



NEWSLINK
St John's Parish
Moira

September 2020

Our Parish's
Mission Statement is:

Growing closer to God in love & obedience.
Growing closer together in caring & sharing.
Growing closer to others in friendship & witness.

Please see inside for details of what's happening in the Parish during

September
2020



moiraparish.org.uk

St John's is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 101047

Rector's Letter

Dear friends

Over these past few months life has been full of challenges. We've seen a lot of difficult stories on the news and sometimes it can be hard to see the good things which are happening. A bit like the black dot on the white page, we see only the negative things and lose sight of the positive which are also there.

As we look towards the beginning of a new season in the church's year, yes things will be a bit different, yes there are challenges to overcome, but let's not lose sight of the good news too! We all like to hear some good news!

Good news- Sunday School will begin again! (Except Kindergarten initially.) Please see details in this leaflet about where children will meet and note the new time- 10.00-10.45pm.

Good news - 6.30pm will also run from October - it will be a relaxed service of 45 minutes where we will study 2 Peter - Victorious Living in a Dangerous, disappearing world

Good news - the Alpha Course will be running again- a brilliant opportunity to find out what this Christian Faith is all about

Good news - our God is still seated on the throne and He will continue to lead us and guide us.

A phrase which has been used a lot in this pandemic is 'new normal'. We in the church have to get used to a 'new normal' too. Things aren't the same as they were before the pandemic; but God who is constantly doing a new thing, moves with us into this new season. He has not abandoned us and we want to keep in step with His Holy Spirit as He leads us forward. Yes, there will be challenges, but yes there will be blessing as we step forward in faith into the 'new normal' (whatever that may look like) with Him.

Good news - He's not finished with us yet.

Love,
Joanne



Sunday School

Sunday school provides a safe, fun environment where children and young people can enjoy learning about God. The programmes are interactive, relevant and geared for each age range.

Sunday School will begin again for most of our classes on **6 September from 10.00 to 10.45am** in the Parish Centre. Kindergarten Sunday School will begin at a later date – we will confirm when via our Facebook page. Please note the new time as we try to navigate our way through the pandemic. We appreciate your patience at this time.

Parish Records

During the pandemic we have become increasingly aware of the different means of communication. If you have an email address and would like to receive regular updates from us, would you please email Johan@moiraparish.org.uk and let her know you'd like your email address added to your contact details. Please can we ask that you give us your current email address, even if you've provided us with email address before.

In order to keep our Parish Records up-to-date and compliant with data protection laws, could you please let us know if you move to a new address, change phone number or email address.

Please contact Johan@moiraparish.org.uk with the updated information. Many thanks.

St John's Bowling Club

There will be no bowls in September. There will be a review of the situation at the end of September and members will be kept up to date.

Bible Study

Bible study will begin again on **Thursday 17 September** in the Oak Room. A great opportunity to study God's word together. If you've never been before, you'd be more than welcome to come along.

Grief Support

Living with grief is not easy. It's often a long and painful process. We want to help you on your journey. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, we encourage you to come to Grief Support, where you will meet others who are in a similar situation. There is a short talk followed by a cuppa and a confidential chat with people who are going through similar experiences. You'd be very welcome. For more information please contact Daphne on 07796 675078 or the Parish Office. Grief Support begins again on **Tuesday 6 October** in the Acorn Room in the Parish Centre.

Funerals

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|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 29 March | Lilian Allely |
| 6 April | Joe Lavery |
| 23 May | John Joseph Conn |
| 18 August | Robert (Robin) Glen English |

Parish Giving

Please, can you help us?

I, I'm sure like you, don't like talking about money.....but like you, at a time like this, needs must....

First and foremost thank you to all who have continued to give through the pandemic to church funds. We greatly appreciate your support. Obviously we weren't in church for 15 weeks and our income has suffered. To give you an idea of how our giving has been affected please see the figures below of what we currently have and what we had at around the same time last year.

Weekly envelopes: £68,048 (to mid August)
Last year to end August: £88,042
Building Repair Fund: £3,215 (to mid August)
Last year to end of August: £6,737

I need an assistant but we need funds to be able to pay them.....We also need funds for the every day running of the parish and to continue to fulfill its mission.

Please can I appeal therefore to those who haven't done so to return their weekly Free Will Offering and Building Repair Fund envelopes for the period when we weren't in church? Can I also encourage those who give by cash on the plate on Sunday to help us with their giving? Or maybe you could set up a standing order. I know you will step up to the mark. Remember when the young lad gave his lunch to Jesus, Jesus fed over 5,000 people and the young lad too! When we give to Jesus, he will not leave us in need.

Please contact Johan at the Parish Office (Johan@moiraparish.org.uk or 028 9261 7136) if you would like:

- Weekly envelopes
- Information about standing order
- Gift Aid Declaration Forms

Many thanks again.

Men Together

Men Together is a monthly group for men of all ages to learn together from the Bible, pray and encourage one another in Christian living. If you've never been before, why not give it a go? The new season begins on **Tuesday 1 September at 7.45pm in the Bateman Suite.**



We ask that children go directly to their Sunday School Room as listed below:

GROUND FLOOR: (enter via the back door (at the car park))

Oak Room: Senior Sunday School - **Years 8-10** (temporary venue)

Willow Room: **P4-5** (exit and collection from the emergency exit of the Willow Room)

FIRST FLOOR: (enter via the front door (nearest Main Street); exit and collection from the back of the Main Hall)

Sycamore Room: **P2-3**

Cedar Room: **P6-7**

We also ask that children have gone to the toilet before coming to Sunday School and bring their own colouring pencils etc to prevent cross contamination.

There is a collection in Sunday school for two children that we support through Compassion UK.

If you have children of Sunday School age who aren't yet involved in Sunday School, why not give it a try? For further information, please contact Matthew t: 9261 7136 or email matthew@moiraparish.org.uk.

Revelation

Great news Revelation will be starting back on **16 September!** We are looking forward to being able to spend some time with everyone after the Lockdown cut Revelation short last term. Although we are starting back there will be a few temporary changes to Revelation until restrictions are eased.

Please note : 1. Revelation will start at 7pm and finish at 8pm to begin with, to see how the nights work out; we will have some fun socially distanced activities and games as well as a short talk.

- It is vital that every young person has a consent form completed before attending Revelation; the consent forms will be emailed around and put on the church Facebook page.
- Young folk are encouraged to bring their own bible as we cannot supply bibles at the moment.

It has been so long since we were able to open the bible together and worship, so I am really looking forward to meeting together once again!

New Year 8's and regular attendees will be very welcome - you can even bring a friend.

See you all soon.
Blessings,
Matthew



Mum's the Word

It's a bible study for new mums and more experienced mums too. You are more than welcome to join us as we explore what it means to be a mum to our children and how God's Word can help and empower us as mothers and wives. We will be operating at the minute via Zoom. If you'd like further details, including details of the Zoom log-in, please contact Ruth Carroll on 07491241825.



Little Angels



Mondays 10.30 - 11.30am in the Parish Centre—beginning **Monday 5 October**. Yes, it will look a bit different but it will be good to meet up and see each other again.

We will order in a cuppa and have individually wrapped biscuits. In this time, we cannot supply toys but you are welcome to bring your own. If you bring your own cup for your child, we can supply juice.

Wednesday's Word

At this time I recognise that some people are wary of going into an environment where there are lots of people but I know you'd still like to meet with each other and be encouraged from God's Word. I will therefore be doing a short Bible talk each Wednesday at 1pm - 1.45pm, beginning **Wednesday 9 September** in the Parish Church. Feel free to bring your own lunch with you. All welcome- social distancing will be observed.

Prayer In Church



More than ever, I'm convinced of the need for prayer in these days. Jesus says 'apart from me, you can do nothing' Will you join with me on Wednesdays at noon in the Parish Church, beginning **Wednesday 9 September** social distancing will be observed.

The Link

We're supporting our local business at this time as they've had a hard time over these past months. We'll meet for a curry and a catch-up in September. Details will be confirmed on our Facebook page soon, so keep an eye out there! Will be good to see you all again.



Moira Friendship Group



Moira Friendship Group (an initiative of St John's to promote fellowship and friendship for those who are over 50)

AGM: Tuesday 29 September at 2.00pm
St John's Parish Centre

Monday 5 October - limited programme commencing.

Contact Alison Bell t: 028 9261 2119, or e mail office@moirafriendshipgroup.co.uk
www.moirafriendshipgroup.co.uk for more information.

The Mustard Seed Craft Group

We will meet again on **Thursday 17 September at 7.30pm** in the Bateman Suite. Further information will be announced soon.



Alpha Course

Over the course of this pandemic perhaps you've had time to think about what really matters in life and you're looking for answers to questions about faith, life, purpose....

The Alpha Course provides an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, low key, friendly and fun way. There's a DVD followed by an opportunity to discuss what we've watched together (no pressure though on anyone).

Join us for the Introductory Evening on Wednesday 16 September @7.30pm
in **LOGIC**.



At the time of going to press LOGIC are in the process of planning their Autumn programme.

We'll keep you updated through the announcements and you can keep an eye out on the website www.logicmoira.com or contact Matt on matt@logiccafe.org for what's coming up. You can also check out the LOGIC Facebook page.