



Towards our Union

News on progress towards the new congregation of Newington Trinity Church

Issue 15: June 2024

Welcome to issue number 15 of our monthly newsletter. This issue is slightly later than normal so that we could include the results of the voting in the three existing congregations.

June promises to be a busy month.

Towards Union

At the end of what has been a lengthy process, on 2 June representatives from Presbytery's Deployment Committee oversaw voting after morning services in our three churches. Here are the results.

	For	Against	
Union (1)	29	0	Craigmillar Park
	119	0	Mayfield Salisbury
	47	2	Priestfield
Minister (2)	29	0	Craigmillar Park
	116	0	Mayfield Salisbury
	48	1	Priestfield
Team Ministry (3)	29	0	Craigmillar Park
	118	0	Mayfield Salisbury
	49	0	Priestfield
Severance of Linkage (4)	29	0	Craigmillar Park only

Notes:

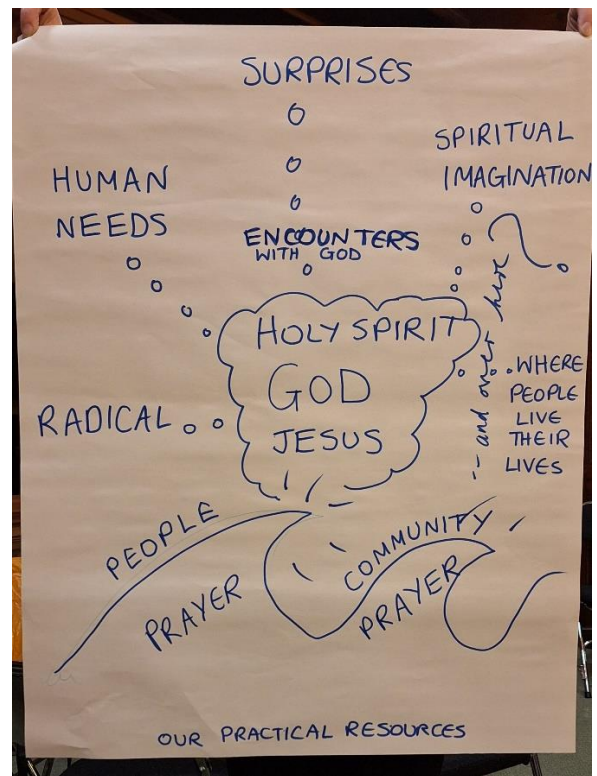
- (1) These votes were for or against the Basis of Union (excluding para 7)
- (2) These votes were for or against Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth as one minister of the new parish
- (3) These votes were for or against the Basis of Team Ministry including a Pioneer Minister
- (4) These votes were for or against the severance of the linkage with Reid Memorial

So, overwhelming support for our Union which augurs well for our future Newington Trinity congregation.

The Deployment Committee will report to Presbytery at its meeting on 18 June and if all goes well it will formally approve our Union. The Union itself will take place in the autumn and we will keep you informed of the exact date.

Getting Together for Pioneer Ministry

The first session of five using David Male's booklet, *How to Pioneer* took place on Monday 13 May at 7:30pm 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!



The remaining four sessions will take place throughout the month of June.

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

On Saturday 1 June we had our first Newington Trinity retreat, a morning of peace and renewal in a busy world. We concluded with a short reflective communion together. The retreat

was along in the Priestfield building and was followed by a light lunch. "A fulfilling and rewarding day."

Pilgrimage

This year's pilgrimage follows the route of the Borders Abbeys Way with the 109km being covered in six sections. The final section into Melrose on Saturday 15 June has options for those who prefer a shorter walk and we'll finish with communion in the grounds of Melrose Abbey. Here are some of our intrepid pilgrims.



What's happening at Craigmillar Park?

The sale of the Craigmillar Park church buildings is progressing well and it is hoped that it might be concluded in July or August.

Unfortunately, a roof leak was discovered recently. The leak, in an inaccessible area above the church organ, will necessitate the dismantling of the organ to access the ceiling areas. Happily, most of the cost will be covered by insurance and it does not seem that this will delay the sale. The potential purchasers are being kept fully informed.

The work will however be very disruptive and is likely to involve moving Sunday worship from Craigmillar Park rather earlier than previously anticipated. Depending on how things progress the Craigmillar Park congregation might join us for Sunday morning worship from as early as the end of June. A silver lining might also be that the organ could find a new home with a

congregation elsewhere. Discussions are continuing. The congregation is planning a special service on 23 June to mark the closure of the building after 145 years of continuous witness and service to the community.

What's happening at Mayfield Salisbury?

Well, the good news is that the grant application has been submitted to Local Energy Scotland for financial assistance with the replacement of the heating in the church halls. If approved, the work is expected to take place in the autumn. As much will be "behind the scenes" we expect disruption to the use of the halls to be minimal. Consideration is now also turning to the second phase, the heating in the sanctuary. This will potentially be quite disruptive so will need careful planning and assessment ahead of any works next year.

For a few weeks in early summer Sandy will be having an exchange with Rev Taylor Hartman of the First Presbyterian Church in Statesboro,



Georgia, USA. So that we can get to know Taylor and her family we are invited to a barbecue and ceilidh in the Mayfield Salisbury halls and garden on 22 June from 4 till 8 pm. Taylor will lead worship on Sundays

23 and 30 June and 7 July.

What's happening at Priestfield?

As you read this, Rev Donald Scott, the minister at Priestfield for the last seven years, is counting down the days to his retirement. On Sunday 9 June they will say their goodbyes to Donald in a service that will include a number of baptisms and professions of faith, a good way to end this stage of his ministry.

On 16 June all three congregations will come together at 10:30 am for a shared service **AT PRIESTFIELD**. This will be Donald's last service with us and the last regular Sunday worship in the Priestfield building after 145 years.