

A large display of red poppies is arranged on a green background. In the background, there is a white banner or wall with a painting of a church scene, including a church building and a lighthouse. The poppies are scattered across the green surface, with some falling onto the floor at the bottom.

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

Church activities and general information are shown on the inside back cover

Front Cover from a collage made by the Knitting Bee pre Covid

PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH NOVEMBER 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.



The Guild will meet at 2pm in the Session Room on Thursday 8th November, Rev Mark Foster: Communion and talk.



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 10th November in St Mary's Star of the Sea at 1pm. All welcome.

* Service of Remembrance, Sunday 13th November at 10:50am.
PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME.

A joint Service with Leith St Andrews will be held on Sunday 20th November, at Leith St Andrew's, Easter Road Preacher Rev Ron Smith. THERE WILL NOT BE A SERVICE IN PILRIG St PAUL'S THAT DAY

The Leith Sailors' Service will be held in South Leith Parish Church on Sunday 20th November at 11am



Our foodbank at Pilrig St Paul's continues to be open for clients on a Wednesday afternoon. Please bring donations of non-perishable items and put them in the basket in the church vestibule. All donations are very welcome as we are experiencing a high number of clients at the moment. Cash donations are also welcomed, please put them in an envelope marked Foodbank in the offering plate. Thank you.

From our minister

“Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out... that God may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus...”

– Acts 3:19-20

Dear All,

Advent has long been a solemn season in the history of the Church. For centuries the Church treated Advent as a “mini-Lent” and called people to use it as a time of repentance, prayer, and preparation. In previous generations celebrations like weddings were forbidden during Advent, and fasting was encouraged. It’s almost as if the Church tried to suck out all the joy from this season. We see it reflected in the scripture passages that are read in church during Advent, which often contain apocalyptic images and language. At least have an Advent wreath and some rousing Advent hymns, but even these appear somewhat drab and joyless compared to the world outside of the Church doors.

Secular society rarely mentions Advent. For them the Christmas season starts in late October. There are trees and Christmas songs in the shops. Parties and decorations in the workplace. Christmas markets and eggnog in the city streets. It’s in strong contrast to what’s happening inside the doors of our churches. And yet, there’s something about Advent that can serve to increase our joy this time of year, not lessen it.

The Church observes Advent not because we hate joy. Instead, we use it as a time of preparation so that we can become more joyful people. Advent is about cleaning out our spiritual house so that we can make room for the joy that is coming. Advent is about getting ready to truly celebrate the joy of Christ’s birth while many others

will be packing their joy away long before the twelve days of Christmas end.

There's nothing stopping us from putting up our tree and enjoying the festivities in the run up to Christmas, but we shouldn't settle for that being enough. We need to go deeper. We need to take time to pray, prepare, and reflect. We need to make room for the joy of Christ in our lives.

Jesus didn't come to offer us a seasonal sugar-high of happiness and a fleeting moment of joy. Jesus came to give us a joy that lasts. If we make good use of the Advent season, then that lasting joy is offered to us.

Blessings

Mark

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.

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)

St Margaret's Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 19th November between 11am and 1pm in the McLaren Halls, 48 Restalrig Road South. All are welcome.

Sailors' Society

Pauline Robertson, Chaplain of the Sailors' Society, has sent us information about Christmas gifts for sailors:

Thanks in advance that we are able to continue our outreach to the crews that come into our port over Christmas.

We can show our care and love for the crews this Christmas with a simple gift. It is wonderful we are able to share gifts and it means so much more to a seafarer 1000s of miles away from family and friends at Christmas.

Although we have relaxed the restrictions that affect us day to day due to Covid, some of the crews continue to be restricted.

For Ukrainian crew, families are displaced and all over the world, and will share a Christmas like no other.

Our hope again this year is to create 50 "Ship Christmas Bags" which will accompany an individual pre wrapped gift for each seafarer. (Supplied by the Sailors' Society) I've estimated the cost of the bag contents to be around £10. This will include: wrapped chocolates, shortbread, fudge/ tablet, mixed sweets, and mixed nuts. It will be accompanied by a Christmas card.

It is hoped we'd to be able to assemble these bags by the end of November.

You can donate gifts of monies and/or donations of sweets/ chocolate. Money donations will enable bulk buying and make it simpler to contribute towards a bag.

Giving a donation:

In Pilrig St Paul's, please leave goods in the box in the Open doorway and money in an envelope in the offering plate by the service on 13th November. If the society can claim gift aid, please put a note inside your envelope saying Gift Aid and giving your name, address and postcode. Woolly hats and gloves are always acceptable too. Eric Fisher is our contact and can give more details.

Donations made between 13th and 20th November should be sent directly to the Society. For further information please give Pauline a call on 07713476799 or email: probertson@sailors-society.org You can also make a cash donation via South Leith Parish Church Hall, Henderson St Church office. Please address FAO of Pauline Robertson Port Chaplain.

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.

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 and MAGAZINE

Hello Everyone,

The next magazine will be the Christmas edition! For the December magazine, I am planning a display of messages from members to fellow members. **Please limit this to a general greeting to all**, personal greetings from one member to another cannot be used, sorry. If you are willing for this to be published in the online version, available to anyone, please add permission in your email or letter. (For data protection). First names, or first names and initial will be used.

We have sent flowers, cards and support to members at times of celebration, sorrow and achievement. Thank you to everyone who keeps us up to date on this.

Thank you for the contributions to this magazine. Articles for December should be with me by 20th November, please.



Life and Work can be ordered from me for 2023. It will cost £42 for the year. (£21 each if sharing between 2)

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

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.

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>. Hand sanitizer and 1 metre spaced seating are available. You are welcome to wear a mask while walking round or during the service.

CrossReach

Prayer Dairy: <https://www.flipsnack.com/8A56FE5569B/prayer-diary->

CrossReach

News: <https://www.flipsnack.com/8A56FE5569B/crossreach-news->

The Church of Scotland Social Care

Forum: <http://www.socialcareforum.scot/>

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.

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.

For more information about our groups and organisations, find contact details 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.



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

www.leithchurchesforum.org.uk