



Drumbo Church

PRESBYTERIAN

It gives much pleasure to prepare this, our first Newsletter since we went into lockdown in March. The situation has been fraught with difficulties, anxieties and fear of the unknown. However, God in all His Love, goodness and kindness has been very near to us. We must remember that in spite of all that has happened He is still in control.

This Month @ DPC

Sunday Services and daily devotions available on www.drumbochurch.org. Drumbo Church facebook page, and Church announcements WhatsApp

Should you wish to receive paper copies please contact Adrian.

Sunday Service Themes

31 May – A church member is someone who studies

7th June – A church member is someone who prays

14th June – All age Service

21st June – A church member is someone who serves

28th June – Mission Focus on Asialink – Gordon Stewart has prepared video material.

Study Guides for “What is a church member?” services above

A church member is someone who studies: Study Guide

1. Read and meditate on Nehemiah 8:1-12 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Try reading out loud and standing up!
2. How would you help a person who said, “I’ve tried to read the Bible, but I don’t get anything out of it”?
3. What is the hardest thing for you about consistent Bible reading and Bible study? How can you overcome it?
4. Receive, read, remember, research and reflect on God’s Word. (Adapted from Purpose Driven Church: Rick Warren)
5. What do I need to do to rekindle my love for the Bible?

A church member is someone who prays: Study Guide

1. Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and Nehemiah 1:4-11 in a number of translations and note what the Lord is saying to you through them about prayer.
2. Does Jesus’ sympathy for our weaknesses mean that He tolerates our sins?
3. The term “throne of grace” reflects a fine balance between the reverent fear of God and being accepted by Him. Discuss the implications of this balance.
4. Do you use the Bible to shape your prayers? List some types of prayer and find some passages that you could use for each.
5. What can I do to remind myself to think about God and talk to Him more often throughout the day?
6. Have a look at www.24-7prayer.com for further resources

A church member is someone who serves: Study Guide

1. Read and meditate on 1 Peter 4:7-11, Luke 10:38-42, John 12:1-3 and John 12:9-11
2. Read John 13:12-17 Jesus’s act of service was the duty of a household servant. In fact, the word Jesus uses for “servant” is actually the Greek word for “slave.” What did Jesus communicate in breaking this societal norm?
3. What might be a modern-day equivalent to foot washing?
4. Who do you consider as “lesser” than yourself? How could you serve them?
5. Respond to this statement: “Am I usually more concerned about being served or finding ways to serve others?”

Prayer

1. First Monday evening of the month – elders “zoom” prayer time at 8pm
2. Wednesday “zoom” prayer time at 8pm – join through Church Announcements WhatsApp group
3. Each Thursday evening at 8pm individuals encouraged to pray for an hour.
4. Someone from the Prayer Ministry G Team available for prayer after online Sunday Service
5. Prayer txt ministry available – requests to Adrian (07546770060)

General Assembly 2020

This year’s General Assembly business will be conducted by a “socially distanced” 25 person “Standing Commission.” The formal election and installation of the new Moderator of the General Assembly will be held at 7.00pm on Monday 1st June 2020. This will be live-streamed from the Assembly Hall, and therefore available for everyone to watch by following the link that will be on the main PCI website www.presbyterianireland.org The link will be active from 6.45 pm on the night.

Wider World – no Summer edition this year as Church House staff are on furlough.

Online Resources

Useful websites for devotional, study material, teaching and outreach – www.drumbochurch.org and the Drumbo Church facebook page. PCI “Lets Pray” resource is available at www.presbyterianireland.org/prayer and other PCI resources at www.presbyterianireland.org Try www.clayton.tv where you will find excellent Biblical teaching and resources.

Kids & Family resources (full list on website & Church A’ments WhatsApp)

Talking to your children about the coronavirus

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/7-tips-when-talking-to-kids-about-coronavirus/>

Other children’s/family resources

The Good Book Company – first link: resources to buy and the second link: free resources <https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/kids-at-home/> <https://mailchi.mp/thegoodbook/look-its-your-first-ever-snapshot-846840?e=32a4c2c67e>

Faith in kids, variety of resources for parents and families <https://faithinkids.org/>

From the treasurer: figures for the month of April 2020

Number of Contributors to FWO	90
FWO envelopes So’s & loose offering	11386
Sunday School Offerings and gifts	0
United Appeal Envelopes & standing orders	40
Bowling Fellowship gift to heat & light	200
New Halls Fund envelopes & standing orders	2115
New Halls in memoriam Derrick Macauley	665
Graveyard Income	805
Sundry other receipts	261
Gift Aid	5189
TOTAL	20661

Fund Balances at end of month:-

New Halls	-82353
United Appeal (paid quarterly)	288
Other missions (inc. 10% harvest)	2304
Graveyard	16452
Property Maintenance	19169
General Account & other Small Balances	28775
Total	-15365

June, 2020

Dear friends,

At the time of writing it is now over nine weeks since we last met for corporate public worship. I long for the day when this will happen, but I suspect it's not going to be any time soon. Many of us have found this time to be very challenging – physically, emotionally and spiritually. The twins of loneliness and isolation have been a particular burden.

While it pains me as a pastor that we are giving up meeting together, doing what the writer of Hebrews (10:25) warns us against, I do believe it is a sacrifice worth making. The one certainty in the ever-shifting flux of Covid-19 is preventing the spread of the virus by social distancing and good personal hygiene through hand washing. The best course of action is absence and not presence. At some point in the future looking back the question will be asked, “what was the church’s response to the pandemic of 2020? We met through internet devices, prayed and washed our hands!”

Even though it doesn't sound heroic – it is the shape of a faithful response at the time. Think about it, just as the all-powerful Lord empties himself of power to become a child. Jesus as King does not conquer his enemies through violence, he converts and draws them to Himself through His perfect life offered on the Cross for our sins and rose on the third day demonstrating His power over life and death.

Therefore, the church's absence, its literal emptying, can function as a symbol of its trust in God's ability to meet us regardless of the location. The church remains the church whether gathered or scattered. It might also, indirectly, remind us of the gift of gathering that we too often take for granted. However, there is in every circumstance an opportunity. Paul Robinson (CEO Release International) writes, “amid this crisis, any crisis, shouldn't we be those who are recognised as being free from fear, free from fear of this virus, even free of the fear of death? Shouldn't we be the bearers of comfort, hope, compassion and practical service, always, but particularly during times of need and crisis? Shouldn't we be the bearers of the Good News of Jesus Christ, all the time, but particularly when people may be a little more predisposed to hear it and receive it?”

We rejoice that so many have been able to watch and join with us online (300+ each week) and wish to pay tribute to those that have made this possible either by taking part or facilitating its broadcast. While the internet has opened up new opportunities, we recognise there are those who are not online and we want to use this newsheet to keep you informed. Additionally, we are currently distributing copies of the sermons and daily devotionals to 60+ who may not have internet facilities. Please let me know if you would like to receive copies and I will happily organise – contact details listed below.

Our vision "Life worth living" is at the heart of what we are seeking to do at this time in history. We want to encourage members towards spiritual maturity through Bible study and prayer and set an example as leaders at this time of opportunity. I see an opportunity now when people have a bit of extra time to re-assess priorities to develop this side of our ministry. If we make personal growth through study and prayer a priority NOW it is my prayer that post – virus it will be so well “rooted” that it will continue to be our priority! A study guide has been prepared for each sermon in our “What is a church member?” series and is available on this newsheet or through the website or church announcements WhatsApp Group. Why not use them individually and get together via phone, WhatsApp or zoom with friends or meet up outdoors as permitted under current government guidance.

Likewise make prayer a priority through the opportunities and resources listed on this newsheet.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support and responding so generously enabling us to maintain our commitments and bring the message of Christ's transforming love. In closing, I wish to assure you of my love in Christ, and am available at any time to help you on this journey through the pandemic.

Yours in Christ,

Adrian

Drumbo Presbyterian Church Lisburn BT27 5TX

Adrian McLernon / Minister

028 90826586 / Manse

07546770060 / Mobile

adrianmclernon@gmail.com / Email

02890827068 / Church Office

drumbopcoffice@gmail.com / Email

www.drumbochurch.org / Church website

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105236)