


Sunday 31st October 2021



Due to the easing of COVID restrictions, we are delighted to announce that our church buildings will allow for one 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

31st October 2021

10.00am Christ Church
Family Service

11.30am St John's
Family Service

7th November 2021

10.00am Christ Church
Holy Communion

11.30am St John's
Holy Communion

For Your Attention

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 **6.30pm in St John's** we will be holding a service to remember all our friends and family who have sadly left us. This service will have the opportunity for those present to sign a Book of Remembrance. Also present will be Revd Dr Pat Mollan from the Church's Ministry of Healing. She will be providing teaching to help us all with the issues of grief. Our Healing Ministry Team will also be present should anyone require prayer after the service. **Evening is open to all.** Booking via the link:

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/embed/events/imiimi5s>

Booking In & Seating in St John's!

We are going to **pilot** a new seating arrangement for St John's due to the relaxing of regulations.

From this **Sunday (31st)** parishioners will have a choice of sitting in an area where one metre distancing is used, but also have the choice to sit in an area where up to two metres is available. We recognise that some people are still nervous about social distancing, and therefore we will always ensure that safety is paramount. Mask wearing, hand sanitising, temperature checks and ventilation will continue.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Boxes need to be returned to both churches this Sunday(**31st**) For late deliveries Alwyn & Trish Tweed will be at **St John's on Wed 3rd from 10.00am-11.00am & Christ Church from 11.15am-12 noon.** Contact Alwyn on Tel: 07733 238175 for further information.

Pastoring

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

Please pray for:

Alyson Stanford, Joan Agnew, Achie Blair, Hilary Smylie, Cecil Millar, Myrtle Evans, Lou & Bertie Cornett's daughter Lorraine, Wesley Lamont, Crawford Surgeoner, Ed Rodgers, Liz McConnell, Kate Winton, Ed Barton & Maisie Moore. Please pray for the family of the late Margaret McDowell especially Hazel Mayne her sister. Margaret was a dear parishioner and sadly died late last week. Finally give thanks for healing in the Arthur Family.

Parish Prayer Time

Parish Prayer Time is back after half-term. Try and keep 45 minutes free to join us on **Thursday 4th November @ 7.30pm.**

Pastoral visiting

Should you require a pastoral visit, please contact the parish office.

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**

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 are available from Rev Jonny, or they 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. Books have arrived but are selling fast. If you would like a copy, please see David asap. Cost of book £5.

Small Groups

All our groups are up and running. Now would be a wonderful 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/>

Mid-Week Bible Study

Meeting as normal this week at 10.45 in St John's when Revd Jonny will continue looking at a section from Mark's Gospel.

Shaping a new generation

October Pumpkin Party – Sunday 31st October

The whole family is invited to join us **this afternoon** 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>

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.

Half Term Break!

No Youth Bible Study or Youth Fellowship this Sunday (31st).

Youth & Children’s’ Leaders

If you feel called to support youth & children’s’ ministries, please contact Dianne. At present we are finding it difficult to keep them going due to lack of leaders.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Christmas Hampers

To bring some Christmas cheer to our senior parishioners we plan to prepare and deliver hampers to them. The hampers will be prepared during week commencing **6th December** and delivered during week commencing **13th December**. If you would like to help with either preparation or delivery, please contact Sophie Wilson or Frances Wilson.

Midweek Holy Communion

Mid-week Holy Communion recommences on Wednesday 3rd November @ 12 noon in St John's.

Christmas Decorating

Christmas is fast approaching. The Christmas Trees are ordered both for inside and outside at Christ Church & St John's. The trees are arriving on Friday 26th Nov. with decorating on Saturday 27th Nov., in time for the start of Advent on Sunday 28th. We need folk to help erect and decorate the trees along with assembling the outside lighting at St John's. If you can help, please let David in the office know asap.

Partnering

Newtownabbey Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who contributed items for the Foodbank at Harvest. Pretty incredible that all the food weighed just over **two hundred kilos**. 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.

CMS Ireland

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards our link project in Nairobi. The amount collected so far is over **£1200**. For more information on CMSi, please contact Bert Rea on 07393 695043

Release International

This year Release have produced their own Christmas cards. This is a wonderful way of raising the awareness of Christian persecution. Cards can be purchased at a cost of ten for £5 by clicking on the following link:

<https://releaseinternational.org/product/christmas-cards/>

For more information, please contact Lisa Willett on 07456 648308

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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