

# Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 First Sunday of Advent

- |         |                                 |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 10.00am | Christ Church<br>Holy Communion |
| 11.30am | St John's<br>Holy Communion     |

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

- |         |                                 |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 10.00am | Christ Church<br>Morning Prayer |
| 11.30am | St John's<br>Morning Praise     |
| 6.00pm  | St John's<br>Christmas Carols   |

# For Your Attention

## St John's Carol Service & Salvation Army 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 to Church before or on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**. One of the Salvation Army staff will join us at our Carol Service in the evening.

Please join us for our first Carol Service in **The United Parish at St John's 6:00pm on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**. We can get caught up in the busyness of Christmas, 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.

## Parish Christmas Card

Watch out for your Christmas card dropping in through the letter box, giving all the dates of services over Christmas along with Revd Jonny's Christmas message.

Many thanks to Beth Brannigan who painted this year's card.

## FWO Envelopes

2024 FWO envelopes will be available from **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>** in both Churches. Over the past years since COVID many people in our parish have moved to Standing Orders for regular giving.

Every so often we review our envelope usage, and so for 2025 we will look to reduce our annual order to the supplier of envelopes. If you have not been using envelopes over the last 18 months, we will not send these out for 2024. However, should you wish to continue receiving your envelopes, please 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 & family and son Ben. Ben has been hospitalised in Kings Hospital, London and will be returning to Antrim very shortly for further treatment.

Pray for Liz McConnell, & Robert Turkington recovering after hospitalisation.

Please pray for Ed Barton & David Moore on the recent death of Maisie Moore.

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

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

Pray for families that are caring for elderly relatives.

We were blessed to have had Andy & family in the Parish over last 10 weeks. Pray for Andy and family as he continues his studies and prepares for ordination downstream.

## Prayer Warriors

The **December** edition of prayer warriors is available for collection in both Christ Church & St John's. This is a great aid for giving thanks to the Holy Spirit for prayers answered and for the needs of our various ministries.

## Revd Jonny- Update

Pray for Revd Jonny who will be going into hospital on Monday (4<sup>th</sup>) for a minor procedure on shoulder. Pray for medics & Jonny that the procedure will go smoothly. Revd Jonny will be recovering this week and mainly working from home but will still be contactable.

## Going deeper

### Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study Group

This week's study in Christ Church Hall (**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>**) has been postponed – it will now meet on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>** at normal time.

### Wednesday Mid- Week Holy Communion

Revd Ian Magowan will be leading this weeks Mid-Week Holy Communion as Revd Jonny recovers from surgery.

Mid- week Communion will stop on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** and recommence on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12 noon.**

### Church Weekend 2024- Book Soon

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 as soon as possible.**

### Psalms-The Heart of The Bible

The date is towards the end of January so good to get booked and in the diary. Psalms said or sung have played a major role in our worship and universally shaped Christian thinking, living and devotion.

'Going a little deeper' as they reveal both God's heart and ours. Event is hosted by Theology Ireland, either online or in person individually or as a group. Over two Tuesday or Thursday nights at the end of January or start of February- so ideal for our small groups. Full details on the following link: - <http://www.theologyireland.com/youth>

# Shaping a new generation

## Exodus 2024 to Spain

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

## The Battles Young Christians Face

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## Parish Christmas Night Out- Don't forget!

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

## 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>

## 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.**

## Thank You

A big thanks to everyone who helped last weekend with the St John's Christmas lights party and pantomime- we had approx. 800 through the doors of our Church & Hall- what a blessing, Thank You.

## Parish Office- New Arrangements

Fridays in the church office can be a tad manic 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. Many thanks, David.

# 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).

## 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

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.

# 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](mailto:logilby@gmail.com)) or Mobile 07588 039093

