

Ballywillan Presbyterian Church

“To know Christ and lovingly to make him known”

Easter Sunday 12th April 2020

10.30am

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Praise *See what a morning*

Prayers of Adoration & Confession Stephen Williamson

“Three friends and a miracle man”

Bible Reading: Luke 24: 1-12 Hannah Stewart

Praise *Hallelujah, Jesus Christ is alive*

“He is not here, He is risen” Stephen Williamson

Praise *Jesus Christ is risen today*

Bible Reading: Luke 24: 13-35 Rebekah Stewart

“You are not alone” Stephen Williamson

Prayers of Intercession Chris Cunningham

Praise *Thine be the glory*

The Benediction



The Church Office is now closed but can still receive and respond to emails. If you wish to contact us by email we will do our best to answer your queries. (office@ballywillanpci.org) If you wish to leave a message on the telephone (70822612) we will also respond.

Bulletin/Order of Service

A copy of this bulletin sheet can be printed from the website. If you know of anyone who cannot access the internet and therefore cannot follow our Sunday Service - please print them out a copy so that they can keep in touch with notices and prayers etc.

Oasis Food Donations

The shopping trolley will now be in the outside porch of the Church **each Monday fortnight**. If you would like to donate please leave your items before 11.00am. The next pick up date is **Monday 13th April**. These donations are vital to the less well off in our community and Oasis wishes to thank Ballywillan for their ongoing support.

F.W.O.

Contributions can be made by bank transfer or standing order - details can be obtained on the church website or from the office. Alternatively, you can place your FWO envelope or an envelope (marked with FWO number or name) into the letterbox on the outside wall of the office.

Let's Do Church

A WhatsApp Group for members of the congregation has been set up to keep in touch during these difficult times. If you would like to join the group please contact Heather Williamson on 07713840060 (Ladies Group) or Isaac Thompson on 07802984242 (Men's Group)

Youth and Family Updates:

M.T.T. and Bible Class:

The Ballywillan Youth team have crash landed on the internet! Join us on Discord throughout the coming months, which will be our official meet up space online. On Sunday nights, this is where we will be hosting M.T.T. from 7:30pm-9:15pm. We would love members of Bible Class, who normally meet on a Sunday morning and other teenagers to join us. Over the course of the night, there will be time for fellowship, prayer and bible study.

To get involved, download a consent form from the Church website.

Boys Brigade:

Boys Brigade NI have launched a resource for the next few weeks called B.B at Home, which is available from their website. Each week, they will update it with new resources, which will have lots of fun activities, games and challenges to keep the boys entertained, whatever age they are.

JAM:

Each Sunday, after the church service finishes at about 11:15, we are planning to run JAM online. It will last about 15-20 minutes and include a song, memory verse, story and some activities to do at home. We had a very successful first JAM online session last Sunday morning with lots of people joining us. No matter what age you are, we hope that you'll invite your friends along and join with us again this Sunday.

Weekly Family Email:

Each week we want to send out an email which will have an encouragement, some resources that can help you at home during this time and some prayer topics. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be trying to build a list of emails for families in the church. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact the email above.

Midweek Devotional:

Every Wednesday, on the Ballywillan Youth Facebook and Instagram pages and also over email, we will be posting a midweek personal devotional. It will follow the SOAP bible study method and give you a chance to dig deeper into the passages.

Youth Club:

Youth Club leaders have been creating devotionals, which will be sent out each Saturday night to the parents of young people to let them know we are thinking about them.

For more information, please email ballywillanyafworker@outlook.com.

Points for Prayer

Please pray

- for Ben Johnston, Ron McCartney, Gillian Jinks, George Hall, Dennis Higgins, & Robin Henry.
- for those in residential and nursing homes including - Ida Donnelly, Jean Fillis, Margaret McKeague, May Twaddle, Pearlie Taggart, Kathleen Campbell, Pamela Douglas, Jean Steenson, Ruth Taylor, Eddie & Eileen Flannigan, Alan McCrum, Jean Francis, Margaret Dunlop.

Marking Easter Sunday

- *Pray that Christians all over the world this Easter Sunday would know the presence of the risen Christ in a very real and meaningful way as they celebrate his victory in strange, unusual and varied circumstances arising from the Coronavirus pandemic.*
- *Pray for those who cannot access a service of worship this Easter Sunday, asking God that they would find comfort and strength in the foundations of personal faith built up over previous years and through reading the Word and prayer.*

Those being treated for Coronavirus and those whose treatment has been postponed

- *Pray for those receiving treatment for Coronavirus as the anticipated peak in cases occurs, that they will know God's comfort, strength and healing touch. Particularly remember NHS and HSE staff who have contracted the virus and the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnston.*
- *Pray for those in need of regular therapy and treatments that must now be postponed, that God would help them stay patient and positive and that their conditions would not deteriorate.*

Business owners and the self employed

- *Pray for leaders and owners of businesses having to make difficult decisions that affect the lives of their employees, that God would give them wisdom and grace.*
- *Pray for the self-employed who have been hit particularly hard by loss of business and often have fewer reserves to fall back upon, that God would give them peace and supply their needs.*

PCI Global Mission Workers

- Pray for PCI's global mission workers that they will be able to model and adopt appropriate social distancing techniques that will increase protection for them and for those in the particular culture in which they are ministering.

- Pray for the Council for Global Mission staff that they will be given wisdom and energy to support and encourage every global mission worker in their variety of situations in this fast-moving pandemic.

Chaplaincy

- Pray for units of the UK Army's Covid Support Force who have been redeployed to the construction of several Nightingale Hospitals across the UK and for chaplains to these units, who may be deployed in support.

- Pray for Rev Graeme Stockdale, lead chaplain in Maghaberry Prison, as he seeks to respond to concerns and anxieties among staff and the prison population. The prison cannot close – so pray for wisdom for the Prison Service as they manage the challenges of the situation.

Media and Society

- Pray for those who determine and filter media content, that they would provide an effective balance of up-to-date information without unnecessarily increasing anxiety.

- Pray for society as a whole, that it might respond in a way that is measured and wise, rather than react to unfolding events with fear, panic or carelessness.

For weak and strong; older and younger

- Pray for those who are especially vulnerable in these days – the elderly, those with underlying health issues, the isolated, poor and homeless – that God would be their peace and provider.

- Pray for the young, active and strong who feel especially restricted by the lockdown, that God would give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading the virus and envision and inspire them with ways to serve and help others.



In this moment

A prayer for an extraordinary Easter

Lord of cross, grave and empty tomb,
I can't ever remember an Easter quite like this one.
Encircled with darkness and overshadowed by death.
Eerily quiet and filled with inactivity.
Expectant of your living presence,
but not in the usual recognisable rhythms and readings of worship.
And yet, when I stop to think of it,
how like that first Easter,
of cross, grave and empty tomb.
This extraordinary Easter:
in the enveloping gloom,
turn our gaze again to that first Good Friday,
to see Jesus, suffering and dying for this sinful and broken world;
in the jarring silence,
tune our ears to the silence of that first Easter Saturday,
to hear the Father's silent lament for his only begotten son;
in the unfamiliarity of days like none of us have ever experienced before,
tether our hearts to the hope of that first Easter Sunday morning,
to know the shining glory of the resurrection of Christ.
Lord of cross, grave and empty tomb,
thank you for the reminder of another Easter so much like this one,
and for how it resonates with reality in our situation today.
*See! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord is living, death has lost its sting:
Thine be the glory,
Risen, conqu'ring Son,
Endless is the victory,
Thou o'er death has won.*
Amen.