


News for July 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 the Summer 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.

THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's

Worship in July

Church Services During July

Booking is still required either via our website 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.

Sundays in the United Parish

We are gathering normal times each Sunday during July (10am Christ Church, 11.30am St John's), as follows :

4th July Holy Communion
11th July Morning Prayer
18th July Morning Prayer
25th July Morning Prayer

Mid-Week Communion Services in St John's

We will continue to meet every Wednesday at 12 noon for a short Communion Service. During the first 3 Wednesdays in July, services will be led by Canon Derek Kerr & Revd Paul Redfern. This is a great opportunity to take time away for 30 minutes from the busyness of life.

For Your Attention

Pastoral Cover During July

Revd Jonny & family will be on holiday from **Wednesday 7th July to 21st July inclusive.**

Dianne will be on holiday from **13th – 20th July inclusive.**

Emergency pastoral cover will be provided by Revd Alan McCracken who can be contacted on 07860 115799.

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 July will be on **14th & 28th** 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, we pray God's blessings for them in the next chapter of their journey. More details will be announced in church.

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, Ruth Reith, Lou & Bertie Cornett's daughter Lorraine, Sharon McNeil, Achie Blair after a recent time in hospital, and Molly McCann on the sudden death of her nephew. Pray for our young people with the many issues of mental health.

Grief Share

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. Here is a selection of resources for you to consider :

New Wine

Summer 21 is taking place from 8th- 11th July. No need to travel to Sligo, it can be streamed from the comfort of your own home. Full details can be obtained from the following link:

<https://www.newwineireland.org/summer21/>

Keswick at Portstewart 2021

From Sunday **11th-15th July** via YouTube. Details are available on the following link: <https://www.keswickatportstewart.org/main-programme>

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>

Recommended Reading for Summer

Reading Material - look no further!

Our online book shelf 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 are a few recommendations

Hope in an Anxious World, by Helen Thorne

This short, sympathetic and warm book will help both Christian and non-Christian readers understand anxiety better, learn some useful techniques to cope with it and, most importantly, show how the living God can liberate us from its grip.

Brave by Faith, by Alistair Begg

What does it look like to live with joy in a society that does not like what Christians believe, say or do? It's tempting to grow angry, keep our heads down, retreat or just give up altogether.

But this isn't the first time that God's people have had to learn how to live in a pagan world that opposes God's rule. In this realistic yet positive book, renowned Bible teacher Alistair Begg examines the first seven chapters of Daniel to show us how to live bravely, confidently and obediently in an increasingly secular society.

10 Words To Live By, by Jen Wilkin

The Ten Commandments are words about obedience and holiness—timeless in their importance and wisdom—spoken by God to a nation recently set free. Yet today these same words are often misunderstood, forgotten, or simply ignored. Jen Wilkin teaches readers how the Ten Commandments come to bear on their lives today, helping them to love God and others, to live in joyful freedom, and to long for that future day when God will be rightly worshiped for eternity.

Shaping a new generation

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

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

Family Holiday Club & Pirates Picnic

Save the dates 19-21st August | 1.00am-1.30pm

Families are invited to join us at the Rectory Field, Christ Church for an open-air Holiday Club. Bring a picnic, bring a blanket, and enjoy 3 days of drama, worship, teaching and much more.

We are inviting youth and adults to get involved. Can you help? Why not get involved with drama, set building, worship, stewarding etc. During the 16th - 18th August we will be preparing and setting up for the actual event on the 19th-21st August. For more information, please contact Dianne.

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 31st 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

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 see our Alpha page at www.theunitedparish.org.uk/ministries/growing-disciples/alpha



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 9th 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. In addition, during July we will also be open every day from 26th-30th July from 10am - 2pm. **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 Monday's

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



Also, why not register now for the annual Conference held this year online on Saturday 18th September at 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

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