

Announcements

Due to the Norovirus epidemic the Uniformed Organisations' Service will not be taking place today.

(1) Today is the last day to sign up for ordering **IBRA Bible Notes**.

A sign up sheet is in the vestibule

(2) The church is open on a Wednesday morning for anyone who would like to spend time in **prayer and quiet reflection**.

(3) A reminder that the following people are on **porch duty** in December: Ann Williams; Sam Ferguson; Howard and Valerie McCutcheon

(4) Our Church will host **Groomsport Christmas Tree Lights Switch On** this Friday evening, 6th December. Beginning at 6.30pm with a short community Carol Service then followed by the Christmas Tree lights switch on. Refreshments with Santa for primary age children will be held in The Church of Ireland Maxwell Hall afterwards. This is an Outreach event.

(5) **PW** members are reminded that their Christmas Party is on Monday 9th December at **7.30pm**. (please note the slightly earlier time)

(6) The next **Film Club** will be on Tuesday 10th December, showing "Scrooge, the musical".

(7) **Advent Communion** will take place at 7.00pm on Sunday 15th December.

Carols by Candlelight will take place at 7.00pm on Sunday 22nd December. Immediately afterwards the congregation are invited, one and all, to partake of mulled wine and a mince pie (or 2!) in the halls. If you are able to attend, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the vestibule.

Next Sunday: Children's Church is with Sharon Goldie and Barbara Shepherd



Sunday 1st December 2019

Thought for the Week

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God

Isaiah 40: 3

Prayer & Bible Study

Second in a series of three studies taking place,
This Wednesday 4th December - 7.30 – 8.45pm

Led by Heidi Biermann

Based on Jonah

Considering the joys and challenges of following God's call

A WARM WELCOME is extended to members and visitors to our Services today. We hope you feel at home in our Worship.

THE VISITORS' BOOK
is in the front porch for signing.
THE YELLOW WELCOME CARDS in the pews are
for
your convenience and may be placed on the
Offering Plate.

MORNING WORSHIP at 11.30am

Organ Prelude & Preparation for Worship in quietness before God

Welcome & Announcements

INTROIT

Scripture Sentences

PRAISE 300 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (Winchester New)

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading Luke 2:22-40 (page 1028)
read by Hilary Knight

PRAISE 291 Come, O long-expected Jesus (Cross of Jesus 425)

Talk with the girls and boys The Count Down

PRAISE 312 Child in the manger (Bunessan)
(*Children leave for Children's Church*)

Offering & Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading Romans 3:19-28 (page 1130)

Intercessory Prayer

PRAISE 648 I cannot tell why He whom angels worship
(Londonderry Air)

SERMON Advent Faith & Hope

PRAISE 297 Jesus, hope of every nation (Stuttgart 311)

Benediction & Choral Amen

The Annual Sunday School and Bible Class Gift Day will be Sunday 15th December.

We will lay gifts at the foot of the Christmas tree.

These gifts will be taken to the
Belfast Central Mission.

The number of children attending this year is small,
therefore we are inviting the congregation to also bring
gifts, if they wish.

During the service the children will collect any
congregational gifts and take them to the tree.
Gifts should not be wrapped but placed in a Christmas bag
to facilitate distribution.

Kirk Session news

I have been asked by Session to provide the congregation, on an occasional basis, with information relating to some of our recent decisions.

One exciting innovation is the setting up of a Task Group empowered to advise Session on the possibility of employing additional staffing. There is a very obvious gap in the age profile in Groomsport PC reflected in the much reduced numbers of "young marrieds" and their children attending our church. This in turn means that we cannot call upon youth leaders and Children's' Church leaders. Neither our Minister, nor our Princeton Intern, can cover all aspects involved in developing this aspect of Family and Youth ministry. Whilst this is a problem affecting many churches, we feel that doing nothing is not an option. Hence the setting up of the Task Group to plan the way forward under God's guidance.

Rev Dalzell, on his return from Princeton Seminary, having appointed Jacob Kennedy as our new Intern for 2020/2021, received an email from the Seminary offering us a contribution of 12,500 dollars per annum towards this programme on an ongoing basis. Session has readily accepted the offer!

Alastair McQuoid
Clerk of Session