

Sunday 9th 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

7.00 2nd Sundays

Wednesday 12th March

12.00 St John's
Holy Communion

Sunday 16th March

10.00 Christ Church
Morning Prayer

11.30 St John's
Morning Praise

For Your Attention

2nd Sundays

Our 2nd Sundays continue as normal this **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 are sold out. Unfortunately, we are now at maximum capacity and cannot take any further bookings. If you have booked you will shortly be receiving an email giving instructions for parking etc.

We do need 2 volunteers who would be willing to marshall the school carpark on the evening – arrival 7pm. If you are coming to the event, we would reserve your seats.

Rural Deanery Lent Services – Christ Church

Our Lenten Services continue this week, and we are in Christ Church, Ballynure 7.30pm. Please come along and invite a friend.

PAT Testing

Under Health & Safety we are required to have electrical items used on our premises tested. Therefore, if you regularly use an electrical item from home each week in church, it will need tested. An email has already been sent out, however if you wish to have items tested, please bring to the office on **Monday (10th) morning**.

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**

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** after hospitalisation.
- **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.

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 so 2 evenings specifically on door-to-door evangelism. Please keep the following dates free **Thursdays 22nd & 29th May.**

Home Communion

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

Going deeper

Rural Deanery Midweek Lent Services

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

Wed. 12th 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.

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/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/>

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.

Last chance to order your Church Merchandise

This is your last chance to order Church labelled clothing. We will be able to provide quarter zip fleeces and t-shirts. Fleece 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. Payment will be taken once the items arrive.

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.

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.

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.

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. Leaflets in Church this morning for both events please pick one up, these are two great events to invite friends.

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

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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

