



Towards our Union

News from Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield Churches

Issue 3: May 2023

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

Our new name

On Palm Sunday we voted for a name which we thought would be most appropriate for our new congregation. The result of the voting was announced on Easter Day. Of the four choices all three congregations made the same choice with a healthy majority of those voting choosing Newington Trinity. So, applying the rules our full title would be;

Edinburgh: Newington Trinity Church of Scotland

This full version will only appear on formal documents; contracts, agreements and the like. For normal day-to-day use we'll probably be known as Newington Trinity Church or Newington Trinity.



This decision will now need to be approved by Presbytery and the Scottish Charity Regulator. This is to ensure that no two charities have similar names which might cause confusion with the general public.

Thank you to everyone for taking part in this process to choose a name.

Final Approval

Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery met on 25 April and approved an amended Presbytery Mission Plan. This varied from the Plan approved in November 2022 only in respect of the Corstorphine churches so doesn't affect the proposals for our union. It does however mark the end of the approval processes. The Plan was approved by 170 voting for and 5 voting against, an overwhelming approval.

Basis of Union

The Basis of Union sets out the main pillars of the union. It is a simple document of a couple of sides of A4. A draft Basis has been prepared drawing on experience from elsewhere. Amongst other things, the Basis includes sections on the Minister and Pioneer Minister, property, governance, mission and ecumenical working.

The draft Basis has now been submitted to Presbytery for its consideration. Presbytery will consider the draft and if necessary, make amendments in the light of discussions it will have with the Faith Nurture Forum, the Principal Clerk and the Law Department.

Once agreement has been reached Presbytery representatives will bring the document back to the Kirk Sessions and then to the congregations to seek approval.

Integration of our three congregations

There are many other integration matters being actively pursued, including issues as priorities such as the development of a unified pastoral care and support scheme which will draw on the best practices of our three congregations.

Pioneer Ministry

Other 'behind the scenes' work includes research, reading and consultation about the exciting things happening across the country and elsewhere in the area of Pioneer Ministry, church planting and other innovative ways of being church. In due course this work will help to frame a job description.

Buildings

The Kirk Session and Congregational Board of Craigmillar Park Church have both consented to the release of their buildings in due course, and the Law Department/General Trustees have been informed. Another Christian denomination is actively interested in acquiring the property and the Law Department has confirmed that an 'off-market' sale to such a buyer could be approved as long as the price is right. A buildings survey has therefore been commissioned to aid with the process of disposal. There is, of course, no commitment on either party at the moment. While we cannot name the potential purchasers, we can confirm that they would be eminently suitable owners of our buildings and would treat its fixtures and fittings, including war memorials, with care and respect. CPC has started to inform its hall users that the buildings may not be available for let from early 2024, and we will be working with Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield, and other local churches, to see if accommodation could be provided elsewhere.

The Mayfield Salisbury Building

Much development work has been undertaken in recent times as preparation for the replacement of the heating system. To support our union and ensure a smooth transition, Mayfield Salisbury has invited representatives from Craigmillar Park and Priestfield to join the development team.

Shared Services

During Holy Week we enjoyed a range of services together with early morning meditative times at Craigmillar Park and Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evening services at Priestfield and Mayfield Salisbury. It was good to be able to come together as we approached Easter.



Then on Easter Day we gathered at the top of Blackford Hill for a dawn service. This was followed later in the morning with a



joyous celebration at Mayfield Salisbury.

Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!

And Finally

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