

Sunday 8th 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.

Sunday 8th October 2023

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

Sunday 15th October 2023

10.00am Christ Church
Harvest

11.00am St John's
Harvest

For Your Attention

Harvest Weekend

To celebrate the harvest weekend in the parish, we will be hosting an **afternoon tea in Christ Church halls** on Saturday afternoon, 14th October from 2pm-4pm. Funds raised will be going towards Macmillan Cancer Support & Parish Funds.

Our **Thanksgiving Services** will be held in both Christ Church & St John's on Sunday 15th October.

On **Saturday 14th** please come along to decorate both our churches, meeting at **10.30am at Christ Church & St John's**. Please bring along food items which can be donated to Newtownabbey Foodbank along with flowers for distribution to housebound parishioners. 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 & pastoral visitors meet at Christ Church 10.30am to clear the Church and distribute flowers and gifts to Parishioners.

Miscellaneous Items

A few plastic containers have been left in the kitchen at St John's – could these be collected please.

Hall & Church keys from St John's still missing from keypad- could everyone have another wee check of the pockets please.

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.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Pray for Liz McConnell in Antrim hospital and Meta Robinson who is 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. The family would you like to thank everyone for the prayers and kindness shown to them over the last number of weeks.

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.

Holy Communion at Home

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

Midweek Communion- the best kept secret!

Midweek Holy Communion has recommenced again on Wednesdays at 12 noon in St John's. This is an ideal opportunity to take 30 minutes away from the busyness of life to take part in a short service.

Staff Holidays

David on leave this Monday (9th) – family weekend and grandson Harrison's first birthday.

Going deeper

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.**

Mums' Night Out - By Mums, for Mums!

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.

Christ Church Bible Study

We are meeting this Tuesday in Christ Church halls, commencing 2pm. We are beginning a new study so new members would be very welcome to join us.

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: -

10th Oct	Holy Trinity, Carrick, Revd Alan McCann:	rector@holytrinity.org.uk
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

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/ljnjl n l f> or contact David in the office.

Parish Christmas Night Out

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.

Church Weekend 2024

Every two years we take the opportunity as a church family to have a weekend away. Our 2024 Church weekend will be held on **2nd-4th February** in the Kilbroney Centre, Rostrevor. We will have guests joining us for the weekend, leading our worship and teaching. There will also be a full youth & children's programme. Save the date in your diary now and watch out for more information.

Request for China Cups & Saucers

Laura & Sandra from St John's are working on a special project- if you have any spare china cups & saucers, could you give them a call or just leave them in the Church Office.

Partnering

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**.

Baby Basics – Open Day

Due to the support of the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund, we now have a new unit at the back of Christ Church halls, dedicated to the ministry of Baby Basics. We had a wonderful morning recently to celebrate with our referrers and the organisations who donate to us. We would also like to celebrate with the parish so we are organising an open day on **Saturday 21st October from 2.00 to 4.00** and would love to see as many as possible join us to see how we support families in need. A huge thanks to our team of amazing volunteers who are so dedicated in serving in this ministry.

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 9am-1pm.

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

