



In the midst of the ongoing pandemic I wish to use this Newsletter to update you on the current position re: opening church buildings. On the reverse you will see we have agreed to form a working group to ensure compliance with the "Resumption of congregational activities checklist" with a view to making a decision on 30<sup>th</sup> July regarding a re-opening date. The relaxation of "social distancing" is constantly under review by the Stormont Executive and Kirk Session will respond accordingly and keep you fully informed. The latest information with regard to funerals and weddings is outlined below.

Please be assured of my continued love and support, Adrian

**"The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." Psalm 46:7**

**This Month @ DPC**

Sunday Services and daily devotions available on [www.drumbochurch.org](http://www.drumbochurch.org). Drumbo Church facebook page, and Church announcements WhatsApp  
Should you wish to receive paper copies please contact Adrian.

**Sunday Services**

Faith in the crisis!

Lessons from Habakkuk

5<sup>th</sup> July: It makes no sense! Trust God – Habakkuk Chapter 1

12<sup>th</sup> July: Know your enemy! – Genesis 3: David Hunter

19<sup>th</sup> July: God in the dock! Looking for answers – Habakkuk Chapter 1:12-2:4

26<sup>th</sup> July: Choices to be made! – Habakkuk Chapter 2

**Prayer**

1. Wednesday "zoom" prayer time at 8pm – join through Church Announcements WhatsApp group
2. Each Thursday evening at 8pm individuals encouraged to pray for an hour.
3. Prayer Ministry Team available for prayer after online Sunday Service

5<sup>th</sup> July: Helena Trimble 07851296928

12<sup>th</sup> July: Rosemary Adams 07960950903

19<sup>th</sup> July: Roy Irwin 07383115999

26<sup>th</sup> July: Ben Bovis 07780001736

4. Prayer txt ministry available – requests to Adrian 07546770060

**Sunday Picnics at the Manse!**

We are looking at ways of meeting up informally, as groups of up to 30 people can now meet outdoors. Judith and I are planning to open up the Manse garden on Sundays, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July for informal Sunday picnics. Hot dogs and ice cream sliders will be provided from 1 pm. Anything else: byo! As there is a limit on numbers (max. 30) please txt Adrian 07546770060 with number and the Sunday you wish to attend. Everyone will be most welcome.

**Bereavement**

It is with regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Nan Robinson on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June. We extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to Jim, Ken, Glynis and their families.

**Annual Leave**

Adrian will be on annual leave from Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July inclusive. Anyone requiring pastoral assistance should contact Rev Robert Love (Taughmonagh) 02890612061/07816508600 who is covering from 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July and Rev Jack Richardson 02892683674/07791282805 who is covering from 12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July.

**Holiday Bible Club**

Please note we are planning an online Holiday Bible Club from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August. **Further details to follow.**

**Revised guidance from Stormont Executive on the easing of restrictions published, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020**

**1 Funerals**

Funeral services can be conducted in a place of worship or in a funeral home. The size and circumstances of the venue will determine the maximum number that can attend the service safely whilst observing social distancing of at least two metres, wherever possible.

Whilst the number of mourners at a funeral service will be determined by the size of the venue following risk assessment, a maximum of only 30 are permitted to gather for the committal at the graveside.

**2 Weddings**

Restrictions have changed in relation to marriages taking place and from today they can:

- (1) take place indoors with six people in attendance (this includes the couple, two witnesses and the officiant) - the social distancing rules must be adhered to.
- (2) take place indoors in a place of worship if one of the parties is terminally ill with 30 people in attendance (this includes the couple, two witnesses and the officiant) - the social distancing rules must be adhered to
- (3) take place outdoors with 30 people in attendance (this includes the couple, two witnesses and the Officiant) - the social distancing rules must be adhered to

**From the treasurer: figures for the month of May 2020**

Number of Contributors to FWO	73
FWO envelopes So's & loose offering	7154
Sunday School Offerings and gifts	5
United Appeal Envelopes & standing orders	251
New Halls Fund envelopes & standing orders	1055
Graveyard Income	543
Sundry other receipts	312
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9320</b>

**Fund Balances at end of month:-**

New Halls	-81298
United Appeal (paid quarterly)	539
Other missions (inc. 10% harvest)	2304
Graveyard	16931
Property Maintenance	18579
General Account & other Small Balances	17502
<b>Total</b>	<b>-25443</b>
<b>Minus sign indicates negative balance</b>	

July 2020



# Drumbo Church

PRESBYTERIAN

## Re-opening of Church building

As previously announced the Stormont Executive gave 'the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June' as an indicative date when the restrictions of church gatherings would be lifted. This date was subsequently confirmed on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June. The Executive has taken the approach that the responsibility of government is to set down the basic health and safety principles which must be followed, and it will then be the responsibility of all Churches to apply these required health and safety principles to their individual practices in all of the different types of services and related meetings that will be resuming.

Significantly, these principles include –

- Maintaining 2m social distancing in services of worship but no cap on maximum numbers attending.
- Anyone displaying symptoms must not attend services or meetings and other general public health guidance should be followed by all members.
- Shorter services to reduce risk
- Limited singing
- Register of those attending to facilitate contact tracing recommended

Subsequently our Kirk Session met on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, evening to consider re-opening. While we miss gathered worship hugely and desire to meet again as a church family as soon as is practically possible, we are responsible for implementing the statutory health and safety principles and so will not be in a position to re-open until all necessary preparatory work is in place. In practice this means completing a 26 point "Resumption of congregational checklist," including all necessary physical preparations of buildings that are to be used, including cleaning, signage, closing off certain areas of seating etc.

**We have agreed to form a working group to ensure compliance with the "Resumption of congregational activities checklist" with a view to making a decision on 30<sup>th</sup> July regarding a re-opening date.**

We will continue with our online ministry and trust that the Lord will use it to encourage you in your journey of faith. We are looking at ways of meeting up informally, for example groups in gardens and Judith and I are planning to open up the Manse garden on Sundays 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July for informal Sunday picnics – see announcement overleaf.

Yours in Christ's service,

Adrian

Drumbo Presbyterian Church Lisburn BT27 5TX

**Adrian McLernon / Minister**  
028 90826586 / Manse  
07546770060 / Mobile  
[adrianmclernon@gmail.com](mailto:adrianmclernon@gmail.com) / Email

02890827068 / Church Office  
[drumbopcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:drumbopcoffice@gmail.com) / Email  
[www.drumbochurch.org](http://www.drumbochurch.org) / Church website

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105236)