

Sunday 23rd April 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.

23rd April 2023

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11:30am St John's
Morning Praise

30th April 2023

8.30am Christ Church
Holy Communion

10.00am Christ Church
Family Service

11.30am St John's
Family Service

For Your Attention

Recent AGM

Copies of all the reports and accounts for 2022 in Church or electronically by contacting the Parish Office.

The following members of our congregation will be serving God & the Parish during 2022/23

Select Vestry

Andrew Brannigan, David Brown, Christine Burns (Christ Church Rector's Warden), Revd Jonny, Paul Comins (St John's Rector's Church Warden), Colin Ferguson, Trina Grant, David McIlhagger, Lorraine Ogilby (Hon. Secretary) Michael Ogilby, Margaret Scott Lawrence Stanford (Hon. Treasurer), Peter Watson, Frances Wilson, Rachel Wilson, Pam Winter.

Parish Giving

What is it that motivates you to give to the church? Is it because you think it gives you a better standing with God? Is it to support the expenses of running a parish? Would it surprise you that whilst we so appreciate those that give, we are more interested that you give because you desire to express your heartfelt gratitude to God for what he has done for you. At our recent AGM the Treasurer, Lawrence Stanford highlighted that presently of the 300 households registered, approximately 100 households give nothing to God's work in our parish. Only 7 households give more than £50 per week. We recognise that the current economic climate is difficult for everyone, however the Treasurer showed that for every £1 we receive from parishioners, we are spending £1.05, and that is after careful budgeting. We would ask everyone to consider their current giving to the Lord. This is not to be seen as putting pressure on people to give but if you wish to increase your Freewill Offering please speak in confidence to our Hon Treasurer Lawrence Stanford (07743 316400) or collect forms from the church or from our website. Thank you.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Mervyn & Hilary Smylie, Victor McCabe, Gill Clayton, Maisie Moore, Ed Barton, Mervyn Wilson, Kate Winton, Agnes Kelly, Roy Cleland, Bob Ferris & Hannah Millar.

Please pray for Sharon McNeill & family circle on the recent death of her mother Vera. Both Vera & her late husband Hill had a long association with St John's. Thanksgiving Service St John's Fri. 28th 12pm

Please pray for all the newly appointed Wardens and Select Vestry. Pray that Holy Spirit will guide, direct, and protect them as they serve God and the parish over the next year.

Pray for Revd Roger Thompson as he travels to Burundi & Rwanda shortly. Pray for Fiona & the family that they know the comfort of the Holy Spirit & also for Roger's safety & wellbeing.

Sadly, we have just learned of the death of Dorothy Chase. Dorothy was a long-standing member of Christ Church. For the last number of years, she was in a nursing home in Ballynahinch. Please pray for her family circle that they may know the comfort of the Holy Spirit at this sad time. Thanksgiving Service Christ Church Tue. 25th @ 11.00am.

Holy Communion at Home

If you are housebound and would like a home communion from Revd Jonny, please arrange through David in the office.

Going deeper

Walk Through The Bible – Remember to book

Do you feel at times that you don't understand bits of the Old Testament? Rev Jonny has arranged for an organisation called Walk through the Bible to come and host a virtual tour through the Old Testament. Starting on the **Friday evening, 16th June** and then again on **Saturday (17th) morning**; this will be such an opportunity to learn & discover information from The Beginnings right through to the Prophets. Tickets cost £15 for the event or £20 to include lunch on Saturday. Children aged 11-17 go free if they are accompanied by an adult. Book and pay at

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

Make sure you pick up an invitation in Church this morning.

Discipleship Course - would you like to help lead?

We would love to help people understand their purpose in God's will by hosting Discipleship Explored 6-week course. Would you be interested in hosting and being a part of this team to lead this? If so, please get in touch with the Parish Office.

UCB Bible Notes

The next quarters edition is available in both Churches, from your pastoral visitor or Church Office. This is such a great daily devotional and its free!

Healing Service

On Thursday 27th April at Shankill Methodist in Belfast @ 11.00 am, Healing Service with teaching from Revd David Jardine (Founder of Divine Healing Ministries). All Welcome. For more information contact John or Sophie Wilson.

Shaping a new generation

Exodus Fundraising - Youth Mission to Tarragona

Don't forget to join us on **Sat 22nd April for the (Coffee Morning) in St John's & Fri. 5th May for the Table Quiz Donate at:-**

<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/adventureawaits48>

Safeguarding Trust

Just in case you didn't know, Revd Jonny and the Select Vestry are committed to upholding good practice in the parish's ministry with children & young people. Safeguarding is overseen by the Select Vestry and the Safeguarding panel. Should you have any queries or concerns please contact the safeguarding panel immediately:

Revd Jonny 07808 479649, Ms Ashleigh Reid 07732 053604 & Mrs Pat Craig 07584 929758.

Youth Fellowship

Meeting this Sunday night in St John's (23rd) @ 7pm.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

It's Not Too Late-Challenge Jonny!

Several challenges have been lined up for Jonny to raise funds for the ministries in Nairobi and Tarragona which he will be involved in this year. His challenges are 1) walk 10,000 steps every day of April 2) Go for a cold-water dip at Gleno waterfall 3) Run a 5km parkrun and 4) wear a Liverpool top at both Sunday services. If you want to see him do these, then donate at:-

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Challenge-Jonny>

Men's Night Out - Book your place

Evening meal at the Namaste in Ballyclare, Friday 28th April 7:30pm
Numbers limited please book in using the following link asap:

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/s72zzp5l>

Women's Summer Walking Group

Time to get the walking shoes on -meeting Monday 22nd April 7:30pm
from St John's.

Screens @ Christ Church

We would like to use the screen a little more often in Christ Church. A rota seems the best solution (like St John's). Full training will be given- it's pretty straight forward. Please give your name to Christine or David in the office if you might be interested. Many thanks.

Partnering

Baby Basics-Items required

Many thanks to everyone for their kind donations. The items we 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. **We have now partnered with TinyLife, so we also have a requirement now for small baby clothes.**

Asda Green Token Scheme- Keep voting

Baby Basics is part of the Asda Green token online scheme from now until 30th April. This will allow us to raise funds to help needy families. We would be so grateful if everyone would vote for us by visiting www.asda.com/green-tokens and selecting the store name, Ballyclare, from the drop-down box. You will be able to vote once every seven days.

CMS Ireland

Partnership leaflets and quarterly magazines are on table at rear of both Churches if you haven't already received them.

Release International- Hazaq Coffee

We have the Ethiopian & Indian blends for cafetieres in stock. The cost is £6.00 per 250gram bag, best before July 23. All proceeds go to work of Release International; the coffee is ethically sourced and tastes fabulous. Available in church this morning or contact David.

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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(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

