

Sunday 16th February 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.

This Sunday

10.00 Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30 St John's
Morning Praise

Wednesday 19th

12.00 St John's
Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd

08:30 Christ Church
Holy Communion

10.00 Christ Church
Family Service

11.30 St John's
Family Service

For Your Attention

Irish Men's Convention 2025- Last Few Tickets!

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.

New Irish @ St John's Friday 14th March 8pm

New Irish Arts is coming to St John's. What a way to start of the St Patrick's Bank Holiday weekend! Featuring members of the New Irish Choir & Orchestra, we'll share the story of Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, and explore his beliefs and mission. This will be a fun and informal concert suitable for the whole family. To buy tickets use the link <https://bit.ly/newirish> or buy tickets @ £20 each via card machine in St John's and tell David how many you have purchased.

Register of Members & Easter AGM

The Register of members **is now 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. A Guide to Vestries is available at back of Church and on our website.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

- For **Albert Green and family**. Pray especially for Albert at this challenging time as he deals with the loss of his dear wife. May he know the comfort & peace of the Holy Spirit.
- for **Hilary and Mervyn Smiley**. Hilary is seriously ill and being cared for at home.
- For the family of the late **Betty Robinson**.
- **Hugh & Olive Spence**
- **Willie & William Magee**, both challenged by poor health.
- for **Carrie Millar** recovering after surgery
- **Sadie Wilson, Dorcus Forsythe, Marie Elliott, Noel Fryer, David Metcalfe, and Hazel Bingham** after hospitalisation.
- for **Cynthia Banfield** supporting her mum.
- for **Anna Mitchell** who has ongoing health issues.
- for **Wallace Fenton** presently in hospital.
- for all in our Parish who will be undergoing further tests or surgery or awaiting results over the next few weeks.

Year of Evangelism 2025 Prayer

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.

Going deeper

Reviewing your 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. At present we are running an annual deficit of approximately £13,000 and therefore savings are required and giving must increase.

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 and via website.

Mothers' Union

We are delighted to be welcoming **Jenny Smyth from CMSI** to our next meeting on **Monday 24th February at 2.30pm in Christ Church Hall.**

Jenny visited Kenya last September and will give a presentation of her visit and bring us up to date with what is currently happening with our Parish Partners in the Tujisaidie Project.

This is an opportunity for **all Parishioners-men & women** to come along and join in what will be a very informative afternoon on an important part of our Parish Life.

CIEF Quarterly Newsletter.

The Church of Ireland Evangelical Fellowship are delighted to launch a new quarterly e-newsletter that will be featuring good news stories, events, resources and opinions aimed at evangelicals and others throughout the Church of Ireland. Sign up is simple (just name and email) and the newsletter will be emailed 4 times per year.

Attached with sheet a flyer to make sign up easy.

Shaping a new generation

SPARK Ballyclare 2025 11TH – 17TH August

SPARK has been running in the town for several 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/>

Exciting news - Church Merchandise -Order Soon!

A request from our young people to provide Church labelled clothing has been considered. We will now be able to provide quarter zip fleeces and t-shirts. These provide a great witness of our faith and may open up conversations with friends and family. Fleeces will be approx. £30.00 & t-shirts at £11.00.

Order forms are available at the rear of both churches. Please take a form and complete and return to David in the office.

Orders should be with the office by end of February.

A massive thank you to Beth Brannigan who provided the design.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Year of Evangelism-Training Continues.

The last 4 Thursday evenings with George Newell have been so well attended, - thank you to everyone. We continue with another aspect of training: – this will help with praying for others. **Prayer Ministry Training Day, Saturday 1st March @ St Ignatius, Carryduff, 9.30am- 4.00pm.** The cost will be £10.00 to cover refreshments, please bring your own lunch.

You can book using the link: - <https://bit.ly/4hNd7Qu>

Welcome Training!

Are you involved in communication with parishioners & community? - **gosh that's us all!** However, as examples, leaders, wardens, serving refreshments etc. Andrew Brannigan will be running a short evening course on **Thursday 20th March**- keep date free, more details soon.

Rural Deanery Services

Hard to believe that Lent is almost here and the start of our Rural Deanery Services. These are always a fantastic opportunity to meet others, visit different churches and listen to weekly teaching as we journey towards Easter. Details below

Wed. 5 th March	St Patrick's Antrim	A Just God
Wed. 12 th March	Christ Church B'Nure	A Redeeming God
Wed. 19 th March	Gartree Parish	A Loving God
Wed. 26 th March	St Patrick's T'Patrick	A Humble God
Wed. 2 nd April	St Bride's Doagh	A Suffering God
Wed. 9 th April	All Saints Halls Antrim	A Calling God

All services start at **7.30pm**, this year's theme is '**What The Cross Tells Us about God**', refreshments after each Service. The retiring collection each evening will be split evenly between Scripture Union NI & the Antrim Parish Fire Damage Repair Fund.

Partnering

CMSi Tujisaidie Visitors 2025

Guess who is visiting us? We have Lucy Irungu & Dr Kathleen Anangwe coming to the parish in May. Attached with this week's sheet info about the ladies and what they have been up to in Kenya.

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.

Care for the Family – Going the distance event

Care for the Family is a Christian organisation that we have supported for many years. They are hosting events in the Spring for couples who desire to invest further in their relationship together. Events are being held from 25th – 27th March in various locations at 7:30pm. To book your place, go to cff.org.uk/goingthedistance or phone 029 2081 0800.

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

