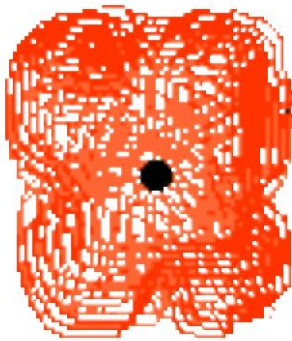




# **REMEMBERING THEM**



**PILRIG ST PAUL'S  
CHURCH NOVEMBER  
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 NOVEMBER 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 5<sup>th</sup> November - Joint Service with Leith St Andrew's and St Margaret's Restalrig 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 9<sup>th</sup> November at Ebenezer UFC at 1pm.**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10:50 am. Remembrance service. PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME.**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2pm The Guild, Talk: Homes for Good (one of our projects this year)**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm Board Meeting, Open Doorway**

**CROSSREACH**  
Care you can put your faith in

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

From our minister:

*“How long, O Lord will you look on? Rescue me from their ravages, my life from the lions! ... You have seen, O Lord, do not be silent! O Lord, do not be far from me!” – Psalm 35: 17, 22*

Dear All,

The Psalmists were experts in lamenting, crying, and calling out to God in times of fear, anxiety, and distress. “Where are you?” “How long will you hide your face?” and “How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart?”

Lately it feels as if our world has been in a state of perpetual lament. The increasing numbers of deaths and casualties from the armed conflict between Ukraine and Russia. The humanitarian tragedies of civil war, ethnic conflict, and extreme droughts that continue to claim thousands of lives in the Darfur region of western Sudan. The suffering of all those caught up in the fighting between Hamas and the Israeli armed forces.

When faced with such news we prayerfully ask the psalmists’ questions - “How long will this go on?” and “Where are you God?” But like all prayer, the psalms should come with a warning: Don’t ask a question if you don’t want an answer. Because we know that the answer frequently starts with us!

We pray, “How long will this go on?” and God replies, “How long will you let it?” We ask, “How long will you hide your face?” and God replies, “How long will you hide yours?” If we find ourselves safe in our sanctuaries wondering where God is and what God is doing, then it is probably because *God is wondering where we are and what we are doing about these very same issues.*

*The history of humanity has shown us the depths of hatred and violence that we can sink to in our relationships with others. But it has*

*also shown us that peaceful reconciliation and justice can happen when we can lay aside our fears and prejudices and share the pains and losses of others.*

The season of Remembrance is a reminder that peace often comes with a cost, not just measured in the loss of human lives, but in our ability to see beyond our own suffering and to seek an understanding of the pain and trauma suffered by those on the other side.

As outsiders to much of the world's current conflicts we can choose to pick sides and continue to ask, "How long will this go on". Or alternatively we can seek the difficult task to mediate between sides – helping them to see the suffering and pain endured by the other side in the hope that we can help break the cycle of violence in our world.

Blessings

Mark

### Zoom

The Church has a zoom account and we are open to suggestions from any members who would like to host/participate in a monthly online prayer circle, tea/coffee and chat sessions, or any online fellowship events. Please speak to the Minister or Session Clerk if you have any thoughts or for help to access/set up any online events you would like to host.



**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.**

## **In Search of a New Name**

Israel, the Lord who created you says, “do not be afraid, I will save you. I have called you by name, you are mine”. Isaiah 43.1

It is both a comfort and a blessing to know that God knows each of our names, that before we were even born he knew what name we would be given.

But sometimes God gives us a new name. For example, in the case of Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham, or Jacob who became Israel or Saul who became Paul. The meaning of Abram is “Exalted Father” while Abraham means “father of a multitude”. Jacob means “heel” while Israel means “God strives”. Saul means “asked” while Paul means “small or humble”. All three of these well-known figures were given a new name to signify a new start.

As St Margaret’s and Pilrig St Paul’s and Leith St Andrews come together in union, this is a new start for us, so naturally we also need a new name.

Names can inspire us, they give us hope and most importantly they remind us of the significance of something. Choosing a new name is no easy task, but it is always a privilege and it is also a legacy to be passed down to the next generation.

So, are we up for the challenge? Are we ready to choose our new name?! There are a few practical points to keep in mind, first of all, the new name needs to include:

- a geographical reference (City/town/village)
- an additional name to identify the congregation within that location
- the words “Church of Scotland”

For example our neighbours have elected to choose the name “Leith and Newhaven Church of Scotland”.

The new name also needs to be relevant to all three congregations. Please submit your suggestions to the Kirk session clerk of your individual church by the end of the year. The Kirk Sessions will take a vote on the suggested names in January 2024.

2024 will not only hail a new year but additionally a new start and a new name for us all as a church. What a memorable time this is!

May God give us the wisdom to choose well.

Fadz Laoshe  
Children, Youth and Family Worker

### The Open Doorway

We are aiming to relaunch the Open Doorway in December and are looking for volunteers to help join the team. At present we are looking at opening from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon on Thursdays (on a fortnightly basis to start with). The dates for December will be the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>. The dates for January will be 11<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Tea/Coffee and biscuits are served to anyone who wishes to drop into the Church, but more importantly it makes the sanctuary space available for personal prayer and meditation for anyone who wishes to use it.

If you are willing to help out then please give your name and contact details to the minister before Sunday 26 November stating which dates you can manage.



## 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.

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 either by emailing [mark.wexelstein@gmail.com](mailto:mark.wexelstein@gmail.com) or calling on 07881 344480.

### **ST. MARGARET'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

The Fayre will be held on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> November, from 11.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m. in the McLaren Halls. We are looking for donations of bottles of wine, books and jigsaws and unwanted **NEW** gifts (no bric-a-brac). Also, if anyone would like to volunteer to help out, please speak to one of the Fellowship Team, or phone the Church Office on 0131 554 7400. Alternatively, just come along and enjoy the Fayre. Everyone will be most welcome. Many thanks.





Life and Work is available monthly. To purchase it from the church, or for details of having it posted or sent electronically, please contact me. The cost for 2024 remains at £42, or can be shared with another at £21 each.           Catriona Blackwood



## PASTORAL CARE and MAGAZINE

Hello,

It has been good to see fresh flowers in the church again on some Sundays. Thank you to Lisa Innes who is organising this and will be happy to give you further details. She has some dates left, for this year and next. If you prefer to donate money, please put it in a separately labelled envelope in the collection plate.

The exciting news is that we plan to have the Open Doorway up and running again soon! Please see page 7. Cards, support and flowers have been given to members of the congregation who are going through good and bad times. Thank you to everyone who keeps us up to date for this.

Please may I have articles for December by November 26th, thank you. 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, I need to record this). First names, or first names and initial will be used.

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

The Controlled Parking Zone in Leith is now operational but only Mon-Fri 8.30-5.30 so anyone driving to church on a Sunday can park in any of the residents' or shared parking spaces. The single yellow line from Pilrig Glebe to Arthur Street does not operate on a Sunday so you can also park there.

### **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 to make a booking.**