

First Larne Presbyterian Church

"We are here to worship God, build up His church and share His love."

www.firstlarne.org.uk www.facebook.com/Firstlarne

"The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals.

And the first job of each morning consists in shoving them all back; in listening to that other voice... letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in."

C.S. Lewis

WORSHIP @ First

Sunday 10th January 2021

"Freedom to Worship?"

Welcome and Call to Worship

Hymn *"In psalms and hymns of joyful praise....."*

Prayer

Announcements

READING: Romans 12 v.1-21

Hy.469 *"Spirit of holiness, wisdom and faithfulness..."*

Freedom to Worship?

Prayers for God's People

Praise: *"I believe in God the Father...."*

BENEDICTION

An Irish Blessing



SERVICES – online in January

JOURNEYING TOGETHER INTO 2021

After the year we have had what's the 2021 journey going to be like?

To make sense of any journey you should know where it begins, where it is heading for and how to get there.

In our services throughout 2021 join us as small step by small step we journey towards greater understanding of the big story for us, as relayed to us in the **Bible**.

As we attempt to make sense of the new normal we will explore more of the **Bible** – a story, from beginning to end, that makes sense of life, makes sense of us and makes sense of life for us!

Is this not what you need in 2021?

Available at 11am each Sunday

17th The journey begins... The BIBLE

What's in it for me in 2021?

24th The Bible and Life on Earth

*31st In the beginning... at the centre: Artist or Boffin?
(Princess Victoria 68th anniversary Commemoration)*

Kids Church in January

Posted each week on Facebook AND a short "Zoom" at 2pm each Sunday in January just to say "Hello!"

IN GOD'S HANDS:

Discover how God protects David in his early life

10th Close to God's heart (1 Samuel 16 v.1-13)

17th Larger than life? (1 Samuel 17 v.1 – 18 v.5)

24th Kept safe (1 Samuel 19, 20)

31st Wait for God's time (1 Samuel 24)

Services, reflections and input from other sources continue to be posted on FaceBook, YouTube and our website www.firstlarne.org.uk



YOU'RE INVITED TO

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

ALL AGE SERVICE
Sunday 7th February 2021

11 AM



PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

There is still time to contribute to the annual collection. If you do not have a collector "calling" with you and would like to contribute please put your donation in an envelope marked "Children's Society Appeal" and place in the offering plate.

A wealth of resources for this exceptional time in our lives produced by PCI for PCI. Check it out!



Update on PCI Global Mission Workers

The latest update on most of our Global Mission Workers is available clicking on the link on the homepage of our website.

(Please note, there are several whose details cannot be published online for)

Go to the First Larne website link for the latest bulletin from the Leremores.



SMALL GROUPS

Tuesday mornings & Wednesday evenings

ONLINE via ZOOM

"RUTH: A Migrant's Story"

Chat, videos, sharing, caring and learning...
COMING TO A SMALL GROUP NEAR YOU!

Below are details of the first three groups:

TUESDAY mornings at 11am (2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month)

Email Bev Moore: bevandnat@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY evenings at 7.30pm (fortnightly)

Email Sandy Lindsay: sandy30654@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY evenings at 7.30pm

Women's Group: THIS Wednesday 13th January

Email the Rev. McClure: cmclure@presbyterianireland.org

Blog of the Week

Only in America?

Are the forces behind this week's events in Washington DC only in the US?

PRESBYTERIAN HERALD & WIDER WORLD

There will be four editions in 2021. No subscriptions are due for 2021.

Important INFORMATION for Online Users

Our services are now live streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

After the live stream the service is available to view immediately on **Facebook**.

On **YouTube** it can be up to 24 hours after the live stream before the video is available.

Similarly, it can be up to 24 hours before the service recording is on our website.

Listen to the latest service by phoning local number 028 91249550.

Statement Issued by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland on Thursday 7th January 2021

Worsening situation: Church decides to close

This afternoon (7 January) the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Faith Leaders' Forum' was convened by Junior Ministers, Gordon Lyons MLA and Declan Kearney MLA. In light of the advice that church leaders and other faith leaders received during the meeting from Dr Michael McBride, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), and Professor Ian Young, Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA), regarding the worsening Coronavirus situation, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) has decided that all in person Sunday gatherings for worship, along with most other in person church gatherings, should cease in all PCI congregations from midnight tonight until Saturday, 6 February 2021.

Speaking on behalf of the denomination, the Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, said, "Our churches are part of the local community and we recognise the very serious situation that Northern Ireland finds itself in today. With the extremely high level of transmission of the Covid-19 virus, combined with the numbers in hospital and intensive care, the very clear warning from the CMO and CSA this afternoon was that over the next number of weeks this situation is going to worsen significantly."

Mr Gribben continued, "In light of our ongoing consultations and the current serious and worsening situation, and in line with unequivocal public health guidance that people should stay at home, we have written to our congregations in Northern Ireland, informing them that all in person Sunday gatherings for worship, along with most other in person church gatherings, should cease in all PCI congregations from midnight tonight until Saturday, 6 February 2021.

"It is of course regrettable and disappointing that over these next few weeks our congregations will no longer be physically gathering for worship. However, because of the alarming rise of Covid-19 infections in the community, this is the right decision to take, both for the safety and protection of people and also to contribute to the overall reduction of inter-person contact in line with the government's 'stay at home' message."

The Clerk concluded by saying, "In these difficult days, as we continue to look to God, and encourage others to find their hope in Him, let us help and pray for one another, lifting up all those on the frontline, those in authority making difficult decisions and especially all who mourn and miss loved ones."

Colleagues in the Church of Ireland, Methodist Church in Ireland, and Roman Catholic Church, are making similar statements at this time.

Scripture Union E3 Workers in Schools throughout East Antrim

The latest edition of their prayer letter is now available.

Go the home page of our website and you will find a link with the other resources.

Connect with services ONLINE, CD, DVD and by PHONE

Live feeds are still on Facebook and YouTube.

Let the Rev. McClure know if you know somebody who would simply like to watch or hear our services on a DVD or CD player.

We can provide audio recordings on a CD or videos on DVD (preferably user's own player).

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS and other pastoral information

Even though routine visiting by ministers and chaplains is curtailed, continue to inform the Rev. McClure of any relevant pastoral issues, such as hospitalisation or illness at home.

At Home for Christmas? MODERATOR'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2020



Covid-19 is wreaking havoc and undoing decades of development work in so many parts of the world.
Please support the Moderator's Christmas Appeal to assist the work of PCI's relief and development partners Christian Aid and Tearfund, as well as PCI partner churches as they continue to work in fragile nations.

To find out more and to donate, please visit:
www.presbyterianireland.org/christmasappeal2020



Presbyterian

Make your contribution to the Moderator's Appeal go further by returning the "World Development Appeal" envelope supplied with your envelopes and marking it for Gift Aid, if you are a tax payer.
This increases your contribution by about 20% at no additional cost to yourself. You can still donate.

GIVE BLOOD
Save Lives

Wednesday 20th January
1-4pm & 5-7.30pm
By appointment only
Book on 08085 534 653

Not online? USE YOUR PHONE

First Larne Service – Dial this local number (028) 91 249550

Normal charges apply. However, for most landlines there will be no charge if phoned at those times your supplier gives free calls of up to one hour. Likewise, mobile charges will vary according to your contract.



2. “Daily Hope”

A freephone service provided by the Church of England.

Dial **0800 804 8044**

The Archbishop of Canterbury is still there to greet you!

You can then choose from several options, including favourite hymns, the stories behind some hymns, prayers, reflections and other services.

Holiday tour to Austria including the Oberammergau Passion Play (10-17th August 2022)

Interested?

Contact the Rev. McClure for
further details.

Although taking place in 2022 this historic, once-in-a-decade, event books up quickly. The prime seats and accommodation in the village of Oberammergau, allocated to the tour company can only be reserved until the early months of 2021.



TAKE UP THE OPPORTUNITY OF FREE HOME ENERGY SUPPORT

Are you or anyone you know struggling to heat your home, have difficulty understanding energy bills, or how to work your heating controls?

If so Mid and East Antrim Borough Council have a free home energy service to help with these issues around the home.

They can:

Refer you to energy efficiency grant schemes available for a range of home improvements (including wall & roof insulation and heating) to maximise the energy efficiency of your home (eligibility criteria apply).

Provide advice on current household energy use and managing your heating system.

Provide advice on budgeting for fuel.

Should you require further information, contact one of the Community Health and Wellbeing Officers.

**Email wellbeing@midandeantrim.gov.uk (giving your name, address and a contact telephone number)
Tel. **028 28 262 498** - open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm**

If you need help with getting food, medicine or supplies you can call

Mid and East Antrim Community Advice Service.

Tel. 028 96 001 333

**advice line open Monday to Friday,
9am to 5pm (closed 12-1 for lunch)**

Email michele.campbell@meacas.com

PHONE FIRST-24/7

Make sure you PHONE FIRST before going to Antrim or Causeway Hospital Emergency Departments, or Mid Ulster Hospital Minor Injuries Unit.

0300 123 1 123

TEXT RELAY NUMBER: 18001 0300 123 1 123
or Interpreter Now app

Get directed to
the right care
Avoid busy
waiting rooms
Stay safe
Save time



FOR EMERGENCIES - 999

Including: stroke, heart attack, loss of consciousness, breathing difficulties, severe bleeding or major trauma

ALWAYS CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY



Health and
Social Care



DoH
www.health.ni.gov.uk

Call for Volunteer “Meet & Greeters” at Covid-19 Vaccination Centres

Detailed information on our website.

Interested? Email: events@volunteernow.co.uk

A programme of vaccination of volunteers begins on 28th January.



Two key areas of our ministry are expanding and need YOUR help.

1. **READERS:** Could you read – live in church or recorded at home?
2. **STREAMING OF SUNDAY SERVICES** – Now that we have the marvellous facility of streaming our services we have realised how important this is going to be into the future. Some of our senior members who are not able to attend will continue to be part of our worshipping community. However, this can only happen if we have more volunteers to assist at the AV desk. We would love you to have a go and see if this is for you. Speak to Neill Murray or the Rev. McClure who can arrange to let you see what is involved.

Contact Details

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Email: admin@firstlarne.org.uk, Website: www.firstlarne.org.uk,
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Firstlarne

Minister: Rev. Dr. Colin D. McClure, Tel: (028)28272441,
Mobile: 07984030881 Email: cmclure@presbyterianireland.org

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104895)



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We acknowledge a generous grant from the Allchurches Trust Ltd “Hope Beyond” scheme (associated with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group) which has assisted us in providing ongoing streaming and video provision of our services, ensuring access is available to all, including those unable to be physically present in our Meeting House.