

Sunday 26th 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

08:30am Christ Church
Holy Communion

10.00am Christ Church
Christingle
Family Service

11.30am St John's
Christingle
Family Service &
Holy Baptism

Sunday 3rd December

10.00am Christ Church
Holy Communion

11.30am St John's
Holy Communion

For Your Attention

Christmas Lights Party at St John's Hall

Please join us on **Saturday 25th** immediately after the light switch on in Ballyclare. Food, games, music, mulled punch, and a visit from Santa!

Christingle Family Service

We are having our first Christingle Family Service on **Sunday (26th)**. Please join us as we give thanks for Christ's light & love to us all.

Car Parking at St John's-has Started!

Last Sunday car-parking in Primary School commenced- many thought it was great, no more hassle finding spaces about the town! -

1. The school carpark will be open at 11.00am.
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. All owners of vehicles must ensure they have car insurance. The church will not be liable for any damage caused.
5. The main church carpark must only be used for those with mobility issues. Please respect this.
- 6. Please stay afterwards for refreshments be assured you won't get locked in!**

Christmas in the United Parish

Flyer in Church giving details of our Christmas Services & Events

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. **In Church this morning brochures are available for collection.**

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Please pray for Alison Goulden and family on the recent death of Alison's mum Sylvia Auld. Many in our congregation will remember Sylvia from her teaching days in Ballyclare.

Please pray for Lorraine Cardwell & family on the recent admission to Kings College hospital in London of son Ben. Ben will be returning to Belfast very shortly.

Pray for Liz McConnell, recovering after hospitalisation.

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

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

Pray for families that are caring for elderly relatives.

Pray for Revd Jonny who will be going into hospital very shortly for surgery on shoulder. Pray for surgeons & Jonny that the procedure will go smoothly.

Revd Jonny will be at home recovering week commencing **Mon 4th December** but will still be contactable.

Pray for Andy and family as he continues his studies and ordination downstream. We have been blessed with Andy over the last 10 weeks- we will miss you and your ministry to us.

Going deeper

Advent Devotional- Last few available!

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

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.

Baptism & Confirmation-let Jonny know this week

We are currently planning an adult baptism gathering and confirmation classes. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Revd Jonny as soon as possible.

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.

Shaping a new generation

YF Trip to Prison Island

YF are planning to go to Prison Island on **Sunday 26th Nov**- contact Andrew Brannigan for more information on 07950 846621.

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.

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.**

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Parish Christmas Night Out

We have booked the Brothers Restaurant in Ballyclare. The dates are: - **Monday 4th Dec. (Women) & Wed. 6th Dec (Men) both at 7pm.** Deposits have been paid and menus sent out.

Church Decoration

The Christmas Trees are up around our both churches- thank you. To add a few finishing touches inside, if folk would like to meet on Saturday 2nd at 10.30am in both Christ Church & St John's

Giving to God

Giving to the ministry and life of the church is an act of our worship to God. We encourage every member of our church family to regularly give. This can be done through envelopes or preferably by Standing Order. If you require 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 on 07743 316 400 or David in the office. Forms are available in Church or online: <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/giving/>

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.

It is for people who want to invest in their well-being and 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).

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

Partnering

Baby Basics

Many thanks to those who have donated to Baby Basics. We have received 85 referrals this year, so we really appreciate your support. The only items we currently need 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).

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.

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.

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 McCabe
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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

