

ST Finnian's

JUNE 2019

James 1 verse 12

The Importance of Perseverance

**(some lessons from the
Snooker World Championship)**



Dear Friends

I always associate May Bank Holiday Weekend with the World Snooker final from Sheffield. Although I haven't seen as much of this year's tournament as I would have liked to, I watched the dramatic concluding frame of the semi-finals between John Higgins and Dave Gilbert. It went down to the wire and after a mammoth battle of tactics and nerve, John Higgins finally prevailed. He was very emotional in his post-match interview as was Dave Gilbert. Both had given absolutely everything in the match and it was clear that they had the utmost regard for each other as individuals. They respected the effort it had taken to play in such a match and they both revealed how close they had both come to quitting the game.

The standards are so high these days that Dave Gilbert almost stopped playing as a professional. To supplement his meagre income from his snooker career, he had worked as a labourer on his father's farm. He had slept on friends' sofas as he

didn't have his own home. Suddenly he found himself in the best form of his life, getting through the qualifying tournament and into the televised stages of the world championship. He spoke of having to hang in there, believe and work hard to reach this point. John Higgins, who has enjoyed a very successful career, revealed he had lost his love for the game after a disappointing season. He lacked the motivation to practice that he needed, in order to maintain his level and his wife helped him to devise a new practice routine away from the house. When things weren't working he had to persevere and try a new approach and again, by hanging in there with tenacity and courage, he found himself on the biggest stage in the game he had dedicated his life to.

Their emotion and honesty in speaking just moments after one of the biggest games they had ever played, were very moving to behold and they resonated deeply as I thought about the life

of our church. I thought of volunteers who have dedicated many years of hard work and effort to making organisations flourish and who get disheartened when the results are not as strong as they used to be.

I thought of those who lead uniformed organisations or who teach Sunday School, turning up week by week and very often not having enough children to conduct a meaningful programme or lesson. It's hard to hang in there and believe this is worthwhile when, despite your best efforts, people are voting with their feet and going elsewhere or getting involved in other things. Church activities no longer seem to feature in their thinking.

While some would shrug their shoulders and say this is simply the way things are, these snooker players never lost sight of their first love for the game. They had to reinvent themselves in terms of their

own approach and this in itself was a painful exercise. The tried and tested routines that had served them well over many years had to be re-evaluated. A certain ruthlessness had to be employed as they looked at what was going wrong and they began working on those areas that were weak and building them up to strengthen their overall approach. They also had to trust in the things they were doing that they knew were right. I think of the youth and the children's work in our church and I see a real struggle as we try to reverse a trend which sees numbers declining and very few new families joining the church.

When parents approach me looking for Baptism, I believe in the grace of that sacrament and when I explain the service and the responsibilities it places upon parents in bringing up their children in the life of the church, I can only take people on their word when they undertake to do that.

When people at the older stages of life are no longer able to travel to participate in activities, that doesn't make those programmes wrong but it asks questions of how we make those programmes available to as wide a range of people as possible.

Sometimes the summer months offer an important opportunity for prayer and reflection as we look to the year ahead. Like so many of our dedicated leaders and volunteers, I haven't stopped believing in the importance of what we are doing.

More than ever in an age of confusion and uncertainty, I believe the teachings and message of Jesus and the values he offers to the world, are needed more than at any point in history.

I'd like to reflect thoughtfully on how we might offer that to a hungry world. How can we best do that? Are initiatives like Messy Church, which began at

the end of May, an opportunity to engage a new section of our local community and neighbourhood in the things of God?

Underpinning all of it is the importance of prayer. Let's pray for wisdom and humility as we seek to reinvent ourselves to do all we can to introduce others to the life-changing message and hope of Jesus.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Pierce (Rector)

Telephone 02890 793822

CHURCH BBQ

Sunday 30th June.

Summer time service

at 11 am

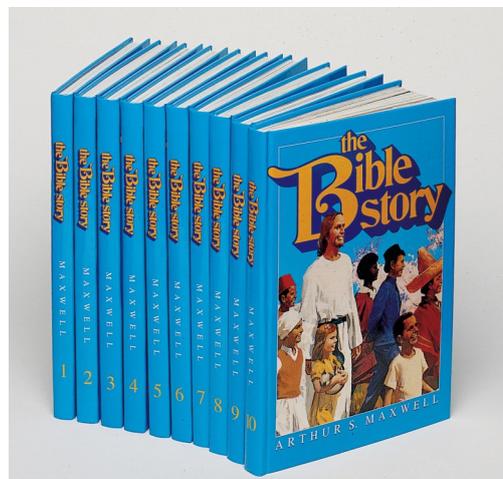
followed by BBQ



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING

On Sunday 23rd June at both our 10 am and 11.30 am services, we will be presenting prizes to our Sunday School pupils. This is a good point to highlight the amazing work our teachers do week by week in passing on the faith to our children and to say thank you. We hope as many parishioners as possible will come along to these services to affirm the children in our church.

We are very grateful to the team who provide parents and toddlers the opportunity to gather at our Toddlers' Group on Monday mornings and all who lead the Anchor Boys and Boys' Brigade and again provide those vital opportunities for people to bring their children to the fellowship of the church. We are blessed in having such dedicated volunteers and it's also an opportunity to reflect on promises made at times like Holy Baptism to do all we can to encourage our children and bring them up in the life of the church.





On Thursday 28th May in Lisnasharragh Primary School, a ROC conversation took place, which I (Raymond) had the opportunity to be a part of. There were people there from other churches of other denominations, community groups and political parties, to celebrate the good that's already being done in the local community and highlight the blind spots and needs.

ROC's main aim is to bring about community transformation by creating strategic partnerships between statutory agencies, voluntary groups and churches. These partnerships form new volunteer-led projects that address a variety of social needs. Particularly at a time when government funding is being cut in many departments, churches find themselves with an opportunity. Because governments are waking up to the realisation that local churches can often plan, host and run community events better and for less money than they can.

Which means, if we as a church are prepared to partner with other churches and community groups in the area, there is real potential to reach out and meet the real needs of broken people who are out there.

A committee has been set up that meets in Glenburn Methodist church every 6 weeks or so. We are currently looking at issues of social isolation, youth, children, parenting and poverty in the area.

Would you commit to praying for this venture as it begins to set itself up? Could you pray that God would bless this partnership? That through it people would witness the love and generosity of God? And that his kingdom would be made visible?

FLOWER DONATION ROTA

JUNE

2nd Mrs K Hanna

9th Mrs G Downey

16th Mrs J Crawford

23rd The Choir

30th Mrs P McCurley



Root Soup

This month we hope to have Root Soup Lunches on **Thursday 13th and Thursday 27th June**. If you are free at any point between 12 and 1.30pm, please do come along and join us for a delicious home-made lunch prepared and served by our friends from Root Soup.

Suggested donation is £4.



Services for June



Sunday 2nd June (Sunday after Ascension)

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

Sunday 9th June (Day of Pentecost)

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

Sunday 16th June (Trinity Sunday)

- 8.30am – Holy Communion
- 10.00am – Connect Service
- 11.30am – Morning Prayer
- 7.00pm – Evening Prayer

Sunday 23rd June (1st Sunday after Trinity)

- 8.30am – Holy Communion
- 10.00am – Holy Baptism & Sunday School Prizegiving
- 11.30am – Morning Prayer & Sunday School Prizegiving
- 7.00pm – Holy Communion

Sunday 30th June (2nd Sunday after Trinity)

- 8.30am – Holy Communion
- 11.00am – A Service of Wholeness and Healing
followed by Parish BBQ**
- 7.00pm – Evening Prayer

At our meeting on 2nd May Mrs Mae Burke gave us a very interesting talk on Dementia Awareness. Mae provided us with a great insight into this illness, the causes, how it progresses over time and advised of ways to deal with someone who suffers from this illness. Everyone found the talk very informative and we were very grateful to her for coming along to our meeting. Many thanks to the ladies of the Committee for providing our supper of summer desserts - it was a lovely way to finish off the season.

Our annual outing is on Saturday 8th June when we will be going to Glaslough Village, Co Monaghan. The bus will leave from the Cregagh Road bus terminus at 11.00 am and go direct to Glaslough. On arrival at Glaslough we will have a light lunch (provided by Donagh Mothers' Union) and then have a guided tour of St. Salvador's church. Then we will go back up to the village and over to the Olde Bar for a historical talk and tour, followed by a short historical tour of the village by coach. We finish the day with dinner in Salley's Restaurant, Aughnacloy at 5.30pm. We should arrive home by 8.30pm approx.

Our best wishes to all and we hope you all have a lovely summer - hopefully we get some good weather to help you all enjoy it. We look forward to seeing you all at our opening meeting in October 2019.

Carol Bell

Secretary

LADIES OPEN DOOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP



Our final meeting of the 2018/19 season was on 1 May when we visited Parliament Buildings for a guided tour and afternoon tea in the Members' Dining Room. It was a beautiful day, the Stormont Estate looked fantastic and for once we were very grateful that the MLAs were not at work as it meant that there were plenty of spaces in the car park.

The Committee will be meeting over the next few weeks to draw up the programme for next year. If anyone has any ideas or knows of any interesting speakers, we would be delighted to hear from you. We would like to thank everyone for their support during the past year and wish you all a happy and relaxing time over the summer months.

Joan

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



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.

This is not your envelope number.

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 the secretary 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

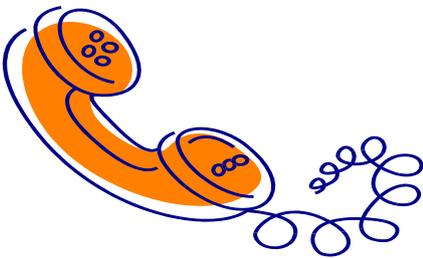
CONTACT DETAILS

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Curate:

Telephone 028 90796193



Church Office Hours

Wednesday 9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Thursday 9.00 am – 2.00 pm

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

Magazine

Please send articles for inclusion in the **July/Aug** Magazine to **office.cregagh@down.anglican.org** or telephone Parish Office 90792793 by NOON on **Wednesday 19th June**

Don't forget to check out the church website:

www.stfinnians.org



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