

Sunday 4th 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.

4th December 2022

10.00am Christ Church
Communion

11.30am St John's
Communion

11th December 2022

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise
(Confirmation)

For Your Attention

Confirmation Service.

Bishop George will be with us next Sunday Morning at our 11.30am Service in St John's. Please join us at this important event as our young folk are confirmed. Following the Service everyone is invited to a pudding party in the hall. **If you can provide a pudding or help serve, please contact David.**

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.

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.

FWO Envelopes

The new 2023 FWO envelopes are now available for collection at the rear of Christ Church & foyer of 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 last week.

Let us also pray for Barbara Bankhead, David Livingston, Sadie Wilson. Jim & Robina Stewart as Jim settles into Rylands Nursing Home.

Weekly Prayer Meetings

We have two slots when we can meet and pray for our community & church. The Thursday evening group will now be taking a break over Christmas recommencing on **Thursday 19th January**.

Monday morning group is still meeting in St John's Church @10.30am

Prayer Warriors Monthly leaflet now available

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

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.

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 this Sunday, 4th December. If you have a young person post-primary, please come along. The group meet in Christ Church halls during Sunday services.

Nativity Sunday!! 18th December

Like other years we would love to see everyone dress up as a Nativity character on the morning of 18th. There will be a prize of a meal out in Belfast for anyone who wins. 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.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Christmas Card!

By next weekend you should have received a card from the Church with Revd Jonny's Christmas thoughts. The card also gives details of all our services- please take some time away from the busyness of the season by joining us at one of our special services.

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!

We have warm buildings and space, and yet many in our community can't afford to heat their homes. Through a UK wide initiative called Warm Welcome Spaces, we plan 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. A new course starts on Thu. 19th January. If you know of anyone who would benefit from participating, please contact Frances (07791 249025).

Winter Coats Appeal - Update

Thank you to all who donated. Surplus coats were given to various charities including Women's Aid, the CITHRA Foundation, Extern, The Welcome Organisation and The People's Kitchen. Thanks also to Conor, from the Ballynure Co-Op, who kindly provided and served tea and refreshments.

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.](#)

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 next Sunday 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

