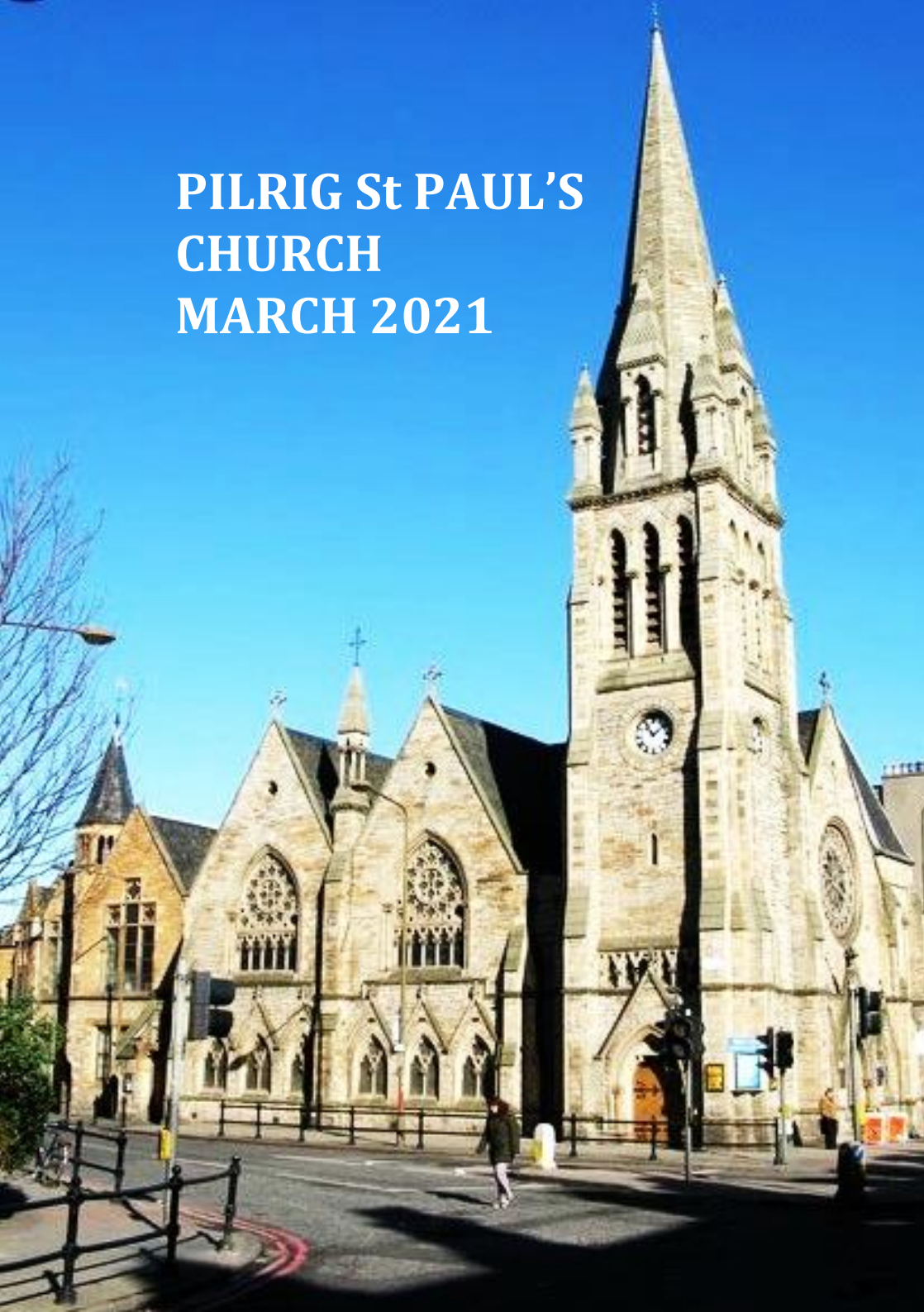


**PILRIG St PAUL'S
CHURCH
MARCH 2021**



Please consider making a donation by visiting our website 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 also set up a JustGiving page and 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.

If you shop online you can support the church when you shop on Amazon. If you are using their webpage can you go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and you can select Edinburgh: Pilrig St Paul's Parish Church of Scotland as the charity. For certain purchases we will receive up to 1.5% as a donation. You can now change the settings on their app and select the same charity name.

Thank you for your continued support and hopefully we will all be able to meet again soonish to worship together.

Mark Wexelstein

Email treasurer@pilrigstpauls.org.uk Phone 0131 665 6881

INFORMATION re 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, including the names in the prayer corner, it would normally be omitted from the on-line version). 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 MARCH 2021

We are unable to use our building for Worship at the moment. The Covid planning group, guided by Mark Foster, are keeping up to date with changes to the regulations and will implement them as soon as practicable, following the Scottish Government information and Church of Scotland guidance. Any new information will be published in the weekly intimations and the magazine. For those who do not have access to the intimations online, there will be a recorded update message on the booking phone. (07738 620369)

Please join us for our recorded Facebook Service shown on Sundays at 11 am – all welcome.

BBC Scotland have been showing 'Reflections at the Quay' each Sunday. The times of the broadcasts vary.

(Covid Planning Group members: Rev Mark Foster, John Innes, Catriona Blackwood, Maria Croall, Aileen Fraser, and Mark Wexelstein)

Thank you to the two people who are continuing to staff our Foodbank on a Wednesday.



'Leith Chooses' Grant Success

Great News.....We were successful with the 'Leith Chooses' Grant and will be receiving £5K funding to work in partnership with South Leith Parish Church Community Café by providing a 3 course nutritious meal for some of our foodbank clients, particularly those who don't have cooking facilities. (Once the café is open again)

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who took the time to vote for us.

(Excerpt from a letter from our Edinburgh NE Foodbank General manager, Alison Roxburgh)

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,

The book of Isaiah covers a traumatic and turbulent period of several hundred years in the history of God's chosen people. During this period Assyria expended westwards from its origins in modern-day northern Iraq towards the Mediterranean, defeating and capturing Aram (Syria), then the Kingdom of Israel, and finally Judah. This was followed by the conquest of Jerusalem by Babylon and the time of exile for its elite until Babylon itself was defeated by the Persians.

Amidst all this chaos and uncertainty the Prophet Isaiah hints at the possibility of a better, brighter future for God's chosen people: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse". Amid all the destruction they had experienced, Isaiah foretells them that signs of new life will appear and that the household of Jesse (Father of King David) will re-establish itself again. All this would take time. It wasn't just going to happen overnight. They needed to be patient and maintain their hope for the future.

All around us signs of new life are emerging in the natural world. Snowdrops that have lain dormant in the cold dark soil are now bursting forth in gardens and parks. The green stalks of crocuses, irises and daffodils are also emerging from their winter slumbers, while elsewhere buds are beginning to appear on the trees and the days are slowly lengthening. But none of these things can be rushed. They will happen in their own good time.

Likewise we are beginning to see new signs of new life and better times ahead in our society. Many people have received their first

vaccination injection against COVID-19 and infection rates appear to be falling again. This too is a process that can't be rushed even if we are impatient to return to normal. We, too, must wait patiently for the complicated processes of vaccination and elimination to take effect.

We know from the scriptures that those returning from exile in Babylon soon realised that this wasn't the end of their story. Their return to Jerusalem didn't result in things immediately returning to normal for them. They had to re-forged lost relationships and piece back together the broken parts of their society. And they needed to be patient and maintain their hope for the future.

Similarly, we will have to rebuild and reform our relationships with others. We will also have to alter our practices and change our behaviours as we start the process of adapting to a new chapter in our lives. Perhaps we can draw strength and hope from our faith and from the example of the natural world around us. We need to keep the belief that things will work out given time. It may not happen as quickly as we would wish – it may even take another few seasons – but thankfully it should not be as long as the events covered in the book of Isaiah.

The stories of God's people tell us that there is always a much bigger picture than our own immediate circumstances. Our current time is just a mere blip in history on the road to establishing God's peaceful kingdom here on earth. "On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11: 10).

Until then let us take each day in its' time – each day as a blessing – each day as an opportunity to further God's plan for our world.

Shalom
Mark

CONGRATULATIONS!

to Evelyn Torrance!

We are delighted with the news that Evelyn Torrance has been awarded the highest award in Scouting, the Silver Wolf Award.*

Normally, the award would take place at Windsor Castle with a representative from the Royal Family, but sadly, due to Covid-19, it will be awarded locally later this year.

Evelyn has been involved in Scouting for about 66 years!!!

Having been a Brownie and Guide as a girl, she started as a Young Leader with the cubs in 1951, and became “Assistant Cub Master” with the 10th Leith Group at the end of 1954. She worked closely with her friends Mary Gray and Jean Sutherland who ran the nearby 5th and 20th Leith Groups. When they merged to form the 5th Leith, Evelyn continued her commitment to the 5th, working alongside Mary Porteous in the Cub section, whilst Jean and Mary went onto District appointments. Evelyn fondly remembers helping “Tracker” (Tom Attenborough) at that time, to run the 7th Leith Beavers whilst she also ran the 5th.

In her Scouting career, Evelyn has also undertaken other District roles including being a member of the District Executive, District Badge Secretary (which she now shares with Bob Robinson) and she was also Treasurer of the Leith District Fellowship and helped with the Active Support Unit. She is currently a Beaver Section Leader at Pilrig, in Edinburgh North East District. Evelyn’s strengths are in crafts and handiwork skills and she loves passing these on to her young people.

It is fascinating to hear Evelyn recount her broader activities with the cubs, such as attending the 18th World Scout Jamboree in Holland in 1995 and a Fellowship trip to Belgium in the late 90s. Evelyn also took Cub Packs to London in 1960s when the cost of the bus trip was £3.50 in “old money”, and to various district camps and fun days.

Over the years she has been formally recognised for her service to Scouting, receiving the Medal of Merit in 1978, the Bar to the Medal of Merit in 1999, the Silver Acorn in 2007 and the Chief Scout’s 60 Years of Service Award in 2015!!

Evelyn’s pleasure in sharing her enjoyment of life and passing on her wisdom in an easy and likeable way is well known, and it is inspiring to hear her talk about working with the beavers – not least the fact that she can still kneel on the floor to assist in crafts!

Compiled by the Editor with reference to articles by
Rob Whitelaw District Commissioner Edinburgh North East District Scouts
Mike Treanor Scouting Support Officer



*The Silver Wolf is the unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout, and is only awarded for service of a most exceptional nature.



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.

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, OR ARE ASKED TO CONTACT: magazine@pilrigstpauls.org.uk



PASTORAL CARE AND MAGAZINE

Dear All,

During this prolonged lockdown we are continuing to offer support to members via telephone trees, the magazine, cards, flowers and our Sunday Facebook service. We know many members are also keeping up with their friends in other ways. The Session and Congregational Board are meeting as usual via the internet or phoning in.

Many members will now have had their first Covid vaccination, or will have a date for it. I hope that the side effects are minimal. Younger members are mostly still waiting, but hopefully the roll-out will continue as planned and they, too, will have the opportunity to receive it in the not too distant future.

Thank you for contributions for this magazine. Articles for April should be with me by March 22nd, please.

Catriona Blackwood
Pastoral Committee Member
554 6183
magazine@pilrigstpauls.org.uk

CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

As well as the magazine, updates are available on the website and facebook page.

Radio, TV, Internet Audio and Visual clips and some live streaming worship services that you can listen to and watch from home:

Thought for the Day:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00szxv6>

BBC Radio Four Sunday Worship:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qnds>

Songs of Praise:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006ttc5>

Recommended Podcast:

<https://robbell.com/portfolio/robcast/>

WordPress site at <https://onecfl.wordpress.com/> where you will find prayers, reflections and other items provided by the Ministers from the four Leith churches.

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

hello@scouts.scot

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

General information re donating to Pilrig St Paul's and information re articles for Pilrig St Paul's magazine can be found on the inside front cover.

For information about free transport for people with mobility challenges to their vaccine appointment,

please see the [Handicabs](#) website

If you can, please continue collecting.....

Plastic milk bottle tops: blue or green with a 2 or 4 on them,

Plastic tops and lids with other colours and sizes

Flower bags

Stamps: cut out used postage stamps leaving a 1 cm margin

[These will be gratefully received once we are up and running again. Thank you](#)



CONTACT DETAILS

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5AH

www.pilrigstpauls.org.uk Church Office 0131 553 1876

HALL LETS - NO BOOKINGS ARE BEING TAKEN MEANTIME

When we are able to re-open our halls we will publicise this on our website, intimations and the magazine.

Scottish Charity no. SC007277

www.leithchurchesforum.org.uk