



The Purple Candle of Love

Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent.

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 would invite our visitors to sign the Visitor's Book in the Church Vestibule, giving name and full postal address. This morning any parents with young babies are invited to make use of the Creche or KidZone (in the Stewart Hall) for 3 year olds upwards who leave church after the lighting of the Advent Candle.

This morning the Church Choir and John Dallas are joining in the Service for Advent in St Columba's Parish Church.

We would thank Mr Gordon Myers for presiding at the organ.

COFFEE BAR

The Coffee Bar is open in the Allen Hall after this morning's service and all are invited to stay behind for some refreshments.

PRE-SERVICE COFFEE BAR

You are reminded that morning coffee, tea and toast are served in the McIntyre Suite each Sunday before Morning Worship.

TODAY'S CHURCH FLOWERS

The flowers today are provided by the Flower Arranging Group.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW will meet on Monday at 7.00 p.m. (note change of time) in the Barbour Hall for their Christmas Supper and Entertainment.

TEA AND TALK TOGETHER

Tea and Talk Together will meet on Wednesday from 2.00 – 3.30 p.m. in the McIntyre Suite.

PRAYERS FOR ELECTION DAY

The church will be open for prayers for our land – some spoken, some silent on Thursday from 12.00 noon – 2.00 p.m. Please feel free to join us at anytime during the two hours – come and go as you please.

OFFICE HOURS

Rev McKenzie will be in the Minister's Room on Thursday from 7.30 – 8.30 p.m.

OPEN CHURCH

The church will be open for private prayer and meditation on Friday from 10.30 am – 12.00 noon.

CHURCH DECORATION

The church will be decorated for the Christmas Season on Friday from 1.30 p.m. Gifts of holly, ivy, greenery etc. would be very much appreciated and may be left at the church Monday – Friday (9.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon) and Monday or Thursday evening (6.30 – 8.30 p.m.)

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREE GIFT SERVICE

The Children's Christmas Tree Gift Service will be held next Sunday at 11.00 a.m.. All children (and adults if they wish) may bring their gifts (toys, books, sweets etc.) – unwrapped to the Christmas Tree. The gifts will then be taken to the Belfast City Mission for distribution to needy children and families in the city.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered at this service.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The YF Christmas Service will be held next Sunday at 6.30 p.m. We look forward to a good attendance of young and old with their families and friends.

THE EVERGREENS

The Evergreens are reminded of their Christmas lunch at the Secret Garden on Wednesday week, 18th December. Drivers will be in contact to arrange pickup times.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Morning Bible Study Group will meet on Monday 23rd December at 10.30 a.m. at 27 Ballygowan Road for a short time of Christmas reflection.

Future dates are 29th January and 26th February

CHRISTMAS AT CREGAGH

Sunday 22 nd December at 11.00 a.m.	Handbell Choir Christmas Service
Sunday 22 nd December at 6.30 p.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 24 th December at 11.30 p.m.	Christmas Eve in Cregagh at 11.30 p.m.
Wednesday 25 th December at 9.00 a.m.	Christmas Day Family Service
Sunday 29 th December at 11.00 a.m.	Old Year Service 2019
Sunday 5 th January at 11.00 a.m.	New Year Communion

66th SCOUT GROUP CHARITY APPEAL

As in previous years our 66th Scout Group are supporting a worthy cause for their Christmas Good Turn Charity Appeal. This year the charity is 'Stonehouse' whose aim is to restore dignity, recognise significance and encourage hope in the lives of everyone they encounter. Such items as toothbrushes, shower gel, shampoo, deodorants, shaving foam, toothpaste, face cloths, disposable razors etc. are requested and may be left at the church or given to any of our scout leaders or members asap.

CHRISTMAS CARD – MALAWI

You are reminded that Christmas cards featuring Matthews Ben, a young boy in Malawi are still available in the Church Vestibule. Suggested donation is 80p and payment can be put in the Pennies for Porridge jar. Sale of the cards will enable the Children of Chifundo3 to have some chicken with their porridge at Christmas time.

WARM CLOTHES WANTED!

The PW are collecting pre-loved winter clothes for the Joy Foundation who will be going to Poland in January. They distribute clothes at the Radosc Foundation and 1st Baptist Church, Warsaw. Adult and children's clothes would be very welcome, so if any members would like to contribute to this please pass them on to PW members or Sandra Harper.

FLOURISH AND MIGRANT HELP

Food supplies for both these charities are running low and an urgent appeal has been made to help stock up essential items. There are over 70 very vulnerable people depending on food supplies. If you can help please see the list of needs on the back corridor notice board or speak to Margaret MacLaren, Michael or Anne Graham.

BIBLE STUDY COPIES

Copies of previous Sunday evening Bible Study notes by Rev McKenzie are available in hard copy or can be emailed. Anyone wishing to receive these are asked to sign their name and email address (if applicable) on the sheets in the Church Vestibule or McIntyre Suite.

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

Annual subscriptions and new orders for 2020 should now be arranged. See contacts:

PRESBYTERIAN HERALD

£15 for 10 issues

Joan Taylor (9064 1262)

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE READING

Barbara Dunlop (9045 3829)

WIDER WORLD

£6 for 4 magazines

*copies may be also be downloaded

Dorothy Platt (07803264286)

EPILEPSY AWARENESS CALENDAR

A 2020 calendar featuring East Belfast Churches and their leaders has been compiled by John McKenzie (Rev McKenzie's father) in aid of the Epilepsy Society.

The calendar includes lovely images of the churches and the ministers as you have never seen them before!!! All photographed by John McKenzie.

Costing £3.50. Available from Rev McKenzie or Michael Graham.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

"Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Christmas Tree Festival a great success. Those who decorated or made trees, stewarding, catering, pulled the programme together. Also all those who came along and supported the event. Special thanks to Don Jackson and Nigel Platt who worked tirelessly from the trees were delivered until all the trees left the premises at the end of the event.

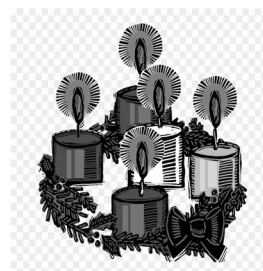
I am delighted to report that the festival raised £5070 for the Building Fund"

(Maureen Mulligan)

(The Kirk Session would on behalf of the congregation express appreciation to Maureen who originally proposed having the festival and whose planning and arranging over many months and on the days of the festival ensured the excellent outcome both financially and as an outreach to the community. Well done!)



Weekly News Sheet The Second Sunday in Advent 8th December 2019



*"The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I fulfill the promise I made to the
house of Israel and the house of Judah"*

Jeremiah 33:14

MORNING SERVICE at 11.00 a.m.

Rev Edward McKenzie

Theme: 'The Persecuted Church'

Scripture Readings: Matthew 5: 1-12 and Exodus 28: 31-43

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