



Towards our Union

News on progress towards the new congregation of
Newington Trinity Church

Issue 12: March 2024

Getting Together at Easter

In addition to our Newington Trinity services on the third Sunday of every month we have a number of shared services during Holy Week and at Easter.

Every morning from Monday 25 to Friday 29 March at 7:45am at Craigmillar Park Church

Start the day with fifteen minutes of reflection followed by breakfast

Thursday 28 March at 7:30pm at Priestfield Church

Maundy Thursday communion

Friday 29 March at 7:30pm at Mayfield Salisbury Church

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

And there are two outdoor events. Why not join with Christians from other local churches on a Good Friday Walk of Witness? The walk leaves from Craigmillar Park immediately after breakfast on Friday 29 March. The walk is arranged by Newington Churches Together. Or, why not be up with the lark and join us for a short dawn Easter Day Celebration at the top of Blackford Hill? We gather at the summit at 6:30am.

Our Easter Messy Church will meet on **Saturday 30 March from 4 till 6:00pm.**



Enjoy making things, having a meal and worshipping together.

Getting Together for Pioneer Ministry

We are blessed with a second ministry post as part of the new congregation of Newington Trinity. This second post has been designated as a 'pioneer post' with the aim of a 'fresh expression of church', or 'new worshipping community', arising with God's help and guidance. A launch will be held at Priestfield Church on **Saturday 16 March from 10am to 1pm**, to which everyone from all three of our present congregations is invited. We are looking to develop understanding, enthusiasm (excitement even!) and momentum amongst us all. During our time together we will:

- Explore what 'pioneer ministry' is, and could be,
- Share real life examples from around Scotland and beyond,
- Consider possibilities for our area, and for the Priestfield building,
- Bring together a group from our three present congregations who will take it forward.

The event will be followed by lunch. **Have you signed up yet?** If not, do contact your congregation's representative.

'The Milers' Getting Together on the beach!



And Getting Together at a ceilidh

Making new friends and having fun together.



A Retreat

Central to all that we may do as the united congregation of Newington Trinity is our relationship with God; our faith and our journey as 'people of the way', followers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We will join together before our union for a half-day or full day of 'retreat'; all in the three congregations being invited to a time together of prayer and contemplation: a day of spiritual relaxation, re-connection to God and re-charging as we look to the future together.

The probable date is **Saturday 1 June** – more details will follow.

Craigmillar Park Church building

The General Trustees approved the sale of the Craigmillar Park Church (CPC) buildings at their meeting in early February and are now in negotiations with the denomination that wishes to purchase the buildings. The two parties are looking at the purchase price of course, but also the condition of the buildings, the contents and the entry date. So far, things seem to be going well but it may take a few more weeks for a final decision to be reached. The General Trustees have visited to photograph and record the ecclesiastical fixtures, fittings and contents (the war memorials, communion tables, crosses and the like). CPC, in discussion with the other congregations, will need to make decisions at some point about whether they remain with the building, move to Newington Trinity or are otherwise appropriately disposed of. CPC are also preparing an inventory of the other

contents, a home for which will also have to be found. Bids for dozens of IKEA mugs may shortly be invited!

Bettina Hather: Children and Young Adult Worker at Mayfield Salisbury Church

Continuing with our introductions; here is Bettina Hather. Bettina works with children and young people up to the age of around 25, quite a remit!



We'll all know Bettina from her leading the first reflection and 'Young Church' in our monthly Sunday services

together, but she is involved in lots of activities with our youngsters; from running holiday clubs to visiting us (and mucking in!) at Messy Church. What might not be so obvious is that Bettina also leads the work on Sunday evenings with our Youth Group and keeps an eye on our students and twenty-somethings.

One of the challenges for all of us in Newington Trinity will be how to work as a team with Bettina to reach the around thirty percent of the population below the age of 25. We have to develop our work, with Bettina as an enabler and skills base, with a team drawn from across the Newington Trinity congregation. What an exciting challenge for us. If you'd like to know more or are interested in working in any of these areas do contact Bettina or your Session Clerk.

Plenary

The next meeting of all three Kirk Sessions together, the Plenary, will be on Wednesday 13 March. The April newsletter will include a report of proceedings.