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ISSUE 4

NEWINGTON TRINITY NEWS

Magazine of Edinburgh: Newington Trinity Church of Scotland



LETTER FROM THE MANSE

KIRK SESSION MATTERS

FAMILY FEATURES

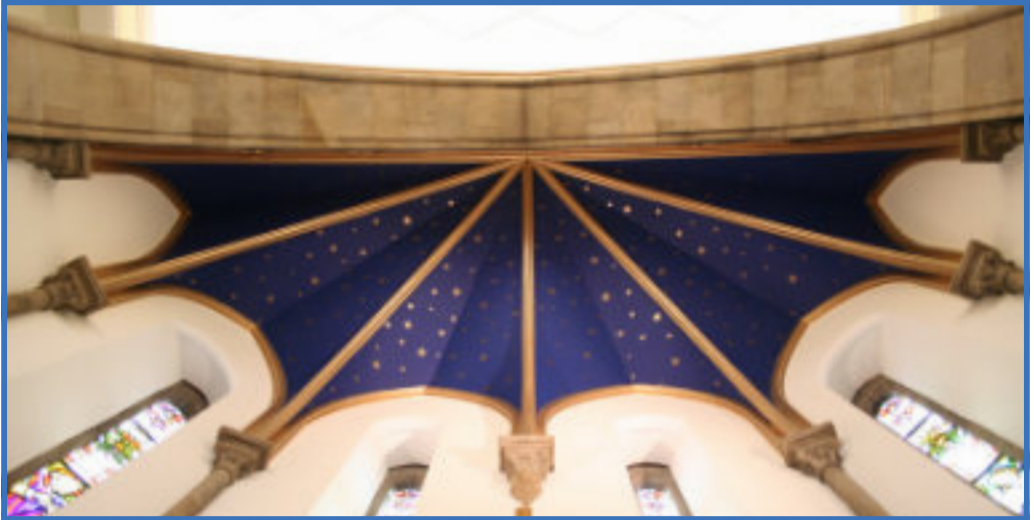
BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE



NEWINGTON
TRINITY
CHURCH

www.newingtontrinity.org

FROM THE MANSE



Dear Friends,

When you are moving house, it's a perfect opportunity to 'downsize' as you encounter the boxes in the loft that you haven't opened since the last time you changed address, as well as the clothes you've hardly worn and the books you've always meant to read and somehow never have. But there are some things that you know you'll just never be able to let go of, no matter how peripheral they've become. They're part of your heritage, they mark key stages in your life, and to get rid of them would be unthinkable.

We're going through such a 'cull' at the manse right now. For as I am sure you may well know, I have been appointed to a new national role as Director of Studies in the Church of Scotland, overseeing the re-vamping of education for those training for ministry and its implementation. As I have shared elsewhere, it is a role which I feel strongly called towards and hope to be able to implement well for the benefit of the Church's future. But its acceptance comes at a significant price, particularly in leaving so many friendly and welcoming people at

Newington Trinity, who have been greatly supportive to Joy and me since we arrived four and a half years ago. My final service will be an emotional one on 17 August, before I begin my new job on 1 September. And now we have to move house too...gone are many boxes of books, furniture is flying out the door, and clothes and bric-a-brac are fast disappearing. We are now wary of going into the local charity shops because they are full of our stuff!

But I can't part with the sentimental items that mean so much. Much of them related to our two daughters when they were small. And also a few choice items of my own from way back – like my first pair of football boots; yellowing cuttings from the local paper that my Mum kept when I played in sports teams as a youth; and various Bibles that were owned by well-loved members of the family; including the child's Bible given to our elder daughter on the day of her baptism by my in-laws.

I remember well being read stories when I was small from a picture Bible, and maybe you do too. I still have images in my head of the drawings of Moses in the bulrushes, of



Noah and the Ark, of Joseph and his amazing coat of many colours, and of the small basket of loaves and fishes from which Jesus fed the five thousand. Little did I know then that I would become a minister, but perhaps those were small beginnings!

One of the stranger images that has stayed with me was of Lot's wife being turned into a pillar of salt, for disobeying God by looking back on the destruction of a city, as set out in Genesis 19. All very odd for a young, enquiring mind. 'Don't disobey God at any cost', seemed to be the message, or you'll face the consequences! Although the warning of 'don't look back' will probably resonate with most of us just as much.

So should we look back at all? Some wag once said 'nostalgia ain't what it used to be!'. If we spend our lives telling everyone how much better it was in the 'good old days', in my case the years of my youth in the 1980s, then we not only might become crashing bores, we might also be proved wrong. Although in some cases we are surely right, such as in music. I laughed when I saw a t-shirt recently with this message on the front – 'I may be old, but at least I got to see all the best bands'!

You must always stay humble as a minister

and a preacher, or someone will bring you down to size. I was once given the 'compliment' at the door after a service that my sermon was 'not too shabby!' There a line from a recent sermon, however, that I was quite pleased with at the time– 'the past is a reference, not a residence'. The past should serve as a wellspring of inspiration and maybe of a depth of emotional feelings too, but it must motivate us to light up the path towards what lies ahead – we cannot remain stuck there.

Looking back on my time as minister at Mayfield Salisbury and then Newington Trinity will be an inspiration like that, as I go onwards. Looking back will be a springboard for what comes next, as well as a source of warm memories that will live with me; ones that I will never discard and will carry forward from place to place for the rest of my days. There have been so many good people that I have encountered here, very gifted staff and office holders that I have worked with, privileged times of walking alongside you in life's challenges, and much laughter and friendship along the way. Thank you – you will always be dear in my heart and in my prayers. May God bless you all and the future of Newington Trinity.

In Christ,
Sandy

SPECIAL AFTERNOON SERVICE

Tuesday
5 August 2025
at 2.30pm



Anne Sturrock

Announcing a special Afternoon Service on Tuesday, 5 August at 2.30pm, this time in the Sanctuary, via usual West Mayfield level access. The short Service, sharing Holy Communion, will be led by our Minister, Revd. Dr. Sandy Forsyth with Pauline Robertson, DCS.

This will be an opportunity for our Afternoon Service congregation and others who join us, to say a personal farewell to Sandy before he leaves us at the end of August.

Feel free to bring a relative, friend or carer with you - everyone most welcome. These are less formal services and we all remain seated at our tables throughout, enjoying conversations and a cup of tea afterwards. This time we might finish around 4.00pm.

If you haven't joined us in the past and would like to discuss, please contact Parish Deacon Pauline Robertson on 0758 704 3191 parishdeacon@newingtontrinity.org or Anne Sturrock afternoonservice@newingtontrinity.org

It would help to know if you are coming, for catering purposes.

Please note that there was to be no July Afternoon Service this year.

EDINBURGH PEOPLE'S THEATRE



Edinburgh People's Theatre present their 77th Fringe production, 'Hatches Matches and Dispatches', by Alan Cochrane at Newington Trinity Mayfield Church Hall (Venue 11) from 1 to 16 August 2025

A year or so after Westminster decreed that Leith and Edinburgh should become one town, old rivalries still exist. An impending marriage between a young couple from both sides of the Leith/Edinburgh divide is in jeopardy when an unmarried mother-to-be turns up at the door. Add to the mix a granny with a few surprises up her sleeve, the ghost of a Newhaven fishwife with some scores to settle, and we have a crazy laugh-a-minute comedy you won't want to miss. This is the hilarious stand-alone sequel to last year's sell-out, 'Ne'er the Twain'. Performances at 7.30pm on 1, 4 - 8, 11-15 August and 2.30pm on 2, 9 and 16 August.

Ticket prices: £15.00, Concessions £12.00 (There's a 2 for 1 offer on Mon 4 and Tues 5 August for full price tickets)

Tickets available online, by phone or in person from: The Fringe Box Office, 180 High Street, Edinburgh | online: www.edfringe.com Tel: 0131 226 0000

Also online and by phone from: TicketSource: online www.ticketsource.co.uk/ept | Tel: 0333 666 3366

Newington Trinity
Mayfield Church Hall
(Venue 11) from 1 to
16 August 2025

PORTRAIT - GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL



FIRST PORTRAIT OF A FEMALE HUNG IN THE BLACK AND WHITE CORRIDOR OF THE ASSEMBLY HALL

During the General Assembly in May this year, the first female portrait was hung in the black and white corridor of the Assembly Hall. This came about following an occasion when Zoe Mearns accompanied her father to the Hall to assist him in his work. She commented to William that all the portraits depicted men. Why were there no women? With his usual

efficiency and gender awareness William sought out a portrait that was kept in storage and negotiated with the Assembly Business Committee that this portrait should be hung in pride of place facing the main entrance at the top of the stairs. It is to the left of the entrance to the Lord High Commissioner's Gallery

It is a painting by George Fiddes Watt, R.A. of Mary Lamond DCS who was ordained

as a Deaconess in 1894. She also became President of the Woman's Guild and served the Church for over 50 years. She was the only woman to speak at the Act of Union event in 1929.

Following her death it was said of Mary Lamond, "she was one of the most distinguished church workers in Scotland" and Miss Lamond was noted for her eloquent public speaking, her calm but gracious assertiveness and her strong sense of humour.



During the Assembly the Moderator, the Guild President and several Deacons gathered to honour this event and of course, to express our warm thanks to William (and Zoe) for making this happen. Some of the faces in the photographs will be well known to people in the former Mayfield Salisbury Congregation.

William, you are our hero. Thank you!

Anne Mulligan DCS

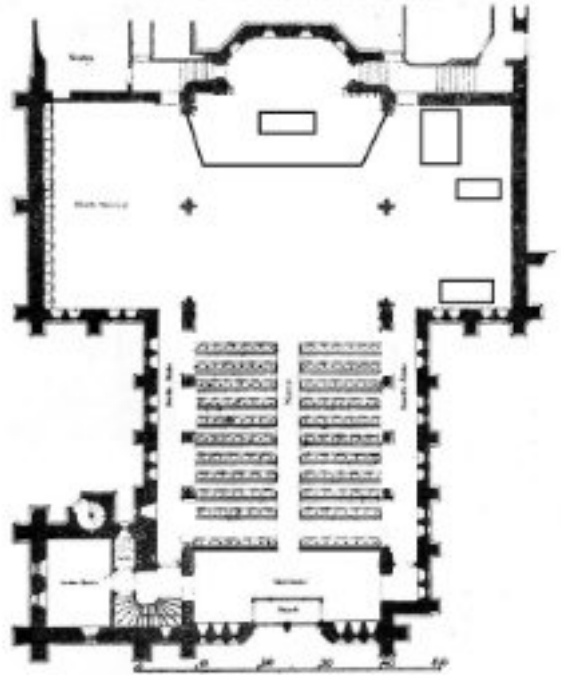
SANCTUARY

The Kirk Session discussed the matter of the seating in the sanctuary at its meeting on 25 June. We were all very grateful to those of you who submitted comments on the feedback paper and/or who attended the Stated Annual Meeting (SAM) on 15 June and contributed to the discussion. We have a draft minute of that meeting, which provides an overview of the comments made then for those not able to be present; just ask if you would like a copy. A copy is posted on the notice board beside the coat rack.

As with the earlier consultation, there was a range of views from all ages with those favouring one option over another expressing their opinions, sometimes with passion and detailed arguments. The Kirk Session was very sensitive to the fact that any decision, whichever way it went, would not be welcomed by some. The Session wished to prioritise a decision that would maintain, uphold and develop the unity and wellbeing of the congregation.

After much deliberation and respectful discussion followed by a series of votes, Session reaffirmed that the retention of all pews – i.e. the current layout of the sanctuary - was not favoured. The discussion then focussed on whether to remove all pews or retain some. In the end, Session decided by a small margin to agree to Plan 2A (see image, also now on display in the hall area).

In coming to this conclusion, Session recognised that the selected compromise sought to achieve a balance between those who wished to retain pews and those who saw greater flexibility in the sanctuary providing opportunities for varied worship and mission as the congregation moves



through the 21st century.

The next step is to include that decision in the design of the heating project for the sanctuary, consider any views from 121, and issue tenders for the work so we can firm up quotes, cost and timescales and then secure any necessary authorisations to enable the work to proceed.

With a fair wind, the work may start in summer/ early autumn next year and may take up to 6 months when the sanctuary will be closed completely and we will worship elsewhere, probably at Newington Trinity – Priestfield.

In the meantime Session thanks everyone for the discussions having been conducted with kindness and generosity and expresses the hope that we can progress in unity around the compromise reached.

Boyd McAdam, Session Clerk

KIRK SESSION MATTERS

The Kirk Session has been very busy lately, as members will have gathered from the various weekly email updates and congregational announcements. We've had several meetings and there has also been a great deal of work behind the scenes as we consider the plans for the sanctuary and the ministry vacancies.

The meeting on 21 May was short and dealt mainly with business arising from the process of calling a Pioneer Minister. The Session noted the draft Electoral Register to be used when the congregation was to appoint a Nominating Committee to handle the call and also determined that the meeting to elect the committee would be in-person only and that a secret ballot would be arranged. We moved on to approve the circulation to the congregation of an information and feedback pack on sanctuary seating options. The pack was intended to provide the congregation with more information on the issues. Session also agreed that a display of pictures and plans would be set up. The report on visits made to other sanctuaries across the city would also be provided. It was agreed that feedback would be invited after the Stated Annual Meeting on 15 June.

Another meeting was held on 28 May. Since that meeting was to deal with vacancy business only, it was moderated by the Rev Neil Gardner, our Interim Moderator for the pioneer vacancy. It finalised and attested the Electoral Register and then moved on to consider the draft parish profile prepared by the Pioneer Group. A few amendments were made and it was agreed that the text should be shared with Eleanor Forbes and William Mearns, for formatting in an engaging style. We also noted that the Presbytery Vacancy Advisory Committee would wish to comment on the draft before it could be used in the vacancy process.

We then met on 10 June, largely to



Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth

consider the implications of the news that our minister, Sandy Forsyth, was to leave Newington Trinity to take up a post at the Church Offices in Edinburgh. Anne Mulligan kindly moderated the meeting since Sandy could not. Firstly, we noted that the procedure for dealing with two ministerial vacancies (Sandy's post and that of the Pioneer Minister) was unclear, especially in the light of very recent changes approved by the General Assembly in May. Even Presbytery was unsure about the implications of the changes so Session felt it necessary to pause the Pioneer recruitment until things were clearer. As you will know, this meant cancelling the arrangements that had been made to elect a Nominating Committee later in the month. We were so sorry to have to do this, particularly in the light of the sterling work of the Pioneer Group in getting us to this stage. However, the work is not wasted: it will give us a head start when we come to prepare the parish profile and elect a Nominating Committee once we have sorted out the process.

The first change that affects us is that the Assembly determined that all new vacancies should be filled on a Basis of Reviewable Charge. We are at present an 'unrestricted charge' but the new minister will be appointed to a charge which will be

reviewed after five years, and which could be terminated by Presbytery at any time, subject to consultation with the congregation and to a notice period for the minister.

The other change is that the Assembly decided that all congregations should prepare an Action Plan, which is to set out the vision, aims and objectives for mission, taking account of a number of specific headings. Such a plan requires to be approved by Presbytery and, crucially for us, needs to be included in a parish profile. So, Session agreed that we need to start work on the Action Plan for Newington Trinity now with a view to having it completed as soon as possible after Sandy's departure. A sub-group of activity group conveners has been set up to take this forward. Session also discussed arrangements for the forthcoming Stated Annual Meeting; it also briefly discussed the sanctuary layout plans; and we noted the forthcoming closure of Newington Nursery and the financial implications for Newington Trinity.

We received the news that a further application had been made to the Council for listed building consent to upgrade the 4G telecommunications equipment housed within the spire and for some modifications to be made to the spire itself (e.g. replacing the wooden louvres). The equipment was not to be upgraded to 5G which, in the previous application, had created issues in the community.

Session discussed and agreed that on this basis there was no objection to the equipment upgrade. However, as part of a parallel process concerning the contract, we would wish to have some control over access times and what changes were being made to the fabric of the building. The matter has been referred to the Law Department of the Church of Scotland for advice.

Our last meeting was on 25 June. The sanctuary layout was the main item of

business and the outcome of that discussion is reported separately in the Newsletter. Another major item of business was the proposed budget for 2025; the treasurer, Charles Garland, is predicting a hefty deficit of some £80k by the end of the year. That is partly caused by the extra fabric work approved in advance of the 2026 withdrawal of the Listed Places of Worship Scheme (doing the work this year means we can claim back the VAT), and the manse upgrades necessary for the two ministry vacancies. There is also a bit of bedding down of the new structure of activity groups. But a deficit of this scale is still concerning and the Session will go on at a later meeting to consider how best to manage our finances for the medium term, to minimise the impact on our reserves.

Otherwise, the meeting received reports from each of the activity groups. It considered a report from Safeguarding and agreed to the addition of Julia Yarker and Pauline Weibye to the list of those volunteers authorised to work with children (Julia) and both children and vulnerable adults (Pauline); both have been successfully PVG'd. A report on the June Presbytery meeting was noted, especially the in-principle agreement to the plans for a new heating system in our sanctuary. We also agreed to admit Rob Abel to membership of Newington Trinity. Rob was a regular attendee at Priestfield and is very keen to commit to membership of the Church of Scotland – and we are delighted to welcome him!

Our next scheduled meeting is 10 September 2025 but there may well be a need for at least one other meeting over the summer given the importance of the various strands of activity.

If you would like a copy of the minutes of these meetings, or more information about anything mentioned above, please speak to one of the Clerks.

Clerks' Team

SOUTHSIDE FAITH CARE UPDATE



Hello!

We've been out enjoying seeing lots of you at our usual array of groups from Digital Support to Sporting Memories and Man Friday. We'll be taking a pause over July and August for our Digital Advice and Support groups but fear not, we'll be continuing again in September! Keep an eye out for news of locations and timings. Sporting Memories and Man Friday continues to meet and open to new faces who would like to come along!

I've just got three things to bring to your attention:

1. Walking Tennis- new group!

In partnership with Tennis Scotland and Priestfield Tennis Club, we're thrilled to be starting a new group over the summer- 'Walking Tennis'. It's a gentler form of tennis (no running and allowing 2 bounces) and a safe, fun and fantastic way to stay active! We're having a launch event for it on Saturday 19 July, 1.00pm, at Priestfield Tennis Club. Why not come along and give it a go? Thereafter, the group will run on Thursdays 2.00pm - 3.30pm at Priestfield Tennis Club. No experience required, all

equipment provided if you don't have any!

2. Annual Report 2024/2025

We've just published our Annual Report for the last year so if you'd be interested in seeing what we've been up to, then head to our website to give it a read!

3. Community Conversations- Award!

We've been loving hosting Community Conversations recently in partnership with Andrew Senew. Our last event titled Local Connections was enjoyed by many! Andrew Senew from Home Instead presented us with an award and we were keen to share it with you all, pictured with some of our community partners!

Have a lovely summer and we hope to see you at one of our groups soon!

Su
Development Lead, 07478 543 510

Dan
Activities Coordinator 07587014948

Southside Faith Care,
Newington Trinity Priestfield Church,
2 Marchhall Place, Edinburgh EH16 5HW

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

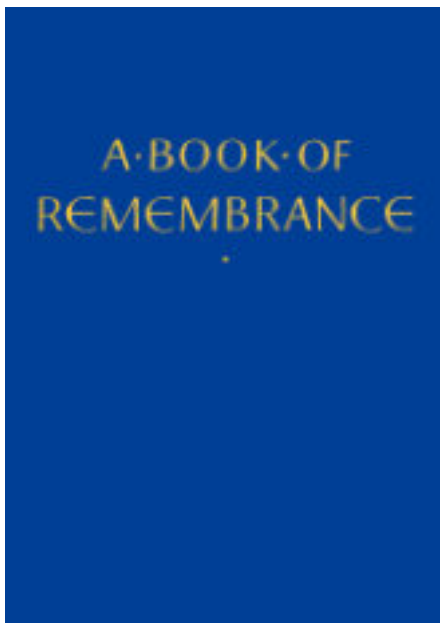
Pastoral Care and Nurture - Introduction to our new *Book of Remembrance*

In our journey through life, we encounter individuals that leave an lasting mark on our hearts. It is with this in mind that we introduce the *Book of Remembrance* to our church community. It serves as a memorial to the love they shared with us.

The book will be kept in the south transept within our church, allowing all members of our community to view, reflect upon and celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us. Should you wish to include the name of a loved one in the *Book of Remembrance*, please complete a form and return. By doing so, you help us create a lasting tribute. *The Book of Remembrance* is not just a record of names; it reminds us of the connections we share, the love that binds us, and the faith that sustains us.

We hope that this *Book of Remembrance* will bring comfort, honour the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to the future with hope and faith.

Pauline Robertson DCS



SCOUT UPDATE - PRIESTFIELD



We are pleased to let you know that Laura Haley recently received Braid Scout District's May Burrows Award. The May Burrows Award is a local award which recognises Laura as a leader who has gone the extra mile; an exemplar of

outstanding leadership in Scouting who has shown generosity, diplomacy and tolerance to others, whilst keeping the Scouting ethos. Laura received nominations for this from across the Scout District.

In addition to being a Cub Pack Team Member at the 35th Braid Scout Group, Laura is Braid District's 14-24 Team Leader, Braid Network Team Leader and South East Region Lead for Network.

Laura was presented with the May Burrows Award at the District AGM by the District Chair.

Well done Laura!

Headquarters

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

Scottish Charity No SCO35115

TEACHING IN HONDURAS



Elsa Mercadante-Wilson, who is working with Project Trust at a school in Honduras, has sent us this interesting report. Elsa received sponsorship from the Shierlaw Fund.

After fundraising throughout 2023/24 for my year long Project Trust placement in Honduras, I finally left the UK in July 2024 and arrived in a little town called Yamaranguila. I settled into the house that I would be sharing with my two other project partners and an American teacher for the next year. Within the first few days, I was enjoying meeting the local community, and using my Spanish speaking skills to communicate.

Within one week I began working at Vida Abundante, a bilingual Christian school of nearly 500 pupils, spanning K4 to 12th grade (3 to 18 year olds). The school day is from 7.45am until 3.00pm. I teach 5th grade reading and penmanship (handwriting practice) and assist in other 5th and 6th grade classes. I also cover classes whenever a teacher is absent. As part of my role I have to plan every lesson I teach. As I was interested in additional learning opportunities I offered to tutor after school. This involves working one to one with a student for 2 hours. I tutor 3 different students, helping them with homework and to revise for tests. The individual time I have with them has

allowed me to develop a closer relationship with them and it is extremely rewarding seeing them more confident and achieving better grades.

Within my community I have been attending the CCI Evangelical Church every Sunday. This has helped me meet more people from the surrounding area, improve my Spanish while listening to the pastor and allowed me to explore the Christian faith in a different setting and culture. I also participate in a weekly Bible study with some of the locals. I have found it very interesting to have the chance to hear and understand different people's perspectives and experiences with faith.

I am loving my year in Honduras so far and I am so grateful that I am getting to spend it in Yamaranguila. Living and working in a small town has helped me make meaningful connections with the people who live nearby. I've been invited to movie nights, camping excursions and basketball games. I have been learning to slow down and not fall into the rhythm of a fast-paced life. This has allowed me to better appreciate little things such as a beautiful sunrise, picturesque clouds, vibrant flowers that shine in the light, and meaningful gestures to others. I enjoy walking around Yam, going to the fruit and veg shop which is entered through an opening in a wall, getting an ice cream and sitting on a bench in the central park surrounded by greenery.



Registered Charity
No. SC014988

EDINBURGH PEOPLE'S THEATRE

on the Fringe since 1947!

*We present the hilarious follow up
to last year's Ne'er The Twain*

HATCHES, MATCHES AND DISPATCHES

BY ALAN COCHRANE

1st to 16th August 2025

**Venue 11 Newington Trinity Church Hall
(formerly Mayfield Salisbury Church Hall)**

Tickets £15 (£12 concessions)

From <https://tickets.edfringe.com/what-on/hatches-matches-and-dispatches>
or www.ticketsource.co.uk/ept (QR code on right) or phone at 0333 666 3366
or direct from us - see A5 flyer for details



Contact:

secretary@grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk

18 June 2025 Meeting: Cllr. Steve Burgess in attendance.

Cllr. Burgess' Report

Priestfield Road / Prestonfield Road Design Improvements

This street tree and footway build-out project has stalled for now on concerns voiced about installing new trees along Priestfield Road. The Prestonfield Road design element will likely go ahead; timing uncertain. There are no budgeted plans for road surface repair or upgrade outside of the overall design improvement package.

Prestonfield Bowling Green

Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) is leading the shared community growing garden project into early design, with £50,000 funding from the food growing initiatives budget and a £500 grant from Balfour Beatty. ELGT is working to support the formation of a local group to take on management and stewardship of the space. See: Prestonfield bowling green – Thriving Greenspaces . If you are interested in taking part, contact Cllr. Burgess on Steve.Burgess@edinburgh.gov.uk

6.1.3 Introduction of Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) to city area 'B1'

B1 runs east-west across the upper half of the GPCC boundary area. Priority Parking Areas (PPA) with part-time restrictions will be replaced by a Controlled Parking Zone where all kerbside space is managed. The proposals are under consultation until 4 July 2025. Submit your support, objections or comment for your particular area directly to the Council consultation website Strategic parking review – The City of Edinburgh Council . Look specifically for 'View the proposal for B1 PPA'. This is the best way to make your individual opinions known.

Other Items

Newington Cemetery

New planters in place. Working Parties active. Cllr Burgess reports that the Dalkeith Road wall repair has just been completed. The wall at the Cameron Toll roundabout was rejoined a week ago; related steel work and fencing is on order.

Kilgraston Road – Grange Loan Junction

This is a busy junction, contested by free-flowing traffic from north and south and traffic seeking to cross east to west and vice-versa. Cyclists and pedestrians (nursery age to elderly) can be in jeopardy. The risks have been tabled with Ward Councillors. The junction is recognised as a 'priority' for review. However, the criteria for action have changed (overall funding pressures) and there are no plans currently to progress identifiable improvements – we are so advised by Cllr. Pauline Flannery following questions just tabled with the Transport & Environment Committee. This issue will be followed up.

Student Accommodation

A proposed development at 140 Causewayside is back on the table. There is a public exhibition of the proposals on 19 July at Newington Trinity Church, 3.30pm to 7.00pm.

Community Notice Board

Now in position at the bus-stop by the shops on the west side of Dalkeith Road. If your community group has material you would like to post there, contact us.

See the GPCC website for more detail and other news.

SoS: We are still on the lookout for new members to join GPCC. If you live in the area and feel you could make a positive and committed contribution to improving your neighbourhood's 'place' and 'space', get in touch with us to discuss how we could do that together. This is your city; help it prosper. Are you interested in helping out? Training and guidance given

Date of next meeting Wed 17 September.



Cubs

The 28th Braid Cubs headed to Bonaly Scout Centre for their annual Cub Camp, taking part in several activities based around the Wizard of Oz. With the sun shining overhead, they walked the 'yellow brick road' out in the Pentlands, tested their brains, hearts and courage, and even rescued someone from the Wicked Witch. The Cubs all had a fantastic time and we're all eagerly looking forward to next year.

Scouts

We had a busy summer programme, with plenty outdoor meetings. Mayfield Bowling Club invited us along for an evening to try out lawn bowling. Some of their members were there to help teach the basics and most of the Scouts were quick to pick up their advice.

We held our May Camp at Bonaly Scout Centre with the programme including camping skills, archery, challenges and enjoying some of the activities available at the Centre. The highlight was on the final day with a trip to Hillend to enjoy the Alpine Coaster. It was the first time for all of the Scouts and the excitement of the rapid swerving ascent proved to be thrilling for them and the Leaders!

A group of Engineers from Napier University visited us to provide a workshop

on renewable energy sources. They demonstrate wind and solar energy as well as hydrogen cell batteries, showing how they were powered and used.

An evening was spent at the Scout Watersports Centre at Longcraig, near South Queensferry. Scouts had the option of Kayaking or Sailing on the Forth under the excellent tutoring of the volunteers at the Centre. For both groups, the highlight was navigating out to the Forth Bridge and looking up as trains passed overhead,

Other activities include a games night at Blackford Hill and the Photo Taskmaster challenge that sent the Patrols out around the Grange with a series of things to find and tasks to photograph.

Alan Dickson Scout Leader

Vacancies

We shall have some vacancies in our Beavers (age 6-7), Cubs (age 8-10) and Scouts (age 11-14) from the beginning of the new term in September. Enquiries to alanjdickson@live.co.uk

Headquarters

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

AFTERNOON TEA CROSSREACH PERINATAL SERVICES



On Saturday 14 June we had a lovely afternoon tea in the Bill McDonald Hall in NT Mayfield - in aid of CrossReach's perinatal services (PNS) East.

The tables looked really pretty with beautiful flowers and decorations - and the sandwiches and cakes looked pretty good too! In a period marked with sunshine, we had managed to pick one of the few rainy days with some thunder thrown in just for added drama. But we had good support from the Newington Trinity church family and very positive reviews.

The next day we had bucket collections after the morning services and our Convenor (Ailsa Garland) spoke briefly about how our giving might be supporting CrossReach, including replacing chairs in the counselling rooms in their Palmerston Place venue - at the 9.30am service her talk was assisted by a small dog and a bear (the bear refused photos...). Thanks to all who supported this weekend.

www.crossreach.org.uk/our-locations/crossreach-perinatal-service

The CrossReach Team

Or rather children, young people, students, young adults & families features!

Sunflowers, seasons and 'a time for everything' seems to be my signature chat the last few weeks and are indeed the themes both within our church family and our wider community.

Newington Nursery has closed the water play table for the last time after many years and many iterations here in our building. It was a joy for Sandy and I to have the young ones into the Sanctuary for a last Sunflower hide-and-seek and story to say farewell after the last couple of years of Christmas, Easter and festival sharing.

Much thanks was expressed to William, and all here at church by the nursery at their Graduation ceremony for being part of the community.

Likewise, thanks and appreciation from Prestonfield Primary for our support over the year including garden help, fair fundraising, assemblies and chaplaincy support. Sandy was one of the Prestonfield Stars at their end of term assembly last week as he is moving on to the season of his journey as many of the pupils also are.

After a very hectic and demanding term for our teens, eight of them and two leaders had a super evening tenpin bowling (one leader was very proficient and held her own with the young folks, not so much the Youthworker!) It was lovely to spend time together, reconnect and get ready for new young people joining us after the holidays. I also took the opportunity to spend some girl-time with some 10-14's over and after the CrossReach afternoon tea a couple of weeks ago; again connecting with some newer faces ready to build on this during the autumn.

We will be thinking of and praying for all the young people and students awaiting exam results over the summer too. Pray for patience and calm in the waiting, strength and peace in results, courage and grace in the next steps and most of all the certainty that they are loved no matter what by those around them and by God and results day is just one day before the next step.

Further along the life stage scale, the Young Adults group joined up with other Churches of Scotland, other denominations and huge numbers of the whole city for the Pride 2025 walk; I was blessed that I asked them to send me pictures (at least 47!) but the challenge has now been which to choose (with permission!).

We are preparing for 2 events for children and families.

'Fun & Faith Family edition on Saturday 5 July, 2.00pm - 4.00pm at NT Priestfield for families to have fun, craft, games, Bible Under Construction theme and more.

Summer Kids Club 22 to 25 July at Marchmont St Giles Church Centre for ages 5-11 (booking essential) which is a joint effort for us here at Newington Trinity and Marchmont St Giles as last year. Summer Travels Bible themes with activities, crafts, stories, fun and games.

Thank you all for your continued prayers, support and encouragement for all of our church family and the volunteer teams.

Bettina

Pictures Opposite

- 1: Young Adults Group at Pride 2025*
- 2: Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth with Prestonfield Star*
- 3: Newington Nursery Graduation*
- 4: Newington Nursery Sunflowers*



7 HILLS - FUNDRAISING EVENT



Congratulations! - you dutifully ate your way through scones and cakes at Café Time, trustingly backed us to climb any number of the 7 Hills of Edinburgh, stuffed money into envelopes, dropped more into buckets, and the more high tech of you donated online!

The result of your generosity was that £8,432.84 was donated to Christian Aid to support the work of farming communities in Guatemala.

All 7 Hills of Edinburgh: Arthur's Seat, Castle Rock, Braids, Corstorphine, Blackford, Craiglockhart Hills, and Calton Hill witnessed the presence of our red

t-shirted challengers.

Eilidh and Angus cheerily bagged all 7 Hills, as did Janet! Jim found himself at the top of Calton Hill in his wheelchair, Ruth propelled herself up there too. Rob with Jon, Caroline, and friends made a joyful day of it! The Milers could be found amidst the gorse which was literally ablaze when Joan tackled Blackford Hill. Others more selfie-shy strutted their stuff too and several delighted dogs have been in touch requesting this be an annual event!

Many thanks again,

The Christian Aid Team

Prayer

Dear God, We give thanks for our bakers and baristas, for coffee and cakes, for those who serve and those who partake, for our children, full of fun, for our young people spreading joy, for mountains to climb, for sunshine and friendship, for dogs who like walks, for opportunities to learn how best to share and for your guidance in all that we do. Amen.





THE MILERS



Time for a summer stroll or something more strenuous!

July 25: Visit to Mallyen Gardens, Balerno, with optional walk along Water of Leith.

To whet your appetite but hopefully not wet your raincoats, here are our plans for July and August. For more information about the Milers walking group contact Jean on jebleitch@gmail.com

For August we are planning a walk around Corstorphine Hill and a walk in the Pentlands taking in four Reservoirs. Dates yet to be confirmed.

PARISH REGISTER

New Members

Sean McKenna
Robert Abel

Deaths

Calum Finlayson
Alan Smith
Anne Deane
Margaret Palchynsky

Departure

Rev Alex McAspurren



HOUSE GROUPS - ARE YOU INTERESTED?



Watch out for a meeting this autumn...

Did you know that Newington Trinity currently has six House Groups in operation? Are you wondering what a House Group is? Former members of the congregations of Craigmillar Park and Priestfield, and more recent members from Mayfield Salisbury may be unaware what house groups do or even of their existence. There will be an opportunity to learn more at a meeting in the autumn. The hope is that this will encourage more people to participate either by joining existing groups or by forming new groups. The provisional date for the meeting is Sunday 5 October, following the joint service. Watch out for further details.

In the meantime, to whet your appetite, here are some reflections from "Anne-on", a House Group veteran:

The best thing I ever did was to join a House Group! I had heard of these meetings, but didn't know how they

operated. It was my good fortune that when I joined what was then Mayfield Church, there was a plan to revitalise existing House Groups and form new short-term groups to involve as many people as possible. The Autumn Gatherings of 1986 provided an opportunity to join for a taster session. The response was encouraging and resulted in up to 20 groups, each of 5 – 10 folk, meeting regularly during Advent, deciding between themselves how things would run, including where and how often to meet, mostly in the homes of members but some in Church premises.

Our House Group is still going after almost 40 Years! We've gone through the highs and lows of life together, valuing our discussions and our friendships. We've lost some wonderful companions along the way, but have welcomed others. We look back on our 'short-term commitment' and give thanks that we have been blessed with so many memorable gatherings together.

Alastair McGillchrist

'VIOLENCE, LOVE AND EQUALITY – PAUL IN GALATIA' Galatians 3:23-29 & Psalm 22:19-27



The right to peaceful protest is at the heart of a functioning democracy, for as Martin Luther King said, 'our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter'. If a state suppresses the ability of people to peacefully protest against its actions, or the laws it seeks to enforce, it only creates division and incites violence. The right for both sides of the debate to protest on the highly controversial issue of assisted dying; the right for the Pride March in Edinburgh yesterday to occur at all, when it is sadly banned in Hungary and other countries who have lurched towards authoritarianism; the right of the citizens of Los Angeles to protest the deportations of immigrants without facing swathes of National Guards and Marines. All of these are central to the notion of a free and civilised society, and so their right to march and protest should be fiercely protected, no matter whether you agree with their views or not.

But there's a world of difference between a

peaceful protest and the furious violence of a mob – look no further the racist riots in Ballymena recently, or across towns and cities in England after the terrible murders in Southport last year. There we saw the whipped up hysteria of destruction, the bloodlust, a frenzied crowd hell bent on smashing up all in its path, lashing out against every inkling of who they perceive is the enemy. Like Joseph Conrad's *The Heart of Darkness*, so vividly transposed to the Vietnam War by Francis Ford Coppola's film *Apocalypse Now*, once human beings go 'up country', beyond the restraints of civilisation, then we can become little more than rampaging beasts. At its ultimate extreme, see the murderous genocide of the ethnic cleansing in Srebrenica in the former Yugoslavia during the Balkans conflict whose 30th anniversary was marked with a service at St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, and whose echoes resonate daily right now in Gaza.



Such raw, visceral violence is the final expression of discrimination and of judgment – when one group of people claim to be superior to the other and declare themselves to be solely entitled to land or money or power or just the right to exist in a particular place, whilst the other must be obliterated and expelled from their land.

The fury of the mob was never far from Paul throughout his missionary journeys, nor was there an absence of those within the fledgling Jesus movement who wanted to keep it all for those and such as those, to require Gentiles to become Jews in order to be Christians.

The mob fury was because of the shock and the scandal of the cross of Jesus Christ that Paul was proclaiming. It was deeply provocative, revolutionary and offensive to many ears. He never faced the apathy that is often the response to faith claims in our times. Instead, the message provoked either moments of revelation and a deep personal faith response, or a backlash of hysteria and violence – he truly was to them ‘the enemy within’, undermining the social and religious order of his day. And we can see from the start that Paul and his travelling companion Barnabas were two very brave men, whose courage in the face of potentially fatal attacks, whose belief in the truth of their calling, and whose peaceable response to the violence which they faced which emphasised the dignity

and equality of all people, should set them high in our admiration, even from this distance in time.

The book of Acts tells us that on his first missionary journey, Paul set off from his church base in Antioch with the grudging consent of the church in Jerusalem, along with Barnabas, to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to lands that were completely foreign and unknown to them. Arriving by boat in the well-established coastal trading town of Perge in modern day Turkey, Paul and Barnabas from there began to step out well beyond their comfort zone, journeying over the now capped Taurus mountains and further northwards, up into the hinterlands of Galatia.

If they were looking for a lawless ‘back of beyond’, this was going to be it. If the plan was to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to those far away from the religious and moral laws of their Jewish brothers, far from the sword and steel of Roman rule, this was going to be it. They arrived at Antioch in Pisidia, an outpost high in the hills which had a sizeable Jewish population, where Paul was invited to preach at the synagogue. And it was here that the trouble really began, great offence being taken amongst the Jewish listeners and Paul and Barnabas being chased out of town.

Likewise on the next stop up the road in Iconium, now the sprawling city of Konya in eastern Turkey. Paul preached in the synagogue, both Jews and Gentiles coming to faith, but also stirring up antagonism and aggression. With the imminent threat of being stoned by a mob, Paul and Barnabas had to suddenly flee back out into the open countryside towards the backwaters of Lystra and Derbe, places where almost no sign or remnant now remains.

And this time, after preaching in Lystra, Paul was attacked, stoned by his persecutors and dragged out of the city unconscious leaving him for dead. Paul would cite this horrific experience in 2 Corinthians 11, saying 'once I was stoned', and reflected at the end of his letter to the churches in Galatia, 'I bear on my body the marks of Jesus', perhaps referring to this very time. Ever courageous, when he came round, Paul went back into the city, only going onwards to Derbe with Barnabas the next day. After Derbe, they bravely travelled the reverse route through the very places in Galatia where the mob had been baying for blood, then sailing back from Perga to the home base in Antioch, the first missionary journey completed.

But the work was not over. These small churches in Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe would have been very vulnerable to attack and dissolution in the coming months, and so it was vital for Paul to make sure local leaders were appointed and the correct foundations were set for a thriving future. Hence his letter shortly after his return around AD48 to the Galatians. And here's where the very interesting response to the joys and the traumas of their missionary journey through Galatians is set out, such as in our passage in Galatians 3.

Think of what had happened to them. In every place, they had shown the courage to express this new and world changing story to Jews and Gentiles alike, seeing the joy of people coming to faith. But in every place

too, there was the raw fury of naked violence by a vicious and hysterical reactionary group who wanted to strangle the message of these Jesus followers at birth, as well as to kill those who expressed it.

And now, in the light of all of the local hostility and threat of violence from fellow Jews and Gentile pagans alike, the local fledgling churches wanted to batten down the hatches and lock up the doors – keep this Christian faith 'in house' so that you had to be a Jew, or be circumcised and become one, if you were to follow in the way of Christ. You still had to keep the letter of the law handed down to the Jewish people by God, they argued, if you were to be a Christian – the very law which Paul had ruthlessly enforced himself before his conversion on the Damascus road.

These were so-called Christian groups in Galatia who refused to accept 'diversity, equality and inclusion' and would have wanted to shut down every movement or programme that promoted it. That wanted to restrict those who had access to Christian faith only to people like themselves, and build walls to exclude everyone else. Sound familiar perhaps?

Well, how did Paul respond to it all in his letter to the Galatians churches? The easy course would have been to agree with them. If these lunatics wanted to kill me and Barnabas, Paul might have said, keep them away at all costs, and preserve our faith before they destroy it. Fight back with every weapon at your disposal, trade missile strike for missile strike, and match their mob fury with your own.

But the enlightening reaction of Paul was not to fight fire with fire. Not an eye for an eye, which makes the whole world blind. Nor, was it to bow down to the demands of those in the fledgling churches that any new Jesus followers must now conform to the law, to the rites and rituals of the old religion, including circumcision. This was not to be a 'one size fits all, let's all be

Site of Lystra, Galatia (Turkey)



identical, conform to my power or you are out' kind of religion.

Paul's response to having nearly been killed by those who opposed him was to proclaim once more in response the centrality of love for others in our expression of faith, sweeping all before it including the vicious and the barbaric. In the face of adversity and persecution, Paul's response was not despair or condemnation, it was not violence begetting violence by brandishing a bigger gun, it was faith alone and love alone, through which we might finally conquer all.

And in our passage today, it was, in Christ, once and for all to recognise an equality and inclusion in diversity, in the famous words of Galatians 3:28 – in Christ, there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus; a home for all nations and people as our Psalm predicted.

Just what was he getting at here? Well, he said, there had been an appropriate purpose for the law of God being kept in Old Testament times, as a disciplinarian to train the people for the coming of the Messiah. But Jesus had come and so the strict adherence to the law in punishment and reward is no longer needed, for all people have been set free in the faith and baptism into Christ – that's where their training will

now come from. It's like adolescence had given way to adulthood, and the need for the teacher swinging a big belt in the classroom had gone.

Paul's theological response does not deny or decry the fact that we are still gloriously diverse as human beings: in our gender, sexuality, nationality, colour, class, political or religious outlook. It does not diminish their importance for our identity as humans. or wipe out who we are as people and turn us into cyphers. All these differences still exist as personal identifiers, said Paul, but in our faith in Christ and common baptism, they are all radically transcended by the status of us all as children of God, by our group identifier. Which means then an absolute equality amongst all people in our diversity. A complete inclusion of all people within the family of God. 'All of you are one', he said, 'in Christ Jesus'.

In a book called, 'What's Wrong with the World?', the author GK Chesterton wrote: 'The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting: it has been found too difficult and left untried'. But in seeking to support equality and inclusion in diversity, founded in the Trinity and the love of Christ, we have to keep trying. In the face of so much that would deny it in our world; in the face of so much discrimination and violence; we have to keep trying, please God. Amen.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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

July

- Sun 6 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
10.30am Service of Worship (Pauline Weibye)
- Tue 8 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)
- Thu 10 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)
- Sun 13 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
10.30am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Tue 15 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)
- Sun 20 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**
10.30am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Tue 22 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)
- Thu 24 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)
- Sun 27 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**
10.30am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Tue 29 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)

AUGUST

- Sun 3 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**
10.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Tue 5 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)
2.30pm Special AFTERNOON SERVICE (MS)
- Thu 7 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)
- Sun 10 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**
10.30am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Tue 12 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)
- Sun 17 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Followed by a BBQ in the garden and hall**
10.30am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Tue 19 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)
- Thu 21 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)
- Sun 24 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**
9.30am All-Age Worship (TBC)
10.45am Service of Worship (TBC)



Dates continued

Tue 26 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)

Sun 31 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
 9.30am All-Age Worship (TBC)
 10.45am Service of Worship (TBC)

SEPTEMBER

Tue 2 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)

Thu 4 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)

Fri 5 First Friday Friends (MS)

Sun 7 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 10.30am All-Age Worship (TBC)
 7.00pm Evening Service (TBC)



THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

July

1 II Chronicles 33,34 / Psalms 75,76
 2 II Chronicles 35,36 / Luke 1: 39-80
 3 Ezra 1,2 / Luke 2
 4 Ezra 3,4 / Luke 3
 5 Ezra 5,6 / Psalm 77
 6 Ezra 7,8 / Luke 4
 7 Ezra 9,10 / Luke 5
 8 Nehemiah 1,2 / Psalm 78: 1-37
 9 Nehemiah 3,4 / Luke 6
 10 Nehemiah 5,6 / Luke 7
 11 Nehemiah 7,8 / Luke 8
 12 Nehemiah 9,10 / Psalm 78: 38-72
 13 Nehemiah 11,12 / Luke 9
 14 Nehemiah 13 / Luke 10
 15 Esther 1-3 / Psalm 79
 16 Esther 4,5 / Luke 11
 17 Esther 6,7 / Luke 12
 18 Esther 8-10 / Luke 13
 19 Job 1,2 / Psalm 80
 20 Job 3,4 / Luke 14
 21 Job 5,6 / Luke 15
 22 Job 7,8 / Psalms 81,82
 23 Job 9,10 / Luke 16
 24 Job 11,12 / Luke 17
 25 Job 13,14 / Luke 18
 26 Job 15-17 / Psalms 83,84
 27 Job 18,19 / Luke 19
 28 Job 20,21 / Luke 20
 29 Job 22,23 / Psalm 85
 30 Job 24-26 / Luke 21
 31 Job 27,28 / Luke 22

August

1 Job 29,30 / Luke 23
 2 Job 31,32 / Psalms 86,87
 3 Job 33,34 / Luke 24
 4 Job 35,36 / Philippians 1
 5 Job 37,38 / Psalm 88
 6 Job 39,40 / Philippians 2
 7 Job 41,42 / Philippians 3
 8 Proverbs 1,2 / Philippians 4
 9 Proverbs 3,4 / Psalm 89
 10 Proverbs 5,6 / Colossians 1
 11 Proverb/ Colossians 2
 12 Proverbs 9,10 / Psalm 90



13 Proverbs 11,12 / Colossians 3
 14 Proverbs 13,14 / Colossians 4
 15 Proverbs 15,16 / I Thessalonians 1
 16 Proverbs 17,18 / Psalm 91
 17 Proverbs 19,20 / I Thessalonians 2
 18 Proverbs 21,22 / I Thessalonians 3
 19 Proverbs 23,24 / Psalms 92,93
 20 Proverbs 25,26 / I Thessalonians 4
 21 Proverbs 27,28 / I Thessalonians 5
 22 Proverbs 29,30 / II Thessalonians 1
 23 Proverbs 31 / Psalm 94
 24 Ecclesiastes 1-3 / II Thessalonians 2
 25 Ecclesiastes 4,5 / II Thessalonians 3
 26 Ecclesiastes 6,7 / Psalms 95,96
 27 Ecclesiastes 8,9 / I Timothy 1
 28 Ecclesiastes 10,11 / I Timothy 2
 29 Ecclesiastes 12 / I Timothy 3
 30 Song of Songs 1,2 / Psalms 97,98
 31 Song of Songs 3,4 / I Timothy 4

September

1 Song of Songs 5,6 / I Timothy 5
 2 Song of Songs 7,8 / Psalms 99-101
 3 Isaiah 1,2 / I Timothy 6
 4 Isaiah 3-5 / II Timothy 1
 5 Isaiah 6,7 / II Timothy 2
 6 Isaiah 8,9 / Psalm 102
 7 Isaiah 10-12 / II Timothy 3

WHO'S WHO IN NEWINGTON TRINITY

Edinburgh: Newington Trinity Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SC000785

Minister (until 17 August 2025)

Revd Dr Alexander Forsyth AForsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk 0131 667 1286

Locum and Interim Moderator (from 17 August)

TBC - Check weekly news for up-to-date information

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Children and Young Adult Worker

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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

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