



Towards our Union

News from Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield Churches

Issue 2: April 2023

This is the second in a series of monthly newsletters to keep us all informed of what's happening as we move forward towards the union of our three churches.

Vision for Mission

On 25 March around seventy of us met at the Charteris Centre to think about and discuss a 'Vision for Mission.' We looked at 'What is Mission?' and at our context, 'What is it like outside?' We went on to think about 'Pioneer Ministry' and our upcoming union.



As well as thinking about the themes, led by Sandy, we were able to meet together and discuss the issues across our three congregations. It was a very useful and enjoyable time at the beginning of our journey together.

If you weren't able to be there but would like us to email you a copy of Sandy's PowerPoint slides just speak with or email your Session Clerk. They'll be happy to assist.

What's in a name?

The process for adopting a name for our new congregation is also moving forward. We received well over fifty suggestions from across our three congregations, for which we

thank you. The Union Steering Group looked at them and have selected four which represent a cross-section of all those put forward. They are;

Newington Trinity

Parkfield

St. Andrew's Newington

South Newington

The voting will take place on Palm Sunday, 2 April. If you won't be in church on that day do speak with or email your Session Clerk before then to ensure that your vote is counted.

Once we've voted the chosen name will need to be approved by Presbytery and the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) so it will be some time before we're able to use it.

Progress to Union

The Steering Group and the two Union Teams have been working away in the background. Here are some of their strands of work.

The Missional Team

The Team has divided its work into four broad areas:

- Worship: how we are inspired
- Nurture: how we explore
- How we engage with our community
- Pioneer forms of mission and church.

Team members have been busy consulting widely across these areas as well as exploring and looking elsewhere for ideas. They will

then begin to draw the strands together and report creatively and imaginatively. What an exciting and challenging task.

Basis of Union

The Integration Team has begun to draft a possible Basis of Union. The Basis of Union sets out the principles of the union, rather than the detail and is not expected to be a lengthy document. Once we are happy with it, it will be passed to Presbytery for consideration. The union process and the Basis are matters within the remit of Presbytery, rather than the congregations, so our draft may be adjusted prior to it being put back to us by Presbytery. The three congregations will vote separately on the Basis, hopefully in the summer.

Governance

The Integration Team has also begun to look at how the new congregation's Kirk Session might be structured and operate. This will be for the new Kirk Session to consider post-union, but the current work should serve to streamline that process.

Buildings

The Church of Scotland's Law Department have been asked to commission a surveyor to put a value on the Craigmillar Park building. This is an essential first step to release, but no commitments can be made before the three congregations approve a Basis of Union.

Finance

Bringing together the finances of the three congregations needs careful thought and preparation. This work, involving the Treasurers of the three congregations, has begun and will become more intense as we approach both the year's end and the union.

Transport to Church

Attention is being given to how people with mobility difficulties can be helped to get to church. This was raised as an important issue

at congregational meetings. A trial will run for our shared Easter Day service at Mayfield Salisbury.

Late Summer Social Event



We're beginning to think about having a social event to get to know one another better. It is likely to be an outdoor event which we hope will be in warm summer sunshine. Watch this space.

Holy Week and Easter Day Services

Here is a reminder of our shared services and events.

Monday 3 to Friday 7 April

7:45am

Early morning worship followed by breakfast at Craigmillar Park

Thursday 6 April

7:30pm

Maundy Thursday communion service at Priestfield

Friday 7 April

9:00am

Walk of Witness starting at Craigmillar Park

7:30pm

Good Friday Tenebrae service at Mayfield Salisbury

Sunday 9 April

6:20am

Dawn service at Blackford Hill, followed by 9:00am breakfast at Mayfield Salisbury

10:30am

Easter Celebration at Mayfield Salisbury

Don't forget, if you have any questions or if you want any background papers do speak with your Session Clerk.