



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: 20 MARCH 2022 (THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT)

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

12.30 pm Gaelic Service - provide Track & Trace details at the door.

7.00 pm Refugio - Holy Communion with silence and symbol.

NEXT SUNDAY: 27 MARCH 2022 (FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT)

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

12.30 pm Gaelic Service - 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

We remain 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.

Greyfriars Lunchtime Concerts

The popular Greyfriars lunchtime concerts at 12 noon on Thursdays continue this Thursday, 24 March, with a horn recital by the findHorn Quartet. Admission is free.

Thursday Coffee Mornings at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre

The Coffee Mornings are re-starting on Thursday 31 March from 10.30am. Pop along and show your support and enjoy their great selection of Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Rolls, Scones and of course, Company.

Study Service: Sundays at 7.00 pm

There is usually a Study Service on the first Sunday of each month, and a Bible Study on the third Sunday. The Bible Study this Sunday is on **John 15: Christ the vine and life in him**. In John 14 Jesus has told his disciples that he must leave them, but would send the Spirit and return with the Father to be with them. Now he tells them he is the true vine and they are the branches. He tells them they have been cleansed through his word and need to abide in him in order to have life and bear fruit.

The whole chapter can be quite difficult to understand as a whole in all it means but it helps to see it in the light of the rest of John. In chapter 1, John has emphasised that Christ is the Word become flesh. This means that not only is he the eternal Word of God through whom the universe was created, but that now, in all he was and did on earth, he was that same word done, spoken to people personally, lived out on earth. In his word and all his words and acts, he is the eternal Word of God become man and as man making his very being and self known to us.

In John 15, Jesus is the life-giving, true vine in whom alone we find life. We abide in him by abiding in his word and words, for it is in them that he makes his very self personally known to us and draws us into sharing in his risen life. Here the essential relation, centred on the word, is: **Christ in us and us in Christ**. Christ is the Word and abides in us through his word, just as we likewise abide in him through his word. The Spirit works both ways, opening up Christ in his word to us, and opening us up to understand his word in union with him.

Jesus then goes on to outline for the disciples what this will mean for them, for in abiding in him they will abide in life, love and joy, but will also find themselves hated and persecuted just as he was, for if the world bitterly opposed him, it will also oppose them, but his Spirit will be with them to witness to him. And of course, Jesus himself, and the Father, will also be with them.

Please get in touch to find out more: www.greyfriarskirk.com/get-in-touch or visit the [Study Service](#) page on our website.

Grassmarket Community Project - Activities to Join in, and other news

The GCP has resumed running a wide variety of activities at Augustine United and Coffee Saints while the Centre is closed for the duration of the building project for the Pavilion in the courtyard. 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, Guitar, Yoga, a book group, 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.

The new build of the Pavilion in the courtyard is well underway, and we hope to regain entry in mid-April. Our members' classes and café will then restart in mid-May, if there are no delays to the build! (fingers crossed!)

Grassmarket Tartans is now housed at 58 Candlemaker Row. This is predominantly a workshop, however we do plan to open this up to a retail shop in the summer, selling all of our beautiful Greyfriars Tartan Products.

Study events at Augustine United

Ignatian Spirituality for Lent: David Townsend of AUC is offering to run an online Lent Group using the free material produced by the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow. David has done their training and would offer a weekly online group through Lent (probably early on Sunday evenings, starting on 6 March) to share insights from the daily reflections, which are all available online. Contact him direct at david.townsend@augustine.org.uk if you are interested.

AUC Book Group: Following on from their explorations of Julian of Norwich, the group has discussed exploring "The Divine Dance" by Richard Rohr, beginning those sessions on 16 May and continuing on the first and third Mondays of each month, online from 7 to 9 pm.

As a bridge between these two studies, David is offering a reflection on Rublev's "Icon of The Trinity" on 4 April, online from 7 to 9 pm.

If you are interested in joining the Book Group, or just in attending the evening of reflection on Rublev's icon, please contact David at the email address above.

Aid Donations for Ukrainian Refugees in Moldova

Moldova (the second-poorest country in Europe) is currently welcoming many refugees from its neighbour Ukraine. TEECH is a charity which has been offering support to the poorest Eastern European countries, including Moldova, for many years.



TEECH is run by volunteers and this Monday, 21 March, Rab Marshall (of Robertson Marshall Haulage, Edinburgh) is driving a 22-tonne lorry with TEECH to Moldova to offer support for Ukrainian refugees.

Can you please help to fill the lorry with: non-perishable food, toiletries, sanitary products, washing powder, nappies, sleeping bags, blankets.

Sun 20th March - all collections will be gathered and loaded. ***For further information, contact Annette Marshall (robertsonmhaulage@outlook.com)***

Coffee Saints - Tuesday Afternoon Meet-ups



Grassmarket Community Project have told us about a great new initiative which they have started – it is open to over-60s. 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 Tuesday, 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 afternoon meet up in Coffee Saints at 1 Little King Street every Tuesday from 2:30 pm to 4 pm. This initiative between St Marys Cathedral and the Grassmarket Community Project is facilitated by Graham Burnett, and the tea, coffee and cake are **free!** If you would like to volunteer to help to facilitate our Tuesday Afternoon Meet-up, please get in touch with Catherine at catherine@grassmarket.org.

Members of Greyfriars are welcome customers any time at Coffee Saints at the above address, and are entitled to 10% off if they mention this at the till before paying.

Pastoral Care and Staying in Touch

The ministry team and pastoral volunteers at the church enjoy staying in touch with folk in the congregation and community. It is great to hear how folk are getting on, share news about what is going on in the life of the community, enjoy friendship and support each other when it is needed. If you would like to chat, or you know someone that might need some help or would simply enjoy hearing from us, please do get in touch with Gillian, Richard, or Ruth, by the 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