

Towards our New Parish

The Presbytery Mission Plan

Members of our three congregations – Newhaven, North Leith and South Leith – will be aware of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian is preparing a Mission Plan that recognises the realities of falling rolls, increasing costs and reduction of ministry resources, and has proposed unions that are designed to strengthen our mission for years to come. Our three congregations have been forming closer relationships through joint services, and the Steering Group formed from the ministers, session clerks, elders and church members from these congregations has been meeting regularly and harmoniously to ensure the process goes smoothly.

The future of our church buildings has been a matter of concern to many members, and we know that a Presbytery team has assessed all of the church buildings and has designated them A or B. Buildings with an A designation are identified as those to be retained; buildings with a B designation are those that are to be released.

In terms of centrally-funded posts, our new parish would have two full-time ministers of word and sacrament and there will be opportunities to consider appointing further members of staff with specific briefs, such as outreach and working with younger people.

The Church of Scotland has provided this vision: *The Church of Scotland seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.*

We can play our part in making this vision a reality in our new parish, through fellowship, friendship and above all, prayer

Further information is available on our website:

<https://www.towardsournewparish.com/>

We encourage you to read this document and bring any questions you may have to the joint congregational meeting in Newhaven Church on Sunday (16 October), following the 10.30am joint service.