

**PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2021**



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 also set up a JustGiving page and 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.

If you shop online you can support the church when you shop on Amazon. If you are using their webpage can you go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and you can select Edinburgh: Pilrig St Paul's Parish Church of Scotland as the charity. For certain purchases we will receive up to 1.5% as a donation. You can now change the settings on their app and select the same charity name.

Thank you for your continued support and hopefully we will all be able to meet again soonish to worship together.

Mark Wexelstein

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

PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH FEBRUARY 2021

Once again we are unable to use our building for Worship, but this time we have been able to keep open our foodbank, thanks to Maria Croall and Colin Brown who have kindly offered to staff it each week at the moment.



Please join us for our recorded Facebook Service shown on Sundays at 11 am – all welcome

BBC Scotland have been showing ‘Reflections at the Quay’ each Sunday. The times of the broadcasts vary. Our members who do not have the internet have found this television broadcast particularly uplifting.

The Covid planning group, guided by Mark Foster, are keeping up to date with changes to the regulations and will implement them as soon as practicable.

(Covid Planning Group members: Rev Mark Foster, John Innes, Catriona Blackwood, Maria Croall, Aileen Fraser, and Mark Wexelstein)

Church activities and general information, see page 6

If you can, please continue collecting.....

Plastic milk bottle tops: blue or green with a 2 or 4 on them,

Plastic tops and lids with other colours and sizes

Flower bags

Stamps: cut out used postage stamps leaving a 1 cm margin

These will be gratefully received once we are up and running again. Thank you

From our minister

“Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young folk shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

- Isaiah 40: 29-31

“How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?”, asks the psalmist (Psalm 13:1). It is a good question, and it is a question that is repeated numerous times throughout the scriptures. How long must Abraham and Sarah have to wait for a child? How long must Moses and the people have to spend in the wilderness? How long would the exile in Babylon last?

We live in a time and a culture where waiting is something we seldom have to do. Appointments are scheduled to the minute. Messages can be received and sent in the blink of an eye rather than relying on days travelling through the postal system. Meals can be ‘pinged’ in seconds using the microwave. Photographs can be taken and shared immediately instead of being sent off to be developed. Credit cards allow us to purchase the things we want today without having to save in advance. So waiting is hard – especially for the younger generations who didn’t have to wait on the postman for letters; or wait for meals to be prepared and cooked from scratch; or wait until the savings jar was full before making another purchase.

Many people are asking “How long will the current restrictions last?” For they are feeling the inconvenience and frustration of waiting. Perhaps the older generations can help teach the younger

ones about how to wait? For they have lived through times of hardships, and waiting, and longing before. Perhaps the faith communities of old can also teach us something about waiting?

The stories from Scripture tell us that God knows that waiting can be hard. God knows how it can feel for us, when it seems that things are taking way too long. God gives us permission to ask, "How long is this going to last?"

God also reminds us that we have not been forgotten and that God's promises are truer than our perceptions. Scripture tells us that it was often in the times of waiting that people of faith came to realise the bigger picture, see a brighter future, and embrace a future vision that was beyond their own immediate needs and wants.

Our current time of waiting will come to an end – but all in good time. Until then, "Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord." (Psalm 31: 24)

Blessings,

Mark

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who sent a donation for the Christmas projects. We raised £450 and this was split among three causes and our own funds as follows:

£150 to Circle, who normally get the children's gifts from our gift service

£100 to the Sailors' Society.

£80 for the hampers for refugees

£120 to our funds.

Mark Wexelstein

Treasurer



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.

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 OR ARE ASKED TO CONTACT: magazine@pilrigstpauls.org.uk

Flowers

We have held back rotas for flower donations and delivery, due to current restrictions. We are continuing to send some flowers. Thank you for donations, this is much appreciated. Please consider donating to the flower fund during lockdown.

To make a donation:

The donation can be transferred to the church bank account.

Sort Code: 82-62-31 Account Number: 8466989

Account Name: Pilrig Saint Pauls Parish Church (Please note the check on account details being carried out by some banks may come back to say the account cannot be verified as this type of Clydesdale account can't be checked at present).

Please put your name in the reference field so we will know who has made the payment.

A cheque can be sent and should be made payable to Pilrig St. Paul's Parish Church. Please address it to the treasurer and send

to the church address, 1b Pilrig Street, Edinburgh, EH6 5AH.

You can also visit the church website [Pilrig St. Paul's Church – Scottish charity number SC007277](#) and make a payment through PayPal

Thank you,

Aileen Fraser,
Mark Wexelstein,
Catriona Blackwood



PASTORAL CARE AND MAGAZINE

Dear All,

I hope you had a pleasant Christmas and New Year, although with ever changing rules and guidance it would not be as planned. Sadly, we have had to close the Church for Services again. There are details of accessible services on page 1.

Thank you for contributions for this magazine. Articles for March should be with me by February 21st, please.

Catriona Blackwood
Pastoral Committee Member
554 6183
magazine@pilrigstpauls.org.uk

CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

As well as the magazine, updates are available on the website and facebook page.

Radio, TV, Internet Audio and Visual clips and some live streaming worship services that you can listen to and watch from home:

Thought for the Day:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00szxv6>

BBC Radio Four Sunday Worship:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qnds>

Songs of Praise:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006ttc5>

Recommended Podcast:

<https://robbell.com/portfolio/robcast/>

WordPress site at <https://onecfl.wordpress.com/> where you will find prayers, reflections and other items provided by the Ministers from the four Leith churches.

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

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

General information re donating to Pilrig St Paul's and information re articles for Pilrig St Paul's magazine can be found on the inside front cover.



Memories of Christmas including pretty trees made by a member



CONTACT DETAILS

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

www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk Church Office 0131 553 1876

HALL LETS - NO BOOKINGS ARE BEING TAKEN MEANTIME

When we are able to re-open our halls we will publicise this on our website, intimations and the magazine.

Scottish Charity no. SC007277

www.leithchurchesforum.org.uk

INFORMATION re 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, including the names in the prayer corner, it would normally be omitted from the on-line version). 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.