

Sunday 12th November

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 Remembrance Day

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|---------|---------------------------------|
| 10.00am | Christ Church
Morning Prayer |
| 11.30am | St John's
Morning Praise |
| 6.30pm | St John's
Memorial Service |

Sunday 19th November

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 10.00am | Christ Church
Morning Prayer |
| 11.30am | St John's
Morning Praise |

For Your Attention

Remembrance Services

As well as in both Churches, Service will be held at the War Memorial in Ballyclare at 10:50am & at the War Memorial in Ballynure at 2:55pm.

Memorial Service

Tonight (12th) at **6.30pm in St John's** we will be holding a service to remember all our friends and family who over the years have sadly left us. Please consider coming along on that evening or invite a friend who you know will find this beneficial.

Car Parking at St John's – Starting Sunday 19th

The car parking starts in Ballyclare Primary School on Sundays from the 19th. It's a bit of trial & error for the first few weeks so bear with us: -

1. The school carpark will be open at 11.00am & closed at 11.35am
2. It will be opened after the Service or if you need access during the service, please contact the wardens.
3. Marshals will be wearing hi vis jackets, follow their instructions.
4. After the service the carpark will close after 15 mins.
5. This will now leave St John's available for folk who have mobility needs e.g., disabled badge.

Christmas in the United Parish

Attached with this week's news sheet and in Church we have a flyer which gives details of our services and some of our events over Christmas-please pick up a copy.

Andy's Last Sunday- 26th November

We have been truly blessed with Andy's ministry & stay with us over the last 10 weeks. We just want to keep him here but sadly he's back to Theological College. We would like to get Andy a gift- in the pews this morning you will find an envelope, please drop something into it & return over the next few weeks, as a token of our thanks to Andy.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Pray for the family of the late Maisie Moore, Maisie sadly died on Thursday. Also remember Ed Barton in our prayers as he deals with the loss of a close friend and companion. May Ed know the comfort of the Holy Spirit at this sad time.

Please pray for Lorraine Cardwell & family on the recent admission to ICU in Antrim of son Ben, pray for comfort and healing at this time.

Pray for Liz McConnell, Meta Robinson, Margaret Parkinson & Eileen Green recovering after hospitalisation.

Pray for Robina Stewart, Anne Irvine & Robert Turkington recently admitted to hospital.

Continue to pray for, Bob Ferris, Mervyn & Hilary Smylie, & Anna Mitchell.

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

Prayer Warriors

The November edition of Prayer Warriors is now available in both St John's & Christ Church. Please pick up a copy and continue to pray and give thanks for the Holy Spirit's work in the United Parish.

Have you been Baptized?

We are currently planning an adult baptism gathering. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Revd Jonny.

Mental Health Matters

Series of lectures being held in Ballyclare Reformed Presbyterian on Thursday 16th Anxiety, Dr Tim Huey & "23rd November Brenda Kelso Starting at 7:30pm. Pick up a flyer in Church.

Going deeper

Advent Devotional

This year's devotional is called *The Advent of Glory* by R C Sproul. **Copies available from David for £5.00.** John Wilson has kindly reviewed this book for us: -

Firstly, in reviewing this book, I sampled only a few of the 24 devotions it contains.

However, I can say with confidence that it is novel in its approach, in that, the author takes one key word per devotion from the Christmas story and uses it to help us meditate on the advent of Christ.

The author writes in a concise, precise, engaging manner without ever becoming solely academic. At the end of each devotion, the author poses a question for us to ponder further. Each devotion closes with a prayer of reflection on the keyword and are contributed by Christians from different walks of life.

I now look forward to journeying through Advent with this devotion to help me focus on the enormity of God's grace in Christ.

John Wilson

God's Big Promises Advent Calendar

This year we are trying something new. We have in stock a Christmas Advent calendar which comes along with a short book of devotions to use with the family. This is a great way of remembering the true meaning of Christmas. We have a small supply of 10 cost is £5 available from David in office or in Church.

Clive West 2023 Annual Lecture

This is one not to miss. Rico Tice will be teaching on the theme. 'Is Evangelism the job of every Christian, or is it for the ordained and the outgoing?' St Nicholas Church, 1 Cadogan Park Belfast, BT9 6HG
Tuesday 21st November at 7.30pm- refreshments afterwards

Shaping a new generation

Exodus 2024 to Spain

The date of the trip is **19th-30th July**. Anyone interested in going aged 15 and over, please get in touch with Revd Jonny.

The Big Bethlehem Pantomime

Calling all kids and everyone who is young at heart!

The Big Bethlehem Pantomime takes place in St John's, Ballyclare, on Saturday November 25 from 10am – 3pm, with pantomime shows at 10.30am, 11.45am, 1.15pm and 2.15pm.

As well as onstage panto antics from Play It by Ear drama group, there will be a petting farm, Christmas crafts, a photobooth and café.

Just turn up as a Sunday School group or as a family

Leaflet attached with News Sheet & in both St John's & Christ Church.

Parish Safeguarding Information Evening

We are holding an information evening for Church-based youth & children's leaders to reflect the changes and policies that have been implemented by the Church of Ireland.

So important that leaders and volunteers try to attend this meeting in **St John's Hall, Wednesday 29th November at 8pm.**

This evening will be invaluable as it will give you the opportunity to meet our Safeguarding panel, provide you with a chance to ask any questions you may have along with bringing you up to date with our new policies.

Safeguard Training- Next Dates 15th Nov & 16th Nov

All Church-based Youth & Children's Leaders must demonstrate they have received Diocesan safeguarding training in this past year.

If you have not received training the following dates are available: -

15th Nov All Saints Antrim, Ven. Stephen McBride: archdeacon@connor.anglican.org

16th Nov St Cedma's Larne: stcedmas@btconnect.com

23rd Nov St Nicholas's, Carrick Revd Chris St John: christopher.stjohn@btinternet.com

27th Nov Glebe Hall, Ballyrashane, Revd Amanda Adams: aeadams@hotmail.co.uk

Sessions start at **7pm.- last approx. an hour** Please email the contact as per above to advise that you plan to attend.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Christmas Jobs!

Volunteers required to help with various activities over Christmas (putting up lights, decorating the tree, helping with catering etc) if you can help see Revd Jonny.

Parish Christmas Night Out- Are you Going??

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 by **Sun 19th November**. as the restaurant have asked for a £10 booking fee for each person, deducted from bill.

Genesis Art & Craft Fellowship Exhibition

The group will be holding their first exhibition on **Sat 18th November** in Christ Church from 10.00am- 12.30pm. Light refreshments available along with small Christmas Craft items for sale.

Church Weekend 2024

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. Pick up a leaflet in Church this morning.

FWO Envelopes 2024

We will be shortly issuing these for the year ahead. If you would like a set of envelopes; no longer need them or wish to discuss giving by standing order into either our General Account or the Buildings & Projects account, please contact Lawrence Stanford our Hon. Treasurer or David in the office. Forms are also available in Church or online: <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/resources/forms/>

Partnering

Baby Basics

Many thanks to those who have donated to Baby Basics. We have received **80 referrals** this year, so your support has enabled us to help many families. We really appreciate everyone's support. The only items we need presently are 'Babygro's for boys aged 0-3 months and snow suits for boys and girls for 0 - 3 and 3 - 6 months.

If anyone is interested in joining our team, please feel free to have a chat with Hilary (07740 869671) or Frances (07791 249025).

Release International- Hazaq Coffee

I plan to do an order for Christmas – if you would like to order bags of beans, filter or cafetiere quality from the Hazaq, Ethiopian or Indian ranges please let me know by **Sunday 19th November** in order that it arrives in time. Many thanks David

Salvation Army Toy Appeal

Every year at this time of year we start collecting new toys for families; -due to economic circumstances or illness cannot provide for their children or grand-children at Christmas. If you can help, please bring an unwrapped gift to Church before **Sunday 10th December**. One of the Salvation Army staff will join us at our Carol Service in St Johns on the evening of the 10th.

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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St John's Music Lead
chris@theunitedparish.org.uk

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

