

NEWSLINK



St John's Parish Moira

December 2023 - January 2024

Our Parish's Mission Statement is:

Growing closer to God in love and obedience

Growing closer together in caring & sharing

Growing closer to others in friendship & witness

www.moiraparish.org.uk



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

Rector's Letter

Dear friends

At the time of writing Christmas is a little over 6 weeks away and just today the first signs of Christmas have appeared in the village, with some lights and decorations in some shop windows.

Along with this magazine you will receive a Christmas card from us which has these words 'Jesus- Hope of the World.' These words have been swirling around in my mind in recent days as we have seen the events unfolding in the Middle East. He truly is the Hope that we hold on to in the midst of the uncertain, challenging and ever changing times.

The Christmas story clearly shows that the hope of the universe is a person. At a time when many are looking for hope, we need look no further than the manger where we see Jesus, our hope. Paul Tripp puts it eloquently when he says 'Hope was what the angels sang about. Hope lay in the manger. Hope caused Mary to wonder in her heart. It was hope the shepherds came to worship. Hope was presented with gifts from the Magi who had travelled so far. The Advent story is a hope story because it chronicles the coming to earth of the One who is hope, Jesus.'

Jesus is the source of all hope because He shows us the path of life, in His presence is fullness of joy and in His right hand there are pleasures for evermore. As you look at your Christmas card, see there the names which show us again why He is our hope. Why not take some time to meditate on these names over the next few weeks as we journey through Advent?

I realise too that at this time of year, some people can feel a bit 'hopeless'. Perhaps circumstances seem bleak or it feels like you are in a downward spiral. Let me say this - If you *feel* you've lost hope, know this *fact* - there is always hope, even when it seems your life or your circumstances are hopeless. God can make a way where there seems to be no way. He really can! He, who could bring Jesus into the messiness of the manger, He who could raise Jesus to life after what seemed like carnage at the cross, can bring Hope into whatever you are facing at this time.

As we then move from 2023 into 2024, Jesus remains our hope. We do not know what a New Year will bring but we do know that He will go with us, walk with us, help us, when we invite Him in. Romans 15:13 says this 'May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him'. This is my prayer for us all this Christmas season and into the New Year. We need to trust in Jesus as we step into the unknown because it is not unknown to him. Hope and trust are twins and God wants us to embrace them both.

A prayer for hope :

Lord, your word says, you are the hope for the hopeless so I'm running to you with both hands stretched out and grabbing on to you. Fill me up with hope and give me a tangible reminder today that hope is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline. In Jesus' name. Amen

May God be with you all this Christmas time and may you know His hope in the coming year.

God bless you

Joanne

Church Services

9.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Centre (with Sunday School & Creche)

11.30am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Evening Service



Youth Carol Service

3rd December // 6.30pm

Parish Church

Everyone Welcome!

Register of new General Vestry Members

The Register of General Vestry Members will be reviewed at the meeting of the Select Vestry on 20 February 2024 Registration /Declaration forms will be available, from the Church Wardens, for those who wish to register from early January. Those who are already registered do not need to re-register.

The Registration/Declaration Forms must be signed and completed by those who wish to register and returned to the Church Wardens by 19 February, at the latest, when the register will be revised.

Any person wishing to register must be 18yrs of age or over and have subscribed to Parish Funds in such a manner that a receipt could be requested for the money they have given.

Those who are already registered who no longer contribute to parish funds, through the parish financial system, whereby they could ask for a receipt for money they have given, will be removed from the Register unless they subscribe to Parish Funds, through the parish financial system, prior to the Vestry meeting on 20 February. General Sunday cash collections are not recordable and therefore are not considered as qualifying subscriptions.

Jesus - Hope of the World

Christmas Services at St John's

★ Sunday 17th December

Holy Communion // 9am // Parish Church

Christmas Celebration // 10am // Parish Centre

Morning Prayer // 11.30am // Parish Church

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols // 6.30pm // Parish Church

Refreshments will be served in the Bateman Suite afterwards.

★ Christmas Eve

Holy Communion // 9am // Parish Church

All Age Christmas Celebration // 10am // Parish Centre

Morning Prayer // 11.30am // Parish Church

Twas The Night Before Christmas // 6.30pm // Parish Church

A retelling of the birth of Jesus especially for children and their families.

Children are welcome to come in their PJ's.

Holy Communion // 11pm // Parish Church

★ Christmas Day

Christmas Communion // 9am // Parish Church

Christmas All Age Worship // 10am // Parish Centre

Children with their toys and presents especially welcome!

★ New Year's Eve

Holy Communion // 9am // Parish Church

All Age New Year Celebration // 10am // Parish Centre

Morning Prayer // 11.30am // Parish Church

No 6.30pm Service

Holy Communion // 11pm // Parish Church



Please note that both Christmas Eve night Holy Communion and New Year's Eve night Holy Communion will be at 11pm rather than 11.30pm.



'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS'...

CHRISTMAS EVE

6.30PM - 7PM // THE PARISH CHURCH

A RETELLING OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS ESPECIALLY
FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES. CHILDREN ARE
WELCOME TO COME IN THEIR PJ'S!



Sunday School

Sundays (term time) // 10am

The Parish Centre

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 is from 10.30 to 11.15am in the Parish Centre. We encourage children to attend Morning Worship first which begins at 10.00am and then they will leave the service to go to Sunday School.

If you have children of Sunday School age who aren't yet involved in Sunday School, why not give it a try?

Senior Sunday School BLAST (Year 8-10)

Meets every Sunday too 10.30-11.15am in the Parish Centre

If you would like more information on our Sunday school, please contact Jack: Jack@moiraparish.org.uk.

KidsQuest

There will be no KidsQuest in December we will meet again on:

31st January // 6.30pm - 7.45pm

The Parish Centre

Come along and join us if you are in P1-P7 we would love to see you along. If you would like to volunteer as a leader, please contact Jack.

We are in desperate need of helpers so that we can continue to run KidsQuest. If you think you could help (hopefully on a rota basis) please do speak with Jack or Joanne.

JellyTots

Mondays // 10.30am - 12noon

The Parish Centre

An opportunity for mums, dads, grannies, grandads, carers to meet up and share a cuppa whilst their little ones (babies - nursery school age) play together and enjoy toast and juice and craft.

Jelly Tots will finish for the year on Monday 11th December and recommence on Monday 8th January 2024.



✂-----✂

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

Suggested donation of £10pp

Saturday 9th December at 1.00pm

I / we would like dinner

Name(s):

.....

Please RSVP by 2nd December so final catering arrangements can be made.

Interest Rates Up

Oil & Gas Prices Up

Food Prices Up

High Inflation



MANAGING IN A COST OF LIVING CRISIS

**Mondays 22nd & 29th January 2024
7.30pm - 9pm // The Parish Centre**

A short course offering assistance and guidance around budgeting; getting best value and sharing some money-saving tips in a friendly and informal setting.

All welcome!

**To sign up email Kelly or call the office:
kelly@moiraparish.org.uk // 02892 617136**

St John's will be running a short 2-part programme offering assistance and guidance around budgeting; getting best value; and, sharing some money-saving tips in a friendly and informal setting. We will also provide details of how to access more specialised I-I support on a confidential basis.

Start the new year of as you mean to go on ! Come along and see if you can benefit from the discussions and share your thoughts and ideas?

Prayer Pods



We currently have a number of prayer pods which meet:

Tuesdays at 5.45am via zoom (contact Laure Martin for login details)

Sunday morning at 9.20am in Parish Centre

If you'd like to start a zoom Prayer Pod, please let Joanne know. It would be great to see at least one meeting every day of the week: joanne@moiraparish.org.uk

Prayer Breakfast

Saturdays 9th December & 13th January // 8am - 9am

The Rectory

Why not pop in for our time of prayer as we pray for the life and witness of the parish, issues in our country and further afield. You don't have to pray out loud but if you want to, you can. A bite of breakfast finishes off our time together. Come along and be blessed.

Grief Support

Mondays // 7.30pm

The Parish Centre

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.

Men Together

Tuesdays 12th Dec & 9th Jan // 7.45pm

The Bateman Suite

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. No evening of Men Together would be complete without a cuppa and chat. If you've never been before, why not give it a go?



Teaching Time

Tuesday 12th December & 2nd January // 7.30pm

Parish Centre

Join us as we continue looking at the life of David. Each session is 45 minutes and stands alone, so don't worry if you've never been before, you'd be very welcome.

Wednesday's Word

Wednesdays // 1pm - 1.30pm

The Parish Church

If you've never been before, why not join us for a short Bible talk each Wednesday at 1pm - 1.30pm in the Bateman Suite. Feel free to bring your own lunch with you. All welcome.

Please note there won't be Wednesday's Word on 20th or 27th December or 3rd January .

Bible Study

Thursdays // 8pm

The Parish Centre

Each Thursday evening at 8pm - A great opportunity to study God's word together. If you've never been before, you'd be more than welcome to come along. Speak to Barry Harrison or Joanne for more info.

Mindful Mandate



Wednesdays 5th December & 17th January // 7pm

A men's group that meets for a cuppa and some 'hand's on' work. We are continuing with some maintenance at the Parish Centre. Come along and get involved, even if its just to get out of the house for an hour!

Contact David Kerr for more info: 07510223932

Connected

Monday 8th January // 7.30pm - 8.15pm

The Bateman Suite

Join us in the Bateman Suite for a time of worship and prayer as we begin the New Year together.

Mustard Seed

Thursdays 7th Dec & 18th Jan // 7.30pm - 9pm
The Bateman Suite

Come along for a cuppa and some crafting. Please bring your own crafts to these evenings.



Life Groups

Life Groups and Bible Study are an opportunity to meet with others and discuss the Bible in an informal setting. You don't have to have all the answers about faith, in fact small groups and Bible Study provide an opportunity to learn together from each other. There is also the opportunity to pray together and have a cuppa. Life groups meet at various times and days of the week.

Bible Study meets in the Parish Centre. If you'd like further information about joining a group, please contact Joanne.

REIGNITE

Saturdays 9th December, 6th & 20th January // 6.30am
The Parish Centre

Come along to our monthly men's discipleship group. A time for growth, fellowship, learning together and of course, breakfast!

REVIVE

Sunday 28th January // 7.30pm
The Parish Centre

An informal worship service for everyone.

What does a typical Revive service look like? We have worship lead by a mixture of ages, prayers lead by our young people and a talk given by different people.

Everyone welcome!

The Book Nook

Coming Soon!!

A group for book lovers. More details will be announced in the coming weeks!

LOGIC

Thank you for all your prayers for LOGIC each week, we can't thank you enough for your steadfast support!

In our recent escapades, the Half-Term Activity Scheme was an absolute joy! We kicked off on 31st October with a Drop In featuring free pizza, followed by a thrilling day at Sheepbridge family entertainment centre for bowling and Laser Quest. We then ventured to Belfast's Lost City Adventure for minigolf, and the grand finale took us to new heights at We are Vertigo Inflatapark. Our days were filled with laughter, camaraderie, and, of course, capping off each adventure with a visit to McDonald's.

Drop In continues to run each Friday and Saturday evening for those in Years 8 – 14 and the numbers attending each week continues to be very high. If you're keen to be part of the action, reach out to Matt and discover how your time can make a difference.

Revelation continues to run each Sunday evening and it's heartening to see so many LOGIC young people forging friendships and deepening their faith. Keep those prayers coming as we aim to impact lives and draw even more young hearts to faith through this dynamic ministry.

There has been a really good response to our upcoming Half-Term residential trip to the Kilbroney Centre from 12th – 14th February '24. For more information, or to book a space, please visit our website: www.logicmoira.com/programme.

Ready to take your support to the next level? You can fuel the work of LOGIC with your monthly contributions or a one-time gift. Visit www.logicmoira.com/giving for all the details.

If you don't already, it's really worthwhile following our social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok for up-to-date programme information and for any announcements about upcoming trips and programmes.

We want to take the opportunity to thank you so much for all your prayer cover over the work that LOGIC does each week, we very much appreciate it.

Thank you so much for your support!

Revelation

Sundays // 6.45pm - 8.30pm
The Parish Centre



After our brilliant time away at the North Coast for the Revelation Weekend we spent our next week with a Prayer & Praise night spending time with God and looking at different ways we can pray.

We followed this up with a mini series specifically requested by the young people looking at how we share our faith and how to answer the difficult questions that we or others may have about faith, life or the world. A highlight of this was our Panel Night which featured Paul Warwick and Sinead Hutchinson who help run Alpha in St. John's; Joseph McCullagh who ran the Apologetics Course during the Summer and Sarah Anderson who works for C.U. Ireland. There was plenty of tough questions and lots of great answers!

Looking forward we have a jam-packed Christmas of parties, movie nights and festive fun!

Please continue to pray for Revelation as we seek to nurture life-long disciples of Jesus.

Community Carol Singing

Wednesday 13th December
6pm

We plan to go carol singing around the local community this year. If you know someone who would like to hear us, perhaps someone who is housebound or ill, do let us know and we'll do our best to see them.

We will meet at the Parish Centre to go Carol singing. We'll end up at the rectory for some Christmas treats.

Please contact Stephanie if you'd like to come along (07980 282350). Everybody welcome!

Soul Sisters

A group for mothers and daughters that will meet again in January. Details will be announced in church and social media.

HELP BRING JOY TO FAMILIES IN NEED

CHRISTMAS FAMILY APPEAL

Bring your
donations to
any of our
services on
3rd December

Please remember that all gifts should be new, safe, non-perishable and suitable for all ages from babies to age 12 (no soft toys please). Gift vouchers should be given for older children. Please do NOT wrap presents.



The Christmas Family Appeal is a joint venture between The Salvation Army and the Society of St Vincent de Paul, supported by BBC Northern Ireland. The Appeal collects and distributes donated Christmas toys and gifts for families in need across Northern Ireland.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Christmas Party

Wednesday 6th December

BLAST // Time TBC // LOGIC Building

Saturday 9th December

Preschool - P4 // 10.00AM - 12.00PM

The Parish Centre

P5 - P7 // 2.00PM - 3:30PM

The Parish Centre



Registration

Forms are
available from
Sunday School



EmpowHER

Tuesday 23rd January // 8pm
The Parish Centre

We are back with more Biblical encouragement, women's life stories and of course a cuppa. If you've never been before, why not come along in the New Year and be encouraged and empowered. All welcome!

Please note EmpowHER won't be happening in December.

Moira Friendship Group

Moira Friendship group is an initiative of St John's to promote fellowship and friendship for those who are over 50.



Everyone is welcome to come along. Contact Alison Bell for more information: 02892 612119.

St John's Indoor Bowling Club



Tuesdays // 7.30pm
The Parish Centre

Come along and learn something new in a relaxed setting, make new friends and enjoy some fun with others.

Fusion Men's Drop In

There is no Fusion in December. January date coming soon!
LOGIC

"Fusion" a drop in centre for Men from teens up! Within this drop in we have pool, table tennis, Nintendo switch, air hockey, coffee corner, board games, tuck shop and many more things. A perfect place for Men of all ages to come along in fellowship and to do life together.

This is very exciting and a perfect place to invite other Men where they can come along and enjoy Christian company without the pressure of going into a church building! All Welcome!



Why not give the gift of an Ibba gift Christmas card this year?

Support St John's link with Ibba Diocese, South Sudan by buying one of our gift Christmas cards for your loved ones.

There is no set amount for the gift in lieu, you are free to donate as you see fit.

Cards will be available in the Parish Centre and at the car boot sale on 2nd December. Alternatively, contact Linda O'Connor if you would like to purchase one or more.

Indoor Car Boot Sale & Coffee Morning

Saturday 2nd December // 9.00am - 12pm

St John's Parish Centre

Cost £5 car; £10 van; £6 indoor table

Contact the Parish Office for further details hello@moiraparish.org.uk or David Johnston on 07717 732489.

If you don't have stuff to sell, why not come along and browse the stalls and have a cuppa with some fresh scones or sweet treats.

NB: There will be no car boot sale in January 2024.

Parish Weekend Away - 'Kilbroney 2024'

We're super excited to be announcing our Parish Weekend is happening again!! We will once again be going to the wonderful Kilbroney Centre, Rostrevor for a weekend full of fun and fellowship!

This is a weekend of Biblical encouragement for the whole church family and we're looking forward to having Bishop Harold and Liz Miller sharing with us! There will be something for all ages and the opportunity to do some outdoor activities should you wish to do so (weather permitting).

When: 19th - 21st April 2024

Cost :

Preschoolers and babies - free!

Children of Primary School age £70

Adults and young people of post Primary school age £80

To register, please contact Kelly in the Church Office: 02892 617136 // Kelly@moiraparish.org.uk (a non-refundable deposit will be taken).

Booking Opens: 1st October 2023

Booking forms will be available in Church from Sunday 1st October.

We are opening the bookings well in advance so that we can offer everyone the opportunity to pay in monthly instalments should they wish to. We don't want anyone to miss out on this opportunity due to financial pressure so please do speak to Kelly or Joanne if this is an issue for you.

Parish Records

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 Kelly@moiraparish.org.uk with the updated information. Many thanks.

Parish Registers

Baptism

5 November

Juliette Noelle Mpondo

Weddings

23 November

Benita McGaffin and Josh Beck

Financial Update - 2023 Year to date:

Free Will Offering donations (excluding Q3 & Q4 standing orders): £113560.60

Building Fund donations (excluding Q3 & Q4 standing orders): £6234.43

As we come towards the end of another year, thank you to all of you who have continued to support the church and its mission. Can we continue to appeal to you to be generous at this time by returning your FWO, Harvest and Building Fund envelopes? If you don't have envelopes can we encourage you to set up a Standing Order or write a cheque. We really appreciate your kind giving at this time.

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Please contact Kelly at the Parish Office Kelly@moiraparish.org.uk // 028 9261 7136) if you would like **weekly envelopes** or **gift aid declaration forms**.

How can I set up a Standing Order?

The best way to give free will offerings is by regular standing order.

If you wish to make a payment to St John's through your online banking please use the details below:

Free Will Offering: Account Name: Moira Parish Church

Account No: 18144007 Sort Code: 98-10-75

Building Fund:

Account Name: Moira Parish Church BLD

Account No: 18144197 Sort Code: 98-10-75

(If you have an envelope number then please use this as your reference so we allocate the payment correctly.)

Closing of Parish Accounts

Please note that the Parish Accounts will close on 31 December. Any monies received after this date will be accredited to 2024.

Contact Us

Rector: Rev Joanne Megarrell // joanne@moiraparish.org.uk

Children's & Youth Development Officer : Jack Wilson // jack@moiraparish.org.uk

Diocesan Evangelist: Kyle Harris // kyle@moiraparish.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Kelly Johnston // kelly@moiraparish.org.uk

Logic Development Officer: Matt Peach // matt@logiccafe.org

Logic Administrator: Tracey McKinley // tracey@logiccafe.org

St John's Parish, Main Street, Moira, BT67 0LQ

☎ 02892 617136 ✉ hello@moiraparishorg.uk 🌐 moiraparish.org.uk

📍 St John's Moira

📷 @stjohnsmoira

