



**PILRIG St  
PAUL'S  
CHURCH  
DECEMBER  
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](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

[hello@scouts.scot](mailto: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 DECEMBER 2024**

All services in Pilrig St Paul's to be taken by Peter Graham

All welcome to every service and event

Any further Christmas services will be intimated nearer the time.

### **Sunday 1st December** – 11am

Joint service at Leith St Andrew's, no service in Pilrig St Paul's

### **Sunday 8th December** - **gift service** supporting

**Circle** and **Food bank** donations of money welcomed for both charities, please mark your envelope accordingly. Food donations also welcomed for the foodbank.

Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup> Open Doorway 10.30-12

### **Sunday 15th December** – Communion, see page 9

### **Sunday 22nd December** – Service of Lessons and Carols

Thursday 26th December Open doorway closed

### **Sunday 29th December** – **final Sunday Service**

### **Looking forward...**

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 1<sup>st</sup> service of Leith and Restalrig Church,** **Restalrig Building. 11 am**

See also page 7

**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.**

*From our interim Moderator:*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* These words from Isaiah 9:6 were written many centuries before the birth of Jesus, in prophecy of his coming.

The message of peace that Jesus brings is both timeless and very timely, given current instability and conflicts around the world. As I write, the situations in Ukraine and Russia, as well as in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon, remain unresolved. The cycle of death and destruction is utterly contrary to Jesus’ call for “life in all its fullness” (John 10:10).

The birth of Jesus took place in a land which was riven with instability. The murderous commands of King Herod, the vassal king under the Roman occupation, contrasts acutely with the message that Christ came into the world to proclaim. Jesus himself experienced refugee status – being taken by Mary and Joseph to safety in Egypt before the death of Herod, when it was safe enough to travel back to Nazareth. The gold given by the Magi must have been vital in sustaining Jesus, Mary and Joseph during those years in Egypt away from the income of the Nazareth carpenter’s shop. Over two thousand years on, the world is still not yet free of such hatred – but the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ proclaims a different and better way. I pray that this will guide and challenge thinking in 2025.

The Church of Scotland’s Presbytery of Edinburgh & West Lothian has now formally approved the union creating Leith & Restalrig Parish Church with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025; at that date I will also cease to be your Interim Moderator. It has been a pleasure to get to know you over recent weeks and I send my prayerful good wishes for the

future. The Rev Rob Mackenzie will be the first new minister of the united parish. Please do give him your support and pray for him. I would also like to thank all the office bearers of Pilrig St Paul's for their superb service over many years.

The end of December will mark the end of regular Sunday morning services in the Leith Walk church building. Despite this, the work of the Church locally will continue – and I hope and pray will grow. Pilrig St Paul's church building is NOT closing! There will be new initiatives in the Leith Walk church building – ideas for midweek services and events will be forthcoming. Please do support the new Leith & Restalrig Parish Church; from January please do come to the Sunday morning services at 11 am in the Restalrig church building. Above all, irrespective of buildings, the Church is the body of God's people in the world – called to live out Christ's message of love, justice, peace, truth and salvation.

Kristina (my wife, who led worship on 17<sup>th</sup> November) and I wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas and every blessing for 2025.

Rev Matthew Ross  
Interim Moderator



## **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.

*Happy Christmas and Best Wishes to all for a  
good 2025* *Maureen and Ronald E.*

*A very Merry Christmas and best wishes for  
2025 to all.* *Love Michelle*

*Wishing all our friends at PSP a Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year.*  
*Love from Lisa and John*

*A very Happy Christmas and New Year to all  
my friends at Pilrig St Paul's Church.*  
*Love and Blessings, Irene E*

*Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2025 to  
all our friends at PSP.* *Catriona and Bill*

*Thinking of our friends in Pilrig St Paul's at  
Christmas time and wishing you all well.*  
*Murdo and Joy*

## **Steering Group Update**

As this is the last joint service before our three congregations unite, the Steering Group wanted to give you an update on what will happen as we become one Church.

Firstly, the Basis of Union documents, having been approved by all three individual congregations were also approved at the Presbytery meeting in November. Law Department and the Scottish charities regulator have approved the change of name. So from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, the new congregation of Leith and Restalrig Church will come into being. The last services as the current congregations of Leith St Andrew's, Pilrig St Paul's and St Margaret's Restalrig will take place in their respective buildings on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December. This will also be John Wells' last service before he retires.

The first service as Leith and Restalrig Church will take place in the current St Margaret's building on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January and will begin at 11am. Rob Mackenzie will be the minister. As soon as possible after the union we will begin the search for an additional minister and for a part-time MDS worker. Both positions have been approved by Presbytery. Sunday morning services will all be in the current St Margaret's building. We are likely to informally use the acronym LARCH for the new congregation and will refer to the current St Margaret's building as LARCH Restalrig and the current Pilrig St Paul's building as LARCH Leith Walk.

It is intended that LARCH Leith Walk will be used for worship outside of a Sunday morning. Full plans are still to be worked out, but Oasis of Peace, which currently takes place at Leith St Andrew's, will begin on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 10.15 in the Open Doorway at LARCH Leith Walk. Oasis of Peace is a short service where we sing hymns, reflect on a Bible passage and pray for others. It is

followed by a cuppa and chat, and we would be delighted to welcome anyone to these services.

As a member of any of the three congregations you will automatically become a member of Leith and Restalrig Church. We do hope to welcome you all as we begin a new chapter in the lives of these churches but recognise that some of you might find it easier to attend a Church nearer to home. If that is the case for you, please do let your Session Clerk or Roll Keeper know.

If you have a standing order for your weekly offering, please keep that going. Eventually bank account details will change and we'll be sure to let you know but, in the meantime, all account details will remain the same.

We will have a new website which has been set up but is not yet live. The website address will be: [larch.org.uk](http://larch.org.uk) The office phone number will be 0131 554 7400. You will be able to contact Rob either by email [AMacKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AMacKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk) or phone 0131 553 2122. A new email list will be set up for sending out Church News etc. Everyone on the current email lists can expect a message asking if you want to be part of the list for the new congregation. To comply with Data Protection rules, you do need to actively agree to this so please watch out for the email probably sometime in December. If you miss the message don't worry, as you'll be able to sign up at any time. The office email will be [mail@larch.org.uk](mailto:mail@larch.org.uk) There will be new email addresses for booking halls, contacting the Church secretary etc and we'll let you know how to contact people as soon as that's all set up.

Groups which currently meet in the three buildings will continue to do so. We don't know yet what will happen with Leith St Andrew's building but any decision is likely to take some months so for now, groups will continue there too. Foodbank will also continue in all three buildings.



This is a time of big change for all of us and it's going to take time to get used to being part of a new Congregation. However, our joint services have meant we have had the chance to get to know each other and this will continue as we move forward. There will be some sadness of course but we hope this will also be an exciting time of opportunities for the new congregation. The Steering Group would like to thank everyone who has helped as we've worked towards the union whether that's been by being part of a sub-group, sharing your opinions, coming along to joint services or taking part in meetings. It's been a long process and although we're now nearing an ending, we're also nearing a new beginning.

And a few other points....

Will there be familiar faces taking part ?

People from all 3 churches will be on welcome duty, readings, prayers, teas, and other things. To take part, please speak to Edmund Farrow.

What if I can't travel there?

Speak to Mark Wexelstein about bus routes and car sharing.

If you decide to go to a church nearer home, we'll miss you. Please speak to John Innes about transferring.

What about the things we are used to?

We will have ideas from all three churches: pastoral work and visits, flowers, Safeguarding, a magazine, Life and Work, the Open Doorway, the Foodbank, CrossReach, Oasis of Peace and others. Halls in both buildings will be in use for organisations and groups.

*The Steering Group have done a magnificent job bringing everything together for us. Thank you for the time and hard work that has gone into this – and they're still working on things! Thank you for making this available for the magazines ahead of the service on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Ed*

**The Kirk Session of  
Pilrig St Paul's Church  
invite you  
to  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion  
on  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 11 am  
This is the Lord's Table. Anyone who loves God  
and responds to Christ's invitation to join  
together in this feast is welcome to join us in the  
celebration.  
As well as wine, there are cups of plain water on  
the serving trays, please take whichever you  
prefer.**

CROSSREACH

On behalf of Crossreach, I would like to thank all members who so kindly purchased goods from the Crossreach Christmas Catalogue this year. The total orders received amounted to £224 which was a marvellous result.

All profits from the sale of goods go towards funding the work of Crossreach in Scotland, so, because of your purchase, someone somewhere will be given the help they need. Thank you once again.

Best Wishes, Christine.  
Christine Edington (Crossreach Contact)



## PASTORAL CARE and MAGAZINE

Hello Everyone,

Greetings to all members and friends. This is the last of the Pilgrimage St Paul's magazines, but there WILL be a magazine in the new church. The final details are being worked out and will be announced during services and in electronic communications. Thank you for all the interest and support in the 20 odd years I have been doing this! Thanks too, to those who have contributed, proof read and printed it.

The new Pastoral care group will be letting everyone know details of how this will work, incorporating ideas from all three churches. At present the number 25 bus is diverted and stops at Marionville Drive (the Elbow Bend, Munrospun) like the 19 and 34, which is helpful as it is a short walk to the Restalrig Building. The number is not on the stops as they may go back to the original route.

Catriona Blackwood

Pastoral Committee member and Magazine Editor      554 6183

### 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. Members and adherents can receive a full list form the editor. Please let the editor know of someone to include in this section.

**CONTACT DETAILS FOR  
DECEMBER 2024**



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[www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk](http://www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk)

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**HALL LETS** –contact [psp.halluse@gmail.com](mailto:psp.halluse@gmail.com) to make a booking.

Scottish Charity no. SCO07277

[www.leithchurchesforum.org.uk](http://www.leithchurchesforum.org.uk)

**CONTACT DETAILS FROM JANUARY 2025  
LEITH AND RESTALRIG CHURCH**

MINISTER: Rev Rob MacKenzie [AMacKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AMacKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
0131 553 2122

Website: [Larch.org.uk](http://Larch.org.uk)

Office: 0131 554 7400 [mail@larch.org.uk](mailto:mail@larch.org.uk)

Scottish Charity no. SC012680

PLEASE USE THE CURRENT CONTACT DETAILS MEANTIME. THE NEW  
ONES WILL BE ACTIVATED AFTER THE UNION.