

Sunday 11th December 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.

11th December 2022

10.00am Christ Church Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's Confirmation Service

6.00pm St John's Carol Service

18th December 2022

10.00am Christ Church Nativity

11.30am St John's Nativity

6.00pm Christ Church Lessons & Carols

For Your Attention

Confirmation Service – this Sunday 11th

Bishop George will be with us this morning at the 11.30am service in St John's when he will bless four of our teenagers. Please pray for Connie, Grace, Hannah & Joshua as they grow in their personal faith and spiritual journey; encouraged & supported by our church family.

Alpha - New Year Start

Alpha starts on a Sunday evening commencing on Sunday 15th **January 2023** in St John's Church. Alpha is a place to explore the Christian faith in an easy & informal setting, where anything can be asked. This is a terrific opportunity to invite friends and family who might find this beneficial.

Postcard invitations are available in both churches.

For more information on **Alpha** please visit our website:

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/>

Carol Service & Family Gifts Appeal

Everyone is very welcome to our first Carol Service of the season tonight (11th) 6.00pm in St John's. After the service, please stay for fellowship, some mulled juice, mince pies and shortbread.

Every year at Christmas we collect new toys and gifts for children aged up to 16 years old. **Please consider giving to this appeal, - please bring any gifts on Sunday morning or evening.** Captain Philip Cole from the Salvation Army will be joining us at our evening Carol Service.

FWO Envelopes

The new 2023 FWO envelopes are now available for collection at the rear of Christ Church & foyer in St John's. If you wish to donate to Church work by another method e.g., Standing order please contact David in the office.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Please pray for David, Louise, Rachel & Tom McIlhagger on the recent death of David's father Robert.

Let us also pray for Albert Green, Barbara Bankhead, Billy Clarke, David Livingston, Sadie Wilson, and Jim & Robina Stewart.

Weekly Prayer Meetings

The Monday morning & Thursday evening groups will now be taking a break over Christmas recommencing on **Monday 16th January @ 10.30am** in St John's & **Thursday 19th January** at 7.30pm in Christ Church.

Prayer Warriors Monthly leaflet now available

The December edition is now available. Please take one to pray for the many needs within our parish.

Date in the Diary – 2023 Week of Prayer

The importance of prayer can never be underestimated. We start every new term with a Week of Prayer. We would love the entire church to gather together each evening starting **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/latest-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/>

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- Need to order Soon!

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>

Small Groups

Most of our small groups are now taking a break over Christmas, planning to start back week commencing Monday 16th January.

How about a New Year's resolution-joining a small group? Flyers in Church or just click on the website link to find out more:

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

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.

Nativity Sunday - 18th December

Like other years we would love to see everyone dress up as a Nativity character on the morning of 18th (get your thinking caps on – come as Joseph or a wise man or even a sheep). This will encourage our young people greatly as they come to take part in the Nativity.

We particularly need adults to dress up in CHRIST CHURCH as the Nativity this year in Christ Church will involve the entire congregation. Please make an effort.

Remember there will be a prize in each church of a meal out in Belfast for the family that dresses most creatively.

Exodus Team to Spain

We have 7 young people signed up to go at the end of July 2023 as part of an Exodus mission team to Spain. There are still spaces available if you would like to be part of the team. Get in touch with either Tim Burns or Rev Jonny.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Wednesday morning Communion.

Wednesday 21st will be our last service until after Christmas -next service will then be **Wednesday 11th January @ 12 noon** in St John's. Please stay for refreshments after the service on 21st.

Christmas Day jumpers

On Christmas morning as we celebrate with all the family, we would love you to wear a Christmas jumper. It will all add to the celebration of the day ahead.

Warm Welcome Spaces - Help Required!

As the temperature drops, consider those who do not have a warm home. And yet we have warm church buildings and space. Through a UK wide initiative called Warm Welcome Spaces, we would love to open St John's Church Hall one afternoon per week 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. This is an urgent need in our community – please help us show God's love.**

Christians Against Poverty Life Skills – Jan 2023

CAP Life Skills is an informal 8-week course which helps people manage their finances and make their money go further. A new course starts on Thu. 19th January. If you know of anyone who would benefit from participating, please contact 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-Selling Fast!

We have been overwhelmed by the demand and support for the Hazaq Coffee operated by Release International. We have 2 more deliveries arriving shortly but already some of these are 'spoken for'. Please speak to David asap if you would like some for Christmas. 100% of the profits of Hazaq go to support the work of Release International. The cost of each 250g bag is £6.00. (Cheaper & better than the supermarket!) This is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy good coffee and help the work of Release International.

CMSi

The Winter edition of the CMSi magazine is available in both Christ Christ & St John's

If you have any collection boxes could these, be returned by this Sunday (11th) in order that funds raised can be sent to CMSi before the end of the year.

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
07808 479649

Administrator: David Brown
david@theunitedparish.org.uk
028 93 354814 Office
07732 763827
(Mon, Wed Fri. Office hours 9am-1pm
Tue & Thu working from home.

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

