



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are always happy to have visitors with us in Cregagh; and we welcome any who may be worshipping with us this morning. We would ask our visitors and members to remain seated at the end of the service until directed to leave by an usher.

It would be also appreciated if when entering church for the service that you sit in the pew as directed by the ushers and not request another seat – this arrangement is to ensure safety and social distancing. Please do not stop to chat in the church pews or aisles as you enter or leave church but you may do so in the church grounds, obviously observing social distancing and wearing your mask.

REV DR HAROLD MacCONNELL

We are delighted to have the Rev Dr and Mrs MacConnell with us in church this morning for this special service to mark Dr MacConnell's retirement as Pastoral Associate in Cregagh. Dr MacConnell has been a source of strength and comfort to all in Cregagh but especially to our senior members at home and in nursing homes. We thank him for his ministry over the past 7 years or so and wish both him and Mrs MacConnell every blessing for the future. They both will always be welcome to come and worship in Cregagh at any time.

CHURCH OFFERINGS

As the offering cannot be collected in the usual way during current services there are collection plates in the Church Vestibule and McIntyre Suite for your use.

CHURCH FLOWERS

The flowers Pedestal flowers provided by Mr & Mrs Molyneaux, Crawfordsburn are 'In Memory of Mum'

The Sanctuary flowers provided by Mr D Scott and Mrs D Strain are 'In Memory of Myrtle and Cecil'

COFFEE BAR

The Coffee Bar is open in the Allen Hall after the service and all are invited to stay behind for some refreshments. Please remember to wear your face covering when moving around the hall and please only enjoy your refreshments when seated.

CHRISTMAS SWAGS AND RINGS

Those who ordered Christmas Swags and Rings are asked to collect them after this morning's service.

MINISTER ON LEAVE

Rev McKenzie will be on holiday from Monday – Friday this week. Any matters requiring urgent attention may be referred to the Clerk of Session, Michael Graham (07548 635075)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW will meet tomorrow at 2.30 p.m. in the Barbour Hall for an 'Afternoon of Christmas Cheer' with Anne Stevenson. Any ladies in the congregation who would like to come along will be most welcome.

OPEN CHURCH

The church will be open for private prayer and meditation on Friday from 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon.

CHURCH DECORATION

The church will be decorated for the Christmas Season on Friday from 2.00 p.m. Gifts of holly, ivy, greenery etc. would be very much appreciated and may be left at the church any morning this week (Monday – Friday) from 9.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon or Thursday evening.

KIDZONE CHRISTMAS TREE SERVICE

The KidZone Christmas Tree 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 Central Mission for distribution to needy children in the city which includes families under the care of the Prison Fellowship.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The first of the identical Candlelight Services of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held next Sunday at 7.00 p.m., when the Christmas Message is presented in word and music in a traditional Christmas setting. The Church and Junior Choirs will provide the music and the lessons will be read by parents of the Junior Choir. Christmas refreshments will be served in the Allen Hall after the service.

- You are reminded that this service will be repeated on Sunday 19th December.

To facilitate social distancing members are asked to attend only one of the services.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 19 th December at 11.00 a.m.	Young People's Bible Class Christmas Service
Sunday 19 th December at 7.00 p.m.	Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons & Carols
Saturday 25 th December at 9.00 a.m.	Christmas Day Family Service
Sunday 26 th December at 11.00 a.m.	Boxing Day Service (Christmas Leftovers!)
Sunday 2 nd January at 11.00 a.m.	New Year Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

The two special Christmas Offerings this year are 'PCI World Development – Weathering the Storm' and 'Cregagh Christmas- Building Fund' both envelopes will be in the pews from next Sunday and may be used at any of the Christmas services.

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

This is the time of the year when subscriptions for church publications are due.

'Presbyterian Herald' Current and new subscribers please contact:

Joan Taylor 07791 150354.

'Wider World' Current and new subscribers please contact:

Dorothy Platt 07803 264286

KIRK SESSION DUTY

Elders on ushering/open and welcoming duties in December are: Anne Graham, Beth McNair, Robert McNair and Joan Taylor.

MALAWI

SPEND LOCAL and help fund Christmas Celebrations for children in Blantyre. Sorry, we cannot take your 'spend local cards' but we sure would be happy to take any small change you might have. There are Christmas gifts and cards for sale on our Malawi table, today. They are perfect for those that you might want to wish Happy Christmas, with a small token. Each pack contains Homemade Chutney and Jam plus long-dated cheese and crackers, and range from just £3.50 and £5.00. There are cards at 50p and pretty gift bags and keyrings too. You might just want to treat yourself, and that's ok, individual pots of jam and chutney are also available. Help yourself and leave your donation in the Pence for Porridge jar, please. CHIFUNDO3 Can you help to fill a box with much needed stationery supplies for Chifundo3 pre-school and our sponsored students in Malawi? Any donations of crayons, paper, biros, pencils, sharpeners etc will be gratefully received and can be left in the plastic box in the McIntyre Suite. For anyone trying to avoid busy shops there will also be a donations box available and either supplies will be purchased on your behalf or a contribution made towards the shipping cost of £25 per box.

We are hoping to send a container rather than transfer funds due to limitations of supplies and poor quality of materials than can be purchased in Malawi. Whilst PCI don't send containers anymore we have found an alternative source. Prayers and thanks for your generosity. (The Malawi Working Group)

COVID UPDATE

In Cregagh we wish to create a worship environment that is both safe and welcoming. While we would actively encourage all members to come to worship, believing it is safe to do so with the measures we have taken, we would also wish to highlight that no one should come to services if they have COVID symptoms. PCI have advised that one meter social distancing during services of worship be observed. Doors will open at 10:30am for 11.00 a.m. services and 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. services so ushers can guide folk to their seats. It is again now mandatory that face covering have to be worn at all times during services – entering and singing in church as well as when seated. Members are asked to register, due to 'contact tracing' and to ensure space and availability of seating by contacting the Clerk of Session, Michael Graham, on email: michaelgraham112@gmail.com or phone 07548635075. As before those who have registered will be asked to inform Michael if for whatever reason someone cannot attend so that the register can be as accurate as possible. It is strongly requested that members register by Thursday of each week.

KidZone warmly invite the children of the congregation to come along, this is an additional reason why registering by Thursday is helpful, so required preparations can take place. Crèche is available, but we would ask for the time being that a parent/carer accompany their child and wear a face covering while in the crèche room.

Bibles and hymnbooks have now been returned to the pews for your use. Unfortunately, by advice from Presbytery, pastoral visitation from the Minister is still to be limited to emergencies, bereavements or at special request. Indoor activities may take place in church buildings providing the necessary risk assessments are adhered to. Organisations are requested to contact our Congregational Secretary, Jim McCurry so that the risk assessments are adequate and confirmed.



WEEKLY NEWS SHEET **5th December 2021** **The Second Sunday in Advent**

The First Candle of Advent

The Purple Candle of Love



TODAY'S SERVICE at 11.00 a.m.
Concluding Service of the Rev Dr Harold MacConnell
as Pastoral Associate in Cregagh
Sermon theme: 'Guess who is coming?'
Scripture readings: Isaiah 11:1-9 and Galatians 3: 26 – 4:7

Cregagh Presbyterian Church
102-104 Cregagh Road
Belfast BT6 0ER
Tel: 028 9045 5160
Website: cregaghpresbyterian.org

Minister: Rev Edward J B McKenzie
Tel: 07809 674068
Email: emckenzie@presbyterianireland.org

