


Sunday 5th November 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
Holy Communion

11.30am St John's
Holy Communion

Sunday 12th November Remembrance Day

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

6.30pm St John's
Memorial Service

For Your Attention

Memorial Service -Sunday 12th November

On this evening 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. The guest speaker for the evening will be Pauline Wilson from Bridge Counselling Craigavon. Please consider coming along on that evening or invite a friend who you know will find this beneficial.

St John's Music Ministry Lead



We are delighted that after much prayer and a successful interview process, Chris McCabe has been appointed as the new Music Ministry Lead for St John's.

Chris is no stranger to the church, and already has been contributing to the worship life on Sundays. He is married to Liz, and they have 3 children, Libby, Eve and Kerry.

Chris will work closely with Rev Jonny and will coordinate all aspects of music each week, developing this important ministry in the months ahead. Please pray for Chris as he settles into this new part-time role, and how we can become even more intentional in our praise and adoration to God. Chris can be contacted at

chris@theunitedparish.org.uk

Pastoring

Please pray for:

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 Maisie Moore, 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.

UCB Bible Notes

The next quarters notes covering **November, December & January** are available in both churches, from your pastoral visitor or church office. This is a great daily devotional and free!

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.

Car Parking at St John's – Starting Soon

Ballyclare Primary School have very kindly offered St John's the use of their car parking facilities on Sunday mornings. We are just finalising details and will hopefully be operational very soon. If you would like to be part of a team on a rota to help with marshalling-please let David know in the Parish Office or leave details with wardens

Going deeper

Please return soon- Investing in the future

These leaflets have been available in church over the last month. To aid planning for 2024 could you please return these by the end of next week.

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.

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.

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.

Shaping a new generation

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.

Exodus 2024

It's safe to say that the trip during July 23 to Spain was a great success. Time now to think about 2024. The date of this year's visit will be.

19th-30th July If you would like to be part of the team going, please have a word with Revd Jonny.

Safeguard Training- Next Date 23rd Oct.

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
23rd Nov St Nicholas's, Carrick Revd Chris St John: christopher.stjohn@btinternet.com
27th Nov Glebe Hall, Ballyrashane, Revd Amanda Adams: aeadam@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 and let David in office know that you have attended so we can update our records.

Confirmation Classes

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

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

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

Royal Bits & Pieces

This **Friday 10th November 7.30pm** in Christ Church, Canon Derek Kerr will be hosting an evening called 'Royal bits & pieces'. 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>

Genesis Art & Craft Fellowship Exhibition

The group will be holding their first exhibition on **Saturday 18th November** in Christ Church from 10.00am- 12.30pm.

Light refreshments available along with small Christmas Craft items for sale.

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, [booking forms available next week.](#)

Partnering

Blythswood -Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to Alwyn & Trish who coordinated this year's appeal. These Christmas gift boxes make such a difference to adults & children in Eastern Europe. Great support, we collected 50 boxes. Thank you.

Baby Basics

Many thanks to those who have donated to Baby Basics. We have received **77 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

The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church is on Sunday 5th November. An online event hosted by Evangelical Alliance, Release, Open Doors & CSW starting at 7:30pm. If you are interested in finding out more, please register using the following link:

<https://www.eauk.org/what-we-do/events/idop-online-2023>

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

Minister: Jonny Campbell-Smyth
jonny@theunitedparish.org.uk
07808 479649

Administrator: David Brown
david@theunitedparish.org.uk
Office 028 93 354814
Mobile 07732 763827
(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

