



# Towards our Union

News on progress towards the new congregation of Newington  
Trinity Church

Issue 16: July 2024

Welcome to issue number 16 of our monthly newsletter. June has been a busy month and maybe we can look forward to a quieter July. We anticipate that our next issue will be in September, but we may bring this forward if there is the need.

## Towards Union

Good News! On 18 June Presbytery's Deployment Committee reported to the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian at its meeting at Palmerston Place Church. All the recommendations in respect of our Union were approved by Presbytery:

- The severance of the linkage between Craigmillar Park and Reid Memorial, a prerequisite of our Union proceeding,
- The Basis of Union, including Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth as one of our ministers,
- The Basis of Team Ministry, including a second minister for Pioneer ministry,
- Presbytery also agreed the date of our union as 1 January 2025. Following advice from our Treasurers over significant audit costs which would arise from a union two months before the end of the year, the Kirk Sessions asked for this date.



*The Presbytery meeting on 18 June*

## Getting Together for Pioneer Ministry

The final session of five, using David Male's booklet, *How to Pioneer* took place on Monday 24 June at Priestfield. Amongst other things, we talked about what might or could happen and what resources we already have. There was a real sense of excitement and anticipation!

We'll now be thinking about the next phase of developing something new with God.

## The Proposed Changes at Newington Trinity

Consultations have now begun on the two important issues of 'Worship' and 'The Sanctuary.'

If you are on one of the congregations' email lists, you will probably already have received the two papers. If not, do make sure that you pick up paper copies in church on Sundays or else contact your Session Clerk.

## What's happening at Craigmillar Park?

The dismantling of the organ and work to repair the roof and ceiling areas, reported in Issue 15, has begun. The work necessitated the bringing forward of the congregation's move for Sunday worship to Mayfield Salisbury.



*The last Sunday service at Craigmillar Park before the congregation moves to Mayfield Salisbury*

The last Sunday morning service at Craigmillar Park was on 23 June with the congregation moving to share worship with our other two congregations at Mayfield Salisbury from Sunday 30 June. From that date all three congregations will worship together at Mayfield Salisbury.

The sale of the Craigmillar Park buildings is progressing and it is now hoped the sale to the Greek Orthodox Church (The Orthodox Community of St Andrew in Edinburgh) might be concluded sometime in August.

### What's happening at Mayfield Salisbury?

As you read this Sandy is in the United States on an exchange with Rev Dr Taylor Hartman of the First Presbyterian Church in Statesboro, Georgia. Sandy will be back leading worship on 14 July. In the meantime, we are enjoying having Taylor and her family with us in Edinburgh. We were able to get to know them better at our Newington Trinity barbecue and ceilidh in



*Taylor cutting the cake watched by Hank, Ruthie and Ailsa*

the Mayfield Salisbury halls and garden on 22 June. The weather was fine and lots of us were able to enjoy ourselves. Thank you to Aileen and the team for all the arrangements and ensuring we had warm sunshine!

Mayfield Salisbury hopes to arrange a service, and possibly an event, in the autumn to mark the close of this chapter in its ministry to the people of Newington.

### What's happening at Priestfield?

On Sunday 9 June the congregation at Priestfield said their goodbyes to their retiring minister, Donald Scott in a service that included a number of baptisms and professions of faith, a good way to end this stage of his ministry.



*Donald and the Newington Trinity congregation at Donald's last service as Minister of Priestfield*

Then on 16 June we had a Newington Trinity shared service at Priestfield to mark a close on this chapter of ministry and mission. We look forward to being able to develop the building as a community hub and focus of our pioneer work.

### Pilgrimage 2024

Over six episodes, groups of stalwart pilgrims followed the route of St Cuthberts Way across the Scottish Borders, sometimes in sunshine,



*Lunch at Dryburgh Abbey*

sometimes in the rain. We ended with a communion service together at Melrose Abbey before having dinner at *Marmions @ the Wynd*. Thank you to Simon for making all the detailed arrangements.