



# Towards our Union

News on progress towards the new congregation of Newington Trinity Church

Issue 20: December 2024

Welcome to issue number 20 of our monthly newsletter. At the time of writing, we are only a month from our formal union on 1 January 2025.



Three weeks after that we will have the Presbytery service to mark our union. This will take place in church at 7:00pm on Monday 20 January

2025. Everyone is encouraged to attend this most significant of events to mark our new beginning.

## Decisions of Plenary

Our Plenary (the three Kirk Sessions meeting together) at the end of November came to a number of very important decisions. All the decisions were reached by consensus, demonstrating the desire of all to work together as a single body listening to one another and considering the views of others, an answer to all our prayers.

## Worship

At its meeting in October the Plenary had decided to recommend to the new Session that for a trial period there should be a single Sunday morning service at 10:30am, rather than the two services which have been the Mayfield Salisbury pattern in recent times. However, Plenary recognised that this might be difficult for some and asked that discussions continue, especially with those who have been part of the 9:30am family. Having heard the results of these discussions Plenary has now decided that the present structure of two Sunday morning services at 09:30 and 10:45,

with one monthly joint service at 10:30 and one evening service at 19:00, would continue from January 2025 until summer 2025. A further review of service times will take place in the autumn, with the benefit of the first six months as a united congregation.

There is one alteration that was made to take effect from January, the 'joint service' at 10:30 will now take place on the first Sunday of the month, and not the third.

The evening service will continue on the first Sunday.

## Choir and Chamber Group

The small review group, with representatives from the three congregations, also reported to



Plenary. Again, elders listened carefully to the views expressed

from the congregation and choir and after discussion agreed to a number of changes.

From 1 January 2025 the Chamber Group will be reduced from six singers to four. They will sing at all the 10:45 services but not at the 10:30 joint services. They will not sing during July and August.

A further review will be undertaken at the end of 2025.

## The Way Forward

These decisions of Plenary will go to the new Newington Trinity Kirk Session as recommendations so that it can make final decisions early in 2025.

## Pioneer Ministry

We are now embarked on drafting two documents.

The first will look at the character of our large new parish; what is it like? This document will draw on the range of statistical information from national and local sources. This will only tell part of the story so will be accompanied by qualitative material; what does our area feel like?

The second document will be a job description. Who are we looking for to fill the post? What gifts and experience would they bring to Newington? This part of the document will be accompanied by an outline of how we think pioneering might develop here. This should help potential applicants understand the context of where we are coming from with Pioneer Ministry.

We hope to have both draft documents ready by late January/early February.

## Services during Advent and Christmas

As usual we have a full programme of services.

### Sunday 15 December

10:30am 3rd Sunday in Advent all-age service

### Sunday 22 December

10:30am 4th Sunday in Advent all-age service  
6:30pm Christingle Service

### Tuesday 24 December – Christmas Eve

4:00pm Messy Church Christingle  
*In the Priestfield building*

11:30pm Watchnight Service



### Wednesday 25 December – Christmas Day

10:30am Christmas Day Celebration

### Sunday 29 December

10:30am A Service of Readings and Carols

### Sunday 5 January 2025

10:30am Epiphany

## Celebration of Mayfield Salisbury Church

The 10:30am service on Sunday 29 December will be followed by a celebration of the life of Mayfield Salisbury. At this time of change, of endings and new beginnings, it will be good to

look back and recall all that Mayfield Salisbury has meant to us.

## Christmas Card Design Competition



Each year the children of Prestonfield Primary School produce amazing designs for the front of our Christmas card. This year the competition was won by Alex Doyle of Primary 6. Alex's design wishes

us all a peaceful Christmas, very appropriate at this time. Prizes were given out at a lively school assembly on Friday 29 November by Bettina and Barry representing Newington Trinity.

The children also thanked us for the Advent calendars which the three churches had provided and which they had taken home the previous day.

## The Kirk Session

The Clerks are getting on well with populating the Activity Groups. Whether you are an elder or not, if you think that you like to join one of the Groups and contribute to the life of the congregation, just speak to one of the Clerks. They'll be pleased to explain the opportunities to you to help you see where you might fit in.

## What's Happening in the Building?

The work to replace the heating in the halls is progressing well and the Working Group is continuing with the complex task of progressing the design of the heating project for the church itself.

## What's in a Name (Part 2)?

The Clerks have received a number of suggestions for naming our two buildings. The Steering Group will look at all your suggestions and recommend a way forward.