



Sunday 8th 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 8th May

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

Sunday 15th May

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

For Your Attention

RESET - Pray / Study / Serve

Last Sunday our teaching on Ephesians 4 led us to think about the RESET Initiative. 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 much more, and that we focus 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 Church. 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. **CLOSING DATE 16th May****
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

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, Crawford Surgeoner. Pray for Dianne, Luke & the girls as they enjoy adoption leave. Pray for Philip & Ruth Strange & Stuart & Ann Wilson recently married.

Recent parish deaths:

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**.

New Select Vestry!

Last Wednesday our new Select Vestry was formed at our AGM. Please pray for - Revd Jonny, Andrew Brannigan, Colin Ferguson, Petrina Grant, George Heaney, David McIlhagger, Michael Ogilby, Lorraine Ogilby, Mark Patterson, Margaret Scott, Lawrence Stanford, Adrian Taylor, Frances Wilson.

Rector's Wardens: Shelley Jess & David Wilson

People's Warden's: Christine Burns & Paul Comins

Rector's Glebe Warden: Peter Watson.

Prayer Warriors (May) leaflet available today

Going deeper

Mid-Week Holy Communion & Reflection!

Looks like the best kept secret has been discovered. Numbers have increased dramatically for this short service on a Wednesday at 12 noon. Everyone is most welcome 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 churches. They are free so please take a copy to help you with your daily devotions. A teenage version is also available to take.

Alpha Marriage Course

Jonny & Alison have started hosting an online Marriage enrichment course for couples whatever stage they are in their relationship. Last week was the first night of the course.... it's not too late to join! 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

Leaders' Spiritual Retreat – June

As part of Jonny's prayer that we all go deeper in our walk with God, he is facilitating a 1-day retreat for anyone involved in leading and serving within the parish. This will be at the Benedictine Monastery in Rostrevor in June. A date still has to be finalised, but if you are interested, please let Jonny know soon as places will be limited. The aim of the retreat is to slow down and refocus on Jesus in our lives.

Shaping a new generation

Youth Bible Study

This has recommenced and runs each Sunday morning, meeting at St John's and going across to GBYFC. Thank you to Tim Burns who is leading this group; Tim can be contacted on 07572 817429.

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 church)

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, to make this happen we will need helpers. If you can give your time to this, we will definitely have a job for you. Remember that your availability is what we need. Don't allow the perception of your abilities to stop you from being involved.

Hashtags & Hormones:

Connor Youth is delighted to host Love for Life, some inspiring and practical training for parents of young people and leaders. Never has there been so much pressure on our young people to think and act a certain way when it comes to relationships, image and their online lives. Hashtags and Hormones is an exciting opportunity to gather as parents, carers, teachers, youth workers, or just anyone who has contact with children or young people.

Thu. 26th May, 7.30-9.30, St Matthew's Belfast.

Full details & booking: -<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hashtags-hormones-love-for-life-and-connor-youth-tickets-289427374067>

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

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

Thank you to Stephanie & the four other health visitors from Glengormley who ran the Belfast Marathon to raise funds for Baby Basics. They raised almost £1000 towards this vital work in our community which forms part of our Compassion Ministries.

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/>

Christian Aid Week 15-21st May

We are having our annual Christian Aid Appeal this year running on the above dates. Envelopes will be in Christ Church and St John's on Sunday 15th. If these could be returned by Sunday 29th May.

We are also having a soup lunch in St John's next Sunday (15th) @ 12.45pm straight after Morning Praise.

All proceeds going towards the work of Christian Aid.

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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Tue & Thu. Homeworking.

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

