



The Second Day of Christmas

December 26th is the Feast of St Stephen, a traditional day for giving boxes of leftovers to the poor, resulting in the later name 'Boxing Day' Stephen is first mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as one of the seven deacons appointed by the Apostles to distribute food and charitable aid to poorer members of the community in the early church.

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 last Sunday of 2021. 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The following may help our visitors to share in the service:

**Please stand (if able) for the Processional hymn when the choir stands, the Clerk of Session carrying the Bible and the Minister enter church, and remain standing until the Minister says "Let us pray"

**At the end of the service please remain standing after the Recessional hymn and the Minister, Bible and Choir have left the church.

** Hymn books and Bibles are in the pews for your use.

COFFEE BAR

The Coffee Bar is open in the Allen Hall following the service.

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.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Today is the last opportunity to contribute to the 'World Development' (for PCI Moderator's Appeal) and 'Cregagh Christmas' (for Mission Projects) special Christmas offerings. Envelopes are still in the pews for your use.

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES

This is the last day on which members may bring their 2021 WFO, Building Fund and United Appeal contributions up to date. The church financial books for 2021 close today.

OFFICE HOURS

There will be no Office Hours until Thursday 3rd February. Any matters requiring urgent attention or the services of a minister may be referred to Michael Graham, Clerk of Session (07548 635075)

OPEN CHURCH

The church will be open for private prayer and meditation on Friday (New Year's Eve) from 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon.

NEXT SUNDAY

The New Year Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at 11.00 a.m.

Retiring Offering for the Benevolent Fund.

Evening Prayer and Bible Study will resume at 6.30 p.m. in the church. (2nd Thessalonians)

MINISTER'S SABBATICAL

Rev McKenzie will be on Sabbatical from Monday 3rd – Sunday 30th January.

We wish Edward every blessing at this time of reflection, renewal and study.

During his absence any matters requiring attention may be referred to the Clerk of Session, Michael Graham (07548 635075) or any Elder.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY at 11.00 a.m.

Sunday 2nd - Rev Edward McKenzie.

Sunday 9th - Rev Dr Jim Campbell

Sunday 16th - Rev Colin McCormick

Sunday 23rd - Rev Dr Paul Bailie

Sunday 30th - Mr Thomas Clarke

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW will meet on Monday fortnight, 10th January at 2.30 p.m. in the Barbour Hall when Rev McKenzie will bring his New Year Message. All ladies of the congregation will be very welcome.

MORNING WATCH

Morning Watch will meet on Tuesday fortnight, 11th January at 10.45 a.m.

SPRING COMMUNICANT'S CLASSES

Rev McKenzie hopes to commence communicants classes early in February – anyone interested in attending should please give their name to Michael Graham asap.

FLOWER CALENDAR

The Flower Calendar for 2022 is on display in the Church Vestibule and McIntyre Suite. Those who normally supply church flowers throughout the year are asked to inspect the calendar and advise Maureen Mulligan or Dennison Mahood of any changes or queries as soon as possible as changes may not be possible later.

CALLING ALL ORGANISATIONS!

Organisations are asked to submit their activity reports for 2021, numbers on roll, contact details etc. to David Gillespie; and treasurers of our non-uniformed organisations to provide their annual accounts together with supporting information to Dawn Johnston not later than Sunday 16th January.

THANK YOU FROM THE MANSE AND LARNE!

Our Minister, Rev Edward McKenzie and our Minister Emeritus, Rev Hastings McIntyre and their families would thank the members of the congregation for all the good wishes, cards and gifts they received at Christmas and wish you all every blessing for 2022.



MALAWI

Thank you to everyone for generous donations that have enabled us to keep 18 students at Secondary School in Malawi, and to provide food for the small children at Chifudo3. You also paid for rice and chicken wings for their Christmas treat and repairs to a very worn front door at the centre. It is time again to fund school fees for another term. Many of you have paid in advance, if you plan to help later this year please ensure you write your name and Malawi Fund on the envelope or pay electronically. Don't forget completing a Gift Aid form will give us an additional 25% with no cost to you.

If Santa brought a new phone or tablet to your house for Christmas please don't put your old one in a drawer to gather dust. Donate it instead to our needy friends in Malawi, who will put it to good use.

CHRISTIAN AID 'Thank you'

"Dear Sandra, Thank you for bringing light to people who are living in the darkness of injustice. We appreciate your creativity and dedication in championing Christian Aid in Cregagh Presbyterian Church. With our prayers and every blessing this Christmastide and into 2022" (Helen and all at Christian Aid Ireland)

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.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL



WEEKLY NEWS SHEET **26th December 2021** **St Stephen's Day – Boxing Day**



*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon His shoulder;
and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince
of Peace"* Isaiah 9:6

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, Shout, O
daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh
unto thee; He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall
speak peace unto the heathen"* Zechariah 9:9-10

TODAY'S SERVICE at 11.00 a.m.
Conducted by Rev Edward McKenzie
Theme: 'Christmas Day Leftovers'

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