

Sunday 10th April 2022

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.

Sunday 10th April Palm Sunday

10am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

7pm Ballynure Joint Churches
Ballynure Presbyterian

Sunday 17th April Easter Sunday

7am St Augustine's,
Ballyeaston Dawn Service

10am Christ Church
Easter Family Praise

11.30am St John's
Easter Family Praise

For Your Attention

Services for Easter

Mon 11th April

Tues 12th – Thurs 14th

Friday 15th

All Services start at 7pm

Youth & Children's Service - St John's
Holy Week Services alternating
between Christ Church & St John's
Holy Communion- St John's.

Sunday 17th April

7am Dawn Service
St Augustine's ruins, Ballyeaston followed by breakfast in Christ
Church Halls.

Sunday 17th April

Easter Sunday Family Celebration
10am Christ Church & 11.30am St John's

Hot Cross Bun giveaway – Good Friday

Every Good Friday morning, a team gather to distribute Hot Cross Buns in Ballynure & Ballyclare. If you would like to help, please come along, meeting at St John's Hall at 9.30am.

Covid Restrictions eased

We have recently received guidance from the Diocese regarding easing of Covid-19 restrictions. As a Parish we will decide the pace at which we move forward with these changes and all times we must remain vigilant to protect the most vulnerable.

- Social distancing will no longer be required in Buildings & Halls, however we will accommodate for those who require distancing.
- Face coverings are no longer mandatory including singing.
- Members can still freely wear coverings if they so wish.
- Restrictions to catering have been lifted.
- Previous restrictions to youth activities have been removed.
- Pastoral Visiting in homes can take place with caution.

We still remain cautious about moving communion back to the common cup, and therefore will consider this in more detail.

Pastoring

Remember our Prayer Line 07519 805789

Please pray for:

Muriel Reid, Alyson Stanford, Lawrence Stanford's mother, Achie Blair, Colin Ferguson, Agnes Kelly, Hilary Smylie, Lou & Bertie Cornett's daughter Lorraine, Wesley Lamont, Audra Irvine, Maisie Moore, Helen Osborne. Pray for Crawford Surgeoner who is currently in hospital. Pray for Dianne, Luke & the girls as they enjoy adoption leave.

Message from Rev Jonny

This coming week we journey through the story of Jesus as he approaches the cross. I do hope you can make every effort to attend our Holy Week Services. Holy Week is also a week where we realise the pain that comes to all of us in life – illness, disappointment, loneliness, grief, worry. Jesus knew what this was like. None of us escape this, however the news of Easter Sunday reminds us that Jesus has authority and power over all of this and we as God's people have the hope that comes through the resurrection. None of us are exempt from trials. In these past few weeks, we as a family have felt such pain, with Alison, I and the Campbell family sitting at the hospital bedside of her mother Maureen who is receiving final stage palliative care. I wanted to be open with all of you, and I'm sure you understand, that this will impact on my capacity to provide pastoral care and support around the parish in the coming weeks. However please know that you can still phone me on my mobile 07808 479649. We pray for all those in our church family who in these times are experiencing the challenges of life. We acknowledge that Jesus declared we will have troubles in this life, but we declare the Easter hope in knowing that he has overcome the world (John 16:33). Please pray for us as a family, and other families, and be assured that we are praying for you.

Going deeper

Ukraine Appeal

The Churches in the local area have begun discussion about how collectively we can help Ukrainian Refugees who will come to our country. For anyone who wishes to be part of that conversation please contact Revd Jonny or David.

Wednesday Bible Study & Mid-Week Communion

Bible Study will take a break on the 13th & 20th April, starting again on Wed 27th April. No Mid-Week Holy Communion Service on Wednesday 20th April, otherwise as normal.

Prayer Warriors!

Can you commit to 15 minutes of prayer per day? We have produced a small booklet with various prayer requests which are relevant to our Church. Copies are available in Church.

Alpha Marriage Enrichment Course

Revd Jonny and Alison will be running an online enrichment course for married couples, starting Tuesday 3rd May. There is no group discussions or sharing on the course. If you are interested, please contact him for more details.

Save the date – Week of Prayer

Every new term we start with a Week of Prayer. Keep the evenings of the 25th-29th April free. More details to follow shortly.

Shaping a new generation

Monday 11th April- Youth & Children's Service.

This Monday (11th) at the start of Holy Week, we are having a Youth & Children's Service for all our young people, youth organisations and family at 7pm in St John's - all welcome. **All young people are to bring their favourite cup with them – yes their favourite cup !**

Youth night out: Sunday 10th April

This Sunday will be a fun night for our youth (with bouncy castles, food, ice cream factory and other activities) in Belfast with other groups from Connor diocese. Cost is free but we'll be stopping at McDonalds for young people to buy something on the way home. Meet at St. John's @ 6pm and returning there for 9:30am. Please sign up using the Churchsuite link below:

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/is6cvjo2>

Summer Madness (1st - 4th July)

Not that far away really! We have secured a batch of early bird tickets at a reduced rate. If you are interested in going, please contact Paul Reid on 07778 853605.

Youth Activity Weekend at Castlewellan

What are you doing **Friday 22nd- Sunday 24th April?** This will be held at Castlewellan Castle, and we will join with several other groups for a weekend of teaching, worship, games and outdoor activities. It will be a great opportunity for young people to get away at the end of the Easter break and, because there has been so little chance to get away over Covid, we've reduced the cost down to £40pp for the weekend. Sign up is via Eventbrite and parents will be sent a link to this.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

CAP Life Skills

We will be running an 8-week CAP Life Skills course, commencing **Thursday 5th May**. The course is aimed at those who are struggling to make ends meet and includes sessions on budgeting, shopping, cooking, energy efficiency, healthy relationships. If you know of anyone who would be interested in attending this course, please speak to Frances Wilson (07791 249025)

Friday Fellowship – our new venue!

We are going to start meeting in Christ Church Halls as parking is much easier. We hope to see existing members and new faces at our next gathering on **Friday 29th April**. If you need transport, please contact either Sophie or David.

New Members Welcome Pack

If you are new to the Parish, please take a welcome pack at rear of both Christ Church and St John's or from the wardens. If you can complete the registration forms inside so that we know about you.

Meals Ministry - Help Required Urgently

This ministry exists to support individuals & families who have either been discharged from hospital or going through treatment. A meal is delivered as regularly as is necessary just to provide some relief. If you or a friend would value this support, or you would like to help with the meal's ministry, please contact Revd Jonny.

Partnering

Foodbank

Presently we need **Long Life Milk, Tinned Meat & Fish, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Soap, Toothpaste, Toilet Rolls.** For Further Information please contact Sandra Vaughan our Foodbank Coordinator on 07999 580548

Baby Basics

The number of referrals continue to grow and we thank everyone for the continued support. We presently have a need **for Baby Baths and towels along with some size 1 nappies.** We are well stocked on clothing at this moment.

Release International

Release are showing a free video called Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years. Experience the amazing true story that has redefined the concepts of love and forgiveness for millions around the world. In order to watch the full movie for free between the 11th-14th April: <https://releaseinternational.org/sabinamovie/>

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
028 93 354814 Office
07732 763827
(Mon, Wed Fri. Office hours 9.00am-1.00pm)
Tue & Thu. Homeworking.

**Any items for publication in the News Sheet
must be with David by 12.00 noon on Thursday**

