

    FEBRUARY 2025

A WORKING TITLE

NEWINGTON TRINITY NEWS



SERMON: *ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE*

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION

SCOUTS: JONATHAN HALL 1968 - 2024

PETE CARTHY'S ART SHOW



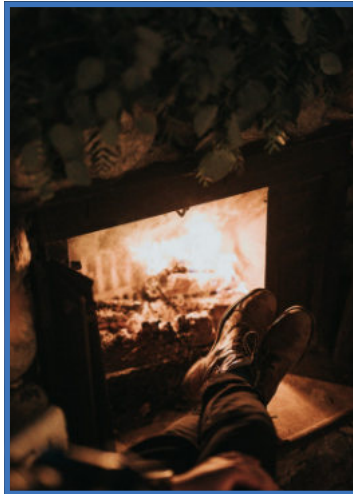
**NEWINGTON
TRINITY
CHURCH**

www.newingtontrinity.org

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

I write as Storm Éowyn batters at the doors and windows of the house, and the garden furniture has completed a few box steps and cha-chachas across the grass, worthy of Chris McCausland in this year's *Strictly*. Edinburgh has ground to a halt, and we are all huddled indoors trying not to draw any thought comparisons with the COVID lockdown. We will soon be released this time though, the weather forecasters assure us – for a short while only, we need to take shelter from the storm.



The Oscar nominations are out and one of the front runners for Best Actor is Timothée Chalamet, for his amazing portrayal of the young Bob Dylan in the film *A Complete Unknown*. In a song from 1974, Dylan wrote these lines:

*'Twas in another lifetime,
one of toil and blood
When blackness was a virtue and the
road was full of mud
I came in from the wilderness,
a creature void of form
Come in, she said,
I'll give you shelter from the storm*

The old wooden door of the inn creaks open and the blast of the fire lights up your bedraggled frame as you stand exhausted in the doorway. Welcome to the place of sanctuary to all travellers on the path of faith – welcome to the 'shelter from the storm'. God the innkeeper is warmly embracing you as His guest, your room is

prepared, the one that you have visited often in the past, is laid out as before. Not a refuge of pure escapism or self-indulgence, this is a place of spiritual retreat, of mindfulness and reset, time out to recuperate so that you are back ready for the road. Psalm 139 begins – 'O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.' The Psalm tells us of an intimate knowing between God and each one of us, of the unbreakable bond that is formed between creator and created when each is wholly attentive to, and in tune with, the other.

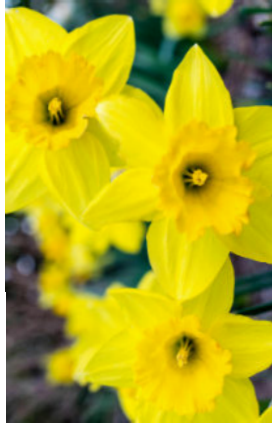
That intimate knowing of God with each one of us is the 'shelter from the storm', the room in the warm inn that is always ours. An intimate knowing that is past, present and future; it is always there and it is unlimited. Surrounded by God's presence at all times and in all places. God transcendent, distinct from the world, and yet also immanent, intimately connected to it through the very DNA of all life.

Within our new congregation that has just begun in the union that has formed Newington Trinity; in our lives in the year ahead if ever 'blackness is a virtue and the road is full of mud'; in the face of all the trials and tribulations of the world; and even as the gales blow outside our front doors, may God's presence be our 'shelter from the storm'. May God's intimate knowing be our refuge and strength, 'steadfast and sure as the billows roll'.

God bless, *Sandy*

AFTERNOON SERVICE

Tuesday, 11 MARCH
at 2.30pm



The first Newington Trinity Afternoon Service will be held on Tuesday, 11 MARCH at 2.30pm

We meet in the Bill McDonald Hall, via West Mayfield level access, for a shorter service of Worship and this time with Holy Communion led by our Minister, Revd. Dr Sandy Forsyth. This will be followed by light refreshments and chat until around 3.45pm.

Everyone always made most welcome – just come along! Perhaps you find it hard to attend Sunday Worship, or maybe you appreciate a shorter time away from home - or have always meant to attend an Afternoon Service. These are shorter and less formal and we all remain seated at our tables throughout the afternoon - and afterwards we enjoy conversation and exchange of news over a cup of tea.

If you would like to chat about coming this time, please contact Pastoral Assistant - Pauline Robertson - your own Pastoral Visitor (PV) - or Anne Sturrock. Pauline can be contacted on 0758 704 3191

STEWARDING

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF
THE CHURCH OF
SCOTLAND

Saturday 17 to
Thursday 22 May 2025



Stewards play a significantly important role to ensure that many of the backup services, in support of the General Assembly, operate in a highly efficient, welcoming and friendly manner. Throughout the week of the General Assembly some 150 stewards help to cover over 400 different duties. Each 'shift' generally lasts for about three hours and it is up to each steward as to how often they wish to help.

With so many tasks to undertake we are always seeking new volunteers and we are still short of our required target for 2025. If you think you might like to help us then please get in touch for more information. Your help would be very greatly appreciated.

For more details please contact the Chief Steward, Sandy Gemmill, at assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org.uk or speak with William Mearns, the Church Manager at church.

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION



Paddy Ferry

Monday 17 February at 7.30pm. I am writing to invite you to our next meeting of the Edinburgh Newman Association. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Scott McKenna. Scott has been a Church of Scotland parish minister for over 30 years and has recently been appointed Spiritual Lead at Ayrshire Hospice.

The title of his talk will be *Assisted Dying: A Personal Reflection*. Our meeting will take place at our usual venue, Newington Trinity Church, 18 West Mayfield, Edinburgh EH9 1TQ. All are welcome. There is a suggested donation of £5 to help cover the cost of our meeting.

With very best wishes and thanks for your support, Paddy Ferry (Chair.)

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION (SLA)

CINEMA NIGHT 2025

Join us for some fun, fizz and a film to give children in India the opportunity to thrive. For our Charity Cinema Night this year, we will be screening the classic workplace comedy *9 to 5* (1980) starring Dolly Parton, Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda at the Dominion Cinema.

Thursday 13 March 2025 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. For Tickets, See:

www.citizenticket.com/events/scottish-love-in-action-4/charity-cinema-night-2025/



founder Gillie Davidson took the 'QII' youth group from Greenbank Church in Edinburgh to a town in Andhra Pradesh in India. The group helped an Indian NGO to build a home for 120 homeless children. The number of children in the home later grew to around 500.

SLA's roots stem from 1999, when our

To date, SLA has supported thousands of children and young people through our Indian partners, who have used the funds we raise to support, care for, educate, empower and nurture vulnerable children.

Main website: www.sla-india.org

AN ORDINATION AND AN INDUCTION



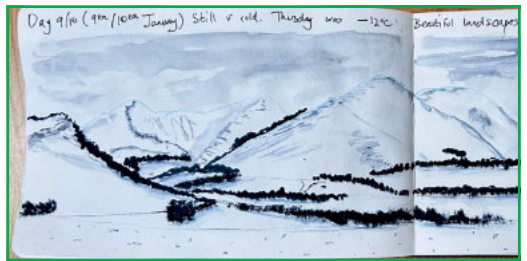
Simon Hessett's ordination as a minister will take place on Tuesday 4 February at 7.00pm in Holy Rude Viewfield Church, St John Street, Stirling FK8 1ED.

If any member of the congregation would like to attend to represent Newington Trinity at Simon's ordination, you will be very welcome.



On the very same night at the same time, our minister, Rev. Dr Sandy Forsyth, will become the Moderator of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian for the following year. His induction as Moderator will occur near the start of the Presbytery meeting at Palmerston Place Church, 2 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5BJ. All welcome to be there, or to join on Zoom (details to follow in weekly news).

PETE CARTHY'S ART SHOW



811 Days of Nature Journaling @ Newington Trinity Church: Mayfield

Join Pete on Saturday, 22 March 2025 10.00am to 4.00pm, for an extraordinary celebration of art, nature, and storytelling as Pete Carthy presents his remarkable exhibition, 811 Days of Nature Journaling. This inspiring showcase features Pete's journey of documenting the natural world daily over an incredible two-year period. Through stunning sketches, vibrant watercolours, and insightful observations, Pete captures the beauty, complexity, and ever-changing rhythms of nature.

The exhibition promises to engage visitors of all ages, whether you're an artist, a nature enthusiast, or simply someone who appreciates creativity and mindfulness. Pete's work highlights the profound connection between art and the environment, inviting us all to slow down,

observe, and reflect on the world around us.

Pete is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help ensure the smooth running of the event. Tasks include assisting with setting up the exhibition, welcoming guests, and providing support during the show. Volunteering is a great opportunity to meet Pete, learn more about his creative process, and be part of this unique event.

Pete is based in Romannobridge, nr West Linton, and came to the church service just before Christmas. He attends Newlands Kirk. He will come back before his show in March to meet prospective volunteers.

Please get in touch with Pete at

- Mobile: 0755 544 5605
- Email: peter_carthy@hotmail.com
- Website: www.petecarthy.co.uk

JONATHAN HALL



**9 December 1968
To 10 November 2024**

Jonathan was a kind and gentle man. He was a loving and much loved husband to Nicki and father to Emily, Ruaridh and Lucy. He was also a popular and well respected member of our Leader team, working in our Cub Pack.

Jonathan was born and raised in Edinburgh, attending George Watson's College and graduating in Business Administration and Finance at Robert Gordon University. After graduation, he spent time at Camp America, travelled across the United States. His travel bug took him around the world, at one stage paddling a dugout up an African river surrounded by protective mother hippos. He went on to work in the finance industry for many years before becoming a popular Postie in Southern Postal District and will be known to many of you in that role.

As a loving father, he spent lots of time with children, introducing them to the outdoors and the delights of camping.

Jonathan had been a Scout Leader in Leith before joining the 28th as a Cub Leader in 2016. His son Ruaridh had joined the Pack and he stepped forward to volunteer. In his quiet way, he enthusiastically completed his training for the role and achieved his Wood Badge. He was a great support to the leadership team, attended camp where he was in his element and enriched the experience for the Cubs. His delight in running a successful evening in the hall was evident to all.

Tragically, Jonathan's life was blighted by periods of deep depression. On 10 November, the unbearable pain became



too much for him and he took his own life. His funeral service was held at his church where he had attended with his family, Chalmers Church, on 7 December. The Church was packed with family, friends, church members, posties and Scout colleagues to celebrate his life and take comfort that he was free of his pain and in the loving care of God.

We should like to thank Rev Sandy Forsyth, Pauline Robertson, Christine De Luca and William Mearns for their kind offers of support for our Leader team as we tried to overcome our shock and distress. We know that Jonathan's family will be in the thoughts and prayers of the congregation of Newington Trinity Church.

Alan Dickson and Philip Hunsley

SCOUT UPDATE - PRIESTFIELD



The 35th Scout Group has a history spanning over 100 years, but we are always working hard to ensure that the programme offered to our young people is a good blend of traditional and modern skills. Our group currently supports around 60 young people, both boys and girls, aged 6-14 to engage with the Scout programme. We also have several young leaders aged 14-17 supporting our sections and developing their own leadership skills.



Beavers The Beavers have had a busy term. We completed the Digital Maker, Collector, Gardener and Global Issues badges, learning lots of new skills. We finished the term with an outing to the Lazer Station at Fountainbridge.

Here above is a picture of some of the Beavers supporting Young Leader, Luca, as he is presented with the Young Leader Belt. Luca is now a 'full' Beaver Leader.

Cubs The Cub Pack had a busy end to 2024. As part of our Skills Challenge badge, SurfSkate Academy came to the pack to give our boys and girls the chance to try this new sport. They have also been learning how to make pizzas from scratch, prepare different fruits and vegetables and found out different ways to stay healthy. At the beginning of November, we enjoyed a sleepover in Penicuik Scout Hall, including a night hike. We visited Ryze trampolining park to round off the term.

Scouts After a good summer camp the Scout Troop returned to weekly meetings, with the scouts working on their Creative Challenge and Team Leader Challenge awards. The creative skills covered making: mosaics, paracord bracelets, Welsh cakes, keyrings, Chinese calligraphy T-shirts, origami and wooden tent pegs.

The latter will be useful to replenish our stock ahead of the new camping season!



Each of our four patrols also collected and put together a shoebox of items for the Blythswood Shoebox appeal so that a scout aged girl/boy in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia or Ukraine had a Christmas present to open.

Laura Haley
Headquarters

Newington Trinity Church: Priestfield
2 Marchhall Place, Edinburgh EH16 5HW

KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session of Newington Trinity met on 22 January in the Priestfield lounge. It took various decisions to establish how we operate as the new congregation. As previously mentioned in the weekly email (issued on 11 January) there are a number of activity groups being formed.

We are looking to members of the congregation (not just elders) to help manage these and other specific activities (such as gift aid, GDPR oversight; roll keeping) so please get in touch with any of the Clerks' team if you think you can help out. The clerks' emails will remain as below for the time being. The Session confirmed the clerks' team for Newington Trinity. Boyd will be the principal contact with Barry and Pauline in support. New email arrangements will be established soon and we will notify you of them.

The Session also reviewed the names of the buildings as we now have two centres. Thank you to all those who provided suggestions. We have our formal 'Sunday

name': on the Scottish Charity Register (OSCR) it is **Edinburgh: Newington Trinity Church of Scotland, SC000785**. The name has to appear on formal documentation but we have more flexibility for publicity and so on. We also need to know which of our two sites we are referring to for meetings etc.

After much discussion looking at the historical names linked to the congregations, the location (e.g. Dalkeith Road) or hybrid names using words like centre or hub, the options were winnowed down and, after a vote, the clear choice was for **Newington Trinity Church of Scotland - Mayfield**; and **Newington Trinity Church of Scotland - Priestfield**.

The Session was aware that these names did not reference Craigmillar Park or Salisbury but opted for brevity. As the pioneer activity develops the Session recognised that a review may be required.

The Session next meets TBC.

SCOUT UPDATE - MAYFIELD



The 28th Scout Group. Our year ended with a visit to Ryze, the trampoline centre, which is always enjoyed by the Scouts and our film night with a seasonal showing of Home Alone.

We started the new year early with a Hike near Peebles. The recent snow kept us off the planned hill route but we had a good hike on a clear frosty day along the north bank of the River Tweed to Lyne Station. The return was back along the south bank ending by exploring the old railway tunnel that took us back to Peebles

The Emergency training the previous month was put to the test when the Scouts were confronted with the scene of a 'train crash' created in the lower hall. In near

darkness, with flashing lights, sirens and a hint of 'smoke', the Scouts had to rescue the screaming patients, carry out immediate treatment and stretcher them to the safety of the other hall Emergency Incident.

We ended January in the darkness again but this time at Bonaly Scout Centre with some exciting challenges for the Patrols to face, all based loosely on a Burns poem.

Alan Dickson Scout Leader

Headquarters

Newington Trinity Church: Mayfield
18 West Mayfield, Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ
Scottish Charity No SC006141

THE MILERS



Out with the old in with the new! No that's not an advertisement to have your old aching joints replaced with shiny new ones -NHS waiting lists are far too long for that!

Instead we are renaming the Mayfield Milers walking group. We thought long and hard: Trinity Trotters had shades of Animal Farm; I wondered if we should go metric and call ourselves The Metres or rather The Meeters (clever, eh?); but then with a sudden epiphany 'THE MILERS' struck us all as the way forward. It's official we are no longer Mayfield Milers henceforth we shall be known as THE MILERS.

Yes, we will continue to walk by yon bonnie banks and by yon bonnie braes! Yes, we will climb Ben Vorlich, we may even plant a flag up there (mebbe one with a wee Lion on it)! Yes, we will patrol our canals, and make sure the Water of Leith remains under Scottish control! Yes, our borders will remain open so that we can welcome anyone who wants to join us - providing they can afford the £2 annual subscription fee! Yes, we will eat lots of scones to boost

our local economy. I see us entering a golden age of exploration of new territories, but first we must 'drill baby drill' exercising, to make ourselves fit for purpose!

So, re-proof those walking boots, grab your walking poles and off we shall venture to infinity and beyond with our catchy new name! This blast of hot air to our wind turbines will no doubt provide you with enough energy to sign up for the next couple of walks as follows:

Wednesday 12 February

Newhaven to Leith
Contact Denise Fisher
denandjo@yahoo.com

Sunday 16 February

Snowdrop Walk at Preston Hall, Pathhead.
Contact Anne Sturrock
sturrocks@uwclub.net

For further information please contact Jean MacGilchrist jebileitch@gmail.com

P.S. thanks to President Trump for literary style

CHURCH LIBRARY



The church library has been given a New Year tidy up and several new books have been added to it. You'll find it next to the noticeboard in the foyer. You are welcome to borrow any of the books there – please do have a browse.

Most of the books are shelved in alphabetical order by author, but there is a dedicated shelf of 'Eco' books as well as a shelf of prayer and poetry books, one for study guides, and a shelf with a small collection of children's books.

For house groups or bible study groups, there are a number of sets of books available. These include titles by authors

such as Paula Gooder, Richard Holloway, Henry Nouwen and Philip Newell, amongst others. If you do take a set of books to use with a group, I'd be grateful if you could note the details on the form available on the shelves.

If you have any suitable books in good condition that you would like to donate to the church library, again, please contact me. Books for children and young people would be welcome too.

Happy reading!

Alison Bogle
Alison.bogle@btinternet.com

PASTORAL CARE

Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God. Acts 20:28

Please contact Pauline Robertson DCS in relation to any pastoral issues or concerns and/or if you wish anyone to be remembered in the confidential prayer chain or wish to be added to the email circulation list. The contact details for Pauline are: pastoralassistantms@gmail.com or phone 0758 704 3191.



The Edinburgh Police Choir

will be performing at

Newington Trinity
Church: Mayfield
18 West Mayfield
Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ

Friday
21st February 2025
at 7pm

We will be raising funds for a charity called
Scotland Na Kenya Pamoja for Children
(charity registration number SCO47082)

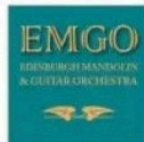
This charity provides resources to educate
and empower the children and young people
of Kenya.

No tickets, donations at the door

EMGO is registered Scottish Charity number SCO46087



Scotland Na Kenya Pamoja
for Children



Welcome to Southside Faith Care

We run local community groups in the Southside of Edinburgh for older people. We aim to connect people, equip people with useful skills and foster a sense of belonging.



Happy New Year and welcome to 2025. We hope you had a restful Christmas, in whatever shape or form it took as we know Christmas time can be a time of celebration for some, yet can be hard and lonely for others.

In light of all that, we're really excited to have a range of friendly and fun groups to be a part of. So come along or spread the word to someone you know- we'd love to meet you.

In particular, we have a new group starting this year on Fridays- 'Crafts, Games,

Soup!' which is exactly what it says on the tin! Scroll below for more details.

As always, check out our website and follow us on Facebook to stay updated. Finally, if you have any questions, concerns or ideas then please don't hesitate to email us. We'd love to hear from you!

Dan
(Activities Coordinator: 0758 7014 948)

Su
(Development Lead: 07478 543 510)

Sporting Memories Clubs are friendly, fun and easy to join

Starting Thu 5 Sept

Join our new weekly club in partnership with Southside Faith Care

This club is ideal for those aged 50+ living locally who have the time and would like to:

- Make friendships with people in your local area
- Enjoy fascinating conversations about sport, local history and so much more
- Take part in fun and inclusive activities
- Be part of a welcoming space for those living with dementia and other long-term conditions

Every Thursday 11.00am - 12.30pm, Priestfield Church, 2 Marchhall Place, Edinburgh, EH16 5HW
(Just downhill from Commonwealth Pool and easily reached with the Nos. 2, 14, 30 & 33 buses at the Marchhall stop)

Contact Dan Taylor, Tel: 07587 014948
Email: dan.southsidefaithcare@outlook.com

CRAFTS, GAMES SOUP!

IDEAL FOR 55+ FRIDAYS 12.30-2.30PM
PRIESTFIELD CHURCH
DALKEITH ROAD, EH16 5HW

Enjoy a boardgame or a game of chess
Join in some crafts or bring your own
All with a hot bowl of soup in the company of others!

Get in touch

- dan@southsidefaithcare.org
- 07587014948

www.southsidefaithcare.org

Lucy Le Roux, Campaigns and Advocacy Co-ordinator for Christian Aid Scotland, writes:

Martin Luther King Jr. once famously said "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

2024 has been a year of suffering and struggle for countless communities – people for whom the cost has been hard to fathom. We think of the victims of the wars in Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine and pray for those living on the front lines of the climate crisis. Together, we've responded to the crisis in Gaza; your gifts have brought hope, whilst thousands of you have signed petitions and lobbied MPs to push the UK Government to call for a ceasefire.

Your donations help us continue to support communities bearing the brunt of the climate crisis. And in November we campaigned for climate justice in Scotland and supported our global partners to raise their voices at the UN climate talks in Azerbaijan. It's people like you who fill us with hope, demonstrating once more that countless people are willing to sacrifice their time, energy and money to make the world a better place. Your tireless exertions and passionate concern for our neighbours across the world fill us with hope for a brighter 2025.

God,

You are so good, kind and merciful. Forgive us for the ways in which we have ignored those in need.

Be the fire that sets our hearts aflame. Give us compassion and love for what troubles and moves you. Spur us on to help those in need.



Amen.

Thank you. Every effort, big or small, is deeply valued.

Marmalade

The oranges have arrived in the shops early this year! If you're planning to make marmalade, please consider producing a little extra for our Christian Aid marmalade sale (date to be confirmed). We'd be very grateful! And if you need more jars, please contact Kate O'Brien, kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07593 768 087, to arrange a supply. We have plenty to spare.

Thank you!

The Christian Aid Team



‘One Plus One Equals One’

**Passages: Luke 4:14-21 & 1
Corinthians 12:12-27**

Take cover. Secure everything that might be put in danger. Batten down the hatches, stay safe and take no risks. For the full force of the gathering storm began to batter us in the past week, coming in over the Atlantic. And not just from Storm Éowyn that held us captive indoors on Friday. I do hope that you and yours, your houses, your gardens, your trampolines and your garden furniture all stayed in one piece. No, I'm talking more here about another storm that began last Monday and is predicted to last for the next four years, one that has put the whole world on high alert in its preparations to absorb the impact: it is Storm Donald. If you can keep up with the blizzard of executive orders, mass pardons, states of emergency, wall building, troop deployments and threats of tariffs and invasions, you would be forgiven for thinking that much of what has been spoken and enacted by the new president in America in only a week has worrying echoes of other much darker times in the world, such as the 1930s. But there is one

of the many radical changes being implemented, this time by friendly oligarchs, that may prove more dangerous than any – the removal of all fact checking filters on social media, the place where many people access all of their news and form their opinions in social bubbles and echo chambers. The totalitarian state in George Orwell's novel *1984* used the term 'newspeak' for its warped version of reality that was force fed to a brainwashed population to control them; its zenith being their indoctrinated belief that 'two plus two equals five'. Without trying to sound too melodramatic or alarmist, the door now sits ajar for the potential flooding of propaganda and another systematic distortion of truth.

Other than speaking out against actions that contradict the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as the brave Anglican priest did at the National Cathedral in Washington this week, what resources might Christian theology provide to us to ensure that the longer term effects from this gathering storm are not disastrous, or at least that we are adequately insured against all of the changes in the world that are likely to occur when the storm fully hits? Well, perhaps we



could flood the world with our own distortion by establishing once and for all that 'one plus one equals one' – at least that's what the apostle Paul in our passage from 1st Corinthians wants the world to think; and if he had known the CEOs of Instagram, Facebook and TikTok, he would have posted it to the globe on their platforms rather than have his letter hand-delivered.

On a much smaller scale in this corner of the globe and amongst this Christian community, significant change also began on Monday, when the local Presbytery marked the union of Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield to form Newington Trinity. In all aspects of our lives, the prospect of change can be a daunting one. It can lead to a sense of loss for what has gone past, and a period of learning to cope with our altered circumstances. Change might bring uncertainty, confusion, even fear. If we have a choice, our natural reaction can be to take the safer option, dig our heels in, and refuse to budge. But perhaps if 'one plus one equals one', we need not fear the change as much.

In a church setting, little has ever come about by sitting still. In the early to mid 16th century, the Protestant Reformation swept across Europe, the most cataclysmic change in Christian history, which provided the foundations of the Church of Scotland of which we are part. Reformed churches throughout the world live and grow on the basis of an often-quoted Latin motto said to be from St Augustine – *ecclesia reformata, ecclesia semper reformanda est* – or "the church reformed, the church always requiring to be reformed." Every Christian community is constantly in need of changing, reforming, moving as a 'tent people' of God, finding the new road where God is leading us into the future. It's part of our very DNA as reformed Christians to be in a state of flux, sometimes to be uncertain about what will happen, but always confident that God, in the power of the Spirit, will take us onward in a new and dynamic direction.

Our union this month is part of a significant re-structuring across the whole country of the Church of Scotland, one that is aimed not only to prune resources, but in turn to change the church as a platform for faith to re-engage and to resonate once more in the communities and cultures it has called to serve, where God might not have been absent but his church has been more silent. In other words, to engage in God's mission in the world, to find where he is acting and join in. As part of that, at our very local level, as well as a union that changes structures we need to seize the opportunity for change in the re-alignment of the church, whose first steps are the potential for forms of pioneer ministry, both from amongst the congregation and in the second paid ministry post for which we will shortly be recruiting. There is great potential as we begin the new union, just as there is in a revitalisation of the traditional forms of church through our activity groups that will be made up of elders and members, that everyone is encouraged to potentially become part of, to ensure that as broad a spread of our congregation as possible is part of what we do as a community.



What do all these changes mean though for each one of us? What do they mean for who we think we are: for our identity? If our faith, our common baptism as children of God, does form a vital part of who we are as people, do we fear that these changes will undermine that identity in faith?

Questions of identity and binding together as a Christian community in times of challenge and change are at the heart of our passage today from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, in his metaphor that we, the Church, are the body of Christ and individually we are members of that body. In one Spirit we are baptised into one body, no matter who we are or where we come from. The weaker or less respectable parts of the body, he says, are just as indispensable, just as vitally important in the part they play as the others in making the whole body function properly. This is so there can be no dissent in the body, and every part might care for one another equally – all suffer and rejoice together. For all of this, of course, read the church of which we are all part.

This is our fullest and truest identity, baptised and ingrafted into Christ, formed in community as one. One plus one plus one plus one, ad infinitum, equals...one. With all our diversity of gifts and flaws, joys and sorrows, each one of us here is deeply loved, welcomed and needed for it all to function. This unity, says Paul to the church in Corinth, is not established through budgets or buildings or structures, for they had none of that as we do, but what they did have was what really mattered – the Holy Spirit and baptism in Christ to bind

them together as one. The same Spirit, we are told by Luke, that Jesus was filled with as he began his ministry. The same he quoted from Isaiah as he set out the manifesto of his ministry in his home synagogue in Nazareth, saying the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor and free the broken, the blighted and the captive.

What creates the one body and unity is not our church as an institution. It is not whatever arrangements we make for its structure and governance, but our relationship to Jesus Christ. If we have that, we are one already. Our identity as Christians, who we are, the ties that bind us, is not defined ultimately by the outward signs, be they the church buildings or cathedrals of our times, however grand and distinguished, be they the history of faithfulness of a denomination like the Church of Scotland over the past five hundred and fifty years, proud though that is. The temples made by human hands might tumble and fall to ruins. But even still our identity would remain, defined by something deeply personal, which goes down to our very marrow.

In these times, it is perhaps more imperative than ever to remember not just who we were or are as people and as a church, but who we serve, who He was and is, and what his promises are to us and to his Church. Perhaps then, we can see more clearly that our common identity in Christ, which forms part of our very being and binds us together in unity as a single body will never be shaken, and that his church,

in whatever form it might take, will never end. God will be with us, even until the end of time. And in that assurance, where is the fear from the big, bad wolf of change?

And just as 'one plus one equals one' for our church, so too for the world. In verse 27 of Paul's letter, we are celebrated in the body of Christ on the one hand as individuals, we remain the eye or the ear, but yet in a healthy balance with the need for connection with, and reliance upon, all the other members to fully function. For belonging to the whole only comes about by participation – the sharing of life and common purpose together that forms a community in Christ, that calls us also towards the manifesto he set out in Nazareth of transformation and new life in the world. 'One plus one equals one', both here and there...

Paul's vision of the church, and Christ's ministry and purpose that He made plain in his home synagogue, set out the need for a deep connection between all strands and all levels of humanity, in the church and far beyond, through the valuing of all parts of the body, both inferior and superior alike; and through that might come interdependence and community, healing and restoration. Rowan Williams wrote

recently that Christianity and the church must model the deep connections between people that a fragile world urgently needs, As a way of standing up against division, discrimination and violence between different identities of people groups, with such terrible consequences being played out in recent times in places like the Holy Land, Ukraine and Sudan. Williams said: 'Being more deeply connected will not take away the fragility of our condition, but it will help us see that it is worth parking the obsessions of tribes and echo chambers so that we can actually learn from and with each other'.

That may be our answer as Christians to despotism and division all round the world – to exemplify, model and live out that 'one plus one equals one'. Unity means one body of Christ, one church and one common faith, but also one world and one humanity, all deeply connected and dependant on each other's wellbeing. Rather than border fences, deportations, bombings and killings, maybe this is more of what our identity truly is. And maybe this is the 'newspeak' that might bring about the seismic change that the church, and all humanity, really needs.

Amen.

The Scottish Poppy Appeal 2024

Awarded to

Newington Trinity Church

in recognition of collecting donations on behalf of Poppyscotland and for making a real difference to our Armed Forces community living in Scotland

£435.19





Gordon Michie
Head of Fundraising

www.poppyscotland.org.uk



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Activity Groups, Kirk Session and Youth Group meetings TBC.
Please check the weekly news for updates**

**Events at Mayfield Building = (MS). At Priestfield Building = (PF)
Services will take place at the Mayfield building unless otherwise noted.**

February

Sun 2 Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

10.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
7.00pm Evening Service (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 4 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)
2.00pm Southside Guild: Gill Murray *Armchair Exercises* (MS)
7.00pm Ordination of Simon Hessel *Holy Rude Viewfield Church, Stirling FK8 1ED*
7.00pm Induction as Moderator Rev. Dr Sandy Forsyth *Palmerston Place Church, 2 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5BJ. All welcome*

Thu 6 2.00pm Thursday Club: *Wee Sangstream Choir* (MS)
7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)

Fri 7 1.30om First Friday Friends (MS)

Sun 9 Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 11 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)

Thu 13 2.00pm Thursday Club: John Graham *Ancient Persia And Modern Iran* (MS)

Sun 16 Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

9.30am All-Age Worship (Pauline Weibye)
10.45am Service of Worship (Pauline Weibye)

Mon 17 7.30pm Newman Association in Bill McDonald Upper Hall
See page 3

Tue 18 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)

Thu 20 2.00pm Thursday Club: Anne Stenhouse *Writing Fiction For And About Women* (MS)
7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)

Sun 23 Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 25 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)

Thu 27 2.00pm Thursday Club: David Rimmer *French Horn Recital* (MS)

March

Sun 2 Transfiguration Sunday

10.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
7.00pm Evening Service (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)



Rev Dr Scott McKenna, Alisa Garland and Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth at the Service of Union between Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield Churches which took place on Monday 20 January 2025.

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

February

1	Exodus	15,16	/	Psalms	15,16
2	Exodus	17,18	/	Matthew	24
3	Exodus	19,20	/	Matthew	25
4	Exodus	21,22	/	Psalm	17
5	Exodus	23,24	/	Matthew	26
6	Exodus	25,26	/	Matthew	27
7	Exodus	27,28	/	Matthew	28
8	Exodus	29, 30	/	Psalm	18
9	Exodus	31,32	/	Acts	1
10	Exodus	33,34	/	Acts	2
11	Exodus	35,36	/	Psalm	19
12	Exodus	37,38	/	Acts	3
13	Exodus	39,40	/	Acts	4
14	Leviticus	1-3	/	Acts	5
15	Leviticus	4,5	/	Psalms	20,21
16	Leviticus	6,7	/	Acts	6
17	Leviticus	8,9	/	Acts	7
18	Leviticus	10-12	/	Psalm	22
19	Leviticus	13,14	/	Acts	8
20	Leviticus	15,16	/	Acts	9
21	Leviticus	17,18	/	Acts	10
22	Leviticus	19,20	/	Psalms	23,24

23	Leviticus	21,22	/	Acts	11
24	Leviticus	23,24	/	Acts	12
25	Leviticus	25,26	/	Psalm	25
26	Leviticus	27	/	Numbers	1 / Acts13
27	Numbers	2,3	/	Acts	14
28	Numbers	4,5	/	Acts	15

March

1	Numbers	6,7	/	Psalms	26,27
2	Numbers	8,9	/	Acts	16
3	Numbers	10,11	/	Acts	17
4	Numbers	12-14	/	Psalms	28,29
5	Numbers	15,16	/	Acts	18
6	Numbers	17-19	/	Acts	19
7	Numbers	20,21	/	Acts	20
8	Numbers	22,23	/	Psalm	30
9	Numbers	24,25	/	Acts	21
10	Numbers	26,27	/	Acts	22
11	Numbers	28,29	/	Psalm	31
12	Numbers	30,31	/	Acts	23
13	Numbers	32,33	/	Acts	24
14	Numbers	34,35	/	Acts	25
15	Numbers	36	/	Deuteronomy	1/32

WHO'S WHO IN NEWINGTON TRINITY

Edinburgh: Newington Trinity Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SC000785

Please note: These contact details are correct at time of publication but some are likely to change at the next edition of the magazine in March 2025. Please continue to check the weekly news updates in print or on the church website: www.newingtontrinity.org

Minister

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Session Clerk Team

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Barry Cross (Depute)
Pauline Weibye (Depute)

Parish Deacon

Pauline Robertson DCS pastoralassistantms@gmail.com 0758 704 3191

Children & Young Adult Worker

Bettina Hather youthworkermSPC@gmail.com 0778 319 0114

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William Mearns office@newingtontrinity.org 0780 801 1234

Priestfield - Letting Manager

Kenny Ferguson kenny.ferguson@blueyonder.co.uk 0741 253 4131

Organist

Kate Pearson kate.q.kate@gmail.com 0744 238 2296

Treasurer

Charles Garland treasurer@newingtontrinity.org 07762 908 343

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

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Gift Aid Donations & Roll Keeper

Hugh Somerville hs.somerville2@gmail.com 0131 466 2446

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Mayfield Building: 18 West Mayfield,
Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ - 0131 667 1522

Priestfield Building: 2 Marchhall Place,
Edinburgh EH16 5HW - 0772 004 0081

Office Contact Details

0131 667 1522
office@newingtontrinity.org

Pastoral Care

For home or hospital visits, please contact
the Minister or Pastoral Assistant

Staff Days Off - (Generally)

Minister: Fridays
Children & Young Families Worker: Mondays
Manager: Monday afternoons & Fridays
Pastoral Assistant: Friday

Social Media Accounts

 www.facebook.com/newingtontrinitychurch

 www.youtube.com/@ChurchEdinburgh

 www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06

 www.x.com/churchscotland

 www.newingtontrinity.org

WEB



Copy Date for Next Issue: 6.00pm on Friday 28 February 2025