



THE UNITED PARISH  
Christ Church & St John's

# Bulletin for Sunday 25th October 2020

## Returning to in-Church Worship

Our church buildings have been adjusted to make coming back to worship as safe as possible, following all health & safety guidelines for coronavirus. We would love to see you back. One of the major differences will be the booking in for Services, numbers will be limited, and it is important to follow the instructions for attending worship on a Sunday. Bookings will open midday Mondays for the following Sunday services. Booking can be done via the website

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/reopening-our-church-buildings/> or phoning

**Revd Jonny on 07808 479649 or David on 07732 763827** from 12 noon on Monday. We would prefer that where possible you book via our website

## Sundays online

**Morning Worship** will still be available from 11am onwards through the YouTube Channel *The United Parish Ballyclare* or via [www.theunitedparish.org.uk](http://www.theunitedparish.org.uk)

## Midweek Evening Service

As our church buildings have reopened, we have made a change to Evening Services. It will now be only on a **Wednesday evening @ 8.30pm** being streamed on our YouTube Channel *The United Parish Ballyclare* or via [www.theunitedparish.org.uk](http://www.theunitedparish.org.uk)

## Our Services are recorded on the phone

For parishioners that do not have the internet we have a great alternative! We have the phone ministry line for the price of a standard call you can phone **02893 270020 anytime** and listen to a Service. These are updated on Sunday mornings & Wednesday evenings.

## 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

## Pastoral Visiting

Due to the new restrictions on being in homes, it will not be possible for the Pastoral Visiting team to come into homes. However, it is still possible to come to your doorstep for a chat, and to phone. **Staff will still carry out emergency home visits.** We regret these changes, but we must continue to adhere to the Government guidelines. Note also that Hospital visits are currently restricted but we can advise the Hospital Chaplains so they can provide pastoral care.

## Please Pray For....

**Sharon Reid & family, Myrtle Evans, Alyson Stanford, and Lorraine Cardwell.**

## Small groups and Bible studies

Details of our Groups are as follows, but more information can be found on our website –

**Due to Covid many of the Groups are now meeting via zoom. Please contact the host or David for more details as you will need a password to take part.**

Leigh & Clive Henderson Small Group Now using Zoom Meeting	Monday's St John's Church 7.30pm Meeting Code 836 1415 1201
Sophie & John's Small Group Now using Zoom Meeting	Tuesday's St John's Hall 7.30pm Meeting Code 860 5065 9931
Campbell-Smyth's & Reid's	Tuesdays Via Zoom 8.00pm
Mid-Week Bible Study	Wednesdays I I am Christ Church
Restored & Transformed Ladies' group Now using Zoom Meeting	Wednesday's St John's Hall 7.30pm Meeting Code 831 7612 9333
Marion McCallion's Ladies Group	Thursdays St John's Hall 9.30am
Going Deeper in God's Word Group	Friday Christ Church 10.30am (Meets monthly 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri, - Fri 6th Nov.)

Why not sign up to one by either contacting the host or register at:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/ministries/growing-disciples/small-groups/>

## Newtownabbey Food Bank

Every year we collect items for the foodbank to go into the Christmas Hampers. Because of Covid and the challenging economic environment the need will be greater this year. We have been tasked to collect Christmas Puddings (Regular & Small) along with Shortbread (Boxes or Packets). The items should be handed in on Sundays at Church up to the last Sunday in November, or call David to collect.

## Blythwood Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Every year we fill shoeboxes with various items that are sent overseas. This year during the month of October we will collect boxes in both Christ Church & St John's. **They can be brought on a Sunday morning or as an alternative Alwyn & Trish will be in St John's Hall on a Wednesday morning from 10.00-10.45am & Christ Church Hall from 11.00-11.30am. This will be the last week of collections.** Due to the Global Pandemic it is so important to try and help vulnerable people overseas. Last year we collected 87 boxes. It would be wonderful if we could match or exceed this figure. A checklist can be found on the following link and is also attached with this weeks' notice sheet:

<https://blythwood.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-SBA-checklist.pdf>

## Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

Christmas is just around the corner. No doubt exists that this Christmas is going to be extremely difficult for many families. Over the last number of years, we have collected gifts for the Salvation Army. These are distributed by the team in Larne to all surrounding areas. Could we ask you to help this year by bringing gifts to Church before Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December. This year they are especially looking gifts for 8-16-year-old children. For more information please contact Jeannie Lynd from Christ Church who is coordinating this year's appeal on 07762 781902.

## FWO Envelopes & Gift Aid

In the past we have collected FWO envelopes for those people who cannot come out of their homes. We must be extremely careful of fraud and impersonation. If you would like your envelope collected please contact Revd Jonny or David. **If you have recently moved to standing order method and no longer wish to have envelopes, please advise David.** We will shortly be submitting our gift aid claim. If you are a taxpayer simply complete a Gift Aid form, which we can send to you or which can be downloaded from website. **It will allow the Church to get an additional payment from Government/HMRC**

# Release International

## A RELEASE INTERNATIONAL EVENING WITH REVD HASSAN JOHN FROM NIGERIA

Christians continue to suffer violent attack and slaughter in northern Nigeria, at the hands of radical Islamists. Join the team from Release to hear inspiring stories of responding to persecution with the gospel of God's grace.

We are delighted to confirm that the **Rev Hassan John** will be joining us for a speaker tour in early November 2020. These events will be held as ticket-only online events via Zoom conferencing and will be livestreamed to our social media channels Facebook and YouTube for one day on **Thursday November 5th**. For more information on Release please contact our Parish representative Lisa Willett on 07456 648380

Click on the following link to register:

<https://releaseinternational.org/violent-christian-persecution-in-nigeria/>

## Revd Alan McCracken - Deacon Intern

Alan McCracken and his wife Karen are part of our Parish Family. Alan will serve over the coming year on a part time basis as a Deacon Intern whilst continuing with studies in the Theological Institute. Alan is commencing work on his dissertation. The dissertation considers the Anglican Communion's Fifth Mark of Mission to safeguard the integrity of creation. Alan investigates ways in which Church Communities are living out a model of Biblical Stewardship: in their practices and intentions. As part of Alan's Dissertation, we can help by taking part in a short survey. You can participate by going to the following link

: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UMN2SQ/>

## Weekly prayer meetings - Thursdays at 7.30pm

We are going to run Parish Prayer time both in **St John's as normal and by Zoom**. Please try and join us each **Thursday at 7.30pm either in St John's or online** as we pray for our parish, our community, and our world. If joining by Zoom - Please use the following Zoom Code 871 4294 6756 or click on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87142946756?pwd=azRLWDB0Zy8wKzJVemhCM3VHbnErQT09>

## **Mid-Week Bible Study**

Please note that from this Wednesday (28<sup>th</sup>) the group is meeting in Christ Church and not in St John's. This new venue will provide more car parking facilities.

## **Funerals**

Always a difficult time and sadly due to new government guidelines due to covid, numbers attending are limited to a maximum of 25.

## **Remembrance Day**

We are still planning to have our services as normal in both Christ Church & St John's following the normal format. The British Legion Service will also take place in the War Memorial Park adhering to social distancing regulations.

## **Audio Visual Training.**

We are having a training session in Christ Church this Monday night (26<sup>th</sup>) at 8.00pm. This is open to everyone who is interested or involved in leading church worship. For more information contact Revd Jonny or David.

## Youth & Family

Dianne will be on annual leave from **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November**. If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact your child's leader or contact the Church Office.

## The Pumpkin Project - Let your light shine.

Let's spread some joy this autumn alongside the message of hope. Families are invited to take part in our pumpkin carving competition. For more information go to:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/the-pumpkin-project/>

## Sunday School

We have begun meeting online **via zoom** with our Sunday school children across the United Parish. If you attend Christ Church Sunday school or JAM, or are in Primary school, we would love you to join us. We are currently meeting at **1015am on a Sunday morning**. For the zoom access codes, you should have received an email from Dianne via ChurchSuite. If you are not in our database or have opted to not receive emails, please contact Dianne for the codes. The access code is the same every week.

## Youth Fellowship

We hope to be meeting face to face soon but due to covid restrictions YF is meeting online fortnightly on Sunday evenings. We are meeting this Sunday (25<sup>th</sup>), 7pm- 8.30pm. For more information please contact Dianne by email or phone.

## Youth Bible Study Small Groups

These will take place on Wednesday evenings at 7pm for those in 4th Year plus. They will continue to be via zoom for the next few months with the occasional gathering for a hot chocolate and catch up in a local café. We do hope that you will join us for a 45 min study and catch up. If you would like to be in the 1st-3rd Year Bible study group, please contact Dianne for further details.

## Christmas Nativity

This year we are going to run a virtual nativity across the parish. Dianne will be in touch with Sunday School's & Youth about taking part.