



CHURCH ROAD, CARRYDUFF BT8 8DT
REGISTERED CHARITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND (NIC105292)

25th March 2020

Dear Carryduff Presbyterian Friends,

We are very aware that many of you may have concerns and fears at the difficult and uncertain times we find ourselves living through. The Coronavirus pandemic has turned our world and how we go about our everyday life upside down. Many of you will be self-isolating, dependent on family and friends getting shopping and medical items for you and facing many hours alone.

We are already missing the many things we have may have just taken for granted, including attending Sunday worship, the other activities connected with our church and the warm fellowship and friendship we find there.

Please note, all our Sunday services and activities have now all been suspended until further notice.

At times like these it is even more important than ever that we cling onto the promises we find in God's precious Word and to spend much time with Him in prayer. But as well encouraging each of us to depend on the love, grace and mercy that only comes from our great God and wonderful Saviour, we also want to assure you of our practical love and support. We are here to help as best we can.

If you are alone and especially if you don't have family and neighbours to get essentials for you, we would love to help. Maybe you would appreciate it if someone would give you a telephone call to check that you are okay or just to hear a friendly voice, we would be happy to organise that too. Do you need us to connect with you by phone, text or email to reassure you of God's love for you or to offer any other pastoral care and advice? We are here to serve you in Christ's name. At the end of this letter you will see the contact numbers for your minister, Rev. Smyth and your Clerk of Session, Ian Montgomery as your first points of contact. We want to reach out to you. We may not be able to go and visit you in your homes, at your hospital bedside or in your residential and care homes, but we are at the other end of a phone or email message. We still want to show you Christ's love.

We've already updated some of our existing communication channels – and added a few new ones too – to help you keep in touch with your friends at Carryduff Presbyterian:

- **CHURCH WEBSITE:** We have a dedicated section on our church website for updates during this period. See the **COVID-19 Updates** section at carryduffpresbyterian.org.uk/covid-19
- **CHURCH EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST:** We are regularly sharing updates with our members who have registered for email updates. This includes links to Sermons, Children's Addresses, Prayer Points, updates on latest information etc. If you would like to receive these emails, please contact the Congregational Secretary at secretary@carryduffpresbyterian.org.uk to register.
- **FACEBOOK PAGE:** Follow us on Facebook where we always post and share. You can find us at facebook.com/carryduffpc
- **YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** Search for the **"Carryduff Presbyterian"** channel on YouTube. We will post links to these YouTube videos in our email updates and our Facebook posts. We store Rev. Smyth's Sermons and Niomi's Children's Addresses here along with some light-hearted videos too.
- **YOUTH INSTAGRAM PAGE:** Our Youth are also in contact through their own Instagram Group - see [cpc_youth_2020](#) if you're in that age group and would like to receive updates through this mechanism.
- **WHATSAPP GROUP:** We have an informal WhatsApp group running. This group allows a method for members to encourage one another and share prayer points etc. If you are not already in this group and would like to be, please let Ian know and he can direct you to someone who can help. Also, if you are in this

group, but notifications on your handset are too frequent, let us know and we can talk you through muting those.

- **KIDS' WEEKLY BIBLE PACKS:** Niomi is sharing Bible packs that parents/guardians can use with their children at this time. If you would like to receive these, please contact Niomi directly.
- **SERMON NOTES:** If you don't have access to the internet and can't view the weekly Sermon videos that we plan to share online – but would like to receive written Sermon Notes – please contact either Rev. Smyth or Ian so we can have a copy of the notes posted to you.
- **WEEKLY PRAYER MEETINGS:** At time of writing, we are accessing a method to allow for **“Online Prayer Meetings”**. If you would like to join us in online prayer, most likely through the **Zoom Application**, please contact Rev. Smyth and he will put you in contact with somebody who can help.

We do appreciate that some of you may not have access to the above forms of “modern communication” and would prefer to contact us by telephone:

- **Rev. Alistair Smyth:**
 - **Telephone: 028 9081 2232.**
 - **Email – minister@carryduffpresbyterian.org.uk or a.smyth@hotmail.co.uk**
- **Mr. Ian Montgomery:**
 - **Telephone: 028 9070 2712 or Mobile: 07736199171**
 - **Email- clerk@carryduffpresbyterian.org.uk or bertandflo@hotmail.com**

Alistair or Ian will be able to deal with your enquiries and seek to give you the help you require or contact your elder or someone else in the congregation with regards to some practical assistance.

We would like to finish by leaving with you some words of comfort and reassurance from the Bible.

Matthew Ch. 6 vs 25-34(ESV) - Do Not Be Anxious

“ Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow or reap nor gather into barns, and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his life span? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For the Gentiles seek after these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteous, and all these things will be added to you.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Yours in Christ,

Alistair & Ian.

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