



Sunday 2nd March 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
Holy Communion

11.30 St John's
Holy Communion

Wednesday 5th March

12.00 St John's
Holy Communion

Sunday 9th March

10.00 Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30 St John's
Morning Praise

7.00 St John's 2nd Sundays

For Your Attention

Serving the Lord

It's very rare for the church administrator to give his thoughts in writing! God requires our availability. It's important for us to use our gifts and our time to glorify him. Presently as a matter of urgency we need in St John's: JAM & Lighthouse Leaders on Sundays, Boys Brigade Leaders, 2 Church Wardens, and a Parish Treasurer. **What are the implications if we don't have them in situ? Please ponder, pray and serve.** David

2nd Sundays

Our 2nd Sundays continue as normal on **Sunday 9th March**. Please join us as we gather for worship in **St John's at 7pm**. Our guest this month will be Josh Thornbury. Josh is the Youth Development Officer for Down & Dromore Diocese. Please use this event as an opportunity to invite friends along

St Patrick's event at St John's 14th March 8pm

We have a small number of tickets remaining, so please book asap. Members of the New Irish Choir & Orchestra will share the story of Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, and explore his beliefs and mission. 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.

Rural Deanery Lent Services commence this week

Ash Wednesday commences our Lenten Services beginning in **St Patrick's, Parkhall Road, Antrim** at 7.30pm. The following week (12th) we will be in Christ Church, Ballynure. Please come along and invite a friend.

Pastoring

Please pray 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.
- **Hilary and Mervyn Smiley.** Hilary is seriously ill and being cared for at home.
- **Jean Fenton & family** on the very sad death of her husband Wallace.
- the family of the late **Betty Robinson.**
- **Hugh & Olive Spence**
- **Willie & William Magee**, both challenged by poor health.
- **Carrie Millar** returning back home to Ballyclare.
- **Sadie Wilson, Dorcus Forsythe, Marie Elliott, Noel Fryer, David Metcalfe, and Hazel Bingham** after hospitalisation.
- For **Betty Redfern & Cynthia Banfield** supporting her mum.
- for **Anna Mitchell** who has ongoing health issues.
- for all in our Parish who will be undergoing further tests or surgery or awaiting results over the next few weeks.

Going deeper

Lent Devotionals

We have for sale our devotional book to see us through Lent. This year it is **‘The Risen King’ by Charles Spurgeon**. We have secured a 50% discount on book- a bargain for £5.00- why not buy one for a friend as well! Copies available from David in the office.

Rural Deanery Midweek Lent Services

Pick up an invite card in Church for the Rural Deanery midweek Lent Services.

Wed. 5th 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.

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.

New House Group commencing after Easter

A new house group will commence in Trevor & Olive Maze Home from 28th April. Look out for more details in the coming weeks.

Shaping a new generation

Journey To The Tomb – Easter Event

Connor Children's Council are inviting Sunday School & Families to an event in St Stephen's Church, Belfast on Saturday 12th April from 4pm-6pm. Travel on Jesus's journey to the cross through sensory activities, crafts, storytelling and a BBQ to finish. It's a free event but please book using the following link or QR Code: - <https://bit.ly/4IoiU9I>



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/>

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

Exodus Team – a new location - Hungary!

In a slight change of plan by Exodus, the team this year will be travelling to Gárdony in Hungary. We have the biggest team of young people ever. Please be praying for them as they begin their preparations for Summer.

Reaching Out & Welcoming in

Evangelism bracelets



Following our successful Evangelism Course, we are selling the 4 point armbands which can be used to open up conversations with people about the Gospel message. These cost £1 and will be available from both churches. Simply take one and drop your £1 into the basket. We pray God will use these to encourage you in your conversations with friends and family.

Genesis Art & Craft Fellowship

The group will be holding an Open Studio on **Saturday 22nd March** from **10.00am- 12.30pm** in Christ Church Hall. Demonstrations & Refreshments along with a small selection of items for sale, donations from proceeds going to church funds.

Welcome Training!

Are you in a role within our churches where you meet and talk to people? (e.g. Youth leader, Warden, Serving Tea & coffees etc) To help with the role of welcoming, Andrew Brannigan will be running a short evening course on **Thursday 20th March** - keep the date free, more details to follow.

Spring Ladies Evening.

In conjunction with Genesis Arts & Craft Fellowship. The ladies plan to meet on **Friday 28th March from 7.30pm- 9pm** in Christ Church Hall to create Jam Jar Posies. This will be a night of fellowship and fun as you take home a beautiful Spring Posy to keep or give as a gift. Entrance donation towards church funds. To book a place text or leave a voicemail on 07747 181938.

Partnering

CMSi Tujisaidie Visitors 2025

Guess who is visiting us? We have Lucy Irungu & Dr Kathleen Anangwe coming to the parish in May. An Information sheet about the ladies and their ministry in Kenya is available in church. For further information please contact Bert Rea.

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

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

