



**PILRIG St  
PAUL'S CHURCH  
FEBRUARY  
2024**

## 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 with us.

### 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 FEBRUARY 2024

**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 4<sup>th</sup> February - Joint Service with Leith St Andrew's and St Margaret's Restalrig at Leith St Andrew's 11am**

**There will be no service in Pilrig St Paul's today.**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Service in the Sanctuary**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2pm – The Guild see page 5**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February Open Doorway 10.30-12**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Service in the Sanctuary**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Service in the Sanctuary**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February Open Doorway 10.30-12**



**Copies of the current CrossReach news can be found in the open doorway**



**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.**

**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. SC007277

[www.leithchurchesforum.org.uk](http://www.leithchurchesforum.org.uk)

From our minister:

“You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise up. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,” - **Deuteronomy 11: 18 – 20**

Dear All,

**20 † C † M † B † 24**

Many Christian denominations around the world mark the season of Epiphany through the tradition of ‘chalking the door’ using a pattern such as the one above. The numbers represent the calendar year 2024 and the crosses represent Christ. The letters C, M, and B in some traditions stand for the names of the biblical magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) and in other traditions represent the Latin blessing *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ Bless this House). Chalking the door is commonly done on Epiphany Day itself, although it can be done on any day of the Epiphany Season. Chalking the door is an invitation for the Risen Christ to be a daily guest in our home – in our comings and our goings, in our conversations and our actions, in our work and our play, in our joys and our sorrows.

Traditionally the season of Epiphany is about celebrating and discovering the ways in which God reveals God’s own self and God’s own nature to us. As such we are reminded to keep ourselves open to the presence of God in our daily lives. The mistake that many of us make is that we expect to see God’s presence revealed to us in dramatic and spectacular ways – like many of the accounts we read in the bible. However, we would

do well to remember that our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic Church call this season Ordinary Time rather than the season of Epiphany. It is an important reminder to us that God's presence is frequently found in the ordinariness of our everyday lives, in the simplest of actions, and in the routine interactions we have with others.

I hope that you receive Christ as a daily guest in your home this season and that you experience something of God's presence in your daily life.

Blessings

Mark



We are very grateful to have received £320 donation.

Thank you so much.

Kirsty and Rachel

Fundraisers

(Excerpt from the letter. Eric Fisher can give more details of this charity.)

### Foodbank News

A big THANK YOU for all your time and help with the Tesco Collection at the weekend. It was a huge success, with a lot of customers donating to our foodbank. We collected 1500kg of stock and £170 money donations, which is fantastic and helps boost our stock, ready for the winter.

**Alison Roxburgh**  
**General Manager**



## **PASTORAL CARE and MAGAZINE**

Hello,

There is plenty to read this month. Thank you for all the contributions. It has been good to see members, who are able, at church even during very cold weather. When it is warmer it will be good to welcome less able people, too. We have now run the Open Doorway on alternate Thursdays for 2 months and it has been good to have people drop in.

The Doorway will continue on alternate Thursdays and we hope to build up the numbers who visit. See back page. If you would like to help, please let the minister know. If you want to visit – just come!

For those members and adherents who read the magazine online, I am happy to supply a full prayer and thank you list, or extra contact details. This is not made generally available for reasons of confidentiality.

There was a concert held amongst the three churches on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January. After expenses, we were able to give the Edinburgh Street Pastors £190 towards, their work.

Please may I have articles for the March magazine by 18<sup>th</sup> February, thank you.

Catriona Blackwood  
Pastoral Committee member and Magazine Editor  
554 6183. [magazine@pilrigstpauls.org](mailto:magazine@pilrigstpauls.org).

The Guild meet on Tuesday 13th February 2pm with Guest speaker Maureen Kelly talking about Edinburgh Jacobite Trails. All visitors welcome. Come along and hear what Maureen has to tell us.

Guild committee

We received this letter from Mia, whom we welcomed to our church while she was studying in Edinburgh

15<sup>th</sup> of December, 2023

Dear church,

As you may know, I'm already back in Barcelona. But I did want to say goodbye and thank you all for welcoming me into your community!

These past two years have been everything but dull. On the one hand, it has been an intense (and stressful!) time as I was nearing the end of my PhD, which deals with cultural trauma and the tradition of the empty tomb in Mark 16:1-8. "Cultural trauma" refers to how groups, communities or collectives deal with events that are deemed so traumatic that they are able to unravel what holds the group together. In other words, they profoundly impact social or collective identity. Traumatic and horrendous events, like Jesus' crucifixion, demand that a group unfolds different strategies to make sense of the trauma and avoid falling apart. Ritual lamentation, by which we mean ancient rituals to honour the dearly departed at the time of death and beyond, is particularly effective in this endeavour. The latter, we can see in Mark 16: the women travelling to Jesus' tomb to mourn and lament are not alone but embody the whole community of early Jesus' followers coming to terms with Jesus' death and its meaning(s). My research spotlights how women had a pivotal role during these rituals and were deeply involved in producing a social memory of Jesus, for in death, we look back to the life of an individual.

On the other hand, my work with the Gospel of Mark has pushed me well beyond the collective sense of trauma, and I have also explored the connections between individual and collective trauma, particularly in the Church. Consequently, I have dwelt in the realities of religious trauma, spiritual abuse and spiritual violence.

At times, this diving has been challenging to navigate: the Church's witnessing of the Gospel and personal biographies are frequently revisited when dealing with these realities, and it may be a painful experience.

Places affording the opportunity to catch up with oneself are particularly healthy in these processes, and though I'm afraid I have been a bit of a silent visitor in Pilrig's St Paul, being welcomed in the community and joining in worship with you all has been anything but a silent experience for me.

I would be remiss if I didn't also express my gratitude to the Church of Scotland: I could come and study at New College thanks to the Faithshare Programme, a project spearheaded by the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland, today the Faith Action Programme. I cannot emphasise enough the importance and the impactful difference this programme has in enabling international students like myself to pursue theological education, and give back the results of their work to the broader community of churches. As I write this, I'm preparing to move to Mexico in a couple of months, where I will be joining a theological programme as a lecturer in New Testament. I also expect to connect with some church partners with the Church of Scotland, like the Comunion Mexicana de Iglesias Presbiterianas y Reformadas (CMIR).

As we prepare for Christmas, and the roads fill with those fortunate enough to make their way back home to celebrate with family and friends, it is fitting to think how the shortest of encounters have the power to change one's life's direction. Even more, that encounter might be the little light, the final push capturing God's blessing in a caring hug those venturing into the unknown may need.

Merry Christmas!

Mia

Thank you, Mia. We miss you and wish you all the best wherever you go. ED





## 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.

### **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

**Pilrig St Paul's Church**

**OPEN DOORWAY**

**15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

**29<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2004**

**14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2004**

**28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2004**

**10.30am – 12noon**

**RELAX AND CHAT OVER  
TEA AND COFFEE  
OPEN TO ALL**

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESS  
PILRIG STREET, MIDDLE DOOR,  
PLEASE RING THE BELL**

**[www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk](http://www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk)**

**Scottish Charity no. SC00727**