

# ST Finnian's

**JUNE 2021**

*NEW ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM  
TO ATTEND SUNDAY MORNING  
SERVICES*

*(see Rector's letter and article  
inside)*



# Dear Friends

Over the past year and a bit we seem to find ourselves constantly navigating all sorts of changes because of the pandemic. Initially there was a big scramble to try to record services and the re-creation of a system of pastoral care to ensure people stayed in touch and supported one another in the parish. Then the Vestry made a courageous decision to invest in audio-visual equipment to enable us to broadcast services online throughout lockdown. All sorts of activities and meetings have had to take place online from Select Vestry meetings to prayer meetings to Sunday School and Messy Church. We are currently running our third Alpha course online and it's inspiring to see the way that people have been able to connect and explore the life of faith together in this way. Last month's Easter Vestry was able to take place in person in the church and at that meeting we paid tribute to 2 people who have retired from holding significant offices within the life of the parish. Mike Johnston retired from the role of Honorary Treasurer after many years of

service. There are many dimensions to the role with new reporting responsibilities to the Charity Commissioners and Mike has worked hard to digitise our accounts keeping a very accurate record for all our parishioners of all our financial transactions. Also at that meeting, Norman Halliday stepped back from the role of Honorary Secretary after many years of steadfast service. Norman's knowledge of corporate governance, his gracious correspondence on behalf of the parish with so many bodies and individuals and his meticulous minute keeping have been remarkable. We want to thank both Mike and Norman for their invaluable contribution over many years and their wholehearted commitment to seeing the parish develop and flourish through how they did their respective tasks. As we thank them for all they did, we welcome two new incumbents to those important roles. Robert Crawford has become our new Honorary Treasurer and Linda Leonard has become our new Honorary Secretary.

Both of them bring a wealth of experience and a love for the church to their roles and we thank them for undertaking these tasks. While we have tried to navigate change in how we communicate using mediums like blogging and podcasting and YouTube, the challenges keep presenting themselves! The latest one is a good problem to have. In recent weeks we have been right on capacity in terms of our numbers with social distancing particularly at the morning service. For that reason we have had to introduce an online booking system to regulate our numbers and to ensure we don't exceed our quota to ensure everyone is safely spaced and social distancing is maintained. People will now have to book online using an online registration form available on our website and Facebook page to reserve a place at our morning service. For those who don't use the internet, you can also reserve a space by phoning the parish office on 028 90792793 on either Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 9am and 2pm or by reserving a space

with one of our Churchwardens the previous Sunday. For those who are able to make that choice to attend at the evening service it might be helpful if you can do so to free up spaces for those who can only attend in the mornings. We will be continuing to livestream the 11am service on YouTube to enable those who can't come in person to worship with us. The dial-in service will also continue to be available for those who don't use the internet on 028 93447225.

We recognise it will take us a little while to get used to this but we value your patience and co-operation to make the system work and to ensure we keep people safe. Can we also ask you to keep in your prayers the process of recruiting a new curate? As this magazine goes to print the candidates are visiting the parishes who are prepared to take a curate and formal interviews and appointments will take place at the end of May and beginning of June. It's always a stressful time for the candidates and parishes involved as people try to discern, under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, where they

ought to serve using the gifts they have been given by God. Very often it's a significant decision that affects whole families who may have to uproot, find new employment and schools as well as adjust to a whole new way of life. It would be great for the candidates and the parishes if we could keep this process in our prayers, asking that God's will would be done. As we start to re-emerge from lockdown and people are vaccinated, we will be working through risk assessments to re-open our church hall for face-to-face activities. We don't have definitive dates as yet but we will move steadily and cautiously as we have done to date. We understand that there is a mixture of excitement and anticipation at the prospect of returning to some of those activities we have missed so much. This has to be tempered with doing so with responsibility and a wholehearted commitment to protecting people's safety. Most of us find change can bring us beyond our comfort zone but I am grateful to everyone for their support. As we have welcomed

a new Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary to the Select Vestry, we have also welcomed our 2 new Churchwardens who are doing a marvellous job helping us to respond to these new challenges. Jonathan and Amy brought great continuity and stability by serving a second year and they have been a great support to Greg and Cathy as they settle into these new roles. We are so blessed to have everyone working together in this way to create a space for worship where people can experience God's love and peace through our worship together. As restrictions ease, I look forward so much to being able to visit in people's homes again. During this past year we have only been allowed to visit in situations of bereavement to arrange funeral services and now we can come into people's gardens with the hope that we will soon be allowed to meet indoors. Small steps in the right direction.

Very best wishes to everyone.

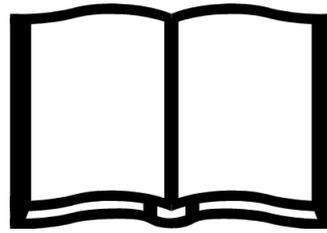
**Yours sincerely,**

**Jonathan Pierce (Rector)**

**Telephone 028 90793822**

# **From the Registers**

## **Christian Burial 2021:**



**23<sup>rd</sup> April**

**Trevor Barr**

### **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES**

In recent weeks at our Sunday morning 11am service, we have reached the capacity in terms of numbers allowed to attend the service under the social distancing rules. We have therefore had to introduce an online booking system to ensure that we don't exceed our quota. This is very important to ensure that everyone is safely spaced and social distancing is maintained. If you are planning to attend the morning service, it will now be necessary to book online using an online registration form available on our website and Facebook page. If you don't use the internet, you can reserve a place by phoning Linda in the parish office on 028 90792793 on either Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 9am and 2pm.

Alternatively, you can reserve a place with one of our Churchwardens the previous Sunday. If you are able to attend the evening service instead of the morning service, it would be much appreciated if you could do so. This will free up places for those who can only attend in the mornings. We will be continuing to livestream the 11am service on YouTube to enable those who can't attend in person to worship with us. The dial-in service will also continue to be available for those who don't use the internet on 028 93447225.

We recognise that it will take a while to get used to this but we appreciate your patience and co-operation to help us make the system work and to ensure that everyone can worship safely.

Thank you for your understanding.



Our theme of HOPE continues in our Messy Church online. This month we will be looking at **Overcoming things**.

Jono will be there to tell us all about what the Bible tells us about *overcoming things* and there will be our resident crafters too. There will be some colouring in and puzzles to get your hands on and songs to sing along too.

Of course there will also be a story from our children's Bible read by Alison. What's not to like!

So please, get the family together, get yourself a cuppa and a bun and come along and tune in and support the Messy Church volunteers who are doing a fantastic job (in front of and behind the camera).

Put the date in your diary — **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June**.

**Watch for the banner going up at the church to remind you...**

**Jill McPeak**



**If you haven't seen us online yet, check out Messy Church on [Facebook.com/StFinnians](https://www.facebook.com/StFinnians), the church website [www.stfinnians.org](http://www.stfinnians.org) and YouTube.**

Messy Church ONLINE @St.Finnian's Church

Dates for 2021  
Friday 26th March  
Friday 25th June  
Friday 24th September  
Friday 26th November

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

The banner features the Messy Church Online logo, an illustration of an open book with wheat stalks, and a cartoon mouse (Jerry the mouse) sitting down. The text provides the dates for the 2021 sessions and the church's website.

# Services for June



## **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

11.00am Morning Prayer

7.00pm Holy Baptism

## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

11.00am Morning prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

## **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

11.00am Morning Prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

## **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

11.00am Holy Communion

7.00pm Holy Communion



## **General Prayers for different situations.**

Merciful God, come to the help of your people.  
Be our shelter in this time of peril and strengthen the bonds of  
our community. Bring healing to all who suffer the ravages of  
disease and assist those whose skill and art  
can put an end to this affliction.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Wondrous God, author of life, you fashioned us in your  
likeness and breathed into us the life which is your own.  
Be with those whose special care is the health of mind and  
body. Fill their hearts with awe for the life that is your gift and  
sustain them daily in your service, that their hands may bring  
to others the comfort of your healing touch.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Loving God, in Christ Jesus, the servant of all, you call us to  
the service of others. Grant to those who govern the  
community, the skill to recognise its urgent needs and the  
strength to pursue the common good. Endow us all with  
patience and courage, that we may care for the suffering, feed  
the hungry, shelter the homeless and sustain the needy.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort me and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

**Amen.**

Spirit of wisdom, Creator God, we give you thanks for all the ways you inspire your people, the ways you provide for them, and set great paths before them. We are grateful for the many small business owners who felt your creative call and pursued their dreams. Gracious God, we know that you are the sustainer of our dreams, in prosperity and in hardship. We pray for all those businesses who are suffering hardship because of the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. May the communities these businesses serve rally to support them. Provide for all the people being impacted by this economic crisis, O God, the people employed by these small businesses and the families that are supported by their income. Protect them in this time of economic uncertainty, and fill their spirits with hope.

**Amen.**

Dear Lord, You have commanded us to love our neighbours as ourselves. Help us to do that in our community and throughout our country. Help us understand the problems our fellow citizens are going through and find ways to help them in ways they need it most. Help us to love others no matter what their race or other differences. Help us to receive their love as well. Help us to not allow grievances to block giving or receiving love.

**Amen.**

God, our rock, we pray for stability in this country that has been affected with disunity and discontent. Give us all wisdom to enable us to move forward successfully. Help us to strive to understand the others' perspectives and to find common ground. Give us insight into what will best solve the complex problems we are facing. Help us to negotiate a new path that will be better and brighter than before.

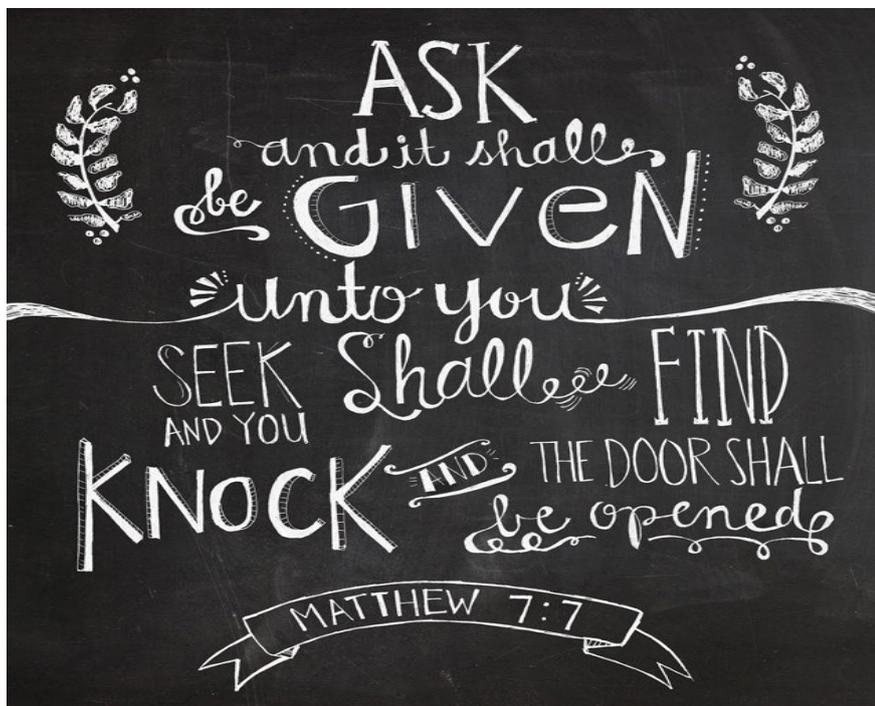
**Amen.**

## PARISH PRAYER MEETINGS BY ZOOM

On Thursday evenings we hold our parish prayer time over Zoom when we pray for our province, our church and the world around us. If you would like to join us at 7 pm on

Thursdays just send an email to  
[zoomtostfinnian@btconnect.com](mailto:zoomtostfinnian@btconnect.com)

or contact the Rector.



## 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 on to anyone else unless you want them to.

**Mobile: 07513947504**

Hello Everyone

Can you believe it is June?! Usually at this time of year we would be setting out on our annual trip and looking forward to spending some time together.

Hopefully we will get to see each other later this year and Clare will be writing to you all over the summer break to let you know what arrangements/plans we have in place for the rest of the year. Also, Clare and I plan to do a sponsored walk during the summer for 'Mums in May'. We will let you know the details and provide the photographic evidence that we did it!

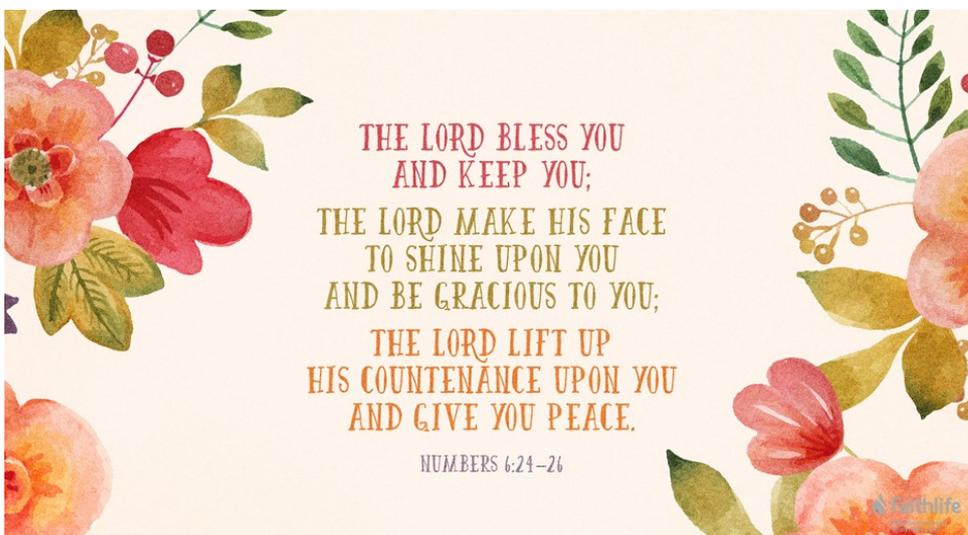
We hope you all get an opportunity to spend time with your family and friends over the summer months or even manage to get a little holiday...you never know, Margaret Rankin may even manage to get home from Australia.

Have a lovely summer and know that we are thinking of you.

The Midday prayers for June are detailed overleaf.

Best wishes.

**Carol Bell**  
**Branch Secretary**



*Mothers' Union—Midday Prayers—June 2021*  
*Rebuilding hope and confidence*  
*Blessings*

**Monday: Blessings**

The same Lord is Lord of all  
and richly blesses all who call on him.

*Romans 10:12*

**The Lord bless us  
and keep us.**

**We pray God's blessing for ourselves;  
may we be sustained in all we do.**

**We pray God's blessing on those whom we love;  
may they be upheld by the presence of Christ.**

**The Lord make his face to shine upon us  
and be gracious to us.**

**We pray God's light to shine clarity  
on our plans for loving kindness.**

**We pray God's grace to encircle  
all who serve and those they support.**

**The Lord turn his face towards us  
and give us peace.**

**We pray God's divine favour and peace  
that surpasses all understanding  
to fill our lives today.**

**Amen.**

**Tuesday: Blessings and challenges**

Great gifts mean great responsibilities;  
greater gifts, greater responsibilities!

*Luke 12:48 (The Message)*

**God of all goodness,  
we give you praise and thanks  
for all the blessings of this life.**

We are grateful for the gift of food,  
and the opportunity we have to feed others in your name;  
the blessing of shelter,  
and the challenge before us to care for the homeless;  
the love of friends and family,  
and your call to love those who are lost and alone;  
the fellowship of the church,  
and the presence of Christ in the lives of our needy sisters and brothers.

**You have given us much, Lord, and you expect much of us.  
Help us to accept both your blessings and your challenges  
with gratitude and grace.**

**Amen.**

**Wednesday: Blessings for the day**

***God is able to make every blessing of yours overflow for you, so that in every situation you will always have all you need for any good work.***

***2 Corinthians 9:8 (ISB)***

**God bless each step that we take today,  
whether that road is rough or smooth.**

And in God's strength  
step out in faith,  
step out in love,  
step out in peace,  
and bless this world  
with God's presence  
in and through our lives.

**May we be a blessing  
to every life we touch,**  
and the Spirit within,  
that life-giving water,  
be a gift of refreshment  
in love shown and shared  
with all who are thirsty  
along the road we travel.

**Amen.**

**A person of blessing will be enriched,  
and he who gives water also will be refreshed.**

***Proverbs 11:25 (LEB)***

**Thursday: Blessing of hands**

The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty...  
to bless all the work of your hands.

*Deuteronomy 28:12*

**Blessed are you, Lord. You hold us in your hands.**

**Bless our hands, that we might hold others  
as dearly as you hold them.**

Blessed be the hands that touch young lives and guide the young.

Blessed be the hands that embrace others with compassion.

Blessed be the hands that administer healing.

Blessed be the hands that carry out chores.

Blessed be the hands that grow stiff with age.

Blessed be the hands that capture memories in creative ways.

Blessed be the hands that greet strangers.

Blessed be the hands that learn the way of justice.

**Bless our hands, Lord,  
for they are the work of your hands.**

**Amen.**

*From the Lutheran Deaconess Association*

**Friday: Blessings of peace**

The Lord gives strength to his people;  
the Lord blesses his people with peace.

*Psalm 29:11*

**Deep peace of the running wave to you**

**Deep peace of the flowing air to you**

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you

Deep peace of the shining stars to you

Deep peace of the gentle night to you

**Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you**

**Deep peace of the Son of peace to you.**

**Amen.**

*Gaelic blessing*

Now may the Lord of peace himself grant us his peace at all times  
And in every way, that peace and spiritual well-being that comes to those  
who walk with him, regardless of life's circumstances.

**And may the Lord be with us all.**

**Amen.**

*From 2 Thessalonians 3:16*

**Saturday: Spiritual blessings**

***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in the heavenly realms  
with every spiritual blessing in Christ.***

***Ephesians 1:3***

**Eternal God, the refuge and help  
of all your children,**

**we praise you for all you have given us,**

**for all you have done for us,**

**for all that you are to us.**

In our weakness, you are strength,

in our darkness, you are light,

in our sorrow, you are comfort and peace.

We cannot number your blessings,

we cannot declare your love:

For all your blessings we bless you.

**May we live as in your presence,**

**and love the things that you love,**

**and serve you in our daily lives;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*St. Boniface, 675-754*



## Donations

Hello

My name is Robert Crawford and I have taken on the role of Honorary Treasurer from Mike Johnston.

One of the concerns for parishioners during the pandemic lockdown has been how to continue to make their Freewill Offerings when it was not possible to attend church.

Many have set up a Standing Order or Electronic Transfer.

If you would like to do this, the parish bank details are:-

**Sort Code 95-01-34**

**Account number 11089757**

**Account name St Finians Parish Church**

**Reference** The online screen will invite you to add a reference. Please input the six figure number at the bottom right of the label on your Freewill Offering envelope box (NOT the three figure number on your envelopes).

For example, the label will look like:

**Mr. A Smith xxx**

**Church Street**

**Belfast**

**000xxx** (Please use this number as your reference).

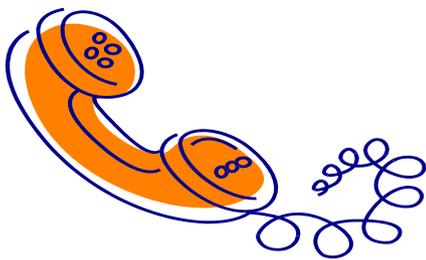
Not everyone has the internet or can use online banking. For anyone who cannot get to church and who would like someone to collect their Freewill Offering envelope, please ring me on 028 90299889, leave your name and number and I will contact you to arrange collection.

**Robert Crawford (Hon. Treasurer)**

## CONTACT DETAILS

### **Rector:**

Telephone 028 90793822



## 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 **July/August** magazine to **office.cregagh@down.anglican.org** or telephone the Parish Office 90792793 by NOON on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June.**

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)**

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The Charity Commission for  
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