

# **ST Finnian's**

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

## **Welcome Back**

**to a new season of church services and  
activities.**

**Normal service times resume on  
1st September  
see inside for details.**



# Dear Friends

As we prepare to begin a new season of church activities, I write this letter with a great sense of thanksgiving in my heart.

I'm very grateful in the first instance for you, whoever you are, as you are reading these words. I'm thankful that you have an interest in the life and witness of our church whether you are a parishioner, a local resident, a neighbour, friend or someone who is curious enough about what is going on in our church community, to take a look inside these pages.

I'm grateful too for the projects that have been undertaken over these summer months to continue to improve our facilities, maintain our grounds and enable us as a church to reach out and serve the local community.

Many will be able to observe the phenomenal efforts of the Work Week in August when a team of volunteers cut back and pruned branches, strimmed grass, polished floors in the church and halls, did all sorts of maintenance work around the property. In so doing, everywhere is looking so well in preparation for this new season.

As this letter goes to print we will be in the process of having a new kitchen installed in the church hall. I'm always conscious of how just like a family home, the kitchen is like the heartbeat of so many parish activities and functions. I'm so grateful to those who give their time so generously to prepare and serve funeral teas and work for the St.Finnian's Uganda Project with Fields of Life. I'm grateful for those who work there preparing refreshments for our Toddlers' Group and for all the important conversations and spirit of community that takes place around the church kitchen. Indeed the clergy are always well looked after between services with a bit of sustenance to keep going and we hope this new facility will serve the church well for years to come.

Over the summer months too a new sound system has been installed in the parish hall which includes a data projector and will facilitate our Connect Services as well as visiting speakers to Mothers' Union and Men's Society events.

I'm very thankful at this point for the financial provision for all these improvements made possible through people's generosity and commitment to building for the future.

You will read in this magazine also how the Select Vestry is looking to progress plans to improve disabled access to our church and halls and improve facilities. This is a major project and is in the early stages and has to be approved at diocesan and central church level before we can present it in more detail to our parishioners but again I'm grateful for the vision and the faith and the desire to make our facilities accessible and available to all who might seek the services of the church.

Many people will be aware that through the new sound system in the church we have been using the facility to record our church services on memory sticks and CDs to support parishioners who have been going through periods of ill health or are housebound. If you have an interest in technology and would like to become involved in that ministry or if you find yourself confined to the house and would like to receive recordings of our services, maybe you could let the Rector or Curate know.

Those who have been receiving those recordings have commented on how they enable them to feel connected again to what's going on and that is such an important thing.

Reflecting on this sense of gratitude I feel in my heart as a new season begins, my last thanksgiving is tinged with sadness as we prepare to say farewell to Bishop Harold Miller who has announced his retirement and will be retiring in September after 22 years leading the Diocese of Down and Dromore. Bishop Harold and his wife Liz have been outstanding leaders serving the Diocese and representing the Diocese both locally and internationally. I think of the energy and warmth they have brought to every single occasion they have been present in the church for.

I think of the initiatives they have overseen in terms of helping parishes to develop strategies for reconciliation, outreach and young people, 24/7 prayer for a whole year throughout the parishes of the diocese in preparation for a year of mission.

I think of the confirmation services involving adults and young people, The Mothers' Union indoor members' tea parties hosted for many years in the See House, The Bishop's Bible week hosted annually by Bishop Harold and we could go on and on.

On a personal level, Bishop Harold ordained me priest in Down Cathedral in 1996, supported me and kept in touch when I left parish ministry to work in the L'Arche Community, appointed me to my first incumbency and supported us personally and pastorally as a family at times of great anxiety and challenge. I have appreciated his openness to different forms of worship, his desire and challenge to begin new ministries through church plants and pioneering approaches and his constant friendship even when we disagree! I have had the privilege to travel with him over the years to do some work in the Diocese of Albany in the United States, to Cambodia with Tearfund and to learn new things from a parish in the Diocese of London. In every situation I see someone who always gave of his best, who had a real heart to proclaim the Gospel and to see God's kingdom grow and extend right across the generations. I remember too the generous hospitality provided by Bishop Harold and Liz to curates in the diocese at a time when Continuing Ministerial Education was located within the diocese rather than run centrally as it is now. I thank God for their powerful witness and ministry and for how they have served this

Diocese so wholeheartedly in a very challenging and demanding role. Along with all our parishioners we wish them both well for this new season of retirement and we pray for all involved in the process of appointing a successor.

We wish you well as you begin a new season of activities and worship in this place and we pray for God's Holy Spirit to be poured out on all our endeavours and plans as we go forward in faith.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Pierce (Rector)

Telephone 02890 793822

## Root Soup

Our Root Soup lunches will be resuming on 12<sup>th</sup> September and this month will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September. If you're free at any time between 12 and 1.30pm and would like to join us for a delicious home-made lunch in the parish hall, you would be really welcome. Please feel free to invite a friend or neighbour. The suggested donation is £4.



## Resumption of Services

Just a little reminder that normal service times resume on 1st September with services at 8.30am, 10.00am, 11.30am and 7.00pm on Sundays.

**Divine Healing services** are held on Tuesdays and recommence on Tuesday 3rd September at 8.00pm.

**Wednesday Holy Communion services with Prayers for the Sick** recommence on Wednesday 4th September at 10.30am.

## Ordination of Priests

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm in Hillsborough Parish Church, 3 people will be ordained Priest.

Rev. Jonathan Brown will be ordained to serve in Hillsborough, Rev. Peter Hilton will be ordained to serve in St. Mark's, Newtownards and Rev. Karen Salmon will be ordained to serve in Willowfield. Please pray for those being ordained. We have particular links with Peter, our former youth worker and a son of the parish and Karen who was a link missionary serving with Crosslinks for many years in Ethiopia.

## Sunday School

Sunday School starts back on 1st September at the 10.00am and 11.30 am services. All P1-P7 children are welcome. Come along to learn Bible stories and have fun making crafts and playing games.



Hello everyone



St Finnian's Messy Church was a huge success earlier in the year and we are planning to have another event in October.

Messy Church is an opportunity for St Finnian's to open its door and reach out to the community. It's a chance for those who come to St Finnian's and who know God to share his love with others. Now is a chance for you to get involved.

People from St Finnian's have already got the ball rolling and have planned, prepared, sweated and delivered this church's, first *Messy Church*. We now know how it works. But we want to do it again and again, because we are praying this church will meet with those who have not found us yet.

We plan to run our next Messy Church on

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 3.30pm– 5.30pm.**

We have a fantastic group of volunteers but in order to keep running we will need more help....

**Can you help??** Please speak to Raymond or myself if you feel you could offer your help and support

Thank you, **Jill McPeak**

## **ST. FINNIAN'S MIXED INDOOR BOWLING CLUB**



Meets on Wednesdays at 7pm

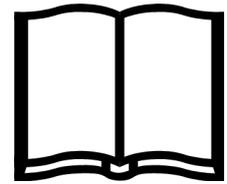
Come along to our Open Night on

**Wednesday 11th September 2019**

Enjoy an evening of bowls, fun, fellowship, chat  
and tea & biscuits

Bowls provided - **WE BOWL FOR FUN**

## From the Registers



**Christian Marriage: 13th July 2019: Aisling McAughey and Michael Bailey**

**Christian Burial: 2nd July 2019 - Albert Gately**

**22nd July 2019 - Joan Colhoun**

**24th July 2019 - William (Billy) Barr**

**1st August 2019 - Eric Hay**

**15th August 2019 - Garth Corbett**

**20th August 2019 - Gillian Waterworth**

**23rd August 2019 - James (Jim) Morrow**

## FLOWER DONATION ROTA

### SEPTEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> Seay Family

8<sup>th</sup> Mr G Darragh

15<sup>th</sup> Mrs A Thompson

22<sup>nd</sup> Mrs M Corbett

29<sup>th</sup> Mrs D Hay



# Services for September



## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September (11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

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

## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September (12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

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

## **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>September (13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

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

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September (14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

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

## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September (15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

8.30am – Holy Communion  
10.00 am –A Service of Wholeness & Healing  
11.30am – A Service of Wholeness & Healing  
7.00pm – Evening Prayer



It will soon be shoe box time again (hard to believe I know). Come October I will be gearing up and getting ready to fill my shoe boxes and I would like to ask if you will do the same.

Everyone in St Finnian's gives each year with great enthusiasm and generosity. I'm wondering if you will be able to get involved again this year, and fill a shoe box full of gifts for a child in need as part of the International Samaritan's Purse Appeal.

Through St Finnian's I will be able to support the appeal. I will also support you. through providing advice, leaflets and ready printed shoeboxes; which have proved very helpful (50p each).

I will leave leaflets in the church from September which explain how to fill and label your box. and I will be around if you need more help. As in the past few years, I will arrange to collect your shoe boxes from the back of the church and pass them on to the local representative for collection.

I will collect the boxes over two Sundays - October 20<sup>th</sup> & October 27<sup>th</sup>, at the 10am and 11.30am services. If you attend services at other times, I'm sure boxes can be left with wardens or at the back of the church and I can then collect them on Sunday.

Thank you for your support

Jill McPeak



# The Boys' Brigade in St Finnian's



The Boys' Brigade is one of the biggest Christian Youth Organisations in the UK & Republic of Ireland and has members in countries throughout the world. We are committed to seeing lives enriched by supporting children and young people to reach their full potential by providing opportunities to meet together and engage in a range of fun and developmental activities and experiences. There's something for every young person and members develop skills, build confidence, make friends, take responsibility and are encouraged to make a real difference in their communities – sharing the values that make us who we are. We are looking forward to the new Boys' Brigade year which begins on Monday 9 September for the Company and Junior Sections with the Anchor Boys resuming on Tuesday 17 September. As we start our new session, we would be delighted to welcome new members for all Sections and also, we are eager to strengthen our staff numbers, particularly, but not exclusively, with the Anchor Boys. Details for each of the Sections are as follows:

## **Anchor Boys - Tuesdays - 6.45 p.m. to 7.45 p.m.**

Anchor Boys is the section of the Boys' Brigade Company for boys aged 4-8. Anchor Boys participate in a wide range of activities - arts & crafts, music, games, Bible stories and sports. They have a national badge programme designed to prepare them for further membership in the Company and to develop them socially, educationally and spiritually.

## **Junior Section - Mondays - 7.00 p.m. – 8.15 p.m.**

Junior Section is our second section and is for boys aged between 8 and 11. Junior Section meetings are crammed full of challenges, games and activities. The award programme is specifically designed to encourage a child to look beyond themselves. Many are interested in one type of activity - perhaps sports or natural history. Our special programme provides for such interests and at the same time encourages them to try other activities of a different type.

Junior Section will also get to go on trips and days out to places like the zoo, theme parks and activity centres.

## **Company Section - Monday from 7.15 p.m. to 9.15 p.m.**

The Company Section is for young people aged 11 to 18 years of age and its programme follows the Brigade UK Discover Programme, which enables boys to take part in a fun, balanced and challenging programme while being recognised for effort and achievement and building trusting relationships. Boys working towards their President's and Queen's Badges have the opportunity to transfer their achievements towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award and acquire skills which are transferrable to the world of Higher Education and Employment.

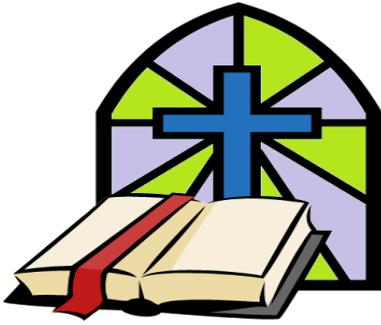
***If you would like to chat about your son(s) joining any of the Sections or about offering your services to help with our work with the boys, please feel free to contact any of our Officers.***

## **Proposed Car Parking Scheme Update – August 2019.**



Following the demise of the original consultants, MCF Consulting Engineers, Consarc Design was appointed to prepare an amended scheme as required by the Belfast City Council Planning Department.

A revision of the design requirements added the provision of disabled toilet facilities and wheelchair space in the Church. Planning approval has been received and the estimated cost of the scheme established. . A copy of the plan is available at the back of the Church. The next step is to seek the approval of the Diocesan Council and the Representative Church Body following which final plans and specifications will be prepared to allow tenders to be sought. The total works are estimated to cost £250K but implementation was always dependent on need and the availability of finance. The Select Vestry considers that access to the Church and Halls and the resolution of the traffic and pedestrian issues are more pressing at this time. Adopting a phased approach, the first stage will be all that has been approved by the City Council with the exception of the car parks. It is estimated that this will cost £150K. Whilst some monies are available from the Building Fund, the Select Vestry is considering how the balance will be raised.



## Book of Remembrance

The Service for Thanksgiving for those who have died in the past year will be held on Sunday 3 November 2019 at 7pm. The Book of Remembrance will be updated prior to that date. Forms are available in a Purple Folder at the back of the church at the Sextons' table. The forms should be completed and returned in the envelopes provided to Linda Leonard by Sunday **29 September 2019**. If you have any queries please contact Linda at 02890 594835.

### **THANK-YOU FROM THE HAY FAMILY**

Iris Hay and family wish to thank all of those who supported them in so many ways during Eric's illness and in the recent weeks since his death. We will be forever grateful to the Rev. Jono Pierce and the Rev. Raymond Kettle for their kindness, visits and prayerful support. To Carol and Tom for their daily visits and practical support, I was indeed extremely grateful. For the prayerful support and visits from many of our congregation—thank you! Thanks also to those who attended the funeral service. Special thanks to the members of our church choir who sang with such depth of feeling for Eric that their affection shone through in their singing, especially in the Nunc Dimittis. To Barbara our Sexton who helped in so many ways. To the Helping Hands Team who organised and served the funeral tea, our thanks. Many thanks to the flower arrangers for their lovely displays both in the church and in the halls. If I have omitted to thank anyone who supported the family in any way, please forgive me. Just to let everyone know that Sidney is fully recovered. He now realises that if a tablet has to be taken at night then take it at night and not the next morning! Eric would have enjoyed the drama.

**Iris Hay**

## **THANK-YOU FROM THE GATELY FAMILY**

Thank you to everyone for all your prayers, love and support my family. and I have received over this past 2 months. It was a terrible shock for us to lose Albert but with your support, we will get through this nightmare. I would also like to thank all of you who were involved in Work Week - you did a wonderful job. Albert would have been so pleased to see so many helpers, as was I.

Love and best wishes, **Karen Gately**



The Mothers' Union Diocesan Prayer Walk was held on Mary Sumner Day – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at St Elizabeth's Church , Dundonald. The ladies enjoyed a walk in the grounds of Moat Park , Dundonald followed by light refreshments in St Elizabeth's Parish Church hall. The event was very well attended and thankfully there was only one light shower during the walk..

Mothers' Union begins on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019** with a service of Holy Communion in the church at 7.30pm. This is followed by our opening meeting which will start at 8.00pm. in the church hall. This will be an informal meeting and give everyone the chance to 'catch up' with others over a cup of tea. To add to the fun we are asking members to provide a baby photo of themselves and we will all try and identify who is who. I personally will have a problem as I am a twin so I will have to photoshop 'yer man' out of my photo! Give your photos to either Clare or me prior to the meeting or bring it along on the night.

**Another date for members to note is as follows:**

**26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – the Down and Dromore Area service will be held in Knockbreda Parish Church at 8.00pm. Any members needing transport to the service should contact Clare or me**

**Carol Bell**



St Finnian's has been involved in an initiative with other local churches and service providers to see how collectively we can best serve the needs in our local community. We hosted one of the meetings in the summer as various strands of need have been identified looking at the areas of children and youth, poverty, social isolation and parenting. Collectively we are trying to make people aware of what is available to them in these areas and try to address needs which have been identified. If you have a particular interest in any of these areas and would like to be involved, please speak with the Rector or the Curate. **The next meeting is in Glenburn Methodist Church on Monday 16th September at 7pm.**

## ST FINNIAN'S TODDLERS



The St Finnian's Toddlers recommence on

**Monday 9th September from 10am.-12 noon**

All parents, grandparents, childminders and carers are welcomes for a chat and a cup of tea whilst the children play, enjoy arts and crafts and sing.

## 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**



## **BB LITTER PICK**

I would like to thank everyone for their support and very generous donations for the 74<sup>th</sup> Boys' Brigade Litter Pick in aid of The Children's Heartbeat. The Litter pick took place on a sunny May evening at Victoria Park. The total raised was £537.00 which with gift aid equates to £ 671.25.

This money will go towards supporting children, young people and their families affected by heart disease in Northern Ireland.

For further information please see [www.childrensheartbeattrust.org](http://www.childrensheartbeattrust.org)

Thanks again for your support

**Ingrid Johnston**

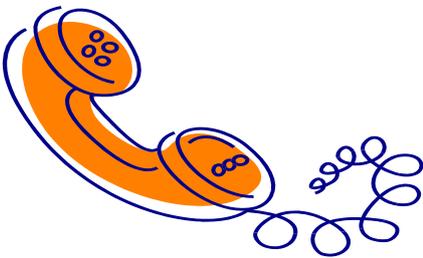
## CONTACT DETAILS

### **Rector:**

Telephone 028 90793822

### **Curate:**

Telephone 028 90796193



## Church Office Hours

**Tuesday 9.00 am – 2.00 pm**

**Wednesday 9.00 am – 2.00 pm**

TELEPHONE 028 90792793

[office.cregagh@down.anglican.org](mailto:office.cregagh@down.anglican.org)

## **Magazine**

Please send articles for inclusion in the **October** Magazine to [office.cregagh@down.anglican.org](mailto:office.cregagh@down.anglican.org) or telephone Parish Office 90792793 by NOON on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

Don't forget to check out the church website:

**[www.stfinnians.org](http://www.stfinnians.org)**



**Find us on Facebook!**  
**[Facebook.com/StFinnians](https://www.facebook.com/StFinnians)**

Registered with  
The Charity Commission for  
Northern Ireland NIC101977