



# **LEITH AND RESTALRIG CHURCH**

**JUNE 2025**

LEITH AND RESTALRIG CHURCH (LARCH)  
MINISTER REV. ROB MACKENZIE

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 editors (eg, for the online version, 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 Leith and Restalrig Church or the Church of Scotland.

Please note the church office is the address for all correspondence.

Office Hours (Angie Egan) are as following:

Mondays from 8.30am to 4.30 pm at the Leith Walk office

Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8.30am to 12.30pm at the Restalrig office.

Intimations for Church events should be sent to the Church Administrator at [mail@larch.org.uk](mailto:mail@larch.org.uk) by lunchtime Wednesday.

Minister Rob MacKenzie [AMacKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AMacKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Session Clerk Stuart Lithgow [session.clerk@larch.org.uk](mailto:session.clerk@larch.org.uk)

LARCH: Restalrig, Restalrig Road South,  
Edinburgh, EH7 6LF

Church Office 176 Restalrig Rd South, EH7 6EA

McLaren Halls, 48 Restalrig Rd. South, EH7 6LE

LARCH: Leith Walk 1b Pilrig Street, Edinburgh EH6 5AH

LARCH Easter Road 410-412 Easter Road EH6 8HT

This is a reduced version of the magazine for general publication. Members and adherents who would like more information should contact the Church office.

<https://larch.org.uk>

Scottish Charity no. SC012680

**WELCOME** to the June edition of the magazine.

Led by Session, we are getting used to our new church and look forward to the events and activities planned. There are progress reports and updates in this edition. Thank you very much for all the articles. It is excellent to have so much information. Any items for the next edition should be received by 20<sup>th</sup> July and emailed to:

[mail@larch.org.uk](mailto:mail@larch.org.uk)

There is also a box for short articles or thank you notes in the entranceway to LARCH: Restalrig.

SUNDAY SERVICES - 11<sup>am</sup> in LARCH RESTALRIG BUILDING \* and on Facebook or YouTube, to watch live or later

**See page 6 about Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Note there is no Service in LARCH Restalrig that day.**

Oasis of Peace, Meditative Service Every Wednesday, Open Doorway Larch Leith Walk\*\*

Craft Group, Every Wednesday, 2pm-4pm Hanlon Centre\*\*\* p12

The Guild, check the next magazine for details of the 25/26 Session

Café 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays Open Doorway Larch Leith Walk\*\*

Thursday club Thurs 26 June 2025 (7pm) Putting and fish supper evening. Please see Kenny MacKenzie, Lynda Johnston

\*LARCH: Restalrig Building, Restalrig Road South, Edinburgh, EH7 6LF

\*\*Open Doorway LARCH, Leith Walk Building.

Wheel chair users - please ring the bell at Pilrig Street, middle door.

\*\*\*Hanlon Centre, McLaren Halls 48 Restalrig Rd. South, EH7 6LE

\*\*\*\*McLaren Halls 48 Restalrig Rd. South, EH7 6LE

**ALL WELCOME TO EVERY SERVICE and EVENT**

If booking is required this will be stated

Dear Friends

I'm writing this in the middle of May. The sun and has shone, the sky has been blue, the air has been warm now for most of the last fortnight. It's a time for getting out and about, or at least feeling positive about the long, bright days, after the usual long, dark Scottish winter. We are lucky with our climate here, of course, even though we often complain about it. It's too cold for most serious diseases and dangerous mosquitos to thrive. We don't have gigantic spiders or venomous snakes sidling up our garden paths. And we have an abundance of water and good soil for grass to grow and crops to spread out. Climate change might occasionally affect us, with an increase in recent years of floods and storms, and that can cause chaos for people who live in the wrong town at the wrong time, but by and large we barely notice the small, incremental increase in the average temperature year by year.

That's not the case in many parts of the world where climate change is already producing devastating effects, drying up previously fertile soil, flooding out farms that never used to have such problems, and leaving entire communities without water and without any way of making enough money to provide the most basic food and clothing for their families. It's the poorest parts of the world that are suffering the most even though climate change is happening because the richest economies of the world refuse to take even their own environmental targets seriously.

Some deny climate change even exists. They know it exists, of course, but choose not to bother with the evidence. They know it will cause them inconvenience and will hit their massive bank balances, which they care about far more about than starving children thousands of miles away. These narcissistic liars also do not care that God has made each one of us to take care of



creation, of which we are a small part. They are more than happy to see an ecologically-aware Christianity being marginalised and largely silenced when it comes to public discourse. And they

appeal to people's inward-looking selfishness, as if selfishness has now become a virtue!

This summer, I hope we can all reflect on how we can take better care of the world's resources, how we can shop with greater awareness of environmental impact, and how we can put pressure on governments and corporate bodies – non-violently, of course – to meet the targets they blithely call 'unrealistic' (even though they set them, and know they are necessary). It's not just about maintaining a world for our children and grandchildren. It's about helping many of the poorest people in the world to survive in the here and now. It's about responding to God's call to care for the world with a display of authentic, basic Christianity.

Rob Mackenzie (minister, LARCH)

Our interim Moderator, for the second ministry post, is Rev Matthew Ross. He can be contacted by email: [revmross@gmail.com](mailto:revmross@gmail.com) or tel: 0131 441 2232.

**CROSS REACH**  
Care you can put your faith in

Copies of the current CrossReach news can be found in the entrance, Restalrig Sanctuary and the Open doorway, Leith Walk.

**OASIS OF PEACE'** at LARCH: Leith Walk each Wednesday from 10.15a.m. Please check weekly notices about this Service in July and August. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME** to attend this short service where we sing some hymns, pray for others and have

a reflection or discussion on a Bible passage. It lasts around half an hour and we finish with tea/coffee and a chat.

**PRAYER CORNER** Please remember members of the congregation, their families and other friends in your prayers. Names are read out at the Services (Sunday Worship, Restalrig building 11am, Wednesday Oasis of Peace, Leith Walk Building 10.15am). To include someone, please either add the name to the Prayer Book in the entrance way to LARCH: Restalrig or email Rob:

[AMacKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AMacKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk)



Please note there will not be a service in LARCH Restalrig that day



## **NORTH EAST EDINBURGH FOODBANK**

The foodbank continues to operate at all three of our buildings: LARCH Restalrig, LARCH Leith Walk and LARCH Easter Road. This short update is from LARCH Easter Road. The foodbank continues to provide a vital service to service users and on average supplies food parcels to an average of 20-30 clients each week at our sessions on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. We are always grateful for any donations and at the moment we would especially welcome donations of sugar and coffee, and ladies' and men's deodorants, though would be more than happy to accept other suitable items too. Please place your items in the box located at the main door of the LARCH Restalrig. There's also a donation basket in the Vestibule at Larch: Leith Walk if you are there for the Oasis of Peace or The Open Doorway. Have a look at the website to see what kinds of other donations are most useful: [Edinburgh NE Foodbank](#)

LARCH - Restalrig each Wednesday 11-12.30

LARCH - Leith Walk each Wednesday afternoon 4.30-6

LARCH - Easter Road Tuesday 1-2.30pm and Thursday 10-11.30am

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

The Fellowship Team held a very successful soup and sandwich lunch for Christian Aid on Sunday 11th May 2025. This was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Donations so far received for Christian Aid on behalf of the church are £710 .

Fellowship Team  
May 2025

## **CARE VAN**

The Care Van is appealing for donations of men's socks, tee-shirts, tops and underwear. (Pre-used items are fine.) If they can be left by the church entrance, I will collect them.

Thank you!

Sandra Nicol



## **THANK YOU**

We have received thank you notes from many members for prayers, flowers, cards, visits, phone calls, texts and support received following illness, celebrations, bereavements and accidents.

**To donate flowers:**

**Please sign up on the sheet in the Hall, or put a donation in the box at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you.**



## **PASTORAL CARE INFORMATION**

Members of the congregation requiring pastoral care for themselves, or for other members, can contact the Team (see below for contact details). Their remit includes:

- Home Visits or Phone Calls \*
- Hospital and Care Home Visits
- Home Communion
- Prayer requests
- Flower deliveries
- Christmas Gifts

**\* With regards to home visits or phone calls, please let us know if you would like either of these.**

We are also keen to acknowledge and celebrate life events, such as special birthdays and anniversaries. Please let us know of these in advance so that we may send a card and/or flowers.

**You can contact the Team in the following ways:**

- By email to [pastoralcare.team@larch.org.uk](mailto:pastoralcare.team@larch.org.uk)
- Phoning the Church Office on 0131 554 7400
- Visiting the Church Office see page 2

**Should you require urgent pastoral care, please contact:**

- Our minister, Rob Mackenzie,  
[AMacKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AMacKenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk) OR
- [session.clerk@larch.org.uk](mailto:session.clerk@larch.org.uk)

With love and prayers,  
The Pastoral Care Team

## **LEITH AND RESTALRIG CHURCH – KIRK SESSION**

Things have continued apace since our last article for the Magazine. The following key matters have been approved/carried out:

- The bank account name has been changed to Leith and Restalrig Church of Scotland. You will hear from Mark, our Treasurer, in due course if you require to do anything. Meantime, arrangements are as before. (see page 16)
- Pest control works for the Clock Tower at LARCH Leith Walk following an infestation by pigeons were carried out.
- The following Teams were established and have begun to work on their remits: Pastoral Care, Worship, Comms and Fellowship.
- The sound system was inspected by a sound engineer and various adjustments were made. We are still due to replace two of the speakers at the front which will hopefully make things even better.
- The Clavinova (digital piano) was transferred from Leith St Andrew's to LARCH Restalrig which has been greatly appreciated by Stuart and Ginny. The previous Clavinova is now available for use in the McLaren Halls.
- Our records were inspected by Presbytery and, apart from a couple of small points, were found to be satisfactory.
- Two stalls were booked for Leith Gala Day on Saturday 14 June. One will be an information stall and one will be a tombola stall which will raise money for our 'charity of the year', the Ripple Project. Please see the article about this in this magazine.
- Various property repairs were approved including a rewire of the Restalrig Manse and repairs to the heating system at Leith Walk.
- The budgeted deficit was discussed and several decisions were taken to ameliorate the situation, including preparing the Restalrig and Pilrig manses for renting out, moving the Restalrig office from 176 Restalrig Road South to the McLaren Halls and converting the previous office to a flat which would

be rented out. The foodbank store will be moved to the room behind the stage.

- A letter was distributed to all members of the congregation regarding Pastoral Care.
- Following a meeting with representatives of Presbytery, and further advice from the Law Department at 121, we are now in the process of negotiating the lease of Leith St Andrew's to the Leith St Andrew's Trust.

In addition, we are pleased to welcome formally two new additions to LARCH:

- Our new Administrator, Angie Egan, has commenced working for us. She has met with Anne Turner who will continue in post till the end of May to allow for a smooth transition. Angie's hours are Mondays from 8.30am to 4.30 pm at the Leith Walk office, and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8.30am to 12.30pm at the Restalrig office.

• We have recently appointed our new Youth and Family Worker (subject to the usual reference checks) whom we hope will be able to start within the next month or so. More information to follow soon.

Both come with bags of experience in their fields, and we look forward to working with them.

With every blessing

Stuart Lithgow  
Session Clerk

## **THE CRAFT GROUP**

The Craft Group would like to thank everyone who supported us and bought goods from our “Stall in the Hall” and tickets for our “Easter Chocolate Raffle”. We raised £600 for Church funds.

The group meets on Wednesdays in the McLaren Halls (Hanlon Centre) from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

You can be assured of a warm welcome, a good cuppa, and a chocolate biscuit (sometimes even a warm scone, butter and jam!). So why not come along and join us - share your skills and perhaps learn a new one.

Sandra Mack

## **LEITH FESTIVAL GALA DAY**

The Leith Festival Gala day will be held on Saturday 14th June. As well as an information stall, we intend to run a tombola stall to raise funds for our charity of the year, the Ripple Project. We are looking for donations of new or unused items to be used as prizes, such as toiletries, fancy goods, stationery, clothing accessories, ornaments, jewellery, alcohol and soft toys.

Please hand in your donations on any Sunday till the end of May.

SORRY: we cannot accept bric-a-brac, books, electrical items, clothing or perishable goods.

If you require help to bring these items to church, please let Stuart know. His details are below.

We are also looking for anyone who can help to volunteer on the stall, even for an hour or two. Your help would be greatly appreciated. If you have a gazebo which you would be willing to lend for the day, please get in touch. We promise to look after it.

Please contact Stuart Lithgow by email at [session.clerk@larch.org.uk](mailto:session.clerk@larch.org.uk) for further details.

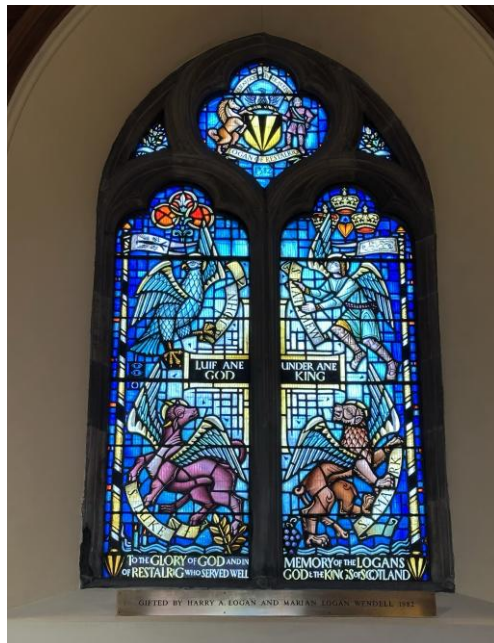
## CLAN LOGAN VISIT - APRIL 2025

We were delighted to welcome 45 members of Clan Logan from the USA to LARCH Restalrig and St Triduana's Well in April as they explored their Logan heritage and its links to Restalrig.

They viewed the Logan window and asked many questions, ably answered by Sandra M. They also explored the kirk yard to find Logan burial sites.

Later the group made their way to Logan's Rest for refreshments where they were met by a piper.

In true tourist style a thank you whip round took place and we were delighted to receive a donation to the Friends of Restalrig fund.



## **Goodbye, Anne!**

Our Secretary, Anne Turner, is retiring at the end of May.

Anne has been Church Secretary, primarily for St. Margaret's, for 37 years. During her time with us, she has been Secretary to five Ministers and has seen a lot of change.

Throughout the period of her service with us, as well as undertaking secretarial duties, she has provided pastoral care to many of us. From celebrating the birth of our children with us to lending a listening ear to members of the congregation, either on the phone or in person, she has quietly supported us for many years.

Anne, we will miss you. You have been a quiet constant in our church life for many years but are no less valued for that. We'll miss your support and your hugs.

Thank you for all you have given to our church and our congregation. And for easing the transition to our new united congregation by staying on until we appointed a new Administrator.

Have a long and happy retirement. Be assured that you take our love with you and that you will always be welcome as part of our church family. Please don't be a stranger.

God bless and go well.

From all your friends, old and new, at LARCH  
Xxx



## **LARCH PROPERTY TEAM** **PROPERTY NEWSLETTER – MAY 2025**

Hello everyone,

In this newsletter, the property team would like to take the opportunity to let you know what we have been up to since the last time.

There has been a flurry of repairs and annual maintenance carried out across the various Larch buildings which are all either in hand or complete. It has been a bit non-stop getting all the necessary repairs completed and relevant paperwork signed off to comply with legislation.

A few things that are noteworthy, however, involve the McLaren Halls which have been assessed in terms of Fire Risk safety, insurance & security matters. This involved a review of the property by Forth Fire & Protection regarding installation of a fire alarm, an updated Fire evacuation plan and associated signage. The security of the building was also assessed by the Property Team. To control the number of keys in circulation for access & minimise the number of keys required, a locksmith company was sourced to offer advice. The result of this will involve the replacement of the locks at the main door, side fire exit door and side gate including internal rooms (excluding halls, kitchen & internal cupboards).

This replacement will take place during the closed holiday period and only those groups / nominated leaders with a specific role or requirement to access the halls will be issued with a key. The Property Team will be in contact with those groups / leaders in due course.

Larch Leith had experienced a pigeon infestation in the bell tower which required specialist assistance to remove and clean. It was a big job which was conducted recently and the matter rectified. The proposed lease of the Leith St Andrew's building to the Leith St Andrew's Trust is still ongoing.

The Manse at Moira Terrace (Formerly St Margaret's Manse) had experienced vandalism to a Laburnum tree in the rear garden after Rev John Wells had recently moved out. This had involved a trunk being sawn off with a chainsaw and additional damage to nearby branches. A tree surgeon was called in to limit further damage and the matter reported to the Police.

Property Team

### **FROM THE TREASURER**

Thank you to all the people who pay their offerings by standing order and have changed the account details with their bank to the new bank account. If your payment went to the bank accounts of either Pilrig St. Paul's or St. Margaret's and you haven't already changed the account on the standing order, can you please change the details. The account name is Leith and Restalrig Church Of Scotland. Sort code is 80-02-71 and the account number 00224978.

If you were at the stated Annual Meeting you will know the budget for the year projected a deficit of £71,000. The Finance Committee and the Kirk Session are looking at this to see what options we have to try and reduce this before the end of the year. One of the ways we can generate more income is by claiming gift aid on regular offerings or donations made. If you pay income tax we can claim back an extra 25% and all we require from you is a signed form and we will do the rest. If you pay by standing order and we have the signed form we will match these up. If you put your offering in the plate then I can provide you with an envelope that has a number on it and we use the number to match the offering with the person. Only myself and the Gift Aid Convener will know the payments you make. We will be arranging for new forms to be signed over the next few months. Thank you to the people who have asked me for envelopes over the last month.



If you want more information on the points above or anything else regarding finance please speak to me or email me [treasurer@larch.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@larch.org.uk).

Mark Wexelstein  
Treasurer

## **LARCH CHARITY OF THE YEAR**



**OUR TOMBOLA AT THE LEITH FESTIVAL GALA**  
**WILL SUPPORT THIS**

## **When I say, "I am a Christian"**

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not shouting, "I've been  
saved!"  
I'm whispering, "I get lost  
sometimes  
That's why I chose this way"

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak with human pride  
I'm confessing that I stumble –  
needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong  
I'm professing that I'm weak  
And pray for strength to carry on

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not bragging of success  
I'm admitting that I've failed  
And cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't think I know it all  
I submit to my confusion  
Asking humbly to be taught

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect  
My flaws are far too visible  
But God believes I'm worth it

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain  
I have my share of heartache  
Which is why I seek God's name

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I do not wish to judge  
I have no authority  
I only know I'm loved

Anon

**The Minister and Kirk Session of  
Leith and Restalrig Church**

**invite you to**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**on**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 11 am, in the Restalrig Building**

**This is the Lord's Table. Anyone who loves God and responds  
to Christ's invitation to join together in this feast is welcome  
to join us in the celebration.**

**As well as wine, there are cups of plain water on the serving  
trays, please take whichever you prefer.**



Thank you to all at Larch who supported me in the London Marathon.

I am very grateful. The amount raised so far is £2,378 for Lung & Asthma UK

Amy Johnston