

ST Finnian's

NOVEMBER 2019



The Importance of Remembering

Farewell to Reverend Raymond Kettyle

Dear Friends

November is a month in which we pause in the church to do some remembering. On the evening of the first Sunday we pause to give thanks for and remember those from our church family who have died in the past year. It's always a poignant occasion as we welcome families and friends back to the church to remember in this special way and reflect on the people whose lives have touched ours so deeply. We also take the opportunity to reflect on the Christian hope that this life is not the end and upon the difference it makes to us to have a faith perspective when we experience that painful sense of loss.

On the second Sunday in November at our 10am and 11.30am services, we remember those who gave their lives for the freedom of others in 2 world wars and subsequent conflicts since then. We have the opportunity to take part in acts of remembrance and that very act of pausing in silence leads us to reflect on the freedom we enjoy in today's world and the enormous cost and sacrifice

involved in that freedom.

The month of November is also a month when we remember those in our community and further afield who are less fortunate than ourselves. We usually gather in over this month some non-perishable food items that will be used to assemble Christmas hampers in partnership with Christians Against poverty and other local churches in our area. Some will also have been involved in assembling shoeboxes with gifts for children in poorer parts of our world through the organisation Samaritan's Purse.

In these endeavours and activities we are reminded that the world we live in can be a difficult place. Most of us will have direct experience of this in some of the painful experiences we have been through. We are conscious in recent times of much turmoil and upheaval in terms of the Brexit negotiations, the loss of employment in some big local companies and employers and the struggle it is for many to make ends meet in a time of rising prices and the pressures this can place on individuals and families.

In all of these remembering it is vital of course to remember that Jesus walks with us in all the changing scenes of life. He has promised never to leave us or forsake us and while His presence may at times seem distant because of the situations we are facing, the church community has a powerful role to play in reminding people that He is there as He said He would be.

As we bring an item of food for a hamper, as we pause to remember at an act of remembrance or if we are unable to do these things and we pause and down tools for a few moments to pray for a friend or fellow parishioner going through hard times, we are doing something vitally important. We are lifting these people and situations and, it may be something directly affecting us and our families, into the presence of God. We're acknowledging that while the situation is outside our control and maybe too big to resolve in our own strength, we are bringing it to someone bigger than ourselves, to the Lord of the universe.

Maybe our prayer or our gift seems so small beside the

situation and yet if collectively we pause and remember in these ways, much good will come. We are so much more together than the sum of our individual parts.

At the beginning of next month we will have an opportunity to come together on Advent Sunday to remember with thanksgiving the ministry of Reverend Raymond Kettyle amongst us over these past 3 years. We will have much cause to pay tribute to his pastoral care at times of trouble and difficulty, his passion and enthusiasm for sharing the Word of God with us, his willingness to go beyond his comfort zone to share with others and build up the life of God's kingdom and his endeavours to encourage others on their journey of faith. So as we focus on this idea of remembering please take time in the coming weeks to remember and pray for Raymond as he prepares to take up his appointment as Rector of St. John's, Lurgan on Tuesday 10th December.

We hope many people will be able to come and offer their support in person at that special service of institution

in St. John's at 8pm as Raymond will be instituted as Rector by the Bishop's Commissary Archdeacon Roderic West.

Raymond's last Sunday with us will be Sunday 1st December when he will preach at our morning services. After the Advent Carol service in the evening, we hope to have a reception and presentation for Raymond in the church hall. Do please try to come along and show your support for Raymond as he prepares for a new season in his ministry. Please also continue to pray for our diocese of Down and Dromore as the Electoral College made up of clergy and lay people from our diocese and the Northern Province of Armagh meet together in the coming weeks and months to appoint a new Bishop.

In the midst of all of these remembering, I am conscious that there may be individual people and families who are feeling isolated and forgotten as they go through difficult things. Please let us know if you would like us to call and pray with you.

We will be endeavouring as we always do at this point in the year to call at each household on our parish lists with details of Advent and Christmas services. If people are out when we call and would like us to rearrange, please let us know a good time.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Pierce (Rector)

Telephone 02890 793822



ROOT SOUP

There will be Root Soup lunches on **Thursday 14th and Thursday 28th November.** between 12 and 1.30pm. This is a lovely opportunity to come together to enjoy a nice lunch lovingly prepared by our friends from Root Soup. Feel free to invite a friend or neighbour. **The suggested donation is £4.**

Curate's Leaving Gift

Our curate, Raymond Kettyle, will leave us for the next stage of his ministry as Rector of St. John's Lurgan in December. As is customary in St. Finnian's, we will mark his departure with a presentation. Included within this November magazine is an envelope marked **CURATE'S LEAVING GIFT**. If you would like to be associated with the Gift please include your donation in the envelope and give it to one of the churchwardens on your way into church. It would be helpful if you could return the envelope by the last Sunday in November. I expect that the December magazine will include details of an event to mark Raymond's departure when a presentation will be made.

Mike Johnston

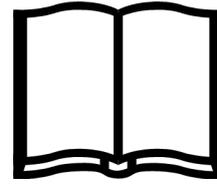
Hon. Treasurer

COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to organise the coffee morning in memory of our late rector Canon Noel Battye. The magnificent sum of £2609 was raised and our thanks go to everyone who supported this event so generously. In accordance with his wishes, the bulk of the proceeds will be directed to Marie Curie with the remainder to Macmillan Cancer Support. The Select Vestry has designated an area outside the church which will be planted with spring bulbs in the next month or so. We look forward to seeing those bulbs appearing in the spring as a visible reminder of someone we hold in the greatest affection, who gave unstintingly of himself to serve this place and sow the seeds of new spiritual life and impacted so many people for good.



From the Registers



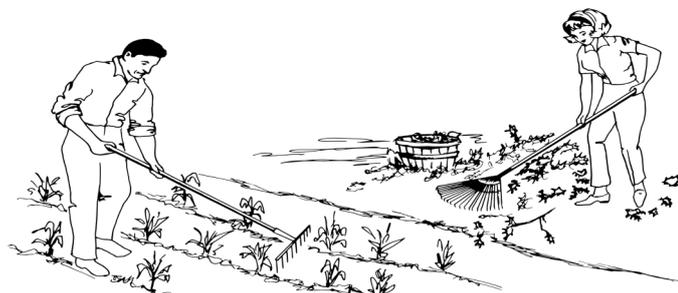
**Holy Baptism: 13th October 2019 - Adler Halsall
(Son of Alan and Danielle)**

**20th October 2019 - William McManus
(Son of Jonathan and Hilary)**

Christian Burial: 11th October 2019 - Hetty Gaw

HELPERS NEEDED (TO MAINTAIN CHURCH GROUNDS AND HALLS)

It is not always possible during the annual work week to complete all of the tasks that need to be undertaken to keep the church grounds and halls looking their best. It is intended to organise a morning work session every 8 weeks or so throughout the year to undertake tasks such as keeping paths free from weeds/moss/leaves and the painting of the garden seats etc. Volunteers are asked to add their name and contact details to the list in the Church Porch. Alternatively speak to either **John Downey (Tel: 90448757)** or **Ivan Magee (Tel: 90282189)** who are co-ordinating the work groups and will be happy to provide more information on what is envisaged.



Services for November



Sunday 3rd November (4th Sunday before Advent)

- 8.30am – Holy Communion
- 10.00 am – Connect Service in Hall
- 11.30am – Holy Communion
- 7.00pm – Service of Thanksgiving & Remembrance

Sunday 10th November (3rd Sunday before Advent)

- 8.30am – Holy Communion
- 10.00am – Holy Communion (Act of Remembrance)
- 11.30 am – Morning Prayer (Act of Remembrance)
- 7.00pm – Evening Prayer

Sunday 17th November (2nd Sunday before Advent)

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

Sunday 24th November (Sunday before Advent)

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

Sunday 1st December (Advent Sunday)

- 8.30am – Holy Communion
- 10.00 am – Connect Service in Hall
- 11.30am – Holy Communion
- 7.00pm – Advent Carol Service (followed by reception)



CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP) HAMPERS

In preparation for our Christmas CAP Hampers, we will be collecting any donations **from Sunday 10th November** and a notice board with suggested items will be available at the back of the church. Your generosity would be very much appreciated. This year, due to several clients becoming debt-free, (great news!!) we may not need to assemble as many hampers as in previous years. Be assured however that any leftover donations will be distributed to local food banks. This year we will be assembling our annual CAP hampers on **FRIDAY 29th November from 6pm**. All assistance will be very welcome as we hope to unpack, sort and repack all on the same evening!

Many thanks for your support.

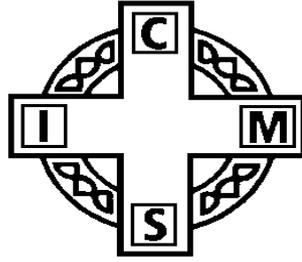
Heather Harman

FLOWER DONATION ROTA

NOVEMBER

- 3rd Currie Family
- 10th Remembrance Sunday
- 17th Mrs E Walker
- 24th Mrs M Thompson





Church of Ireland Men's Society

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21st November 2019 at 8.00pm. **The Guest Speaker will be Anne Smyth who will be talking about "Ulster Dialects"**

A special invitation is extended to all members of the congregation.



DEVOTED BIBLE STUDY

Devoted Bible Study will continue every Monday until 18th November at 7pm in the Curatage (54 Rochester Avenue). We will be looking at 'God's Big Picture' together which seeks to trace the storyline of the Bible. If you plan to attend, please let Raymond know for the purpose of numbers.

All welcome.

Proposed Car Parking & Access Scheme – Update – September 2019.

In the August update it was stated that Planning Approval and estimates of the cost of the scheme had been received. The Select Vestry then balanced the estimated cost of the project with available funds and decided that the project should be carried out in two phases. Access to the Church, Halls and Grounds was considered to be the immediate priority and it was agreed that these works should form Stage 1 with the construction of the car parks following later. The Select Vestry has prepared a submission to the Diocesan Council and the Representative Church Body (RCB) to seek approval to proceed with the scheme. One of the requirements is that the Select Vestry must set out how the works will be funded. Stage 1 is estimated at £170,000 and while some monies are available through the Building Fund, the balance will have to be raised by the Parish. To this end a number of grant sources are being investigated and a Gift Day is being considered. The fund-raising will be spread over a number of years. Once Diocesan and RCB approval is received, it is intended that a meeting of parishioners will be held to explain the scheme in detail and to launch the fund-raising campaign.

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





It was lovely to see everyone at our opening meeting and we all enjoyed a chance to 'catch up' on all our news . The baby competition gave most of us a problem but some of our members were excellent at spotting who the babies were. Our thanks to the ladies in the Committee for providing the lovely desserts for our supper – diets start next month ladies.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 7th November at 8pm.**

Our speaker will be Chris Sloan from Crime Prevention, PSNI and he will be speaking about the Scamwise NI campaign to keep people safe from scams. In any year, most of us will be targeted with an attempt to scam us out of money. It follows that if you can spot a scam, you can stop it too. Scamwise NI seeks to equip people so that they can prevent scams and seek assistance if they become a victim of a scam. The Men's Society will be joining us at this meeting and if any other parishioners wish to join us they would be very welcome.

Other dates for members to note are as follows:

23rd November 2019 @ 9.30am – 16 Days of Activism Prayer
Breakfast, Millbrook Lodge

2nd December 2019 @ 8pm– Advent Carol Service,
Bangor Abbey

Carol Bell, Secretary



Details of our Programme for 2019 /2020 are as follows.

5th December 2019 - Advent Supper

2nd January 2020 - 'Count Our Blessings,' Emerald McKnight - Bring & Buy Sale'

4th January 2020 - Ladies Spiritual Reflection Morning 'Only one thing is needed.....,' Gillian Stevenson

6th February 2020 - Annual Dinner

5th March 2020 - Overseas Night

2nd April 2020 - 'Walking in Faith', Olive Turkington

7th May 2020 - V's Bees, Valentine Hodge

4th June 2020 - Annual Outing

1st October 2020 - Opening Service. - Triennial Elections

5th November 2020 - 'Women's Involvement in War', Carol Walker

3rd December 2020 - Advent Supper

If any ladies of the parish who would like to join us for any of the meetings you would be very welcome.

ST. FINNIAN'S MIXED

INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

Meets on Wednesdays at 7pm

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

Bowls provided -

WE BOWL FOR FUN



LADIES OPEN DOOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP



The Open Door Friendship Group meetings for November are as follows:-

Wednesday 6th November -

"Living with my Mother's Sins" - Marie Therese Rogers

Wednesday 20th November -

Afternoon Tea and Short Story - Helen McKnight

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

Joan Logan

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

VIEW FROM MY LIVING ROOM



Looking out of my living room window, I watch the birds on my bird feeder. The first to arrive are the magpies and I call them the gangsters because they are always arguing and fighting.

The next to come are the big birds. They are messy too and crowd out the small birds.

Next to come are the starlings. They are a hungry and untidy lot.

Next come the sparrows and I call them “the working class”. They work hard and do the best for their children, always hoping things will change. But they never get a break.

The next to come are the finches. I call them the “middle class”. They own one car, or maybe two, and their own house. They hope their children get into grammar school then university.

Then there are the goldfinches. They have more than anyone, bigger cars, bigger houses and maybe a house in Spain. Their children are sent to the best school, hoping they will get a place in the top universities such as Oxford or Cambridge. But they don’t work hard enough. They have always had everything they need. They think to themselves that they don’t have to study and they don’t make the grade. Then their parents have to get in touch with their influential friends in order for them to get a job.

The next to appear is Mr. Grey Squirrel and I call him the devil. He goes down through the birds and touches all of them no matter how lightly.

However, the birds who have faith and believe in the Lord are looked after by Him day and night. He is always there.

So thank the Lord for keeping and feeding us always! He says (Matthew 10, V 29-31), “Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And not one of them falls to the ground without Him knowing. But the very hairs on your head are all numbered. Therefore, do not fear, you are of more value than many sparrows.”

Amen. **(written by a parishioner of St. Finnian’s)**





No difficulty in telling who is having the better time and sad to think of *anyone* being on their own at Christmas.

HOST UK arranges one day and weekend visits for International students all year round with three-night visits during the Festive season. Such hospitality is greatly sought after and valued by students far from home whose only alternative may be a lonely hall of residence.

Our “festive season” does not just mean Christmas but can also mean weekends in the run up to Christmas and New Year. Your guest will be someone curious to experience British life with all its special traditions and culture...and keen to share those of their home country. Your hospitality will be a unique gift, a treasured memory and rewarding in so many ways.

Please consider opening your home and heart to an international student and remember that if the festive season is difficult for you, we do operate *all year round*, so hosting can become one of your New Year Resolutions!

If you should like to know more, please go to our website

www.hostuk.org or leave us a message on

[http://visits.hostuk.org/Public/
ApplyToBecomeAHost](http://visits.hostuk.org/Public/ApplyToBecomeAHost)



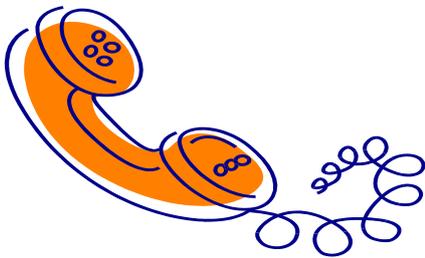
CONTACT DETAILS

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

Magazine

Please send articles for inclusion in the **December** Magazine to **office.cregagh@down.anglican.org** or telephone Parish Office 90792793 by NOON on **Wednesday 4th December**

Don't forget to check out the church website:

www.stfinnians.org



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