

ST Finnian's

FEBRUARY 2019

**Grounded firm and deep in
the Saviour's love**



**A key to steadiness in
troubled times**

Dear Friends

As this letter goes to print The British Parliament is preparing to vote on the nature of how Britain is going to leave the European Union. It has been described by columnists and analysts as the most significant vote in post war history.

Yesterday I heard a news programme describing the effects of this debate on people's mental health. People came on the radio to describe how they cannot read about it any more or listen to the radio because of the anxiety it brings up within them.

The BBC website in the past few days in speculating about the outcome of the vote in Parliament outlined 5 possible outcomes depending on how the vote goes.

There is a real air of uncertainty and most people I know seem to find that difficult.

Over these next 2 months my Daily Bible Reading Notes are exploring the theme of Returning to the Ancient Truths of our Faith and how they can sustain us in very uncertain times. It seems a very topical theme as we

contemplate all sorts of challenges and monumental change.

Some people always love and embrace change while most people I know are pretty cautious about it. Churches by their very nature tend to be quite cautious and conservative in their approach to change so it is little wonder that these days feel quite challenging to us.

One of the things I believe the church can offer in these times is a place of integrity and faith. I loved a statement I read recently in an interview with Irish boxer Katie Taylor who won Olympic Gold in London in 2012. She said my success in the ring doesn't mean as much to me as my integrity. Katie is a young woman of Faith and in the disappointments, she has gone through in her boxing career and the challenges she has faced she always turns unashamedly to her Faith in Jesus Christ as her source of strength and guidance. She believes He is the one who has been there in the sweet moments of victory as well as in the despair that accompanies poor performance and disappointing defeat.

As I walked through the church this week, I met someone who was in tidying the grounds with a sweeping brush and wheelbarrow, I met someone else who was distributing Church of Ireland Gazettes, other teams of people were preparing to cater for a funeral, preparing food, setting up tables. In other words, lots of normal things were going on when people were worrying about a future we do not know. When we come to Worship in these days it's important to be people of integrity. Whether it's a Connect Service in the Hall, an 8.30am Holy Communion or a traditional Morning or Evening Prayer. When broken people come to our church on Tuesday nights in search of healing and peace and strength for their situation a prayerful team will meet them at that point of need. When busy and stressed parents, grandparents and childminders come on a Monday morning they will find welcome for their children and grandchildren and themselves. When people want to make friends and bowl or come to an

organisation like the Mothers' Union or the Men's Society, if people want to go deeper in their faith through joining a Life Group or a Confirmation Class these are the kinds of things we try to do well in our particular context and we couldn't do them without a whole team of volunteers making it possible.

They may not sound particularly radical or exciting things. Sometimes people sneer that nothing much of importance goes on, but I see things quite differently. I want to know that I'm part of something bigger than myself. I want to know that God's presence is real and alive around me and to encourage everyone who sticks with us, that we have something very important to say to this world in challenging days.

As people yearn for steadiness and integrity, we want to declare our faith in a God who stands with us and promises to walk with us into whatever the future holds. While churches can be challenging places where we sometimes disagree on how things ought to be

done, they are also places,
where we can be safe.

Some words sung recently at a
funeral service which will no
doubt be familiar to members of
the Boys Brigade come to mind
as I close this month's letter.

We have an anchor that keeps
the soul

Steadfast and sure while the
billows roll

Fastened to the rock which
cannot move

Grounded firm and deep in the
Saviours love.

(Priscilla J. Owens) From 'Will
your Anchor Hold'.

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Pierce (Rector)

Telephone 02890 793822

Easter General Vestry

This year the Easter General
Vestry will be held on

Tuesday 9th April

at 7.30 pm



CMS Coffee Morning

Many people will be aware of
our link with CMS Ireland
supporting mission partners
and projects in different parts of
the world. Following the visit of
Reverend Roger Thompson
during the summer we hope to
be offering prayerful and
financial support to Reverend
Keith ad Mrs. Lynn Scott who
work in a theological college in
Zambia and Ronnie and
Maggie Briggs who work in the
Diocese of Kajiado, Kenya in
the area of rural development.

To this end a fundraising coffee
morning will be held on
Saturday 2nd March in the
Huston Hall from
10.30am-12 noon. We hope
you will be able to come along
and support these mission
partners in the important work
they are doing.

Retirement of The Parish Secretary

The Parish Secretary, Mrs Janet Johnston has written to the Select Vestry signalling her intention to retire at the end of April. At this point we would want to say a huge thank you to Janet for all she has done since coming into the post. She has been a fantastic servant to the parish and more will be said on another occasion. It's a very particular task involving organisational and IT skills as the post is part time and the secretary works in the parish office for 10 hours a week.

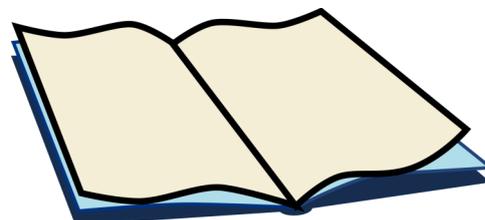
The Select Vestry will be working on finalising a job description over the next little while but if any parishioners were keen to declare an interest in the post please contact the Rector in the first instance.

REGISTER OF VESTRY MEMBERS

The annual review of the Register of Vestry Members will take place on Tuesday 26 February 2019.

Any layperson who has attained the age of eighteen years, who is a subscriber to Church funds and possesses the qualifications stated in either of the forms of declaration shall be qualified to be registered as a Vestry Member.

Forms of Declaration can be obtained from the Churchwardens and must be returned to them not later than 7 pm on 26 February 2019.





“They **devoted** themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2: 42)

We will be continuing our Bible Study Series going through Genesis 1– 4. It will be held on the last Thursday of the Month 28th February in the Huston Hall from 7.30 pm. There will be time to hang out, have some tea and coffee, with also a time of worship and teaching. All welcome.



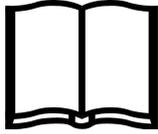
The Women’s World Day of Prayer Friday 1st March

The service has been written by the Christian women of Slovenia with the theme: “Come - Everything is Ready”.

This year the local service will be held in the Salvation Army Temple, Cregagh Road, at 8.00 pm. The Belfast city service will be held in May Street Presbyterian Church at 11.00am. Everyone is warmly invited to these colourful services.

Thank you for your support.

Julie Cunningham



From the Registers

Holy Baptism: 30th December 2018 : Jack and Jessica Arnold, Son and Daughter of Paul and Loreen

Holy Matrimony: 1st January 2019: Matthew Diamond and Naomi Camlin

Christian Burial: 15th January 2019: Hugh Annesley

FLOWER DONATION ROTA

FEBRUARY

3rd Mrs E Christie
10th Mrs N Moncrieff
17th Miss A Harvey
24th Mrs I Hay



ROOT SOUP

We hope to have Root Soup lunches this month on Thursday 14th February and Thursday 28th February. If you are free at any point from 12-1.30pm please come along and join us. Please feel free to invite a friend or neighbour for a delicious home made lunch. Suggested donation is £4.



Services for February



Sunday 3rd February (The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany)

- 8.30am – Holy Communion
- 10.00am – Connect Service (in Church Hall)
- 11.30am – Holy Communion
- 7.00pm – Evening Prayer

Sunday 10th February (Fourth Sunday before Lent)

- 8.30am – Holy Communion
- 10.00am – Holy Communion
- 11.30am – Holy Baptism
- 7.00pm – Evening Prayer

Sunday 17th February (Third Sunday before Lent)

- 8.30am – Holy Communion
- 10.00am – Connect Service (in Church Hall)
- 11.30am – Morning Prayer
- 7.00pm – Evening Prayer

Sunday 24th February (Second Sunday before Lent)

- 8.30am – Holy Communion
- 10.00am – Morning Worship
- 11.30am – Morning Prayer
- 7.00pm – Holy Communion

Listen, Observe, Act – In Step with God

At our meeting on 3rd January our speaker was Mrs Sharon Dickson who entertained us with a monologue as the character Mimi. Mimi told us about life in Belfast during World War II focusing on the period when Germany bombed Belfast, then the evacuation of the children from Belfast and finally when the war ended, then celebrations of VE Day. Mimi portrayed life in Belfast at that time with great humour and honesty and we were all transported with her to that time in history. It transpired that the story she had told us was her own family story which had been passed down through the family over the years. A thoroughly enjoyable evening which all our members and friends enjoyed.

On 6th January Mrs Roberta McCartney was commissioned as our new Diocesan President in St John's Parish Church, Rathfriland. The service was held in Roberta's home church of Rathfriland and was conducted by Bishop Harold Millar and Roberta's husband Rev Gerald McCartney (who is also the Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplin). Our ex Mothers' Union World President Lady Eames and our new All Ireland President Elect Mrs June Butler were also in attendance. It was a lovely service and needless to say the ladies of Rathfriland Mother's Union provided fantastic tea and refreshments after the service.

Our annual dinner will take place on **Thursday 7th February 2019 in Belvoir Golf Club**. The meal will be served at 7.30pm and after the meal we will be entertained by dancers from Kathy O'Connor's School of Irish Dancing. If anyone requires transport to the venue, please contact me or one of the Committee Members.

Carol Bell
Secretary

LADIES OPEN DOOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP



Wednesday 6 February: Musical Entertainment
Drumbo Folk Choir

Wednesday 20 February: Support at Home
Lorna McBurney (British Red Cross)

Our meetings start at 2.00 pm in the Huston Hall. They are very friendly and informal, and a warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to come along.

Joan



Church of Ireland Men's Society

The next meeting will be held on
Thursday 21 February 2019 at 12.30pm

*The Guest Speaker will be Anne Hailes
Journalist, Writer and Television Personality*

Her subject will be "History of Ulster Television"

This is a lunch-time meeting which we hope all members will support and perhaps invite a friend to come along.

As an added attraction, a light lunch will be included!

CHURCH OF IRELAND MEN'S SOCIETY

Unfortunately, due to a printing error, part of the report referring to Archbishop Eamon Martin's talk at the Annual Meeting for All Branches published in the January magazine was deleted.

The final paragraph should have read: *“Archbishop Martin suggested that parents were often so busy, there was much more left to others in the bringing up of children especially by grandparents. He advised that there were three little words and phrases often no longer heard, but so important – please – thank you – I'm sorry. I think we all agreed!”*

St Finnian's Monthly Meeting - December

A good number of members attended the mid-week Advent Service and then moved across to the Huston Hall for our monthly meeting. The planned guest speaker had unfortunately been unable to join us due to family commitments. We were, however, delighted to welcome Jack Woods, another expert on the life of local engineer Harry Ferguson.

Jack chose as his topic “Harry Ferguson – before the plough” and kept us enthralled for almost an hour on the early life of possibly Northern Ireland's most famous inventor.

Harry Ferguson was born in 1884, the son of a Dromore farmer and fourth child of a family of eleven. He was a stubborn young man and had no interest in farming (despite later inventing many items of agricultural equipment.) Instead he joined elder brother Joe in his

bicycle and car repair business. While working there as a mechanic, he developed an interest in the 'mechanics of flying' and travelled to several air shows where he took notes on the design of early aircraft. He convinced his brother that they should attempt to build an aircraft at their Belfast workshop and, working from his notes, they designed a plane, the Ferguson monoplane that first flew in 1909.

Harry Ferguson is noted for his role in the development of the modern agricultural tractor and its three-point linkage system, being the first person in Ireland to build and fly his own aeroplane, and for developing the first four-wheel drive Formula One car. Ferguson's four-wheel drive systems were used in Formula 1 racing cars, in the Range Rover and later in constant four-wheel-drive Land Rovers.

Jack gave us all this information in a concise and interesting manner and following the refreshment break, answered many questions. As is custom at our December meetings the refreshments included mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread. It was altogether an excellent and enjoyable evening.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to all who helped make the coffee morning in November such a success.

We had a full hall to hear Judith Rosenzweig—a Holocaust Survivor tell her story, accompanied by Yudit from the Christian Embassy, Jerusalem who translated.

Having so many early years of her life lost to the Holocaust she now has the stability of living in a caring environment at the Haifa Home. Living life as fully as possible while coping with health issues resulting from ill treatment and starvation in the camps.

She spoke bravely of those years, conversing about these events was impossible for so many, even to each other. Often married survivors buried their past and couldn't speak of it.

However Judith and this aging generation now feel if they don't speak out the Holocaust could be forgotten and fade from memory. This motivated Judith, an 86 year old lady to travel on her adventure to Ireland to tell of the horrors she had endured. As Yudit said, "she didn't come for a holiday".

So thank you so much for the St. Finnian's warm welcome for this lady which meant so much to her.—our small part in her amazing story.

The generous donations amounted to £1,500. this will be used to continue building and refurbishing at the Haifa Home.—Thank you.

Judith was lonely until she found an accepting community.

Each Holocaust Memorial Day she is glued to the television hoping for any scrap of information about her precious family.

Although she adopts the attitude of so many. "LOOK AHEAD AND DON'T LOOK BACK" also "REMEMBER THE PAST BUT DON'T LIVE IN IT" The Haifa Home helps them to celebrate the life they now have.

Thank You

Jean Johnston



AN ALTERNATE WAY OF CONTRIBUTING FUNDS TO THE PARISH

Some people now make their Free Will Offering contributions directly into the Parish bank account by Standing Order.

If you would like to do this the bank details are

Sort code **95-01-34**

Account number **11089757**

Account Name **St. Finnian's Parish Church**

Please include a **Reference** with your payment which should be the six digit number beginning 000 at the bottom right of the label on your envelope box and your surname e.g. 000999 SMITH.

If you need any further details please email the parish office office.cregagh@down.anglican.org or ring during office hours.

Mike Johnston

Hon. Treasurer

MAGAZINE BY E-MAIL

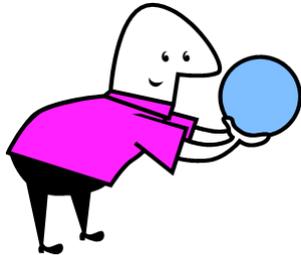


If you would like to receive the Magazine by e-mail each month please let Janet know and she will add your name to the list. This may be of use to people who live further afield and will reduce the number of copies printed and save money and time printing and delivering.

office.cregagh@down.anglican.org

ST. FINNIAN'S MIXED

INDOOR BOWLING CLUB



Meets on Wednesdays at 7 pm

Give it a try – without any obligation to join.

All equipment is provided.

You won't be sorry!

Hope to see you there.



PRAYER WARRIOR

Do you have a concern or problem and would like
someone to pray for you?

If so, text Robin who will be willing to help

This is completely confidential and no details will be passed
onto anyone else unless you want them to.

Mobile: 07513947504

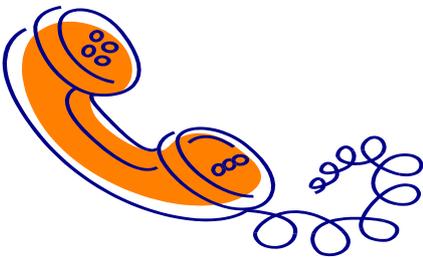
CONTACT DETAILS

Rector:

Telephone 028 90793822

Curate:

Telephone 028 90796193



Church Office Hours

Wednesday 8.30 am – 1.30 pm

Thursday 8.30 am – 1.30 pm

TELEPHONE 028 90792793
office.cregagh@down.anglican.org

Magazine

Please send articles for inclusion in the **March** Magazine to **office.cregagh@down.anglican.org** or telephone Parish Office 90792793 by NOON on **Wednesday 13th February**

Don't forget to check out the church website:

www.stfinnians.org



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