



The Third Sunday in Advent
The Pink Candle of Joy

When the Angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child was to be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with these words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit Rejoices in God my Saviour"

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 Third 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 children's address and hymn.

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.

CHRISTMAS REFRESHMENTS

Following this evening's Candlelight Service Christmas refreshments will be served in the Allen Hall and everyone is invited to stay behind for a time of chat and fellowship.

MORNING WATCH

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

BREWS BROTHERS

Brews Brothers Mens Group will meet on Tuesday at 12.30 p.m. for their Christmas lunch in the McIntyre Suite.

THE EVERGREENS

The Evergreens will meet on Wednesday at 12.30 p.m. in the Allen Hall for their Christmas lunch.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES

Members are reminded that there are only two more Sundays on which to bring your 2023 WFO, Property Fund and United Appeal contributions up to date. The Congregational finance books will close promptly on 31st December.



CHRISTMAS AT CREGAGH



Today at 11.00 a.m.

Handbell Choir Christmas Service

Rev. McKenzie and the Bible Class will lead the service

Today at 7.00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Christmas Message presented in Scripture and Carols in a traditional Christmas setting. The first seven lessons this year will be read by ladies of Presbyterian Women to mark 90 years of the organisation in Cregagh.

This evening's Candlelight Service also marks an anniversary. The first Candlelight Service was held in Cregagh sixty years ago on Sunday 22nd December 1963; indeed it was the first Presbyterian Church in Ireland to have a Christmas service by candlelight and just look at the number of churches having them now – Cregagh was the forerunner!

Sunday 24th December at 11.00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Morning Worship

Sunday 24th December at 11.30 p.m

Christmas Eve in Cregagh by Candlelight

Monday 25th December at 9.00 a.m.

Christmas Day Family Service

Sunday 31st December at 11.00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Service – the Last Service in Cregagh in 2023

Sunday 31st December at 4.00 p.m.

'Lights Out' Service of Reflection and Remembrance
In Cregagh Methodist Church

Sunday 7th January 2024 at 11.00 a.m.

New Year Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Christmas Offerings: 'World Development' (for PCI World Development Appeal) And 'Cregagh Christmas'(for Congregational Mission Projects). Envelopes are in the pews today and over the Christmas period.



MALAWI CALENDAR 2024

A fundraising calendar, in aid of projects in Malawi supported by Cregagh is available today from any member of the Malawi Team. Suggested minimum donation £5.00. A great stocking filler!

MALAWI STUDENTS

Those who support our Malawi students are reminded that their school fees are now due. New donators would be most welcome.

EMMANUEL MINISTRIES CALCUTTA –Thank You

“Thank you to everyone who supported my recent fundraising events. From the Christmas Workshop, extra orders for Wreaths and Swags, the Sales Tables and Donations. I am delighted that £1163.75 has been raised for EMC.

As the Hindu Government are making rules that restrict the children attending Christian Church services, and other restraints, EMC are reluctantly having to make some changes. They have prayed for God’s guidance as to the way forward and I would ask you all to keep them in your prayers.” (Maureen Mulligan)

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.

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)

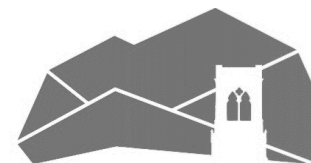
PRESBYTERIAN HERALD

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).



*As fits the holy Christmas birth
Be this, good friends, our carol still:
Be peace on earth, be peace on earth
To men of gentle will.*

W.M. Thackeray



CREGAGH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEEKLY NEWS SHEET

17th December 2023

The Third Sunday in Advent



*‘The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light: they that dwell
in the land of the shadow of death, upon
them a light has shined* Isaiah 9:2

*‘Glory to God in the highest, and peace
on earth, goodwill toward men’* Luke 2:14

MORNING SERVICE at 11.00 a.m in the Church

Handbell Choir Christmas Service

Led by Rev. McKenzie assisted by members of the Young People’s Bible Class

Scripture Readings: Psalm 33 and 1 Peter 1: 13 – 2: 3

EVENING SERVICE at 7.00 p.m. in the Church

Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

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