



The Fourth Sunday in 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"

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are always happy to have visitors with us in Cregagh; and we welcome any who may be worshipping with us today. We are delighted to have any of our members home for the festive season. We invite our visitors to sign the Visitor's Book in the Vestibule, giving name and full postal address.

This morning any parents with young babies are invited to make use of the Pebbles Creche or KidZone (in the Stewart Hall) for 3 year olds upwards who leave church after Hymn 304.

REFRESHMENTS

Tea and toast are served in the McIntyre Suite each Sunday before Morning Worship. The Coffee Bar is open in the Allen Hall after Morning Worship.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

'World Development' (for the PCI World Development Seeking Safety Appeal) and 'Cregagh Christmas' (for the Building Fund) envelopes are in the pews for your use at any of our Christmas services.



COMMUNITY CAROLS



Our neighbours from the Salvation Army invite members of Cregagh to the annual community carol singing today at 4.30 p.m. in the Belfast Temple, Cregagh Road.

We hope that many of our congregational members will attend.

CHRISTMAS SUPPER

All our members, their friends, families and visitors are invited to join us for some Christmas refreshments in the Allen Hall following this evening's Candlelight Service



CHRISTMAS EVE IN CREGAGH
TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER at 11.30 p.m.

Join us and the many visitors who faithfully attend this beautiful service each year as we greet Christmas Morn in God's House in a very atmospheric act of worship which is by candlelight. The service lasts about 45 minutes.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN CREGAGH
WEDNESDAY 25th DECEMBER at 9.00 a.m.,

The Cregagh Family, young and old, meet to celebrate the Birth of Christ. Children are encouraged to bring their toys from Santa. Christmas refreshments will be served in the Allen Hall after the service.



OLD YEAR SUNDAY
SUNDAY 30th DECEMBER at 11.00 a.m.



Next Sunday we meet to give thanks for the year that is closing. A year in Cregagh which saw the reopening of our newly restored and refurbished church building, and the arrival of our new minister. Of course, like any other year, times of sadness and worry were experienced, but we are grateful to God for his comfort and support in all the varied situations.

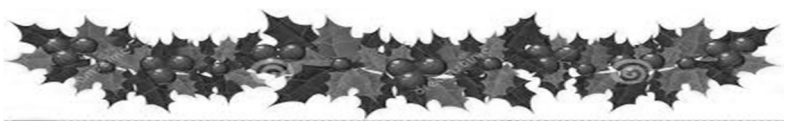
NEW YEAR COMMUNION
SUNDAY 6th JANUARY 2019 at 11.00 a.m.

The New Year Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered. The Retiring Offering after Communion will be in aid of the Benevolent Fund.



JANUARY SERVICES

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|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday 13 th at 11.00 a.m. | Contemporary Service | (Mary Rose Gibson) |
| Sunday 13 th at 7.00 p.m. | Connect Service | (Malawi) |
| Sunday 20 th at 11.00 a.m. | Traditional Worship | (Rev McKenzie) |
| Sunday 20 th at 7.00 p.m. | Traditional Worship | (Rev McKenzie) |
| Sunday 27 th at 11.00 a.m. | Traditional Service | (Rev McKenzie) |



OFFICE HOURS

There will be no 'Office Hours' over the Christmas/New Year period.
Rev McKenzie will be in the Minister's Room on Thursday 17th January from 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. Any matters requiring urgent attention may be referred to Rev McKenzie (07809674068), Clerk of Session, Dennison Mahood (07891920261) or Clerk of Session Elect, Michael Graham (07548635075)

KIRK SESSION

Elders are reminded of the Elder's Seminar on Saturday 12th January from 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. in La Mon House Hotel; and the Session meeting on Tuesday 15th January at 7.45 p.m. in the Session Room.

LEPROSY MISSION

This is the time of the year when Leprosy Mission boxes and any donations towards the work should be given to Rebecca Clarke.

APPRECIATION

We are very grateful to Gillian Simons who has been instrumental in arranging a donation to the Building Fund of £2500 from the Santander Charity Trust Fund. £1250 has been raised for the church through fundraising mainly by our Guide Company in recent times and Santander through their generosity have doubled the amount.

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

Annual subscriptions and new orders should now be arranged for Presbyterian Herald (£15) to Joan Taylor and Wider World (£6) to Dorothy Platt.

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES

Members are asked to note that there is only one more Sunday on which to bring their 2018 WFO, Building Fund and United Appeal contributions up to date. The congregational financial books will close promptly next Sunday, 30th December.

CALLING ALL ORGANISATIONS

Organisation leaders/secretaries are asked to submit their activity reports for 2018, numbers on rolls and contact details (names of leaders, office bearers, telephone numbers and email addresses) to David Gillespie, and financial reports to Dawn Johnston not later than Sunday 13th January

GREETINGS FROM EMMANUEL MINISTRIES

"Everyone in Emmanuel Ministries Calcutta send Christmas Greetings and God's Richest Blessing to all at Cregagh as we look forward to celebrate the birth of Christ"



**A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
TO YOU ALL**



WEEKLY NEWS SHEET **The Fourth Sunday in Advent** **23rd December 2018**



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*"The people that walked in darkness have seen
a great light: and they that dwell in the land of
the shadow of death, upon them hath the light
shined"*

Isaiah 9:2

*"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth,
goodwill toward men"*

Luke 2: 14

MORNING SERVICE at 11.00 a.m.

Handbell Choir Christmas Service

Scripture Readings: Psalm 29 and Mark 8: 31-38

EVENING SERVICE at 7.00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

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