

LAMP notices



Sunday 22nd November
www.lecalemission.com

If you would like to receive a copy of these notices by email, contact info@downcathedral.org.
 Down Cathedral: 44614922
 Mon – Sat 11am – 4pm



LAMP Telephone Service

Each Sunday afternoon we will post a new recorded service, based on that morning's worship in Down Cathedral.

028 91 24 94 24

Online Worship in LAMP

Here's the link for the Cathedral Webcam:
www.churchservices.tv/downcathedral

Services on: Sun. at 11am
 Thursday at 10am . Weekdays at 5pm



*****CANCELLED*****

Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday

9.30am
 Down MP AD
 11am
 B' Culter HC GB/HH
 Killough SoW JB
 3.00pm
 Cathedral DV NI
 CAROLS
 6pm
 Seaford ADVENT PRAISE

*****CANCELLED*****

Sunday 6th December Advent 2

9.30am
 Down HC AD
 Saul HC HH
 Clie MP JB
 11am
 Cathedral MP HH
 Seaforde SoW AD
 Ballee MP GR
 R'Mullan HC JS
 Bright HC JB
 Ardglass HC GS

From the Rector

On Thursday evening, having shared with the LAMP Council our plans for Advent and Christmas and as we prepared to print these notices, we received the news that as part of the latest lockdown churches would be closed for two weeks from Friday 27th November.

We are very disappointed by this ruling whilst at the same time supportive that our Executive are acting to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. Thankfully we have the Cathedral webcam and we are allowed to broadcast services, as we had been doing, so for the next two weeks you will be able to join us for Sunday worship at 11.00 and during the week as well.

These restrictions come into force just as we are about to enter the season of Advent. This is the time when we prepare to celebrate Christmas and whilst all of us are looking forward to this season we know it will be significantly different from previous years.

May I encourage all of us to try to find some time and space in the midst of our pre-Christmas preparations (with these new restriction life might be a little less busy than normal) even for a few moments each day, to reflect on the real importance and meaning of this season. Perhaps try to read a short portion of scripture or psalm. If possible, why not consider joining us on Thursdays at 10.00 am or each weekday at 5.00 pm on line, using this as a discipline to help pause and pray.

If the restrictions are lifted in two weeks' time our intention would be to pick up and carry on with our plans. Sadly though we will not be able to hold many of our larger cross community carol services, but we do plan to hold special services in all our churches and a sheet with Carol Services and Christmas services will be circulated shortly. We will also have a special Children's Crib service in Killough on Saturday 12th December at 10.30 am for all children and family members. This service will be recorded and shared with the wider Diocese. We will also hold our Blue Christmas, a time of quiet reflection for all those who have been bereaved. It will be on Sunday 13th December at 5.00 in Down Parish Church.

May I remind everyone as we enter Advent of the special Advent Gift day we had planned and suggest that you either deliver your envelope to your parish treasurer or bring it to church on the first Sunday we are back.

My prayer is that despite all that is happening we will still be enriched in our faith as we prepare to celebrate Jesus coming among us.

Saturday 12th December . Killough . 10.30am

FAMILY CRIB SERVICE

THIS SERVICE WILL BE RECORDED FOR USE BY THE DIOCESE

Sunday 13th December

Advent 3

9.30am
 Down HC AD
 11am
 Cathedral HC HH
 Seaforde HC AD
 B' Culter MP GR
 Ballee MP JS
 R'Mullan MP RA
 Bright MP JB
 Dunsford HC GS
 5pm
 Down Blue Christmas

Sunday 20th December

Advent 4

11am
 Cathedral HC JB
 Seaforde FAMILY CAROLS
 B' Culter CAROLS HH
 Ballee CAROLS GR
 3pm
 Ardglass CAROLS GS
 Hollymount CAROLS GR
 4pm
 Saul CAROLS JB/HH
 Tyrella CAROLS AD
 6pm
 Down CAROLS AD

Offices

Evening Prayer at Saul: Mondays at 8pm
 Evening Prayer in the Cathedral: Daily at 5pm
 Eucharist in the Cathedral: Thursdays at 10am

CMH Healing Service

1st Fridays in the Cathedral

Friday 4th Dec
1pm . ONLINE

Friday 4th December . 6.45pm

HOLLYMOUNT CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON



Pastoral Visits

Due to the current restrictions clergy are still unable to visit in hospitals or nursing homes unless specifically arranged by the family of a patient but please let us know if any one is in hospital so we can hold them in our prayers. Likewise we cannot simply call at homes unannounced but we endeavour to visit by prior arrangement. if anyone would specifically like a visit please let us know.

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ADVENT GIFT DAY

The past year has been a challenging time financially for all churches. In LAMP we are encouraged by folks faithfully giving and showing practical support in each parish. Nevertheless some congregations have experienced a significant drop in income. This is true not only in LAMP but across our Diocese. Bishop David has encouraged us to hold a Gift Day in every church in Advent. Henry has written to parishioners to explain how this will work including our Bishop's suggestion that we consider giving not only to support our own needs but that we also send a portion of our giving to help those in need elsewhere in the world and to help the development of new congregations within our Diocese.

WHAT'S A CRIB SERVICE?

SAT 12TH DEC

10AM . KILLOUGH

A Crib Service is a way of retelling the Christmas Story informally, using a Church Nativity Scene. It shares many elements in Common with a Nativity Service, but instead of children dressing up as the Characters, the story is told using the Crib Scene. This year, we will be holding our first Crib Service and it will be our Family Christmas Service for LAMP. We will be recording the Service at the Bishop's request, and it will be shared online across the Diocese.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 13TH DEC . 5PM . DOWN PARISH

Blue Christmas is a Carol service which includes some traditional hymns and Bible readings but importantly the liturgy is shaped to give time and space to remember those whom we love but who are no longer with us. The aim being to create a safe place to come as we are before God. During the service there will be an opportunity to pray silently for oneself and to light a candle in memory of our loved one.

CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE

Regrettably we won't be able to hold our traditional Christmas Eve Carol service in the same format as previous years in that we have to reduce the time of the service and the numbers permitted to attend. So this year we will hold two Carol Services on Christmas Eve: one at 5.30 pm and one at 8.00pm. Each service will last 45 mins. We will be limited to 100 people per service and so anyone who wishes to attend will have to reserve a ticket in advance and seating will be allocated. There will be an opportunity for members of the Cathedral congregation and the LAMP churches to book their tickets through the Cathedral Office from Advent Sunday until 10th December, after which members of the wider community will also be able to reserve a ticket.

THANKS FROM MICHAEL AND JUNE

June and I wish to thank the congregations of Kilclief and Ballyculter, for their most generous Retirement gifts to us, during the Communion Service at Ballyculter on Sunday 1st November. It has been a great privilege to be given the responsibility of taking the services in both churches during my last 10 years of ministry and also supporting the Evergreens each month. To decide to retire, is not an easy decision, especially when you are surrounded by so many loving people. But, as it says in *Ecclesiasties 3. Verse 1. 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven'*. This is our time. We shall not be leaving this lovely area, but will continue to be in contact with our friends in the parishes, and also attending Sunday Worship in LAMP. Our grateful thanks go to the Dean and his wife Gerry for their kindness and support during my ministry in Lecale. Present times are very difficult for everybody, but if you remember this: *'Whatever comes to us in life, we must meet it with courage and faith, knowing that He is with us on the journey'*.

Best wishes, Rev. Michael and June Houston

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thanks to members of LAMP for their enthusiastic response to our Shoebox appeal this year. When times are difficult, it is encouraging to see the response of compassion and kindness from the people of LAMP. Over 40 boxes from the from LAMP were handed across, along with donations totally £800 – a huge response. Well done, and thank you!

Support Local

Amongst the difficulties caused by the effect of the Coronavirus on our society, many of our local small businesses are suffering. We are aware that hairdressers have been forced to close alongside many cafes and restaurants. I know many people do shop locally but a creative gesture to support the businesses would be to support those offering take away coffees and food - allowing ourselves a small indulgence, but spent locally to help people out. **At the same time if anyone is looking for Christmas Cards and gifts there is a small selection available in the Cathedral Shop.**

Fountain Foodbank

Some of the LAMP Churches supported foodbanks in Downpatrick (Fountain Foodbank) and Crossgar (Kilmore Foodbank) during this Harvest Season. The Fountain Foodbank (Downpatrick) has helped thousands of people since its creation. **Christmas can be a time of year when people depend upon foodbanks** – and this year, in the midst of a Global Pandemic, the pressures are greater than ever.. There is scarcely a more important time to support a Foodbank. You can leave donations of non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries into the Cathedral, which is open daily. However, if you bring anything to one of our services, the clergy will make sure it finds its way to the Fountain. You can also get in touch with the Fountain Foodbank directly: fountainfoodbank@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS STAMP APPEAL

Save your used stamps and Gerry Hull will send them to the RNIB. Please trim them with scissors leaving a 1cm border. Stamps can be left at the Cathedral in an envelope marked 'Gerry'

ADVENT BOOK

There are some copies of an Advent Book called 'The One True Light' with daily readings for the season. These are available (first come/served) from the Cathedral Office.