



THE UNITED PARISH
Christ Church & St John's

PRAYER WARRIORS

March 2025



Thank you for picking up this Prayer Warrior's booklet for March. We are all appreciative of your prayers.

Like several other people in church, I was very fortunate to attend the Evangelism course held in Christ Church, led by George Newell. It was excellent, and it made me look at the subject of evangelism in a whole new way. It has to a very large extent dispelled my apprehension about the year of evangelism that Rev Jonny is proposing.

The Monday night Bible study group has also just finished one of the courses that Rev Jonny asked all the groups to work through. Almost at the very last page of the study (Natural Evangelism by J J John) I came across this piece of text which I think is worthy of sharing with everyone – it certainly made me think.

Jesus was born in a borrowed manger. He preached from a borrowed boat. He entered Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey. He ate the Last Supper in a borrowed upper room, and he was buried in a borrowed tomb. Now he asks to borrow the lives of His followers to reach the rest of the world. If we do not speak. Then He is dumb and silent. Food for thought.

Please continue to pray wherever and whenever you can.

Yours in Christ

Leigh Henderson

Prayer Points from Revd Jonny

It is so encouraging to me to know that people are praying for the work of God's Kingdom in our churches and in our community. As Paul instructed the Church in Thessalonica - Rejoice always and pray without ceasing. I would encourage you to lift our parish before God daily.

I am very aware of the significant number of families who are challenged by illness or adjusting to life without a loved one. We are a family church, and therefore as people celebrate, we celebrate with them, and when people are mourning we mourn with them. Lift to God all those in our News Sheet prayer list who need the assurance of his presence in these days.

We are thankful for the training that has taken place on evangelism. In this year of evangelism, pray that God will direct us to the next steps. Pray that within your own context, amongst friends and family, you may witness of Christ's love to others. Pray that God would equip you to tell your story to others so they may know the hope that we carry with us daily.

I continue to have a heart to see the village of Ballynure awaken to the message of the Gospel. Pray that God will guide us on how we step forward to share the Gospel in the village.

I'm feeling the prompt of God to consider how St John's can engage with people in some of the housing developments around Ballyclare. Pray for God's direction, and that he would call others forward who have a heart for our community.

The Easter Annual Meetings are approaching soon, and with that will come changes for those in office. Currently we will be losing our Treasurer, Lawrence Stanford as he steps down. We will also be losing David Wilson as one of the Church Wardens in St John's. Pray that God will bring forward people to fill these important roles. We need a new Treasurer, and we need 2 Church Wardens for St John's.

There has been a slight change to our plans for Exodus this year. We are now taking our team of 14 to Gárdony in Hungary. Team gatherings begin at the start of March. Pray that we would know God working in the lives of our young people as they prepare for mission.

Give thanks to God for our 2nd Sunday Evening worship. This has been such an encouragement with growing numbers attending each month. Pray that we can expand this invite out to the other churches in the town.

Give thanks to God for an encouraging start to our Mighty Men, men's ministry. Pray that we can grow this into a sustainable ministry for the future.

Overseeing the work of the Select Vestry is not a small task. This year we have major projects to consider, and we are very aware of the pressures on our parish finances. Pray for wisdom with the decisions we are making. But also pray that God would direct you in how you respond financially to the mission that he has placed on us to do here in Ballyclare & Ballynure.

Parish Groups

Mothers' Union - Vera Jones

A previous version of our Mothers' Union prayer talked about life with all its joys and sorrows and we in our Branch have experienced both recently.

We were delighted to enrol three ladies at our recent Service. Please give thanks for Barbara, Edith and Roberta as they live out their Commitment to the Aims and Objects of Mothers' Union.

Please pray for Harry, Anne and their families following the death of their Mum Betty Robinson. Betty was a faithful member over many years and although in recent times was unable to attend our meetings, she loved to hear all the Branch news. We appreciated her prayerful support of Mothers' Union.

Please pray for Jenny Smyth from CMSI as she recently visited the group to give a presentation on her recent visit to Kenya and an update on our partnership with the Tujisaidie Project.

Also please pray for our new Diocesan President Alison as she is soon to be commissioned by Bishop George in Belfast Cathedral.

Give thanks for the Fellowship we enjoy as Members of Mothers' Union and pray that others will join us.

Prayer Ministry Team - Andree Bradley

Please continue to pray for the Prayer Ministry Team as they serve in our parish.

Give thanks for George Newell who led the evangelism course. Following this course several people have signed up for Prayer Ministry training. Please pray for all planning to attend on 1st March.

Romans 8:28 NLT

'And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them'.

Genesis Art Fellowship - Lynne Brannigan

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself

We would like to thank God for

- materials and support to enjoy and work on creative projects
- to be able to enjoy fellowship and build a creative Christian community
- for the space to meet and work
- for everyday things we often take for granted

We would ask God to help us continue to develop a vision for how we may move forward and serve him

CMS Ireland - Bert Rea

Kenya

Please continue praying for:

Our link partners Lucy, Louise, Isabelle, Antony and Kathleen as they serve the mission and call of the Tujisaidie Self-Help Group. Pray especially for Lucy (Antony's Mum) and Kathleen as they prepare to travel to Ireland in May to visit the United Parish and other links in Ireland. They are founder members of Tujisaidie and have decades of experience to share, plus wonderful spiritual insight. Please pray for all the formalities to work smoothly and for the visitors to bring blessings to each place they visit.

Please pray that 2025 would bring peace and stability, as well as a seasonal pattern that allows crops to grow and ripen in their respective seasons, and that food prices become stable for the Kenyan population.

Tujisaidie School

Thank God for the 6 new classrooms, now in full swing. Please pray for the second phase of this Misesan Cara project, which will lead to the classrooms being furnished and equipped, including a tablet for each student during computer classes.

Pray for the outings of the Tujisaidie School students during February and March, taking them to the Nairobi Safari Walk, where they can observe the animals in large enclosures, ready to be released back into the wild after a period of convalescence and rehabilitation. Please pray for the teachers' outing to the Kitengela glassblowing workshop on 5 April. Give thanks for the generosity donations of supporters who fund these.

Thank God for the recent visit by Lenka McAlinden from "Just Be a Child" in England, which had donated 6,000 books to the Tujisaidie school and the Tumaini library.

Pray too for John Omondi (Principal), the teachers & school lunch cooks.

Tumaini African Foundation

Please pray for

Antony and the team as they press on with the activities that go on in the TAF Centre of Excellence – especially the more than just a meal (MTJAM) programme which provides a free hot meal for an average of 510 children every Saturday lunchtime.

Pray too for Antony's work with the Tumaini Sports Academy – especially the TAF Football first team which is starting a new season in the FKF Nairobi East Regional League.

Naomi the TAF Librarian who is on a 2-year Certificate course in Librarianship and Information Studies at the Railway Training Institute, and for Lucy Wangui who is running the library in her absence.

The IT (Information Technology) innovation hub room being planned for the 2nd floor, giving thanks for the technical support given by Jonny and others from the United parish + furniture that has been donated by the Kenya Irish Society.

Although the floods have subsided our prayers are still needed for the ongoing relief work helping to re-house the 500 or so members of the community whose homes were demolished after the devastating floods. Give thanks for the generous support of CMSI support parishes and a £10,000 grant from Bishops' Appeal.

Release International – Lisa Willett

India:

India's constitution grants freedom of religion. But anti-conversion laws are increasingly being used by Hindu groups to intimidate Christians and to stifle gospel ministry.

Pray for the Christians affected by this, for those currently in custody (approximately 3000 Christian leaders and pastors) because of it and their families. Please also pray for funds for the provision of legal fees.

Pray about the growing persecution happening in India and against the growing ideology, Hindutva, that seeks to make Hinduism dominant in India.

Ministries within our town

WAVE

Please give thanks for a successful start to our year.

Please continue to pray for our members and especially for parents and carers who face extraordinary challenges in their lives. Their faith, and the love and patience they demonstrate in their lives, is an example to all of us.

Please pray for those who plan and run our meetings and that additional volunteers will come forward.

Street Pastors

Pray that churches would be represented in the volunteers who walk through Ballyclare late at night

Pray for the management committee as they seek to understand God's direction for this ministry

Greater Ballyclare Youth for Christ

Pray for Hayley, the centre manager, as she continues to develop deep relationships with young people in the town.

Currently members of staff are on long-term sick which limits what the centre can provide. Pray that God would pour his healing on the staff team and their recovery.

StreetReach

This ministry runs every Summer providing outreach into Ballyclare through holiday clubs, cleanups, and community events. Pray that God would work within the organising committee as they prepare for this year.

Boys Brigade- Ian Heaney

BB will be pretty much in full display mode from this week forward. This is obviously an important event in the BB calendar and means a lot of behind-the-scenes work for leaders and boys. Please keep the three sections, leaders, boys and parents in your prayers.

The year has gone very well with many positives and answered prayers, so thank you all! Please continue to pray for us over the next few months as our year comes to a close and we plan for outings and camps.

We will be losing leaders at the end of this term. Pray that God would direct others to step forward in service.

Friday Night Bible Study Group – Tim Burns

We are continuing the SERVE programme; it focuses on developing young leaders and encouraging their discipleship. Pray for the young people as they come along, that they would find a supportive and encouraging place and that they would be encouraged in their faith, pray too that they would develop as Godly young leaders.

We are also using our older teens and those of university age to help lead, so pray for them as they do this. Pray also for our home that it would feel like a safe and encouraging place for people. Pray for those signed up for the Exodus team and to lead on summer camps.

Youth Fellowship – Andrew Brannigan

Please pray for our 25 or so young people in the Youth Fellowship as they prepare for various exams and also those thinking about summer opportunities like Exodus teams. Pray for the young leaders especially that they would grow strong in their faith.

Compassion Ministries- Frances Wilson

Give thanks for how God has blessed the ministries, and for our teams of volunteers. Please also give thanks for the privilege of reaching out to our community praying that people will see God's love in all that we do.

Pray for wisdom as we plan for 2025, especially as to the impact we can have in this Year of Evangelism.

Pray for the people we connect with, and for those who need help but are afraid to ask; -

- As we engage with more people, we are increasingly aware of the extent of loneliness in our town. Pray that God will guide us to those people so that we can offer companionship and hope.

- Pray for how we can grow our relationships with the community groups in the town.

Baby Basics

Give thanks for the donations we receive and for our referrers and especially for the generous grant we received from the Black Santa appeal.

Please pray that we will connect with more organisations who would benefit from what we provide for struggling families. Especially for the families who receive our packs.

Munch on Mondays

Give thanks for the team at Ballynure Co-Op who provide the food and for the people who are joining us for a cup of tea and a chat.

Pray that more people will engage with this ministry as we are seeking to change Munch on Mondays from a food collection point to a place where people come for a cup of tea/coffee and a chat, especially those who are struggling financially and / or emotionally. Pray that we will have opportunities to share our faith.

Kintsugi Hope

We will be running our next Kintsugi programme with REACH (Rashee & Erskine Area Community Hub). Pray for Liz and Frances from St John's and for Paul and Ang from REACH as we plan. Please also pray for the people who will participate in the course which will be starting at the end of March.

Cap Life Skills

Our next Life Skills course is planned for the summer term. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom as we start to reach out to potential participants.

School Uniforms

Pray for the team as they begin to plan for School Uniforms being available over Easter. Pray for the connections that are made, that they would produce much fruit.