

Sunday 12th January 2025



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.

Sunday 12th January

10.00 Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30 St John's
Morning Praise

7.00 St John's
2nd Sundays

Wednesday 15th January

12.00 St John's
Holy Communion

Sunday 19th January

10.00 Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30 St John's
Morning Praise

For Your Attention

New Teaching Series Starting on Sunday

Transformed into His likeness - God wants all of us who follow him to change every aspect of our lives, to walk away from the pull of this world, and to draw nearer to him. Paul writes to the Romans and says, **“Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”**. This 8-week teaching series will look at all aspects of our lives - our health, our emotions, our relationships, and examine through Scripture how we can act in a way that reflects the Lord’s desire for us.

2nd Sundays

Our 2nd Sundays starts on **Sunday 12th January** in **St John’s at 7pm**. Our guests this month will be **James Turner** from the Hub at Queen’s who will be leading worship and **Billy Fyffe** from The LECAL grouped parishes in Downpatrick who will be speaking. Please use this event as an opportunity to invite friends along.

Year of Evangelism 2025 & Training

For anyone that needs refreshed on our plans for this year, go online to <https://www.youtube.com/live/PZ6cb72qHJU?si=i4U0h2QmUOmzPBhL>

We want to equip everyone for evangelism and therefore are providing training for 4 weeks from **Thursday 23rd January**. **Please let Jonny know if you wish to attend.**

Each session will be led by George Newell from New Wine and will cover:

Night 1. Who, What & Why of Evangelism

Night 2. The Gospel, what is it?

Night 3. How we Share - His Story / Our story

Night 4. How we Share - Exploring Methods in sharing our faith

Pastoring

Please pray for:

- For **Betty Robinson**, in hospital.
- **Willie & William Magee**, both challenged by poor health.
- for **Dorcus Forsythe** back home after hospital care.
for **Carrie Millar** recovering after surgery
- **Sadie Wilson, Noel Fryer, David Metcalfe, and Hazel Bingham** after hospitalisation.
- 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.
- for all in our Parish who will be undergoing further tests or surgery over the next month.

Freewill Offering Envelopes-2025

FWO envelopes the 2025 ones are available for collection in both churches. **Please do not use 2024 or previous years envelopes after 31st December 24.**

Going deeper

Daily Devotional & Personal Reading Plans

Attached with this week's sheet and available in both Christ Church & St John's is a small resource flyer giving details of various devotionals and reading plans- brilliant way to start the New Year. It is also available on the resources section of website, using the link: -

<https://theunitedparish.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Daily-Bible-Reading-plans.pdf>

Hard Copies available for collection in both Churches

Mid-Week Holy Communion

These will start again on **Wednesday 15th @12 noon in St John's**. This is a great service to join others at the Holy Table; get away for 45 minutes from the busyness of life and reflect on the teaching from the lectionary reading by Revd Jonny.

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**, Philip's subject will be **'Man On The Run-Lessons from Jonah'**. We have secured tickets, if you are interested in attending contact Revd Jonny.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study Group

Led by Revd Jonny, the group will start meeting on a fortnightly basis commencing **Tuesday 14th January at 2pm** in Christ Church Hall.

Shaping a new generation

Exodus2025 Spain

The closing date for applications is **27th January**. Anyone aged 15+ by July 2025 is eligible. To apply go to: -

<https://www.exodusonline.org.uk/team-11-2025>

Other teams are available should this one not suit. Click on

<https://www.exodusonline.org.uk/teams>

SPARK Ballyclare 2025 11TH – 17TH August

SPARK has been running in the town for a number of years and brings local churches together to reach out to their communities with the love of God and the Gospel. This involves kids' clubs, community clean-ups, drop-ins, and community events for the elderly. For more information and to register to be part of the Ballyclare team contact Rev Jonny or go to

<https://www.sparknewtownabbey.com/>

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Year of Evangelism 2025 Prayer

Romans 10:13 says “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent?”

Heavenly Father, as we your Church hear your call to go and make disciples of all nations, I ask that you open my heart to follow the Great Commission, to point those around me to the Good News of the Gospel. Thank you for the opportunities that you give me to share Jesus with everyone. Pour your Holy Spirit on me so that I might be strengthened with confidence to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday living through my words and actions, boldly witnessing to the saving grace of your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. Amen.

If you didn't get a prayer card last week we have a supply at the rear of both churches please feel free to take one and commit to pray every day for Year of Evangelism

Volunteers for St John's carpark

Sunday mornings we are blessed to have the use of the Primary School carpark next to St John's. Supervising the cars coming in and leaving depends upon volunteers. If you could be part of a rota it would help us greatly. Please contact David in the office.

Partnering

CMSi Magazines

CMSi quarterly magazines are available for collection in both churches.

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.

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

