



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

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 or are asked to contact:

magazine@pilrigstpauls.org.uk

treasurer@pilrigstpauls.org.uk

Contact details are on the inside cover. Although no longer a requirement, hand sanitizer and 1 metre spaced seating are available. You are welcome to wear a mask while walking round or during the service.

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 OCTOBER 2022

SERVICES TAKE PLACE AT 11AM EVERY SUNDAY* IN THE SANCTUARY AND ARE ALSO LIVE STREAMED ON FACEBOOK, TO WATCH THEN OR LATER. ALL WELCOME.

Tuesday 11th October 2pm The Guild Dot Melville Story Time

***HARVEST THANKSGIVING WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY 9TH OCTOBER. THIS WILL BE A JOINT SERVICE WITH LEITH ST ANDREWS AND ST MARGARET'S RESTALRIG AND WILL BE HELD AT ST MARGARET'S PARISH CHURCH 27 RESTALRIG ROAD SOUTH EH7 6LF EDINBURGH AT 11 AM**

THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE IN PILRIG ST PAUL'S ON THIS DAY.

**Sunday 30th October 2022 at 11 HOLY COMMUNION,
SEE PAGE 6**

Leith Churches Together lunchtime ecumenical services are hosted and led monthly by different churches in turn. The service usually lasts 25-30 minutes and is followed by lunch together. Please bring your own lunch.

The next service is on Thursday 13th October in Duke Street United Reformed Church.

Our foodbank at Pilrig St Paul's continues to be open for clients on a Wednesday afternoon. Donations are welcomed. Please put them in the basket in the church vestibule.



From our minister

“Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into
exile,
and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you
will find your welfare.”
- Jeremiah 29: 7

Dear All,

In 597 BCE the tiny nation that centred around Jerusalem was defeated by the Babylonians and most of the population carried off into exile in Babylon. They found themselves isolated in a strange country with different customs and traditions. In response to this tragedy, many of them decided that their only hope was to wait things out in the hope that God would save them, return them to Jerusalem and restore their fortunes.

But then came the prophet Jeremiah, who told them that God was not going to bring them home for another 70 years. Considering that 70 years was far greater than most people’s life expectancy. Jeremiah was saying that almost two whole generations of people would know nothing other than a life of exile. But rather than telling them to grit their teeth and bear it or to fight for their freedom – Jeremiah told them to settle down and make the most of their situation. To build homes, start families, and plant crops. Furthermore, Jeremiah told them that God wanted them to look out for their Babylonian neighbours, even though they were the enemy. The philosophy being, that if the Babylonians did well, then the Israelites would do well too.

Some 2600 years later, and many in the Church feel like we are living in exile. We find ourselves living in a country that no longer shares our customs and traditions. The danger for us, just as it was for the Jews in Babylon, is that we retreat into spiritual privatism behind the

closed doors of our buildings. But God's message is still the same: "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile...."

If the Church continues to disengage with the cities, towns, and communities where we live and worship – then we will only fall deeper into exile. The challenge is not to find ways of filling the pews of our buildings again – but to find ways in which we can take our faith out into the world around us.

The Rev Tom Allan was a minister, evangelist, and pioneer of practical church outreach in social work, primarily in Glasgow during the 1950's and 60's. One of his mantras to members and congregations of the Church was 'Find out what God is already doing – and join in'.

God is still speaking through people's lives. God's love is being shown through acts of kindness. God is present and active in the life our local community. The challenge for us is to find these places and moments and help nourish and sustain them. For in their well-being, we will find our own.

Blessings

Mark

You can now join a **WhatsApp Prayer Group** to receive daily prayers. To join, reply to the intimations email with your name and phone number. You obviously need to be signed up to WhatsApp on your phone as well. We are also looking for people who are prepared to write prayers for the group, please let us know if you can do that too.

CROSSREACH

The Crossreach Christmas Catalogue is now available, and members who are interested in buying cards, calendars or “virtual” gifts from the Catalogue can pick up a copy in the Open Doorway.

May I take this opportunity to remind members of the wonderful work which Crossreach does caring for the old, the young, the sick, the poor and the disadvantaged in so many different ways. This work has continued throughout the Pandemic despite the challenges this has presented, and I know that any support, either financial or prayerful, which members feel able to give will be most gratefully received by Crossreach.

Various methods of ordering cards etc are given in the Catalogue. Donations to Crossreach can be made online (crossreach.org.uk/support-us), by phone (657 2000) or by post to Crossreach, Charis House, 47, Milton Road East, Edinburgh EH15 2SR.

Thank you.

Christine Edington (Crossreach contact)

Messy Church

Leith St Andrew's and St Margaret's Restalrig are starting up Messy Church again. This will run monthly with the two churches alternating as host. The October session will be held on Sunday, 23rd, from 4-6pm in St Margaret's Church in Restalrig Village. See page 3 for the address. Messy Church is an all age, child friendly, hands on time of celebration, eating together and activities of all sorts for all the family. It's particularly suitable for families with primary school aged children.

The Minister and Kirk Session

of

Pilrig St Paul's Church

invite you

to

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

on

Sunday 30th October 2022 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. Both wine and water will be available.

PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

ANNUAL STATED MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd JUNE 2022

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| Constitution of meeting | Rev. Mark Foster opened the meeting |
| Minutes from last year | Taken as read |
| | Approved by Maria Croall |
| | 2 nd by Aileen Fraser |
| Treasurers Report | <p>Mark Wexelstein presented slides showing the income and expenditure for 2021 and compared this over the last 5 years. Total income was £78,689, a decrease of £6,534 from 2020. We received a donation of £10,000 from two of our members and if this hadn't been given the decrease would have been much larger. The reduction is mainly due to the drop in income from offerings.</p> <p>Total Expenditure was £71,448 a decrease of £17,637 from 2020. This was mainly due to every congregation receiving an eighteen percent reduction in Ministry and Mission due to the pandemic.</p> <p>This means we had an unexpected surplus of £7,241 compared to a deficit of £3,682 in 2020 so a difference of £10,923.</p> <p>Offerings were £27,473 a decrease of £5,499 on 2020.</p> <p>The tax reclaimed was £8,947. This is £2,926 higher than 2020.</p> <p>Our income from hall lets was £24,575 compared to £22,677 in 2020. The increase would have been larger if we hadn't had the fire at the end of November but due to the</p> |

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| | <p>pandemic wouldn't have been back to expected levels. The amount only remained at the level it is due to the permanent space rented by Vodafone.</p> <p>Ministry and Mission was £37,585, £6,802 lower than 2020. As stated above this is due to the reduction given as a one off for 2021. Fabric expenditure was £3,914, this is £4,140 lower than 2020.</p> <p>Energy costs were £5,324 a decrease of £1,508. We are still members of the Church of Scotland scheme and this allows us to get the best rates available.</p> <p>Insurance was £7,325.</p> <p>Telephone, Stationery & Printing was £910 an increase of £208.</p> <p>Salaries were £11,225 compared to £16,944 a decrease of £5,719. This was due to our hall manager only working reduced hours and then being on long term sick leave so we were only paying statutory sick pay and not a full salary.</p> <p>Mark Foster thanked Mark for his work on the accounts, during COVID and the insurance claim for the fire.</p> |
| <p>Congregational Statistics</p> | <p>Number on Congregational Roll as at 31.12.2020 was 186</p> <p>Added by</p> <p>Profession of Faith 0</p> <p>Certificate of Transfer 1</p> <p>Restoration 0</p> <p>Removed by</p> |

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| | <p>Resolution of the Kirk Session 0 Certificate of Transfer</p> <p>Death 3 Number on Congregational Roll as at 31.12.2021 was 184</p> <p>Supplementary Roll 0 Adherents 4</p> |
| <p>Election to Membership of the Congregational Board</p> | <p>Due to come off the Congregational Board is Moira Fergie, Marjory McMahan and Irene Eprile. All three have agreed to continue as a member of the Board. This was proposed by Mark Wexelstein and seconded by Alec Edington.</p> <p>As no one else was nominated at the meeting the Board was given power to co-opt new members during the year if required.</p> |
| <p>Minister's Report</p> | <p>Mark advised he has tested positive for COVID on Monday so until he has two negative tests he won't be able to do in person meetings until he is negative. We can see from this we are still in difficult times. Along with this we are also being asked to deal with the amalgamation of Presbyteries and congregations. All this happens with the help of many people behind the scenes. This includes the accounts, broadcasting the services on a Sunday, dealing with the fire and insurance for that. The cleaning had to continue, the</p> |

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| | <p>production of the magazine, admin and many other tasks were carried out and we know who these people are. As we move forward these will continue to be needed. Mark thanked everyone who helps with these tasks and all the other that happen. He is sure we will continue to come together as a congregation and with God's help move forward whatever happens with all the changes.</p> |
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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.





PASTORAL CARE , MAGAZINE and FLOWERS

Hello Everyone,

It is good to see the Guild, uniformed organisations and other groups are enjoying our newly painted halls. With the no. 11 bus back both ways in Pilrig Street, it is getting easier to come to church, whether for the service or other events, and the entrances are all free of construction work (for now, anyway!). Parking is variable, and tends to be a bit away from the doors, unfortunately.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are mostly seasonal artificial displays, with fresh flowers for significant events in the Church calendar. We send flowers or plants to members and friends to support them through joyous or difficult times. Donations to the flower fund are welcomed, see next page. Please state if you prefer to donate to the flower fund in a particular month.

We have sent flowers, cards and support to members at times of celebration, sorrow and achievement. It is really important that members keep me up to date re events, special birthdays and anniversaries of fellow members. It is the best way to include as many people as possible. Thank you.

If you are able to deliver flowers in person, please let me know and I will arrange the practicalities of funding etc.

Thank you for the contributions to this magazine. Articles for November should be with me by 23rd October, please.

Thank you.

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

GIVING TO 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 set up a JustGiving page, 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

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

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

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

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

Scottish Charity no. SCO07277