



First Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church

Sunday 20th December 2020



**Readings: Luke Ch 2 vs 1-12
Matthew Ch 2 vs 1-12**

First Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church Registered Charity in N. Ireland NIC104880
Minister: Rev Eddie McDowell, 10 Lower Ballyboley Rd, Ballyeaston
Tel: 93322578 Email: emcdowell@presbyterianireland.org.
Clerk of Session: Mr Euel Agnew Tel: 07740 074794 Email: euel.agnew1@btinternet.com
Church Website: www.firstballyeaston.org

Order of Service

Welcome & Announcements *Eddie McDowell*
Call to Worship: Isaiah 9: 2 & 6-7
Praise: Come people of the Risen King
Christmas Prayer *Emily Morrison*
Reading: The Birth: Luke 2: vs 1-12 *Leah Morrison*
Ballyeaston Children Nativity (pre-recorded)
Reading: The Wise Men: Matthew 2: vs 1-6 *Stacey McAuley*
vs 7-12 *Sheree McAuley*
Praise: Come and join the celebration
Talk:
Prayer for Others
Praise: Hark the Herald Angels sing
Benediction

This Week

Tonight **7pm Online Carol Service (pre-recorded)**
Friday 25th **10.30am Online Christmas Morning
Worship (pre-recorded)**
Sunday 27th **11.30am Online Morning Worship
(pre-recorded)**
Speaker: Rt Rev David Bruce, Moderator

On Thursday the Northern Ireland Executive announced a six-week lockdown starting on Boxing Day. Whilst churches are allowed to remain open during this period, the first week of lockdown is set to be very restrictive. To support the efforts to reduce the rate of Covid-19 infection the Kirk Session has agreed not to open the church building for morning worship on Sunday 27th December. Our morning Worship will be a pre-recorded on-line service led by our Moderator the Rt. Rev David Bruce. Currently, the Kirk Session plan that Morning Worship Services will resume in our Church building on Sunday 3rd January 2021, but this will be kept under review.

Church Information

Pastoral care. Rev McDowell & Rev Tosh are continuing to maintain contact with members by phone. If you are aware of anyone who would appreciate a phone call then please do contact Eddie 9332 2578.

Prayer Ministry. We offer everyone an opportunity to ask for prayer whether it be for themselves, a friend or a loved one. Contact Jean Woodside Tel: 07484767751 or Email: woodside880@btinternet.com

Church Organisations. Our church organisations have been unable to resume their usual programmes. We will update you when we are able to do so. This includes Sunday school, Bible Class, Youth Fellowship, Creche, Children's Church, BB, GB, PW, Bowling Club and Midweek meetings.

PW Mission Boxes. A massive thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Mission box fund. Total raised £825. The Mission boxes support the Home & Overseas mission projects. This year we are supporting the work of CARE NI ministering to those who have experienced miscarriage and the Okhaldhunga Community Hospital's work in Nepal offering essential medical care to expectant mothers.
presbyterianireland.org/PW-Special-Projects

Presbyterian Children's Society. This Society exists to support Presbyterian children in Ireland. It works to alleviate poverty and financial hardship for children and their families by regular and exceptional grants. The Society currently assists 870 children in 450 families in over 200 Congregations throughout Ireland. Donations can be forwarded to our Treasurer (details below)

Moderator's Christmas Appeal. Rt Rev Dr David Bruce, has launched a special Christmas Appeal to provide support to those in countries most affected by Covid 19. If you are able, envelopes to donate are in your packs which you should be receiving from the church shortly.

Newtownabbey Foodbank. The Newtownabbey Foodbank has expressed their grateful thanks to everyone who has supported them so generously over the past months. All their Christmas hampers are packed and most are out, yet their stocks are already overflowing again! Incredible! The Foodbank are now NOT taking any more donations until the new year. They have also seen so many generous financial donations on their giving page. If you really want to donate in the next couple of weeks, maybe consider giving in this way. <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/newtownabbey-foodbank>.

The final date for contributions to the Church's accounts for 2020 is Sunday 3 January 2021. After that date all contributions received will be recorded for the 2021 year. If you are able to contribute to the work of the Church, please make it clear which year the contribution applies to, bring your envelopes to Church or alternatively: - post your contributions to me at 35 Rathmena Drive, Ballyclare BT39 9HZ. Make cheques payable to First Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church (do not post cash) and remember to include your name, address or WFO Number; or - set up a Standing Order for a regular monthly payment. Please contact me on 07889348337 if you want to do so. Many Thanks, Joe.

Church Services. We understand some members will be wary about returning to services in church and no one should feel under pressure to come. We will continue to provide services on the internet and CD. Please do not come if:

You have any symptoms of COVID19, or

You are isolating due to contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID19, or

You or a member of your household are awaiting results of COVID19 test. Please also bring your own Bible. There will be a Retiring offering. A face covering is now mandatory when entering and leaving the building and during the service. Singing – yes – but softly behind your face mask!

Local Information

Antrim Area Hospital has introduced a **Phone First** system for patients including children with an injury or illness which requires urgent treatment but is not immediately life threatening. The system operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **PH 0300 123 1123.** Anyone with a life-threatening condition/injury should still contact 999.

News from PCI

Considering Grace book was launched back on Tuesday 5 November 2019. This book explored how Presbyterians responded to the Troubles. Following on from this an online conference Considering Grace: Unpacking the impact took place on Thursday 3 December 2020.

It looked at the impact of Considering Grace for PCI and for wider society, and the congregational resource to accompany the book was also launched. Speakers included Canon David Porter, Chief of Staff to the Archbishop of Canterbury; Very Rev Dr Stafford Carson, Principal of Union Theological College; the books co-authors Dr Gladys Ganiel and Dr Jamie Yohanis; the General Secretary of the Irish Council of Churches, Dr Nicola Brady; the resource author, Dave Thompson.

The event was recorded and is available to watch on the PCI [video channel here](#). Read the full [news story here](#).

Moderator's Christmas Message

www.presbyterianireland.org/News/December-2020

Council for Social Witness receives award of nearly £20,000 from the Housing Executive's Supporting People Programme – Provider Innovation Fund. 3 projects funded

www.presbyterianireland.org/News/December-2020/Comic-project-with-serious-focus.aspx



Please keep up to date with all current Government advice and Stay Safe.

nidirect.gov.uk/covid-19