

PILRIG St PAUL'S  
CHURCH  
SEPTEMBER  
2023



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

[hello@scouts.scot](mailto: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. For more information about our groups and organisations, find contact details on the back 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, 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.**

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

**ON WEEK 1 OF THE MONTH WE MEET JOINTLY WITH LEITH St ANDREW'S AND St MARGARET'S RESTALRIG IN TURN. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Service at St Margaret's Restalrig**

**Please note this service is at 1030**

Following the service, St Margaret's Fellowship team will be holding a lunch (soup and sandwiches) together with a historic visit around the church area after the service. All are 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 14 September at North Leith Church.**

**Thursday 21 September 7.30pm Board meeting. Session room**



**Our foodbank at Pilrig St Paul's continues to be open for clients. Please bring donations of non-perishable items and put them in the basket in the church vestibule. ANY PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS YOU HAVE WILL BE REALLY HELPFUL. PLEASE PUT THEM IN THE DONATIONS BASKET.**

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,

Despite attempts to save it, the apple tree in the manse garden was uprooted during the recent strong winds and heavy rains. The fallen tree had to be cut up and removed, resulting in a garden that is now more open to the skies and less sheltered from both the sun and the rain. We tried hard to save the apple tree. We pruned it, to rebalance the weight of the branches, we cut out the dead wood, and we tried to prop up the main trunk. But nature had other plans and is already responding to the new opportunity it has been given. The grass which was previously under the tree is growing much healthier, and a young apple sapling is growing more vigorously to occupy the space left vacant by its predecessor. The garden is changing to become something new, something different to what it was before.

As a Church we are often bad at embracing change and seizing new opportunities when they come along. Congregations across the country find themselves putting more and more energy into propping up activities, traditions, and groups to keep them going, when perhaps the time has come to let them fall and be replaced with something new. The current Presbytery Plan will change the landscape of the local church considerably and it is up to us if we try to keep the old ways going or embrace the chance to become something different than we are now.

It's difficult to say precisely what historical event, if any, lies behind the image of the "stump of Jesse". There are a significant number of events in the history of God's people to which the prophet Isaiah may have been speaking. But despite their feelings of loss and

uncertainty he offered the people a vision of a new and better future growing out from the remains of their past.

Change is not always easy, especially when we must learn new ways of doing things. However, it provides us with the potential to create a better future by responding and adapting to the opportunities before us. The manse garden will continue to adapt and thrive, despite the loss of the old apple tree. The church too, will continue to adapt and thrive in our new surroundings, if we are prepared to make the changes we need to.

Blessings

Mark

### **From the 41st Guides Team**

Now that our Guide Unit has had a full year back in the Church Halls we thought we would let you know what we have been doing. Along with our usual Badge work we have held a pamper night, craft nights including edible crafts, collected items for the Food Bank and enjoyed Hallowe'en and Christmas Parties and ice cream sundaes in the Vittoria Café. It was good to be able to attend Church on Remembrance Sunday and lay our Wreath on the Madge Barnes Memorial. The Unit supports Riding for the Disabled at Balerno, and as a thank you we were invited out for a riding lesson which they all enjoyed. As we couldn't go away overnight on our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we took the Unit to the Alpaca Farm at Bonaly. Everyone was allocated an alpaca which we then took on an hour long walk round the foot hills of the Pentlands before getting to feeding them. We look forward to our approaching 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a team of 6 Leaders all of whom have been in the Unit since they joined as girls.

We are looking for a paid **admin assistant** for six hours a week.

The post would be situated in the building on a Monday for two or three hours and the additional hours can be worked from home if required, at a time suitable to both. The tasks include:- Hall booking admin, replying to emails, banking the offerings, arranging access for trades people and setting the heating if required.

If you are interested or know someone that might be you can get further information from Mark Wexelstein by emailing [treasurer@pilrigstpauls.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@pilrigstpauls.org.uk)



## **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.

## **FLOWERS IN CHURCH**

I have discussed with the minister about putting fresh flowers back in the church. I have a diary if you would like to put flowers in the church. Any Sundays we can't fill we will just revert back to using the artificial flowers. We have no plans to restart the delivery rota, but can gift them to someone on a Sunday, or if anyone wishes to deliver them to someone, that would also be fine. Please contact me if you wish to put flowers in the church on a specific Sunday.

[Lisa.innes@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa.innes@gmail.com)

[07592059750](tel:07592059750)

Many thanks

Lisa Innes

Thank you for organising this, Lisa. Please let Lisa or me know if you have an idea for recipients of flowers, or if you can deliver them after church on a Sunday. Catriona Blackwood



Life and Work has once again published a FREE four page General Assembly Special Supplement for 2023 summarising some of the key decisions, debates and speeches from the week. The full link is <https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2023-special-supplement>

Please contact me if you would like details of copies of this without online access. Catriona Blackwood



## PASTORAL CARE and MAGAZINE

Hello Everyone,

Over the summer we have been sending flowers, cards and greetings to our members and friends to offer support, congratulations and sympathy. Thank you for keeping us up to date with this.

Please see page 9 about plans to put fresh flowers in the church again, when possible. If you prefer to donate money, please put it in a separately labelled envelope in the collection plate.

Please may I have articles for October by September 17<sup>th</sup>, thank you.

Catriona Blackwood

Pastoral Committee member and Magazine Editor

554 6183. Magazine @pilrigstpauls.org.uk



“For many people, life is difficult. Faced with various physical, emotional and social challenges, we aren’t always equipped to cope on our own. But at CrossReach we believe that with the right support, at the right time, every person can flourish and life can be fulfilling.”

**Copies of the current CrossReach news can be found in the open doorway. Christine Edington can supply further details**



## **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



### **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](mailto:psp.halluse@gmail.com) to make a booking.

Scottish Charity no. SCO07277