



Towards our Union

News from Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield Churches

Issue 1: March 2023

This is the first of 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.

Congregational meetings

In February the three congregations held meetings to hear updates on progress towards the union. Points were made and questions were asked.

All three congregations indicated support for the proposals, the key features of which are:

- Having the Mayfield Salisbury building as our principal place of worship,
- Keeping the Priestfield building as a hub for a new pioneer ministry,
- Releasing the Craigmillar Park building.

Of course, there were some concerns and there will be sadness with such changes but there is a sense of an exciting future beckoning.

Now for a few introductions...

The Union Steering Group (or USG)

This is a group comprising the three ministers and three session clerks from our existing churches. Its role is to steer a smooth course through the complexities of union and to agree decisions where needed. The USG is ably supported by two teams...

The Integration Team

Six representatives from the three churches co-convened by the ministers of Mayfield Salisbury and Craigmillar Park Churches. This team will address the financial, buildings and other practical aspects of union.

The Missional Team

Six representatives from the three churches co-convened by the ministers of Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield Churches. The Mission team will lead the development of a missional vision for both the 'traditional' church and the 'pioneer' ministry.

Of course, until the union any substantive decisions to be made will be matters for the three kirk sessions.

What's in a name?

Many of you have responded to the invitation and suggested possible names for our new congregation. We've had a good range of suggestions and we'll be taking three or four forward. On Palm Sunday we'll be letting you have a voting sheet so that you can let us know which works best for mission and is your favourite. The USG will look at the outcome of the vote and take one forward to Presbytery for approval. The name will

need to comply with Presbytery and the Charity Regulator's rules.

Vision for Mission

As we begin to unpack what mission means for our new congregation, both the new united congregation and our new pioneer ministry, we're having a time away at the Charteris Centre (formerly Kirk o' Field) on Saturday 25 March from 10:00am to 1:00pm. This for everyone as we seek to understand what mission means and listen for God's promptings. More details will follow.

Pulpit Exchanges

As part of our continuing process of getting to know one another better we're in the process of swapping ministers for our Sunday worship.

Holy Week

We'll be having our series of Holy Week early morning services at Craigmillar Park Church. These are followed by breakfast when we can relax and chat together. If you haven't been before, why not give it a try this year? We'll also be sharing Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Details will follow for all of these.

Easter Day

On Easter Day we'll be sharing worship together again. We'll start with a 6:20am worship time at the top of Blackford Hill to greet the rising of the sun. Then at 10:30am we'll celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together at Mayfield Salisbury Church.

If you have any questions or if you want any background papers do speak with your Session Clerk. They are generally good natured and very approachable.

Here they are;

Pauline Weibye, Session Clerk at Craigmillar Park Church



Boyd McAdam, Session Clerk at Mayfield Salisbury Church



Barry Cross, Session Clerk at Priestfield Church

