



GREYFRIARS ST CUTHBERT'S

Sunday Service at Greyfriars Kirk

The Revd Dr George Whyte

Interim Moderator

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

Reader

Dr Caroline Cradock

Director of Music

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday 4 October 2026

A warm welcome to Greyfriars St Cuthbert's.

Today is the Last Sunday of Creationtide, a worldwide celebration of prayer and action from 1 September to 4 October (the Feast of St Francis of Assisi), so we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving. The appointed liturgical colour for this day of thankfulness, and celebration of God's goodness and provision in creation, is **green**.

This morning, the service is led by our Interim Moderator, the **Revd Dr George Whyte**.

Hymns are sung standing for those who are able, unless otherwise indicated. If you didn't collect one on the way in, please ask one of our Welcomers for a hymnbook.

Bible Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version. If you didn't collect one on the way in, please ask one of our Welcomers for a copy.

Congregational responses are printed in *italics*. The congregation is encouraged to join in with the saying of '**Amen**' at the end of prayers.

Please join us after the service under the Peter Collins Organ for tea and coffee.



The Church of Scotland

Edinburgh: Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity Number SC003761

www.greyfriarskirk.com

www.stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk

All our services are available for viewing at any time on our YouTube channel. If you do not wish to be seen on the broadcast, please make your wishes known.

Organ: Prelude on 'East Acklam'

Francis Jackson

Call to Worship

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

Leader: Come, you thankful people, come — gather in joy,
gather in hope, gather in praise.

People: *We come to God's own temple, to lift our hearts
in gratitude and song.*

Leader: All is safely gathered in, from the work of our hands
and the blessings of God's grace.

People: *We bring the fruits of our labour,
and the harvest of our lives before the Lord.*

Leader: The fields of the world are God's own, planted with love,
watered with mercy, and ripe for His glory.

People: *We come to worship the Maker and Sustainer,
who provides for our needs and calls us to his feast.*

Leader: Let us raise the song of harvest home —
for the Lord is good, His love endures forever.

All: *Come, you thankful people, come!
Let us worship God with gladness and thanksgiving.*

Hymn 233: Come, ye thankful people, come St George's Windsor

1. *Come, you thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home:
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, will provide for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest-home.*
2. *All this world is God's own field, bearing fruit his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown, are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.*
3. *For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day all offences purge away;
give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in his storehouse evermore.*
4. *Even so, Lord, quickly, come; bring your final harvest home:
gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;
there, for ever purified, in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels come, raise the glorious harvest-home!*

Henry Alford

Welcome to Greyfriars Kirk

Revd Dr George Whyte

Prayer of Approach, Adoration, Confession and Supplication

Revd Dr George Whyte

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

at H. 648

Absolution

Collect for the Day: *Almighty God, we offer you hearty thanks
for your goodness and care in giving to us the fruits of the earth
in their seasons. Give us grace to use them rightly, to your glory,
for the relief of those in need, and our own well-being; through Jesus
Christ, the living Bread, who came down from heaven and gives life to
the world, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever.* *Amen*

Hymn 231: For the fruits of all creation

East Acklam

1. *For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God;
for these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.*
2. *In the just reward of labour, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvest we are sharing, God's will is done.*
3. *For the harvest of the Spirit, thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

Frederick Pratt Green

The Word of God

Deuteronomy 26: 1 - 11 (OT p. 194)

Reader: Nigel Robb

First Fruits and Tithes

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

(over)

Revelation 14: 14 - 18 (NT p. 275)

Reaping the Earth's Harvest

Then I looked, and there was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like the Son of Man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand! Another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to the one who sat on the cloud, 'Use your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.' So the one who sat on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped. Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Then another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over fire, and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, 'Use your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.' Amen

Hymn 51 (from Psalm 80): God of hosts, you chose a vine St Bees

1. *God of hosts, you chose a vine meant to bear the finest wine,
set it in a promised land, nurtured by your careful hand.*
2. *Like a cedar, it grew strong, deep its roots, its tendrils long,
yet, in envy, those around stripped its branches to the ground.*
3. *Desolate, to God we cry: 'Spare us from the enemy!'
God of hosts, turn back again, all such wickedness restrain.*
4. *Turn us too, for we have failed, faithfulness has not prevailed;
visit, Lord, and heal your vine, on its fruit let glory shine.*

David Mowbray

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

Jesus said, 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.' When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

This is the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Revd Dr George Whyte

Anthem: Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it;
and crownest the year with thy goodness.

Affirmation of Faith

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

As we confess our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we affirm that we stand in awe of God the Father, the Creator, the Sustainer whose love was such that he gave his Son for our salvation. We stand in awe of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord who though sinless took on the sins of the world including ours.

As with the Philippians we stand firm in our relationship with Christ and will rejoice in the Lord always. We affirm that faith in Jesus causes us to act in His name and to show love and gentleness to all with whom we come into contact. We affirm that we will put our faith into practice as we deal with others as we would have them deal with us. We have prayed and presented our prayers to God firm in the knowledge that we are sustained by the Holy Spirit in fulfilling our affirmations. Amen

The Offering

Old 100th, at H. 807

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Offertory Prayer

Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

Prayers of the People

Catherine Alexander

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen*

Hymn 500: Lord of creation

Slane

1. *Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and power are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.*
2. *Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song;
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.*
3. *Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find.
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your Word.*
4. *Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart;
your love to inflame me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.*
5. *Lord of all being, I give you my all;
if I should disown you, I'd stumble and fall;
but, sworn in glad service your word I'll obey,
and walk in your freedom to the end of the way.*

John Copley Winslow

Benediction

*Amen
at H. 820*

Organ: Dialogue no.1

Peter Hurford

NOTES

Forthcoming Services	Upcoming Events at Greyfriars
Today 9:15am – Holy Communion 10:30am – Sunday Service 12:30pm – Gaelic Service 3:00pm – Pet Blessing Thursday 8 October 1:05pm – Midweek Prayers Sunday 11 October 10:30am – Sunday Service 12:30pm – Gaelic Service	Thursday 8 October 12:00pm – Greyfriars@12 Ensemble Delta Saturday 17 October 3:00pm – The Sixteen
Find information on services and events on our website, or by scanning the QR code.	

Union Update

There are two important steps in the process to call a new minister which will be taken in the next few weeks. Please see the following two pages for details. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Session Clerk Team.

Nigel Robb – sessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com

Christine Stevenson –

deputysessionclerk_cs@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk

Hilary Clydesdale - dpsessionclerk-hc@greyfriarskirk.com

Anne Bradbury - dpsessionclerk-ab@greyfriarskirk.com

ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of this congregation of Greyfriars St Cuthbert's will be held in the Parish Church of St Cuthbert on Sunday 25th October at the close of morning worship for the purpose of appointing a Nominating Committee.

The task of the Nominating Committee will be to nominate one person to this congregation to be the new Minister.

At that meeting, the congregation shall be invited to elect thirteen people who are on the Electoral Roll of this congregation Greyfriars St Cuthbert's to serve on the Nominating Committee. If you wish to propose anyone to serve on the Committee you may do so at the meeting providing the person has indicated a willingness to serve.



Rev Dr George J Whyte, Interim Moderator

Please, therefore, give due consideration to who you would like to represent the congregation in this process. We have the responsibility of electing a committee who can represent the breadth of congregational life as they interact with ministers who apply for the charge. So, we need a good spread of ages, a reasonable gender balance and people from the different groups, activities and places of worship which form our "community of communities". Nominations (and seconding) will be received on the day from anyone whose name appears on the Electoral Register (the list of communicant members and adherents prepared by the Kirk Session). If you wish to check on whether your name is on the Register please contact the Session Clerk at

sessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com

Should you wish to nominate someone who is unable to attend on the day, please bring written confirmation of their willingness to serve.'

When the meeting has finished nominating potential Committee members and there are more than thirteen names a vote will be held by ballot where each person present whose name is on the Electoral Register will be able to vote for up to thirteen of the persons nominated. The count will be held immediately afterwards, and the names of the Nominating Committee will be read out.

***Greyfriars St Cuthberts Edinburgh Intimation 27th
September & 4th October 2027***

This is an intimation that a meeting of the Kirk Session of this congregation is to be held at St Cuthbert's Church on 6th October 2026 at 1900hrs.

In recognition of the diversity of views within the Church about the historic and current doctrine and practice of the Church in relation to human sexuality and in the interests of the peace and unity of the Church, departure from the practice of the Church in relation to human sexuality is permitted in certain circumstances.

The purpose of the Kirk Session meeting just intimated will be for the Kirk Session to decide whether or not to depart from the Church's practice in relation to human sexuality in order for applications for the proposed appointment of a Minister to the congregation to be considered from, amongst others, individuals who are in a same sex civil partnership or a same sex marriage.

The decision will be determined by the votes of a majority of those present and entitled to vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George J Whyte'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'George' and the last name 'Whyte' clearly distinguishable.

Rev Dr George Whyte

Interim Moderator

Refreshments

You are warmly invited to join us after today's service for a chat over tea or coffee and biscuits, served at the back of the church beneath the organ.

Greyfriars@12: Autumn Series

In this series, you can expect performances by bassoonists, pianists and saxophonists. The next concert is on Thursday 8 October.

Remember – you can sign up to the Greyfriars@12 newsletter to receive series updates first. Get in touch with Deborah in the Kirk Office if you wish to be on the mailing list –

communications@greyfriarskirk.com



Safeguarding

Your Church of Scotland Safeguarding Officer is Alison Noble.

You can contact Alison in person, via the church office, or by email: safeguarding@greyfriarskirk.com. There are posters displayed in the Kirk office and in the kitchen with more information.

Volunteers – Sunday Worship

Welcoming members of the congregation and visitors is an important part of our Sunday Worship. As in all things, many hands make light work. If you could give a Sunday every one to two months to help us with welcoming, please have a chat with Nigel Robb about this: sessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com

St. Columba's - Sunday Forum

Trials and Tribulations: A Brief Exploration of Clinical Research with Dr Katie Brooks - Sunday 11 October

Join us with Coffee from 11.30am, with the forum beginning shortly afterwards.

From vaccines and antibiotics to the latest treatments for cancer and rare diseases, clinical research has transformed healthcare and improved countless lives. But how did clinical trials develop, what challenges have they faced, and where might they be heading in the future?

In this accessible and thought-provoking talk, **Dr Katie Brooks** will explore the origins of clinical research, the key milestones and setbacks that have shaped its development, and the opportunities and ethical questions arising from advances in science and technology today.

About the Speaker

Katie is an Associate Medical Writing Director at PPD. After studying Natural Sciences at Cambridge and completing a PhD in Immunology at Edinburgh, she moved from laboratory research into medical writing, where she has worked since 2008. She specialises in immune therapies for rare diseases.

All are warmly welcome to join us for what promises to be a fascinating exploration of how clinical research has shaped modern medicine and continues to influence the future of healthcare.

The Annual Oasis Quiz.

The Annual Oasis Quiz will be held at St Cuthbert's on Thursday 19th November, Doors will open at 7pm, with the Quiz starting at 7.30pm. There will be a simple soup and bread supper, and teas and coffees available and as always, you are welcome to bring along a bottle of wine to enjoy with your team.

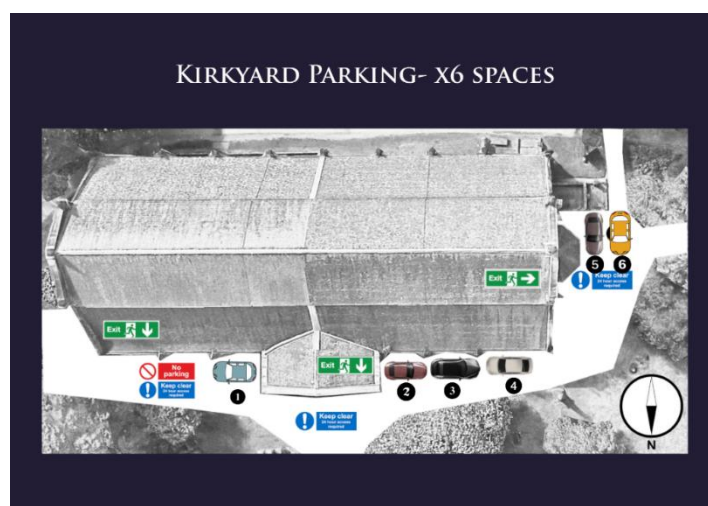
Teams are limited to 5 members, and there is a suggested donation of £10 per team. Teams will be welcomed from members of the congregation, volunteers and staff normally attending Greyfriars

We look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it and would like to ask that you call or email the office to register teams, so that we can ensure that there is plenty of soup. As in previous years, there will be prizes supplied by local businesses. The contact details are Email: office@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk Phone : 0131 229 1142

Car Parking

Parking in the Kirkyard is prioritised for those leading worship, music, involved in catering, or for those requiring disabled access by reason of impaired mobility. The capacity is **6 cars** parked in the Kirkyard.

To gain access through the gate, please call 07598 470 320 and a keyholder will let you in and advise you of which space to park in.



Ministry team and Pastoral Care

You are very welcome to get in touch with our ministry team for any reason - whether to hear how things are going at Greyfriars, to seek support or pastoral care, or simply to share a cup of tea and a chat.

We would also like to hear from anyone who would like to join the Pastoral Care Visiting Team and offer to visit those who cannot attend Church.

Please contact the Kirk office to arrange a meeting with a member of the Ministry team.

Phone: 0131 225 1900

Email: contact@greyfriarskirk.com.

Offerings by Gift Aid:

The Gift Aid scheme allows us to reclaim tax on offerings, by 25p in the £. If you are a UK taxpayer, please take advantage by using one of the envelopes in the backs of the chairs.



It is important to **fill in your name** (and address if you are not already on our list) – we have been getting some blank envelopes back which cannot be used for tax reclaim.

Alternatively, you can scan the QR code that will take you to our donation page, or you can donate by card through our new card readers by the main doors, which allow you to choose the amount.

Many thanks.