



Attached to this Announcement Sheet are details of the arrangements in the re-opening of the Church buildings on Sunday 23rd August.

As we move forward in faith in the midst of the continuing pandemic pray this prayer by John Piper -
Remember the poor, O Lord, according to your mercy. Do not forget the cry of the afflicted. Grant recovery. Grant a cure. Deliver us—your poor, helpless creatures—from these sorrows, we pray. But do not waste our misery and grief, O Lord... Grant us capacities of outrage at our own belittling of your glory. Open the eyes of our hearts to see and savour the beauty of Christ. Incline our hearts to your word, your Son, and your way. Fill us with compassionate courage.

Sunday Services starting back in the Church from next Sunday
23rd August @ 11 am and live streamed online
(please see accompanying letter re: arrangements)

- Big Promises
 23rd August: "You really can move mountains!" Luke 11:22-24
 30th August: "You have a future assured!" Jeremiah 29:11
 6th September: Tearfund Service

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
 16th August: Helena Trimble 07851296928
 23rd August: Roy Irwin 07383115999
 30th August: Rosemary Adams 07960950903
 6th September: Ben Bovis 07780001736
 13th September: Sandra McCormick 07561829565
 20th September: Adrian McLernon 07546770060
4. Prayer txt ministry available – requests to Adrian 07546770060
5. PCI Lets Pray resource overleaf

Annual Leave

Adrian will be on annual leave from Wednesday 26th August to Thursday 3rd September inclusive. Anyone requiring pastoral assistance should contact Rev Paul Jamieson (Hillhall) 02892667908 or 07701037904

Online Holiday Bible Club

Truth Catchers Holiday Bible Club Week (17th-21st August)

Sorry we can't have you at the Church this year but we would encourage you to go online

<http://www.youtube.com/user/cefireland> and enjoy!

Further information at <http://www.cefireland.com/onlineclub>



From the treasurer: figures for the month of June 2020

Number of Contributors to FWO	75
FWO envelopes So's & loose offering	6573
Sunday School Offerings and gifts	0
United Appeal Envelopes & standing orders	360
New Halls Fund envelopes & standing orders	1360
Graveyard Income	675
Sundry other receipts	261
TOTAL	9229

Fund Balances at end of month:-

New Halls	-79938
United Appeal (paid quarterly)	899
Other missions (inc. 10% harvest)	2296
Graveyard	17561
Property Maintenance	18471
General Account & other Small Balances	21572
Total	-18959

Minus sign indicates negative balance

From the treasurer: figures for the month of July 2020

Number of Contributors to FWO	68
FWO envelopes So's & loose offering	5391
Sunday School Offerings and gifts	40
United Appeal Envelopes & standing orders	160
New Halls Fund envelopes & standing orders	2160
Graveyard Income	805
Sunday School Gifts	20
Orphans Society	20
Gift to BB and GB	40
Youth Outreach	20
Gift to Asia Link	60
Gift to Tear Fund	90
Gift Aid Second Quarter	6455
Sundry other receipts	261
TOTAL	15462

Fund Balances at end of month:-

New Halls	-76721
United Appeal (paid quarterly)	1205
Other missions (inc. 10% harvest)	2486
Graveyard	18346
Property Maintenance	17950
General Account & other Small Balances	31094
Total	-5640

Minus sign indicates negative balance

Sunday 16 August | The church family

- Give thanks for your church family, asking God that your life together might be deepened by the shared experience of his presence in lockdown and progress towards more regular life together.
- Pray for all those who make up your church family, young, old, families and singles, longstanding members and newcomers, asking God to bind you together in love and the service of his kingdom.

Monday 17 August | Staff teams

- Give thanks for the mutual encouragement of fellow workers and staff teams in these difficult days in working life, asking that God would strengthen relationships and team work.
- Pray for staff teams who are readjusting to the loss of colleagues due to financial cut backs and having to restructure working patterns, asking for God's wisdom, grace and strength.

Tuesday 18 August | The younger generation

- Pray for the younger generation who are likely to suffer most from the long-term damage to the economy and limitations of employment prospects, asking God to both provide and inspire creative responses.
- Pray for those who have graduated from higher education courses this summer, asking God to help them find work that deploys their gifts and learning purposefully and positively for the good of society.

Wednesday 19 August | Outreach workers

- Give thanks to God for PCI outreach workers serving in church and community, asking that God would use their gifts and bless their witness as society continues to respond to the pain of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Pray for evangelistic opportunities for outreach workers to share Christ in conversation, asking that God would bring his truth home to many hearts in these days.

Thursday 20 August | Schools

- Give thanks that circumstances allow school life to resume once again, asking God to help governors, principals, teachers and other key staff to enable education to restart steadily and safely as a new term commences.
- Pray for parents, grandparents, other carers, children and young people as all readjust to school restarting, asking God for patience, perseverance and steady progress towards normality.

Friday 21 August | Well being

- Give thanks that society as a whole has dealt with the challenges, stresses and strains of lockdown so well, asking God to continue to give resilience and endurance as some restrictions continue.
- Pray particularly for those who are physically or mentally stressed by the experience of living through the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown, asking God to bring his peace, calm and restoration to their souls.

Saturday 22 August | Union Theological College

- Give thanks for preparations for a new term's work at Union Theological College, asking God to bless staff and students as they get ready for another year's study and life together in the college community.
- Pray for students for the ministry returning to college or commencing study this year, asking God to help them know his presence in their work and preparing their hearts for future ministry.



Welcome Home

As a church family we are delighted to be re-opening the church building. Today, Sunday 16th August is our 22nd Sunday out of the church building and we are really looking forward to being back next Sunday, 23rd August @ 11 am.

Since 15th March we have been worshipping online. Church on a screen has been a different experience however it has been a joy to meet together, albeit electronically. Despite the limitations, we've been taught, fed, encouraged, and inspired during the pandemic. Thank you to those who have assisted in the services and those who enabled it to be online.

In resuming we want to assure you that your safety is paramount but also that there is a Biblical imperative for us to meet and we want to honour that. As the writer to the Hebrews notes:

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25).

Part of God's design for the church is to encourage one another. We'll lack encouragement if we're not there and so will other people. It doesn't just say "be encouraged" as if the encouragement was simply something for us to sit back and receive. We're to encourage one another. God has designed your physical presence to encourage other believers in their faith. If we choose to opt out, we miss encouragement and everyone else does too. That's how much you matter. There is a sacred purpose to being at church Sunday by Sunday: to make sure we find and receive ways of being encouraged, and to make sure we identify and take opportunities to encourage other people.

Having completed the Presbyterian Church in Ireland "Resumption of congregational activities check list" the practical arrangements for church services of worship starting next Sunday 23rd August are as follows:

1 Numbers: Based on single worshippers it is possible to accommodate a minimum of 81 people in the church building in order to comply with the 2m rule (45 in the ground floor and 36 in the gallery). This is based on single worshippers with numbers increasing as you factor in "family bubbles" of various sizes. In practice this means using 1 in 3 pews. Services will also be relayed to the Hall where it will be possible for families with younger children to meet in "family bubbles" with a maximum of 8 families in the main Hall and additional space in the café area and Meeting Room 2. Please note there will be no choir, creche or Sunday School initially but material will be available for children to use during the service.

2 Entering and Exiting: To ensure the safety of worshippers the following arrangements will be in place:

- a) On arrival worshippers line up at one of two marked lines outside, in front of steps.
- b) Stewards will take worshippers in turn through the vestibule where hand sanitiser will be applied and then directly to a pew.

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- c) Pews will be filled from the front of the church backwards, simultaneously on both sides. This will allow stewards to ensure compliance with the 2 m rule irrespective of the size of the family as we have no control of who is coming, at what time they will arrive at or the family size.
- d) Given site lines in the gallery we will fill from the back forward.
- e) At the end of the service please remain in your seat until requested by a steward to leave. Worshippers will exit from the back pews forward and one aisle at a time, departing through the door they came in i.e. the vestibule doors. This will be synchronised with the gallery and controlled by stewards.
- f) A video is available on the church website, facebook page and church announcements WhatsApp which illustrates what church will look like on your return.

3 Pew Bibles & Source Books: Pew Bibles and Source books have been placed in storage and we encourage worshippers to bring their own Bible

4 Offering: Offering plates will be placed on chairs in the vestibule to be used on the way out and not on the way in.

5 Toilets: Only the toilet in the vestibule will remain open and we would hope that its use would be kept to a minimum.

6 Service times will be shorter (approx. 45 mins) and singing will be led from the front with worshippers remaining seated. With regards to singing, PCI guidance is as follows: “the principles of ‘less rather than more’, ‘softer rather than louder’ and ‘listening to some and singing some’ are all useful guides, at least in the early days of return to Church.”

7 Face masks: all stewards will be wearing masks and to help protect others, Kirk Session encourage the wearing of face masks however, this is not mandatory at present.

8. Contact Tracing: several sheets of numbered paper will be placed on each pew to be used along with a pen or pencil so each household could fill in their name and contact number.

9. Be on time and be patient as it may take a little longer to get everyone seated.

10 While we wish to encourage people to attend anyone with COVID symptoms must not attend.

Please pray in anticipation of spiritual blessing as we meet again.

Yours in Christ,

Adrian McLernon

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