



**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**WELCOME** to the United Parish. We hope that you feel at home in our church family. It is our prayer that you will know the love that God has for you today as we join together in praise, hearing God speak to us, sending us out equipped for the week ahead. If you are new, please pick up one of our Welcome Packs.

**Services in January will be online and via telephone service due to new government guidance.**

**THE UNITED PARISH**  
Christ Church & St John's

# For Your Attention

## Free Will Offering

Towards the end of this month/early February you will be receiving a statement showing your contributions to the Parish during 2020. This will be sent to you by email (if we have one for you) or by letter. Thank you all for the generous donations in what was an exceedingly difficult year for many. Should you notice any errors or omissions please contact David immediately on 07732763827.

Many parishioners have now switched to standing order- this has greatly helped us budget and assist with a regular cash flow. If you would like to move to this facility, please contact any of our recorders or David. **Gift aid plays an important role in our overall income so if you are a taxpayer and not already part of this scheme please contact Peter Watson in Christ Church for further information.**

## Mentoring Groups For Teenagers

Times are difficult, we would love to be able to support our teenagers better. One way we would like to do this is through small group mentoring. A group of 3 teens meeting together once a week or fortnight with a mentor to support and encourage them in their faith. There is a fantastic app that we plan to use called “Walk with me” that guides each small mentoring group through a session.

**We need to recruit and train mentors. Please do prayerfully consider this and if you feel God could be calling you to encourage and support our teens in this way please do contact Dianne via email: [dianne@theunitedparish.org.uk](mailto:dianne@theunitedparish.org.uk)**

If you are a teenager and would like to join/create a group, please chat to Dianne.

# Pastoring

**Remember our Prayer Line (phone or text)  
07519 805789 to request prayer.**

**Please pray for:**

**Myrtle Evans, Alyson Stanford, Margaret Scott's continued recovery, Lou & Bertie Cornett and their daughter Lorraine, Lesley & Margaret Parkinson, Cecil Millar, Billy Phillips, Achie Blair & Errol Agnew. Pray for family of Jim Hamilton who died on Thursday, pray for Eileen his wife. Please also pray for the Crothers family.**

## Pastoral Care

As we are now in another partial lockdown the importance of caring for others is particularly important. Isolation and loneliness are major problems for many at this time... we can all play our part by contacting others in the parish and community.

The pastoral visiting team whilst unable to visit at this time will be keeping in contact with parishioners via telephone. Both Revd Jonny and Dianne over the next number of weeks will be trying to contact many in our congregation. **If at any time you need to contact Revd Jonny, he can be reached on his mobile on 07808 479649.**

## Praying for our Parish

Nothing is more important than God's people praying and interceding. We would like everyone to make this a priority in 2021. Join us as we pray together each Thursday evening from 7.30pm. Zoom meeting ID **871 4294 6756**, Passcode **153792**

# Going deeper

## Small groups and Bible studies

Small groups are the heartbeat of community within our church family. We are not a community group that simply gathers. We are God's people that are called to go deeper into his Word so that we can reach a community with his love. Please make this a priority for a New Year. If you need help with joining a group, please contact Revd Jonny.

Due to Covid restrictions all the groups are now meeting via the internet using Zoom. You will also need a passcode to get into each meeting- the passcode when prompted is 153792 for all groups.

### **Mondays**

Leigh & Clive Henderson. 7.30pm.

Meeting Code 836 1415 1201

### **Tuesdays**

Sophie & John Wilson 7.30pm

Meeting Code 860 5065 9931

Campbell-Smyth's & Reid's 8pm fortnightly

Next meeting Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Meeting Code 820 3288 3412

### **Wednesdays**

Mid-Week Bible Study 11am

Meeting Code 876 2253 5799

Starting again this week- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Restored & Transformed Ladies' Group 7.30pm

Code 831 7612 9333.

### **Thursdays**

Marion McCallion 9.30am (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> week)

Meeting Code 861 8255 8551

### **Fridays**

Going Deeper in God's Word Group 10.30am 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in month

Next Meeting Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Meeting Code 865 5471 7563

# Shaping a new generation

## Youth fellowship online.

Due to the current restrictions, Youth fellowship will recommence bi-weekly online, beginning this Sunday evening. Please do join us if you are in secondary school. It's a varied programme with lots of fun, opportunity to explore faith and to pray together. Please contact Dianne via phone, text, or email (Not WhatsApp) for more information. (Dates for this term are **Jan:24<sup>th</sup>, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, Mar: 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>**)

## Youth Bible Study small groups.

We currently have 2 small groups: one for those in 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> yrs., and one for those in 4<sup>th</sup> yr.+. These groups will resume on a bi-weekly online programme beginning on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January. (Dates for this term are **Jan: 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, Feb: 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, Mar: 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>**). Please contact Dianne (Not WhatsApp) for info.

## Sunday School Online

Our Sunday School will resume online this Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> Jan) at 10:15am. The last Sunday of the month will now become an online Kids' Church with our young people leading our church family in worship. Dianne will be in contact with families and leaders about how to take part in these services.

## Confirmation/Youth Alpha

This year at **Pentecost (23<sup>rd</sup> May)** we have invited the Bishop to hold a Confirmation Service. Confirmation is a stage where a person publicly declares their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In preparation for this we will be running a Youth Alpha course starting in February. Joining Youth Alpha does not mean you have to go forward for Confirmation, so to find out more contact Dianne or Revd Jonny.

# **Reaching Out & Welcoming in**

## **Reaching out through evangelism**

Our Core Value ‘Reaching Out’ has seen us in this past year reaching out in very practical ways, through Together Ballyclare, and more recently the Love thy Neighbour Christmas programme. However, if all we are is a church that reaches out in practical ways but doesn’t reach people with the Gospel message, then we could be considered no different than a Community Organisation. In this coming year, Revd Jonny will be helping us explore how we are Messengers of the Gospel into our everyday lives and as Church into the neighbourhoods and streets. If you are interested in evangelising, then have a chat with Jonny as he begins to discern what God would have all of us in the year ahead. We have a Gospel to proclaim!

## **12 at 12- A call to pray for our Country.**

I am calling on all of us to pray for our country. At this time there is nothing more important that you could do. If you don’t know what to say in your prayers, just talk to God, tell him what is on your heart – he is listening. Please pray for these 12 things at noon every day.

Revd Jonny

- 1. The Health Minister, Robin Swann MLA.**
- 2. The Northern Ireland Executive and the decisions they make.**
- 3. The Education Minister, Peter Weir MLA.**
- 4. The 6 Health Trusts (5 trusts plus the Ambulance Service).**
- 5. Our doctors, nurses, surgeons, and all health staff.**
- 6. ICU staff who treat the most critically ill patients.**
- 7. Patients who are currently in hospital or at home ill with Coronavirus, and those awaiting treatment for other conditions.**
- 8. Care homes and staff looking after the elderly and weak.**
- 9. For children’s education and parents assisting in home schooling.**
- 10. Head Teachers, Teachers, and support staff.**
- 11. The effective roll-out of the vaccination programme.**
- 12. In a season of chaos, pray that God’s people – his Church, may embody the hope that comes only from Jesus, and that this may be a time of great revival as people turn back to God**

# **Partnering**

## **CMSI**

As you know we partner with Church Missionary Society Ireland. Within our Parish, Bert Rea from St John's is our CMSI representative and we are blessed that Roger Thompson who is a member of our Parish is also the CMSI Partnership Coordinator for Kenya, Nepal & Rwanda.

This morning Roger was teaching on Acts & Mission, but also giving us a few thoughts on how we can practically help the work of CMSI.

Last year Antony from Nairobi joined us for a few weeks. We would like to get more involved with Antony's project and hopefully in the not too distant future take a team out to Nairobi. If you would like to find out more about the work of CMSI, contact either Bert Rea, Roger Thompson, or Revd Jonny.

## **Newtownabbey Foodbank**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Foodbank over the last year. We have made a difference to so many in what has been a difficult year. We have just been advised that no collections will take place until after the present covid restrictions are lifted. The Foodbank is currently well stocked- we will let you know when collections start again.

# OUR VALUES

**Jesus** at the centre

Offering a **pastoral** heart

Going **deeper** with God

**Shaping** a new generation

**Reaching** out and welcoming in

**Partnering** in the Gospel

## CONTACT US

Minister: Jonny Campbell-Smyth  
[jonny@theunitedparish.org.uk](mailto:jonny@theunitedparish.org.uk)  
07808 479649

Families' Associate: Dianne Hamilton  
[dianne@theunitedparish.org.uk](mailto:dianne@theunitedparish.org.uk)  
07840 667183

Deacon Intern: Alan McCracken  
[alan@theunitedparish.org.uk](mailto:alan@theunitedparish.org.uk)

Administrator: David Brown  
[david@theunitedparish.org.uk](mailto:david@theunitedparish.org.uk)  
028 9335 4814/07732 763827

Prayer Line: **07519 805789**

