

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 today. 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 or coffee bar, 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) 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.

** Hymnbooks and Bibles are in the pews for your use.

COFFEE BAR

The Coffee Bar is open in the Allen Hall following this morning’s service and you are invited to stay behind for some refreshments. Please remember to wear your face covering when moving around the hall and only enjoy your refreshments when seated

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 Pedestal flowers today are provided by the Kirk Session.

The Sanctuary flowers are provided by Mrs P Smyth, Culmaglen, Jordanstown.

YOUTH BIBLE CLASS

Our Young People’s Bible Class meets each Sunday at 10.15 a.m. in the Session Room and any young people (p7 and up) in the congregation are invited to come along.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW will meet on Monday at 2.30 p.m. in the Barbour Hall when Mr Stewart Barbour will be the speaker. His topic: ‘Scared Witless’

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Zoom Bible Study will take place on Monday at 7.00 p.m.

MORNING WATCH

Morning Watch will meet on Tuesday at 10.45 a.m. in the Session Room.

OFFICE HOURS

Rev McKenzie will be in the Minister’s Room on Thursday from 6.30 – 8.30 p.m.

OPEN CHURCH

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

NEXT SUNDAY

At the service next Sunday at 11.00 a.m in the Church the Rev McKenzie will preach the third in the sermon series on the Minor Prophets. (Amos)

Café Connect will resume at 6.30 p.m. in the Allen Hall ‘Thinking about Mission’

EVERGREENS

The Evergreens will meet on Wednesday week, 16th March at 2.30 p.m. in the Allen Hall when Richard Wallace will speak on ‘The Hymns of Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander’

YOUTH ‘BIG NIGHT’

The next ‘Big Night’ for our young people will be held on Saturday 26th March.

KIRK SESSION DUTY ROTA

Elders on welcoming and ushering duty in March are: Joan Taylor, Anne Graham, Beth and Robert McNair.

UKRAINE

Message from the Moderator of the General Assembly – Rt. Rev .Dr. David Bruce:
“Further to my call last week for congregations to pray for the situation in Ukraine, tragically the bombardment of Ukraine and its people by Putin’s forces has continued, and the fear and suffering of people living in the country has increased each day. The United Nations estimates 800,000 people have fled the country due to the war so far, and many more are expected to follow.

Following consultation with colleagues, I am launching a Moderator’s Appeal towards the emergency relief effort to help people in Ukraine and those fleeing the conflict. I am confident our members will respond as generously as they have on many previous occasions to similar appeals.

In anticipation, we are immediately releasing £60,000 to be distributed equally to PCI’s relief and development partners Christian Aid and Tearfund, and also to the Reformed Church in Hungary (Hungarian Reformed Church Aid). They are all experienced in supplying and distributing humanitarian aid and assistance, not least to refugees and displaced people fleeing regions of conflict, and whenever possible, will extend their reach into Ukraine itself”

Donations may be placed in the offering plates today or for the next two Sundays using a Gift Aid envelope (available in the Church Vestibule and McIntyre Suite) or a plain envelope marked ‘Ukraine’

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. From next Sunday (13th March) there will be no longer any mandatory social distancing, yet physical contact such as hand shaking etc. is still strongly discouraged. Please respect others if they choose to continue to social distance and do not be offended if they ask you to give them space. (Continued overleaf)

COVIC UPDATE Contd. Contact tracing will also cease, however parents are asked to let Karen McCurry know if their children are attending KidZone, and the building can be entered and exited using either the Church or McIntyre Suite doors. It is still compulsory (unless exempt) for face coverings to be worn, while entering, exiting, moving around the building or singing.

All activities can begin again, as long as updated risk assessments are completed, paying special attention to the continued use of masks and hand hygiene. These guidelines will be reviewed by PCI on 29th March and further information will follow.

FROM THE MINISTER – CHAPLAINCY

“Friends, Following a process which has taken two years or so, with setbacks and complications, Covid of course not helping, after completing a four day residential selection board in Westbury, I am delighted to inform you that I have been accepted as a Chaplain within the Army Reserve.

In early May I will receive my appointment, telling me which unit I will be attached to and will then be commissioned, as what is known as a CF4, wearing the rank of Captain and being called Padre.

This will be likely instead of, rather than in addition to the Cadets, as I imagine it would be impossible to commit to Cregagh, the Reserves and the Cadets.

If my unit is deployed somewhere I would also be sent with them, however this will not be a regular thing and the likelihood is impossible to predict at the moment.

Over the next two years I am expected to complete eight weeks of training, three weeks can be done in bits and bobs, gradually, here at home, one in the Defence Academy in Shrivenham and four (split up into two twos) at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. These weeks will be a mixed programme of both mental and physical. I would hope to use some of my In Service Training weeks to accommodate this more easily.

There are around 13 Army Reserve units in Northern Ireland, including Artillery, Infantry, Engineers, Signallers and Medics, comprising of around 2000 individuals. Whatever unit I am attached to my primary responsibilities will be to provide pastoral care for those serving and their families, to offer guidance to command officers and also teach ethics as part of the Army’s training programme.

One of the great opportunities and challenges of this appointment will be the chance to witness to and speak of Jesus to folks who have little or no church connection, to build relationships with them, to, as the old Army Chaplain saying goes ‘pray with them sometimes but pray for them always’

Could I ask you to remember in your prayers those who serve in our Armed Forces, both Regular and Reserve and might I ask that you would pray for me as I look forward to starting this new venture. Thank you as always for your support and partnership for the sake of the Gospel” (Edward McKenzie)



WEEKLY NEWS SHEET **The First Sunday in Lent** **6th March 2022**



*‘Search me, O God, and know my heart;
try me, and know my thoughts; and see
if there be any wicked in me, and lead me
in the way everlasting’* Psalm 139: 23-24

MORNING SERVICE at 11.00 a.m. in the Church

Rev McKenzie and the Church Choir

The Minor Prophets: 3 ‘Joel’

Scripture Readings: Matthew 17: 1-13 and Joel 2: 12-17

EVENING PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY at 6.30 p.m. in the Church

Studying 1 Timothy and Special Prayers for Ukraine

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