

Sunday 17th March 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.

Sunday 17th March 2024

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

Sunday 24th March 2024 Palm Sunday

10.00am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

Catherine Hillcox from Bible Society will be in both Christ Church & St John's informing us about the work of the Bible Society

For Your Attention

Rural Deanery Services- Last one before Easter

The last of our Rural Deanery Services is this Wednesday in Kilbride Parish, Doagh at 7.30pm. It would be great if you could join us.

Services at Easter- A few changes!

Monday 25 th March	Youth & Children's Service, St John's 6.30pm 'The Story of Easter'
Wednesday 27 th	Holy Week Service @ Christ Church 7pm
Good Friday	Holy Communion, St John's, 7pm
Easter Sunday	Dawn Service 7am St Augustine's Ballyeaston Followed by Breakfast at the Rectory 10.00am & 11.30am Easter Sunday Celebration in Christ Church & St John's

No organisations should meet during Holy week unless first discussed with Revd Jonny.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Easter Vestry (AGM) will be held on **Wednesday 17th April in St John's Church at 7.30pm**
We would encourage all parishioners to please join us at our AGM.
This is a great opportunity to thank God for the year past, and to think about the year ahead.

Thank you

Lorraine Ogilby has been our Select Vestry Honorary Secretary for 13 years. She is now retiring from her position. We thank Lorraine for her incredible service to God's Church and wish her God's blessings as she takes time for a well deserved rest.

Pastoring

Week of Prayer – save the dates

At the beginning of each term we gather as a church family to seek God's direction and blessing in all we do. Please keep the following dates free and make this a priority. 8th – 12th April. Without prayer we can do nothing.

Please pray for:

Pray for Winston Jenkins, Betty Robinson Bertha Haugh, Eileen Green & Liz McConnell who are recovering after hospitalisation. Pray for Ann Irvine currently in hospital. Continue to pray for Anna Mitchell along with Laura & Ryan (relatives of Anna)

Keep the Parish Office informed

We strive to provide good pastoral care within our parish. We need to always try and keep our records updated- we depend upon people and families to provide us with current information if relatives are moving into a nursing home or going into hospital. Information provided to us is treated confidentially and data is stored securely.

Pray for the staff

We are blessed to have many active ministries within our Parish; it can be demanding on everyone. The staff team try whenever possible to take a Saturday off. Please pray that Jonny, David & Chris can spend precious time with their families at weekends.

The Revd Jonny is always on call and can be contacted in the case of a pastoral emergency.

St Patrick's Day

The office will be closed this Monday (18th). Revd Jonny is contactable on his mobile.

Going deeper

First Things Conference – it's time to book.



As Christians, our call is to be people rooted in truth, yet the world often presents conflicting narratives. **Gospel Partners within the Church of Ireland** are therefore joining together for this one-day conference that will seek to unite, encourage and release the evangelical movement within our Church.

The event will take place on Saturday 27th April, from 10.00am-4pm at Moira Parish Centre- (cost £15 which includes lunch).

We have secured tickets so please contact the parish office to buy one. For more details speak with Rev Jonny. We will also share car lifts to make it easier for travel.

Further information on the link: - <https://www.cief.church/1st>

Shaping a new generation

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.**

Please let David know if you have booked for any of these courses.

- 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

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Friday Fellowship

Due to how Easter falls this year please join us at Christ Church on **Friday 22nd March at 11.00am**. If you need transport, please contact Sophie or David in the office.

Mothers' Union

Our next meeting takes place on **Monday 25th March at 2.30pm** in Christ Church Hall.

We are delighted this month to welcome Alison Campbell-Smyth as our guest speaker. Alison's will be chatting about 'Being a Christian Woman in the Workplace Today' drawing on her experiences working within the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

Whilst we gather as a Mothers' Union Branch our meetings are open to all parishioners and a warm welcome awaits. See you there Vera Jones 07714286682

Help Required – Holy Week

To help with our Easter outreach & services we need a few volunteers. A sign-up sheet is in both churches or contact David in the office.

Needed: -

1. Monday help & preparation along with refreshments
(This is a Youth Service so help from parents & those with creative skills would be appreciated)
2. Help with Hot Cross Bun giveaway on Good Friday.

School Uniforms

Our recycling scheme will open on **Saturday 30th March in St John's Hall from 10am- 12 noon** for summer uniforms. We are well stocked so if you need outfits for the summer term please come along. For more information, please contact Lorraine on 07799876028 or Arlene on 07510121517

Partnering

CMSi- News

The Spring edition of 'Inmission' is available in both churches. Packed with information & facts about global mission.

Please pick up a free copy.

CMSI Shine at CITI in Dublin Sat 23 March 10.30am –3pm

An opportunity to meet other CMSI members, hear inspiring stories of Mission and to take part in the AGM – free lunch is provided, and lifts are available from Belfast. <https://www.cmsireland.org/shine> - Contact rogerthompson@cmsireland.org or Mob 07754684662

“Hands Out” Children’s Resource 2024 – Free Resource for Churches, Sunday Schools, Schools and other Children’s Groups. Focus on Refugees with Bible teaching, age-graded lessons, videos, crafts, service outline etc. info at

<https://www.cmsireland.org/childrens-resource>

Release International- Hazaq Coffee

New supplies arrived and have almost sold out. One bag 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.

Munch on Mondays

The food table is open 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

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

