



Sunday 14th March 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 March will be online and via the telephone service due to government. Guidance.

Daily Online devotions available throughout Lent

THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's

For Your Attention

Holy Week & Easter Sunday.

Please join us for our Holy Week Services running from **29th March to 2nd April** at 7.30pm each evening. Each night will include a guest from our partner organisations. Due to COVID restrictions these will be available online or via our phone line service. Each evening will consider a person close to Jesus.

Mon	Judas	Speaker from CAP
Tues	The Jewish leaders & persecutors	Speaker from Release Intl
Wed	The Disciples	Speaker from CMSi
Thur	Mary	Speaker from Baby Basics
Friday	Jesus	Speaker – Revd Jonny

Easter Sunday Evening Drive-In Service.

We hope to gather with the Greater Ballyclare Churches for an Easter Celebration Drive-in Service on Easter Sunday 4th April @ 6.30pm in Ballyclare Leisure Centre Car Park. (This event is pending guidance to be issued from the NI Executive next week)

‘Patrick’ live from St Anne’s Belfast (Online)

The New Irish Choir & Orchestra are presenting an online concert from St Anne’s Cathedral on Saturday 13th March at 8pm a musical production called ‘Patrick’ narrating the story of the great Irish Saint with stories and music. This event is completely free. Members of the Parish will be involved in its production. Over 1000 tickets have already been sold. Tickets can be booked from:

<https://www.newirisharts.com/events/2021/3/1/patrick-music-and-stories-celebrating-irelands-patron-saint>

Mothering Sunday Worship- Please join us this morning for our family service. Available live at 11.00am on YouTube, website and on the phone line.

Pastoring

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

Please pray for:

The following members of our Church Family - David Foster, Hilary Smylie, Ed Barton, Lesley & Margaret Parkinson, Cecil Millar, Sandra Stewart & Ann Irvine recovering at home after hospitalisation, Myrtle Evans, Margaret Scott's continued recovery, Lou & Bertie Cornett's daughter Lorraine, Errol Agnew, The Crothers & The Bradley families.

On Friday morning we heard the sad news that Alex Powers died on Thursday of a Heart Attack. Our prayers and condolences go to his wife Marina.

Pray for those 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.**

Week of Prayer – 12th April 2021

As you all know we start every new term in the Parish with a week of prayer. At this stage we are unsure whether we can meet physically in Church or by zoom. We will communicate this asap. Starting **Monday 12th April @7.30pm lasting approximately an hour.**

Going deeper

Lent

Please try and join us daily for a time of daily reflection from the staff team. 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

Many of our Small Groups are finishing up for the Easter Break- please check with the host for the exact date or contact David. We have a Small Groups page along with resources material on our web site – well worth a visit and by using the following links-

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

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

Virtual Book Shop!

Our virtual bookstore has been updated with a new range 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/>

For young families we have a great Easter Book. This 15-door calendar works just like an advent calendar and means children can count down to Easter Sunday.

<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/the-garden-the-curtain-and-the-cross-easter-cale?bsid=167>

Shaping a new generation

Christ Church Easter Prayer Garden

Families have been working hard in producing some fabulous art depicting the Easter story that will become part of an Easter Prayer Garden on 29th March – 2nd April. We plan for the garden to be open daily to the public, but in order for this to be facilitated in these times we will need to have a booking system in place and therefore help is required each day to manage the space. **If you would be happy to volunteer for a 2-hour session or more, or for more information, please do contact Dianne or David.**

CMSi LENT PROJECT (P7s - Yr10s)

Each year in Sunday school, 'Lighthouse' would have taken part in the CMS Ireland Lent project. This year with COVID, 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 over the next few weeks on Sunday's @ 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

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

It is hard to comprehend the circumstances and situations that many in our community are living in. 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. Each case is assessed based on circumstances. Phone 07713 928775.

Baby Basics Update

After a recent review of our Baby Basics outreach, we are delighted that Frances Wilson who oversees CAP will also now co-ordinate Baby Basics in developing new partnerships with referral agencies. Hilary Scott (Mothers' Union) and Gillian Taylor will continue to be responsible for the day-to-day running of this important ministry. Frances can be contacted on 07834 544802.

Partnering

CAP KickStart - 19th April

We are further developing our partnership 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. We plan to run a 3-week CAP Kick Start programme aimed at helping people in our community who have been affected financially and mentally because of the Pandemic. Please share with people who would find this helpful, and contact Frances Wilson who is our new CAP Life Skills Manager on 07834 544802

Newtownabbey Foodbank

Collections have started again. 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.**

Supporting CMS Ireland

If God is moving you to show your personal support for Mission especially for the work of the Urban Development Programme and our dear brother Antony in Kenya, you can do by these methods: -

-Becoming a CMSI Star: this means committing to supporting CMSI through your prayers & active participation. You will get regular updates & invitations to events. Click on the link for info.

<https://cmsirelandforms.wufoo.com/forms/zlg4jwro0nwagpi/>

-Making a one-off or regular financial donation to UDP at <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/3903#!/DonationDetails>

-Becoming A CMSI Virtual Volunteer

<https://www.cmsireland.org/single-post/volunteer-virtually-with-cmsi>

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 is currently closed)

Prayer Line: **07519 805789**

