



Sunday 19th 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 19th January

10.00 Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30 St John's
Morning Praise

Wednesday 22nd January

12.00 St John's
Holy Communion

Sunday 26th January

10.00 Christ Church
Family Service

11.30 St John's
Family Service

For Your Attention

Year of Evangelism Training- Starts this Thursday

We want to equip everyone for evangelism and therefore are providing training for 4 weeks from **Thursday 23rd January in Christ Church from 8pm**. If you wish to attend let Revd Jonny know or add your name to list in church

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

Giving

How often do we review our giving to the Church? The Vestry would appreciate if people could review their giving regularly. The costs of running a busy parish increase all the time for example - church insurance, heating, lighting, wages etc.

For those that don't regularly give, we would appreciate you setting up a standing order to support the ministries that we do as a church.

Forms are available at the back of both churches or via website.

Honorary Treasurer

After 5 years of faithful service, Lawrence Stanford has decided to retire from his role as Hon Treasurer at the next Easter General vestry. We thank Lawrence for his service and diligence in looking after the Parish Finances. We now are looking for someone who could take on the treasurer's role. If you are interested, please contact Revd Jonny or a member from Select Vestry.

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 **Wallace & Jean Fenton** presently in hospital.
- for all in our Parish who will be undergoing further tests or surgery over the next few weeks.

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.

Going deeper

New Teaching Series Started Last 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.

You can catch up on again or if you missed attending, by following the link:- <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/sermon-archive/>

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 meet again on **Tuesday 28th January at 2pm** in Christ Church Hall. This is a great way to meet new friends, have fellowship and study God’s word over refreshments. We would love to see more people joining us.

Shaping a new generation

Exodus2025 Spain- Apply ASAP

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

Mighty Men

In 2025 we are inviting men to come together for friendship, support and growth. Through a series of gatherings we hope that men in our parish will be strengthened and encouraged.

Mark these dates in your diary: -

Saturday 8th February

Saturday 1st March

Saturday 12th April

Saturday 3rd May

Saturday 14th June

Saturday 16th August

Men's Breakfast

Irish Men's Convention

Men's Social Event

Men's Breakfast

Men's Social Event

Men's Breakfast

Mothers' Union

Our MU meetings recommence on **Monday 27th January at 2.30pm** with Holy Communion in Christ Church followed by refreshments in hall. Our theme this year is '**Join us and Join In**'- an open and warm invitation to all ladies in the Parish to come along. For more info, please get in touch with Vera Jones 07714 286684 or Maureen Paige 0754 6576654 in St John's or Catherine Watson 07746 878507 or Rosaleen Buchanan 07759 563190 in Christ Church.

Register of Vestry Members & Easter Vestry

The Register of General Vestry members will be open for the month of February for review and addition. Anyone who would like to register as a new member of the church can use the forms at the back of church (Residents for those living inside the parish boundaries or accustomed for those living outside the parish boundaries) or from our website: <https://theunitedparish.org.uk/resources/forms/>. A review of all amendments will be carried out at the March Select Vestry meeting. Guide to Vestries is available at back of Church and on our website.

Partnering

CMSi Magazines

CMSi quarterly magazines are available for collection in both churches.

Hazaq Coffee

New Supplies of coffee have arrived at the office; £6.00 per bag with all the proceeds going to the work of Release International. Contact David or simply take a bag from the back of St John's and leave money in the office.

Foodbank

Foodbank have issued an appeal for a volunteer to collect food from Carnmoney Foodbank on Monday mornings between 10am -12pm and deliver to Ballyclare Presbyterian. It wouldn't be every week just as and when required. Please contact Jill in St John's on 07895 111 211 for more information or if interested.

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

