


Sunday 15th October 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 in praise, hearing God speak to us, sending us out equipped for the week ahead.

This Sunday

10.00am Christ Church Harvest

11.30am St John's Harvest

Sunday 22nd October 2023

10.00am Christ Church Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's Morning Praise

For Your Attention

Harvest Weekend- Please Join Us!

Come along for afternoon tea in Christ Church halls this Saturday afternoon, 14th October from 2pm-4pm. Funds raised will be going towards Macmillan Cancer Support & Parish Funds.

If you are free on Saturday morning why not join us at **10.30am in Christ Church & St John's to help decorate the churches**. Please bring along food items which can be donated to Newtownabbey Foodbank along with flowers for distribution to housebound parishioners.

Thanksgiving Services will be held in both Christ Church & St John's on **Sunday 15th October**. **Can children bring food items on Sunday- tinned rice, custard, tinned fruits, tinned fish/meat, and long-life milk.**

On **Monday 16th** could any parishioners who are free meet at Christ Church 10.30am to clear the Church.

Have you picked up a copy? Investing in the future

Please take a copy of the Investing in the future document. God has blessed us greatly in the past few years, and we are excited with where he is taking us next. Be a part of the future.

Car Parking at St John's – Good News!

Ballyclare Primary School have very kindly offered St John's the use of their car parking facilities on Sunday mornings. This will help greatly with the current issues of parking around the church. However, before this can become operational, we need to have a team of marshals who will direct parking and leaving each Sunday. If you would like to be part of a team on a rota for this, please let David know in the Parish Office.

Note that this new parking will not commence until sufficient volunteers come forward.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Pray for Liz McConnell and Meta Robinson recovering after hospitalisation. Pray for Louise McIlhagger who is currently recovering at home after surgery. Pray for Margaret Parkinson and Eileen Green who are recovering after hospitalisation. Continue to pray for Maisie Moore, Bob Ferris, Mervyn & Hilary Smylie, Victor McCabe & Anna Mitchell.

Please continue to pray for Bryan & Sandra Vaughan & family. Bryan's father, Albert died recently.

Devastating news over the last week in the Middle East, please pray for peace and for families who have lost loved ones.

Prayer Warriors – October Edition

The new monthly edition of Prayer Warriors is now available in both Christ Church & St John's, pastoral visitor or church office. This booklet contains prayer requests from Revd Jonny, and Parish Groups. Prayers are being answered by the Holy Spirit-it must be working! Thank you.

Pastoral Visiting Team

Could the Pastoral Visitors meet at Christ Church this Monday (16th) to collect flowers and distribute to the housebound.

Going deeper

Mothers' Union

Our October meeting takes place on **Monday 23rd October at 2.30 pm** in the changed venue of: - **St John's Hall Ballyclare**

We look forward to welcoming Karen McMullan a Volunteer with Street Pastors. Street Pastors are a Christian Community who have a presence on the streets of our town at weekends connecting with young people by building relationships and offering guidance and support.

This promises to be a remarkably interesting afternoon and we issue an invitation to all ladies to come along.

Mums' Night Out – Please Consider Signing Up!

Care For The Family are running a series of night outs in N. Ireland. We have block booked 6 tickets at an early bird price of £6- bargain! The event is on **Wednesday 8th November 2023, 7:30pm** at Dundonald Elim. Contact Alison on 07973 709261 for more info.

Genesis Art & Craft Fellowship

As a church community that loves a creator God, we wish to create a safe and welcoming space to encourage and develop people's God-given talents, through artistic discovery, skill development & creative communication.

The group will meet every Saturday morning in **Christ Church Halls, Ballynure from 9:30am.**

Watch this space for a special event happening on Saturday 18th November.

Shaping a new generation

Parental Consent Forms 2023/24

If your children/youth are attending our programmes, then it is essential that a consent form is completed. **Due to Safeguarding policies no young person can attend a group without a consent form being completed beforehand. Consent forms are also available from the office or in Church.** To complete the form online, go to <https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/forms/inuv4mrc>

Safeguard Training

All Church-based Youth & Children's Leaders must demonstrate they have received safeguarding training in this past year. If you have not received training the following dates are available: -

23 rd Oct	St Peter's, Belfast, Revd Brian Lacey:	brianlacey@stpeterbelfast.org
15 th Nov	All Saints Antrim, Ven. Stephen McBride:	archdeacon@connor.anglican.org
23 rd Nov	St Nicholas's, Carrick Revd Chris St John:	christopher.stjohn@btinternet.com
27 th Nov	Glebe Hall, Ballyrashane, Revd Amanda Adams:	aeadams@hotmail.co.uk

Sessions start at 7pm. When you attend a course, please advise office so we can update our records.

Child Safeguarding.

The safety and wellbeing of all children in our parish is very important. The Safeguarding Panel & Select Vestry have been working hard at ensuring all processes and policies are in place to support our youth & children's ministries. For information on how we care for our young people, go to the Safeguarding page on our website <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/about/safeguarding/>

Confirmation Classes

If anyone would be interested in Confirmation, please contact Rev Jonny

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Friday Fellowship

The group will meet at Christ Church on **Friday 27th October** at the usual time of **11.00am**. If you need transport, please contact the pastoral visiting team, Sophie or David. We had great numbers last month, please join us for a time of fellowship, chat & refreshments.

Royal Bits & Pieces

Canon Derek Kerr will be hosting an evening called 'Royal bits & pieces' on **Friday 10th November 7.30pm** in Christ Church Hall, Ballynure. Derek is a wealth of information on the Royal family, and with his stories and memorabilia that will be a great night to invite friends and family. A supper will also be included. Book your place at: - <https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/ljnjl1nlf> or contact David in the office.

Parish Christmas Night Out- Book if you are going.

Always good to have a Christmas bash at the start of December. We have booked 2 nights out; one for men and women at the Brothers Restaurant in Ballyclare. The dates are: -Monday 4th Dec. (Women) & Wed. 6th Dec (Men). The booking links are as follows: -

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/jpswr4zp> (Women)

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/ula4lv3d> (Men)

Could we ask you to book as soon as possible as the restaurant have asked us for a £10 booking fee for each person, deducted from bill. For any more details contact Alison or David.

Food Hygiene

If you didn't manage to get on last years course, another one is available which qualifies you to do catering in Churches. It's at St Hildas's, Seymour Hill, Dunmurry on Friday 20th @ 6.30pm. No need to book and open to all.

Partnering

Baby Basics – Open Day

What do they do over in the new building at Christ Church?
Why not pop along to the open day on **Saturday 21st October from 2.00 to 4.00pm** and see how we support families in need. You will find a warm welcome along with refreshments.

Blythswood -Shoe Box Appeal

We have been taking part in the Christmas Shoe Box appeal for many years collecting usually between 50-100 every year. These gift boxes make such a difference to adults & children in Eastern Europe. Leaflets and some empty shoeboxes will be available in both churches this morning. The boxes need returned by **Sunday 29th October** to each church.

Alwyn & Trish Tweed are coordinating this year's appeal for more information contact **Alwyn on 07733 238175**.

Release International- Hazaq Coffee

New fresh supplies of coffee have arrived in Church. Available at rear of St John's or David in the office. £6.00 per bag with all proceeds going to help the work of Release. You need to be fast as it sells out 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

