

First Omagh Presbyterian Church  
Minister's Letter

Easter 2021

Dear friends,

As we approach Easter Sunday we have so much for which to be thankful. The sustaining hand of God upon us individually and as a church community. The strength, and enabling power, of the Holy Spirit as we journey through this pandemic together. Our faith in Christ and the victory he has won over sin and death and his promise to be with us as we serve him in the church and in the world.

As we begin to emerge from this latest, and we trust and pray last, lockdown we are thankful for the opportunity to be able to gather together in church for Sunday Morning worship beginning, fittingly, with Easter Sunday Worship on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 11:30am. Numbers will be restricted as previously with 2m social distancing, a one way system, hand sanitation, contact trace sheets and face coverings worn at all times. However, it will be good to be able to gather together to worship our risen Saviour. We will also continue to provide a livestream of our Sunday morning service for those who do not yet feel ready to come out to church.

The Kirk Session and Committee are conscious that since the beginning of 2021 members have not been able to contribute their weekly offerings and so members of the Finance Team will be in the Church Hall on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April from 10am-12pm and on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April from 6:30-7:30pm to receive any donations. We recognise that this is a difficult time financially for many of you and appreciate your generosity towards the work of the church.

Sadly over the past year many of our organisations have been unable to meet in person but hopefully this will change as restrictions begin to ease and as more people are vaccinated. We are thankful for technology which enables us to meet online for worship, bible study and prayer and I am particularly grateful for the ministry that Emma Fleming has been carrying out online with our children and young people during her non-furloughed 12 hours per week. The post of Youth, Family and Outreach Worker was for a three year period with Emma starting with us in February 2018. We were able to extend her contract until the end of April to help facilitate online ministry during the latest lockdown but sadly her time with us will end on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. I am sure that you, along with myself, the Kirk Session and the Committee would like to thank Emma for her commitment and dedication to further Christ's work amongst our young people and hopefully we will have opportunity to thank her in person during our morning worship service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

God willing, we will be able to have Communion Services in church in May with surnames beginning A-H attending on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and those with surnames beginning I-Z attending on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May. During these services we also hope to receive new communicants into our church membership.

The signs of spring are beginning to emerge in the gardens and countryside and we trust and pray that this long, hard autumn and winter season of church life will soon draw to an end and we will be able to celebrate a bountiful spiritual harvest in God's good timing and purposes.

Every blessing to each of you and please enjoy a cuppa with the scones and shortbread (or an Easter Egg for the under 18s) provided from Coffee Stop funds and be encouraged as you read the "For Now" booklet which reminds us to remain confident in God in the midst of chaos and to continue to spur one another on to love and good deeds. Hebrews 10: 19-25.

Your minister and friend in the gospel,

Jane.