

PARISH PROFILE

GREYFRIARS ST CUTHBERT'S

A Community of Communities
in the Heart of the City of Edinburgh



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 INTRODUCTION

04 THE PEOPLE OF GREYFRIARS ST CUTHBERT'S

05-07 WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

08-12 SERVICE TO THE PARISH

13-14 MISSION FROM ST CUTHBERT'S

15 ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY

16 PASTORAL CARE & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

17-18 GOVERNANCE

19 FINANCE

20-21 THE MANSE

22-23 ROLE PROFILE

24 APPLICATION PROCESS & CONTACT INFO







INTRODUCTION

St Cuthbert's Church is believed to trace its history back to St Cuthbert himself and is documented from the 12th century. Over all these centuries it has continually changed and renewed itself to meet the needs of the times and the people of Edinburgh. The most recent (1894) St Cuthbert's was conceived in the neo-Gothic style symbolically to reaffirm that the Church of Scotland, while Reformed, is part of the one Holy and Apostolic Catholic Church.

Greyfriars Kirk began as an innovation – built after the Reformation and fashioned for that new style of worship. Since then it has continually innovated to meet the needs of the times: in the 19th century it controversially introduced the first post-Reformation stained glass in Scotland and its innovations in worship – the use of an organ, liturgical worship and hymn singing – transformed worship throughout the Church of Scotland.

On 1 August 2026 St Cuthbert's and Greyfriars united to form one church: Greyfriars St Cuthbert's. We are now looking for a minister as we work together, in our long tradition of renewal and innovation, to meet the needs of our own times here and now.

With a sound financial base, and well-maintained buildings, our energies can be focussed on mission.

We are open, generous, welcoming to friend and stranger, hospitable, spiritually healing, refreshing, and caring.

We are united in our commitment to:

- Worship
- Service to the Parish
- Pastoral Care
- The Arts and Visitors

This Parish Profile is not an exhaustive list of all the activities of Greyfriars St Cuthbert's.

There has not yet been time to create a single website for the newly united church, but full information can be found on:

The St Cuthbert's website

The Greyfriars website

ST CUTHBERT'S

GREYFRIARS KIRK

THE PEOPLE OF GREYFRIARS ST CUTHBERT'S





We are a gathered church, with many members choosing to travel to us from throughout Edinburgh and beyond. But we are not a one-size-fits-all congregation: we encompass various overlapping communities which together form a community of communities in the heart of the city of Edinburgh.

The Parish covers a significant part of the Old Town and Southside of Edinburgh, and extends into the commercial and retail area of the West End. The Parish is notable for its educational establishments, such as Edinburgh University and George Heriot's school, with whom we maintain good relationships, and arts venues. Our Parish is changing. Increase in tourism and short term holiday lets, the change in shopping from city centre shops to online, and the move to working from home rather than city centre offices are all having an effect on living and working patterns. Find Church of Scotland census data for the parish here.

The congregational roll stands at 496, but the numbers engaging with us are considerably greater. Our buildings are major tourist attractions, with over 134,000 visitors a year. We have around 45 volunteer guides and stewards. Our buildings are used 7 days a week for concerts, organ recitals and art projects. Our Greyfriars St Cuthbert's communities include many hundreds of people who do not have a formal membership or worshipping connection, belong to other faith traditions, or have no faith. Our services on civic occasions such as the Riding of the Marches and special occasions such as our annual pet blessing service attract a wide range of non-members. We seek to welcome everyone, and above all to be a place where those who are seeking God can find God.

WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES



GREYFRIARS ENGLISH-SPEAKING SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE COMMUNITY
ST CUTHBERT'S SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE COMMUNITY

Greyfriars St Cuthbert's provides a variety of different styles of worship to meet the spiritual needs of different worshipping communities.

Services are held in each of Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's at 10.30 every Sunday, other than the last Sunday of the month, when there is only one service, which alternates between Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's. Communion is celebrated at that service. Both weekly Sunday services are live-streamed on Youtube.

Greyfriars Kirk St Cuthbert's

The Minister alternates between the Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's services on a weekly basis. On the Sundays when the Minister is not present, a high standard of worship is maintained by a strong team of elders and members, as well as Readers and occasional pulpit supply.

Worship at these services maintains a sense of formality and liturgy. We seek to worship God with reverence, dignity, diversity, and within our strong musical tradition.

Combined attendance at English-speaking Sunday morning services is in the region of 40-80, plus around 8 in the St Cuthbert's choir and around 12-20 in the Greyfriars choir. Perhaps reflecting our city centre location, the age range splits between students/under 30s and over 50s, with a gap between these of adults with young families. In the last 5 years there have been 20 baptisms.

Communion is also celebrated:

- monthly at both Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's at early morning Sunday services
- at St Cuthbert's after the Sunday morning service on the second Sunday of the month
- at St Cuthbert's at noon on the second Tuesday of the month.

There is also a Thursday lunchtime mid-week service at Greyfriars.

A variety of forms of communion are used, including service by elders to the congregation in their seats, gathering in a circle round the communion table, common cup, small glasses, said communion and full choral communion settings. Children are welcome at communion.

Although the liturgy is formal, the welcome is not and there is an opportunity to meet in a friendly atmosphere for tea and coffee after the services.

There is a full programme of Christmas and Easter services. This year there will be 9 Lessons and Carols at St Cuthbert's on the Sunday before Christmas, early evening Christmas Eve service at Greyfriars, Christmas Day service at Greyfriars and Sunday 27 December communion at St Cuthbert's. Prior to the union each church held Holy Week and Easter services in conjunction with their ecumenical partners, and a programme for Easter 2027 will be planned in due course.

WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES





Church Music

Music plays a central role in worship, with both buildings enjoying a high standard of organ and choral music. The Director of Music at St Cuthbert's, Graham Maclagan, is a music teacher and Director of Music at George Heriot's school and has extensive experience as an organist, including accompanying choirs in various European cathedrals. The Director of Music at Greyfriars, Caroline Craddock, holds a PhD in early 18th-century French organ Mass manuscripts and studied organ with Dr John Kitchen and Dr Anthony Hammond in Edinburgh, and Susan Landale in Paris. She teaches at St Mary's Music School. Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's each have a robed choir, which come together as one choir at the monthly communion service. The choirs have an extensive repertoire covering many centuries of church music, including new works by living composers. CH4 is used.

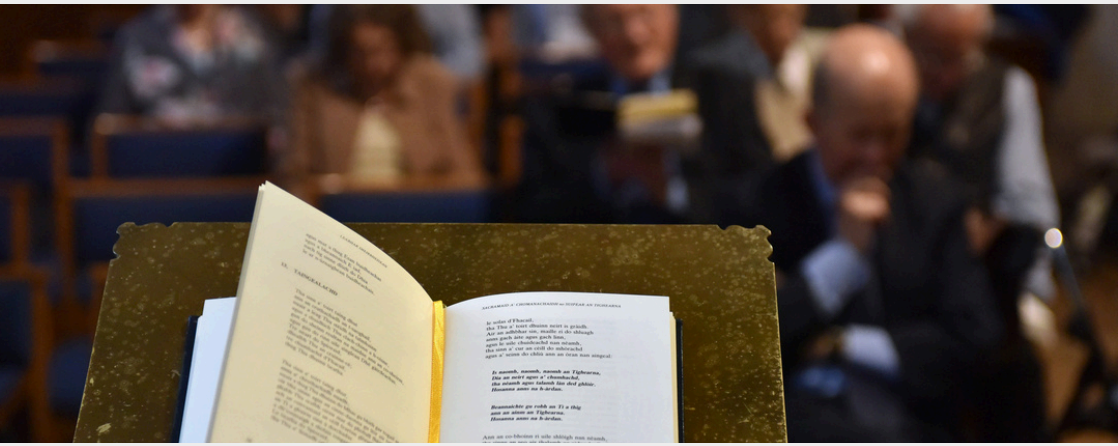
SOULSPACE COMMUNITY

Soulspace is a time of reflection and contemplation, taking advantage of the atmosphere of peace and sanctity which is found in St Cuthbert's. Originally planned as part of the outreach to the business community almost thirty years ago, and following an interest in the church in Celtic Spirituality, the participants have been mainly outsiders although the organising team are mostly St Cuthbert's members. The team choose a theme for the year and arrange leaders. Sessions are held on the first Wednesday of the month from October through to June with the exception of January. The church is open from 12.30pm till 5pm and a brief act of worship centring on a short talk on the theme for the day takes place at 1pm and is repeated at 4.30pm. Soulspace is lay led; the minister is normally invited to lead a session but may not always do so. Live attendance at sessions is now only in single figures, but since Covid lockdown, sessions are live-streamed and a recording remains on the website for the rest of the month, attracting at least 50 hits.

REFUGIO COMMUNITY

Refugio is held at Greyfriars on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 7-8 pm. It is held in the context of silence, symbol and reflective prayer. We have a team of 4 people who share in the lead of this (rather than the minister). One begins with offering a stilling, encouraging centering prayer. A second person offers a reflection, often along with some music. We have communion when there is a member of clergy available to offer this. Refugio takes its name from the shelters where the Pilgrims walking the medieval route to Santiago de Compostelo stop and find rest on their joumey. In the light of this we are "a drop in group." The numbers vary from 8-20 with a wide spectrum of ages. The people who come are mainly from city churches or none. Some are just passing through and have found us on the website. All are welcome.

WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES



GAELIC COMMUNITY

A Gaelic-language service is held at Greyfriars each Sunday at 12.30, continuing a tradition of Gaelic worship in the city going back (at various locations) for over 250 years. Greyfriars not having had a Gaelic-speaking minister in recent years, worship is led by lay members of the congregation assisted, over the years, by a wide spectrum of preachers from backgrounds ranging across the Church of Scotland, Free Church of Scotland, Baptist and Roman Catholic churches. Music takes the form of the traditional precenting of unaccompanied Gaelic psalms.

Numbers attending are often augmented by overseas visitors, sometimes, but not always, with Scottish ancestry, but the average core attendance has, somewhat unusually, increased post-Covid from 15-16 to a level consistently between 20 and 30 and a once-monthly Sunday School has been started which has attracted some families whose children attend Bun Sgoil Thaobh na Pàirce, Edinburgh's Gaelic-medium Primary School .

Also there have been two adult baptisms in recent years which have been a source of considerable encouragement to the congregation. Regular attendees consistently include a number of students, whose changing presence brings fresh faces every year.

Ordained Gaelic-speaking ministers from other congregations, or retired, preside over communion services but the congregation sits within the overall supervision of the minister of Greyfriars St Cuthbert's and its Kirk Session. Whilst the appointment of a Gaelic-speaking minister might be unlikely, since there are so few of them, the Gaelic congregation would welcome a continuation of the interest in, and support for, its ministry shown by previous non-Gaelic-speaking ministers of Greyfriars.

Ach, an deidh sin a ràdha, ma tha sibh a leughadh seo agus gur e ministear le Gàidhlig a th'annaibh, chuireamaid fàilte bhlàth-chridheach air iarrtas bhuaibh.

(But, having said that, if you are a Gaelic-speaking minister reading this, an application for the position would be warmly welcomed)

SERVICE TO THE PARISH

We are a welcoming and inclusive church to people of all faiths and none, responding to local needs in a variety of ways.

We understand and encourage discipleship by opening our doors to people on the edge, to those with questions and to those who struggle, believing that the church exists for those outside it, as much as it is there to support a worshipping congregation.

We serve the parish through the Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Family and Mission from the St Cuthbert's building.

Greyfriars St Cuthbert's is the centre of the Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Family, which also includes Grassmarket Community Project, Greyfriars Charteris Centre and Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Outreach, who were all formed at our initiative.

GRASSMARKET COMMUNITY PROJECT

GCP grew out of Parish Meals served by members of the congregation from the Greyfriars church halls at the foot of the graveyard to homeless people. Still operating from these halls, now transformed with an award-winning new building, GCP is an open, inclusive, and diverse community of over 600 people, enabling the most marginalised people in the city to flourish. The success of this community can be seen in its latest Social Impact Report here.

This Report captures the very heart of our outreach programme, the foundations purpose and values that underpin all we do.

Full information about GCP is available on their website.



GCP exists to challenge the reality of poverty, that is hidden yet so prevalent in the city. We are a fully inclusive community, welcoming people of all faiths and none, and committed to the shared values of the Church of care, compassion and support for those facing such difficult challenges. With a strong connection between GCP and Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Church with shared volunteers and staff, we look forward to welcoming the new Minister and continuing the deep relationship that means, between us, we can enable our community to feel valued, to belong and to have a future with hope"

Helene van der Ploeg, CEO,
Grassmarket Community Project

SERVICE TO THE PARISH

GREYFRIARS CHARTERIS CENTRE

Around 15 minutes' walk from Greyfriars, the Charteris Centre is a lively community hub at the heart of the Southside of Edinburgh. Created from the former Kirk o'Field church and halls following the union of the Kirk o'Field and Greyfriars in 2013, Charteris is one of the ways in which the mission of Greyfriars St Cuthbert's reaches beyond the congregation and into the wider community.

Charteris is a place where community, connection and wellbeing come together. Throughout the week, its halls and meeting spaces are busy with charities, social enterprises, community groups, artists, faith groups and organisations working with people of all ages and backgrounds. The Centre particularly welcomes organisations and activities connected with equality and diversity, health and wellbeing, culture and the arts, education and local community life. There is a real sense of a building being used and enjoyed by people from across the city.

The Centre also provides opportunities for the congregation to be involved in community life. It hosts a regular congregational coffee morning and a dementia-friendly arts group, as well as providing a natural place for members of Greyfriars St Cuthbert's to meet and build relationships with people beyond the church.

Charteris has a small, friendly staff team led by its CEO. The team includes a Centre Manager, Centre Admin, Facilities and Maintenance operative and a group of Duty Managers who keep the building running safely and smoothly, welcoming the many different groups who use it. Their work combines the practical running of a busy community venue with the Centre's wider social mission.



The relationship between Greyfriars St Cuthbert's and Charteris is an important part of the wider Greyfriars St Cuthbert's family. For a new minister, it offers an opportunity to engage with a vibrant community resource, meet people well beyond the congregation and explore new ways in which faith and community can connect."

Daniel Fisher, CEO
Charteris Centre

SERVICE TO THE PARISH

GREYFRIARS ST CUTHBERT'S OUTREACH

Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Outreach directs and manages all visitor-centred activities and the day-to-day operational management of the buildings, whilst providing full administrative support to the minister from the Church Office, which is open every weekday.

Music

As well as places of worship, Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's are also recognised as two of Edinburgh's most iconic music venues.

Greyfriars hosts concerts by Scottish Ensemble, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, The Sixteen as well as orchestras and choirs from all over the world.

St Cuthbert's is home to Edinburgh Bach Choir and Scottish Sinfonia and hosts a wide variety of concerts and public events.

Greyfriars hosts its own series of music through the year with its highly successful Greyfriars at 12 concerts and the Organ Series. This offers both nationally recognised musicians and up and coming musicians a platform to perform.

Private event hire

Greyfriars also hosts weddings, social events, book launches, job fairs, school services and graduations. Being a social and cultural hub allows us to promote the Greyfriars St Cuthbert's vision and values to the wider community and our stakeholders.

Visitor Experience and Volunteer Community

With over 120,000 visitors annually to Greyfriars and over 14,000 to St Cuthbert's, delivering an outstanding visitor experience is vital. Visitors from all over the world will experience a warm welcome from our volunteer team whilst they explore the rich history and culture Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's have to offer. At Greyfriars a dedicated Kirkyard exhibition, Kirk museum and gift shop helps to give all visitors an exceptional experience that will not be easily forgotten. Most recently Greyfriars received a 4 star quality assurance award from the Association Of Scottish Visitor Attractions.

Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do and are managed by our Visitor Experience Team Leader. Over the past few years our volunteering team has diversified with age ranges from 17 to 70+ years, with at least one third of Welcomers being in the 17-30 age range.
We have also built a supportive programme for volunteers with additional support needs.

SERVICE TO THE PARISH

The Outreach Team

The Outreach Team is led by Mark Harrison the Operations Manager and supported by the Operations Coordinator Deborah Meikle. We are in the process of appointing a dedicated Operations Manager for St Cuthbert's. The team also includes the Visitor Experience Team Leader, Caretaker, Finance Assistance, Beadle, Office Assistant and a team of Event Managers.

Outreach is integrated into all areas of the Greyfriars St Cuthbert's operations and is responsible for generating income to support the Greyfriars St Cuthbert's objectives and to maintain the active status of Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's as places of worship.

> *The outreach team at both Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's work collaboratively to make both buildings a destination of choice for visitors and a quality arts venue, while ensuring they are both first and foremost places of worship.*

Mark Harrison, Operations Manager
Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Outreach



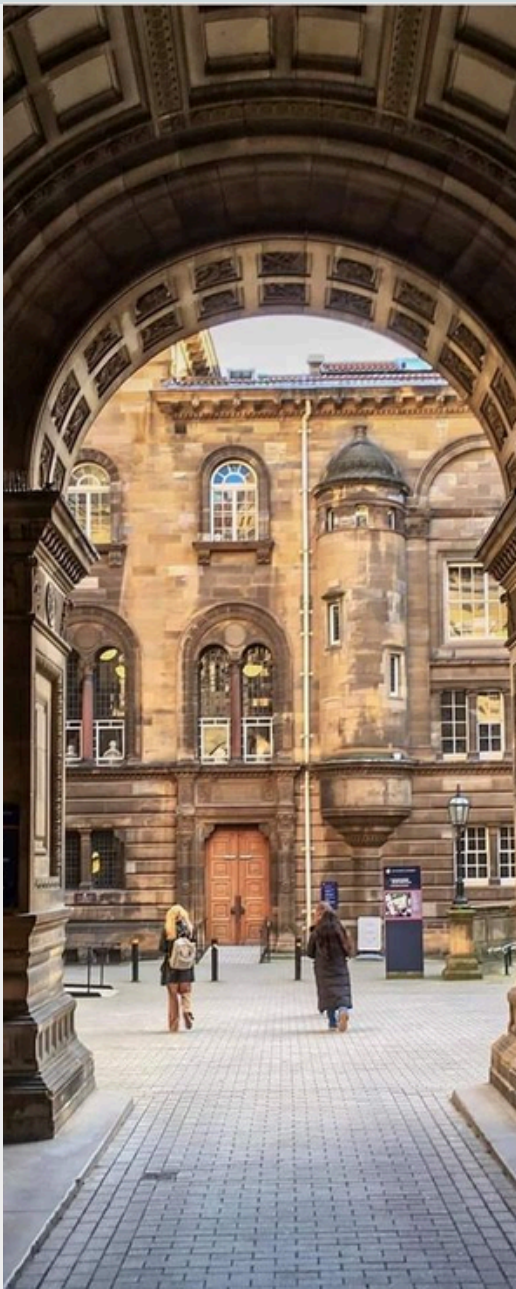
SERVICE TO THE PARISH

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Greyfriars St Cuthbert's has historically had a close connection with Edinburgh University. There are good links with the Edinburgh University Chaplaincy. Greyfriars is used for services connected to the University. A Memorandum of Understanding is in place with the University in relation to cooperation at the Charteris Centre. A student community, Roots, meets at Greyfriars each Wednesday evening for dinner, a fun activity and a short talk.

Schools with connections to St Cuthbert's are mentioned on the next page.
Greyfriars hosts George Heriot's school services and James Gillespie's High School leavers events.





MISSION FROM THE ST CUTHBERT'S BUILDING

St Cuthbert's is already established as a Mission Hub. Such mission work has accelerated since St Cuthbert's removed nearly all the pews and has an open and flexible space all under one roof following a £140,000 investment by St Cuthbert's in 2021, as approved by Presbytery and the 121 General Trustees.

St Cuthbert's has worked with both Bethany and the charity 'Steps to Hope,' to feed over 100 homeless people. Many of these people are under 40. St Cuthbert's also hosts two Alcoholics Anonymous Groups every week and other social and caring groups meet frequently. Leading choirs and orchestras, which have a number of under 40s, are regular users of St Cuthbert's; likewise, the students in the St Cuthbert's Church Choir. St Cuthbert's also hosts over 2000 young people a year who take their music exams at St Cuthbert's through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Examination Board.

St Cuthbert's, as a development of its Oasis outreach to the business community, founded in the mid-1990, was instrumental in creating the role of the Workplace Chaplain for the City Centre, in partnership with The Together Trust.

St Cuthbert's did provide the offices for the Chaplain and day-to-day support at its own expense and contributed to the salary costs through contributing to the Trust until the role was taken over, within the city, by Edinburgh District Council. The Presbytery Mission Plan saw the trust dissolved but there are keen voices to get this back on track and to rekindle the strengths that this brought to those around the city centre and West End.

In addition, through its Oasis initiative, St Cuthbert's holds services at Easter and Christmas for the community.



MISSION FROM THE ST CUTHBERT'S BUILDING

St Cuthbert's building is fit for its missional purposes and the sanctuary, halls and all other facilities are under one roof.

We continue to support a whole number of organisations including St Andrew's Church in Jerusalem, as well as local military organisations, and various charities who need our loving support. We are a major Fringe Venue and receive over 14000 visitors each year during April to October.

Organisations that have used and supported the St Cuthbert's Mission Hub initiatives over the last 18 months include 'Steps To Hope', Scottish Arts Club, Heads of St Augustine's School, Fettes College, George Watson's College, Bach Choir, Scottish Sinfonia, Edinburgh Art Festival, Heart Edge, Archbishop Leo Cushley, Bishop John Armes, Legion Scotland, Poppy Scotland, ABRSM, AA, McCrae's Battalion, 121 Ecumenical Committee, Amazon UK, Standard Life, Scottish Government Drug Tsar, Cockburn Society, the St Cuthbert's Bell ringers, and the Society of Edinburgh Organists.

We support refugees from the Ukraine war by hosting a Saturday morning school for Ukrainian children and the Spiders group making camouflage netting to protect soldiers and civilians in Ukraine.













ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY

The Parish area includes places of worship for many denominations and faiths, for example Episcopalian, United Reformed Church, Free Church of Scotland, Society of Friends, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Unitarian, Muslim.

The pre-Union churches both had a long-standing, strong ecumenical record.

Ecumenical working by St Cuthbert's with St John's Episcopal Church and the former St Andrews & St Georges West was well established for over 50 years before a formal Covenant was adopted by the Churches and approved by both the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church.

In 2002 Greyfriars entered into a Local Ecumenical Covenant called "The Local Church" ("TLC") after many years of working collectively with St Columba's by the Castle (Scottish Episcopal Church) and Augustine United Church (which is a congregation of the United Reformed Church that works in partnership with the Metropolitan Community Church to offer a joint LGBTQI+ ministry called "Our Tribe.") There are three joint communion services annually (rotating between the three churches) as well as additional services and activities during Lent and Holy Week and an annual joint pilgrimage. As well as regular formal meetings of a Steering Group, the Ministers meet regularly on an informal basis to give each other support and discuss issues in the local community.

Greyfriars St Cuthbert's is committed to continue to work ecumenically, and to update its ecumenical relationships to take into account our Union and changes to partner churches.

The united church continues the partnerships which both former churches had with Heartedge, an ecumenical network of churches throughout the UK which, like Greyfriars St Cuthbert's, supports mission based on four key areas:

- Congregation: Liturgy, worship and day-to-day communal life
- Compassion: Addressing social need via our congregations
- Culture: Art, music and performance re-imagining the Christian narrative for the present moment
- Commerce: Generating finance via enterprise

heartedge

https://www.heartedge.org/

PASTORAL CARE AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION





The pastoral care arrangements in the previous churches were very different, and the integration into a single arrangement (which will include pastoral care of the Manse family) is a work in progress. Members who mainly attend the services in Greyfriars can contact the pastoral care team either via the Session Clerk or the Church Office. There is a team of 11 who are available to visit as required.

Members who mainly attend the services in St Cuthbert's have been supported until recently by a locally paid Pastoral Assistant in addition to the Minister. This has allowed for those who are unable to attend church, or who are ill or in hospital, to receive a visit or telephone call. This has kept communication open and provided some much needed support to the Minister or Locum. The Pastoral Assistant is still carrying out these visits. St Cuthbert's deliver the weekly church flowers to a member of the congregation. A prayer circle allows for anyone seeking comfort from Prayer to contact the representative from the congregation.

Pastoral care is not limited to members and adherents but is also available to volunteers and others in the wider Greyfriars St Cuthbert's family and the Parish.

Communication with members and others is under review for the newly united church. Previously St Cuthbert's produced a magazine and Greyfriars an emailed "Kirk Post"

Christian education for adults includes on-line bible study and joint Lent study programmes with our ecumenical partners.

GOVERNANCE

KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session operates under the unitary constitution and is formed of the Elders from the previous two Kirk Sessions along with the Minister. There are currently 47 Elders on the Kirk Session of whom 40% are male. The majority of the Elders are post retirement age with fewer that 10 being under that age. Elders were last ordained to the Kirk Session in 2025.

The Session Clerk Team comprises the Session Clerk and three deputies:

- Nigel Robb, Session Clerk
- Christine Stevenson, Deputy Session Clerk
- Anne Bradbury, Deputy Session Clerk
- Hilary Clydesdale, Deputy Session Clerk

The Session meets five times per year: January, March, June, September and November. The meetings alternate between the two Church Buildings. Additional meetings will be arranged as and when needed or required.

As result of the union the Session committees and their membership, and matters such as stewardship, are in the process of being reviewed.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Session has a Business Committee which has an approved scheme of delegation of elements of financial and operational decision making, as approved by the Kirk Session in September 2026. The Business Committee meetings 8 times per year and also acts as the Board of Trustees for Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Outreach.

The membership of the Business Committee includes:

- Finance Convenor
- Treasurer
- Four to six members of the Kirk Session
- Member of the Gaelic congregation:
- One to two external members, non-members of the Kirk Session who can provide valuable insight into the operational objectives
- The Moderator and Session Clerk are invited to all meetings.

Membership is wide in talent and experience to provide as full a range of support as possible to the Trustees.

COMMON LIFE GROUP

The Common Life Group facilitates communication between those involved in the diverse aspects of running the church, including music, flowers, catering, Gaelic language services, outreach, Charteris Centre and Grassmarket Community Project. As life has moved on and the Union has been finalised, the Session Clerk Team are developing more efficient ways to ensure that communication develops, recognising the vital role these parts play in the life of the Greyfriars St Cuthbert's.

MISSION ACTION PLAN

The Kirk Session has commenced work on a Mission Action Plan for the newly united charge. In preparation, Elder training and discussions have been organised to prepare the ground.

The new Minister will have a central role in developing the Plan.

GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE OF THE GREYFRIARS ST CUTHBERT'S FAMILY

There are three SCIOs (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations) associated with the Kirk. The Kirk Session and Session Clerk Team are represented at the Boards of all three of these SCIOs.

1) *Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Outreach*
The Trustees are currently the Kirk's Finance Convenor, Treasurer and former Session Clerk of Greyfriars. We are in the process of appointing an Outreach Manager to be based at St Cuthbert's, who will (subject to satisfactory probation period) be appointed as a Trustee. As the business of Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Outreach is conducted during the Business Committee Meetings, the Session is well represented during discussions of the operations of this SCIO.

2) Grassmarket Community Project
Greyfriars St Cuthbert's is well represented with two members (Jo Elliot and Tori Graham) being Directors of GCP.

3) Greyfriars Charteris Centre
It is anticipated that the new minister will become a Trustee and Chair of the Trustees of Greyfriars Charteris Centre. Currently four of the five Trustees have, or have had a recent involvement with Greyfriars, now Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Church. Jo Elliot, the former Session Clerk of Greyfriars is Acting Chair of the Board of Trustees, anticipating stepping down on the appointment of the new minister. One of the Deputy Session Clerks (Hilary Clydesdale) will attend the meetings to provide the link between the SCIO and the Kirk Session but will not be a Director or Trustee.



FINANCE



The union brings together two churches with differing financial strengths and challenges, but both with strong opportunities to ensure future financial stability.

The former St Cuthbert's has in recent times had strong levels of capital available to supplement income sources which have not kept in step with rising costs. St Cuthbert's has a track record in hosting musical events, attracting visitors and strengthening outreach. The recent recruitment of a new Operations Manager for the St Cuthbert's building is key to taking this to the next level providing further income to cover the costs of the building and the operations.

Whilst the former Greyfriars is further down the journey of providing outreach through the arts and supplementing congregational giving by achieving material income from events, visitor donations and the selling of items in their shop, there is still an opportunity to develop this further.

The former Greyfriars has also successfully launched two independent social enterprises in Greyfriars Charteris Centre and the Grassmarket Community Project. These enable focused delivery of social engagement of outreach and provide good predictable rental income to the church.

Despite congregational givings for the former Greyfriars failing to keep pace with rising costs, it has been possible when including legacies and investment profits, to broadly balance the books over the last few years. The objective remains to balance the books without requiring such legacies and freeing up this capital to support new initiatives. This objective is within reach given the current growth in event income that is being seen at Greyfriars.

Whilst the characteristics of the St Cuthbert's sanctuary are different, the opportunity exists, and is now being actioned, with the recruitment of an Operations Manager to develop further outreach and to increase income levels to enable the books to be balanced. This would minimise further depletion of the substantial assets brought into the union by St Cuthbert's.

A new Business Committee has just been formed to help drive all of this forward. It mirrors the group that worked successfully in the former Greyfriars to achieve financial goals. This group draws on experienced resources across the united church to help guide the Operations Managers in the planning and development of a financial plan.

Read the latest Greyfriars audited accounts here.
Read the latest St Cuthbert's audited accounts here.

THE MANSE

The Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Manse is at 12 Tantallon Place, in the Grange area of Edinburgh.

It is 0.8 miles from Greyfriars and 1.4 miles from St Cuthbert's. Parking is available for the Minister at each church.

The Manse is in the catchment area of Sciennes Primary School (5 minute walk) and James Gillespie's High School (15 minute walk). It is also convenient for independent schools: George Heriot's School (primary and secondary) (15 minute walk) and George Watsons (30 minute walk or 10 minutes by car).

It is a 2-storey traditional stone built detached residence with off-street parking and a garage.
There is a spacious garden to the rear.

The accommodation upstairs in the property comprises 4 double bedrooms and a family bathroom. Downstairs there is a further double bedroom that has traditionally been used as the minister's study. Also on the ground floor are two reception rooms, a shower room and a kitchen located in an annex to the rear.









THE MANSE

CONDITION OF THE MANSE

The building is in good condition having been regularly maintained over the years. After the last minister vacated the property, in anticipation of new occupants it was fully repainted and some carpets were replaced. The bathrooms were also replaced.

There is a project ongoing at the moment to improve the energy efficiency of the building, which is centrally heated. The first phase of this is nearing completion and this involved the replacement of all of the sash and case windows with like-for-like structures but with double glazed panes.

The second phase of the project is looking at improving the insulation of the annex where the kitchen is. Quotations are currently being sought so that a proposal for the work can be brought before the business committee for approval. The aim is to complete this work by February 2027.









MINISTER OF GREYFRIARS ST CUTHBERT'S ROLE PROFILE

PURPOSE

To lead the life and work of Greyfriars St Cuthbert's.

PRIORITIES

Leading our worship with inspirational preaching, thoughtful liturgy, and imaginative ministry and mission, and developing worship leaders.

Working with the Kirk Session, staff and congregation to plan and develop a Mission Action Plan for Greyfriars St Cuthbert's for the 5 year period of reviewable tenure, addressing the issues identified in the Basis of Reviewable Charge, so that tenure is renewed.

Leading the Kirk Session in integrating and developing the work of the predecessor churches of Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's, and innovating to meet the challenges of where we are here and now.

Supporting the life and work of the Greyfriars St Cuthbert's members, volunteers and communities.

Expanding our mission and outreach, especially to university schools and other institutions, shops businesses and offices, and people of all ages.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITES

To lead Greyfriars St Cuthbert's, its team of staff, and its wider work as a place for visitors, the arts and service to the parish.

To exercise leadership in worship, preaching and pastoral care, and to be personally committed to maintaining the highest standards in all that we do.

To participate in the work of the Grassmarket Community Project and the Charteris Centre, and enable the collaboration and vision of the Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Family.

To lead the work to ensure both that Greyfriars St Cuthbert's is efficiently managed (via its Kirk Session, committees and staff) and that resources can be found and deployed to support its core Christian mission.



MINISTER OF GREYFRIARS ST CUTHBERT'S ROLE PROFILE

PERSON SPECIFICATION

A collaborative and inspiring leader who gives a clear sense of direction but is comfortable with team working, delegation and getting the most out of able people, whether volunteers or employees.

A practical and liberal theologian and thoughtful preacher who can work together biblical study, prayer life and societal analysis into a coherent, consistent and challenging message.

Committed to excellence in worship and cherishes the different styles of worship offered by Greyfriars St Cuthbert's, including the High Presbyterian music and liturgy of the Sunday morning English-speaking services. Committed to mission based on Congregation, Compassion, Culture and Commerce.

Alive to the opportunities and possibilities which come from working with ecumenical partners, and others outwith the Greyfriars St Cuthbert's congregation, for the benefit of the wider parish community.

Gifted in working with people from all walks of life and can make them feel part of the Greyfriars St Cuthbert's vision.





APPLICATION PROCESS AND CONTACT DETAILS

The Kirk Session has, in terms of Act 1 2015, voted to "depart" from the Church's traditional stance and accordingly the Nominating Committee may consider applications from Ministers in a Same-Sex Marriage or Civil Partnership.

If you have any questions about Greyfriars St Cuthbert's, or if you are considering applying for the position of minister of Greyfriars St Cuthbert's, please contact us.

Applications should comprise a curriculum vitae, a covering letter indicating your reasons for applying plus the experience and gifts which make you suited to the role, and the names of two referees (referees will only be contacted if the application is being taken further).
Applications must be received by The Clerk to the Nominating Committee by the closing deadline of 5pm on 5 January 2027.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

Rosemary Scott
The Clerk to the Nominating Committee
Greyfriars Kirk, 1 Greyfriars Place, EH1 2QQ
vacancy@greyfriarskirk.com

INFORMAL ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE IN CONFIDENCE TO:

The Interim Moderator
Rev. Dr. George Whyte OBE KSG
Greyfriars Kirk, 1 Greyfriars Place, EH1 2QQ
gwhyte@churchofscotland.org.uk

