

Sunday 21st 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.

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 who interacted with Jesus in his journey to the cross.

Return to In-Church Services

The Good News! We are starting In-Church Worship again on **Easter Sunday**. In order to refresh ourselves with the rules and restrictions a guidance document and video can be found by clicking on the following link:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/reopening-our-church-buildings/>

The times will still be the same: **Christ Church 10.00am & St John's 11.30**. Because numbers are limited booking is essential - (Christ Church 26 & St John's 55). Bookings will open midday Mondays for the following Sunday services. Booking can be done via the website <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/reopening-our-church-buildings/> or phoning David on 07732763827 from 12 noon on Monday. We would prefer that where possible you book via our website. There will remain an online service for Easter Sunday, however from Sunday 11th April this will become a live stream service from St John's at 11.30am.

Easter Sunday Evening Drive-In Service.

Please join us as we worship with the rest of the Greater Ballyclare Churches for an Easter Celebration Drive-in Service on Easter Sunday 4th April @ 6.30pm in Ballyclare Leisure Centre Car Park. Book your place at <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/easter-celebration/>

Pastoring

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

Please pray for:

The following members of our Church Family - Hilary Smylie, Ed Barton, Lesley & Margaret Parkinson, Cecil Millar, Ann Irvine recovering at home after hospitalisation, Myrtle Evans, Lou & Bertie Cornett's daughter Lorraine, Errol Agnew, the Crothers & the Bradley families. Marina Powers & family on the recent death of Alex.

Pray for those in Nursing Homes who do not receive visits at present.

Pastoral Care

The pastoral visiting team are able to visit your door but not yet able to come into your homes. **If at any time you need to contact Revd Jonny on pastoral issues, 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 shortly finishing or have finished for the Easter Break - please check with the host for the exact date or contact David. We have a Small Groups page along with a resources section which is well worth a visit.

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

Shaping a new generation

Christ Church Easter Prayer Garden

Over the past 4 weeks families throughout the parish have been painting canvases that depict the Easter story. These will go on display as prayer stations for the Easter Prayer Garden during Holy week. **The space will be open from Monday to Friday**

12.30pm – 6.30pm during Holy Week. It is important that you book a time slot via our website using the following link:

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/qw6ugo9n>

Easter Story Trail

During Holy week (Monday-Saturday) we will be putting up an Easter Trail around Ballynure for families to explore the Easter story during a walk. The Trail will end at Christ Church where children can collect an egg. More details will be posted to our website and the notice sheet next week of starting points and how to participate.

Ballyclare Boardgame Challenge.

We have decided to re-run a few more Boardgame challenges over the Easter Period. This week we invite you to join in with Cluedo!

The winning family wins a Dominoes Meal Deal. Please check out the **Ballyclare Boardgame Challenge FB page** or use the link

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/board-game-challenge-6/>

Can You Help?

Our youth organisations are important and popular in our Church & wider community. Due to a few retirements we presently have an **urgent** need for BB Leaders in Anchor boys and Sunday School leaders for St John's. These roles are starting in September. If you are interested, please contact Revd Jonny or Dianne asap.

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. 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.

School Uniform Scheme

Many families within our community have found this past year really tough. We are restarting the School Uniform Scheme to both collect school uniforms and assist families who need school clothes. We are in need for High School or Secondary School uniforms. We are delighted that Arlene Gracey will oversee this important ministry. If you can help or need help, please leave your details on the Parish telephone line 028 9335 4814.

Partnering

“Christians Against Poverty – Kick Start

CAP Kick Start is a programme aimed at helping people in our community who have been affected financially and mentally because of the pandemic. It gives people the opportunity to have a conversation about the challenges they are facing and provides practical tips on how to deal with these issues. We will be running 3 online sessions on Monday evenings from 7.00 to 8.00, starting on 19th April. The sessions will cover **Anxiety and Worry, Lifting financial pressure and Handling loss**

Bookings can be made via the following link:

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/bbvwnzxy>

If you know of anyone who would find these sessions helpful, contact Frances Wilson, our new CAP Life Skills Manager on 07834 544802.

Newtownabbey Foodbank Co-ordinator

After many years of dedicated service as Foodbank Co-ordinator Torrens Boyd is stepping down. Thank you Torrens for all you have done reaching out and helping others. We now need someone to replace Torrens. If you would be interested, please contact Revd Jonny or David. The main purpose of the role is to take donations from our 2 churches to the Carnmoney Centre on a weekly basis.

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.

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**

