



THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's

Rather than producing a newsletter in booklet form we decided this week to create a shortened version directing you to various resources and our digital communications. **Please remember to look at our Facebook page @theunitedparish for regular updates.**

A few words from Revd Jonny

Folks, in recent days I have sent a letter out to those within our Church family who are the Government would consider vulnerable at present. In my letter I reassured them of my prayers in these uncertain times. When many people are panicking about what is going on with this pandemic, I want to remind all of you of the words of the Apostle Paul; (2 Timothy 1:7) *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

As your pastor, the last thing I would want for any of you is to let a virus damage your spiritual growth or distance any of us from God. This is an important time for all of us to walk closely with the Lord. Don't let panic keep you from praying. Don't let worry keep you from reading God's Word. Don't let the fear of a virus keep you from loving your neighbour.

Please feel free to stay in touch with me. I am available for chats on the phone, and I am happy to pray with you over the phone if that would give you comfort at this time. My phone number is **07808 479649**. Please do not think I am too busy with other matters to not take time for us to speak. My primary calling is to love God and to love those within his flock, whether they feel close to him or far away.

Sunday Services I I am

We can't formally meet for worship on a Sunday, but we have a great alternative. We will be offering a broadcast at 11.00am every Sunday until further notice. This will be led by a mixture of people within the parish. This is available through YouTube. If you type into your internet browser **YouTube**. Once this is loaded, search for **The United Parish Ballyclare**

Alternatively, just type into your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZJcZMMrijwukL6AV81Ww3w>

Weekday Services 8.30pm

On the same YouTube channel each evening (Monday – Friday) Revd Jonny will lead a short service of Late Evening Office from the Book of Common Prayer. If you would like to join with this, open your prayer book at page 162.

If you do not have a Prayer Book, you can access the liturgy from <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/prayer-worship/lectionary/daily-prayer> and select **A Late Evening Office** from the options.

For those that have phones, you can download the Daily Worship app from <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/prayer-worship/lectionary/daily-worship-app>

Together!

Some of our local churches and community representatives have come together to help those in need at this difficult time. Flyers have been delivered to all the households in Ballyclare & surrounding areas. Volunteers help with the following:

- Phone calls to make sure everything is ok
- Supply of some essential provisions
- Connecting with your local Foodbank
- Collection of prescriptions
- Picking up shopping.

If you are currently confined to your house and have no help, please consider using this service. We now have 200 volunteers who are the hands and the feet of the Gospel during these difficult days. The service is available Monday – Saturdays, 9am – 6pm. To contact the helpline please phone **07907 665885**.

For those that would like to contribute to the Newtownabbey Foodbank, we have a large container outside the halls in St John's. This is emptied daily.

Young Families, Youth & Children.

Parents and children please check out our FB page “[The united parish youth, children and families updates](#)”. This page is full of resources and links to resources – both educational and faith based.

Youth please follow our **Instagram page** [unitedparishyouth](#) here you will find links to a daily mini bible study, encouraging bible verses and information about other ways to get connected!

14+ teen bible study via Zoom. This normally takes place on a Sunday morning but will now happen on **Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm**. Please contact Dianne if you are 14+ and want to take part in that. Adult Consent will be required to take part in this.

YF will also ‘meet’ soon via zoom for a game’s session (not on a Sunday evening)! Dianne will be in contact with details on when they will happen and how to access the session. (Announcements of all things youth will also be on the Instagram page.)

Post Youth Alpha will also continue via Zoom – Dianne will be in touch with those involved.

Families - Dianne will continue to send out information to links and resources via WhatsApp and FB. Please text Dianne if you haven’t been receiving these.

Church family please do check out our **blog** – each day the youth are going to take turns to update us all and give insight into their lives in lockdown.... We will hear about their challenges, their funny moments, and encouragements. You can find it at unitedparishyouth.blogspot.com

Pastoral Care

Please remember that Revd Jonny and Dianne are available for pastoral phone calls. Unfortunately, during this period, we will not be able to visit any homes. The Pastoral Visiting team are also ensuring that all parishioners over 70 or those who are vulnerable will receive regular phone calls. If you would like to receive a pastoral call please contact Revd Jonny on 07808 479649 to arrange.