



# *Towards our Union*

News from Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield Churches

Issue 5: July 2023

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

Don't forget: if you have any questions at all about this process, just ask your Session Clerk. There is no such thing as a stupid question...

## **Basis of Union**

Last month's newsletter set out the details of the legal document which we will all have to vote on for the proposed union to take effect. The draft Basis of Union was sent by the Deployment Group (now the Deployment Committee – DC instead of DG) to the various central bodies and we are still awaiting their formal reply. However, we remain confident that there will be a positive response. That being so, we are hoping to hold the three Kirk Session meetings in the week beginning 24 July 2023.

If the Sessions all vote in favour of the Basis of Union, we propose to hold the three congregational meetings on Sunday 3 September, after worship, to conduct a ballot of members and adherents; these congregational meetings would be attended by representatives from the Presbytery Deployment Committee.

The congregation of Craigmillar Park would also be invited to agree a Basis of Severance to dissolve the existing linkage with Reid Memorial, and both Priestfield and Craigmillar Park would be asked if they are willing to accept the Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth, Minister of Mayfield Salisbury, as the minister of the new united charge.

A briefing note will be prepared for the three congregations and issued ahead of the vote. It will cover much of what is already in these newsletters and will include the formal presentation of the text of the Basis of Union on which congregations are invited to vote. The briefing note will also set out how the teams preparing for the union envisage the new congregation might operate, to help set the context for you.

If all the votes are in favour, then the agreed documents would be submitted to the next Presbytery meeting for confirmation; that is likely to be Tuesday 12 September.

After that, the legal processes can start to register the new name with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and for other necessary administrative processes to kick in, such as changing bank accounts. It does all take rather a long time but please accept our assurances that we are doing our best to keep things moving along.

## **Summer Sunday Services**

We will be worshipping jointly at Mayfield Salisbury from 9 July to 20 August inclusive, at 10.30am each Sunday. **There will be no Sunday morning services at either Priestfield or Craigmillar Park throughout that period.** This arrangement has been made to allow the summer holidays of each of the ministers to be easily covered. Services will be led by either one or two of the ministers, depending on dates, and people from all three congregations will take part in worship. We very much hope that folks from all three congregations will enjoy sharing in worship over this period – it should be a good opportunity for getting to know each other better.

Other activities at both Priestfield and Craigmillar Park will continue as usual.

## **Social event**

Priestfield are organising a barbecue in the church garden on Saturday 9 September, from 2-5pm. Invitations are generously extended to all in Mayfield Salisbury and Craigmillar Park so please put the date in your diaries now. Further details will follow nearer the time.