



Sunday 17th October 2021

Due to the easing of COVID restrictions, we are delighted to announce that our church buildings will allow for 1 metre distancing, and therefore offers slightly more room for people to join in worship. Please share this news.

Please continue to book through the website

17th October 2021

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

24th October 2021

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

For Your Attention

Letter From The Rector!

Dear Parishioners,

It is hard to believe that a pandemic that hit us in January 2020 is still affecting us at the end of 2021. I therefore hope and pray you are all safe and well. It is so encouraging to see people return to church services again.

One of the challenges of returning has been to restart our youth & children's organisations with less leaders. During lockdown we have had a number of people review their commitments, and we thank them for the years of service they have given. This leaves us in a difficult position to support our youth & children's ministries, but we simply cannot run them unless we have sufficient leaders.

Unfortunately, if this issue is not addressed quickly, we will have no alternative but to close organisations. I would ask everyone to consider whether they could become involved, but I would emphasise that you do this prayerfully knowing that God has called you towards this important ministry rather than feeling bad about the current situation. Please contact me or Dianne if you feel called by God to become involved. **Rev Jonny**

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Time is running out! Boxes need to be returned to both churches by end of October. What a blessing it is to help children & families abroad who are less fortunate than ourselves. Leaflets are available in both Churches; if you have any questions, please contact Alwyn or Trish Tweed who are coordinating the appeal Tel: 07733 238175.

Fellowship Fridays

The last month has just zoomed in, please join us again on **Friday 22nd** at 11.00am in St John's, for a time of fellowship over a cuppa and cake.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Hilary Smylie, Cecil Millar, Myrtle Evans, Lou & Bertie Cornett's daughter Lorraine, Wesley Lamont, Crawford Surgeoner, Ed Rodgers, The Arthur Family, Liz McConnell, Kate Winton. Pray also for Hannah Millar on the recent loss of her sister. Please remember in our prayers Michael & Lorraine Ogilby and family, on the recent death of Michael's father Hugh, also David, Frances & Rachel Wilson on the death of David's sister Shirley last week.

Those recently baptised & confirmed

Please continue to pray for those recently baptised & confirmed Arlene, Rachel, Ellie, Emma, Jenna & Jamie. That the Holy Spirit will continue to help them to grow in faith and spirituality.

Staff Holidays- October

Revd Jonny is on holiday from **Monday 25th - Sunday 31st** inclusive. Pastoral cover in an **emergency** will be provided by Canon Derek Kerr who can be contacted on **07828772057**
Dianne on holiday from **Wednesday 22nd – Saturday 30th** inclusive.

Parish Prayer Time

Please try and join us on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm in Christ Church Hall for a short time of prayer.

Harvest

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Churches for last Sunday's Harvest. It made us all feel blessed and thankful for God's goodness to us. So far, we have raised over £1000 for the CMSi projects (UDP & TAF) in Nairobi, thank you to all who contributed.

Going deeper

Clive West Annual Lecture.

This year on Thursday 11th November 7.30pm-9.30pm @ St Nicholas Church in Belfast; Revd Dr John Yates will be dealing with the subject of what it means to hear God. John is the Rector of Holy Trinity Church in Raleigh NC and in the past was John Stott's study assistant. Free Tickets can be booked via the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hearing-god-clive-west-annual-lecture-tickets-164882338513>

Book for Advent!

It will be no time to Advent. This year's devotional is called **“The Dawn of Redeeming Grace” by Sinclair Ferguson**. 24 Short thoughts to bring us into Christmas. I hope to order copies shortly. If you would like one, please let David know. If 10 or more folk order cost will be £5.

Small Groups

All our groups are up and running. Now would be a great opportunity to join one or even think of setting up a new one.

We have a dedicated page on our website giving comprehensive information on them, follow the link!

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

Shaping a new generation

October Pumpkin Party – Sunday 31st October

The whole family is invited to join us for a fun filled evening and alternative way to enjoy Halloween, as we celebrate the light of Christ.

Events will take place at Christ Church, Ballynure from 4pm – 7pm

Including: Movie/popcorn (for Primary school aged children)

Fancy dress competition (not too scary!) Pumpkin carving competition “Let your light Shine” Hotdogs and a little treat bag for all children. Booking using the following link:

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/ujl7xqjo>

For more information, please contact Dianne Hamilton.

Connor takes the Castle.

Connor Diocese is running a youth residential at Castlewellan Castle for those in yr. 7 – yr. 13 on the 14th – 16th January. We would love to bring along a group from the United Parish. Numbers are limited so please book as soon as possibly via the following link

<https://forms.gle/QLd6sb3unTCNdImGA>

(Cost is £60 for the full weekend) (if you would like to go but would need a reduced ticket price, please talk to Dianne – this will not be an issue!) If you are unable to make the full weekend, there is the option to come and join us for the Saturday at a cost is £20.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Parish Weekend- 18th -20th March 2022!

It's not that far away and thank goodness if everything goes according to plan, we will have our weekend in March as we had to postpone it from 2021 due to Covid. The venue as before is the Kilbroney Centre in Rostrevor and the theme will be "Unlocking"

We are so blessed to have Bishop Ken Clarke leading our sessions. Victoria Jackson and Christina Bailie looking after our Children & Youth. John & Hannah McGrath will lead worship.

Don't worry if you can't join us for the full weekend – consider joining us for the Saturday, and if you would prefer not to stay at the centre there are plenty of B&Bs in the area.

The costs are £70 per adult, £50 per child (Pre- schoolchildren free). Subsidised places for large families. **Cost will not be an issue for those who wish to attend.**

For further information, contact Revd Jonny, Dianne, or office.

Reserve through ChurchSuite using the following link:

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/exlb5rt0>

Remembrance Sunday

Our Services this year will be in Christ Church & St John's at 10.00am & 11.30am respectively on Sunday 14th November.

This year in the afternoon we are having a special event at Christ Church at 4pm when we will plant a tree to remember all those who have died and suffered from this dreadful virus Sars Cov2- (Covid) over the last 18months.

In the evening at 7pm in St John's we will be having our annual personal remembrance service to remember all our friends and family who have sadly left us. This is a very gentle reflective service when we will all have an opportunity to remember those dear people who are no longer with us.

Partnering

Newtownabbey Foodbank

The items presently required are **Jam's & Marmalades, Rice, Tinned Custard & Crisps**. 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.

CMSi

The CMSI quarterly magazine is now available in both Christ Church & St John's. An updated newsletter on Antony's work with UDP & TAF can be found on our website using the following link:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/latest-news-from-cmsi-in-kenya/>

For more information, please contact Bert Rea on 07393 695043

Release International

You can read or download the latest version of the magazine by clicking on the following link:

<https://releaseinternational.org/resources/magazines/>

If you are interested in finding out what is happening in Iraq. A zoom event is happening on 1st November- link below gives all the info: -

<https://releaseinternational.org/events/event/jamal-liddawi-online-speaker-tour-northern-ireland/>

For more information, please contact Lisa Willett on 07456 648308

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Time for this year's appeal. It would be wonderful to get our numbers up near 100 again. Leaflets are available in Church this morning. Empty boxes are available from Blythswood for a nominal cost of £1. Boxes need to be returned to both churches by end of October. If you have any questions, please contact Alwyn or Trish Tweed who are coordinating the appeal Tel: 07733 238175.

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)

