

*PILRIG ST PAUL'S
CHURCH*



SEPTEMBER 2024

PILRIG St PAUL'S MAGAZINE

We welcome articles and thank-you letters from members and friends. Articles are published in both the printed magazine and on-line, unless otherwise arranged with the editor (eg, where personal information is concerned, either names and other details are omitted or specific permission to use details has been received). All contributors must provide their name, please, which is normally attached to the article. We reserve the right to edit articles. Changes other than spelling or grammar will, where possible, be discussed with the contributor. The views expressed are those of individual contributors and not necessarily those of Pilrig St. Paul's Church or the Church of Scotland.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Church website: <http://www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pilrigstpauls/>

If you wish to follow the readings that we use in church each Sunday you can access them at <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

For information regarding Girl Guiding and Scouts:

www.girlguiding.org.uk

hello@scouts.scot Sign up to our mailing list here:

<https://mailchi.mp/f8740e88c94b/pilrig>

This is a reduced version of the magazine for general publication. Members and adherents who would like a full prayer, pastoral and bereavement or thank you list, or a financial update should contact magazine Editor. For more information about our groups and organisations, find contact details at the back of the magazine. Although no longer a requirement, hand sanitizer and 1 metre spaced seating are available. You are welcome to wear a mask while with us.

PILRIG ST PAUL'S CHURCH SEPTEMBER 2024

On week 1 of the month we meet jointly with Leith St Andrew's and St Margaret's Restalrig in turn. From week 2 of every month, Sunday services take place in each church. At Pilrig St Paul's, doors open 10.30am Services are also on Facebook, to watch live or later.

ALL WELCOME TO EVERY SERVICE

Sunday 1st September 10.30am (please note time)
Joint Service at St Margaret's Retsalrig

Sunday 8th September 11am Service in the Sanctuary
Thursday 12th September 10.30-12noon Open Doorway

Sunday 15th September 11am Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday 22nd September 11am Service in the Sanctuary
Thursday 26th September 10.30-12noon Open Doorway
7.30pm. Board meeting Session Room

Sunday 29th September 11am Service in the Sanctuary
2.30 pm Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service

CROSSREACH
Care you can put your faith in

Copies of the current CrossReach news can be found in the open doorway.



Our foodbank at Pilrig St Paul's continues to be open for clients. Please bring donations of non-perishable items and put them in the basket in the church vestibule. Any plastic carrier bags you have will be really helpful. Please put them in the donations basket.

From our Minister:

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

• *Isaiah 43:19*

Dear All,

Throughout the history of our faith, God has called men and women of all ages to step out on journeys into the unknown; and to open their hearts and minds to new experiences. Often in the most difficult of circumstances, ordinary people were asked to trust in God and embrace new ways of being, new ways of thinking, and new ways of expressing their faith. For God, Jeremiah was not too young to become a prophet; Sarah, not too old to become a mother; David, not too flawed to lead his people; Mary, not too lowly to be chosen as the mother of Jesus; Zacchaeus, not too short to see new horizons; and Saul, not too callous to change his heart. By trusting in God each one of them went on to enrich their relationship with God in ways that transformed their lives and the lives of others.

As the Church of Scotland faces the challenges of an uncertain future it will continue to depend on the faith of ordinary people who are prepared to trust in God and embrace new ways of being the Church. The congregation at Pilrig St. Paul's is being asked to embrace a new thing: A new parish with two buildings and two ministers working together in partnership. This new parish will be under the guidance and leadership of a new Kirk Session made up from an equal number of elders from Pilrig St. Paul's, Leith St. Andrew's and St. Margaret's. You will hear more about this process in the coming months.

By bringing together the resources of three congregations (both members and finances) the hope is that new approaches to worship, mission and ministry can be developed. One hope is that new forms of worship will be started at Pilrig St. Paul's, with an emphasis on the 25-44 age group who account for 50% of the local population numbers. The hope is that other new initiatives will also be developed, and members are encouraged to get involved and submit their thoughts and ideas. There will no doubt be challenges as we adapt to these new changes; but change we must if we hope to develop our witness and service to the people of Leith and beyond.

The history of our faith shows us that the lives of people grow and flourish, whenever they embrace God's call in changing circumstances and seek new ways to be disciples of faith, hope, and love in the world.

Blessings

Mark

The members of the guild enjoyed lunch out. This marked the closing of our branch of the Guild.

Prayer Corner

Please remember in your prayers members and friends of the congregation who are ill or infirm at this time. A full list is available in the printed version of the magazine.

Please let the minister or me know of someone to include in this section.
Catriona Blackwood



THANK YOU

We have received thanks from many members for prayers, flowers, cards, visits, phone calls, texts and support received following illness, celebrations, bereavements and accidents.



PASTORAL CARE and MAGAZINE

Hello,

Thank you for all the contributions this month, including to those who put articles in the box outside the Session room – I do check it! For those members and adherents who read the magazine online, I am happy to supply a full prayer and thank you list or extra contact details. This is not made available on line for reasons of confidentiality.

There have been plenty of flowers to distribute recently. Thanks to Lisa Innes for organising the rota, putting in most of the flowers, and arranging distribution.

I am happy to be able to print the update of our Union, read out at our last joint service by John Innes. The minister also refers to it in his letter.

It is daunting, exciting and a little bit of the unknown, but thanks to those doing all the careful planning and prayers of support, we will have a structure to give us a good start and to build on.

Catriona Blackwood
Pastoral Committee member and Magazine Editor

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UPDATE ON UNION OF THREE CHURCHES

The Steering Group has continued to meet monthly and is made up of the clergy team plus two representatives from each congregation.

Rev Stewart Weaver, Convener of Deployment Group, attended the Steering Group on June 11 to discuss the Basis of Union, Basis of Team Ministry and Basis of Reviewable Charge. These draft documents have now been submitted to the national bodies for review – we have had word that, from a church law perspective, the draft Basis of Union and draft Basis of Team Ministry documents are fine. We're still waiting to hear back about the Basis of Reviewable Charge but are not anticipating that there will be any difficulty with those.

We'll now move forward to voting on these documents – all three Sessions and all three congregations need to do this in time for us to submit the final documents to Presbytery for approval at their meeting on 5 November.

The congregations will aim to unite on 1 January 2025.

Property Conveners and Treasurers in each congregation continue to work together on areas within their remit.

Since the last update, we have set up sub-groups with representatives from each congregation to consider different aspects of the union.

There are sub-groups in the following areas: the role of Ministerial Development staff, fellowship, pastoral care, Powerpoint/recording services, safeguarding, social media/website, transport and worship. We'd like to thank everyone who has volunteered to help us to progress with the union.

Please continue to pray for our three congregations as we navigate the challenges of uniting. With God's grace, we can work as a team to deliver mission to this area of Edinburgh

Pilrig St Paul's Church

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU
JOINING US IN THE OPEN
DOORWAY TO RELAX AND
CHAT OVER TEA AND
COFFEE**

OPEN TO ALL

10.30am – 12noon

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

**PILRIG STREET, MIDDLE DOOR,
PLEASE RING THE BELL**



Edinburgh Northeast Foodbank needs drivers and driver's mate/assistant

Are you looking for a new challenge?

Are you able to spare a few hours each week?

**Are you enthusiastic and able to build good relationships
and**

**Are you someone like us who believes good food should be
accessible to all and food poverty is an injustice?**

**Edinburgh NE Foodbank works with local supermarkets
and businesses who are willing to donate food to our Leith
warehouse, foodbank centres and Pantry. In supporting
the operation of the Foodbank, they also help to reduce
food waste in our City.**

**Pickups and distributions usually happen each Tuesday
and Friday morning, however, don't let this stop you
applying we may need you other times!**

**There is a level of fitness required to help move load and
unload crates of food donations in loaded crates.**

If you cannot drive we can still use your strength.

**If you are able and willing to drive a transit van, you will need
to hold a full driving licence.**

Sounds like you?

**Please contact alison@edinburghne.foodbank.org.uk or
call 07723 325 311 for more information**

GIVING TO PILRIG ST PAUL'S

Please consider making a donation by visiting our website www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk and donate using the PayPal button. You can also use the QR code below by scanning it on your mobile phone. We have set up a JustGiving page, the url is <https://www.justgiving.com/edinburghpilrigstpaulsparishchurch> We do have to pay a handling fee for any donations received through PayPal or JustGiving so don't receive the full amount donated. Thank you for your continued support.

Mark Wexelstein

Email treasurer@pilrigstpauls.org.uk Phone 0131 665 6881



CONTACT DETAILS

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HALL LETS –contact psp.halluse@gmail.com to make a booking

Scottish Charity no. SCO07277