

# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## *Update on Progress of Union*

The Kirk Sessions of South St Nicholas Kincorth and Torry St Fitticks have agreed to the uniting of South St Nicholas and Torry St Fitticks. The name of the united charge shall be Aberdeen South Church of Scotland, and the Union will take place on 1st September 2024. The last service in South St Nicholas shall take place on Sunday 21st July 2024. Reverend Eddie McKenna, Minister at South St Nicholas, will retire on 15th August 2024, but taking holiday entitlement into account, his last service will be on 21st July. Reverend Edmond Gatima will be the Minister of the new United Charge. An Assistant Minister post will be advertised following Eddie's retirement.

Torry St Fitticks Parish Church will be the main place of worship of the united charge. The South St Nicholas church building will be sold, as will the Manse. The process for this has already commenced, with approval having been received from the Church of Scotland that the buildings can be sold. The process for marketing the buildings will commence shortly.

The next step in the process towards Union, is the congregational vote for the Basis of Union. At this time, electoral registers have been compiled for both congregations. Only those whose name is on the electoral register will be permitted to vote.

Only those whose name is on the electoral register will be permitted to vote. The registers contain all the names and addresses of those on the communion rolls of each congregation.

Edicts have been read to both congregations explaining that anyone who worships regularly at either South St Nicholas or Torry St Fitticks, but who is not a member and so not on the communion roll, can request that their name be added to the register, to allow them to be part of the voting process. The Electoral Registers have, or will be, attested by the Kirk Sessions and subsequently will be attested by Presbytery.

The congregational votes will take place after morning worship, at both South St Nicholas and Torry St Fitticks, on Sunday 21st April 2024. For those at Torry St Fitticks, there will be one vote, on the Basis of Union. Those present at South St Nicholas will be asked to vote twice; on the Basis of Union and also to accept Rev Edmond Gatima as Minister of the United Charge. This is an in-person vote and so only those who attend on 21st April and whose name is on the electoral register, will be able to vote. The outcome of the votes will be reported to Presbytery and subsequently to the Church of Scotland.

We will update you again in due course, but meantime you should be aware that the Union Steering Group and the various task groups, which include Finance, Building and Missional and Pastoral, continue to meet and work through their various action points.

## *IN THIS ISSUE*

Update on Progress of Union

Basis of Union Document

## *APRIL EVENTS*

Tuesday 2nd April at 7:30pm

TSF Church Guild Talk (Ruth Falconer: The Scripture Cake)

Saturday 20 April at South St. Nicholas Church

Messy Church

Saturday 20 April at 2pm

Fashion show and refreshments at TSF

The groups are made up of representatives of both South St Nicholas and Torry St Fitticks. Good progress is being made by all groups.

# PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTH EAST AND THE NORTHERN ISLES

## BASIS OF UNION

The congregation of South St Nicholas & Kincorth Church of Scotland, Aberdeen (SC016043) and the congregation of Torry St Fitticks Parish Church of Scotland, Aberdeen (SC009020) shall be united on September 1st 2024 on the following terms and conditions:

### 1. Name:

The name of the united charge shall be Aberdeen South Church of Scotland and SC016043 will be retained.

### 2. Transference of Property and Funds:

The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of each congregation shall belong to or be held on behalf of the united charge and any transference necessary shall be duly effected.

### 3. Places of Worship:

The church at present used and occupied by the congregation of Torry St Fitticks Parish Church will be the main place of worship of the united charge. The united charge will seek to maintain a presence in Kincorth and to establish fresh expressions of church in the new housing areas of Charleston and Cove. The church at present used by the congregation of South St Nicholas & Kincorth Church of Scotland shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of subject to the titles on which it is held, subject to the approval of the Presbytery and, if necessary, the General Trustees or the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of the General Trustees (Delegated Powers) Act (Act 7, 1995) be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.

### 4. Territorial Responsibility:

The bounds to be served by the united charge shall be designated as the bounds of the parishes of South St Nicholas & Kincorth Church of Scotland SC016043 and Torry St Fitticks Parish Church.

### 5. Kirk Session:

The elders of both Kirk Sessions shall form with the minister the Kirk Session of the united charge.

### 6. Congregational Management:

The temporal affairs of the united congregation shall be administered by the Kirk Session in terms of the Unitary Constitution, the Delegation of Assembly being authorised to issue the appropriate Deed of Constitution to the said congregation.

### 7. Minister:

The Rev Edmond Gatima, currently minister at Torry St Fitticks Parish Church, shall be the minister of the united charge in terms of section 8.2 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act 8, 2021) as amended.

### 8. Manse:

The manse of the congregation of Torry St Fitticks Parish Church shall serve as the manse of the united charge. The manse of the congregation of South St Nicholas & Kincorth Church of Scotland shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of, subject to the titles on which it is held, and subject to the approval of the Presbytery and, if necessary, of the General Trustees or the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of the General Trustees (Delegated Powers) Act (Act 7, 1995), be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.

### 9. Ministerial Support:

The stipend of the charge shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the National Stipend Scheme.

### 10. Power to Readjust:

While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Union for the two congregations now uniting, the united charge shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.