

Sunday 26th 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 26th January

8.30 Christ Church
Holy Communion

10.00 Christ Church
Family Service

11.30 St John's
Family Service

Wednesday 29th January

12.00 St John's
Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd February

10.00 Christ Church
Holy Communion

11.30 St John's
Holy Communion

For Your Attention

Honorary Treasurer

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

The Great St John's Clear Up!

Space is always difficult in St John's. Youth leaders, Hall Users and Volunteers are required during week of **3rd February & specifically on Saturday 8th at 9.00am**. A skip has been organised and will be in the carpark. Please fill it with anything you no longer use - in cupboards, lying about, in parish lounge and underneath church. Any items that are not identified as belonging to a group will be removed.

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.

Reviewing our 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 and via website.

Pastoring

Please pray for:

- For **Betty Robinson**, ill in hospital.
- Marie Elliott 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 Fenton** presently in hospital.
- for all in our Parish who will be undergoing further tests or surgery over the next few weeks.

Register of Members & Easter AGM

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

Holy Communion - non-alcoholic wine

We are conscious that some people do not wish use alcoholic wine at Communion, so now in both churches there will be a basket where you will find sealed juice cups if you prefer this option.

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**, 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 be meeting again this **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.

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.

Evangelism Training – New Wine

We had an incredible start to the Evangelism Training on Thursday night with over 30 people in attendance. If you would like to attend the next 3 evenings, please let Rev Jonny know. Meetings are 1 hour long from 8pm – 9pm in Christ Church Halls.

Shaping a new generation

Exodus 2025 Spain- Don't Delay 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/>

Exciting news - Church Merchandise

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.

The colours available will be Black, Grey & Blue, in sizes Small, Medium, Large & Extra-Large.

Order forms are available at the rear of both churches this morning. 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

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 – Meeting This Monday

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.

Cleaning in St John's & Christ Church

To create financial savings, the Vestry have decided that from **1st April** we will no longer employ an external cleaning company. We hope that teams of parishioners on a weekly basis will spruce up each church. The more volunteers the less often folk will be needed. St John's Hall will be dealt with separately. Jacqui Wells & Pam Winter will organise teams. **If you can help, please contact them.**

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 volunteer

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.

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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(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

