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*

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday 15 November 2026

A warm welcome to Greyfriars St Cuthbert's.

Today is the **Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**, and the liturgical colour for this period of Ordinary Time in the church year is **green**.

This morning, the service is conducted by **Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC**.

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.

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.

The Church of Scotland

Edinburgh: Greyfriars St Cuthbert's Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SC003761
www.greyfriarskirk.com
www.stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk

Organ: Prelude on 'Rhosymedre' Ralph Vaughan Williams

Introit: God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

Sarum Primer, 1558 John Rutter

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, people of God, the Lord is our refuge and strength.

Congregation: *We gather to worship the One who is our help in times of trouble.*

Leader: The days may grow short, and the world may feel uncertain.

Congregation: *Yet God's light shines, guiding us in the way of peace.*

Leader: Christ calls us to remain steadfast, to trust in His promises.

Congregation: *We will watch, we will wait, and we will walk in faith.*

Leader: Let us lift our voices in praise to the God who reigns forever.

Congregation: *Our hearts rejoice, for the Lord is our salvation!*

Leader: So let us worship God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Hymn 639: I bind unto myself today — St. Patrick, and (v.5) Gartan

1. *I bind unto myself today the strong Name of the Trinity;*
   by invocation of the same, the Three in one, and One in Three.

2, *I bind this day to me for ever, by power of faith, Christ's Incarnation;*
   his baptism in the Jordan river; his death on cross for my salvation;
   his bursting from the spiced tomb; his riding up the heavenly way;
   his coming at the day of doom: I bind unto myself today.

3. *I bind unto myself today the virtues of the starlit heaven,*
   the glorious sun's life-giving ray, the whiteness of the moon at even,
   the flashing of the lightning free,
   the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
   the stable earth, the deep salt sea around the old eternal rocks.

4. *I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead,*
   his eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear to hearken to my need,
   the wisdom of my God to teach, his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
   the word of God to give me speech, his heavenly host to be my guard.

5. *Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,*
   Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me,
   Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
   Christ in hearts of all that love me,
   Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

6. *I bind unto myself the name, the strong Name of the Trinity,*
   by invocation of the same, the Three in one, and One in Three,
   of whom all nature hath creation, Eternal Father, Spirit, Word.
   Praise to the Lord of my salvation:
   salvation is of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Cecil Frances Alexander,
after St. Patrick

Welcome to **Greyfriars Kirk**

Prayer of Approach, Adoration, Confession and Supplication

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. *at H. 776*
(Lord, have mercy.)

Collect for the Day: *Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal light and joy; through the power of him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* *Amen*

Hymn 491: Lord Jesus, think on me Southwell

1. *Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin;*
   from earthborn passions set me free, and make me pure within.
2. *Lord Jesus, think on me with care and woe oppressed;*
   let me thy loving servant be, and taste thy promised rest.
3. *Lord Jesus, think on me, amid the battle's strife;*
   in all my pain and misery be thou my health and life.
4. *Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;*
   through darkness and perplexity point thou the heavenly way.
5. *Lord Jesus, think on me, when flows the tempest high;*
   when on doth rush the enemy, O Saviour be thou nigh.
6. *Lord Jesus, think on me, that when the flood is past,*
   I may th' eternal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.

Sinesius of Cyrene,
tr. Allen William Chatfield

The Word of God

Psalm 90: 1 – 8 and **12** (OT p. 577) Reader: Colin Graham

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.' For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NT p. 220)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. Amen

Hymn 554: Rock of ages, cleft for me Petra

1. *Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;*
   let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
   be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and power.
2. *Not the labours of my hands can fulfil thy law's demands;*
   could my zeal no respite know, could my tears for ever flow,
   all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.
3. *Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;*
   naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
   stained by sin, to thee I fly; wash me, Saviour, or I die.
4. *While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyelids close in death,*
   when I soar through realms unknown,
   see thee on thy judgment throne,
   Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Augustus Toplady

Matthew 25: 14 - 30 (NT p. 30) Reader: Prof. Bert Kerrigan KC

The Parable of the Talents

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents

also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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

Sermon

A Thief In The Night? Or Bury Your Talents?

Anthem:

Lord, give me faith, to live from day to day,
With tranquil heart to do my simple part,
And with my hand in Thine, just go Thy way!

Lord, give me faith, to trust, if not to know;
With quiet mind in all things Thee to find,
And, childlike, go where Thou wouldst have me go!

Lord, give me faith, to leave it all to Thee!
The future is Thy gift, I would not lift
the veil Thy love has hung 'twixt it and me.

John Oxenham Kathleen Robson

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth, who calls all people into covenant love, and sustains the world with mercy and justice.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to seek and save the lost, who heals the broken, and who reigns as Lord over all creation. In His death and resurrection, we are set free from sin and fear, and given life that cannot be taken away.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, God's presence within and among us, who opens our hearts to faith, guides us in truth, and empowers us to serve with courage and compassion.

We believe that Christ will come again, and that God's kingdom of peace and righteousness will be fully revealed. Until that day, we live as witnesses to hope, trusting that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Offering St. Magnus, *at H. 806*

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People Carol Stewart

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
People: *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 132: Immortal, invisible, God only wise — St. Denio

1. *Immortal, invisible, God only wise,*
   in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
   most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
   almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. *Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,*
   nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
   thy justice like mountains, high soaring above
   thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. *To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;*
   in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
   We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
   and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. *Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,*
   thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
   All praise we would render: O help us to see
   'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Walter Smith

Benediction — *Amen*

at H. 819

Organ: Alla Marcia — John Ireland

NOTES

Forthcoming Services	Upcoming Events at Greyfriars
Today **10:30pm – Sunday Service** **12:30pm – Gaelic Service** **Thursday 19 November** **1:05pm – Midweek Prayers** **Sunday 22 November** **10:30am – Sunday Service** **12:30pm – Gaelic Service**	**Thursday 19 November** **12:00pm – Greyfriars@12** **Friday 20 November** **7:30pm – Edinburgh University Music Society – Chorus and Sinfonia** **Saturday 21 November** **7:30pm – Edinburgh University Music Society – Symphony Orchestra**
Find information on services and events on our website, or by scanning the QR code**.**	

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.

Congregation
We're sorry to pass on the news that Member, Jean Kidd has passed away.

For those of you who knew Jean, her funeral is being held at Warriston Cloister Chapel on Monday 23 November at 10:30am.

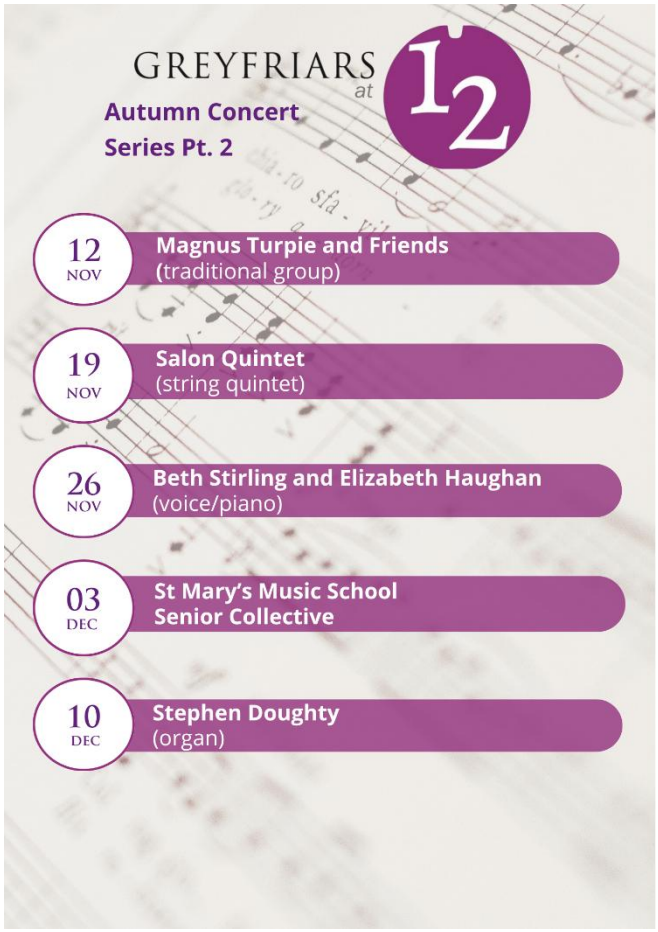
Bible Study Service
Join Greyfriars St Cuthbert's member, Bob Walker for Bible Study this evening at 7pm. This week, the topic is 'Is David then the best link between the Old and New Testament?'

This Study Service takes place online only and details on how to join can be received on request to Bob via email: bob@hebrides.u-net.com

Kirk Shop – Sunday opening for Christmas
After the services on the 29th of November and 6th of December, the shop will be open for the congregation. Why not pick up some presents or tree decorations and support the church in the process? Generous discounts are on offer.

Greyfriars@12: Autumn Series

Part two of the Autumn Series continues this Thursday, 19 November – we hope to see you there!



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 ring 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. To register, please contact Oscar: office@stcuthberts-edinburgh.uk Phone : 0131 229 1142.

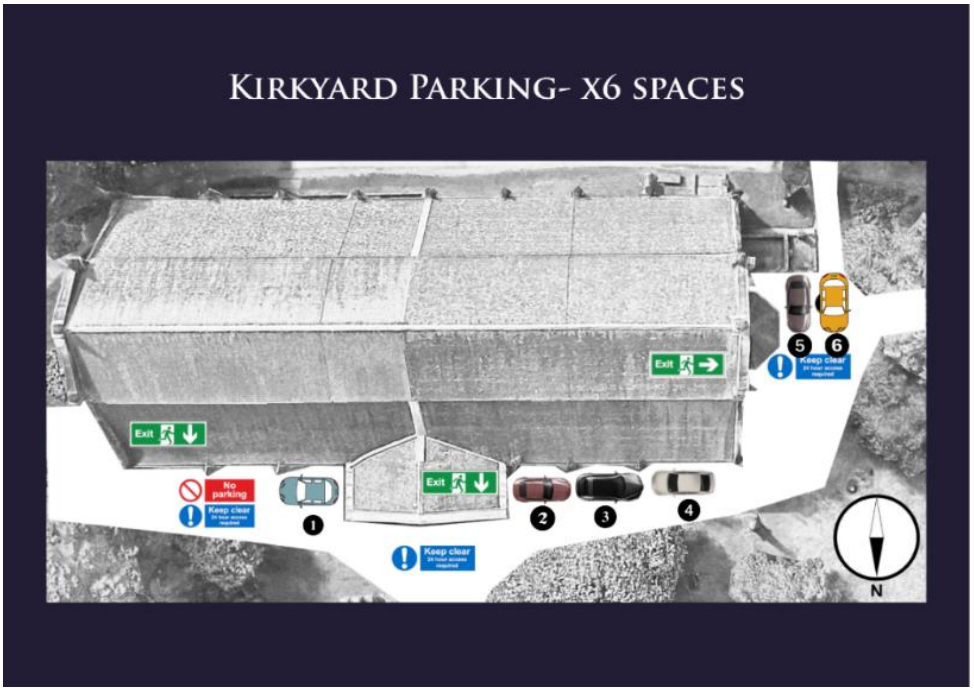




Car Parking

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.



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 helps us with welcoming, please have a chat with Nigel Robb about this: sessionclerk@greyfriarskirk.com

Ministry team and Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care or would like to hear how things are going at Greyfriars, please feel free to get in touch via the Kirk Office.

Currently we have the services of our locum minister for 2 days a week, but we will do our best to manage the pastoral needs of our congregation.

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.

Phone: 0131 225 1900

Email: communications@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. Many thanks.