

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



"Wonder..... is the basis of Worship."
Thomas Carlyle

Worship @ First

Sunday 15th August 2021

**This morning we welcome the Rev. Cheryl Meban
(Chaplain, Ulster University)**

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 111

Praise *"He came down that we might have love..."*

Prayer

READING: 1 Kings 2 v.10-12; 3 v.3-14

Hy.221 *"O for a thousand tongues to sing..."*

Tell me what you want, what you really, really want...

Prayers of Intercession

Hy.471 *"Freedom and life are ours for Christ has set us free!..."*

Benediction



The Meeting House is open for services at 11am each Sunday.

Services will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook & YouTube, as well as being available later on our website.

SUMMER @ First

Our series of special summer morning services continue at 11am

Sunday 15th August: Rev. Cheryl Meban

Sunday 22nd August: Rev. Dr. Colin McClure will continue with *'THE GREAT OUTDOORS: Bringing The Outdoors In'* summer 2021 series



**Joint Evening Services in AUGUST
at 6.30pm**

with Craigy Hill & Gardenmore

15th Craigy Hill

22nd First Larne

29th Gardenmore

All Covid-19 protocols are still being observed.
find details towards the end of these announcements.

If you are planning to attend it would assist efficient stewarding if you could book for each service in advance using "Eventbrite".

Use the link below or on the website homepage.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/morning-worship-tickets-149516569083>

Alternatively, leave your name on the Church Office answering machine
Tel 028 28269968



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

| BRINGING THE OUTDOORS IN |
| SUMMER 2021 SERIES |



SUMMER SERVICES 2021

MORNING SERVICES

AT 11:00 AM

25TH JULY | REV. ROBERT BELL

1ST AUGUST | JACQUELINE MCCALLUM

8TH AUGUST | REV. HASTINGS MCINTYRE

15TH AUGUST | REV. CHERYL MEBAN

22ND AUGUST | REV. DR. COLIN MCCLURE

29TH AUGUST | REV. DR. COLIN MCCLURE



EVENING SERVICES

AT 6:30PM

15TH AUGUST | CRAIGY HILL

22ND AUGUST | FIRST LARNE

29TH AUGUST | GARDENMORE





COMMUNITY FUN DAY

Keep the date

Saturday 4th September 2021

All the usual attractions –
and a little more besides!

A great opportunity to celebrate being
community and to mark the beginning of a
very special year in the life of our church
and community.

First Lane
Presbyterian Church

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER...

10 WEEKS
MENTORING
SUPPORT

WEEKLY
CHATS

ROC
TELE-MENTORS

LARNE

FREE!

ARE HERE
TO HELP

LISTENING
EAR

TIME FOR
PARENTS

ENCOURAGEMENT

PARENTS/GUARDIANS, IF YOU'RE DREADING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, ROC TELE-MENTORS CAN HELP YOU & YOUR FAMILY WITH 10 WEEKS MENTORING SUPPORT.

YOU NEED TO LIVE IN THE LARNE AREA & HAVE ONE CHILD UNDER 12 YEARS.

CONTACT

EMAIL: [NORTHERNIRELAND@ROC.UK.COM](mailto:northernireland@roc.uk.com)

PHONE: 02890 351020

ROC ROC
LARNE NORTHERN IRELAND



DIGITAL RESILIENCE TRAINING

Online Parent Workshop

THANKS TO LOCKDOWN, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MORE ATTACHED THAN EVER TO THEIR DIGITAL DEVICES. HELPING THEM TO FIND A HEALTHIER BALANCE IN THEIR USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA IS VITAL FOR THEIR WELLBEING.

This practical, informal, and non-judgemental workshop will help parents, grandparents and carers explore the relationship between social media, electronic devices, and their child's wellbeing. It will equip them with the tools they need to help their children to thrive by becoming digitally resilient. The workshop will be delivered by Dr Deborah Webster of Thrive Academy and has been generously funded by The Presbyterian Childrens Society Covid-19 Grant Scheme.



Monday 27th September 2021
7.30pm (online)

Mark it in your dairy.
More details to follow.

Presbyterian
Children's
Society

Thrive
academy

**LATEST NEWS
AND UPDATES**



As we take steps forward keep an eye on this page for important information

ORGANISATIONS

As organisations consider resuming in September it is important that we continue to observe whatever mitigations are in place.

To ensure everyone can operate effectively and safely the Hall Allocation Group will be considering how our rooms and halls can be best utilised over the autumn months. This Group will be looking for input from each organisation housed in the premises.

Each organisation must contact Stephen Ross to discuss their requirements. Ensure your group has done so.

VOLUNTEERS

In the next few months we will, of necessity, be doing things differently.

This will inevitably require additional and occasional help.

Ready to serve in a way you hadn't previously thought possible?

TEA/COFFEE ROTA: We need two people each week during July/August to assist. There are still gaps in the rota. Can you help?

Contact the Rev. McClure NOW!

BRIDGE NEWS

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIAL FOR NEXT ISSUE IS TODAY SUNDAY 22nd AUGUST 2021

SUMMER GATHERINGS

We have already met informally and in-person over the last few weeks:

First Larne Youth, Youth Church, Kids Church, PW, Women's Circle ...

Look out for more!



At our last Session meeting we resolved to celebrate the sacrament of communion at morning and evening services on Sunday 12th September.

If you are not already a communicant member but would like to find out more speak to the Rev. McClure, your district elder or one of the stewards.

As we want to accommodate as many communicants as possible it will almost certainly be necessary to "reserve" a place. Further details will follow.



Following on from the “For Now...” booklet issued to every household, our small groups will be looking at a specially prepared resource for discovering more of what the Bible says to us at this unusual and challenging time in our history. The series is accompanied by specially commissioned videos, allowing us to link up with the experience of other Presbyterians.

Topics include:

- Caring for one another
- Following Jesus together
- Engaging with God in worship
- Encouraging young people
- Encouraging families with younger children
- Sharing our faith

THERE WILL BE A SMALL GROUP NEAR YOU!

Below are contact details of the three groups open to you:

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

Email Bev Moore: bevandnat@gmail.com

Next meeting on 14th September

WEDNESDAY at 7.30pm

Email Sandy Lindsay: sandy30654@gmail.com

Next meeting on 22nd September

WEDNESDAY at 7.30pm Women’s Group

Email Jax Murphy: jaxmccallum@gmail.com

INFORMATION for Your PRAYING

On our website homepage, under “Resources for you to share”, each week you can pick up prayer points from various home and overseas sources, including:

1. “Let’s Pray” – PCI’s own weekly bulletin
2. Christian Aid updates
3. The latest Leremore family bulletin from Kenya (Summer letter now available)



GETTING READY FOR THE FUTURE

FLY (First Larne Youth) are gearing up for the new session.

Our young people have been through these strangest of times and are now looking to navigate the way ahead with our help.

Could that be you?

We are looking for adults to join the team – to be a presence, to be a friend. Could you have even a little to offer for the future?

REFRESHING OUR ROTAS

It’s not too late to join the following teams:

- Stewarding**
- Grass-cutting**
- AV Team**

If you think you could join any of these teams you will not be left alone but will be introduced to the work by others with some experience and you will be working alongside others.

Contact the Rev. McClure or leave a message on the Church Office answering machine or make direct contact with

- Bev Moore – Stewarding
- Jan McKay – Grass cutting
- Neill Murray – AV Team



First Larne's Youth App Is currently being developed...



IT'S STARTING TO HAPPEN!

Watch out for opportunities to catch up.

Organisations are creatively finding safe ways to meet again!

Blog of the Week

The Glory of Summer Sport

Any links between sport, faith and church? Go to website.



Refined
Ardens sed Virens

A wealth of resources for this exceptional time in our lives produced by PCI for PCI.

Check it out!

A selection of BIBLE READING RESOURCES

- ❖ "Spiritual Healthcheck" *16 steps to a thriving Christian life*
Available by contacting the Rev. McClure



PRESBYTERIAN HERALD &

"Word for Today" Bible reading notes

The Herald summer edition is now available for collection.

An online version of the Herald is also available on the PCI website. The autumn edition of "Word for Today" (August-October) has also arrived and is now available.

RESOURCES PAGE ON WEBSITE

Find a variety of links to resources for you and to share.



Go to our website homepage "Resources" for these latest updates

1. **Belfast Bible College** – courses, events & conferences – Online and In Person. Brochures available.
2. **Leremore Family Update** (July/August)
3. **Habit Checker**
What should you keep after "lockdown"? What needs to go?
4. **State of Hunger Report**
This prophetic call from the Trussell Trust (who coordinate many Foodbanks) demands our attention as we move forward to the new normal.
5. **Larne Foodbank Update** – Spring 2021

Thank You!



Thank you for your continued generosity

We currently have plenty of Breakfast Cereal, Beans, Soup, Pasta, Biscuits and Sweetcorn so don't need any of these.

Items Needed are:-

- Tinned Fruit
- Mayonnaise
- Toilet Roll



Elderly Care Bags



Thank you to Larne Community Care for the Elderly care bags given to Larne foodbank for older people who find themselves in food poverty. These give information on where to get additional help, something to do and some hand gel to keep safe.

Larne Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust 'Together for Change' Programme and these are the reasons why:- (Extracts from the State of Hunger report)



1.9 MILLION

Food parcels have been distributed through the Trussell Trust Network in 2019/2020, a 74% increase in five years



After paying rent, people referred to food banks have on average just **£50 A WEEK** for all other essential costs like food, travel, clothing, and bills



88% of the public think hunger is a problem in the UK.

"It's emotional feeling like you've literally hit the bottom, that you have to depend on other people to feed your kids. It's really sad. But if I wasn't here, they couldn't be fed, and I'm not doing that to them. I'm on Universal Credit, but it doesn't seem to be lasting. I'm very good with money, I've always been good. But once the money's come in, half of it goes on the rent, then another lump goes on the council tax, and then you've got to do gas and electric. I've cut down all bills but it's still not stretching far enough."

Carey, a person who has used a food bank

"Sometimes, there's no work. It's very stressful because you're working – caring for vulnerable people – and at the same time you're thinking: why is life so difficult? How can I manage? You're trying, you want to work, but at the same time you're getting peanuts. It's just going into bills and bills and if you're not careful you're sliding into debt."

Verona, a person who has used a food bank

WORLDWIDE 21

Bangor Worldwide
Missionary Convention

Hamilton Road
Presbyterian
20th - 29th August
worldwidemission.org

THE LORD
Reigns
LET THE EARTH BE GLAD

Gamble Library (Union Theological College)

Annual electronic membership offer:

Access to 750+ eBooks and ATLA Databases

Cost: £50

(plus a one-off library card fee of £10).

Further reductions may be available.

Contact librarian@union.ac.uk or 02890205093 for details.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER INTO 2021

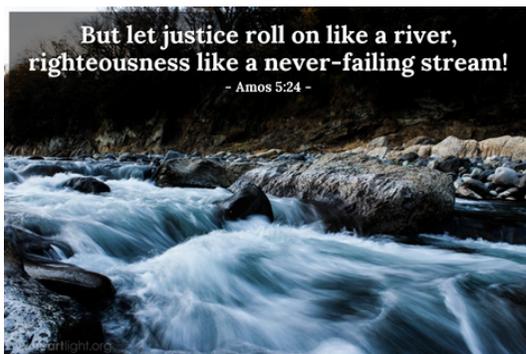
After the year we have had what's the 2021 journey going to be like?

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?



This Christian charity has been contracted by the Northern Trust to help provide friendship, emotional and practical support for families in vulnerable situations. Perhaps you could help.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to take a look at how Daphne was helped through the support of a Safe Families volunteer. Please [Click Here](#) to see how Toby's life was changed by the intervention of a volunteer in his life. You can also find more information about Safe on our website: <https://www.safefamilies.uk/>



Most of us know that if we were facing difficult times our friends and family would be there to support us and help out. But for some people, there is no-one there to turn to for help.

Safe Families are a Christian charity who partner with churches to offer support, hope and belonging to improve the lives of families in crisis.

Safe Families UK started in England in 2013 and came to Northern Ireland in 2021, with over 1100 churches and 4,900 volunteers involved. We have helped church volunteers connect with almost 6,000 families and over 13,000 children – this support has reduced the flow of children into the care system and helped struggling families to cope with difficult situations.



We believe that love in action towards friend and stranger alike is at the heart of the Christian gospel, and that your church is vital for the transformation of your community and the support of families in Larne.

There are 3 ways you can get involved with Safe Families:



- Volunteering - getting alongside someone in the community, such as meeting a parent for a chat or taking a child to the park.
- Giving - donating resources for a family or by supporting our work financially.
- Praying - we would love it if you could pray for us, volunteers and the families they support.

You can keep up to date with us on Facebook @SafeFamiliesUK or via our website www.safefamilies.uk or get in touch with our team at NorthernIreland@safefamilies.uk

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).

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.



Update on PCI Ministries supported via United Appeal

Check *Resources* on our home page for fresh information and updates from a range of the ministries and initiatives supported by our giving to United Appeal.

This Week: Nepal

A report from Peter and Valerie Lockwood

HOSPITAL and other PASTORAL VISITATION

Continue to inform the Rev. McClure of hospital admissions and other pastoral situations.

Whilst routine in-person visitation is still limited we are working closely with hospital chaplains to ensure our members are receiving the best possible support.

The Rev. McClure has now completed several rounds of pastoral phone calls throughout the congregation and this continues.

If, for any reason, you would like to speak with him do not hesitate to phone at 028 28272441 or 07984030881

or email: cmccclure@presbyterianireland.org to make arrangements

INTO THE FUTURE

An Update on some strategic ongoing work undertaken by Kirk Session.....

When we held the 2021 Kirk Session Conference on Saturday 30th January we were almost one year into the pandemic. The Conference theme was

“MOMENTUM IN THE MOMENT: How do we move on from here?”

The purpose of the conference was set out as follows: “We have already experienced some of the obvious health, educational, economic and societal effects of the pandemic.... But what is still to come? By the time we are all vaccinated and we can contemplate anything approaching ‘normal’ church activity resuming at least 18 months will have passed. SO WHAT DO WE DO TO PREPARE FOR THEN?”

Each elder was asked to submit up to 10 questions they felt needed to be addressed as we looked ahead. From that we drew agreed a “Top 10” list of questions covering topics such as:

- Streaming of services
- Post-Covid and Returning to ‘Normal’
- Children, Young People and Family Ministry
- Role of elders
- Reviewing and learning from pandemic experience
- Staffing
- Worship
- Community ministry, care and outreach
- Stewardship and finance
- Services
- Property
- Volunteering
- Opportunities to explore faith

Four working groups within Session are now engaged in strategic considerations.

Please pray for wisdom and guidance.

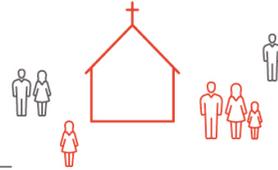


Be part of a better future



Further details of this unique opportunity can be found on the resources section of our website homepage.

Stay SAFE at church



S A F E

Stick to the rules

- Follow advice and instruction issued by the kirk session at all times
- Follow arrangements for signing up in advance to attend activities or organisations
- Follow signage for entering, using and leaving the building



Assess the risks

- If you are displaying any of the symptoms of COVID-19, or have been in close contact with anyone displaying such symptoms, do not attend any church activities or organisations
- Take primary responsibility for your own health and wellbeing by carefully considering the level of risk involved in coming to any gathering of people at church
- Do not feel under any pressure to be present if you are uncomfortable about any aspect of attending



Foster good routines

- Wash your hands before, after, and during if necessary, time spent in the church premises
- Arrive in good time and leave promptly to limit unnecessary contact with others
- Be aware of what is involved in applying social distancing from others at all times

Encourage individual responsibility

- Hold yourself and others lovingly accountable for taking advice and instruction seriously
- Resist the temptation to become careless about compliance as necessary practices become more familiar as week follows week
- Be understanding of limitations on normal activities remaining so that we might love our neighbour as we love ourselves

KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

- In order to ensure the safety of our entire community it will be necessary to ensure we keep numbers attending worship within the approved limits.
- Therefore you will be asked to register your intention to attend by using the “Eventbrite” app (link from our website or Facebook age) or phoning or emailing the church office by the Friday morning prior to each service.
- You simply need to give the number from your household who intend to attend.
- For instance: “Four of us are coming on Sunday.”
- As you come into the Meeting House your presence will be recorded.
- You will be asked to complete a sheet giving your name and contact phone number unless you have previously registered with “Eventbrite”.
- You will then be shown to one of the designated seats.
- You will notice stewards filling up the seats in sequence from the front.
- Your details are required should it be necessary to alert you to a possible risk of infection by someone subsequently identified as a carrier.
- You will be directed to a specific seat to maintain the required distancing and thus reduce the chances of cross infection. If we did not do this and anyone subsequently developed symptoms then everyone in the building would have to self-isolate!

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



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

OFFICE Tel: 028-28269968

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)



ALLCHURCHES TRUST LIMITED®

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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.

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!

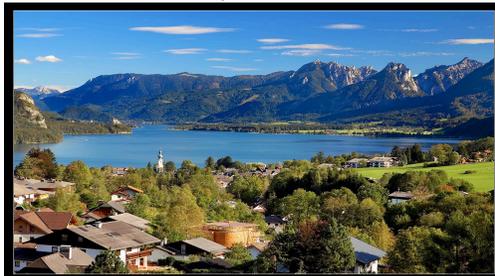
You can then choose from several options, including favourite hymns, the stories behind some hymns, prayers, reflections and other services.

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