



Towards our Union

News on progress towards the new congregation of
Newington Trinity Church

Issue 8: October 2023

This is the eighth in our series of monthly newsletters.

Autumn is now well and truly with us and everything is back in full swing.

Our Union – an Update on the Legal Issues

Just as our last newsletter was being finalised, we received a comprehensive response to our draft Basis of Union. Our Union Steering Group has considered this in detail and arrangements are being made for a meeting between our Session Clerks and the Presbytery Clerk and the Convener of Presbytery's Deployment Committee. This will enable us to ask specific and detailed questions about our process through to Union, including the important question of timescale.

Getting Together

Our shared services over the summer were generally considered to be a great success in helping us all to get to know one another. It has also begun to flag up those areas where we can help one another adapt as we move closer to Union.

We are now enjoying shared services on the third Sunday of each month till the end of the year. These will again be in our future base, the existing Mayfield Salisbury church building.

We are also exploring a new venture with our Kirk Sessions hoping to meet as one, even prior to Union. The elders of the three Sessions would meet in a plenary session to discuss matters of common interest as we seek to align activity towards Union. To comply with the legal niceties the three Sessions would then move to different rooms to make decisions as individual Sessions. This will require a bit more planning than in the past but should help us as we seek to grow together and agree our future plans.

We are also now embarked on a range of discussions across the three congregations as we seek to align what we do, avoid duplication of effort and plug any gaps.

And it's not all work! We hope to arrange social events together over the next few months, including a ceilidh. Do look out for details.



Activity Groups

The Newington Trinity Kirk Session will be smaller than the combined size of our

existing Kirk Sessions. However, importantly the new structure will include a range of Activity Groups. These Groups will each focus on a particular area of congregational life, from *Mission* to *Finance* and from *Pastoral and Nurture* to *Property and Management of Resources*, and much in between. For a summary of the Activity Groups being discussed see the box on the right.

Conversations are underway with elders on our existing Kirk Sessions to see what individuals' aspirations are for their role in the new congregation. We recognise though that all of us have gifts, whether we are elders or not, so all members will be encouraged to be part of them. As Paul says in a letter to the church in Corinth, 'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts.' Where do you see your role? If you'd like to contact your Session Clerk, they'll be happy to help.

Pioneer Ministry

Things are moving on the Pioneer Ministry front too. At our shared service on 19 November Diane McWilliam from the Cinnamon Network



will be joining us and talking about how we might listen to God and our community more effectively.

This will lead on to workshops and further study as we embark on an exciting journey of discovery together.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

Worship including Music

To collaborate with Ministers and lay worship leaders in developing the worship life of the congregation.

Mission

This Group will explore opportunities to reach out to the local community.

Pioneer Ministry

To support the work of Pioneer Ministry.

Pastoral and Nurture

To support and help people to grow in their faith.

Social Life

To encourage the development of the church family.

Justice and Society

To examine how the gospel can make a difference in the world.

Caring for Creation

God blesses us with the wonders of his world. This group will explore how we look after it.

Communication and digital presence

From printed newsheets to the church website to supporting a social media presence.

Property and management of resources

This will include property maintenance, day-to-day management of the property as well as a range of important support roles.

Finance

Responsibilities will include all aspects of church finance. payments, PAYE and the supervision/oversight of trust funds and bequests.

Who's Who

In our next issue we'll be doing a round-up of key people in our new congregation, as well as keeping up with progress to Union.