



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

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered privately to Cheryl Cowling, Onslow Gardens after this service.

## **COFFEE BAR**

The Coffee Bar is open in the Allen Hall after this morning's service and we hope as many as possible will remain behind for some refreshments and a chat.

## **HANDMADE CRAFTS**

A lovely selection of handmade craft items, Christmas and otherwise, are in display in the Allen Hall today and in the McIntyre Suite next Sunday. A good opportunity to purchase some nice Christmas gifts. Proceeds from the sale of these items will go towards Emmanuel Ministries Calcutta.

## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

The Pedestal flowers provided by David Scott and Deborah Strain are 'In Memory of Myrtle and Cecil'

The Sanctuary flowers by Mrs Eileen Allen are 'In Memory of Raymond and Mervyn'

## **MORNING WATCH**

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

## **BREWS BROTHERS**

Brews Brothers men's group will meet on Tuesday at 12.30 p.m. in the McIntyre Suite.

## **CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The Christmas Memorial Service arranged by Willowfield Private Funeral Home will be held in Cregagh on Wednesday at 7.00 p.m.

Although this is mainly a time of remembrance for those loved ones who passed away in 2023 and whose funerals were undertaken by Willowfield Funeral Home, members of the congregation are invited to attend.

The service will be conducted by Rev. McKenzie.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

There will be no 'Office Hours' until further notice. Any matters requiring attention may be referred to Rev. McKenzie (07809 674068)

## **OPEN CHURCH**

The church will be open for private prayer and meditation, as usual, 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 or greenery would be very useful and may be left at the church any morning this week or Thursday evening.

## **YOUTH 'BIG NIGHT'**

The Christmas youth 'Big Night' will be held on Saturday from 7.00 p.m.

## **CHRISTMAS TREE GIFT SERVICE**

The KidZone Christmas Tree Gift Service will be held next Sunday at 11.00 a.m. All children (and adults if they wish) are invited to 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 and families in Belfast.

## **CAROLS IN THE CARPARK**

The Community Carols in the Carpark will take place next Sunday at 4.00 p.m. in Cregagh Presbyterian Carpark under the auspices of our own congregation, Cregagh Methodist and Salvation Army.

Christmas refreshments will be served afterwards.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

PW will meet on Monday week, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30 p.m. in the Allen Hall for an afternoon of 'Festive Cheer' with Anne Stevenson. The ladies of PW would be happy to welcome any ladies in the congregation to this relaxed time of fellowship.

## **HANDBELL CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

The much loved Handbell Christmas service will be held on this day fortnight, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00 a.m.

## **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Our very popular Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on this day fortnight, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 p.m.,

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Morning Worship at 11.00 a.m.

Christmas Eve at Cregagh by Candlelight at 11.30 p.m.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

The Christmas Day Family Service will be held at 9.00 a.m.

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Last Morning Service in Cregagh for 2023 at 11.00 a.m.

Rev. McKenzie and the Church Choir

'Lights Out' Service of Reflection and Remembrance at 4.00 p.m.

This is a Community Service held in Cregagh Methodist Church under the auspices of Cregagh Methodist, Cregagh Presbyterian and the Salvation Army.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

'World Development' (for PCI World Development Appeal) and 'Cregagh Christmas' (for Congregational Mission Projects) envelopes will be in the pews over the Christmas period (10<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> December)

## CHURCH FLOWER CALENDAR

The Flower Calendar for 2024 is available for inspection by those who normally supply the church flowers each week. Please check the dates etc. before the end of the year as changes may not be possible during 2024. There are several vacant dates if any members would like to supply flowers for an anniversary or in remembrance etc. Contacts: Maureen Mulligan and Dennison Mahood.

## LADIES CHRISTMAS DINNER

Ladies attending the Christmas Dinner on Friday evening are asked to confirm their menu choices and forward payment (including a £2 service charge) today or early this week to Angela Watson or Cheryl Cowling.

## CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

### WIDER WORLD

Copies of 'Wider World' for 2024 will be ordered at the start of January. The annual subscription is £7 for 4 magazines which is excellent value. This publication is suitable for women in the Presbyterian Church of all ages and always has very interesting articles. Any new subscribers or anyone wishing to change their order should contact Dorothy Platt (07803 264286)

### PRESBYTERIAN HERALD

The Presbyterian Herald for 2024 will be ordered at the end of December. The annual subscription has increased to £20 for 10 copies. Each issue provides a forum for debate and discussion on a wide range of topics which aim to inform and inspire the reader. New subscribers are welcome and any existing who wish to change their order should please contact Joan Taylor (07791 150354)

## DUTY ROTAS FOR DECEMBER

KIRK SESSION – Anne Graham, Joan Taylor, Beth McNair and Robert McNair.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE – Ruth Hill, Jim Hill, James McCormick, Ivan Taylor, Thomas Clarke, Susan Forsythe and Andrew Todd.

COFFEE BAR – (3<sup>rd</sup>) Creche/Cathy McCormick. (10<sup>th</sup>) OKAY/Peter Armstrong. (17<sup>th</sup>) Malawi Group/James McCormick. (24<sup>th</sup>) Youth Big Night/Lauren Dalzell (31<sup>st</sup>) Congregational Committee/Ruth Hill.

FLOWER DELIVERY – (3<sup>rd</sup>) Hewitt Family.

THURSDAY DOOR DUTY – (7<sup>th</sup>) Pauline Gibson. (14<sup>th</sup>) Joan & Malcom Taylor

***"May the God of Hope fill you all with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"*** (Romans 15:1)



## WEEKLY NEWS SHEET

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**

## **The First Sunday in Advent**

*The First Candle of Advent*

*The Purple Candle of Hope*



***"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, Thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope"***

TODAY'S SERVICE at 11.00 a.m in the Church  
Service of Readings and Music for Advent

Cregagh Presbyterian Church  
102-104 Cregagh Road  
Belfast BT6 0ER  
Tel: 028 9045 5160  
Website: [cregaghpresbyterian.org](http://cregaghpresbyterian.org)

Minister: Rev Edward J B McKenzie  
Tel: 07809 674068  
Email: [emckenzie@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:emckenzie@presbyterianireland.org)

