



Towards our Union

News on progress towards the new congregation of
Newington Trinity Church

Issue 9 November 2023

Our Union – an Update on the Legal Issues

Since the last issue of this newsletter there have been two important developments.

First, there was a meeting between our Session Clerks and the Presbytery Clerk and the Convener of Presbytery's Deployment Committee. This clarified a number of issues associated with our move to union. We now have clarity on our Basis of Union as well as the steps needed to end the linkage between Craigmillar Park and Reid Memorial Churches. We also have a much better understanding of the arrangements for our Team Ministry and how our two ministers will work together. It looks too as if the various permissions for the sale of the Craigmillar Park building will soon be in place, allowing us to proceed.

The second development is that representatives from a sub-group of Presbytery's Deployment Committee will meet with the Ministers and Kirk Sessions of Craigmillar Park and Priestfield (and all Reviewable Charges) during the early part of 2024. In light of the agreed Presbytery Plan, from April 2023, they will discuss our Reviewable Charges and how this ministry may continue once the Presbytery Plan is implemented.

Getting Together

We are now enjoying shared services on the third Sunday of each month till the end of the year. These will again be in our future base, the existing Mayfield Salisbury church building. After careful consideration changes are being made to ensure that we can all meet afterwards and chat over a coffee. We are also looking at how we can better accommodate the increasing number of us with wheelchairs and walking aids.

Some of us are already getting together. Here are the Newington Trinity Young Adults enjoying themselves in Ciao Roma.



We are in the final stages of working out how our three Kirk Sessions can meet as one, even prior to Union. We hope to make these changes early in the new year.

Coming Together Step by Step

We are now embarked on a range of discussions across the three congregations as we seek to move closer together.

Small groups drawn from the three congregations are now working on bringing together all that the three congregations currently do independently. They will look to draw on what is best from each of the congregations. Here are the first areas of work, others will follow over the coming months.

- Pastoral Care
- Prayer
- Flower Ministry
- Website and Church magazine
- Fair Trade
- Christian Aid
- Finance
- Safeguarding
- Communion Roll
- Data Protection
- Worship and the Layout of the Sanctuary

As the groups conclude their work there will be periodic reports to our three Kirk Sessions.

Some of the changes will be able to be implemented immediately, others will be in preparation for 'Union-Day.' Together they will set the pattern for our congregational life together in future years.

Pioneer Ministry

Don't forget that at our shared service on 19 November, Diane McWilliam from the Cinnamon Network will join us. She will talk about how we might listen to God and our community more effectively. This is an important first step in defining where our pioneer ministry will develop.

Who's Who?

Simon Hessett is a Probationary Minister at Mayfield Salisbury, and his stay will extend beyond the Union into the early

months of Newington Trinity. Simon will



be gaining experience across the congregations, so you'll be sure to meet him.

William Mearns is currently Church Manager at Mayfield Salisbury. He grew up in Liberton Kirk where his father was Church Officer for 25 years. He has been Church Manager at Mayfield Salisbury since 2005 and looks forward to bringing his skills to his role in Newington Trinity.



Steve Chaffee is undergoing a period of discernment at Craigmillar Park Church.

He is currently the Youth and Family Worker at St Michael's Parish Church in Linlithgow.



Michelle Dobbin is at present the Church Officer at Priestfield. She has been the Church Officer for nearly ten years and looks forward to working as part of the wider Newington Trinity team.

