



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: 9 JANUARY 2022

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

NEXT SUNDAY: 16 JANUARY 2022

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, restarting on 6 January.

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

This usually takes place on the first and third Sundays of each month, but this month the Study Service will be on 9 January, and a Bible Study on John chapter 13 on 23 January.

The topic of the Study Service this Sunday is A THEOLOGY OF ISRAEL AND INCARNATION. We will look at the concrete action of God in space and time in the formation of Israel and his fulfilment of it in the incarnation of his Son. In the beginning, God created the universe and put humankind on the earth to be his stewards, reflecting his image by living in love for others in righteousness, faithfulness and truth, caring for the creation and its wellbeing in accordance with God's nature and joy in all he had created.

When man and woman (and the world with them) "fell" through the deceit of sin, God chose Abraham and his descendants that he might begin to create in them a people who should begin to reflect what it means to live as the image of God on earth. Israel was "the one for the many",

the one nation chosen to represent all nations and peoples that through Israel all nations, "the many", would be blessed.

The principle of "the one and the many" runs right through the bible, for Israel is not only the one nation for the many, but inside Israel herself in her history, both priest and king act as the one for the many. Thus once a year the high priest represents and makes atonement for the sins of the whole people and throughout the year is meant to teach them through the law what it means to live in the image of God. The king too, and in an astonishing way king David in particular, represents all Israel, both in the confession of sin and in teaching them the salvation and mercies of God that sinners might return to him (Psalm 51).

Most astonishing of all is the way in which Jesus fulfils the whole concept of "the one and the many". More than ever priest or king could, Jesus fulfils the role of both and represents not just Israel but all humankind. He the one man for the many, takes the sins of the "many", the whole world, on himself and confesses their sins and the right judgement of God on them. At the same time, throughout his whole life he is taking our twisted humanity on himself and converting it into the image of God to make it perfect humanity.

The one risen humanity of Jesus is thus the concrete fulfilment, in space and time, of God's reshaping of humanity in Jesus to reflect his intense love for all that he had made and refuses to let go.

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

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.