

Sunday 22nd December



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
Nativity & Christmas
Jumpers
- 11.30 St John's Nativity &
Christmas Jumpers
- 6.00 Christ Church
9 Lessons & Carols

Sunday 29th December

- 10.00 Christ Church
Christmas Carols
Joint Service

No Service in St John's

Full Details of Christmas
Services on Page 2

For Your Attention

Christmas Services

Please join us this **Sunday (22nd)** when it will be the Christmas Nativity Story with our children in each church. Everyone is encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper. A meal at Pizza Express will be given in each church for the best jumper.

Tonight, in Christ Church at 6pm we will hold our traditional 9 Lessons & Carols followed by refreshments in the hall.

Christmas Eve

At **11.30pm** as we approach Christmas Day, we will hold our Christmas Communion Service in **St John's**

Christmas Day

Christmas Family Services will be held in both churches at slightly different times: - **Christ Church 9:30am & St John's 11:00am**

Joint Service Sunday 29th December

On this Sunday we will hold a joint service in Christ Church starting at 10.00am-no service in St John's. Please join together as a church family

Mission Allocation 2024

Attached with this week's News Sheet is a summary providing details of our allocation along with a synopsis of each beneficiary.

It is incredible to believe that over the last six years we have blessed various organisations with over £100,000. We give generously because God has blessed us generously.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

- **Willie & William Magee**, both challenged by poor health.
- for **Dorcus Forsythe** recovering from recent surgery.
- For **Carrie Millar** recovering after surgery
- For **Betty Robinson**, & Elizabeth Redfern in hospital.
- **Sadie Wilson, Noel Fryer, David Metcalfe, and Hazel Bingham** recently discharged from hospital.
- for **Cynthia Banfield** supporting her mum.
- for **Hilary and Mervyn Smiley**. Hilary is being cared for at home
- for **Anna Mitchell** who has ongoing health issues.
- Give thanks for Ashley Taylor on the safe delivery of baby Harry. Pray for Chris, Freya and Mia as they welcome little Harry home for Christmas.

Staff Holidays & Pastoral Cover

Revd Jonny & Family will be on leave from Friday 27th until Tuesday 31st December (incl). In case of Pastoral Emergency please contact Ven. Stephen McBride, who can be contacted on 07718 588191.

Church Office

The Church Office will be closed and David on holidays from Monday 23rd December until the New Year. Office will reopen on **Friday 2nd January 2025**

Going deeper

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.

Parish Small Groups

Our Parish Small Groups are starting to wind up for the Christmas Break and will recommence week commencing **Monday 15th January**. Why not make it a New Year's resolution to join one of our parish groups. Information on our website: - <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/ministries/growing-disciples/small-groups/>

Week of Prayer

As you know every new term, we start with a week of prayer asking for God's blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us. We will be doing that again at the start of 2025- beginning on the evening of **Monday 6th January**.

Shaping a new generation

Exodus Summer 2025

We have loved the new partnership that is being formed through Exodus with the churches in Spain. We are keen to send a team out next Summer to the church in Valls. This is open to any young people **aged 15** and above by **July 2025**. The dates for the mission team will be **17th - 29th July**.

More info is available at <https://www.exodusonline.org.uk/team-11-2025> If you are interested get in touch with Jonny.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Year of Evangelism 2025 & Training

Thank you to parishioners who turned up to hear about the exciting plans for 2025. This will affect all groups and people within our parish in how we reach out into our community with the Good News of Jesus Christ. There were however many who did not attend to hear our plans. You can watch the meeting again online at

<https://www.youtube.com/live/PZ6cb72qHJU?si=i4U0h2QmUOmzPBhL>

Training for door-to-door evangelism will occur for 4 weeks from Thursday 23rd January. Please let Jonny know if you wish to attend.

Freewill Offering Envelopes-2025

For parishioners who use FWO envelopes the 2025 ones are available for collection in both churches.

Please do not use 2024 envelopes after 31st December 24.

Partnering

CMSi Collection Boxes

Thank you to everyone who returned collection boxes which this year raised £263, thank you. If you wish to have more information on CMSi please contact Bert Rea.

Baby Basics

Thank you to everyone who has donated over the last year- we have helped so many. At this time of year, we especially welcome donations of snow suits (new or pre-loved).

Salvation Army Toy Appeal

Again, thank you to everyone who donated gifts and toys in both our churches. We had a wonderful Carol Service in St John's last Sunday when all the gifts were collected. It's a blessing that we can help others.

Hazaq Coffee

Did you forget to purchase coffee for Christmas?
We have a few extra bags in the office: -Indian Beans, Hazaq Cafetiere & Ethiopian Espresso. £6 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

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Tue & Thu working from home 9 - 1pm.

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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

