

ST Finnian's

JULY/AUGUST 2019

**Invitation to come into God's presence
every Thursday during July/August
from 7.30-8.15pm
in the church**



Dear Friends

I received news last month that a great hero and inspiration of mine, the French Canadian, Jean Vanier had died at the age of 91.

Jean was the founder of the L'Arche and Faith and Light communities for adults with learning disabilities and their assistants. Although we only met about 6 or 7 times there was something very compelling about his words when he spoke and the way he came alive in the presence of his friends across the world with learning disabilities. He was a man who made certain choices in life – to live simply, to devote his life to following Jesus more closely, to work for peace and to seek to befriend and understand those who were different to himself and see the things of beauty within them. The story of L'Arche began back in 1964 when Jean, who was then a university professor of Philosophy in Toronto made the irreversible and life changing decision to invite 2 men from a local institution with learning disabilities to come and live with him in a small cottage in a village

north of Paris called Trosly Breuil. He sought to live a simple life in community with these men and from these humble beginnings grew a movement in which communities were founded in 35 countries and over 1,800 Faith and Light communities were founded in 80 countries as a support network for people with learning disabilities and their families. Although, a very charismatic speaker and the possessor of a brilliant intellect, Jean never sought the limelight. He just sought to position himself near those who faced misunderstanding and marginalisation because he discovered that in their company Jesus was revealed to him in a profound and life changing way. L'Arche and Faith and Light are essentially all about the small things, building friendships and relationships, doing things with people rather than for them and all the while respecting their differences. Jean never shied away from the difficulties and challenges of living in community. People can run one

another up the wrong way and unless we are up front about these things resentments and mistrust can escalate very quickly.

Jean was a committed ecumenist at a time when such a stance was anything but fashionable and popular. Coming from the Roman Catholic tradition he was often viewed with suspicion by the hierarchy in his church because of his endeavours to build bridges between different Christian denominations and indeed his work with those from other faith Communities like the Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist religions. In these conversations and relationships he never relinquished his Christian convictions but expressed them gracefully and respectfully, looking to embrace rather than exclude.

Churches can often feel in this day and age as if we are on the back foot. We seem to have lost credibility with the world around us. Many have voted with their feet and left the mainstream denominations. They are frustrated with a faith that seems to promise much

but deliver little in terms of community and personal transformation. People are quick to spot the inconsistencies between the message we preach and the life we are living especially if we are in any way vocal about our faith. As the numbers decrease in our churches we often tend to retreat into our shells. It's as if we have lost confidence in the God who can change or transform our lives and bring hope and light out of despair.

Jean's life inspired me because he was a man who believed in the God of small things. Even though L'Arche's numbers were never huge seeds were sown around the world of vision and possibility. People with disabilities were given a place in the centre of the community and were often the messengers of an alternative way.

People weren't so interested in your achievements or how much you earned but simply would you be coming back? Would you spend time with them and be their friend?

Often in church life we want to make a difference. We want to run the best programmes, offer the best facilities and represent

a significant and telling voice in our city or town or community. In the summer months, sometimes we start to plan and dream our latest schemes for changing the world. We try to imagine what it might be in the coming year that might draw people back to the church? We long to inspire and enthuse and mobilise the church to connect with those outside and while these are good and noble aspirations what if we did it differently this summer?

What if we came aside one night a week for 30-45 minutes to simply spend some time with Jesus? What if we were invited to listen to some of his words and allow them to speak to our hearts? What if we just said rather than ask you for things for our church or for myself I just want to be close to you for a little while each week? I want to allow you to influence me and for my thoughts to be shaped by your thoughts and your values. What if we said welcome in again to my life which has been so busy, I maybe squeezed you out?

That's why I would like to invite anyone who wants to join me, to do so, on the Thursday nights in July and August.

We will simply be meeting in the

church from 7.30pm -8.15. There will just be that opportunity to spend some time with the Lord, be guided by a few thoughts and delight in his presence. We hope it will be a blessed time and a blessed opportunity for all of us to reconnect or stay close to Him.

During the months of July/August you will notice our service times change to 9am, 11am and 7pm and our Wednesday morning services are suspended and will resume in September. If you have the opportunity to head away over these next couple of months, please take the opportunity if you can to worship with a local congregation. We are always delighted to welcome visitors to our services and your presence will bring encouragement and blessing to other congregations wherever you find yourself this summer. It can be very spiritually refreshing to experience something a little different to what you are used to so please seek out those opportunities if you can.

We wish you a blessed summer.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Pierce (Rector)

Telephone 02890 793822

Root Soup and Wednesday Morning Service

During the months of July and August both Root Soup and the Wednesday Holy Communion Services are suspended but we look forward to resuming the Wednesday morning service at 10.30am on Wednesday 4th September and Root soup on 12th and 26th September.



Consarc

Many will be aware from the Easter Vestry that we have been in consultation with a firm of Ecclesiastical architects called Consarc. They have been doing an accessibility audit on the church and grounds to see how we might make things more accessible for those with mobility issues. Among the issues they are looking at are ways of accessing the hall from the church in an easier way, the provision of a disabled toilet in the church, better seating for those who are wheelchair users and improved ramped access. When this audit is completed, we hope to be able to report on its findings to the congregation in the Autumn.





WE NEED HELP.

Summer Work Week

We are very lucky at St. Finnian's to have such a beautiful church, lovely grounds and great halls, but to keep these all in good condition and looking well we need your help.

WORK WEEK will take place on Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th August 10am till 9pm

Please come along and help us weed ,cut,trim,wash,paint tidy and scrub. There are all sorts of jobs for people with different skills and abilities.

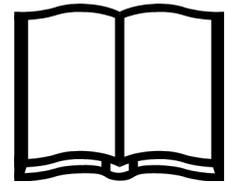
Many hands make light work so please come along and help if you can spare some time for this invaluable yearly effort to keep our church and grounds looking so beautiful.

Albert and I will be there and look forward to lots of volunteers coming to help us. Thank you

Karen Gately, Glebewarden.



From the Registers



Holy Baptism:

Isla Logan (Daughter of Jeremy and Claire): 16th June 2019

Edward Moore (Son of Ryan and Helen); 23rd June 2019

FLOWER DONATION ROTA

JULY

7th Mrs M Catney

14th Lyons Family

21st Mrs H Leckey

28th Mrs E Walker

AUGUST

4th Mrs J Crossett

11th Mrs J McCullough

18th Mrs C Bell

25th Mrs H Arnold





Services for July

Sunday 7th July (3rd Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am – Holy Communion
11.00am – Connect Service in Hall
7.00pm – Evening Prayer

Sunday 14th July (4th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am – Holy Communion
11.00am – Holy Communion
7.00pm – Evening Prayer

Sunday 21st July (5th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am – Holy Communion
11.00am – Morning Worship
7.00pm – Evening Prayer

Sunday 28th July (6th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am – Holy Communion
11.00am – Morning Prayer
7.00pm – Holy Communion



Services for August

Sunday 4th August (7th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am – Holy Communion
11.00am – Connect Service in Hall
7.00pm – Evening Prayer

Sunday 11th August (8th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am – Holy Communion
11.00am – Holy Communion
7.00pm – Evening Prayer

Sunday 18th August (9th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am – Holy Communion
11.00am – Morning Worship
7.00pm – Evening Prayer

Sunday 25th August (10th Sunday after Trinity))

9.00am – Holy Communion
11.00am – Morning Prayer
7.00pm – Holy Communion



We are looking for people who would be interested in joining and contributing to the Action Group which meets once every 6 weeks or so. It is open to anyone who lives, works, volunteers, or wants to make a difference in this part of East Belfast, even if you haven't been involved in the ROC meetings to date.

At the moment the sub-groups are involved in areas of social isolation, poverty, children, youth and parenting, and each sub-group has devised Action Lists. These are very much still in the planning stages.

If you have a passion in one of these areas and would like to be a part of it or would simply like to find out more please talk to either Jono or Raymond. The next meeting is planned for Tuesday 6th August at 7pm in St John's Church of Ireland on the Castlereagh Road.

NEW KITCHEN

The Vestry has decided to replace the kitchen in the Huston Hall. They are hoping the work will be carried out in August. There are some locked cupboards in the kitchen, could whoever has the keys, please open the cupboards and remove the contents to enable the cupboards to be removed. Many thanks

Karen Gately, Glebewarden.



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



BIBLE WEEK

27th -30th August
At 7.45 pm

Shankill Parish Church, Lurgan

The Rt Revd Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore, has been announced as the speaker at Bible Week 2019.

Bible Week will be celebrating Mission and Ministry in the diocese and Bishop Harold will teach around these themes with a different emphasis each evening.

It's the 13th Bible Week and only the second time that Bishop Harold has been the speaker. In 2012 he gave a series of teachings on the seven letters to the Churches in Revelation 2 & 3 and proved a very popular speaker.

Our annual outing to Glaslough village , Co Monaghan proved to be an excellent and memorable day. On the way to Glaslough, the bus stopped so that everyone could see Erigal church amid the trees. Hilda then gave some details of both the church and the surrounding area.

On arrival at Glaslough, the Donagh Mothers' Union ladies provided a very generous lunch and then everyone walked through the village to St Salvador's church. In the beautiful church on the edge of the Leslie estate, the ladies were told of the interesting history of the church from Eileen, Eithne and Jean. Sophie played the piano and organ and Jamie started his history lesson in the church, continuing later as the ladies were driven around the village and finished in the Olde Bar with a bit of a sing song. Dinner was in Salley's restaurant, Aughnacloy.

Unfortunately, Clare was unable to attend (family wedding) and I and a few other members were unable to attend at the last minute due to health reasons, but I know everyone had a great time. Many many thanks to Hilda for organising the Glaslough tours, music and lunch. Our thanks also to Helen for organising everyone during the trip.

Hope you all have a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing you all at our opening meeting in October 2019.

Carol Bell
Secretary



HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS' COFFEE MORNING

A note of thanks to all who helped with the coffee morning for the holocaust survivors in May. The donations amounted to £660. This gift will be an encouragement to those who live and those who work at the home in Haifa. It helps to let the survivors know that they are not forgotten. Again, thank you to all who helped in so many different ways.

Jean Johnston



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

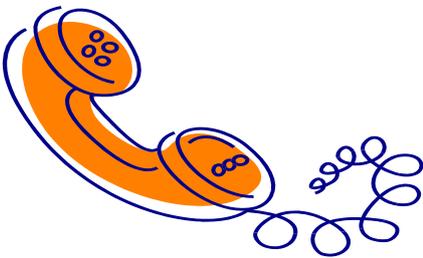
CONTACT DETAILS

Rector:

Telephone 028 90793822

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 **September** Magazine to office.cregagh@down.anglican.org or telephone Parish Office 90792793 by NOON on **Wednesday 14th August**

Don't forget to check out the church website:

www.stfinnians.org



Find us on Facebook!
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The Charity Commission for
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