

Newtownbreda (St. John's) Presbyterian Church  
Announcements: 10th December, 2017

Welcome to everyone, especially any visitors with us this morning.

The loose collection in the offering plate today will go to the **Belfast City Mission**. If you wish to gift aid your contribution and do not have a plain envelope marked with your name and address, please speak to the Treasurer.

**Chronicle:** will elders please collect their bundles of Chronicles from the Halls Foyer for distribution to their districts.

3.00pm **Community Carol Service** in Cooke Centenary.



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*Monday* 7.45pm **PW** We will be having our Christmas evening which will begin  
*11th Dec* with the Cubs entertaining us and move on to some 'In House' fun and games!!! Please join us for a great seasonal evening.

*Tuesday* 6.15pm **Junior Badminton**. This is the last one before Christmas; we resume  
*12th Dec* on 9th January, 2018.

7.45pm **Stated Meeting of Kirk Session** in the Megaw Room. Please note the change of time due to the Wellington College Carol Service in the Church.

8.00pm **Asante** in the Megaw Room.

*Wednesday* **Lunch Club** meets for Christmas Lunch at 12.15pm. All welcome.  
*13th Dec*

7.00pm **Home Groups** meet for Christmas 'get together' in Hilary McCourt's home.

*Friday* 10.30am - 12.00 noon **Coffee & Chat**.  
*15th Dec*

4.00pm - 8.00pm **Carol Singing for Christian Aid at City Airport**  
Come and join us for an hour or two. - we have really enjoyed it in other years. Contact Jacynth if/when you can come on 028 9064 0002 or 079 6399 2571.

*Saturday* 2.00pm - 4.00pm **L'Arche Christmas Market**, in the Church Hall, (free  
*16th Dec* entrance). For further information please contact Susan Hughes, Community Life Co-ordinator, Tel: 028 9064 1088, [www.larchebelfast.org.uk](http://www.larchebelfast.org.uk)

**Music in St John's**  
***Jubilate! Sing Christmas***  
Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church  
Saturday, 16th December at 7.30pm  
Come along to hear and sing carols from across the centuries and enjoy seasonal refreshments  
Suggested donation £10 at the door  
For further information contact Jacynth Hamill  
028 9064 0002 or 079 6399 2571

## General

**Pastoral Care:** if you need to speak to a minister please contact:

Rev Anne Tolland on 028 9064 0178 or 077 4036 2390.

Alternatively, you may contact Rev William Haslett on 028 9180 0859 or 077 4298 7589.

**Reverse Advent Calendar** food donations. As we did last year, if you'd like to add an item a day during Advent to your box and bring it to our food trolley, please take a leaflet from the pews. Thank you. Jacynth and Billy.

## Advent reflections

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December      St Judes

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December      Ballynafeigh Methodist

### A note from our Music Director

After 16 wonderful years I have decided to take a sabbatical break as your music director.

Family and professional life have changed so much during this time. When I joined Newtownbreda Naoise was only 4 months old - he's nearly 17 now! Ruth and I lived close in Drumbo and - as I look back - my professional life was busy, but not frantic. Three more children later and a move further away from Belfast, I now hold a leadership role in work. Over the last two years this has been dominated by an increasing amount of time spent in England each month. 2018 will see this develop yet further. At the same time we find ourselves at a particularly busy period in family life, with multi-directional taxi-ing each night of the week!

While it's been a very difficult decision, I have concluded I am no longer able to sustain my position for a while. It's quite literally a question of not having enough time to carry out all the role entails - preparation, choral teaching and directing, and organ playing. However, I very much hope to be back with you all soon! Meanwhile, I am most grateful to Rev Anne, Bruce and Jacynth for facilitating the follow-through of my decision. I also want to say just how much I have appreciated your consistent support as a congregation over the years.