

Sunday 24th November



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

10:00 Christ Church
Family Service

11.30 St John's
Family Service

Wednesday 27th

12pm St John's
Holy Communion

Sunday 1st December

10:00 Christ Church
Holy Communion

11.30 St John's
Holy Communion

For Your Attention

Christmas Tree Light Switch On

On **Saturday 30th November** the Christmas Lights will be switched on in Ballyclare but also in St John's. As in previous years we will be holding our **Light Party** for the community in St John's Hall, straight after the switch on at approx. 6pm. Everyone is welcome and if you can help on the night, for example, meeting and greeting, serving, clearing up etc it would be of great benefit to the group which are making the event happen. Contact David if you can lend a hand!

Mothers Union & Friday Fellowship

The Mothers Union are very kindly providing an afternoon tea for our Friday Fellowship on **Friday 29th November at 2.30pm** in **Christ Church Hall**. If you plan to attend contact Vera or Sophie.

Vision Night 2025- Year of Evangelism

On **Tuesday 10th December @7.30pm in St John's Church** Revd Jonny will be sharing his vision for the year ahead. An invitation is issued to us to come along for this short information night as we prepare for 2025.

Christmas Book Stall

Good to give books at Christmas especially to our younger children and teenagers. This year in conjunction with The Good Book Shop we will be operating our book stall in St John's before and after morning service at the front of St John's. Alwyn & Trish will be running the stall. You can either pay in **cash or by card** using the new card machine. It's almost like a Black Friday lasting the month of December as we have been able to obtain large discounts on the books.

Christmas In The United Parish

Please pick up a flyer in Church this morning which gives details of all our services over Christmas.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

Continue to pray for **Brian & Robina Falls** on the recent death of their son **Ian**. Also pray for **Jennifer & Mark Patterson and family**. **Jennifer** has lost a dear brother & friend. May the whole family know the comfort of the Holy Spirit at this challenging time.

Please pray for **Dorcus Forsythe** in respite care recovering from recent surgery. **Alan McPherson** recovering from recent surgery.

Pray for **Hazel Bingham & David Metcalfe** also **Carrie Millar, Betty Robinson** in hospital.

Pray for **Hilary Scott** as she makes a steady recovery.

Please pray for **Cynthia Banfield** as she continues to support her mum at home after hospitalisation.

Please also pray for **Hilary and Mervyn Smiley**.

Those who are ill or in hospital

Please let Rev Jonny know if parishioners or families are ill or in hospital. Don't ever feel that it is any inconvenience, as Rev Jonny wants to support everyone as much as possible.

Going deeper

Baptism By The Sea

We all know Caleb Smyth in the Parish (Son of Neil & Nicola). Caleb is being baptised at **Ballygally Beach** on **Sunday 1st December at 3pm**. It would be wonderful if as many folks from the Parish could go along and support Caleb and the family.

Irish Men's Convention 2025

Men in the United Parish please consider attending this conference on **Saturday 1st March from 10.00am-3.00pm @ Assembly Buildings, Belfast**. The speaker will be **Philip De Courcy**, originally from Northern Ireland, and presently senior pastor at Kindred Community Church in California. Philip's subject will be **'Man On The Run-Lessons from Jonah'**.

We have secured several tickets, if you are interested in attending contact Revd Jonny.

Shaping a new generation

YF Trip To The Cinema

YF are going to the Cinema this **Sunday night (24th) @ 6.15pm** to see **Red One (12A)**. If you are interested in attending you can book online using the link, please book before **4pm on 24/11/24**.
At time of print – 5 tickets left, please be quick
<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/zgytnc4c>

Diocesan Youth Christmas Party

The Christmas Party is being held on **Friday Dec 6th from 7pm-9pm @** Church of the Good Shepherd in Monkstown. If interested in attending, please contact Andrew (Brandy) on 07950 846621

Safeguarding Trust

The Select Vestry are committed to upholding good practice in the ministry of children & young people. Safeguarding is delegated to the Safeguarding panel. Should you have any queries or concerns please contact the panel immediately: Revd Jonny 07808 479649, Ashleigh Reid 07732 053604 & Pat Craig 07584 929758. Details of our policies can be found at <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/about/safeguarding/>

Parental Consent Forms 2024/2025

Please remember that all children (under 18) must have an annual parental consent form completed when attending any of our children & youth programmes. Please use the following link to complete one.
<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/forms/q35jfvuw>

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Genesis Fellowship Group- Open Studio

What happens at the creative arts & crafts group on a Saturday morning? Now is the opportunity to find out.

Why not pop along and meet the group on **Saturday 7th December from 11.00am-1pm in Christ Church Hall**. Terrific opportunity to see some of the group working, enjoy refreshments and perhaps purchase some of the items.

Christmas Dinners

We have organised two nights out for the women & men in the parish, you are also welcome to bring friends to the events.

The **Women's night** is on: **Monday 2nd December 7.00pm at Corr's Corner**, we have reserved 25 places so if going could you please book **as soon as possible** using the following link:-

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/b6kfdqqt>

The **Men** are going to **Namaste on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm**, again if you plan to attend could you please book in using the following link: -

<https://theunitedparish.churchsuite.com/events/uslw5ny6>

Freewill Offering Envelopes

Thank you to everyone who contributes financially to God's work in the Parish. As previously mentioned, we have carried out a renumbering exercise as many in our congregation now donate via standing order. If you wish to move to this method, please contact David in the office.

If you still wish to receive envelopes these will be issued shortly, **please do not use 2024 envelopes after 31st December 24.**

Partnering

Salvation Army Christmas Gift Appeal

Every year at Christmas as a Parish we collect gifts for children, teenagers and adults who need gifts at Christmas. If you would like to provide an **unwrapped gift** no matter how small, it will be greatly appreciated. Please place gift under the tree or bring along to church at our Carol Service in St John's on **Sunday 15th December**.

Baby Basics

Recently we have been very blessed in respect of donations from both individuals and organisations. **However, our stock of baby grows for ages 0-3 and 3-6 months is very low, and we would really appreciate your help.** If you can help, please have a chat with Frances (07791 249025).

Hazaq Coffee-Order for Christmas

New supplies of cafetiere coffee have arrived. All the proceeds go to the work of **Release International; cost is £6 per bag.** If you would like us to order a different blend or grind for Christmas gifts: - whole beans, filtered, or espresso, Ethiopian & Indian, contact David. **Orders must be in by Monday 9th December.**

Sign Up To Donate- Ideal at Christmas!

The United Parish is now registered with **easyfundraising**, which means you can raise **FREE** donations for us every time you shop **online**. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! **As we approach Christmas many of us will be doing online shopping- this is such an easy opportunity to help the church! So far, we have 27 supporters and have raised £64.40. Sign up and keep going!**

You can find our easyfundraising page at <https://bit.ly/3Xsb0Jk>

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

Tue & Thu working from home 9 - 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

