

Sunday 1st May 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 1st May

10.00am Christ Church
Holy Communion

11.30am St John's
Holy Communion

Sunday 8th May

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

For Your Attention

RESET - Pray / Study / Serve

Back in January I wrote to all of you stating my priorities for the year ahead, in particular that we would think more about loving each other, and that we concentrate on everyone growing deeper spiritually. In Colin Marshall's book, *The Trellis & the Vine*, he says, "The basic work of any Christian ministry is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God's Spirit, and to see people converted, changed and grow to maturity in that gospel". That is my prayer for our church family and our community.

I'd encourage all of you in this new season post-COVID to consider how you mature further in your walk and service to God. In order to begin that encouragement towards a deeper engagement with God I'd ask all of us to complete the short questionnaire. I would encourage all adults and teenagers to do this either online at www.theunitedparish.org.uk/RESET or on the sheets in each pew. If you feel you don't want to complete it, I'd still ask that you complete your name in the form so that I know you have considered it.

Thank you, Rev Jonny.

Serving

There are currently a number of areas of ministry where we need people to consider serving in. If you have a heart for any of these, please indicate these on the questionnaire noted above :

- helping with St John's Creche on Sunday mornings (1 in 4 Sundays)
- helping with this year's Summer Madness (1st - 4th July)
- helping with this year's Holiday Bible Club (15th-19th August)
- Welcome ministry serving tea & coffee on Sundays (1 in 4 Sundays)
- leading youth bible study on Sunday mornings in St John's

Annual General Meeting

Please join us on Wednesday evening **3rd May at 7:30pm** in St John's Church for our annual meeting. This meeting will include the report of Accounts and the election of new Office holders.

Pastoring

Remember our Prayer Line 07519 805789

Please pray for:

Achie Blair, Josephine Arrighi, 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.

Pray for the members of General Synod of the Church of Ireland who will be meeting in Belfast from Wednesday 3rd - Friday 5th May.

April was a very difficult and sad month for our Parish Family as many people died. It is important to remember all the bereaved families in our prayers and support them at this time: -

Lawrence, Chris & Jonny Stanford on the loss of a dear wife and mother, **Alyson**.

Alison, Revd Jonny, Josh & Nathan on the death of Alison's mum, **Maureen**.

The Magee Family, husband Willie, sons Thomas & William, daughter Margaret on the death of **Margaret (Sadie)**.

Dinsmore Reid, sons Richard, & Geoffrey in Canada on the sad loss of wife and mother, **Muriel**.

Marriages!

Pray for Philip & Ruth Strange who were married on Thursday. Pray for Stuart & Anne Wilson who were married on Saturday.

Going deeper

Wednesday Bible Study & Mid-Week Communion

Bible Study starts again this Wednesday (4th) at 10.45am in St John's. Will plans to conclude his section of Mark with John Wilson continuing the following week.

Holy Communion is back on after the Easter break at 12 noon on the 4th, everyone is very welcome at this short service as we take a short time away from the busyness of life. This Service is livestreamed, and the teaching appears on our website later the same day.

UCB Bible Notes

The next quarter's bible notes are now available from the pastoral visiting team. Additional copies are on display in both Christ Church & St John's. They are free so please take a copy to help you with your daily devotions. A teenage version is also available in both Churches - teenagers, parents & grandparents you are very welcome to take a copy.

Alpha Leadership Conference Online

This year's Alpha Leadership conference will be held online on 2nd & 3rd May. Hosted by Nicky & Pippa Gumbel this event will be great encouragement. The sessions are only 2 and a half hours long...and its free! Why not register and be refreshed

<https://www.leadershipconference.org.uk/register>

Alpha Marriage Course

Jonny & Alison are hosting an online Marriage enrichment course for couples whatever stage they are in their relationship. The course will not require any group work or interaction with any other couples, and all discussions are carried out in the privacy of your own home.

Register on the main page of our website:

www.theunitedparish.org.uk

Shaping a new generation

Summer Madness (1st - 4th July)

This annual Youth event is 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. If you would be up for helping as an adult leader then please complete the current questionnaire (online or in the church pews)

Start Back Dates

All our Sunday morning programmes in Christ Church & St John's will start back this Sunday, 1st May. Youth Fellowship will also start back on the same evening.

Crèche in St John's

Now that Covid rules have eased we plan to get the crèche up and running again. If you would like to be on a rota of helpers, please contact Kirsty Jess on 07590 394391.

Holiday Bible Club – dates for your diary

We are all looking forward to the Summer. In order to build and encourage our children, we are hoping to host another Holiday Bible Club from **15th – 19th August**. However in order to make this happen we will need helpers. If you can give your time to this, we will definitely have a job for you. Please sign the questionnaire (online or in the church pews) expressing your interest. Remember that your availability is what we need. Don't allow the perception of your abilities to stop you from being involved.

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)

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.

Thanking our leaders & helpers - 17th June 2022

The Church of God is made up of many people serving and loving others. We want to recognise and thank everyone who serves and helps in different ministries across our parish. Therefore, if you are a leader or helper, please come along to the Rectory on Friday evening 17th June for food.

Ukrainian Refugees- Interested in Helping?

Glenabbey Church is planning an information evening for all the churches in our area at 7:30pm on **Tuesday May 10th**, to hear from a range of presenters about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the potential opportunities to serve & support refugees in our local community (it isn't just for those able to host refugees). Speakers with a specialist knowledge in this area will include Cecilia Milburn, Janet Shearer, Peter Samir & Michael Holmes. A Q & A session will follow at the end. Everyone welcome.

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

We are delighted that 5 health visitors from Glengormley have entered the Belfast Marathon to raise funds for Baby Basics and we pray that all goes well for them on the day. Should you wish to contribute you can do so by using the following link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/baby-basics-ballyclare>

CMSi

It's always good to get an update from our brothers and sisters in Nairobi. We have recently received a new link letter from Isabelle Prondznski who supports the work of the Urban Development programme along with Antony. Click on the link below to download the newsletter:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/cmsi-april-update-2/>

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

