

**PILRIG St PAUL'S
CHURCH NOVEMBER
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.

<p>Cover shows the collage of knitted poppies and art work made for the 2016 Remembrance Sunday.</p>
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PILRIG ST PAUL'S CHURCH NOVEMBER 2024

ALL WELCOME TO EVERY SERVICE and EVENT

Sunday 3rd November: 10.30am JOINT SERVICE
St Margaret's Church Restalrig. **Please note 10.30am start**

Sunday 10th November: 10.50am Remembrance Service in the
Sanctuary Rev Dr John Cowie **Please note 10.50am start**

Thursday 14th November Open Doorway 10.30am – 12noon

Saturday 16th November 11-1pm St Margaret's Christmas Fayre
McLaren Halls see also page 14

Sunday 17 November: 11am Service in the Sanctuary Rev Kristina
Herbold Ross (formerly Workplace Chaplain for West Edinburgh and
minister at Chalmers Memorial Church, Port Seton, East Lothian)

Sunday 24 November: 11am Service in the Sanctuary
Rev Peter Graham

Thursday 28th November Open Doorway 10.30am – 12noon
7.30pm Board meeting Session Room

**From pages 6-12, you will find information about our church
union and maps to get to the Restalrig Village Building.**



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.**

Introducing the Interim Moderator

With the Rev Mark Foster's move to Pitlochry, the Presbytery of Edinburgh & West Lothian has appointed the Rev Matthew Ross to be Interim Moderator of Pilrig St Paul's. The role of the Interim Moderator is temporarily to exercise administrative responsibilities of a Parish Minister, such as moderating the Kirk Session, as well as arranging for preachers to conduct worship. He will serve as Interim Moderator until the union creating the new Leith & Restalrig Parish Church takes effect.

Mr Ross is current locum minister at Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church (a recent union of Colinton and Juniper Green). Last year, he returned from working in Geneva with the World Council of Churches. He has also worked recently part-time for the University of Glasgow in the School of Critical Studies / Theology & Religious Studies. He studied Divinity at New College, University of Edinburgh (in the same year as the Rev Mark Foster), has a Law degree from the University of Edinburgh and a postgraduate Master of Theology degree from the University of Glasgow. His wife Kristina, also a minister, will preach at Pilrig St Paul's on 17th November.

He was ordained to ministry in the Church of Scotland in 1998. Following 18 months as a probationer at Duddingston Kirk in Edinburgh, his first ministerial charge was Ceres & Springfield Parish Church, near Cupar in Fife, from 1998 until 2003. He then moved to Brussels to work with the Conference of European Churches. In 2009 he returned to Scotland, become minister at Cockpen & Carrington linked with Lasswade & Rosewell in Midlothian. In 2014 he was appointed as General Secretary of Action of Churches Together in Scotland, then moved to Geneva in 2018 to work with the World Council of Churches. He has also served as acting Depute Clerk to the General Assembly of the

Church of Scotland in 2002-03, was Moderator of the Church of Scotland's Presbytery of Europe in 2009 and has been a member of several boards and committees of the Church of Scotland nationally.

His work on *diakonia* (church-related social care) with the World Council of Churches has given him an international insight into issues of peace, justice, reconciliation and the continuing need to tackle issues such as poverty and access to health, food and clean water. He has written and/or edited several books and publications for the World Council of Churches, including the WCC's major study document "*Called to Transformation: Ecumenical Diakonia*".

Rev Matthew Ross can be contacted by email:
revmross@gmail.com



We are delighted to welcome Mr Ross. He has arranged pulpit cover until we become Larch in January. The names of the minister taking each service will appear with the usual what's on information on page 3. Ed

From the Clerk's Desk

This will probably be one of the last times I write in the magazine as Session Clerk, everything will change once we enter the Union with St. Margaret's and Leith St. Andrew's to form Leith and Restalrig Church on 1st January 2025 (subject to Presbytery approval).

The new congregation will have a different form of governance from what we've been used to – the Model Deed of Constitution – where the Kirk Session and Congregational board are separate entities, the Kirk Session dealing with spiritual matters and the Congregational Board dealing with temporal matters – finance and property etc.

The new Constitution - called a Unitary Constitution merges both functions into one body. There will be a core executive formed of 12 elders – four from each of the old congregations, these will be the Trustees of the new congregation. Then there will be several sub-committees to deal with property, finance, worship, pastoral care, safeguarding, mission and so on, elders from the congregations will sit on these sub-committees as will interested members of the congregations.

We now find ourselves vacant with Rev. Mark Foster taking up the call to Blair Atholl and Struan linked with Pitlochry and we wish him and Joanne well in their new venture in a rural setting after 11 years with us at Pilrig St. Paul's.

The new congregation will have a team ministry consisting of two Ministers of Word and Sacrament and a part time Ministries Development Staff (MDS). One of those ministers will be Rev. Rob Mckenzie, he will be Moderator of the Kirk Session, the other two posts will be advertised early in the new year.

The principle worship location will be the Restalrig Village charge so Sunday morning worship will be centred there, the Leith Walk charge will be the focus for outreach and alternative worship seeking to develop on initiatives like the Open Doorway, Oasis of Peace and Community Cinema.

You'll notice we've chosen two different names for the buildings to distance ourselves from the previous names.

The time between now and December 31st is going to be difficult for us, there will be two more joint services – one at St. Margaret's in November and the final one at Leith St. Andrew's in December as they prepare to say goodbye to their buildings – the sale of their building is mandated by Presbytery. The rest of the time we will have a variety of locum ministers, Rev. Dr. John Cowie, Rev. Kristine Herbold Ross and Rev. Peter Graham. Our Interim Moderator is Rev. Matthew Ross who introduced himself to us at the Joint Harvest Service in October. Everything we do in those two months will be the last of its kind, Communion, Remembrance, Christmas and I'd ask everyone to support us as much as they can, and also take the opportunity to support Leith St. Andrew's and St. Margarets whenever you can, change is coming for us all and it isn't always easy to deal with. The release of funds from the sale of property (church buildings, manses etc) will fund much needed refurbishment of both remaining buildings to make them fit for the coming decades so look out for announcements about that in the New Year.

Please pray for everyone on the Steering Group working hard to make the union a reality and a success. Edmund Farrow spoke on Sunday about gathering volunteers for many of the functions we want to carry into the new congregation so if you're able to help with the Open Doorway, Oasis of Peace, Welcome team, foodbanks, readings, prayers, teas etc, please ask for a sign-up form. The more people we have involved, the less often we will have to do them.

Blessings
John Innes
Session Clerk

Leith and Restalrig Church of Scotland

Transport Options for Sunday Worship

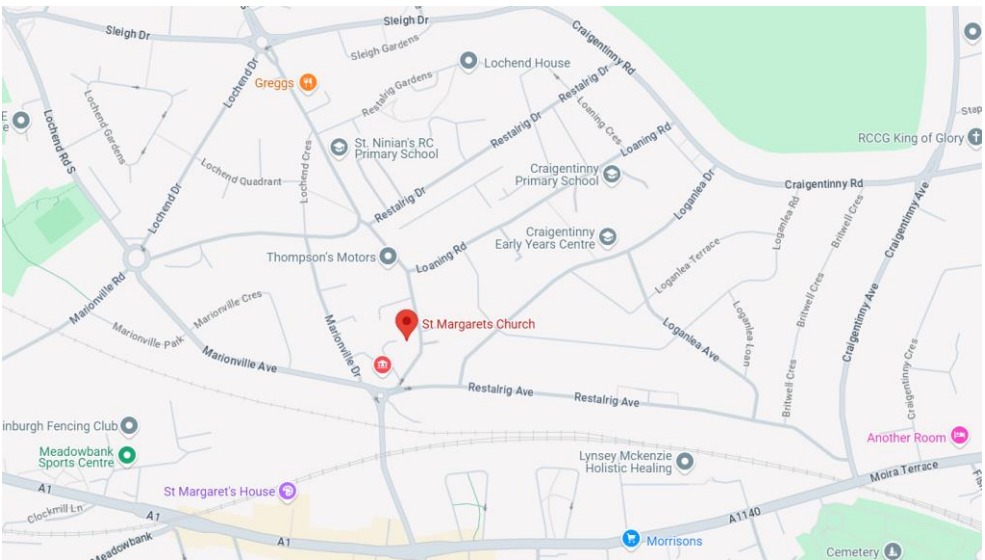
The new congregation of Leith and Restalrig (LARCH) is a union of Leith St. Andrew's, Pilrig St. Paul's and St. Margaret's Restalrig. Sunday worship for the new congregation will be in the LARCH Restalrig building, previously St. Margaret's Restalrig.

If you are driving the address is 29 Restalrig Road South, Edinburgh, EH7 6LF.

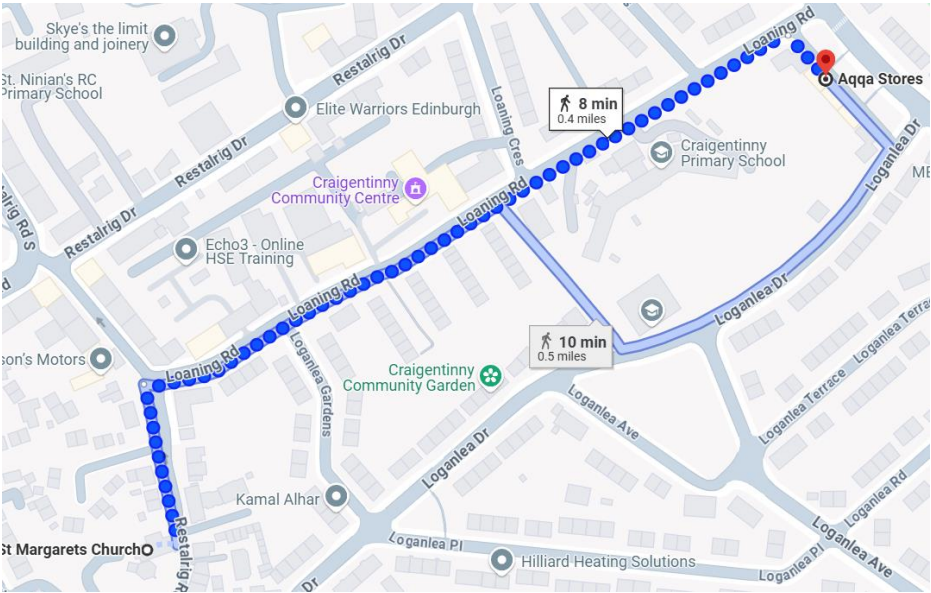
Most of the streets around the church are free to park but they can be busy.

Details of the buses that stop the closest to the church are detailed on the following pages.

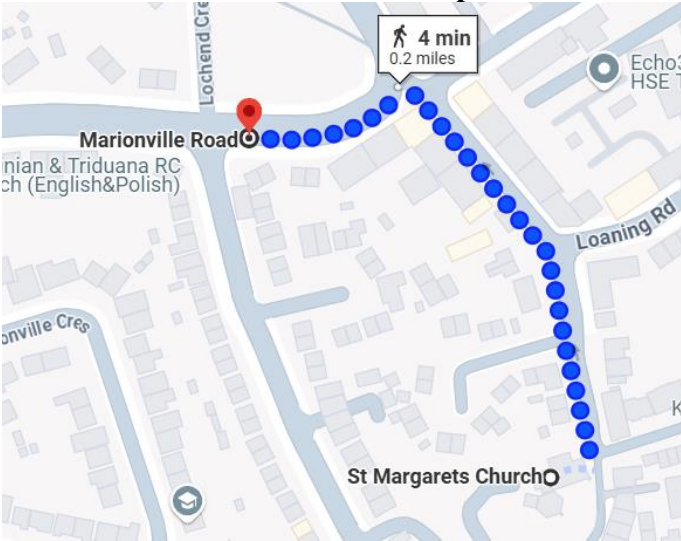
Timetables for the buses are available at <https://www.lothianbuses.com/timetables/>



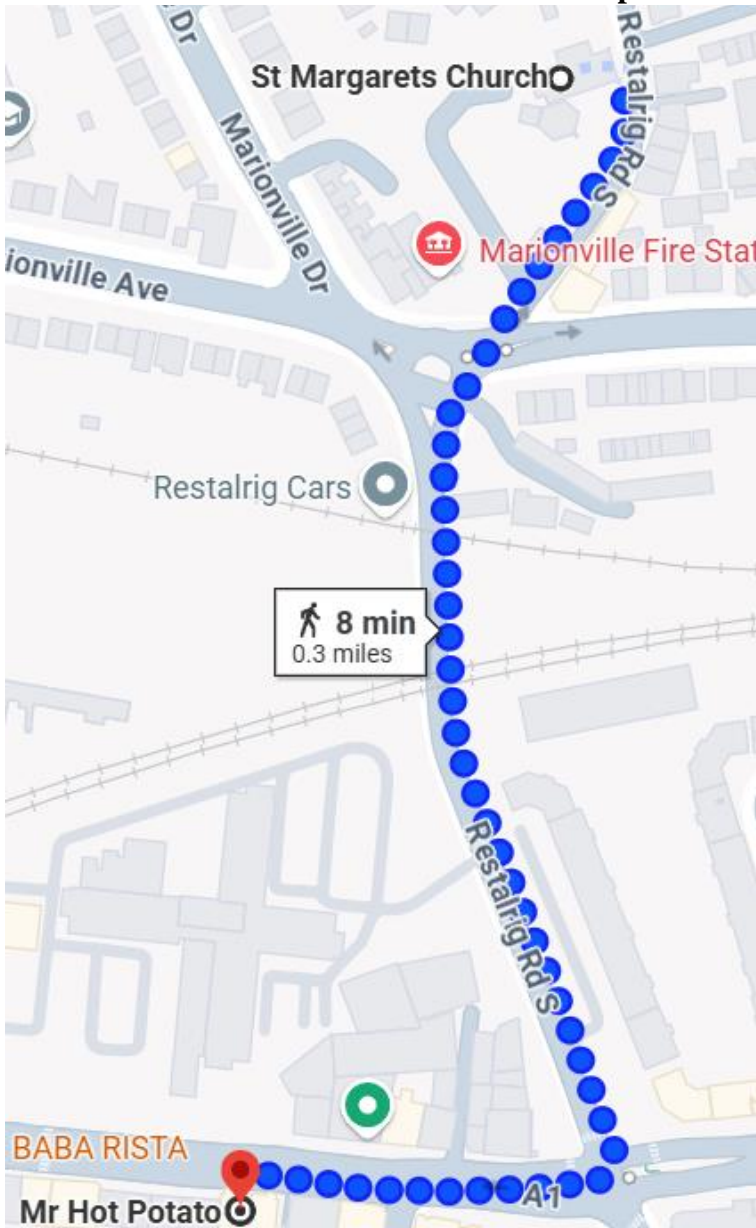
21 / 49 Loaning Road Bus Stop



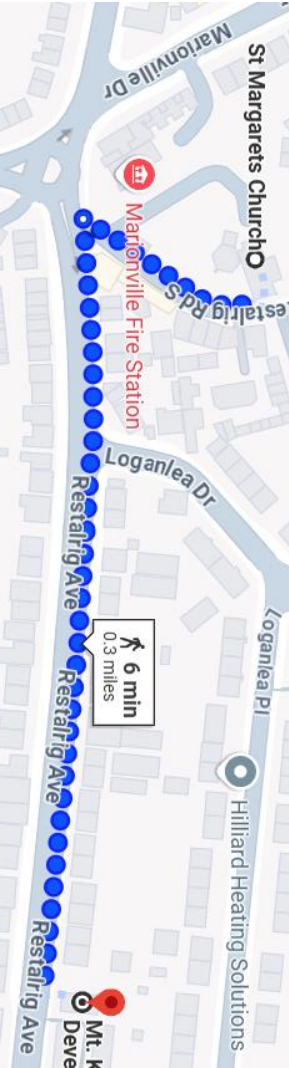
19 / 34 Marionville Drive Bus Stop



4 / 5/ 15/ 26 / 44 Meadowbank House Bus Stop



19 / 34 Marionville Drive Bus Stop



LARCH volunteers needed

As you hopefully all know, we are heading towards a union with Leith St Andrew's and St Margaret's Restalrig. From 1st January we will all be Leith and Restalrig Church of Scotland – LARCH for short. Sunday morning services will be in the LARCH Restalrig Village building (currently St Margaret's) and there will be something different at other times of the week in the LARCH Leith Walk building (currently Pilrig St Paul's). To begin with at LARCH Leith Walk we will build on the mid-week events we already have: Open Doorway and Oasis of Peace. Open Doorway is currently the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 10.30am to 12 noon at Pilrig St Paul's. People can drop in for refreshments, chat or quiet prayer. We hope to add some interactive spaces in the sanctuary to give visitors an opportunity for thought and reflection. We will also experiment with other times of day. Oasis of Peace runs April-June and Sept-Dec, meeting every Wednesday in Leith St Andrew's at 10.15am for a time of prayer, worship, reflection and calm, followed by a cup of tea and a chat. This will move to LARCH Leith Walk.

It would be great to know who is interested in helping on Sundays and/or during the week. For starters, we need volunteers to help plan and run everything, read readings, collect the offering, serve refreshments and welcome people. Having a mix of faces from the three congregations involved on a Sunday during the first few weeks after the union is particularly important.

There will be sign-up sheets in the Session Room on Sunday mornings. Please volunteer for whatever you can - we're just gauging interest at this point so you're not committing to anything. I'm very happy to answer any questions.

Thank you to those who have already signed up and, whether you sign up or not, please pray for the new congregation as we share God's love with each other and the local community. Without prayer, we won't get anywhere!

Edmund Farrow

ejmfarrow@gmail.com



PASTORAL CARE and MAGAZINE

Hello Everyone,

It has been good to keep up with members, both those who are able to come to church and those who are less able to get out, in person, by phone, cards, magazine and flower delivery. Thank you for keeping us up to date so we know who needs support or to share something special in their lives.

Please may I have articles for December by November 17th, thank you. I am planning a display of Christmas messages from members to fellow members. **Please limit this to a general greeting to all**, personal greetings from one member to another cannot be used, sorry. If you are willing for this to be published in the online version, available to anyone, please add permission in your email or letter. (For data protection, I need to record this). First names, or first names and initial will be used.

The Session Clerk has written about the union on pages 6 and 7. In the middle of the magazine is information about getting to the Restalrig (St Margaret's) building. Please ask Mark Wexelstein if you would like a larger copy of the maps. On page 12 Edmund Farrow has information about signing up for taking part in services and volunteering for duties in LARCH the new church. Some of us were able to do this on Sunday, but we look forward to more joining us.

Catriona Blackwood
Pastoral Committee member and Magazine Editor
magazine@pilrigstpauls.org

ST. MARGARET'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Christmas Fayre at St Margaret's on 16th November 11-1pm

If you are able, we are looking for donations of

- Books / Jigsaws
- New unwanted gifts.(no bric a brac)
- Chocolate
- Wine
- Homebaking nearer the time .

The fellowship team will appreciate what ever you are able to donate.

Craightinny Lunch Club are looking for volunteers for the following dates:

Friday 17th January, Friday 21st February, Friday 21st March

Friday 25th April, Friday 23rd May, Friday 13th June

Contact Rob McKenzie for more information robmcknz1@gmail.com

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 me know of someone to include in this section.

Catriona Blackwood

THANK YOU

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





CONTACT DETAILS

PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH 1b Pilrig Street Edinburgh EH6 5AH

www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk

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

Any other matters – email mail@pilrigstpauls.org.uk

Scottish Charity no. SCO07277