



THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's

Bulletin for Sunday 10th May 2020

Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May

Every year we try to support the work of Christian Aid especially during Christian Aid Week. Its different and more difficult this year but we can still support. Therefore we have two initiatives this year which we would love you to support.

Sunday 10th May Virtual Soup Lunch

How about you have a soup & sandwich lunch with your family. Then take a photograph together (and of course the soup), send these to us and we will make up a church family picture collage. Send to david@theunitedparish.org.uk

At the same time, you can also donate to the work of Christian Aid at the following link: <https://www.christianaid.ie/christian-aid-week/virtual-fundraising>

Tuesday 12th May Virtual Quiz Night

Everybody knows how competitive and intelligent we are at the United Parish!! Let us put it to the test this Tuesday night and register for the virtual table quiz. This needs to be done as soon as possible due to demand. We suggest that you either register as a family or as a team. The link to register is below-

<https://www.christianaid.ie/fundraising/quiz-aid>

The above are just a few ways we can help raise funds for Christian Aid.

“Our love protects. From storms, from drought, and now from coronavirus. Our love protects our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness. Our love protects. With soap, clean water and medical supplies.”

A Church that prays

The people of God must pray through these difficult times. Why not set aside 30 minutes each day, at the same time every day, to pray for those who are ill, all our key workers and for an end to this terrible virus. Also, our parish prayer time continues using zoom, where everyone is invited to join. If you would like to join it runs from 7.30-8.30 on Thursdays via <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86416067721>

Online Services

During these times when we are not able to lead Church Services, we want to provide as many opportunities for people to worship. We are provided two opportunities – Weekly Sunday morning worship at 11am, and nightly Late Evening Office services at 8.30pm. To access these, go to your internet browser and search for **YouTube**. Once YouTube is loaded, search for **The United Parish Ballyclare**. An alternative method is to simply go to the website www.theunitedparish.org.uk and click on the 'online worship' button on the front page. If you miss these, you can watch these at any time. We also are running a Kids Online Church – details are provided below in this News Sheet.

Sunday Phone-in Services

We are trying to reach out to everyone in the Parish & Community. For those folks that do not have internet, we have created a phone-in service. For the price of a standard rate call you can phone **028 93 270020** anytime and enjoy an abridged version of a previous Service. We update these on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings each week. Please bring this to the attention of folk who might benefit from it. Last Sunday was the launch date and we had over 20 phoning in.

1-hour Bible Study every Wednesday

During these times, we desire for people to become more connected with what God is saying. One way of doing this is to be part of our online weekly Bible Study. It is led by Revd Jonny, and each week we look at one of the Psalms. To join the study which is aimed at all levels please paste the following link into your web browser **<https://zoom.us/join>** or download the zoom app to your phone or tablet. You will need a meeting code which is **340-683-336**. Please join the group at 7.15pm to smooth out any technical glitches so we are ready to start at 7.30pm. Last week's notes can be found on the following link:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/6th-may-2020-bible-study-notes>

UCB Bible Notes

Last week our pastoral visiting team delivered or posted the quarterly bible reading notes to housebound folk & to those self-isolating. We have some additional copies. If you know of anyone who might benefit, please email:

david@theunitedparish.org.uk

Pastoral Care

Unfortunately, during this Covid-19 isolation period none of our pastoral visiting team can visit any homes but we are ensuring that those most vulnerable get a regular phone call. **Please remember that you do not have to wait until Revd Jonny phones you - contact him at any time on his mobile 07808 479649.**

Partner Links

Don't forget our partnership links during this crisis. It is worthwhile visiting the websites of CMSi, Release International, and SAMS. Many charities need our prayer and help at this time.

Prayer Line

Please remember our prayer line number is still in use. Please phone or text **07519 805789** if you need prayer or know someone who does.

Sadly, some of our Church family have died recently. Please pray for the families of the late Ken Bradbury, Daphne Gregg, & Bertie Grissam. Also keep in our thoughts and prayers Barklie Davidson whose mother Mary Davidson died last week. We also want to lift in prayer those families where relatives have suffered from Coronavirus, and we give thanks to God for those that are making good progress.

Pray for folk waiting delayed tests or operations, the anxious & depressed, the self-employed, unemployed, and furloughed employees that are facing an uncertain future.

Together!

Some of our local churches and community representatives have come together to help those in need at this difficult time. 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
- Weekly delivery of Government Food Parcels

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.

If you would like to volunteer in this rewarding outreach, please contact Revd Jonny on 07808 479649. Given the nature of the volunteer roles you must be available during the mornings and afternoons.

Parish Finances

Some of our parishioners have been asking us how they should continue to support the church financially through these difficult times. At this time our income is naturally less than normal, however the bills are still coming in. There are alternative ways to donate, and these are available on our new website under the section “giving” or just click the following link:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/giving-during-covid-19/>

Please remember that this is in no way to be seen as putting pressure on our Church Family at this precarious time. Please pray for our families who have been affected financially because of the Coronavirus. If anybody is facing financial difficulty, please speak to Revd Jonny in confidence.

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.
- Each week an email has also been going out to parents with some **Sunday School resources** – if you haven’t been receiving this email please contact Dianne dianne@theunitedparish.org.uk
- **Online kids church** –all parents/carers of Sunday school children and our other children’s organisations will receive an **email on Saturday** with a link to a non-listed YouTube video either via Dianne or your child’s group leader. (This is to ensure safeguarding) **PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS LINK ONTO ANYONE WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF OUR CHIDLRENS WORK**
- **CARE FOR THE FAMILY** is running an online **marriage course** to watch in the comfort of your home at a time that suits you. It is a four-part resource exploring how couples can build a lasting relationship. Whether you’re newlyweds or have been married for years, these sessions will help your marriage blossom during these uncertain times – and all you need is an hour a week.

The key themes that are covered in the four sessions are:

- **CHERISH** – the forgotten vow and how to keep your love alive
- **CONNECT** – understanding each other and the art of communication
- **COLLABORATE** – dealing with pressure points and handling conflict well
- **COMMIT** – love is a choice when the going gets tough

Just sign up before the 11th May and you will start receiving the videos every Monday for four weeks.

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/courses/marriage-courses-the-marriage-sessions>

Youth

- please follow our **Instagram page: [unitedparishyouth](#)** - Here you will find links to our mini bible study, videos, 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**. If you are 14+ and want to take part in this, please contact Dianne.
- **YF – We will be hosting another Zoom games evening on Friday 15th May at 730pm**
This is a fun evening of over 20 young people coming together to battle it out for prizes – from chocolate to dominoes delivered to your house or an amazon voucher.....Everyone who attends YF or is in Secondary school is invited to join us! We look forward to seeing you.

Parents, please contact Dianne if you would like a zoom meeting ID for your child to join. (Those who normally attend YF will receive a message by the Wednesday before)

(All Zoom meeting codes will be sent to parents to pass on to your youth – this is to ensure that we have adult consent for your teen to join the meeting).

- **CONNOR TAKES THE CASTLE**
Connor diocese is running a residential event on the **4th-6th September**. (We recognise that under the current circumstances this event may or may not take place – but they are allowing us to register now and pay on arrival) we would love to encourage our youth (secondary school aged children) to join us for this weekend!

VIP Access: The first young person from each parish will be entitled to VIP access. This will include a limited-edition branded t-shirt and VIP access across the weekend.

The cost of the weekend is £50 - The weekend will be in Castlewellaan Castle, with sessions, activities, great food, and lots of fun. Further details of the weekend are available on <https://connor.anglican.org/children->

[youth/youth/whats-coming-up/](#) If you have any questions, contact Christina Baillie on christinabaillie@connordiocese.org.

It's great to see people signing up to this - Please do sign up online at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchRmPVejiOIXYIOX7swOmFt0tnRF0f7gfv2-IJLaDX-cc39Q/viewform>

Families

Dianne will continue to send out information to links and resources via WhatsApp and the FB page. Please text Dianne if you have not been receiving these, 07840 667183

- **Church Family Quiz** - It was great to see so many people joining in with the quiz – congrats to the winners - Kirsty, Neil, and Madison Jess. A big thank you to Luke Hamilton, Andrew Brannigan, and David McIlhagger for leading the rounds.
- **Babybasics** is still supporting new mums via the northern Trust. We also have **Emergency Care Packs** for babies – if you are a parent who is self-isolating and can't get nappies/baby wipes please do message Dianne for a free pack or contact Together Ballyclare on 07907665885, to have a free pack delivered to you.

Church family please do check out our blog – Over this period our youth have been taking it in turns to write a blog - updating us all and giving 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