



**PILRIG St PAUL'S CHURCH**  
**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**  
**MARCH 2024**

## **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.**

### **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 should contact magazine Editor. For more information about our groups and organisations, find contact details at the back of the magazine. 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 CHURCH. MARCH 2024**  
**HOLY WEEK SERVICES SEE PAGE 6**

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 Pilrig St Paul's, doors open 10.35am.

Pilrig St Paul's services are on Facebook, to watch live or later.

**ALL WELCOME TO EVERY SERVICE**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** - Joint Service

St Margaret's Restalrig **10.30am.**

**No service in Pilrig St Paul's that day**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** 7pm Alpha Course. See back page

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March** - Service in the Sanctuary

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March** - 2pm Guild Beetle drive, see page 7

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March** Open Doorway 10.30-12noon

7pm Alpha Course

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March** - Service in the Sanctuary

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March** 7pm Alpha Course

7.30pm Board Meeting

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March** - Palm Sunday Service in the Sanctuary

**Tuesday 26 March** - Holy Week Service 7.30pm in the Sanctuary

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** Open Doorway 10.30-12noon

7pm Alpha Course

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March** - Easter Day Service in the Sanctuary

**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:***

“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.”

~ Genesis 17: 4-5

Dear All,

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God appeared to him and made a new covenant with him. As a sign of this covenant Abram was given the name Abraham, and his wife Sarai given the name Sarah. These new names signified a new chapter in their lives and in their relationship with God.

Likewise, the congregation at Pilrig St. Paul’s has undergone numerous changes of name since 1843 – each one signifying a new chapter in the life and history of the congregation and our evolving relationship with God. As we prepare to start the next chapter in the life of our congregation along with our neighbours at St. Margaret’s and Leith, St. Andrew’s, we will mark this with another new name. This is the name that will be used to cover the united parish of the three churches and our shared ministry. No decision has been made to rename any of our existing church buildings and these will remain unchanged at present. The name that was overwhelmingly selected by all three congregations is “Leith and Restalrig Church of Scotland”. The name fits with the criteria (explained in previous issues) that we must use, but more importantly it contains some strong symbolism for us all. **Leith and Restalrig Church**, provides us with the acronym LARCH, which we hope to use going forward.

The Larch tree is a deciduous conifer, which means it is one of the very few conifers that doesn't remain evergreen throughout the year. Just before it drops its needles in Autumn, the Larch turns a beautiful fiery gold/yellow in colour. This is suggestive of the emblem of the Church of Scotland, the burning bush in which God appeared to Moses. The fact that the Larch tree drops its needles every year and regrows new ones each spring, means that it is continually renewing itself. This can be seen to symbolise the motto that helped to define and shape many of the Reformed Churches across Europe, including the Church of Scotland, "*ecclesia reformata semper reformanda*" which means 'the church reformed and always reforming'.

As a symbol for the new parish the Larch reminds us that we need to keep God at the centre of all that we do (The burning bush) and that we need to keep renewing ourselves (*semper reformanda*) as we continue to grow in our ministry. We look forward in faith, hope and love to the new opportunities that await us in worship, fellowship, and service in the next chapter of our congregation's life.

Blessings

Mark



**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.**

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES ( All at 7:30 pm)**

Monday 25 March - South Leith Church

Tuesday 26 March - Pilrig St. Paul's Church

Wednesday 27 March - Leith St. Andrew's Church

Thursday 28 March - St. Margaret's, Restalrig

Friday 29 March – North Leith Church\*

(\* This service is planned to be the final act of worship in North Leith Church before it closes)



## **PASTORAL CARE and MAGAZINE**

Hello,

Thank you for all the contributions this month.

At the joint service in February the Steering Group report was presented. It is printed on the next page in full, including parts duplicated elsewhere in the magazine.

The Open Doorway continues on alternate Thursdays and we hope to build up the numbers who visit. 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.

Please may I have articles for the April magazine by 24<sup>th</sup> March, thank you.

Catriona Blackwood

Pastoral Committee member and Magazine Editor

554 6183. [magazine@pilrigstpauls.org](mailto:magazine@pilrigstpauls.org).

**Beetle Drive**  
Pilrig St Paul's Guild  
Tuesday 12 March  
2.00 pm  
Ticket. £5      Tea & Cake  
Tickets from Guild members or at the door



**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.

## **Steering Group report for joint service – February 2024**

Here is a brief update on what the Steering Group has been working on, ahead of the union of our three congregations later in the year. The Steering Group has been meeting monthly and is made up of the clergy team plus two representatives from each congregation.

As you know, under the Presbytery Plan, Leith St Andrew's building is to be released by December this year. The Steering Group is hoping to have all the required arrangements for the union put in place by October so that everything can be finalised by the end of the year.

There are a lot of practical issues to be sorted out such as what will happen to all the physical things owned by each Church, what will happen to the groups currently meeting in each Church, what manses will be retained, who will be on the ministry team, what will happen to the current staff across the three congregations, how do we bring together our financial resources, how will all the current committees and teams such as property, finance, pastoral care and so on come together. Some of these decisions will be made by Presbytery, not by the Steering Group or Kirk Sessions. There is plenty still to think about and a lot to organise in a relatively short period of time.

I can tell you that after much discussion and weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of the buildings, the three Kirk Sessions have chosen St Margaret's building to be the main worship centre. This means we expect Sunday morning services to take place there following the union. Pilrig St Paul's building will continue to be used, though when and for what purposes is still to be decided.



And finally, I can now tell you that the vote for a new name at the Congregational Meetings following worship on 21<sup>st</sup> January resulted in a clear favourite, by a majority. The name chosen is Leith & Restalrig Church. As well as clearly indicating what area we will serve, it could give rise to the acronym LARCH. The larch tree is a deciduous conifer and before it drops its needles in Autumn, they turn a beautiful fiery colour, perhaps suggestive of the emblem of the Church of Scotland, the burning bush. The fact that the Larch tree drops its needles every year regrowing them in spring, means that it is continually renewing itself. This could be seen to symbolise the motto that helped to define and shape many Reformed Churches, including the Church of Scotland, "ecclesia reformata semper reformanda" which means 'the church reformed and always reforming'.

As we continue to work towards the union of our three congregations, we ask for your prayerful and practical support. This is not an easy time for us as individuals, as congregations or indeed for the Church of Scotland. Whatever happens, we should try to look forward in faith.

This was presented to us by Joanne Baird, Session Clerk Leith St Andrew's Church at the joint service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Members will be kept up to date as more details are announced.

## 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](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



## **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. SCO072



## **ALPHA AT PILRIG ST PAUL'S**

Address: 1B Pilrig Street EH6 5AH

**Every Thursday at 7pm – 8.30pm from 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 for 11 weeks**

**Come along to our Alpha course for a lively discussion in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Free food/refreshments will be provided.**

**Alpha is an invitation to explore life's biggest questions and a chance to look at the life and message of Jesus.**

**For more information or to book a place please email**

**[flaoshe@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:flaoshe@churchofscotland.org.uk)**