

**RE-START INFORMATION
FOR ORGANISATIONS**
(For more information please contact the
leader in charge or the church office)

Youth Fellowship (Kirsty Patton)

Meeting on Sunday evenings in May and June, starting at 7pm. For all in Years 8-14.

Tots and Toddlers (Fiona Boyle)

Meeting in Londonderry Park carpark each week on Tuesday mornings at **10am** until **15th June**, weather permitting, with some going for a gentle walk while others will go straight to the play park.

B.B. (Stephen Boyle)

During May and June Anchor Boys (P1-P4) and Junior Section (P5-P7) are on in the Adgey Hall on alternate weeks; a separate weekly programme of activities has been arranged for the Company Section (Years 8-14). There is a special night for Anchor Boys and JS at Air-tastic on **Tuesday 29th June** – contact Janet Johnston or Julie Wolff for details.

Midweek Bible Study & Prayer Time (Jeff)

Meeting on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7.30pm and 8pm respectively until **16th June**. Zoom meeting details are available on request to attend from home. The Bible Study is also available on Facebook.

Football & Fellowship (John Scott)

A pitch at Londonderry Park has been booked on **Wednesday 9th June** from **8-9pm**. All men (and ladies!) are welcome.

Men's Fellowship (John Black)

Met on Thursday 20th May and are looking forward to recommencing in September.

P.W. (Mandy Graham)

Met on Thursday 3rd June and are looking forward to recommencing in September.

DROP-OFF DAYS

For over a year, one day each month, the Welcome Area has been open for members to drop off church envelopes, donations to various missions and charities and also items for the Foodbank. In recent months, in addition to our own church funds, we have been able to financially support U.C.B., Mercy Ships, Bible Society NI, Scripture Union NI and Christian Aid. We have also donated many bags of food and toiletries to the Foodbanks in Newtownards and Bangor, Simon Community, Belfast Central Mission, and to North Down & Ards Women's Aid.

Your generosity is really appreciated and is continuing to make a difference in the lives of others. Over the summer, please come down from 10am-12noon or 7-8pm on the following days:

Thursday 24th June (PCI United Appeal)

Thursday 22nd July (Platform 67)

Thursday 26th August

Updates will be posted on the website and Facebook nearer the time with details of specific urgent food item requests and the mission organisation that we will be supporting in August.

ANNUAL LEAVE

Jeff will be on annual leave from Monday 19th July to Sunday 1st August and Monday 9th August to Sunday 22nd August. The office will be closed from Monday 2nd August to Friday 6th August.

Streat Presbyterian
CHURCH IN IRELAND
Let His Light Shine



JUNE 2021 UPDATE

If you have any specific requests for prayer, please contact our Minister, Jeff McWatters, on 07799552804. In addition, if there are any situations that arise for which you need practical support, please contact Jeff or our Clerk of Session, Fiona, on 07974180321, or your elder.

West Street, Newtownards BT23 4EN
Tel: 028 9181 6225 email: office@streat.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

There was such a buzz on Easter Sunday. It was the first time that we had gathered together in-person in church to worship since Christmas. People were talking over the top of pews, waving to one another; children were running about the carpark afterwards. It was so encouraging to see our church family and to hear the building come alive with sound.

I believe that Covid-19 has made us forget that we are people who thrive on relationships. The most important and essential relationship we need to have is with God, and for many people lockdown has created space to grow that relationship. However, I fear that we have pulled away from other people; we have lifted the drawbridges and turned ourselves into islands. In John 13 v 34 Jesus says “Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” The word we translate as love means to care for each other, and one way we do that is meeting together to worship. When we physically gather, we can sing, pray and read and study the Bible together. We can also talk face to face (facemasks don’t stop that) and support one another.

The writer of Hebrews puts it this way in chapter 10 verse 25 “And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

Whilst it is possible to join church services by Facebook and YouTube, and we are thankful for these mechanisms over these last 15 months and now on an ongoing basis, being part of a combined togetherness on a Sunday service is so important. We appreciate that members may, for whatever reason, prefer to worship from home – but for those who are back out in the community at work, at shops and socialising, can I encourage you to make Sunday worship the next item on your list.

So let me challenge you that if you haven’t yet ventured back into church to do so. From a safety point of view, we have plenty of hand sanitiser, a one-way system, facemasks and social distancing all in place to protect everyone. May I encourage you to see beyond Covid-19 and to look into your own life and the lives of others, to realise how we can support one another as we meet together and have fellowship, to realise how we can be the vessel that God uses to be a shining light in our community.

Jeff

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sunday morning in-person worship resumed on Easter Sunday, 4th April. Until social distancing restrictions are removed it is necessary to pre-register by Thursday at 1pm if you plan to attend on Sunday morning. The services are live-streamed and can be watched on our Facebook page, on YouTube or an audio CD can be requested from Jeff, your elder or the church office.

Other organisations will hopefully be able to restart in September. Although GBNI Headquarters have not yet given permission for the girls to re-start normal activities, there may be the possibility of some outdoor events in July or August. Sandra Gwynne will be in contact when details have been confirmed.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

Sunday 5th September at 11am

This Sunday will be a focus on a return to church and our various organisations. In the evening we will be meeting for a time of prayer, focused on the different activities and organisations that meet each week. We also plan to have a 12-hour virtual prayer event on **Saturday 4th September**; more details will follow.