



THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's

Week of Prayer

January 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Monday– Compassion Ministries

General

- Give thanks for the partnerships which have been formed including Ballynure Co-Op (Baby Basics and Munch on Mondays), Asda (Baby Basics, uniforms and gift tag scheme), Council (Baby Basics, uniform scheme and Munch on Mondays), Community Advice.
- Give thanks for how God has blessed all the ministries (£5.5k received / awarded since the summer) and pray for God's wisdom in how the money is used.
- Give thanks for the volunteers.
- Pray for those we help through the ministries but also for those in our community who are afraid to ask for help.
- Pray that people will know that we reach out because of God's love.
- Pray for the new Rashee & Erskine Community Group and for wisdom as to how we can serve in this area.

Baby Basics

- Give thanks for those who donate to Baby Basics – individuals and organisations.
- Give thanks for the referrers.
- Pray for new referrers to come on board.
- Pray for the families we support – 90 referrals received in 2023. There are families and their stories behind the statistics.

Friday– Praying at home for Family & Community

Thursday: Youth & Children's Ministries

Church-led Groups that meet each week : Boys Brigade, Youth Fellowship, St John's creche, JAM, Lighthouse, Christ Church Sunday School and youth Bible study, Friday night discipleship group, Exodus Mission Team preparation.

Pray :

1. That God will direct us on how we should connect with young people, and that we continue to provide programs that are attractive and relevant.
2. For protection for our young people in the midst of distractions and opportunities that compete with faith & church.
3. For protection and commitment of leaders & helpers amidst the busyness of life.
4. For new leaders who can help to support the many youth & children's programmes we offer.
5. For young families that they will set their young children on a path for their own faith journey; that parents will look after their own spiritual growth in order to shape their children.
6. For our young adults to be filled with a boldness as they grow in their own faith and take on leadership & discipleship roles.
7. for those teenagers who are considering joining the 2024 Exodus mission team to Tarragona, and for Rev Jonny as he prepares them.
8. For growth in numbers of young families and young people in Christ Church.
9. For our young people that are at University, that they would connect with other Christians for encouragement, and find a church family to join.
9. For our BB company section who from January will be absorbing the boys from Ballynure company. Pray that the new boys would settle, and pray that eventually Ballynure would be able to grow again to restart.

Munch on Mondays

- Give thanks for the food provided by Ballynure Co-Op.
- Give thanks for £2,500 funding awarded by the council and pray for wisdom as to how it will be used.
- Give thanks for our connections with the Foodbank in Ballyclare Presbyterian and pray that these will be strengthened.
- Pray that the numbers who come will increase.

CAP

- Give thanks as CAP celebrates 15 years in Northern Ireland and pray for the activities which will be organised throughout the year. Celebration service on 7/3/24 at Willowfield.
- Pray for the potential partnership with Women's Aid ABCLN and the possibility of running a Life Skills course in Antrim in the spring.

Kintsugi Hope

- Kintsugi Hope is a Christian charity which offers well-being courses. The vision of Kintsugi is for "A world where mental and emotional health is understood and accepted, with safe and supportive communities for everyone to grow and flourish."
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide Liz and Frances as they plan for the first course.

Tuesday– Pastoral Care

Pray for our pastoral visiting team who regularly visit over 50 people each month. Pray that God will give them wisdom when they visit to know how to encourage their people and provide support especially when many of them are housebound.

Pray for those who are in hospital at present especially the elderly.

Pray for Jonny as he cares for those people who are having a particularly difficult time

Pray for Jonny in his role as Chaplain to Antrim Area Hospital and the conversations he has with patients each week.

Pray that more people would consider being a pastoral visitor as it is so encouraging and supportive to people who see the church in action.

Wednesday– Select Vestry & Governance

Pray for Select Vestry to enable the following:-

-Enable the ministry of the Rector, Revd Jonny

-Supporting the Rector to ensure that he has the tools to lead the spiritual direction of Parish:- worship team, welcome team, heating team, AV Team etc.

-Adhering to & managing all the legislation that's required to be compliant:- safe environment for all our parishioners, children's groups, ministry groups and volunteers.

-The three traditional 3 F's still stand, (Fabric Finance & Fixtures) however the role of the vestry has changed so much over the years and for the right reasons to ensure that we all remain safe. This has added more responsibility and accountability under charity legislation.

Main Points for Prayer

-Safeguarding Trust

-The select vestry as its an integral part of the ministry of the church.

-The various roles that will needed filled at this years meeting in April,-Glebe Warden, Church Wardens & Hon. Secretary.

-Finances– various major projects need done around the various church properties (Christ Church, St John's & Rectory) which we indirectly own via the Representative Church Body. We are custodians for these which the Lord has provided. We cannot close our ears as that's not good stewardship of the money that the Lord has gifted us.

-Encourage people who have skills that they don't think could be used but can be as part of the church family. Working behind the scenes can make a large difference.