



# 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</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.

## Sunday Christmas Eve

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

## Christmas Day

- |         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| 9.30am  | Christ Church |
| 11.00am | St John's     |

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December

- |         |                                |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 10.30am | Christ Church<br>Joint Service |
|---------|--------------------------------|

# For Your Attention

## Parish Weekend- Book if you plan to go!

Christmas almost here, and everyone is busy. Over the next week have a chat with the family or friends and consider coming to our parish weekend in Rostrevor from 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> February 2024. We have extended the **deadline for reservations to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December.**

No Payment is required until February so please book your place now.

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/uzuq4yih>

**Quite a few parishioners booked last week, - even if you can't come for whole weekend why not join in for the Saturday.**

## Christmas Painting of Christ Church

Many parishioners have commented on the beautiful Christmas card of Christ Church which was painted by Beth Brannigan. We have decided to make this available as a mounted signed giclee print which you can purchase. The cost of the limited-edition print will be £30, and all proceeds will go to support the work outlined in our Investing in the Future document.

To order, complete your details on sheets in both churches, or online at <https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/le3lku4k>

These prints will be available in the New Year, and a big thanks to Beth.

## Joint Service on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

The Morning Service on New Year's Eve will be in Christ Church at 10.30am, please join us for this joint service.

**No 11.30am Service will be held in St John's on the 31<sup>st</sup>.**

## Exodus 2024 Tarragona Trip Information night

An information night for parents and young people will be held on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 8.30pm** in St John's Hall.

This is a terrific opportunity to find out more about the summer 24 trip.

# 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 & Bertha Haugh 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.

## CMSI Prayer Request- Tujisaidie Self-Help Group

Please pray for **Kathleen Anangwe** who is one of the 4 Tujisaidie founder members (along with Louise, Isabelle & Lucy) and continues to play an active role in advising the group. Kathleen's son Reuben tragically died last week. He'd been living with sickle-cell anaemia, but according to Isabelle had done very well all these years, "a bright and lovely young boy, at university." Apparently, he'd been in hospital for a few days, and last Wed evening had a cardiac arrest.

## Contacting us during Christmas Holidays & New Year

Revd Jonny will be working until Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January and will be on leave from **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> to Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January**. During this period of leave Ven. Stephen McBride will provide emergency pastoral cover. Stephen can be contacted on 07718 588191.

Over Christmas Revd Jonny will be out visiting parishioners. If you would like a visit or to have Holy Communion at home, please contact **Jonny on 07808 479649**.

The Church Office will be closed from **Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> December** and will reopen on **Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> January**. David will be holiday during this time.

# Going deeper

## Week of Prayer beginning 8<sup>th</sup> January 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 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:30pm and alternate each night between Churches. It is requested that church-based groups refrain from meeting and commit their normal night to join together in prayer.

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January- Church Services

As Revd Jonny will be on leave our Holy Communion Services will now be on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and not the 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Mid-week Holy Communions

Mid- week Communions will recommence on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12 noon.**

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> Jan – 9<sup>th</sup> 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 – Booking is now open

The date of the mission team to Valls, near Tarragona is **19<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July**. Anyone who interested in going and aged 15 and over, can now book their place online at <https://www.exodusonline.org.uk/team-26-2024>

## 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 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

## 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

Presently we have had 30 responses to the Vestry's request. Many thanks to those parishioners who have already committed.

Unfortunately, without a significant increase in financial commitment, we will not be able to carry out the projects that will sustain our buildings and ministries for the future. For more details of how you can invest, have a look at the Investing in the Future document on our giving pages on website: <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/giving/>

# Partnering

## Mission Allocation 2023

Each year as a Select Vestry in obedience to God's word we recognise His goodness to us and tithe our income to bless others 'outside of our walls.' In the past 5 years through this obedience, we have blessed various charities and individuals with approximately £85,000. As a result, the Select Vestry have agreed to tithe once again, which this year equates to £14,000 (a tenth of our total giving for 2023).

The following organisations and individuals were chosen by the Select Vestry based on specific needs. Should you have any questions please contact Rev Jonny.

### Charity/Individual Category Amount

CMSi	£ 750
Tujisaide / Tumaini Project	£2000
Release International	£1500
Walk through the Bible	£ 500
Emma McCallion (Valencia)	£ 500
GBYFC	£1000
Support Worker in GBYFC	£ 500
Summer Madness	£ 250
Street Pastors	£ 250
UCB	£ 500
Links Counselling	£ 500
Kintsugi Hope	£ 250
Bible Society NI	£ 500
Mothers' Union Hardship	£1000
Hope365	£ 750
SAMS	£ 500
Equipping for Life	£ 250
Church's Ministry of Healing	£ 250
Divine Healing Ministries	£ 250
Care for the family	£ 250
New Horizon	£ 500
Evangelical Alliance NI	£ 250
Exodus NI	£ 500
The Bishops Appeal to Israel Gaza conflict	£ 500
	<b>£14,000</b>

# 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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(Mon, Wed Fri. Office hours 9am-1pm

Tue & Thu working from home 9am-1pm.

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[chris@theunitedparish.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:logilby@gmail.com)) or Mobile 07588 039093

