



Towards our Union

News on progress towards the new congregation of Newington
Trinity Church

Issue 19: November 2024

Welcome to issue number 19 of our monthly newsletter. We are now less than two months away from formal union and plenty is happening.



2025.

First of all, a date for your diaries. The Presbytery service to mark our union will take place in church at 7:00pm on Monday 20 January

Pioneer Ministry

We are now thinking, discussing and praying about where we think God is working in our local community and where he wants us to be too. We have looked at what Pioneering can mean and heard about different experiences around the country, basically seeking to form "new worshipping communities" in our own time and place.

Our sessions through the year have helped to build up an idea about what gifts our Pioneer Minister would ideally have and in our next Session we will be looking at what a job description for our Pioneer Minister should contain.

We're keen to share what we have been doing with the whole congregation so that we can all be energised to take part, whether coming along to a meeting, sharing ideas, skills and contacts and in prayer. Listen out for 'Minute for Mission' on 17 November for more details.

Proposed Changes at Newington Trinity

There was a special meeting of the Plenary

(our three Kirk Sessions meeting together) at the end of October to consider a number of important matters and to lay the groundwork for the new Kirk Session of Newington Trinity when it meets in the new year. Following the extensive consultation on the two important issues of 'Worship' and 'The Sanctuary' the Plenary had reports on both consultations.

Worship

The principal decision was to recommend to the new Session that for a trial period of perhaps six months 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. This single service pattern has worked well over the summer period, and on the third Sunday every month, and has been much appreciated. This development would help us create a single all-age worshipping congregation going forward. It is recognised that this might be difficult for some and discussions will continue, especially with those who have been part of the Mayfield Salisbury 9:30am family.

Most of the other proposals in the consultation document were supported by Plenary.

The Sanctuary

The proposals here generated a lot of questions and much discussion after which Plenary agreed to develop further the proposal not to re-instate the majority of the pews after they are removed for the heating refurbishment, including all of

those in the nave, with a view to a further report being presented to the new Session for decision in early 2025.

Although a substantial majority supported the development of the proposal to replace the pews in the sanctuary with chairs, there was a significant number of people who wanted pews to be retained, at least in part. To help to address this desire Plenary also approved that an architect be commissioned to undertake an exercise to look at possible seating layouts incorporating the retention of pews in the North Transept; and the options and costings in relation to removable chairs or other seating; together with a scoping exercise for the provision of additional kitchen facilities in the Choir Room, or elsewhere.

The Kirk Session

A third very significant report considered by Plenary related to how the new Kirk Session should be structured. The Plenary agreed to recommend that the new Session should consist of around fifteen trustee elders plus our two ministers and deacon. All our elders are crucially important to the life and vitality of the congregation and so the Clerks will now be continuing with the task of 'populating' the Activity Groups in consultation with all elders, whether on the Session initially, or not.

The Way Forward

All 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.

Choir and Chamber Group

As we approach our union in January, a small group have been tasked by the three



Kirk Sessions to review the presence and input of

the Chamber Group as part of our choir and provide recommendations for its future. The Chamber Group are the six paid choristers who sing with the volunteer choir, and sometimes as a group or solo singers, both as part of Sunday worship and in certain special services.

The small group will report to a meeting of the three Kirk Sessions at the end of November. For that report, the views of everyone in the congregation are sought, in a simple survey which you can access easily online using this link – <https://forms.office.com/r/jCjXPpMRmD>.

What's Happening in the Building?

The work to replace the heating in the halls is progressing well following the receipt of a generous grant from Local Energy Scotland and some funding from the sale proceeds of Craigmillar Park Church. As well as managing this project the working group is continuing with the complex task of progressing the design of the heating project for the church itself. Our thanks are due to the hard, behind-the-scenes, work of this small group.

What's in a Name (Part 2)?

You will remember that in 2023 we had a consultation on the name for our new congregation. All three congregations agreed that Newington Trinity would be our new name.

Well, we now have a second task; what should we call each of our two sites? We need to do this to avoid confusion, order new signage and reduce the risk of turning up at the wrong building for a Newington Trinity event! So, put your thinking caps on and let your Session Clerk have your suggestions, by the end of November please. The Steering Group will then look at the suggestions and make a recommendation.

