

EASTER PAST AND 2021 AT 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 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

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.

PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH MARCH/APRIL 2021

We have brought forward this edition of the magazine to update members as soon as we could.

UPDATE FROM COVID-19 PLANNING GROUP

Dear All,

I'm writing this with a heavy heart as I inform you that the COVID Planning Group has decided that we will not be opening the church doors for Easter Sunday. This decision was not made lightly, and I have no doubt that it will be a decision that will disappoint some of you. Yet, let me say clearly that I believe it is the correct decision – and that it is a courageous decision. Some of the greatest joys of Easter Sunday worship are:- the physical gathering of the people; the sharing of Easter greetings; the decoration of the Easter cross; joining together in singing the rousing Easter hymns and sharing our confessions of faith; and rejoicing in the sounds of Easter hallelujahs echoing around our beautiful sanctuary as we celebrate the Easter story. None of these things will be possible this year – even if we were to re-open our building for worship.

In addition, travel restrictions mean that those who are currently trained to operate our new Audio-Visual equipment would not be able to attend the service on Easter Sunday. So our worship would be limited to those present in the sanctuary and would exclude the wider community of faith from joining us online. 1

Congregations across the country are wrestling with the same dilemmas as we are and are making their own decisions based on their own circumstances and local contexts. We are aware of

several other Edinburgh and Leith based congregations who have also decided to remain closed for the time being.

Easter, where no Easter greetings are shared; no hallelujahs raised forth; and no hymns ringing out in the sanctuary is not what any of us would want. Therefore, we took the decision not to re-open our building for worship. Instead worship will be made available 'on-line' in the format that we have been accustomed to this past year, so that we can still share in some of the traditions and practices that we are unable to do in our building.

The COVID Planning Group will continue to complete all the paperwork required to re-open our buildings and we will aim to re-open as soon as it becomes practical and safe for us to do so. We hope that this will be late April or early May.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Mark Foster (on behalf of the COVID-19 Planning Group)

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.

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

Thank you to Maria and Colin who are continuing to staff our Foodbank on a Wednesday.



From our minister

Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." - Matthew 28:7

Dear All,

You will all be aware that each year the date for Easter Sunday moves. This is due to the Council of Nicea, which met in the year 325 AD and created a formula based on the phases of the moon to calculate the date for Easter each year. But did you know that almost every year there are two dates for Easter Sunday? There is one date for Western Christianity (The Roman Catholic, Anglican, Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches) and another date for Eastern Christianity (The Orthodox Churches). The difference arises from the late 1500's when the Western Churches adopted the Gregorian Calendar while the Eastern Churches retained the Julian Calendar. This means that their calculations for when Easter Sunday will fall are almost always different every year, except on rare occasions when it is celebrated on the same date for both sets of churches. 3

This year, Easter Sunday falls on 4 April (Western Christianity) and 2 May (Eastern Christianity). Normally the date for Orthodox Easter wouldn't be something that many of us would even notice, but this year perhaps the date has more prominence for us? At the time of writing this letter, the Scottish Government has given tentative dates for the easing of lockdown restrictions. However, even their most optimistic schedule would still prevent us from celebrating Easter Sunday in our usual ways. We are more hopeful that by the time we come to Orthodox Easter, churches may be able to worship in some more familiar ways. The plan then is for us to celebrate two Easters this year! [Please note: This doesn't mean that you get two lots of Easter eggs!] The first Easter (4

April) we plan to celebrate online due to the restrictions we are having to face. The second Easter (2 May) we plan to celebrate in our building.

Before the Council of Nicea, different congregations all celebrated Easter at different times of the year. As Christians it shouldn't matter which date we choose to celebrate the good news of Easter and the Risen Christ. It could be argued that it is something we should be celebrating every day! This year I look forward to sharing the Easter message with you all twice – or perhaps even more, as we continue to seek new ways to celebrate and share the good news of Easter and the Risen Christ in our daily lives.

Shalom
Mark

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



Hi Ladies and Gents, here we are at what would have been the end of another session, without meeting.

We hope you are all keeping well and trying to keep cheerful. Hopefully we will be able to get out and about and back to Church fairly soon.

As you will realise, The Guild and the Projects have suffered very badly in the last year, so if anyone feels they can help PLEASE send a donation to Fiona and we will arrange to pass it on to The Guild.

God bless all and take care. Marjory

If you do not have contact details for Fiona, please send donations to:

Fiona Rankin,
Guild Treasurer,
Pilrig St Paul's Church,
1b Pilrig Street,
EDINBURGH EH6 5AH

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



PASTORAL CARE AND MAGAZINE

Dear All,

We have brought forward this magazine, to update members as soon as possible following the latest meeting of our Covid 19 planning group.

If you had planned to send an article for this magazine, please send it as soon as it is ready and no later than 14th April to be sure of inclusion in the next magazine. I am not sure of the publication date of this, as it will depend on announcements from the Scottish Government and information from the Church of Scotland.

We have sent cards and flowers to several members this month, thanks to Christine Eddington and Aileen Fraser.

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



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK is 10-16 May 2021

There will be more details of this in the next magazine.

One Church for Leith Update from the Steering Group, Spring 2021

Dear friends,

My name is Robin Watson and I was delighted to be invited to act as independent chair of the Steering Group towards the end of 2019.

I am an architect working in Edinburgh and an elder in the Kirk, with extensive experience of church and community enhancement and regeneration project work. My passion is for people and for the creation of sustainable, healthy places.

I am delighted to be writing to you today with some encouraging news for the future of the churches in Leith.

JOINT KIRK SESSION MEETING ONE-CHURCH-FOR-LEITH

It is good to be able to report positive progress following a recent Joint Kirk Sessions' meeting of the four Leith congregations. 50 elders met by Zoom at the end of February. We had been due to hold this meeting in March 2020 but COVID-19 put paid to these plans. You will appreciate that it has proved difficult to sustain momentum through the past 12 months where so many were struggling with lockdown and adapting to new ways of worship and church life.

OUR SUBMISSION TO EDINBURGH PRESBYTERY

One of the reasons for re-energising discussions at this point is the need to report in March to Edinburgh Presbytery as it prepares its Presbytery Plan for 2022-32. In particular, every parish grouping in Presbytery is being asked for ideas for mission, with the challenges of reaching a younger generation and those currently not engaged with the church. This first stage in the process will be followed by further stages of consultation, with final agreement of the new plan in November 2021.

MISSION IDEAS FOR ONE-CHURCH-FOR-LEITH

To determine the mission focus for Leith, each of the four Kirk Sessions put forward ideas to the joint meeting. Elders discussed these to see what ideas gained the most enthusiastic response.

Aspirations included:

- Creating a new COMMUNITY HUB as an inviting place in the right location accessible to younger ages as well as older people offering a range of different things
- Developing a MOBILE APP for 'One Church for Leith' for anyone to use to watch or listen to well produced pieces and to follow up on links.
- Providing CAFÉ STYLE CHURCH to provide an alternative style of worship that draws on the strengths of the online worship

Elders recognised that there was a real priority to build relationships with the 18-40 age group in Leith. There was also agreement that any mission ideas need to be very well resourced and managed if they are to be as successful as the Joint Food Bank Project, which was established in 2013. We continue to believe that we will be in a better position to serve the people of Leith by pooling our leadership and resources to develop a radical vision for our church.

The meeting also agreed the revised **VISION STATEMENT** of One Church for Leith and how we look to form a single parish with a strong mission focus, as below.

I look forward to working with you all in the months ahead as we develop our exciting plans for 'One Church for Leith'.

With best wishes

Robin



The Vision for the Church of Scotland in Leith

Leith is a distinctive community which requires a unique approach from the Church.

Our aim is to become a single, mission-focused, unit which encompasses the present four parishes, and allows us to explore a radical vision to better serve the people of Leith.

We seek to actively engage with all relevant church bodies, both national and local, to develop new structures which will enable us to fulfil this aim.

We seek to make optimum use of our buildings and resources.

We will do this by:

- building on the existing close relationships which have developed over the past 25 years
- exploring creative and effective ways to become a more missional church in order to serve the whole of Leith, and respond to the changing demographics
- fully engaging with our present membership
- embracing the national church's Radical Action Plan.

We aim to realise this vision by the end of 2022.

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:

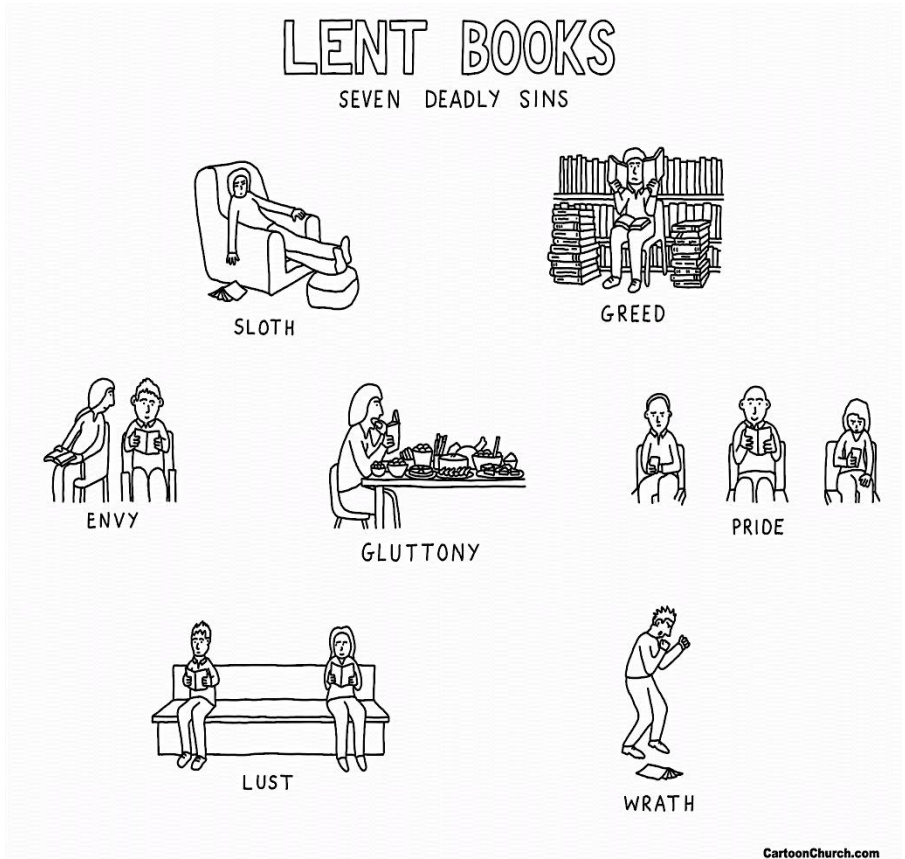
www.girlguiding.org.uk

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





CONTACT DETAILS

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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