



Second Sunday of Advent

We are delighted to have the children and leaders of KidZone leading this morning's Christmas Tree Gift Service. Thank you to them and also to those who have brought gifts to place under the tree.

The gifts placed under the Christmas Tree will be taken on Monday morning to the Belfast City Mission for distribution to needy children and families in the city.

This evening we welcome and thank the Rev Wilfred Orr (Minister Emeritus of St Johns, Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church) who leads us in worship for Advent.

COFFEE BAR

Everyone is invited to remain behind after this morning's service for some refreshments which will be served in the Stewart Hall.



CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group will have some Christmas craft items and greeting cards on display during coffee time.

SESSION AND COMMITTEE

A short joint meeting of Kirk Session and Congregational Committee will be held in the Session Room immediately following this morning's service.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee are asked to meet with Gordon Dunlop in the Session Room following the Session/Committee meeting.

MORNING WATCH

Morning Watch will meet on Tuesday at 10.45 a.m. in the Session Room for the last meeting of 2017.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Members of the Evergreens and Presbyterian Women are reminded of their Christmas Lunch on Wednesday at 12.30 p.m. in the Barbour Hall. Entertainment will be provided by Amy Chambers and Christmas greetings brought by Rev Hastings McIntyre.



OFFICE HOURS

The Clerk of Session will be in the Minister's Room on Thursday from 7.30-8.30 p.m. Any matters requiring urgent attention or the services of a minister during the vacancy period may be referred to Dennison Mahood – tel: 90789 9307 or Email: dmahood@btinternet.com

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are always happy to have visitors with us in Cregagh; and we welcome any who may be worshipping with us on this the Second Sunday in Advent. We invite our visitors to sign the Visitor's Book in the porch giving full postal address.

This morning Any parents with babies are invited to make use of the Creche (in the Session Room).

READING CIRCLE

Almost time for Christmas dinner and book review! The Reading Circle will meet on Friday at 21 Ormiston Drive, where turkey and all the trimmings will be enjoyed. The book to be discussed is 'Hotel on the corner of bitter and sweet' by Jamie Ford. Looking forward to a full house!



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS SERVICE



The Youth Fellowship Christmas Service will be held next Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

OKAY BREAKFAST

The OKAY group invite you to come and enjoy a light breakfast next Sunday at 10.00 a.m. before the Youth Fellowship Christmas Service. If you plan to come please add your name to the list at the back of the Allen Hall today.



FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



Our popular Candlelight Service will be held next Sunday at 7.00 p.m. The lessons will be read by representatives from some of our congregation's organisations; and as usual the Church Choir and Junior Choir will sing the carols.

The service will be conducted by the Rev Hastings McIntyre.

A Christmas Supper will be served in the Stewart Hall after the service to which all are invited. We look forward to the usual large attendance.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Both services on this day fortnight, Christmas Eve at 11.00 a.m. and 11.30 p.m. will be conducted by Rev Hastings McIntyre.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Our Christmas Day Family Service at 9.00 a.m. will be conducted by Rev Dr Ron Savage (Minister Emeritus of Stormont Presbyterian Church)

NEW YEAR'S EVE

The New Year's Eve Service at 11.00 a.m. will be conducted by Rev Dr Jim Campbell (Minister Emeritus of Cooke Centenary Presbyterian Church)

NEW YEAR COMMUNION

The Celebrant at our New Year Communion on Sunday 7th January will be Rev Dr Ron Savage.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

'World Development' (for PCI World Development 2017 Appeal) and 'Cregagh Christmas' (for the Building Fund) envelopes will be on the chairs for your use at any of the Christmas service.

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES

Members are reminded that there are only 3 more Sundays on which to bring their 2017 WFO, Building Fund and United Appeal contributions up to date. The financial books will close promptly on Sunday 31st December.

CALLING ALL ORGANISATIONS

Organisation leaders/secretaries are asked to submit their 2017 activity reports, numbers on roll and contact details to David Gillespie, and financial reports to Dawn Johnston not later than Sunday 7th January 2018.

LEPROSY MISSION

Mission boxes and any donations towards the work of the Leprosy Mission should now be given to Rebecca Day to be included for 2017.

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS – Change of existing orders or new subscribers

Presbyterian Herald (£10 annual subscription) Contact: Joan Taylor (9064 1262)

Wider World (£5 annual subscription) Contact: Dorothy Platt (0780326428)

VACANCY NOTICES

Voting List Today is the last occasion on which the Voter's List will be on display. Any objection or inclusion or omission from the list of any name, with reasons given, should be given in writing to the Clerk of Session not later than next Sunday (17th)

Potential Candidates Voting members of the congregation may submit names of potential candidates to fill the vacancy, in writing to the Clerk of Session, not later than Sunday 7th January 2018. Members of the congregation should not contact any minister regarding the vacancy, that is the responsibility of the Vacancy Commission.



Did you know that the well known carol has a hidden meaning? During the 16th century certain people were not allowed to practice their faith. In order to teach their children the basic doctrines, they made up nonsense songs so as not to

arouse the suspicions of the dominant folk around them.

'The Twelve Days of Christmas' and its meaning is as follows:

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| • A partridge in a pear tree | - | Jesus and the cross |
| • Two turtle doves | - | the old and new testaments |
| • Three French hens | - | expensive in the 1500's and therefore symbolised the gifts of the Three Wise Men and depicted the three virtues, Faith, Hope and Charity. |
| • Four calling birds | - | the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. |
| • Five gold rings | - | the first five books of the Old Testament |
| • Six geese a-laying | - | referring to the six days of creation |
| • Seven swans a-swimming | - | the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12: 6-8) |
| • Eight maids a-milking | - | the eight blessings listed in Matthew 5 (Blessed are the poor.....) |
| • Nine ladies dancing | - | the nine fruits of the Spirit (Galations) |
| • Ten lords a-leaping | - | The Ten Commandments |
| • Eleven pipers piping | - | the eleven faithful apostles |
| • Twelve drummers drumming | - | The Apostles Creed
(I believe in God the Father, maker of heaven and earth.....) |



**CREGAGH
PRESBYTERIAN**
Love God and Love Your Neighbour

WEEKLY NEWS SHEET **The Second Sunday in Advent** **10th December 2017**

The Second Candle of Advent The Purple Candle of Peace



Sometimes known as the Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation. God kept his promise of a saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means 'to get ready'. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU O GOD! As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low, the crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation."

MORNING SERVICE at 11.00 a.m.
KidZone Children's Christmas Tree Gift Service

EVENING SERVICE at 7.00 p.m.
Advent Worship – Rev Wilfred Orr

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