

# PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH



FEBRUARY 2023

## 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 online, unless otherwise arranged with the editor (eg, for the online version, 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.

**Church activities and general information on p8**

## **PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH FEBRUARY 2023**

**ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH WE MEET JOINTLY WITH LEITH St ANDREW'S AND St MARGARET'S RESTALIRG IN TURN.SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS AND TIMES (see also p10 and inside back cover)**

**From week 2 of every month services take place at 11am on Sunday in each sanctuary. Pilrig St Paul's services are live streamed on Facebook, to watch then or later.**

### **ALL WELCOME TO EVERY SERVICE**

**SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023  
JOINT SERVICE AT PILRIG St PAUL'S 11AM**



**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 9th February at Ebenezer UFC.**



**The Guild next meets in March**



**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.**

**PLEASE ALSO SEE PAGE 6**

***From our minister:***

***When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.”***

**– John 1:38-39a (NRSV)**

Dear All,

On a recent trip to Glasgow, Joanne and I were walking down Buchanan Street, when we heard the distant sounds of someone speaking through a sound system. As we got nearer to St. Enoch Square, we could make out the voice of a Street Preacher addressing the shoppers. His message was grounded in intimidation - shouting that the people of Glasgow would soon be hell-bound and reminding them that they were nothing more than a festering pile of sin. Our immediate reaction, along with the majority of others we saw, was to put as much distance between ourselves and him as quickly as we could. It seems that his message, rather than bringing folk to Christ, was instead driving them away.

When we're looking at how to proclaim our faith to others, maybe we should go back to Jesus' invitation to the first two disciples: "Come and see." This short and sweet phrase invites curiosity and wonder, listening and learning. It doesn't condemn or berate. It doesn't frighten or shame. It doesn't come with a litany of requirements or a long list of expectations. It's an invitation that implicitly says, "Come as you are and see who Jesus is for yourself."

“Come and see” is an invitation designed to keep drawing us in, leading us into a deeper understanding of God and ourselves. It prompts us to ponder where we might see Jesus in all sorts of situations: on a bus full of commuters, in our local cafe, or amid the shoppers in a busy city street. When our invitation to discipleship comes with barriers or berating, the chances are no one else is going to show up to, far less enter, the doors of our church. By inviting others to “come and see,” we discover Jesus in the joy of connection, in the revelation of love, and in life shared together following Christ.

With the lifting of restrictions and the re-opening of Leith Walk to traffic we hope that we can once again open wide the doors of our church so that others can “come and see” for themselves.

Blessings  
Mark

We received a donation re flowers in January.. Thank you.

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.



## **Edinburgh Northeast Foodbank needs drivers and driver's mate/assistant**

**Are you looking for a new challenge this Year?**

**Are you able to spare a few hours each week?**

**Are you enthusiastic and able to build good relationships  
and**

**Are you someone like us who believes good food should be  
accessible to all and food poverty is an injustice?**

**Edinburgh NE Foodbank works with local supermarkets  
and businesses who are willing to donate food to our Leith  
warehouse, foodbank centres and Pantry. In supporting  
the operation of the Foodbank, they also help to reduce  
food waste in our City.**

**Pickups and distributions usually happen each Tuesday  
and Friday morning, however, don't let this stop you  
applying we may need you other times!**

**There is a level of fitness required to help move load and  
unload crates of food donations in loaded crates**

**If you cannot drive we can still use your strength.**

**If you are able and willing to drive a transit van, you will need  
to hold a full driving licence.**

**Sounds like you?**

**Please contact [info@edinburghne.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghne.foodbank.org.uk) or call  
0131 553 5694 for more information**



## PASTORAL CARE and MAGAZINE

Hello Everyone,

Happy New Year!

The pastoral care group continues to send cards, flowers, plants and to members to mark occasions, happy or sad in the lives of our members. We are available for members who are looking for support, and have made phone calls, visits and sent email and texts as appropriate. Thank you to everyone who updates us as it is the best way to include as many people as possible. To donate to the flower fund, please contact the Treasurer direct with donations, put them in an envelope in the plate, or speak to Catriona Blackwood. Thank you

Catriona Blackwood

Pastoral Committee Member and Magazine Editor

554 6183

[magazine@pilrigstpauls.org.uk](mailto:magazine@pilrigstpauls.org.uk)



### **The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation**

*Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts in the Fringe*

*13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> August, 2023*

**Please see the poster detailing this on the table outside the session room.**



## 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

### 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](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

[hello@scouts.scot](mailto:hello@scouts.scot)

Sign up to our mailing list here:

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

For more information about our groups and organisations, find contact details on the page 15. 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.



## **Worship at Pilrig St. Paul's.**

Following the finalisation of the Presbytery Plan, we are planning a number of new worship initiatives in conjunction with the congregations at Leith St. Andrew's and St. Margaret's. We will be coming together for joint services on the first Sunday of every month starting on Sunday 5 February in Pilrig St. Paul's Church. Full details and times of the other services appear elsewhere in this magazine and will be published online and in print elsewhere.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to join the list of readers for Sunday Worship. The readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV), and we can supply you with an e-mail of the texts in advance. Please contact the Minister or Session Clerk if you would like to join the list.

The Minister is looking to hold two worship workshops for members from all three congregations. The first of these would be a Prayer Writing workshop, where we hope to get more members involved in writing and leading the prayers during worship. The second would be a hymn writing workshop (for which no musical experience or knowledge is required). Both workshops would run for a morning or afternoon session (most likely on a Saturday). Please give your name to the Minister if you would like to be involved.

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See also p12



An excerpt from a letter from Suzanne Loftus, Artistic director:

Dear Friends, Edinburgh Easter Play – the future

As you may know, we have a wonderful opportunity to tell the Easter story in the heart of our city each year in Princes Street Gardens. You may be aware that the Princes Street Easter Play Trust is winding down but the good news is that Cutting Edge Theatre (a Christian company), who have been involved with the play since 2005, are picking up the baton to produce it next year and in the future. The play will continue to be a FREE production, making the Easter story as accessible as possible. Next year will be a traditional version which we haven't produced for a number of years.

To be able to present the Gospel in such a public setting is a huge privilege and we would love to have more involvement from churches in our city.

**2023 EASTER PLAY NEEDS YOU!**

In order for the Easter Play to take place, we are looking for volunteers to help us as cast and crew.

**CAST**

If you are interested in being part of the cast, then simply turn up at one of our Wednesday rehearsals 7-9 pm at GDS Diadem 537- 539 Gorgie Road, EH14 ITA from 11th January 2023. No experience is required: speaking and non-speaking roles are available.

**A VERY SPECIAL WAY TO CELEBRATE EASTER**

**THE POSTER SHOWING FURTHER DETAILS IS ON THE  
TABLE OUTSIDE THE SESSION ROOM**

## GIVING TO PILRIG ST PAUL'S

Please consider making a donation by visiting our website [www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk](http://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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mark Wexelstein

Email [treasurer@pilrigstpauls.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@pilrigstpauls.org.uk)

Phone 0131 665 6881

**If you donate by Amazon Smile this service is being discontinued. Please continue to donate via easyfundraising, see page 10.**

## **WORSHIP ROTA 2023**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
05/02/2023	Pilrig St. Paul's	11:00am
05/03/2023	St. Margaret's	10:30am
02/04/2023	Leith, St. Andrew's	11:00am
07/05/2023	Pilrig St. Paul's	11:00am
04/06/2023	St. Margaret's	10:30am
02/07/2023	Leith, St. Andrew's	11:00am
06/08/2023	Pilrig St. Paul's	11:00am
03/09/2023	St. Margaret's	10:30am
01/10/2023	Leith St. Andrew's	11:00am
05/11/2023	Pilrig St. Paul's	11:00am
03/12/2023	St. Margaret's	10:30am



## **CONTACT DETAILS**

### **MINISTER**

Rev Mark Foster (0131 332 5736)  
[MFoster@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:MFoster@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## **PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH**

1b Pilrig Street Edinburgh EH6  
5AH  
Church Office 0131 553 1876  
[www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk](http://www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk)

**SESSION CLERK** John Innes (07563 248 722)  
[session@pilrigstpauls.org.uk](mailto:session@pilrigstpauls.org.uk)

## **THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD**

**Church address and phone number**

CLERK Vacant

ASSISTANT CLERK Maria Croall  
[pspcongragationalboard@gmail.com](mailto:pspcongragationalboard@gmail.com)

## **TREASURER and CHRISTIAN GIVINGS CONVENER**

Mark Wexelstein (0131 665 6881)  
[treasurer@pilrigstpauls.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@pilrigstpauls.org.uk)

## **SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR, MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Catriona Blackwood [safeguarding@pilrigstpauls.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@pilrigstpauls.org.uk)  
[magazine@pilrigstpauls.org.uk](mailto:magazine@pilrigstpauls.org.uk)

## **PROPERTY CONVENER**

Maria Croall [psp.halluse@gmail.com](mailto:psp.halluse@gmail.com)

**HALL LETS** – contact [psp.halluse@gmail.com](mailto:psp.halluse@gmail.com) to make a booking.  
Please note the main hall is now fully booked for the rest of 2023

## **ORGANIST**

Colin Gray (07901 556 217)

Scottish Charity No. SC 007277