



Sunday 28th 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

Kids Lead Church

Our Sunday Worship will be led by some of the youth and children as we continue to explore the theme of “Trusting God’s Word” through the story of Gideon. Do join us on The United Parish Ballyclare YouTube channel or our website at I Iam to watch it. For those using our telephone service, an alternative service will be provided.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting had been scheduled for 10th March. Due to current lockdown restrictions all parishes have received a communication on Friday from the Diocesan Office providing further guidance. We are now reviewing this and will advise should the intended date of the meeting change.

Collecting your 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 those you do not know.**

Holy Week

Please join us for our Holy Week Services which will run from Monday 29th to Friday 2nd April. These will be from 7.30pm each evening. Because of Covid the Services will be pre-recorded and will appear on our YouTube Channel & Website, plus our telephone line service.

We’re writing a book.

Have a look on page 6 for more details.

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, Sandra Stewart & Ann Irvine recovering at home after hospitalisation. Please pray for our parishioners in Nursing Homes who do not receive visits at present.

Sadly, one of our oldest parishioners died last week, Bob Campbell. Bob was over 100 and we will sadly miss this gentle godly man. Please pray for Jayne, Jack & Emma Henry and other son Tim Campbell.

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

Lent

Please try and join us daily for a time of daily reflection from the staff team. It is important to make the discipline of spending time with God every day. We are following the Tim Chester book **An Ocean of Grace**. The daily devotion will be available every morning from 9.00am via our website & Facebook pages. Using the following links:

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

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

We will also provide the devotion daily from 10am via our telephone service using the following local number: **028 93 270020**.

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/>

If you would like to obtain a copy of the Lent devotional 'An Ocean of Grace by Tim Chester' you can avail of a discount by using the discount code **ocean45**.

Shaping a new generation

Monthly Family Feasts – 27th February

This Saturday please join us as we cook a meal together. The culinary adventure will be led this week by the award winning McIlhagger Family who will be sharing the secret of their famous risotto. Full details of the recipe can be found on our website or by using the following link: -

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/family-feasts/>

The Zoom details are 872 4925 2525 and passcode 153792.

Weekly Ballyclare Boardgame Challenge

This week's game is the LOGO game. It's not too late to join in – you have until Wednesday at 12pm to submit your entries. Please do check out the Ballyclare Boardgame Challenge FB page for details on how to play and to submit answers. Alternatively click on the link below which takes you to our website page giving details:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/board-game-challenge-4/>

The winning family will get a Domino's Pizza Family Meal Deal.

CMSi LENT PROJECT (P7s - Yr10s)

Each year in Sunday school, 'Lighthouse' would have taken part in the CMS Ireland Lent project. This year with the pandemic Lighthouse has not been meeting and instead have been invited to join a junior bible study group.

But if you are in P7 –yr10 and would like to take part in the Lent project, and catch up with old friends and leaders - please do join us online for 45 mins, for 4 weeks, starting on the 7th March at 4pm. (The same time/Zoom codes as the junior bible study group) Please contact Dianne for zoom codes.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Stories through Lockdown

We have now reached one year since the initial lockdown to curb the pandemic. Through this past year in different ways we have all struggled – whether through bereavement, job loss, mental health, home schooling etc. However, through the struggles our God has been faithful and strong, an ever-present help in trouble. I therefore believe we have stories to tell, and I would like us to capture these formally through the writing of a book. I'd love for many of you to consider writing something of your story about how you have coped in this past year, but particularly what you believe God has been doing and what he has been saying to you. We will then gather all these and publish it, making it available for sale to friends, family, neighbours, and the community as a witness of God's faithfulness in tough times. If this is of interest to you, please let me know if you would be interested in writing a piece for the book. Revd Jonny

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. 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 because 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

Collections are starting again from **Monday 1st March**. Items can be left in the tub outside St John's Hall. The items that are presently needed are **tins of fruit, vegetables & tomatoes, long life milk, jars of sauce and size 6 nappies**.

Care For the Family- Primary Parenting

Lockdown has been difficult for us all especially parents with young kids. Any wisdom from others can be beneficial. From 1st-7th March you can register for this free catch up event on the following link: <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/shop/online-events/primary-parenting-catch-up-1-march-7-march>

Primary Parenting is a light-hearted event for mums and dads, Rob Parsons and Katharine Hill take you through the ebbs and flows of raising under twelves.

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**

