


Sunday 25th February 2024



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
Family Service

11.30am St John's
Family Service &
Holy Baptism

Sunday 3rd March 2024

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer
(Radio Ulster Service Live
Broadcast)

11.30am St John's
Holy Communion

For Your Attention

Christ Church BBC Radio Ulster Service

Next Sunday (3rd) at **10.00am** BBC Radio Ulster will be broadcasting the morning service from Christ Church. It would be good and important to have a good turnout from the parish at this service-raise the roof with the singing! **We must be seated for 9:30am**

Rural Deanery Services

These are always a fantastic opportunity to meet others, visit different churches and listen to weekly teaching as we journey towards Easter. **Our turn to host- please try and attend.**

Wed. 28th February, St John's Ballyclare

Revd Jonny

Wed. 6th March, Muckamore

Revd Derek Harrington

Wed. 13th March Antrim

Ven. Stephen McBride

Wed. 20th March, Kilbride

Revd John McClure

All services start at **7.30pm**, this year's theme is 'Grounding',

Pick up a card in church this morning providing all the details.

You are Invited! - Monday 26th February

More details on Page 6

World Day of Prayer 2024

This year it is the turn of the United Parish to host the World Day of Prayer which will focus on Palestine. Please join us on **Friday 1st March 2024 in St John's Hall @7:30pm** for the annual service written by the ladies of the Christian Church in Palestine. This year we will have a café church; such a wonderful opportunity to join others from our community for fellowship, reflection, and prayer.

Free Will Offering Letters.

Over the next week you will be receiving a letter either by email or through the post detailing your financial giving to the Parish- thank you Any concerns please contact David in the office.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Pray for Winston Jenkins, Anne Irvine, & Betty Robinson in hospital. Bertha Haugh, Eileen Green & Liz McConnell who are recovering at home after hospitalisation. Continue to pray for, Mervyn & Hilary Smylie, & Anna Mitchell.

Pray for all the close family and relatives of the late Bob Martin who died recently. Also pray for Liz & David Metcalfe & family circle on the very recent death of Liz's brother, Dennis. May the families have the comfort of the Holy Spirit at this sad time.

Ill or in Hospital

If you are ill, going or taken into hospital or require a pastoral visit please contact Revd Jonny or David in the office know.

Holy Communion at Home

If you are housebound or have difficulty getting to Church and would like to have Holy Communion, please contact Revd Jonny or via David in the office.

Gift Ministry

Thank you to the generosity of folk donating their beautiful china cups & saucers. We have been able to repurpose them into candles. If you know of anyone in the Parish who would welcome a gift, after a bereavement or lengthy illness, please contact Laura or Sandra in St John's.



Going deeper

Save the Date!

It's quite a while away- good to get it into your diary.



Information is starting to trickle through for the above event. In the meantime, if you wish to find out more, please visit the following link: <https://www.cief.church/1st>

UCB Bible Notes

This quarters edition (Feb, March, April) is now available in both Christ Church & St John's and from your pastoral visitor. This is a free daily devotional, - a short inspirational thought to start the morning or at bedtime.

Margaret Bowers who looks after UCB in N. Ireland will be talking to us about the work of the charity later in April.

Shaping a new generation

Safeguarding Trust

Revd Jonny and the Select Vestry are committed to upholding good practice in the parish's ministry with children & young people. Safeguarding is overseen by the Select Vestry and the Safeguarding panel. Should you have any queries or concerns please contact the safeguarding panel immediately: Revd Jonny 07808 479649, Ms Ashleigh Reid 07732 053604 & Mrs Pat Craig 07584 929758

Who was St Patrick?

Time to find out on **Saturday 16th March** in St John's Church & Hall. Play it by Ear Drama Company will be performing their St Patrick's Show and Connor Children's Council will be providing crafts and activities in the halls. There is also a colouring competition which children can take part in by printing, colouring and bringing along the colouring sheet. (Attached or from Church) Everyone who takes part will get a prize and the overall winner will be announced on Facebook after the event.

Shows will be at 11am and 1pm and booking is required.

Each show will be followed by crafts and games in the hall.

Pick up a leaflet & colouring sheet in Church this morning.

Safeguarding Training

A further series of Safeguarding Trust training sessions have been organised for across Connor Diocese in the period from April 30 to June 27. This training is for clergy, staff and volunteers who have not undergone safeguarding training in the last three years. **It's compulsory if you are involved with children in the parish to complete this training.**

- 30 April 2024 – Ballyrashane Gebe Hall at 7pm – Canon Amanda Adams
- 8 May 2024 – St Nicholas', Carrickfergus, at 7pm – Rev Chris St John
- 21 May 2024 – Holy Trinity, Carrickfergus, at 7pm – Rev Dr Alan McCann
- 20 June 2024 – Derryvolgie, Lisburn, at 7pm – Rev James Boyd
- 24 June 2024 – St Bartholomew's, Stranmillis, Belfast at 7pm – Canon Kevin Graham
- 27 June 2024 – Antrim Parish Centre, Antrim, at 7pm – Ven Dr Stephen McBride

All registration requests for these events should be emailed to David McGrory, Connor Safeguarding Trust Compliance Officer, at

davidmcgrory@connordiocese.org 5

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

You are Invited!

Everyone is invited to Christ Church Hall on **Monday 26th February at 2.30pm**. Our speaker is Revd Jonny who will be sharing his experiences during the two Mission Trips he took part in last year. Firstly, when he travelled to Kenya as part of our CMSI Parish Partnership with the Tujisaidie Project, and then in July he led a group of our young people on an Exodus mission trip to Tarragona. Mothers' Union is hosting this open afternoon and extend an invitation to all parishioners to come and join us as we hear firsthand the challenges faced by the communities daily and how the teams brought the love of God through teaching, bible study, friendship, fun and making strong connections.

Register of Vestry Members & Easter Vestry

The Register of General Vestry members will be **open for the month of February for review and addition**. Anyone who would like to register as a new member of the church can use the forms at the back of church (residents for those living inside the parish boundaries or accustomed for those living outside the parish boundaries) or from our website: <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/resources/forms/> A review of all amendments will be conducted at the March Select Vestry meeting. **Please pick up our new Vestry leaflet 'What's it all about then?' in church this morning.**

Munch on Mondays

We will be opening the food table on Fridays for a limited period from **Friday 23rd February to Friday 22nd March**. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this ministry, please let them know that free food will be available outside St John's from 11.00am

Partnering

CMSi-Quarterly Magazine

The Spring edition of 'Inmission' is available in both churches. Packed with information & facts about global mission.
Please pick up a free copy.

Release International- Hazaq Coffee

New coffee supplies have arrived. Available at back of St John's or Church office. The cost is £6.00 per bag with all proceeds going to the work of Release International.

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

Minister: Jonny Campbell-Smyth

jonny@theunitedparish.org.uk

07808 479649

Administrator: David Brown

david@theunitedparish.org.uk

Office 028 93 354814

Mobile 07732 763827

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

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

St John's Music Lead: Chris McCabe

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) or Mobile 07588 039093

