

Sunday 27th November 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.

27th November 2022

8.30 Christ Church
Communion

10.00 Christ Church
Family Service

11.30 St John's
Family Service

4th December 2022

10.00 Christ Church
Communion

11.30am St John's
Communion

For Your Attention

Christmas Dinners – last call

If you want to caome to the Christmas dinner in Brothers Restaurant, please let us know immediately. The women will gather together on Mon 5th December and men on Wed 7th Dec. Book your place at our website www.theunitedparish.org.uk

Christmas Hampers

This year we are planning to provide our elderly parishioners with a small hamper. Plans are well under way for items etc. If you would like to give a financial contribution to help with the cost please contact David in the office, many thanks.

Alpha - New Year Start!

Alpha starts on **Sunday 15th January 2023** in St John's Church starting at 6.30pm Please start praying for the event and think of people that you could invite, especially those who are exploring the Christian faith.

Monthly Fellowship- Christmas Party!

We will be meeting on **Friday 2nd December @ 11.00am**. Holy Communion in the Church followed by a Christmas buffet lunch in the hall. Everyone Welcome. Please contact Sophie or David if you need transport.

Salvation Army Christmas Family Gifts Appeal

Many in our community are struggling so let's try and help if we can. Every year we collect new toys and gifts for children aged up to 16 years old. Please consider giving to this appeal, - gifts need to be with us by **Sunday 11th December**, Captain Philip Cole from the Salvation Army will be joining us at our evening Carol Service.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Pray for Trina, Maurice & family on the recent death of Trina's father. Let us also pray for Helen Osborne recently out of hospital. Albert & Eileen Green recovering after Covid, Betty Robinson, David Metcalfe, Barbara Bankhead, Achie Blair, Hilary Smylie, Audra Irvine, Maisie Moore, Sadie Wilson. Jim & Robina Stewart as Jim settles into Rylands Nursing Home.

Weekly Prayer Meetings extended!

We have two slots when we can meet and pray for our community & church. Join us on a Thursday evening in Christ Church halls at 7:30pm or a Monday morning in St John's Church at 10.30am.

Planning Ahead- Week of Prayer!

More details to follow shortly. Importance of prayer can never be underestimated. We start every new term with a Week of Prayer. January 2023 will be the same starting **Monday 9th January**.

CMSi requests prayer for Kenya

CMSi have produced a prayer letter to support our brothers & sisters in Kenya who are experiencing a devastating drought. Please take a copy of the prayer leaflet from church or check our website update at <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/lastest-news/>

Going deeper

Theology Ireland

Many of us would like answers to big questions: -
Why bother with Church? What do we do when we are at Church?
Do we need Church?... and many more.

Starting in January 2023, Revd Dr Earngey from Moore College, Australia will be running a few evening courses at The Halls, Cadogan Park, Belfast or if travelling is a problem, you can join the lectures online. For more info see <http://www.theologyireland.com/>

Thursday Small Group- Bible Study

Great news. The Thursday morning women's bible study is full up. If you would like to set up a similar, please contact Revd Jonny.

Tuesday Bible Study change

For those who attend George Colclough's bible study on Tuesday evenings, it has been agreed to now reschedule this to Tuesdays at 2pm fortnightly and relocated to Christ Church Halls. This will help more people attend. To provide support to George, Rev Jonny will lead these bible studies. This change will commence from January 2023.

Books for Christmas!

As most of you know we have a virtual book shop with The Good Book Company. Plenty of ideas and stocking fillers to suit all ages: -
<http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/bookstall/theunitedparish>

Shaping a new generation

Youth Fellowship!

All our Youth & Children's ministries are governed by Safeguarding policies to protect all of us. Therefore, as our YF becomes more popular we need extra leaders to remain compliant with safeguarding. Presently we need more volunteers and until such times as they increase, we will have to move to a fortnightly gathering. If you can help, please contact Andrew Brannigan or Revd Jonny. **YF will meet again on Sunday 4th December.**

Serve - Mission Trip to Europe!

In the summer of 2023, we plan to offer in partnership with Exodus, the opportunity for our young people (16 and over) to take part in a Mission Trip with Exodus to Europe. Brochures are available in both Churches. To find out more please contact Revd Jonny or Tim on 07572 817429.

Christ Church Youth

We have now started a youth bible study on Sunday mornings in Christ Church. (Family Service Sundays is a week off as everyone comes into church). We will next meet on 4th December. If you have a young person post-primary, please come along. The group meet in Christ Church halls during Sunday services.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Christmas Events & Services!

Christmas is always a frantic time of year but its also one of the most important in the Christian Calendar. Try to take time out from all the busyness and join us for some of our Carol Services & other special services over the month of December. A flyer is available in Church this morning or just click on the link, this takes you to the Calendar on our website: <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/events-calendar/>

Mothers' Union

Mothers Union will be on **Monday 28th November @ 2.30**. This will be our last meeting of 2022. Our speaker at this meeting will be Liz McCabe chatting about Christmas preparations. All Welcome.

Warm Welcome Spaces

We have warm buildings and space, and yet many in our community cannot afford to heat their homes. Through a UK wide initiative called Warm Welcome Spaces, we are planning to open St John's Church Hall possibly on a Thursday afternoon during the winter months. Folks in our community can turn up and enjoy some fellowship, warmth and a cuppa. We need 2 volunteers each week to be present. Could you help being a part of a rota? If so, please contact David in the office.

Christians Against Poverty Life Skills

CAP Life Skills is an informal 8-week course which helps people manage their finances and make their money go further. We will be starting a new course on Thursday 19th January. If you know of anyone who would benefit from participating, please get in touch with Frances (07791 249025).

Partnering

Release Partnership Plans

As our partnership with Release International develops and grows, we feel now is the time to put in place sustainable partnership plans for the next 3 years of this ongoing relationship. If you would like to be a part of these discussions to create these plans, please speak with Rev Jonny or Lisa Willett.

Baby Basics

We are so grateful for the generosity of people donating to Baby Basics which enables us to bless many families. The items we currently need are toiletries for Mum (including toothbrushes and toothpaste), toiletries for baby, baby towels and nappies sizes 1 & 2.

Hazaq Coffee by Release International

We have entered a trial partnership with Hazaq coffee, operated by Release International. Every month we will have for sale 250g packets of fresh bistro cafetiere coffee. 100% of the profits of Hazaq go to support the persecuted communities which Release help. The cost of each bag is £6.00. This is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy good coffee and also help the work of Release International. For more details see <https://www.hazaqcoffee.com/>. Look out for the coffee being available at our coffee times at the end of church or from the Church Office- [New Supplies have arrived but sell quickly.](#)

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

If you have a matter which requires the attention of
the Select Vestry you can contact them in the
following way: - Lorraine Ogilby Hon. Secretary
(logilby@gmail.com) or Mobile 07588 039093

