

Update for the congregations of
North Leith and South Leith

Over the last twenty-two months the congregations of North and South Leith and Newhaven have been working together to bring about the union between our individual churches. Many positive outcomes have already been achieved. We have all gotten to know each other better through joint worship services and social events.

The Towards Our New Parish Steering Group, with representatives from each of the congregations, has worked hard to come up with plans and what the new united church will look like. Not always an easy task, but one that each member of the group has given their time and talents to move the process forward.

In more recent times it has become apparent that the initial step of forming a single united charge of the three churches was not going to happen right away. Therefore, a new way forward has been proposed and shared with the Kirk Sessions of the three churches. The way forward is for North Leith and South Leith to come together and form a new United charge of North and South Leith Parish Church. Then once this has happened the New Charge of North and South Leith Parish Church will form a parish grouping with Newhaven Church. The next step will be Newhaven Church uniting with North and South Leith Parish Church in the next twelve to eighteen months.

The above way forward has been presented to the Kirk Sessions of the three churches. North Leith and South Leith Kirk Sessions have agreed that this is a way forward and are fully

committed to implementing the plan as soon as possible. Newhaven Church need only decide on the Parish Grouping aspect of the plan and their Kirk Session is in the process of having further discussions with Presbytery regarding this and their overall participation in the plan.

It is planned that this new way forward will be proposed to the members of Presbytery at the Presbytery meeting on the Tuesday 6th of February 2024. Before this happens, North Leith and South Leith's Kirk Session and Congregation will have to vote on the new way forward. Newhaven Church will vote only on the Parish Grouping aspect of it. This will take place in late January/early February 2024.

The Presbytery Mission Plan for our part of Leith and Newhaven has not changed, it is just how we get there that has. There have been many discussions regarding the details of the new way forward and they will continue. In the meantime, please keep the Ministers, Kirk Sessions and Congregations of North Leith, South Leith, and Newhaven in your prayers as we all discern the future direction of our Lord's church here in Leith and Newhaven.

Karen McKay, Interim Moderator, North Leith Parish Church
Rev Iain May, Minister, South Leith Parish Church.