



# 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](mailto:minister@greyfriarskirk.com), or
- Ruth on 07530 307 413 or by email at [associate.minister@greyfriarskirk.com](mailto:associate.minister@greyfriarskirk.com), or
- Gillian on 07808 472 464 or by email at [parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com](mailto:parishassociate@greyfriarskirk.com).

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THIS SUNDAY: 23 JANUARY 2022

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

NEXT SUNDAY: 30 JANUARY 2022

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

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## 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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@grassmarket.org).

### **Study Service: Sundays at 7.00 pm**

This usually takes place on the first and third Sundays of each month, but this month the Study Service was on 9 January, and the Bible Study will be this Sunday, 23 January.

The Study Service this week is a Bible Study on John 13, the remarkable chapter where Jesus, knowing the pain and agony about to come on the cross, washes his disciples' feet and after Judas had left them says, "Now is the Son of man glorified, and in him God is glorified..." (John 13: 31).

One of the striking features about the God of the Old Testament is not only that he is a God of unfailing steadfast love, faithfulness and righteousness, but that he is a God for the poor. Not only is he high and mighty, a God of glory and power, but one who 'comes down' to defend the poor, and all those who are defenceless, downtrodden and oppressed.

In fact it slowly becomes clear, as we read and pore over the Old Testament, that not only is God a God of glory in himself, but that his real glory is precisely in coming down to be alongside, defend and lift up those who are poor and in distress. See for example, Psalms 113, 146, 147, and for the role of the king in Israel as God's king, Psalm 72.

In the New Testament, it is precisely in Jesus becoming man, taking our sins and sorrows on himself, and going down into death with us in the judgment of the cross on our human condition, that Jesus shows the true glory of God. In his suffering on the cross, Jesus is teaching us that in him God himself is suffering, for Father and Son are inseparable in mind and will.

What Jesus does, he does as real man, but at the very same time it is at once the will, action and mind of himself as Son of God AND the will and action of the Father in him.

The glory of Jesus, in coming down to our depths, in life, death and resurrection, IS the glory of God the Father, and the glory of the God IS the glory of Jesus. (See John 13: 31 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](http://www.greyfriarskirk.com/get-in-touch) or visit the [Study Service](#) page on our website.

## 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](mailto:catherine@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 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](mailto:communications@greyfriarskirk.com). Any thoughts, large or small, very welcome.***