

Sunday 8th 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
Holy Communion
- 11.30 St John's
Morning Praise
- 7.00 St John's
2nd Sundays

Wednesday 11th

- 12pm St John's
Holy Communion

Sunday 15th December

- 10:00 Christ Church
Morning Prayer
- 11.30 St John's
Morning Praise
- 6.00 St John's
Christmas Carols

For Your Attention

2nd Sundays

Please join us tonight as we gather for worship in St John's at 7pm. Our guest speaker this month will be **Hannah O'Neill, Church Army Evangelist in Sligo.**

Please use this event as an opportunity to invite friends along.

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 all to come along for this short information night as we prepare for 2025.

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.**

Carols @ St John's 6pm

Our first Carol Service in the United Parish is next **Sunday (15th)** please join us and invite a friend along.

Singers Required- 9 Lessons & Carols

We could do with a few extra singers to supplement the 9 Lessons & Carols Service in Christ Church on **Sunday 22nd @ 6pm.** If you can help contact Jenny on **07817 627178**

Pastoring

Please pray for:

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

Pray for **Noel Fryer** recently admitted to hospital. Pray for **Hazel Bingham, Betty Robinson, Dorcus Forsythe, David Metcalfe,** and **Carrie Millar** who have recently been discharged from 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.

Christmas pastoral visits & communions

Rev Jonny would love the opportunity to visit people in their homes over the Christmas season. If you would like a visit, or a home communion, please contact David in the Office to arrange.

Prayer Warriors

The **Christmas Edition** of Prayer Warriors is available in church and from your pastoral visitor. Please pick up a copy.

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.

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.

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 provisional dates for the mission team will be **17th - 29th July**. If you are interested get in touch with Jonny.

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>

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/>

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Mid- Week Holy Communion

Our last Mid- Week Holy Communion of 2024 will be **Wednesday 18th December**, recommencing on- **Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 12 noon.**

Men's Christmas Dinner

The Women's night out was a great night out- next up are the men.

The **Men** are going to **Namaste Indian Restaurant 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>

Users of St John's Kitchen's

It was only a month ago that we had the Council carry out an inspection of our kitchens in St John's. Thank you to those who ensured it was tidy. Unfortunately, since then, it has been neglected. We would ask all users of the kitchens to: - **keep all surfaces clear & clean; dispose of all waste including items left in the fridge; wash and put away all cutlery etc - do not assume someone else will clear away what you leave behind.**

Church Christmas Card

You will shortly be receiving your Christmas card along with Revd Jonny's Christmas letter. The card gives all the dates of our services during Christmas. Please try and take time from the busyness of life at this time and join us with friends and family over the next few weeks.

Freewill Offering Envelopes

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

Partnering

CMSi Collection Boxes

If you have any boxes can these, be returned to Church by **Monday 16th December**, please.

Baby Basics

We have been blessed in the last few months weeks with amazing donations from Craig's, Dunaghy & Killagan Mothers' Union, The Hygiene Bank and Antrim & Newtownabbey Council's Winter Woollies scheme. However, we are always in need of baby grows and vests for **0-3 & 3-6 months**. At this time of year, we especially welcome donations of **snow suits (new or pre-loved)**.

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 35 supporters and have raised £119.43 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

Minister: Jonny Campbell-Smyth

jonny@theunitedparish.org.uk

07808 479649

Administrator: David Brown

david@theunitedparish.org.uk

Office 028 93 354814

Mobile 07368 110722

(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

