


Sunday 21st February 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 during February & March will be online and via the telephone service due to new government guidance.

Daily Online Devotions available throughout Lent

THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's

For Your Attention

Register of Church Members

The list of registered members will be **closing** at the end of 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**.

Lent

Please try and join us daily for a time of reflection with our own daily thought from the staff team or weekly from Bishop George.

Bishop George: Faith in Tough Times – Lent Talks

Starting this Wednesday 7.00pm-7.30pm Weekly on the Diocesan website and at <https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofConnor>

Revd Jonny & The Staff: An Ocean of Grace

Every morning at 9.00am via our Website & Facebook pages. Using the following links:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/lent-2021-devotions/>

<https://www.facebook.com/theunitedparish/>

Telephone Service will be available from 10am every day. Using the following local number: **028 93 270020**

Freewill Offering Envelopes

If you have envelopes that you would like to give in, please contact David, Revd Jonny, or Lawrence Stanford. **PLEASE DO NOT HAND YOUR ENVELOPES TO ANYONE YOU DO NOT KNOW.**

Pastoring

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

Please pray for:

The following members of our Church Family : Myrtle Evans, Margaret Scott's continued recovery, Lou & Bertie Cornett's daughter Lorraine, Lesley & Margaret Parkinson, Cecil Millar, Errol Agnew, Hilary Smylie, the Crothers family, Bob Campbell in hospital, Sandra Stewart & Ann Irvine recovering at home after hospitalisation, Margaret Scott. Please pray for our parishioners in Nursing Homes who do not receive visits at present.

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.**

Going deeper

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. The link can be found at: -

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

Virtual Book Shop!

Our virtual bookstore has been updated with a range of new materials classified into sections for Adults, Teenagers & Kids. Every order placed the Parish receives 6% which we then use for the purchase of study guides and books for the congregation. Why not pay a visit?

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

Lent Devotion

Join us as we journey to Easter through a collection of daily meditations & prayers from great writers across church history. We are sold out of the book however if you use the following link and apply the **discount code** of **ocean45** you will get it at a reduced price

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

Shaping a new generation

Monthly Family Feasts – 27th Feb

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. Join us this Saturday (27th), when we will be led on a culinary adventure by the mystery family. The ingredients list will be posted to the website during this week. **The Zoom details are 872 4925 2525 and passcode 153792**

Weekly Ballyclare Boardgame Challenge

Watch out this Wednesday for a new boardgame.

Family Packs

All families with children & from our youth organisations should have received one of the packs which has some resources and activities for using over Lent. Please contact the staff team if you haven't received a pack and would like one.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Together Ballyclare – Heating & Lighting Scheme

If you live in the greater Ballyclare area, and due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic you, or someone you know, is experiencing difficulty in covering the costs of heating & lighting, we may be able to provide assistance. This scheme will open from 1st March. Each case will be assessed based on circumstances. Phone 07713 928775 from 1st March.

12 at 12- A call to pray for our Country

Please remember to pray for our country in these times. Set a time every day that you will remember, for example 12pm, to ask God to reach into the many issues we face – our schools, our hospitals, unemployment, our politicians. Just talk to God, tell him what is on your heart – he is listening. You can find a helpful list of prayer points on our website at

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/12-at-12-a-call-to-pray/>

Partnering

Christians Against Poverty

Our partnership is now developing with CAP. CAP's mission is to release thousands of families from grinding poverty through debt counselling and community groups. We are working hard to develop programmes for our community. After Easter we plan to run a short CAP Kick Start programme aimed at helping people in our community who have been affected financially and mentally as a result of the Pandemic. If you would like to know more about CAP, please contact Frances Wilson who is our new CAP Life Skills Manager on 07834 544802

Newtownabbey Foodbank

We have recently received a thank you for our donations to the Foodbank. During the 9 months to December we have provided **1070.65kg's** of food, equating to **539 meals** for families struggling to feed their families. We are expecting that demand will rise due to high unemployment as we live through this difficult time. **When collections start again, we will let you know which products are required.**

The Wisdom House by Care for the Family

Life is hard enough without having to learn lessons the hard way. Rob Parsons was reminded of this when his grandchildren were born and realised he'd love the chance to share his life lessons with them.

You'll hear stories that will touch your heart and moments to laugh together – any minute of this evening could change your life forever. Click on the link below to watch during this coming week:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/events-online-2/the-wisdom-house-catchup>

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
07808 479649

Families' Associate: Dianne Hamilton
dianne@theunitedparish.org.uk
07840 667183

Deacon Intern: Alan McCracken
alan@theunitedparish.org.uk

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

Prayer Line: **07519 805789**

