will be some changes to their 'usual' Christmas concert format:

- There will be **no** ticket sales at the door - advance booking only, as above.
- The concert duration will be approximately 60 minutes, with no interval.
- Your ticket price includes a simplified programme, to be picked up on arrival.
- Unfortunately, there will be no audience participation in the well-known carols.
- In line with current Scottish Government advice, you are required to wear a face covering at all times while inside the venue, unless exempt.

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 this Sunday will be on **INCARNATION and RESURRECTION: the relation between them**. The birth of Jesus is an event of indescribable joy, for it means God himself has come to be one of us, sharing our humanity and taking on himself on himself all that we are, even our sin. Until, therefore, Jesus has taken our humanity down into death, he has not taken on himself the full range of what it means to be human. He has not taken on himself the full judgement of God in his truth and love on our humanity as it actually is. The joy of Mary in the Magnificat is followed by the warning of Simeon to Mary in the temple that the life of Jesus would mean not just the "rising and falling of many" but a "sword piercing her own heart".

The agony of the cross is of course followed by the seismic significance and joy of the resurrection. What is not so obvious, is that the resurrection is the completion of the incarnation, because in taking on himself our humanity in all its distressed, sinful, mortal state, and in making it his own, Jesus has purified it, undone its sin and guilt, made it perfect humanity and taken it into fellowship with God.

What is also not obvious, but supremely important, is that the incarnation is actually the beginning of the resurrection. This is because God's coming down to share our humanity as it is, in all its brokenness, means his taking it into fellowship with himself and beginning to raise it up. ***Bodily resurrection is the goal and completion of bodily incarnation.***

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.

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.



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. SC016571

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

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.