



Towards our Union

News on progress towards the new congregation of Newington
Trinity Church

Issue 13: April 2024

A lot has happened since the last issue of this newsletter. Here are the highlights. If you would like more detail on any of the items covered, just contact your Session Clerk and they will be happy to help.

The Plenary

The Plenary on 13 March, which is the meeting of all three Kirk Sessions together, considered a wide range of reports from working groups from across the three congregations. These reports are intended to take us from being three independent congregations with our different ways of doing things to the single new congregation of Newington Trinity.

Perhaps the most significant report looked at **Worship** and how we might all adapt in such a way that we all see something known and familiar to us as well as something new and exciting. The key proposals are that

- initially on most Sundays there would be two services in the Mayfield Salisbury Building: a 9:30am shorter interactive service for young people and families and a more traditional 10:30am service.
- on the third Sunday of every month there would be a single service at 10:30am which would seek to involve people across all generations.

The report included many other detailed proposals. All will be the subject of extensive consultation over the coming months. They are also seen as initial proposals that will be subject to review as the new congregation finds its own personality.

A second major report considered the layout of the **Sanctuary** of Newington Trinity Church, currently the Mayfield Salisbury Building. The

report's key proposal was the replacement in principle of the pews in the sanctuary with chairs, following the heating renovation, with the question of the extent of the replacement to be decided.

Again, the proposal will be the subject of ongoing consultation with everyone in the present congregations, along with detailed consideration of the many practical issues. Further information on worship and the sanctuary proposals will be provided to the congregations soon, looking for your views.

As with all proposals at this stage the final decisions around these two important areas will be for the Newington Trinity Kirk Session, once it is formed after legal union. However, taking soundings now will enable us to plan for developments when Newington Trinity when is formed.

Other reports which were considered by The Plenary included: Christian Aid, Communion Roll, Flower Ministry, Lettings, Prayer, Safeguarding, Website and Pastoral Care. Other areas of our common life will be the subject of future reports.

Craigmillar Park Church building

The sale of the Craigmillar Park building is progressing, more swiftly than has been the case in earlier updates. The potential purchasers have made an offer subject to survey; the General Trustees, who handle such sales for congregations, have provisionally accepted the offer but we await the results of the survey and then of the discussions that will follow about fixtures and fittings, and an entry date. We are fortunate that the denomination which wishes to buy the church has expressed its willingness to honour the artefacts that we propose to leave behind, such as the war memorials. However, we

would like to transfer a few such items to the Mayfield Salisbury and/or Priestfield buildings so that something of Craigmillar Park's heritage is visible in Newington Trinity. It has been agreed,



therefore, that the large Celtic cross displayed on the west wall curtain will find a home in the Mayfield Salisbury building. We will also welcome some elders' chairs and the small table and chairs from the Craigmillar Park chapel. The congregation commissioned these some 20 years ago when the chapel was formed and were hand-crafted in the Scottish Borders. Some of the more practical items, such as kitchen ware, will also find a home, probably at Priestfield. The IKEA mugs have also been claimed!

Getting Together for Pioneer Ministry

We had our launch event for our future Pioneer Ministry in the Priestfield Building on Saturday 16 March. There were around sixty-five of us present. We heard and thought about what pioneer ministry can be about. There was a sense of quiet anticipation and excitement. We are now invited to 'sign up' to explore further. There will be a series of five 'discovery' sessions between now and the summer using material to help move from the general to the specific: what will pioneer ministry look like in Newington? Around thirty-five people have already signed up to take the next step. If you are interested in being involved or knowing more do contact your Session Clerk who will make sure that your name is added to the list.

A Retreat Time for Spiritual Reflection and Refreshment – 'Bearing Fruit'

On Saturday 1 June we will be having a morning of peace and renewal in a busy world. We will have time to connect with ourselves through quiet reflection and find spiritual nourishment through contemplative prayer. This will involve engaging with a helpful biblical text. There will

also be a chance to mix in small groups. There will be plenty of support and creative input. The approach will be flexible with some optional activity. We will conclude with a short reflective communion together.

The retreat will be in the Priestfield Building and will run from 10am till 1 pm. It will be followed by a light lunch.

Do join in!

To sign up for the retreat just contact Pauline Weibye at Craigmillar Park, Christine De Luca at Mayfield Salisbury or David Dickson at Priestfield.

Pauline Robertson DCS: Pastoral Assistant at Mayfield Salisbury Church

Pauline was born and brought up in Edinburgh (or



rather, Leith). She now lives in West Fife with her husband, Pete and cat, Goose. After studying Art and Design and working in the voluntary sector, in her twenties she felt called to serve and was ordained into the Diaconate of the Church of Scotland 20 years ago.

Over those years she has been called to various Diaconal ministries in and around Edinburgh and the Forth Estuary, first as Community Chaplain, then Parish Deacon, and Port Chaplain, all within parish ministry teams or ecumenical ministry teams.

These appointments have enabled her to serve the community and journey alongside folks, sometimes for long periods of time, building relationships and offering pastoral support as well as many other tasks.

When she has some down-time she enjoys music, especially live music; too many genres to mention (just ask).

She attempts small art projects and keeps the cat entertained (he is very demanding)!