



Towards our Union

News on progress towards the new congregation of Newington
Trinity Church

Issue 14: May 2024

Welcome to issue number 14 of our monthly newsletter. The last fourteen months have seen a lot of work by many people to bring our three congregations closer together, but much of this work, especially the steps towards legal union have been hidden from view. Well, things are about to change!

Towards Union

Following a lengthy and considered process, on 17 April Presbytery's Deployment Committee agreed to recommend to Presbytery that the Reviewable Charge of Craigmillar Park linked with Reid Memorial be 'called in' from the date of the Presbytery meeting on 30 April 2024. If agreed, the Rev Alex McAspurren would receive six months' notice of the ending of his tenure; during that notice period, stipend and provision of a manse will continue for Alex and his family. It will also allow the congregations of Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield to move towards the proposed Union and Team Ministry, and it will allow conversations regarding the future of Reid Memorial to progress.

Alex has supported the union from the beginning and is seeking a new call. We continue to uphold Alex and his wife, Louise, and would urge you to continue to remember them in your prayers.

Votes for Union and Team Ministry

If the call-in proceeds as the Deployment Committee is recommending, then a process follows. Plans are currently being made for votes to take place in the three Kirk Sessions on

Wednesday 8 May and in the three congregations on Sunday 2 June.

The votes will differ in the three churches because of particular circumstances but will include voting for the union and team ministry (all three), voting for Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth as the Parish Minister for the new charge (all three), and voting for the severance of the linkage with Reid Memorial (Craigmillar Park).

Prior to the voting, copies of the Basis of Union and Basis of Team Ministry will be circulated widely. Ballot papers will be provided.

If we approve, the Union will take place once Craigmillar Park is vacant. This will be after the six-month period ends, probably in November, or earlier if Alex finds another call and demits.

So, after a long period of uncertainty we can now begin to see the way forward and plan accordingly.

Rev Donald Scott

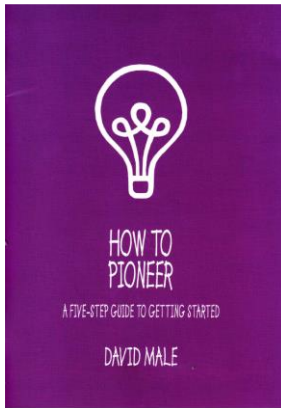
Donald, the Minister at Priestfield retires at the end of June this year. His last Sunday with us will be on 16 June when our shared service will be at Priestfield. We wish him and Roslyn a very happy 'retirement.'

Craigmillar Park Church building

The sale of the Craigmillar Park building is progressing apace and it is hoped that the sale will be concluded soon with an entry date in July or early August.

Getting Together for Pioneer Ministry

After our launch event on Saturday 16 March, and a refresh meeting on Sunday 21 April, plans are being made to run our series of five studies using David Male's booklet, *How to Pioneer*. This book has been described as



'deeply practical, deeply hopeful and deeply involving.'

The first session will be on Monday 13 May at 7:30pm at Priestfield. If you haven't signed up already, do so soon with Diane Cross at Priestfield to allow preparations to be

made and booklets to be purchased.

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

A reminder that on Saturday 1 June we will be having a morning of peace and renewal in a busy world. We will conclude with a short reflective communion together.

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

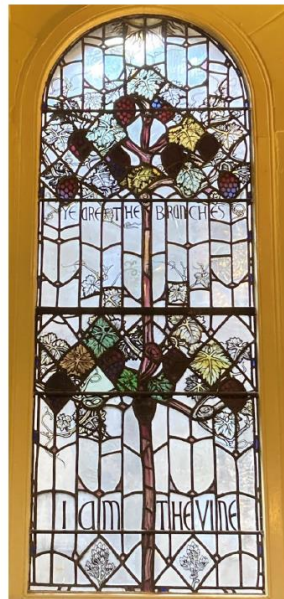
Do join in!

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

I am the Vine
Malcolm Guite

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

How might it feel to be part of the vine?
Not just to see the vineyard from afar
Or even pluck the clusters, press the wine,
But to be grafted in, to feel the stir
Of inward sap that rises from our root,
Himself deep planted in the ground of Love,
To feel a leaf unfold a tender shoot,
As tendrils curled unfurl, as branches give
A little to the swelling of the grape,
In gradual perfection, round and full,
To bear within oneself the joy and hope
Of God's good vintage, till it's ripe and whole.
What might it mean to bide and to abide
In such rich love as makes the poor heart glad?



Window in Priestfield Church

Response
Christine De Luca

John 15:2, 6 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

But how might it feel to be cut out,
judged unproductive, not grafted in?
And would it be remiss to shout
when pruned hard back, not quite the trim
we were expecting? To see our season's growth
gathered up and burned, and us a row of stumps
like amputees, war-weary, loath
to give another year; and such a bumper
crop it was.

It's hard to believe, come Spring,
we might surprise ourselves, reach up again
put on fresh growth, our new fruit swelling.
And, grafted firmly to that Vine, mingled
with its joy and hope and resurrection,
we find Christ's trust in us compelling.

Proposed Changes at Newington Trinity

The April newsletter explained that the Plenary (our three Kirk Sessions meeting together) had considered reports on what the Newington Trinity sanctuary (currently the Mayfield Salisbury building) might look like and how we might structure our worship. Documents are now being finalised to allow wide consultation

on the proposals. These papers will be distributed in the next few weeks to allow everyone to have a think about them over the summer. We then plan to have a consultation meeting in late summer so that all views can be heard.

These will of course be matters for final approval by the Newington Trinity Kirk Session.