

PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH



DECEMBER 2022

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.

Church activities and general information are shown on p13

PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH DECEMBER 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.



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 8th December at 1pm in North Leith Church.



The Guild will meet at 1pm in the Session Room on Tuesday 13th December for their Christmas party. PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Saturday 24th December Family Service at 2.30pm

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day Service 10am. Please note the earlier time.

Sunday January 8th provisionally booked for joint Epiphany Service. Details to be announced.



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. Cash donations are also welcomed, please put them in an envelope marked Foodbank in the offering plate. Thank you.

From our minister:

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!” – Luke 2: 10-14

Dear All,

One of the most popular tales of the Christmas season is ‘Beauty and the Beast’, which was written by the French novelist Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve and first published in 1740. It tells the story of a selfish and unfeeling young prince who was cursed by a mysterious enchantress into having the appearance of a monstrous beast. His only hope was to earn the love of a young woman in order to redeem himself and lift the curse. The years pass and through a series of events a young woman ends up being held as his captive in the castle. She invites the beast to look beneath his outward appearance. She helps to restore his compassion and his humanity. Slowly, she transforms him by loving him.

At Christmas we celebrate the story of a beautiful child born into a beastly world. A world filled with conflict and military occupation. A world full of poverty and homelessness. A world where a family are forced to flee as refugees. A world beset by corruption, divided by prejudice, and twisted by xenophobia. A world where death seems to be the final fate and destiny for

everyone. This beastly world is at first glance too overpowering to be transformed or redeemed by anyone or anything.

The child, however, invited the world to look beyond these things. The child lived in contrast to the values of the world and showed the ways of peace, compassion, justice, and equality. The child revealed a God of extravagant grace and abundant love. The child transformed the world by loving it unconditionally.

There is no time of the year which reminds us more of our beauty than Christmas. There is no time of the year which levels the divisions in humanity more than Christmas. There is no time of the year which proclaims our struggle for peace on earth and good will to all people than Christmas. Christmas is the ultimate example of God's transforming love for the world.

Christmas is our invitation to join in the struggle to turn this old, weary and at times beastly world, into the beautiful place that God means it to be for all of us. This is not some Christmas fairy tale but a celebration of who we can become and what we can achieve if we embrace the transforming love of God into our lives.

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.

Presbytery Plan update

There have been several developments in the Presbytery Plan since we last wrote about it so now is a good time to update you all on what's been happening.

Since the first draft of the plan was published, the Kirk Session has been in communication with the DRC sub-committee to express our various concerns about the plan as first laid out, as well as beginning discussions with the two other congregations as to how we can move forward.

Since then, the second draft of the plan has been published which now includes the Presbytery conclusions on which buildings are to be retained.

The new proposals are as follows:

- The united parish will have a team ministry comprising of 2 full time ministers of Word and Sacrament and 0.5 Ministries Development Staff (MDS)
- The buildings to be retained are Pilrig St. Paul's and St. Margaret's Restalrig.
- The Leith St. Andrew's buildings are to be disposed of by 31 Dec 2024 (up from 2023 as originally proposed)

These proposals are something of an improvement on the original proposals set out in the first draft and reflect a more even allocation of resources across the parishes in the Edinburgh North Mission District.

There are still many questions to be answered regarding how the team ministry will be formed and led, whether there is flexibility for us to fund additional MDS time (perhaps from the proceeds of the sale of buildings) to make that a full-time post.

How the Leith St. Andrew's buildings can be sold before the Union takes place and what happens to their Minister at that point is also a concern.

Financially, none of us are in a great position, the new Church of Scotland framework for Mission and Ministry funding will see us collectively having to pay £90,000 (the notional cost of two ministers) plus 10% of our combined halls income. This is less than the 3 x £45,000 plus 10% halls we will pay until the union but then we lose the halls income from Leith St. Andrew's once that building is sold, some of that income might transfer to the remaining buildings but some inevitably will be lost.

The three Kirk Sessions continue to meet to flesh out our thinking, and we are agreed that we do as much as we can together, both for worship and socially to further develop a strong relationship amongst us all.

You will see intimations about events at all three churches (starting with our Christmas services this year) and you are all encouraged to attend as many as possible.

These are disturbing times; these changes are not easy to embrace and all of us will experience some loss as we transition to the Team Ministry parish set out for us. Pray for your leadership teams, support us as we navigate these changes and help us to fashion something stronger as we come out the other side.

John Innes
Session Clerk



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



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Saturday 24th December
Family Service at 2.30pm**

**Sunday 25th December
Christmas Day Service 10am.
Please note the earlier time.**

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

I wish all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for
2023. Love, Michelle

We would both like to wish everyone a Joyous
Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year in 2023.
Moira and Jimmy F.

The Pastoral Committee wish all members and
friends a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

With Best Wishes for Christmas and the coming
Year to you all. From Alex and Nancy

Greetings for a Happy Christmas and New Year.
Catriona and Bill.

John B wishes all friends a Happy Christmas and every
blessing for the New Year

Wishing all my friends at Pilrig St Paul's Peace and Joy
this Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year
Antje A

Dear Friends at Pilrig St Paul's Church, have a very
merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Blessings, Irene E

We wish everybody in Pilrig St Paul's the
compliments of the Season. Unfortunately, due to
Joy's ill health, we are not able to send cards this
year.

Murdo and Joy



PASTORAL CARE and MAGAZINE

Hello Everyone,

The pastoral care group continues to send cards, flowers, plants and be available for members who are looking for support. Thank you to everyone who updates us.

The Christmas Greetings, are on the centre pages, along with details of Christmas Services. Thank you for sending them. We hope most members will be able to have a less restricted Christmas this year.

There is no magazine in January, but may I have articles for February by January 22nd, please? Thank you.

Catriona Blackwood

Pastoral Committee Member and Magazine Editor

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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.

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

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

CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

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>

For more information about our groups and organisations, please Use the church contact details 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, either names and other details are omitted or specific permission to use details has been received). 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.

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CONTACT DETAILS

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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