

Sunday 16th 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
Morning Prayer

11.30 St John's
Morning Praise

Sunday 23rd March

10.00 Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30 St John's
Morning Praise

For Your Attention

Rural Deanery Lent Services –

Our Lenten Services continue this week, and we are in Gartree Parish Largy Road, Crumlin 7.30pm. Please come along and invite a friend. Directions-at Nutts Corner Roundabout, take 5th exit onto Nutts Corner Road, continue for 3 miles and turn right unto Manse Road. Continue to crossroad (approx. 2 miles) go straight across unto Largy Road, (approx. 5 miles) church on right, near end of road.

Farewell to David Brown

It's sad news that David is leaving us and moving to Scotland. We wish David all of God's blessings in this next chapter. As recognition of all that David has done for us we are having a celebration night on Friday 11th April. Please make every effort to attend.

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 in **Christ Church** on **Thursday 20th March**. **This is open to all of us.**

Could you help please?

This is another piece of prose and an appeal from your Church Administrator as I move to Scotland around Easter. We must always remember who we are serving, **God**, we should try and live according to the teachings of **Jesus**, to love each other – we do that in our service. So, before I clear out, we need a new Treasurer, Wardens for St John's, people to help on Sundays with our young people, a few more helpers for refreshments and St John's carpark. **Remember - what happens if we don't get folk in situ?** Please chat to me if you can help please. Thanks David

Pastoring

Please pray for:

- **Shelley, Andrew, Georgia Jess and family** on the recent death of Shelley's mum. May they know the comfort and peace of the Holy Spirit at this sad and challenging time.
- **Mervyn Smiley and sons Mervyn & Jason** on the recent death of **Hilary**. Hilary had been seriously ill for many years and was being cared for at home. Please pray for Mervyn and the boys that they will know comfort & peace of the Holy Spirit at this very difficult time. A service of Thanksgiving will be held in Christ Church on **Wednesday 19th at 12:30pm**
- **Hugh & Olive Spence**
- **Willie & William Magee**, both challenged by poor health.
- **Carrie Millar** returning back home to Ballyclare.
- **Betty & Paul 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.

Home Communion

Please contact the Revd Jonny if you would like home communion over Lent and as we approach Easter.

Wednesday Morning Holy Communion

Unfortunately, we will be unable to hold Mid-Week Holy Communion this Wednesday (19th)- normal service & time on Wed. 26th.

Annual Leave

Please note that Revd Jonny will be on annual leave from **Sunday 16th – Tues 18th March inclusive**. Pastoral cover for emergencies only will be provided by **Revd Stephen McBride on 07718 588191**
Church office will also be closed on Monday 17th for St Patrick's Day

Going deeper

Rural Deanery Midweek Lent Services

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

Wed. 19th 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.

Holy Week Services this Easter

Holy Week Services this year will cater for everyone.

Monday 14 th April	-	Youth & Children's Worship in St John's with guests Play it by Ear Theatre Company
Thursday 17 th April	-	Service of Tenebrae, Christ Church
Friday 18 th April	-	Holy Communion, St John's
Easter Sunday		Dawn Service at Ballyeaston Family Celebration in both churches

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. Gathering early on Monday evenings, the hope is that this group will encourage people who don't like being out too late in the evenings. Each evening will conclude with a short service of Compline or the Late Evening Office, all finished by 8.30pm. Get in touch with Trevor and Olive if you are interested 07808 812276.

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/4loiU9l>



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/>

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.

Spring Ladies Evening

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.

Mighty Men – axe throwing

Our men's ministry is out again on 4th April – this time we're going Axe throwing. Yes, you read correctly. Places are limited so please contact Rev Jonny or Andrew Brannigan as soon as possible to book your place. Cost is £20.

Equipping for door-to-door evangelism

After the success of George Newell's Evangelism Training, we have now asked him to return in May to do 2 evenings specifically on door-to-door evangelism. Please keep the following dates free **Thursdays 22nd & 29th May.**

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.

Release International

Release International hold a prayer meeting on the first Friday of the month 6:45pm - 7:30pm in Ballyclare. Please speak to Lisa Willett if interested in attending Tel. 07456 648 380 (dates can sometimes change depending on how many people are available so better to contact Lisa for more information).

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

