

Sunday 25th August 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 am Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30 St John's
Morning Praise

Sunday 1st September Back to School Sunday

10 am Christ Church
Family Service

11.30 St John's
Family Service

For Your Attention

Next Sunday (1st September)!

The first Sunday in September we normally gather as a Church family to celebrate the stories of summer and look forward to the term ahead. Please join us at our normal times next Sunday. The celebrations will continue with some food and fun in the halls after.

Worship - 2nd Sundays in St John's 7pm

2nd Sunday's is a new gathering for followers of Jesus Christ to unite in our love of him. Each evening will be a mix of uplifting worship, teaching from a range of guest speakers and yummy treats as we join in fellowship together. Our speaker for Sunday 8th September is Simon Henry, National Youth Officer for the Church of Ireland.

Friday Fellowship

Over the last number of years, numbers have been falling at our monthly fellowship meeting. To help planning and to make sure it is viable going forward please let the office know this week.

New Instagram page

For those on Instagram, we now have an Instagram page. Follow us at **theunitedparish2024**

Thank You

A massive thank you to everyone who helped make the 2024 Summer Holiday Club for children in our community an enormous success. From creating the artwork, making the Olympic rings, crafts, snack preparation, collecting and assembling the stage, leading groups etc. - without you it wouldn't have happened- thank you. We are blessed and we have had the privilege of sharing with 60 or more children every day.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Pray for Isabel Scott who is recovering well after surgery.

Pray for Irene Howard presently in hospital. Pray for Hilary Scott, & David Metcalfe recovering after hospitalisation.

Please also pray for Evelyn Boyles, Bertha Haugh, David Wilson, Jean Smyth, Winston Jenkins, Betty Robinson, Liz McConnell, and Hilary Smiley.

Peace in Society & our own community that we can all live in harmony and that anti- immigration protests and intimidation will cease.

Give thanks to God for the blessing of a daughter Lily to Melissa & Mark Skillen- congratulations.

Save the date – Week of Prayer

Every new term we start with a Week of Prayer. Keep the evenings of the **Monday 2nd - Friday 6th September** free - more details to follow in the next news sheet.

Planning for the new season

Youth & Childrens' leaders will soon begin to plan for things recommencing in September. If any leaders would like support and help, please contact Rev Jonny who would be happy to attend any planning meetings.

Bank Holiday Monday

The church office will be closed on Monday (26th). Revd Jonny can be contacted in cases of pastoral emergency.

Going deeper

Small Groups – recommencing in September

Our small groups will be starting back in September week commencing **Monday 9th September**. We have 8 meetings at various times during the week and evenings- offering bible study, support, care for each other and fellowship. It is so important as a member of the parish to try and be available to join one. You can find out more by visiting:-

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/ministries/growing-disciples/small-groups/>

Confirmation & Adult Baptism

Any adults who would be interested in **Adult Baptism**, who haven't yet been baptized, these are being planned for **29th September**.

For those who wish to make a public declaration of their faith, **Confirmation** preparation will also commence in September with Bishop George joining us for a special service in November.

If you are interested in either adult baptism or Confirmation, please have a chat with the Revd Jonny.

Shaping a new generation

North Coast Youth Trip

Andrew Brannigan has organised an afternoon and early evening away at Portrush to include surfing, ice-cream, Currys etc on **Sunday 1st Sept.** The cost of this is **£15**, places limited so book quickly using the link: - <https://bit.ly/46UI8Og>

Leaders Training on Churchsuite

From the start of the new term in September we will be introducing electronic registration for children/youth and leaders attending the following programmes: - Sunday Morning Activities in both Christ Church & St John's, Youth Fellowship, Youth Band Practice & Friday Night Discipleship.

David is running a short training session on **Thursday 29th August in St John's at 7pm** lasting maximum of an hour. It's important that all leaders try to attend, if unable please send a representative.

Consent Forms 2024/2025

The new year/term is about to start in September. If your children/youth are attending any of our church-based programmes, then it is most important that a consent form is completed. We have made a few changes to the form which can be found and completed using the following link.

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/forms/q35jfvuw>



Even better just click on the QR Code: -

Due to our Safeguarding policy no child can attend a group without a consent form being completed. Consent forms are also available from the office or in Church.

(Note that the Boys' Brigade have a separate consent process)

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Using the Halls

Organisations using the hall will start again from Sunday 8th September. Revd Jonny encourages all church-based groups to attend the week of prayer which is happening the week before (see note on page 3).

New Waste bins

You may have seen new green and brown bins at St John's. The brown bin will take **garden & food waste only**. The green will take general, cardboard, bottles & glass. The Boys' Brigade recycle tins separately so these can be left bagged in the hall porch area. From September we will also have recycling bins in our internal premises which can be used for items such as tins, plastic, glass etc.

Churchsuite- do you use it?

Churchsuite is our Church database: we would encourage parishioners who have a phone, computer or tablet to use it. It has many facilities including your personal information, giving, rotas upcoming events etc. David is running 2 events on **Wednesday 28th August 10.30am & 7.30pm in St John's Church**. If you are using it and want a wee refresher or if you're not using it and want to get started this is a good place to start. Could you let David know that you plan to attend.

Project Can Do

We are pleased to be hosting the Redeeming Our Communities 'Project Can Do' programme starting on **Monday 30th September**. We will be exploring the "5 Steps to Well-being" over 5 sessions - Connect, Be Active, Keep Learning, Give to Others and Take Notice. This is a free programme with guest speakers, self-care resources and refreshments. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this programme or would like more information, please have a chat with Frances (07791 249025). Leaflets in Church this morning.

Partnering

Munch on Mondays

We would like to offer tea and coffee to the people who come to the Munch on Monday's food table. To do this, we need some extra help. If you would be interested, please have a chat with Frances 07791 249025

CMSi News-

The new quarterly magazine is available in both Christ Church & St John's. If you are unable to come to church but would like a copy posted out, please contact David in the office.

The CMSi Annual Ignite conference is on from the 13th-14th September. Full details can be found by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.cmsireland.org/ignite>

Newtownabbey Food Bank

The Foodbank that we feed into is short of the following items: - **Soap Powder/Liquid, Washing Up Liquid, Gents toiletries, diluting juice.** If contributions can be left in Christ Church or St John's on a Sunday. St John's office on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning, or in the tub at St John's Church Hall. Any queries please contact Sandra on 07999 580548. Thank You

Hazaq Coffee

We have just received new supplies of coffee. The coffee has a brilliant flavour, and all the proceeds go to the work of **Release International**. The supply we have in stock is suitable for a cafetiere and costs £6.00 per bag. If you would like us to order a different blend or grind: whole beans, filtered, or espresso is also available from Ethiopia & India, contact David.

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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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

