



Towards our Union

News from Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield Churches

Issue 11: January 2024

This is the latest in our series of monthly newsletters to keep us all up to date with progress towards our union.

Coming together

It is a great encouragement and bodes well for our union that much has already been achieved by many people across the three congregations in coming together to create the new Newington Trinity family. The most obvious example is our regular monthly shared worship but there are many other signs of working effectively together.

At an early date agreement was reached on the name of the new congregation, paid staff, the organist and choir leader, and on joint communications.

In October 2023 work was initiated on a range of practical matters to compare how varied experience and practice is across the congregations and develop a new, Newington Trinity, way of doing things. A large number of people are to be commended for the hard work and compromise that they are contributing to this process. This first tranche of work includes: prayer, worship, layout of sanctuary, pastoral care, safeguarding, Christian Aid, fair trade, finance, data protection, flower ministry, Communion Rolls, hall letting, the website and church magazines/newsletters. The Union Steering Group is due to meet on 1 February and will be starting to consider reports from the various groups.

Joint meeting of Kirk Sessions



The first Newington Trinity plenary was held on 24th January at Priestfield Church. Elders from all three Kirk Sessions came together to discuss and consider issues of common interest as we plan for the union. It provided a welcome opportunity to come up to speed on the work going on across the integration and missional groups, as well as to plan events for the coming weeks. Detailed consideration was given to the proposals for heating works at Mayfield Salisbury but we also spent time discussing our plans for a launch event for pioneer ministry and a Retreat Day for the congregation. The former is likely to be held on 16th March; if you are interested in exploring what pioneer ministry is or could be, and hearing of examples from other parts of the country, please let Sandy Forsyth know. The Retreat Day will be an opportunity to set aside for a few hours the detailed practical planning for the union and instead to focus on prayer and contemplation: a day of spiritual relaxation, re-connection to God and re-charging as we look to the future together. There is no date yet but it is likely to be in June. Watch out for further details.

Ceilidh

We are all looking forward to the ceilidh planned for 3rd February. It will be a splendid opportunity for people across the three congregations to get to know each other better in a relaxed environment (are ceilidhs ever 'relaxed'? Not in my experience!). We promise you a picture or two in the next issue. And if you haven't been able to obtain a ticket, don't worry. We will be holding more social events as the year progresses.

Sale of CPC

Presbytery gave approval at its November 2023 meeting to the sale of the Craigmillar Park building and hall. The building is held by the General Trustees and their consent is also needed. We have now been informed that the matter is on the agenda for the next meeting of the GTs, on 6 February 2024. If approval is given, as expected, it is for the GTs to decide how to market the property. We have, however, made it clear that all three Kirk Sessions are keen to sell to a preferred purchaser, another denomination, subject to a satisfactory sale price being agreed. We shall know more shortly.

Who's Who?

Kate Pearson has been the organist at Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church for the past six years. She enjoys working with Walter and the choir, and helping to lead the congregational singing at worship services. She has 15 years experience working as an organist at various denominations, including Church of England, Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches. She has a degree in music from Oberlin Conservatory in the US, and a master's degree in organ performance from the Escola Superior de Música de Lisboa in Lisbon, Portugal.



Kate has enjoyed getting to know so many people at Mayfield Salisbury, and looks forward to meeting everyone at Newington Trinity, and being a part of the musical life of the church.

Walter Thomson

Walter Thomson has been choir leader at Mayfield Salisbury for about twenty years and has directed the Chamber Group of six professional singers, who support the enthusiastic volunteer choir members, since it was formed in 2012. Walter, himself a keen singer and member of the Scottish Chamber Choir, has a long experience as a choir director and trainer having been the founding conductor of the eighty voice Edinburgh choir Jubilo which he directed for over thirty years. He is looking forward to forming a new joint Newington Trinity choir and enjoys leading singers from all three congregations at joint services.

