

Sunday 21st April 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
Morning Prayer

11.30am St John's
Morning Praise

Sunday 28th April

8.30am Christ Church
Holy Communion

10.00am Christ Church
Family Service

11.30am St John's
Family Service

For Your Attention

Annual General Meeting 2024

Our AGM was held last Wednesday(17th). A copy of the Rector's report and the Financial Accounts will be available in both churches for the next few weeks.

Please pray for the following members of our congregation who will be serving God & the Parish during 2024/25 in specific roles.

Select Vestry

Andrew Brannigan, Christine Burns, Colin Ferguson, Trina Grant, David McIlhagger, Margaret Scott, Lawrence Stanford, Simon Wells, Frances Wilson, Rachel Wilson, Pam Winter.

Hon Secretary:	Rachel Wilson
Hon Treasurer:	Lawrence Stanford
Rector's Glebe Warden:	Peter Watson
Peoples' Glebe Warden:	Raymond Skillen

Rector's Warden Christ Church:	Peter Miller
Peoples' Wardens Christ Church:	Claire Moore & Trevor Maze

Rector's Warden St John's:	David Wilson
Peoples' Warden St John's	Peter Wilson

Serving

Last week Rev Jonny preached about from Romans 12 and the blessing that comes when all parts of the body of Christ serve together. A list of various ways in which all of us can help within the church is available from the back of both churches. If you would like to serve, then get in touch with Rev Jonny.

St John's carpark

St John's carpark will be out of use all day Tuesday for essential maintenance. Please use alternative parking if using the halls.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Please continue to pray for the family of the late Ann Irvine; may they know the comfort and peace of the Holy Spirit at this sad and challenging time. Ann was well known in St John's and attended faithfully until recently due to her health deteriorating.

Pray for Sharon Ames recovering after recent hospitalisation.

Pray for good health for Isabel Scott, Winston Jenkins, Betty Robinson, Bertha Haugh, Liz McConnell, and Hilary Smiley. Continue to pray for Anna Mitchell along with Laura & Ryan (relatives of Anna). Also pray for Michael & Lorraine Ogilby, along with Jean Smyth.

Pastoral Visiting

Please remember that Rev Jonny is very willing to visit you at any time. Simply contact him or the Parish Office, and he will arrange a time that suits you.

Staff Holidays

David will be on holidays from Monday 22nd - Thursday 25th April. The office will be open on Friday 26th.

UCB -Word For Today

The next quarters devotional covering May, June & July is now available (free of charge) in both churches and from your pastoral visitor.

Going deeper

First Things Conference- Saturday 27th April

If you have booked tickets, please contact Revd Jonny or David. The event is taking place on **Saturday 27th April, from 10.00am-4pm** at Moira Parish Centre. We can share car lifts to make it easier for travel. There are just under three hundred people attending this conference. If you want a ticket, please let us know immediately to avoid disappointment.

New Irish Arts- 30th Birthday Concert



The New Irish Orchestra which a number of our parishioners are members of are holding their 30th anniversary concert in the Waterfront Hall on 28th September. Tickets are almost sold out. We have managed to secure 10 Tickets (great seats) for this special night. Join us as we enjoy the New Irish Choir and Orchestra, fabulous Youth Choirs and special guests including Laura Story from Nashville. The Tickets are priced at £30 each and are available from David in the church office.

Shaping a new generation

Exodus 2024 Fundraising

This year we are blessed to be sending thirteen people on an Exodus Youth mission team to Tarragona in Spain. Various fundraising events are now planned for the coming months – a flyer of these is available this week. The team fundraising page is

<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/team-26-2024>

Revd Jonny & The One Million Steps!

To help with the fundraising for Exodus, Rev Jonny is setting himself the challenge of walking one million steps starting April 1st and finishing no later than June 30th. He is also inviting people to walk with him any day. Just get in touch via his mobile. Updates on his progress will be via the parish Facebook page. If you wish to support him, go to the following website or donate via the office

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/1millionsteps>

Holiday Bible Club: Monday 19th-23rd August

This year we plan to run our Holiday Bible Club - 'All Stars' in August. As in previous years we will hold the club in the mornings, and the team from 'Play It by Ear' will be with us.

We now need to build a team to help: Volunteers each day to help with the programme, welcome teams, set builders, arts & crafts Helpers, etc. We plan to have a meeting early May to discuss. If you would like to help, please contact Revd Jonny or David.

School Transferor Representatives

School Boards of Governors are being reconstituted during 2024. The Church has an important role to play within schools today. Rev Jonny would love to speak to anyone who might be interested becoming a Governor. The following guide will help you understand the importance of this role <https://www.csscni.org.uk/news/the-role-of-a-transferor-governor>
Please speak to Jonny if you are interested.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Kintsugi Hope

Our new course started last Monday (15th) in St John's at 7.00pm. It's not too late to attend as you only have missed 1 session. If you would like to attend or find out more, please contact Frances on 07791 249025 or Liz on 07779333286

Mothers' Union-April News

Mothers' Union members have a busy couple of days in April!

Firstly, we will be joining with members from the whole Diocese of Connor, our Diocesan President Mrs Sally Cotter, and Diocesan and All Ireland MU Chaplain The Ven Dr Stephen McBride at St Anne's Cathedral on **Sunday 21st April** for our Annual Festival Service. Our speaker will be Mrs June Butler MBE All Ireland President.

Please join us on **Monday 22nd April in Christ Church Hall at 2.30pm** for our monthly Branch Meeting 'A Right Royal Afternoon'. Canon Derek Kerr who is no stranger to us will be entertaining us with his collection of Royal Memorabilia and the stories behind them. We have invited our local Mothers' Union Branches along with ladies from the neighbouring parishes.

For further information please contact Vera Jones on, 07714 286684.

Friday Fellowship

Our Friday Fellowship will meet in Christ Church Hall on **Friday 26th April from 11.00am- 12 noon**. Please join us for fellowship, friendship & refreshments. If you need transport, please contact the office.

Partnering

CMSi News

We have an updated newsletter from our mission link in Tujisaidie. The Spring edition of 'Inmission' is also available in both churches. These are packed with information, facts about global mission along with prayer requests. **Please pick up a free copy.**

Baby Basics

So far this year we have received 32 referrals to help families who are struggling to purchase all that they need for their babies. In order to continue to support these families we would really appreciate donations of baby baths as well as vests and babygrows for girls aged 0 - 3 months and 3 - 6 months. Many thanks.

Newtownabbey Foodbank

We still accept donations for the Foodbank. These can be left in Christ Church & St John's on a Sunday or into the office on a Mon, Wed, & Friday or in the tub at St John's Church Hall. For more information, please contact Sandra Vaughan on 07999 580 548

UCB Coffee Morning

UCB are having a Coffee Morning & Cake Sale in First Carrickfergus Presbyterian Memorial Hall (beside Fire Station), on **Saturday 11th May, 10.00am-12.30pm**. All proceeds go to the work of UCB (Producers of The Word for Today).

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: - Rachel Wilson (Hon. Secretary)

honsec@theunitedparish.org.uk

