

# Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**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.

## 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023

10.00am Christ Church Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's Morning Praise

## 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023

10.00am Christ Church Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's Morning Praise

# For Your Attention

## Alpha - New Year Start

Alpha starts in a fortnights time! It will be on a Sunday evening commencing on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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/>

Please book in via the Alpha page on the website or just follow the link below- this helps us with numbers for catering etc.

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/mrjfkixp>

## FWO Envelopes

2023 FWO envelopes are now available for collection at the rear of both Churches. If you are unable to collect your envelopes and would like them delivered or if you wish to donate to Church work by another method, please contact David in the office.

## Week of Prayer

Our week of Prayer commences on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January in St John's**. Each day will have a different focus on our Parish & Community.

We will meet **each evening @ 7.30pm** to pray together, alternating from Mon- Thurs. between St John's & Christ Church.

## Social Media!

We run several pages on Facebook covering: The United Parish, Baby Basics & Compassion Ministries. Presently it is being updated on a regular basis by Revd Jonny & David. We are looking for someone to oversee our social media platform. If this is something that you might like to consider doing please contact Revd Jonny or David.

# Pastoring

## Please pray for:

Albert Green, Winston Jenkins, Revd Jonny, Billy Clarke, Agnes Kelly, David Livingston, Mervyn & Hilary Smylie, Helen Osborne, Jim & Robina Stewart.

Pray for Derek Bissett & wider family on the death of Derek's wife Rita. Please also pray for Robert McFarland and the wider family following the death of Robert's wife Linda. Both these families sadly suffered the loss of loved ones just before Christmas.

## Weekly Prayer Meetings

The Monday morning & Thursday evening groups will be starting back on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January @ 10.30am** in St John's & **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January** at 7.30pm in Christ Church.

## Few Dates for the Diary!

The Antrim Rural Deanery, **Lenten Midweek Services** are as follows: -

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Templepatrick,

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, Gartree

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Randalstown

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, Ballynure**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Antrim

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, Kells

**All services start at 7.30pm**

## Holy Week

Holy week is from **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**. It is hoped that we will have a Youth & Children's event on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> with further services during the week. As in previous years we will have our Dawn Service & Easter Celebration Services on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>.

# 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 relocate to Christ Church Halls. This will help more people attend. To provide support to George, Rev Jonny will lead these bible studies. We will be starting at **2pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January.**

## Small Groups-Should I join one?

That is an easy question- absolutely! Our groups are starting back week commencing **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January.**

We should all try and join a small group to grow spiritually, have fellowship with fellow Christians and support one another.

Why not make this a New Year's resolution by joining one.

Flyers in Church or just click on the website link to find out more:

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

## Divine Healing Ministries

DHM are offering prayer ministry training at The Mill, Calvin Street in Belfast. Over five sessions on a fortnightly basis from 3-5pm on a Sunday starting Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. Covering all aspects of prayer ministry. For more info contact John Wilson or the Church Office.

# Shaping a new generation

## Starting Back!

All the Sunday clubs start back this **Sunday (8<sup>th</sup>)** in Christ Church & St John's at the normal times.

Youth Fellowship will be meeting this **Sunday night(8<sup>th</sup>) at 7.00pm**. The theme will be 'Design your own Church'

**Boy's Brigade-** all sections start back week commencing **Monday 9<sup>th</sup>**.

## YF & Sunday School Leaders!

All our Youth & Children's ministries are governed by Safeguarding policies to protect all of us. As our numbers grow we are constantly looking for leaders for both Christ Church & St John's. Please contact Revd Jonny if you might be interested in helping.

## Exodus Team to Spain

We have seven 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.

The Team Training will be starting in Christ Church hall week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. The team will be away in Spain from 21<sup>st</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August.

## Christ Church Youth Bible Study.

We started this towards the end of last year and numbers are growing. Teaching is provided by Revd Jonny, Alison and Claire and runs every Sunday morning (except Family Services) from 10.00am in Christ Church.

# Reaching Out & Welcoming in

## Wednesday morning Communion.

This will start again this **Wednesday (11<sup>th</sup>)** at 12 noon in St John's. This is an ideal opportunity to take 30 minutes away from the busyness of life to join together at Holy Communion and enjoy a short biblical reflection based on a lectionary reading.

We now have moved to a new model of Holy Communion which is as follows:-

1. Continue with the existing sealed cups, collect from rear of church and sit in the pews using these during the service, or;
2. During the administration of communion, members have the option to come forward to the Communion rail and receive bread (where tongs will be used to avoid contamination) and individual cups of wine.

## 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. We will be starting a new course on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January. If you know of anyone who would benefit from participating, please get in touch with Frances (07791 249025).

## Welcome Night

Over the last 6 months we have been blessed with new parishioners joining our Church family. We want all of you to know how welcome you are, and therefore we plan to have a welcome night towards the end of February (24<sup>th</sup>) when we can gather together for some eats and a chat in order to give our new members the opportunity to meet a few people from the Church.

## Refreshments @ Family Service.

We still have a few gaps to fill on the Christ Church rota. If you can help with refreshments on the last Sunday in the month, please chat to either Christine or Shelley.

# Partnering

## Baby Basics

Many thanks for the generous donations given to Baby Basics in 2022 which helped us to bless eighty-five families. We are delighted to have reached the milestone of our 200<sup>th</sup> referral since we opened in Spring 2019.

The items we currently need are size 1 and 2 nappies, baby towels, baby bedding (cot size and Moses basket size) toiletries for Mum (including toothpaste and toothbrushes) and toiletries for baby.

## Hazaq Coffee-Selling Fast!

We have been overwhelmed by the demand and support for the Hazaq Coffee operated by Release International. 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. Coffee available from David.

## CMSi

The Winter edition of the CMSi magazine is available in both Churches

## Mission Allocation 2022

Just in case you didn't see it over Christmas. Every December the Select Vestry on behalf of the parish tithes our income to bless others 'outside of our walls'. Last year **£14,000** was donated to various charities, bringing our total over the last 5 years to £70,000. A list is available from the office detailing the various organisations who have benefited last year.

## Recycling!

The Council have recently confirmed that everything we dispose of is sorted and recycled. We are treated as commercial waste which is treated differently from domestic.<sup>7</sup>

# 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 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](mailto:logilby@gmail.com)) or Mobile 07588 039093

