



Sunday 27th December 2020

Welcome to Worship.



Speaker: Rt Rev Dr David Bruce, Moderator

First Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church Registered Charity in N. Ireland NIC104880

Minister: Rev Eddie McDowell, 10 Lower Ballyboley Rd, Ballyeaston

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Clerk of Session: Mr Euel Agnew Tel: 07740 074794 Email: euel.agnew1@btinternet.com

Church Website: www.firstballyeaston.org

Church Information

Today, Sunday 27th December we had planned a service in church led by Rev James Rogers, Ballynure. However, in light of the COVID situation and announcement of a new lockdown, Kirk Session decide that it would be best not to open for worship.

On further reflection, the Kirk Session have also decided to suspend our public worship services on Sundays for the duration of the six-week lockdown. As a result, we are not planning to reopen for public worship until Sunday the 7th February 2021.

We have not been required to close our church by Government or by the Presbyterian Church. Although we would want to be worshipping together in church, we have taken this decision voluntarily, believing it is in the best interests of our church family and the local community, and we will continue to keep this situation under review.

In the meantime, we will continue to livestream a worship Service each Sunday morning at 11.30am. The restrictions allow us to have a number of people in the church building for this purpose.

The Church building will continue to be available for weddings and funerals as the number of people is restricted to 25.

Sunday 3rd January 2021 11.30am Live Online Morning Worship

Sunday 10th

10.30am **Zoom Sunday School** resumes

11.30am **Live Online Morning Worship**

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.

Presbyterian Children's Society. We donated £1750. Thank you to everyone who has supported this.

Moderator's Christmas Appeal. We donated £1600. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this.

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:
- 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