



Sunday 31st 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 and February will be online and via the telephone service due to new government guidance.

Don't forget our midweek Evening Services on Wednesdays.

THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's

For Your Attention

Free Will Offering

Over the following two weeks 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.

Monthly Family Feasts Saturday 30th January

On the **last Saturday of the month at 5.30pm**, we will be inviting the church family to join us as we cook a meal together. Each session will be led by a different family who will teach us their favourite recipe. **This is for everyone to join in with.** This Saturday we will be led on a culinary adventure by the Campbell-Smyths. Go out and buy your ingredients beforehand so you can join in. The recipe can be found on the website on the following link:

The Zoom details are 872 4925 2525 and passcode 153792

Register of Members

The list of registered members is open for one month from Monday 1st February. If you are 18 and over but have never registered, please visit the following link <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/resources/forms/> on our website to download forms and return to the Church office before 28th February. If you have previously registered but wish to amend your details, please contact David on 07732 763827. It is planned that our Annual Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 10th March 2021**. Depending on current Covid restrictions, this meeting will either take place via zoom, physically or both in one of our buildings, taking into consideration social distancing measures.

Pastoring

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

Please pray for:

The following members of our Church Family : Sandra Stewart, Myrtle Evans, Alyson Stanford, Margaret Scott's continued recovery, Lou & Bertie Cornett's daughter Lorraine, Lesley & Margaret Parkinson, Cecil Millar, Achie Blair, Errol Agnew, the Crothers family, Ann Irvine recovering at home, the Hamilton family after the death of Jim. Please also pray for Colin James who recently lost both parents to Covid. Finally pray for the family of Billy Phillips, particularly for his daughter Barbara and the wider family circle at this sad time.

Pastoral Care

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

Adult Baptism & Confirming your Faith

In May, subject to restrictions, we are hoping to invite Bishop George along to the Parish to lead a Service of Baptism & Confirmation. Confirmation is an opportunity to publicly declare a person's new found faith and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is an exciting time in the life of the Church when someone submits their lives to God. Maybe during this last year, you have been asking lots of questions about the Christian faith and wish to explore this more deeply. Whilst Dianne will be spending time with young people, Revd Jonny would love to help adults with this journey of faith, even if this does not result in a declaration at this time. If you would be interested in more information, please get in touch with Jonny as soon as possible.

Small groups and Bible studies

Due to Covid restrictions all the groups are now meeting via the internet using Zoom. To find out more about when our groups meet, have a look at our Small Groups page on our website

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

We now have a small groups resources page on our website. This is well worth a visit- great if you missed a meeting or wish to download material. The link can be found at: -

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/resources/small-group-resources/>

Virtual Book Shop!

Needing good quality reading material? Why not visit our virtual book store on our website which links directly into The GoodBook Company. Alternatively click on the link:

<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/bookstall/theunitedparish/>

Shaping a new generation

Weekly Ballyclare Boardgame Challenge

We have created a fun, interactive game for families to enjoy at their leisure. A series of 6 weekly challenges based on your favourite board games will be uploaded to our dedicated Facebook page (@ballyclareboardgamechallenge) and the church website each Wednesday at 5pm. The following link will take you to the website page <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/board-game-challenge-1/>.

All details can also be found on the Facebook page. Each week the winning family gets a Domino's Pizza Meal Deal.

XCITE – Kids Praise Party

At 10:15am each Thursday morning we will be holding 'Xcite' – our new weekly children's programme. A 15-minute programme giving primary school children a short break in the morning from home schooling to interact in a zoom session of high energy praise and a short thought. Dianne will email zoom codes to parents directly.

Confirmation/Youth Alpha

This year at **Pentecost (23rd 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

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**

Baby Basics Referrals

During these difficult times, some of you may be aware of families with babies who are struggling to make ends meet. Please get in touch with us so that our Baby Basics programme can help with much needed nappies, clothes etc

Partnering

CMS Ireland – Urban Development Programme

Our partnership with UDP in Nairobi Kenya continues to grow. Please pray for Antony Njoroge as he ministers to so many young people and families in these difficult times. We have recently received a thank you from CMS Ireland for our support to date. You can see this on our website at <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/thank-you-from-cms-ireland/> . For more details contact our Link Co-ordinator **Bert Rea** on **07393 695 043**

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.

Release International.

Release is the voice for persecuted Christians worldwide. Sadly, in what is meant to be a civilised world people are simply being tortured for believing in God. You can listen to a podcast about Persecution Trends in 2021 by clicking on the following link:

<https://bit.ly/3ot3iMg>

The current edition of Release magazine can be downloaded at:

<https://releaseinternational.org/resources/magazines/>

If you are interested in finding out more about Release please contact our **Release Representative, Lisa Willett** on **079456 589487**

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

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Administrator: David Brown
david@theunitedparish.org.uk
028 9335 4814/07732 763827 (Office Hrs 9am-
1.00pm Mon-Fri)

Prayer Line: **07519 805789**

