



**PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2022**

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 FEBRUARY 2022

Services take place at 11am in the Sanctuary, and are also live streamed on Facebook, to watch live or later.

ALL WELCOME

Members wishing to join a WhatsApp group to receive daily prayers should send their name and phone number to mail@pilrigstpauls.org.uk, if you would like to volunteer to write some of the prayers, please also let us know.

The Church asks you to do a Lateral Flow Test before coming to church, do not attend if you test positive.

Please come in via the main doors between 1030 and 1050

When you arrive, please wait until called forward by those on the welcome team. While waiting, please make sure your mask is on and be ready to give your contact details, either on the written sheet or via the Check In Scotland app on your phone, both are fully acceptable. This is the time to use the hand sanitiser (found on either side of the doors). Please have your offering ready to put in the plate in the open doorway.

From our minister

“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” - Isaiah 11:1

Dear All,

Jesse was the father of David, the most famous King in the history of God’s people. The Jesse family tree, often called the Davidic line (or House of David), refers to the lineage of King David through the texts of the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament. It is also the same bloodline from which the promised Messiah, Jesus, would come.

Numerous calamities, including the exile, befell the Davidic line. The Davidic monarchy was certainly cut down as predicted by Isaiah: “Look, the Sovereign, the Lord of hosts, will lop the boughs with terrifying power; the tallest trees will be cut down, and the lofty will be brought low. He will hack down the thickets of the forest with an axe, and Lebanon with its majestic trees will fall.” (Isaiah 10: 33-34)

Isaiah chapter 11 begins with the promise that new life will spring forth from the “stump of Jesse”. The prophet Isaiah also goes on to make it clear that this new beginning for the Davidic line will reorder creation in profound ways as peace and prosperity would be restored to the kingdom.

Elsewhere in this magazine you will read about the newly proposed Presbytery Plan for Edinburgh. It hopes to reorder the Church in ways that will lead to new growth. However, for that new growth to occur, there first needs to come the fall of the axe!

The Bible is not naïve. It fully recognises the pain and suffering that often comes with such transformations. Isaiah spoke to people who were feeling pain over the loss of their old-world order. He understood that it would not be an easy transition to make, but he believed that the promised future would overshadow any of the people's current suffering.

We are about to enter a time in the life of the Church when there will be much loss and heartfelt pain. Substantial reductions are going to be made as the numbers of buildings, parishes, and ministries are all cut back in an effort to reorder the mission and purpose of the Church. This is being done in the hope that new branches will grow forth from the remaining stumps.

We will all have losses to make in the process. Such radical cuts will not come easy or without heartache. However, we must hope for better things to come. Whatever the future holds for the Church across Scotland, its success or failure will depend on the commitment and resilience of its members (ministers, elders, office bearers, and all others). We must approach these changes in the belief that together we can reform and revitalise the Church of Scotland at a local and national level.

Blessings

Mark

All members will be glad to know that the faulty central heating pump for the sanctuary has now been replaced and the heating is very much improved.

**THOSE CONTRIBUTING TO THE FLOWER FUND IN
DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY**

Robin Davenny, Alex and Nancy Fleming

Presbytery Plan

You may have seen in the press, the announcement that the Church of Scotland is embarking on a radical restructuring to address the significant shortfall in ministers in the coming years. Declining rolls, a small percentage of active members (1.5%) and increasing expenses mean the current arrangements are not sustainable

The restructuring involves reducing the number of Presbyteries from 48 to 12, as part of that Edinburgh has merged with West Lothian.

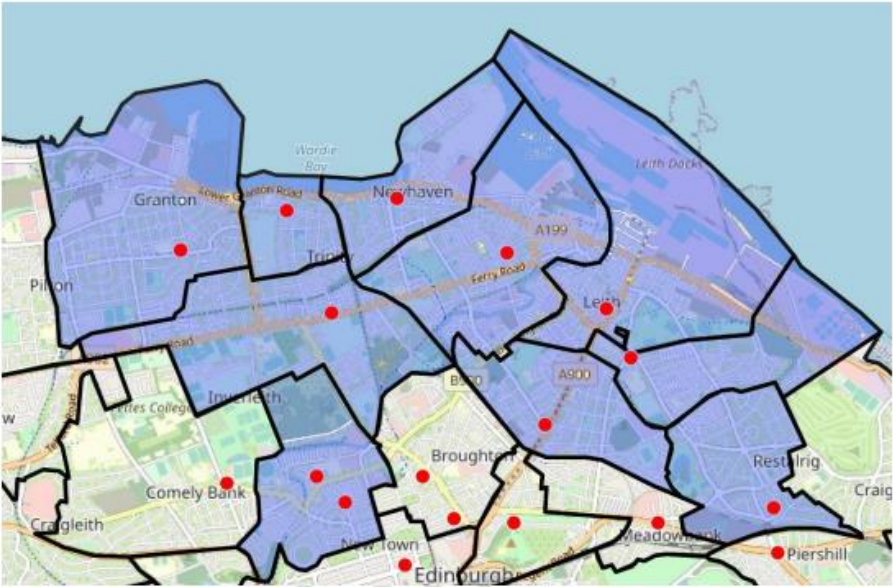
The second part is the dramatic reduction in parishes to better fit the expected number of ministers come 2025, the Presbytery is addressing that by implementing a large number of two or three way unions amongst the existing parishes to plan for growth and sustainability for the future.

A Presbytery Plan consultation document has been published, the Kirk Session has discussed the proposals and sent a response to Presbytery outlining our concerns.

The city is being divided up into several clusters, we are in cluster C -North which will have 4 parishes (see the diagram on the next page)

Leith St. Andrew's, Pilrig St. Paul's and St. Margaret's Restalrig will be served by one full time minister and one Pioneer MDS (Ministry Development Staff (youth and community workers, parish assistants etc)).

The category A manse at St. Margaret's will be retained, the other two category B manses are to be sold.



PARISHES

- 1 Granton, Wardie
- 2 Inverleith St Serf's, Stockbridge
- 3 Leith North, Leith South, Newhaven
- 4 Leith St Andrew's, Pilrig St Paul's, St Margaret's

Population of parishes	89,482
Average population of Parish	22,370
Number of Posts	Ministers 5
	MDS 1

The ministers of all three congregations will either demit their charges or the Reviewable Charges will be ended no later than December 2025.

The Mission focus for the new parish should be the significant area of deprivation in the current St. Margaret's parish.

We have concerns that uniting three parishes with deficits will not produce a financially stable union in the longer term.

Significant Stewardship efforts will be needed to ensure the united parish can meet its Ministries and Mission allocation.

There are to be independent building audits done to determine which buildings are suitable for retention, the three buildings are regarded by Presbytery as follows:

Leith St Andrew's is sustainable now. "In the short term the costs are sustainable but longer-term budgeting may be different". Accessibility and parking are a concern, as is flexibility ('the church 'is only used once a week').

Pilrig St Paul's 'doesn't offer much flexibility in how it can be used' and has accessibility issues (the main hall 'is not accessible to all').

St. Margaret's is situated in a village/graveyard setting with a "low footfall" and is not convenient for public transport.

We are concerned that selling off church buildings also negatively impacts the revenue the congregation can generate for Mission.

Revenue from the sale of the redundant buildings and manses will be held by the General Trustees for use on fabric or, exceptionally, for mission. So, there may be scope to make improvements on the remaining buildings

The stance of Presbytery at a recent question and answer session was very much that the plan will not be adjusted significantly.

We are surprised that the 25+ years' work on the One Church for Leith has been discarded at the stroke of a pen and Leith split in two, with the more financially viable churches in one parish and the weaker ones in another, in my opinion, this is setting us up to fail.

Little cognisance has been taken of the difficulty of transport across the new parish, public transport isn't convenient, and parking is limited at both Pilrig St. Paul's and St. Margaret's.

It's important to note that we are not alone in this, every parish in Edinburgh, and across Scotland is facing similar adjustments. This will create a huge amount of turmoil in the next few years, ministers finding themselves without a charge, or somewhere to live. Congregations being forced into unions they perhaps hadn't even considered.

Discussions will need to begin between all the affected parties to see what can be made of the situation once we know the outcome of the building audits.

A full copy of the proposed Presbytery plan can be made available to anyone electronically if they wish a copy. Paper copies cannot be provided due to the size of the document.

John Innes
Session Clerk



THANK YOU

"Thank you to everyone at Pilrig St Paul's for the lovely gifts and potted plant, delivered by Catriona Blackwood, at Christmas and, for all the Pastoral Care contacts throughout the corona virus pandemic, which left us unable to send but a few personal cards this time. We also wish everyone hope, peace, joy and God's love that was born in the Christ child on Christmas Day. May his blessings be always with you.

From Murdo and Joy Macleod."

Thank you so much for the lovely gifts. The fire was particularly distressing and involved a lot of time spent in a very cold and dark building. Thankfully the heating and lighting are back on and fingers crossed the repair work will start soon. Maria.

Our sincere thanks to all concerned for the lovely flowers we received. It was a lovely surprise; Menzies is making a good recovery thanks to the quick response from NHS and the powers that be. Thank you. Moira & Menzies.

I would like to thank all at Pilrig St Paul's for their kind for their kind wishes and support over the last year. Thanks for the lovely calendar. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy and healthy New Year. Chrissie Blacklaws.

Ann Gowans sends best to wishes all her friends in Pilrig St Paul's For 2022. Thank you all for the calls and the calendar.

Thank you all very much for the flowers, cards and phone calls received from our friends and the Church for our Golden Wedding. We much appreciated it. Catriona and Bill Blackwood

I would like to say thanks very much for the lovely plant delivered to me following the Remembrance Sunday Service. Dorothy Walker

John Brown wishes to say thank you for the lovely calendar received just before Christmas and sends all good wishes.

Thank you for the flowers I received. They were lovely and a nice surprise. They were much appreciated and cheered me up. Frances McPherson

Thank you for the gift voucher received for helping with cleaning and after the fire. It is very kind of you. Catriona Blackwood

MAGAZINE

Thank you for articles received for this magazine. Please may I have articles for the March magazine by February 17th?

Particular thanks to John Innes for picking up the draft for this magazine and completing it while I have been ill.

Catriona Blackwood

554 6183 magazine@pilrigstpauls.org.uk

FOLLOWING THE FIRE IN THE MAIN HALL, THE WORK TO GET THINGS BACK TO NORMAL CONTINUES. WE WILL KEEP MEMBERS UPDATED IN THE INTIMATIONS AND THE NEXT MAGAZINE. IT HAS BEEN HARD FOR EVERYONE.

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.

Mark Wexelstein

Email treasurer@pilrigstpauls.org.uk

Phone 0131 665 6881



CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Sign up to our mailing list here:

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

Prayer Corner:

Please remember members of the congregation, their families, and other friends in your prayers:

Ella Gilfillan , Linda Gill, Lorna Coe and families

Martha Cruickshank

Gary, Margaret and David Fraser

Isabel Pert

Eileen Fraser

Matthew Green

Margaret Lind

Michelle Muhammed

The family of Hilda Winton

Marjory McMahon, Norman Lawrence and families

The Millar family

The Wexelstein family

Murdo and Joy MacLeod

The family of Joan Blackie

Please help to keep this up to date by letting the minister or Catriona Blackwood know of any changes we should make to this section, thank you.

Some members prefer not to be named on this list.





CONTACT DETAILS

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CLERK Vacant
ASSISTANT CLERK Maria Croall board@pilrigstpauls.org.uk

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HALL LETS - BOOKINGS ARE STILL RESTRICTED

General enquiries to: psp.halluse@gmail.com

ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER

Colin Gray (07901 556 217)

Scottish Charity no. SC007277
www.leithchurchesforum.org.uk