

# News for August 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.

This bumper edition of the News Sheet is packed with information on all that's going on over August and things to look forward to in the Autumn. We hope you have the opportunity to rest and recharge your batteries but do remember to use this as a time to recharge spiritually.

# Worship in August

## Church Services During August

Booking is still required either via our website [www.theunitedparish.org.uk](http://www.theunitedparish.org.uk), via our dedicated app 'mychurchsuite' or by phoning David. If you can't make it, our worship gatherings are live streamed from St John's via our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/theunitedparishballyclare](http://www.youtube.com/theunitedparishballyclare).

## Mid-Week Communion Services in St John's

During August we will continue to meet every Wednesday at 12 noon for a short Communion Service in St John's with the exception on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August**. For one week we will meet in Christ Church at 12 noon as St John's is being used to facilitate preparation for the Holiday Bible Club. If you need a lift to Christ Church on the **18<sup>th</sup>**, please contact David. This is a great opportunity to take time away for 30 minutes from the busyness of life.

## Pirates Picnic Sunday Celebration Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Please join us for a rather different celebration in the Rectory Field at 11.30am. This will conclude our Holiday Bible Club and afterwards please stay as we gather for a BBQ, Bouncy Castle & Games. (Please note this service replaces our normal 10.00am & 11.30am Services).

# For Your Attention

## Music Ministry Lead for St John's

For many years we were blessed to have Olwen Purdue co-ordinate the singers and musicians in St John's in our weekly worship to God. Before COVID, Olwen stepped down from her role, and since then the position has remained vacant. We are now beginning the process of recruiting for a new Music Ministry Lead. Please pray that God would direct the right person to join our team. More details are available from <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/we-are-hiring/>

## Ballynure Churches Prayer Walks

If you have a heart to see God move in Ballynure, then please join us with the other churches over the Summer on alternate Wednesdays to pray for the village. The walks during August will be on **11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>** commencing at **6.45pm in Christ Church** as we pray for our church, before making our way over to Ballynure Presbyterian carpark to join the other churches at 7pm

## Revd Alan & Karen McCracken

As Alan & Karen soon finish their time with us in the United Parish, please pray for them both as Alan takes up his new role as Bishop's curate in Moville Group of Parishes.

## MyChurchsuite

This is our website & app that lets you view and edit your personal details, sign-up for events, join a small group, check rotas for teams you serve on, review giving and see all your emails from the United Parish all in one place. If you have children or youth attending our ministries, you can check and update their details and keep in touch with the activities that are relevant to them. If you aren't using Mychurchsuite yet, please contact David in the office, and we will get you started.

# Pastoring

## Pastoral visiting

Summer is a great opportunity to spend time with people when things are less busy. Revd Jonny is keen to see as many people as possible, so if you would like a visit either from him or the pastoral visiting team, please let David know and we can make arrangements.

## Please pray for

Margaret McDowell, Nessie Armstrong, Hilary Smylie, Cecil Millar, Myrtle Evans, Lou & Bertie Cornett's daughter Lorraine, Sharon McNeil, Kate Winton, Margaret Scott, Wesley Lamont in Hospital, the Arthur Family and for Robert Mitchell after recent knee surgery. Pray for our young people receiving important exam results and preparing for university.

## Grief Share- Starting Week Commencing 27<sup>th</sup> Sept

In the Autumn, the Greater Ballyclare Churches will be hosting a course to support anyone within the community who has lost a loved one. If you know of people who would find this useful, please get in touch with Revd Jonny for more details.



## Going deeper

We'd love if this Summer everyone can find ways of recharging their spiritual batteries, either through online conferences or reading some great books.

### **New Horizon 2021**

The Big Blue Tent is out of action this year and instead New Horizon is moving online from **9th-13th August**. The theme this year is 'People of Peace-Seeking it, Making it, Knowing it'. For more information go to <https://newhorizon.org.uk/news-may-2021>

### **Reading Material - look no further!**

Our online bookshelf in conjunction with the Good Book Company has great books worth ordering this summer. Have a look at

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

Here is one you might like-

#### **Love Your Church by Tony Merida**

This timely and engaging book by Tony Merida explores what church is, why being part of it is exciting, and why it's worthy of our love and commitment. He sets out eight privileges and responsibilities of a church member: to belong to welcome, to gather, to care, to serve, to honour, to witness and to send.

### **Small Groups**

Why not consider being part of a Small Group this Autumn. Details on all our Groups can be found on the following link:

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

**A meeting of Small Group Leaders will be held in St John's Church on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August @ 1.30pm to discuss study resources for the new term.**

# Protocols whilst in Church

The following communication was recently received from the Archbishop's Office regarding the Executive's latest guidance on public worship. Please read this carefully. Revd Jonny

Much has been reported in the press in the last twenty-four hours about the decision by the Northern Ireland Executive to remove the mandatory requirement for face coverings to be worn during religious services in places of worship. Please be aware that although the former regulations are now being moved to guidance only, face coverings will still be legally required when entering and exiting the building. It is also strongly advised that they are worn whilst singing or moving around inside the church premises. This new guidance only applies to acts of worship.

The clear guidance from the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Advisor remains that face coverings should continue to be worn, therefore parishioners are strongly encouraged to continue wearing face coverings, for the time being, when attending church services as the benefits, particularly in the regard to the welfare of others, outweigh the risks.

Congregational singing also considerably increases the risk of the spread of the virus so wearing a face-covering is a necessary mitigation against that risk. By wearing a face covering we are showing our support and consideration for other members of the congregation, particularly the more vulnerable and those with underlying health concerns. Individually and collectively, we are also then continuing to play our part in preventing transmission of the virus. Guidance remains that social distancing of 2 metres is recommended within church services. The closer we are in proximity to others, then the higher the risk. The risk of transmission is therefore higher at one metre compared to two metres. The highest risk environments for the spread of the virus are indoor, crowded, poorly ventilated spaces where people are near others for a period of time.

Please continue to ensure that all necessary mitigations and safety measures are in place and that risk assessments are regularly updated.

# Shaping a new generation

All Youth & Children's events can be booked via:

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

## Family Holiday Club & Pirates Picnic



**A PIRATE'S PICNIC**

The United Parish invites families to join us for a 4 day family adventure to Skull Island.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August  
11am - 2pm @ Christ Church, Ballynure.

An OPEN AIR Holiday Club style presentation for **ALL** the family!

- WALK THE PLANK!
- 4 day Pirate drama presentation
- Singing, Dancing, Games, Crafts
- Sunday "Fun day" (BBQ & Inflatables)

**BRING A PICNIC!**  
only £5 per child  
Adults are FREE

Limited Space  
Register Now!

For more information and to register please go to:  
<https://theunitedparish.org.uk>

THE UNITED PARISH  
Antim and Newberry Primary School  
ea Education Authority

Families are invited to join us at the Rectory Field, Christ Church for an open-air Family Event. All children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration. For full information, details, booking etc, please visit our website or just click on the link:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/a-pirates-picnic/>

Can you help with stewarding during the event **please contact Dianne.**

If you are a young person (Secondary School plus) and would be interested in getting involved; we are running a 3-day project in preparation of the event, from 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August. Come and take part in drama workshops, set building, youth worship band as well as activities such as paint ball and foot golf. **Again, contact Dianne or sign up through the children's and youth page on website.**

# Autumn 2021

## Week of Prayer

At the beginning of every term, we come before God in prayer to humble ourselves before him and seek him in all we do. As the schools are starting back earlier, we plan to meet from **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August** each evening in the churches. Make a note in your diary. This is an important week which everyone should try to attend.

## Alpha is back!

Starting on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and every week in Pots Coffee Shop. Alpha is a great way of bringing along friends and family to a relaxed environment where we explore the Christian faith. Alpha is suited to people who do not have a Christian faith. Each evening looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Who can you invite? For more details and to book a slot see our Alpha page at

[www.theunitedparish.org.uk/ministries/growing-disciples/alpha](http://www.theunitedparish.org.uk/ministries/growing-disciples/alpha)

**If you would like to be part of the leadership team please contact Revd Jonny.**



## Join the conversation

#TryAlpha

When & Where: 3rd Oct, Pots of Pleasure Ballyclare

Date & Time: Each Sunday, 6.30 - 8.30

Address: The Square, Ballyclare

URL: <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/ministries/growing-disciples/alpha/>





# Reaching Out & Welcoming in

We are very conscious that some people feel embarrassed to seek help. Maybe you know of someone. Speak with Frances Wilson to see how we can provide support.

## CAP Life Skills – September 2021

More and more people in our community are struggling to make ends meet and to deal with everyday life. **From 9<sup>th</sup> September** we will be running a weekly Christians Against Poverty Life Skills course. This is a relaxed and friendly course where members can gain practical skills and discover new ways to live for a brighter future. **We only have a few spaces left**, so if you know of anyone who would be interested in joining us or would like more information, sign up at <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/events-calendar/> or contact Frances Wilson on 07834 544802.

## School Uniform Scheme

Our School uniform scheme is open every Wednesday morning in St John's halls from 10am-12 noon, and Tuesday evenings by appointment. **We don't need any more stock except for P.E. kits at the moment. Please let others know that we have plenty of uniforms covering all schools in the local area.**

## Munch on Mondays

Thank you to the Co-Op in Ballynure and all our volunteers. It's just incredible the amount of food we have been provided for distribution to the wider community from St John's on a Monday morning. Please tell your friends and others about this ministry which happens every Monday **@ 11.00am outside St John's.**

# Partnering

## Baby Basics

Many thanks to those who have donated to Baby Basics. So far this year we have received 28 referrals from the Health Trust and various charitable organisations (such as Sure Start, Women's Aid and Extern) and it is such a blessing to be able to help so many vulnerable families. Thanks to everyone's generosity we are currently very well stocked and only need the following items: **Moses baskets, baths, towels, and top cot sheets.** Our team can receive items on Tuesday mornings at Christ Church or contact Frances on 07834 544802.

## Newtownabbey Foodbank

The items presently required are **Long Life Milk, Tins of Meat, Fish, Vegetables & Fruit, Rice Pudding, Custard, Pasta & Curry Sauces, Tea Coffee & Biscuits.** Please leave in the tub at St John's Halls or the inside foyer of St John's Church or bring to Christ Church on a Sunday. Further information on the Foodbank can be obtained from Sandra Vaughan our Foodbank Co-ordinator on 07999 580548.

## Release International & CMSi

Remember to keep the work of these organisations in our prayers. If you would like to find out more about them please contact our co-ordinators: **Lisa Willet (Release)** on 07456 648308 or **Bert Rea (CMSi)** 07393 695043

## CMS Ireland

Our partnership with CMSi has been developing over recent months. Our links with the Urban Development Programme and the Tumaini Africa Foundation will lead to exciting opportunities for the future. Please continue to pray for this partnership. You can financially support this work by downloading the leaflet at our website [www.theunitedparish.org.uk/ministries/mission/cms-ireland](http://www.theunitedparish.org.uk/ministries/mission/cms-ireland)



Also, why not register now for the annual Conference held this year online on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September at [www.cmsireland.org/ignite](http://www.cmsireland.org/ignite)

# 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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Tues, Thurs 9am-1pm Homeworking)

