

# Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

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**

## 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

10.00am Christ Church  
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's  
Morning Praise

7.00pm St John's  
Community Carol Service

## 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021

10.00 Christ Church  
Christmas Nativity

11.30am St John's  
Christmas Nativity

4.30 & 6.30pm Christ Church  
Nine Lesson's & Carols

# For Your Attention

## St John's Contemporary Carol Service

**Tonight (12<sup>th</sup>)** we're having our Carol Service in St John's starting at **7.00pm**. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbour who wouldn't normally come to Church. We will also hear from Captain Philip from the Salvation Army who will update us on this year's appeal. After the Service we will serve Christmas refreshments.

## Family Christmas Nativity Trail at Christ Church

Invite the whole family on **Sat 18<sup>th</sup> December** from 5pm – 7pm as we journey back in time to the first Christmas. There will be lots of fun for the kids – crafts, BBQ, hot chocolate, mulled punch, toasted mallows.

Book your slot at [www.theunitedparish.org.uk/christmas2021/](http://www.theunitedparish.org.uk/christmas2021/)

## Christmas Dates for the Diary!

Please book your place via our website – [www.theunitedparish.org.uk](http://www.theunitedparish.org.uk)

Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Contemporary Carol Service @ St John's, 7.00pm
Sat. 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Nativity Trail @ Christ Church. 5 – 7pm
Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Nativity Services in both Churches  9 Lessons & Carols, Christ Church 4.30pm & 6.30pm (We are having 2 Services to cater for numbers)
Fri. 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Midnight Communion @ St John's 11.30pm
Sat. 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Day Services 9.30am & 11.00am
Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Service for both churches @ St John's 11.00am

## Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

Could gifts (**unwrapped**) be brought to both Churches by this Sunday

# Pastoring

**Remember our Prayer Line (phone or text) 07519 805789.** Simply text your request and a small team will commit to pray over the following week.

## Please pray for:

Alyson Stanford, Achie Blair, Hilary Smylie, Cecil Millar, Lou & Bertie Cornett's daughter Lorraine, Wesley Lamont, Ed Rodgers, Audra Irvine, Ed Barton & Maisie Moore, David Livingston, Crawford Surgeoner, Kate Winton & Winston Jenkins in hospital.

## Week of Prayer – 10<sup>th</sup> January (save the date)

We start every new term with a week of prayer. It is so important to pray for God's blessing and guidance for the work in the United Parish and the wider community. It will follow the same format as before. Starting in St John's on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm.** We then alternate between our two Churches for the rest of the week.

## Church Office closed

Due to guidance from the NI Executive, David will be working from home until further notice. Please contact him on his mobile 07732 763827 should you need him.

## Covid Update

We have recently seen an increase in Covid cases in the community and indeed within our Parish. In the interests of safety, if you feel unwell, have come into close contact with someone who has tested positive or been pinged by the Health & Social Care, please follow all the necessary precautions from the Northern Ireland Executive website.

## Going deeper

### Sunday Morning Early Communion restarts

We plan to start our Sunday early morning Holy Communion Services in Christ Church again on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month at 8.30am. Starting **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**. Booking is via the website.

### Ireland in Christmas Praise 2021

We have a deep connection with the New Irish Arts: Choir & Orchestra as 3 members of our parish are members. They will be performing their annual Christmas Concerts in the Waterfront Hall on **17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**. Due to safety the Waterfront's own social distancing regulations will apply. Tickets can be purchased using the link below (there is also an option to purchase an online viewing of the concert):

<https://www.waterfront.co.uk/what-s-on/ireland-in-christmas-praise-2/>

### New Year's Resolution – small groups

Number One! Join a Small Group. Our small groups are finishing shortly for the Christmas holidays but will be back in action after our week of prayer. They will all be starting back during week commencing **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January**. We have 8 groups who meet at various times on a regular basis. It's so important to study God's word together and have the support of each other. More details can be found on our website using the following link:

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

### Services & Teaching Online

If you miss any of our services and teaching, they are on our website by clicking on the following link:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/sermon-archive/>

They are a wonderful way of catching up and reflecting on God's word and teaching.

# Shaping a new generation

## Advent Family Devotions

Rev Jonny has received permission from High Kirk Presbyterian in Ballymena to share an amazing Family resource for Advent. Take a look at our website and make time each day to consider our journey towards Christmas <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/a-christmas-journey/>

## Parish Christmas Card

A big thank you to everyone who entered the Parish Christmas Card competition. There were some great designs, and we have chosen a winner! Congratulations to Emma Taylor. Everyone who took part will receive a small gift! Thank you!

## YF Christmas Party

Get that Christmas jumper out or put on some tinsel! Tonight (12<sup>th</sup>) from 5.45pm to 7.00pm we are having our YF Christmas party. All Juniors (yrs. 8-10) and seniors (yrs. 11+) are invited to join us for food, fellowship and a chance to win some prizes!! After the party the youth are invited to stay for the Carol Service in St John's from 7.00pm.

## Christmas Nativity 19th December

This year we are having a filmed Nativity. Rehearsals/ filming for the children's/ youth nativity is happening this Sunday and after school during the week. Dianne will be contacting you regarding any arrangements.

# Reaching Out & Welcoming in

## Heating & Lighting Scheme!

The United Parish along with a few of the local churches have created “**Together for Ballyclare**” to help people in our community with heating and lighting. The high price of utilities is making it difficult for various people financially at this time. If you would like to donate, please speak in confidence to David. Likewise, if you know of people who might need help, they can ring the following number again in confidence **07538 556779** when the request will be reviewed & processed based upon the applicants financial position.

## Ballynure Christmas Nativity Trail

Remember to invite friends and book your place at our family Christmas Nativity Trail on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December** in Christ Church. The event will run from 5 - 7pm. Book via our website.

If you would be interested in helping, please contact Tim Burns on 07572 817429

## Christmas Hampers

This year we have been able to bless many in our parish with a small hamper. It contains non-perishable items; time to make the coffee or tea and enjoy the shortbread & cake! The Church pastoral visiting team will deliver these to you over the next week. We would like to thank Newtownabbey & Antrim Borough Council who have helped out financially to make this happen. A massive thank you to all who have helped prepare the hampers.

## Ladies & Men's Night Out – New Dates

Good News! Important to defeat the January Blues. We have rearranged the Ladies Night out for 21<sup>st</sup> January and the Men's on the 28<sup>th</sup> January. Keep the date free.

# Partnering

## Newtownabbey Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Foodbank. Due to logistics issues at the warehouse in Newtownabbey they cannot accept any more donations at this time. We will give an update in the New Year. Further information on the Foodbank can be obtained from Sandra Vaughan our Foodbank Co-ordinator on 07999 580548.

## Charity Allocation 2021

Each Christmas, the Select Vestry allocates a portion of our income (our tithe) to bless many charities and mission organisations that we either partner with or we want to support. God richly blesses us and therefore we must bless others rather than keep God's gifts to ourselves. 2021 has been another difficult year for many organisations and so the need to bless is even greater. The list of Charities and amounts donated are as follows:

Church Missionary Society (CMSi)	1500
Release International	1500
Emma McCallion	1500
Greater Ballyclare Youth For Christ (GBYFC)	1500
South America Missionary Society (SAMS)	700
Hope 365	700
Mindwise Ballyclare	700
UCB Bible Notes	700
Divine Healing Ministries	700
Churches Ministry of Healing	700
Mothers Union Hardship Fund	700
Evangelical Alliance	700
The Bible Society	700
GBYFC (Danny Fahy Support)	700
Street Pastors	250
Equipping for Life Ministries	250
Ballyclare Family Focus	250
Love for Life Ministries	250
New Horizon	250
Care For The Family	250
Total	<b>£14,500</b>

# 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

Minister: Jonny Campbell-Smyth  
jonny@theunitedparish.org.uk  
028 93 462725

Families, Youth & Children's  
Associate: Dianne Hamilton  
dianne@theunitedparish.org.uk  
07840 667183

Administrator: David Brown  
david@theunitedparish.org.uk  
07732 763827  
(Homeworking due to Covid Guidance)

