



# Towards our Union

News from Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield Churches

Issue 17: September 2024

This is the 17<sup>th</sup> in our series of monthly newsletters to keep us all up to date with progress towards our union.

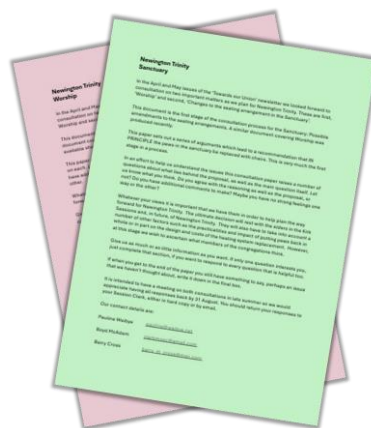
## Towards our Union

Sometimes it does not seem like it but we are actually getting much nearer to the date - 1 January 2025 - when we will indeed be united. The various reports from activity groups have been considered and decisions are being made; plans are in hand for the merging of our finances and for the management of all of the other governance issues; we are in the midst of consultations about the shape and size of the new Kirk Session; and you will see below an update on the consultations on worship and the future layout of the sanctuary. Most importantly, we have been considering how our new pioneer ministry might be formed and supported. And, of course, we are getting used to worshipping together every Sunday. There are, no doubt, things that we have forgotten to plan for but we hope that we now know each other well enough that we can cope easily with any emerging problems and issues. Let us know if you come across any such!

## Worship and Sanctuary

We are so grateful to those who have returned their questionnaires and have willingly shared their views on these two important aspects of our future as Newington Trinity. The Clerks are in the middle of capturing all of the responses for

easier analysis. We are planning a congregational meeting for Sunday 1 September to help members who wish to understand the issues better and to ask questions. It will provide an opportunity for anyone who wishes to explore in a bit more detail some of the thoughts behind the recommendations and it will help us further to understand the varied views among the congregations. We have decided to extend the deadline for responses to 15 September to allow those who wish to submit their comments to do so. You can pick up paper copies of the documents in the vestibule or you can ask your Session Clerk.



## Delivery of parish card

The three congregations have collaborated on the production of a card to be delivered in September to as many homes in the three parishes as we can manage. This will give the wider community a flavour of the kind of activities we engage in and reassures everyone of a warm welcome to all our services and events. We are very

grateful to the Priestfield team for producing the card.



### What's happening at Craigmillar Park?

The good news is that the damage that was caused by a roof leak turned out to be relatively minor. The repair process was complicated by the inaccessibility of the damage, over the organ chamber, and the need to dismantle the organ and design and build scaffolding to enable easy access. However, the works were completed in the middle of August. Hall lets have ceased (most have been accommodated in Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield) and the building has been cleared and cleaned. We are now able to pursue the lawyers with a view to agreeing an entry date for the purchasers. That will, hopefully, be soon.



### What's happening at Priestfield?

The Priestfield building continues to be a hive of activity, with the facilities being heavily used by the local community. The Southside Faith Care groups are taking a break over the summer but we expect them to restart in a few weeks' time. The building remains in use for worship through Messy Church activities and also for the fortnightly Praise and Prayer meetings. We are so lucky to have the flexibility that our two remaining church complexes offer.

### Christian Aid crafts and jam

The combined Christian Aid team is organising Mayfield Salisbury's traditional jam and chutney sale, this year to be held on 6 October after the services. If you are making the most of the summer and autumn harvest, please do consider making some extra for the stall. If you need jars, please contact Kate O'Brien at [kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk), 667 4362 or 07593 768087.

We are also giving you early notice of a Craft Fair in aid of Christian Aid, to be held at Priestfield on Saturday 9 November, from 10am. We know there are many crafters out there – do, please, give consideration to making some items that can be sold for this worthy cause. And, please come along and support both the jam and chutney sale and the craft fair.