



THE LATEST NEWS FROM GREYFRIARS & ST. NICHOLAS

Working together to support our community



GREYFRIARS & ST. NICHOLAS PREPARE TO OPEN FOR MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Find us ...

St. Nicholas ...
High Street, Lanark
ML11 9EA
closed.scooter.sofas

Greyfriars ...
Bloomgate, Lanark
ML11 9ET
warms.bumping.decency

Church Offices ...

St. Nicholas ...
01555 666220
lanarkstnicholas@btconnect.com

Greyfriars ...
01555 437050
office@lanarkgreyfriars.com

Parish Ministers ...

St. Nicholas ...
Rev Louise MacKay
01555 661936
lmackay@churchofscotland.org.uk

Greyfriars ...
Rev Bryan Kerr
01555 437052/ 663363
bkerr@churchofscotland.org.uk



The Church of Scotland
in Lanark

Scottish Charity Numbers
Greyfriars SC016504
St. Nicholas SC011368

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As the recovery from Covid-19 is a rapidly evolving situation the Kirk Session's will endeavour to keep all of the members and friends of the churches updated through newsletters, emails and as many other means as possible, on a regular basis.

www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Dear friends

As ministers it was wonderful to open up our church buildings last week for a time of private prayer and reflection. Both of us encountered people who were so grateful that we had been able to get St Nicholas and Greyfriars open so that those who had spent so much time on their own could find space to pray, to reflect and come closer into the presence of God.

We are delighted that as our country has travelled along the routemap out of lockdown churches can open their doors for small acts of communal worship. We have taken the decision to issue a second edition of the Newsletter swiftly following the last due to some of the announcements in regard to churches by made by the Scottish Government. You will be able to read about our plans to re-open for worship further on in this short newsletter as things may be different for quite some time but both of us are looking forward to being able to lead worship in our buildings once again. It has been a very different experience leading worship online.

Worship is a huge part of our Christian faith and the last few months have been hard, not being able to join together in person to share in worship. Many churches, ours included have been able to offer online alternatives which have allowed people to still feel part of church, but we know that this has not been the case for everyone.

We do know however, that many people may be feeling anxious about returning to church. Coming out of lockdown

has been a daunting experience for many and there are a lot of fears and anxieties. Fears are a very real part of life. It is in moments of worry and fear that we can seek the comfort of God, trusting in his love for us to get us through these challenging times.

As church leaders we are aware of the worries that many may be having around this time and want to ensure you that we are here for anyone who may be struggling or in need of help. The Lanark Helps helpline is still continuing and can offer support with weekly shopping, prescription collections and general wellbeing issues. It is our plan that this will continue in the weeks to come even as our country opens back up. We know that many in our community are still isolating and in need of support.

During the last few months we know that many have turned to our churches for spiritual nourishment, guidance, help and support as the weeks go on, we hope that this will continue. We are already looking at how the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion can happen while we are still subject to restrictions.

God has continued to strengthen us as people of faith, and we trust in his love and grace as we move forward.

With love, care and concern



Bryan & Louise

CHURCHES OPEN FOR COMMUNAL WORSHIP



Our churches will now be offering services of worship for people to attend each week and you are welcome to join us.

Our Kirk Sessions have, alongside opening for individual prayer, agreed to offer a service of worship each week. These services will be no more than 30 minutes and will be limited in the number that can be accommodated.

Anyone can come to these services but initially, the Kirk Session would like to invite anyone, particularly older people, who have been struggling to join us regularly in worship online over these last few months.

Those who are in a high risk category are reminded to think about the risks to their health before they attend. Those who are in a clinically high risk (shielding) should not attend at this time.

The services will take place on Mondays (Greyfriars) at 2pm and Thursdays (St. Nicholas) at 10:30am. The services will commence on Monday 20th July.

Whilst anyone can attend, due to the limited seating capacity we recommend

phoning in advance to reserve a space. The Ministers and Kirk Sessions don't particularly like the idea of having to 'book' your attendance, but neither do they like the idea of people arriving when there are no seats left.

In order to ensure there is a space reserved for you, please call the minister of the church you would like to attend.

Greyfriars - Bryan Kerr - 01555 663363

St. Nicholas - Louise MacKay - 01555 661936

We have made a lot of changes in our churches to ensure that when you attend you have a degree of confidence in being in outside of your home. For more details of some of these changes please see pages 7 and 8 of the newsletter.

Please also remember that our churches are open for individual prayer on Tuesdays (St. Nicholas) and Fridays (Greyfriars) from 10am - 2pm and you are welcome to drop in for some quiet and reflection.

Church in Lockdown

We asked people how they felt about worship and church in lockdown and what their hopes were for the future.

The online Sunday morning services have helped to make you still feel connected to the church.

The outside recordings have been a good reminder that we can find God anywhere.

I've missed seeing people and getting out of the house to go to church.

I hope that the creativity continues and that the community projects that have been established continue.

The communion services were more meaningful and personal

I miss meeting other people and hearing their news and what is going on in the Church and town.

I have liked that I could have my coffee and do my knitting during worship.

I have discovered that worship can be just as positive by using different approaches, if not more so.

We hope that anyone who tuned in to Sunday service will maintain that link.

We have missed face to face fellowship and singing.

I have missed the social contact with fellow members and the atmosphere in the building during services.

We would hope that the two churches of Scotland in Lanark would keep sharing together.

I hope we can keep showing God's love out in the community, as well as within our church families

Worship with us

We pray that you will be able to find some way in which to worship with us.

Sunday Worship

Join us online at 11am for live worship at **ondemand.greyfriars.church** You can also use your phone to listen to the service by dialling **01555 807519**. You can also watch on your smart TV by activating the YouTube app and searching for Lanark Greyfriars.

You can also watch and listen to the service at any point during the week by visiting the website or calling the number.

Midweek Worship

Every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 7pm we meet using Zoom for a short act of reflective worship. Email us at **zoom@lanarkgreyfriars.com** for the Meeting ID and passcode.

Midweek Reflection

Each week (normally Wednesday evening) Louise posts a midweek reflection on facebook. You do not need a facebook account to watch, just visit **fb.me/lanarkstnicholas** to view.

Sixty Second Sermons

Bryan is posting a sixty second sermon each week. These are short and snappy and can be viewed on our facebook page (you don't need an account to view) at **fb.com/langreyfriars** or the YouTube page (search for 'Lanark Greyfriars').

We hope to welcome you to worship wherever and however you join us.



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things you may notice have changed in our church buildings.

The Kirk Sessions of Greyfriars and St. Nicholas Churches have been working hard to ensure that those who come into our buildings can feel safe.

Some things might have changed, but the one thing that will never change is the welcome you will receive when you walk through our doors.



Keeping you safe



1 We will be asking people to observe physical distancing inside and outside our buildings. Please dress for the Scottish weather, just in case there is a small delay in getting you inside. We will move as quickly and safely as we can.



2 To observe good hygiene we have hand sanitiser stations as you enter and exit the building. We ask that you use these to keep yourself and others safe.



3 Our churches have always been clean, however during this time we have increased our cleaning regime. The churches will be cleaned and sanitised before each service.



4 We are not able to meet for tea and coffee after our services. We know how important this time is and encourage you to phone the person with whom you would normally have coffee.



5 The Scottish & UK Governments have both stated that, in order to keep everyone safe singing should not take place at any services. We know this will be disappointing for many but we will seek to keep music at the heart of our worship.



6 Just as you do in shops and on public transport, you will be asked to wear a face covering in church. Masks will be available, and we have reusable ones for you to keep and reuse.



7 Medical advice discourages the use of cash right now. We are encouraging people to give electronically. If you need to use cash we will have a box for you to make your offering.



8 As you enter our churches you will be asked to follow a one-way system. This will enable everyone to enter and exit our buildings safely and efficiently.



9 Due to restricted numbers we may ask you to sit in a particular seat. Couples and families from the same household can still sit together in certain areas. Please be understanding if you are shown to a seat that is not in your usual place.



10 The Scottish Government have told churches that in order to open for worship we must take part in NHS Scotland's 'Test & Protect' system. This means that as you enter the building you will be asked for your name and phone number. This will be stored securely on the premises for 21 days, along with the time you enter and leave the church. Should someone in the congregation fall ill and test positive for Covid-19 the details of who was in the church with that person will be passed to the NHS who will then make contact with those who may be at a greater risk of contracting the virus.

Marking Life's Events

As we move out of lockdown our churches are ready and willing to work with people to help mark those life changing events.

Birth - Baptism & Blessing

If you have had a child and wish to mark it then you may wish to consider a service of blessing. This can take place anywhere, but would normally be held in church during worship. If you worship with us then you may wish to consider the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for your child. Baptism will almost always take place in church during public worship.

Marriage

Our ministers are always happy to speak to couples about conducting their marriage ceremony. As part of Phase 3 these can take place outside or inside (a church or other building) but are strictly limited to a total of 20 people, which includes the person conducting the ceremony.

Death - Funeral & Memorial

It has been a real sadness for many not to be able to mark the death of a loved one with a funeral in our community. Our ministers are now able to lead funeral services in church. At the present time we are only offering this for burials (as a service can already be held at a Crematorium) and again attendance is limited to 20 people, which includes the minister. Our ministers are also willing to speak to families who wish to consider planning a memorial service for a loved one who died during the pandemic when more people are able to gather in church.

Whatever your need, or however you wish to mark the events that matter to you, our ministers are happy to talk.

GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH

As Christians, we believe that one way we thank God for the love he has shown to us is by making a financial offering to his work. As members of a church family, we believe that one of the best ways to do this is to give to our church to enable God's love to be spread by our work in the community.

There are a number of ways you can give you your church.

You can give online by visiting **www.churchofscotland.org.uk** and clicking on the 'Donate' button. When you select 'Give to a congregation', start typing 'Lanark' and the names of our congregations will appear. You will then be able to give a gift online.

You can send a cheque to the church (addresses on page 2) made out to 'Greyfriars Parish Church' or 'St. Nicholas Parish Church'.

Should you have FWO envelopes with cash that you have put aside each week, these can be handed in to the respective Church Offices. Alternatively, if you are unable to get out you can contact us and someone will arrange collection. Please call the church offices (details on page 2) and leave a message and someone will be in touch.

We acknowledge that these are difficult times for many people however both of our churches have lost significant income due to the lockdown and the continuing closure of our buildings to community groups who pay to use them.

These are challenging times for our churches and we appreciate anything you feel able to give.