



Sunday 23rd May 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.

23rd May 2021

10.00am Christ Church Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's Morning Praise

30th May 2021

10.00am Christ Church Family Service

11.30am St John's Family Service

THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's

For Your Attention

We want to see you back in Church.

As restrictions ease, we are doing all that we can to make our buildings safe, so please consider returning – we have missed you. Book your place before 5pm on a Saturday at:

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

Due to increasing numbers at Sunday Worship at St John's, the hall is now operating as an overflow. The Service is streamed to a large screen and all COVID safety protocols are followed.

Family Service 30th May

We have recently missed our young people and families in Church. Next week our service will be a Family Service. Please don't forget to book "your bubble".

Parish Office – our opening hours have changed.

We're back! David will be in the Parish Office from this Monday 24th. Office hours will be different - Monday 11am-1.00pm, Wednesday & Friday 9.00am-1.00pm. Tuesday & Thursday David will be working from home but will be contactable on his mobile. You can't physically get into the office, but items can be left, and we have a barn door so you can chat at a safe distance.

Family Feasts – please join in this week.

This month's master chef Lorraine Cardwell will be leading us as we venture into the BBQ season and get creative with salads and dips. Do join us on Saturday 29th May at 5:30pm via zoom. **Meeting ID: 872 4925 2525, passcode: 153792** The recipe will appear online shortly.

Pastoring

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

Please pray for:

The following members of our Church Family - Margaret McDowell, Hilary Smylie, Margaret Parkinson, Ed Barton, Cecil Millar, Myrtle Evans, Lou & Bertie Cornett's daughter Lorraine and Vera McNeil's daughter, Sharon. Pray also for our young people with the many issues of Mental Health. Pray for Revd Alan & Karen as they embark on the curacy process. Give thanks for how our Compassion ministries are growing.

Weekly Gathering of Prayer for Ballynure

We desire to see spiritual transformation take place across our parish, so we are encouraging Christ Church members to gather every **Tuesday in Christ Church at 12 noon** to seek God's direction for the mission into Ballynure.

Phone Line Services

If you are unable to attend Church a shortened Morning service is available on the phone ministry line. For the price of a standard call you can phone 02893 270020 anytime and listen to the Service

Going deeper

Mid- Week Communion Service

We have a wonderful reflective service every Wednesday morning at 12 noon lasting approx. 45 minutes. Please join us if you can; no booking required, and we use individual communion cups. If you cannot attend, we are streaming the service via our Facebook page using the following link:

https://www.facebook.com/theunitedparish/live_videos

A copy of the reflection will also appear on our website.

How are you going deeper?

The COVID pandemic has shook many people, but now as restrictions begin to ease, many people are wondering whether they made the most use of the time we had indoors. We talk a lot today about mental health, but what about your spiritual health? We'd like to recommend a few resources and events worth scheduling into your diary. If you would like more one-to-one support, please contact Revd Jonny.

Xplorations Ministries – Established by Desi Maxwell, this online resource of videos is a bible teaching ministry modelled on the risen Lord's instruction of his disciples on the Emmaus Road

<http://www.xplorations.org/>

New Wine Summer Conference 2021 – New Wine is a movement of churches across Ireland working together to change our land through the power of God's Holy Spirit. The Conference this year is online. Find out more at <https://www.newwineireland.org/summer21/>

Shaping a new generation

Mental Health workshops for youth & parents.

During YF on Sunday 6th June (Junior YF) and Sunday 13th June (Senior YF) Christina Baillie will join us. She will be leading mental health workshops for teens using the recent Shaken material created by Christina and The Big House. You don't have to be a member of the YF to come along so please sign up via the link below)

On Sunday 13th June at 6.30 – 7.45pm in St Johns Church we will have Tom Tate from “Why Mind?” leading a parent's workshop in Mental Health First Aid. **Please sign up via the youth and children's page on our website.**

Signing up for all youth & children's events

We now have a dedicated youth and children's calendar on our website which will allow you to see and sign up to activities and events. Regular programmes will be added each Tuesday. **Please do sign up your child weekly for YF and Sunday school as spaces are limited at present due to current restrictions.**

The following link takes you directly to the page:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/ministries/youthchildren/>

Online Sunday School comes to an end.

We have now come to an end of our online Sunday school as we have now created a “family friendly” overflow in St Johns church hall which will relay the Sunday service on a large screen. We look forward to welcoming families back to church. Children will be given creative packs to keep them engaged throughout the service.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

MacMillan Coffee Morning/Afternoon!

Anyone fancy a cuppa? Then please keep an hour free on **Saturday 5th June 2021** and pop over to Macmillan Coffee Morning/Afternoon (socially distanced) happening at 42 Carrickfergus Road Ballynure to support **Lisa Holmes and Yvonne Wells** who are completing the Causeway Mighty Hike later in June to raise much needed funds for **Macmillan Cancer Support**.

School Uniforms – no more donations

We would like to thank everyone for the generous donations of Uniforms. Could we possibly ask that we don't get any more uniforms until mid-June. We are anticipating being busy during July & August.

CAP Life Skills – September 2021

More and more people in our community are struggling to make ends meet and to deal with everyday life. We will be running a weekly Christians Against Poverty Life Skills course, commencing 9th September. This is a relaxed and friendly course where members can gain practical skills and discover new ways to live for a brighter future. Each session will start with a chat over a cup of tea or coffee. Different topics will be covered each week, such as learning practical money saving techniques, cooking on a budget, living healthily on less, making money go further as well as sessions on building healthy relationships.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining us or would like more information, sign up at our events page

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/events-calendar/> or contact Frances Wilson, our CAP Life Skills Manager, on 07834 544802.

Partnering

Baby Basics – thank you.

Recently we have been so blessed by the number of donations received from parishioners, the Giving Shed and the Hygiene Bank, Ballymena. These donations make such a difference to families who are struggling, and we want to say a huge thank you. The only items we currently need are **moses baskets, baby baths, baby towels and top cot sheets**. Our team can receive items on Tuesday mornings at Christ Church Halls or contact Frances on 07834 544802.

Release International

Please join our local Release International team on the **first Wednesday** of every month 12.30 - 1.30 to pray (via Zoom). This is an opportunity to join with other believers to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world. Contact Lisa (leecerobinson@hotmail.com) for Zoom details or to find out more about Release.

Next Sunday (30th) – “All out for God online event” (Facebook live and YouTube). You will be able to hear from some special friends of Release who know first-hand the power of prayer during persecution. Click on the link: <https://releaseinternational.org/all-out-for-god/>

You can get regular updates about the work of Release by signing up on website or visiting their Facebook page. We will have copies of Voice magazine in both churches over the coming weeks.

Our new Food Bank Co-ordinator

We welcome **Sandra Vaughan** from St John's who is stepping into the co-ordinator role. Please pray for Sandra as she continues this outreach. The items currently required are **Pasta Sauce, Canned Fish, Tea, Tinned Custard & Rice**. Leave items in tub at St John's Halls/the inside foyer of St John's Church, or bring to Christ Church on a Sunday.

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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Prayer Line: **07519 805789**

