

Sunday 10th December

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
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

6.00pm St John's
Carol Service

Sunday 17th December

10.00am Christ Church
Nativity

11.30am St John's
Nativity

6:00pm Christ Church
9 Lessons & Carols

For Your Attention

Salvation Army Toy Appeal

Every Christmas we collect new toys for families who find it difficult to provide for their children due to economic circumstances or illness. If you can help, please bring an unwrapped gift on **Sunday 10th December**. One of the Salvation Army staff will join us at our Carol Service in the evening.

St John's Carol Service

Please join us for our first Carol Service in **St John's this Sunday 10th at 6pm**. We can get caught up in the busyness of Christmas, so it's important to take time worshipping & reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas. Please stay after the service for spiced apple juice and shortbread.

Next Sunday - 17th

Both our morning services will have our children celebrating the Nativity. In the evening we will hold our traditional nine lessons & carols in Christ Church at 6pm. Please stay for refreshments after this Service.

FWO Envelopes

2024 FWO envelopes will be available from **this Sunday** in both Churches. Over the past years many people in our parish have moved to Standing Orders for regular giving. Therefore we are seeing a steady reduction in envelope use. If you have not been using envelopes over the last 18 months, we will not send these out for 2024. If you would like to renew your giving by envelope, then contact the parish office and they will provide yours. We also would encourage the use of regular standing orders for both the ministry of the church and the buildings/projects fund. Forms are available at the back of church or <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/giving/>

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Please pray for Lorraine Cardwell's son Ben. Ben is slowly recovering; we give thanks to the Holy Spirit for healing.

Pray for Robert Turkington recovering after hospitalisation.

Pray for Robina Stewart, & Anne Irvine currently in hospital.

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

Pray for families that are caring for elderly relatives.

Pray for people who find Christmas a challenging time due to the absence of relatives and family who have sadly passed away.

A few in our Parish are awaiting hospital tests and various reviews please pray for them collectively.

Prayer Warriors

The **December** edition of prayer warriors is available for collection in both Christ Church & St John's.

Going deeper

Church Weekend 2024- **Book immediately**

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. **To help aid planning etc could you book in this next week.**

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study Group

This week's study in Christ Church Hall will meet this **Tuesday (12th)** at normal time.

Wednesday Mid- Week Holy Communion

Mid- week Communion will finish on **Wednesday 20th December** and recommence on **Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 12 noon.**

Week of Prayer – 8th January 2024

It's only December but important to get the week of prayer into the diary for 2024. As you know every term, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in our various ministries. This year we will start in St John's at 7:30 and alternate each night between Churches.

Theology Ireland – event with John Ortland

Said or sung, memorised or quoted, the Psalms universally have shaped Christian thinking, living, and devotion. They plumb the depths of humanity and reach the heights of God's sovereign faithfulness.

Theology Ireland are hosting a series of 4 sessions from 29th Jan – 9th Feb 2024 with speaker John Ortland, a prolific writer and theologian from the US. For more information go to

<http://www.theologyireland.com/>

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 Battles Young Christians Face Seminar

The date is a little downstream but good to get booked.

Ray Ortlund from America will be talking and encouraging teenagers on how to deal with some of these battles.

This is a free event on Friday 2nd February 2024 from 8-10pm at I Cadogan Park in Belfast BT9 6HG and is hosted by Theology Ireland.

Booking via the link: <http://www.theologyireland.com/youth>

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Baby Changing facilities- St John's

Thank you to Willie & Jim who have assembled the new baby changing unit in the loo in St John's Church. We hope this will help our many young families who bring their little ones with them to St John's.

Christmas Hampers

Many thanks to Sandra, Laura and volunteers who have prepared this year's Christmas Hampers. These will be distributed by the pastoral visitors over the next week to our elderly parishioners and community.

Kintsugi Hope

Kintsugi Hope is a Christian charity which runs well-being courses covering issues such as self-esteem, perfectionism, honesty, healthy relationships, etc. We plan to start a course in January. This will be very informal and relaxed. If you would be interested in joining us or would like more information, please have a chat with Liz McCabe (07779 333286) or Frances Wilson (07791 249025).

More information about Kintsugi can be found using the following link: - <https://kintsugihope.com/vision>

Investing in the Future

Many thanks to everyone who returned forms and donated over the last few months. The Select Vestry felt it would be useful if more detailed information along with various photographs was provided.

Brochures are available for collection in both churches.

Parish Office- New Arrangements

Fridays in the church office can be busy as we finish planning for weekend and prepare publications. If you can contact David on a Monday-Thursday normal times. David will not be contactable on Friday's. In case of an emergency please contact Revd Jonny.

Partnering

Baby Basics

Many thanks to those who have donated to Baby Basics. We have received 89 referrals this year and have already received 4 for next year. We really appreciate the support we have received from parishioners, individuals in the community and organisations who have provided us with funding. As a result of this generosity, we are currently fully stocked and, for the moment, cannot accept any further donations.

CMS Ireland boxes

If you are collecting money for CMS Ireland through the donation boxes, please return these to Bert Rea in St John's as soon as possible so that we can donate this Christmas.

CMSi News-Latest News

Don't forget our partnership with our brothers & sisters in Tumaini & Tujisaidie in Kenya. This morning in both churches we have the latest bulletin along with the CMSi quarterly magazine. Please pick up a copy.

Newtownabbey Foodbank

Rather than inundate the warehouse with lots of items we felt it more prudent to take financial donations in order that items can be purchased by the warehouse for distribution. Envelopes are available in both churches from the wardens.

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

