

ST Finnian's

JULY/AUGUST 2021

*Wishing everyone a safe and
blessed summer.*



*Services continue on Sundays at
11am & 7pm throughout the
summer months.*

Dear Friends

As this month's magazine goes to print, the country continues to make its way cautiously out of lockdown. We see restrictions easing on different sectors of society and we are grateful in the first instance for the successful rolling out of the vaccination programme. Many of our parishioners have received one, if not both, of their vaccinations and this helps to give a sense of protection as we enter more fully into various activities again. The church, like many other organisations, has been working behind the scenes to prepare the ground for returning to face-to-face activities again. As we welcome back people to public worship we have continued to focus on people's safety. We are all deeply grateful to our volunteers and Churchwardens who continue to steward our arrival and departure from Sunday services. There are new processes in place like an online booking system for the 11am service to manage our numbers to ensure we are maintaining social distancing. It has been encouraging and uplifting to ease the restrictions on singing

and many have spoken to me about how good it feels to be able to sing God's praises again behind our masks. In the past months some of our volunteers who work with children and young people have been refreshing their training in Safeguarding Trust, the church's policy for child protection, in anticipation of returning to face-to-face activities after the summer. This week we hope to honour our children, who have been participating in Sunday School over the past 16 months over Zoom and using resources for learning at home about the faith prepared by our Diocese, in a special family service and prize-giving. We are especially grateful to our dedicated teachers who have moved beyond their comfort zone to make this possible and do everything to keep our children together during these difficult months. It's exciting this month to be able to record some baptisms which have taken place for the first time in over 16 months and over the next few months we hope to see 3 couples getting married in church.

It has been particularly challenging for couples making their plans with all the changing restrictions and many couples over the past year have had to cancel or postpone their weddings because of the pandemic. Over the summer months we hope to conduct further risk assessments and have conversations with our organisations and leaders about the best way forward in resuming these face-to-face activities. I am particularly grateful to the Select Vestry as the church's trustees who have been vigilant in overseeing our governance and compliance with all the exacting regulations. We understand that people feel frustrated at not being able to meet together and that many too are feeling understandably cautious at the prospect of coming out again after shielding for such a considerable time. Many people are considering not just their own wellbeing but also the wellbeing of more vulnerable members of their families especially those with underlying health conditions. For this reason we have to be constantly vigilant and cautious

and ensure that people's safety remains our priority in recommencing activities.

Throughout this past 16 months there have been very strict regulations governing visitation in hospitals and nursing homes and clergy have not been allowed to visit except in exceptional and extreme circumstances. As these restrictions begin to ease and we are now allowed to visit by making arrangements with wards and nursing homes, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you want me to visit as I would be delighted to do so. I have paid tribute before to our parishioners who have been so faithful in making phone calls to stay in touch with people throughout this difficult period. Please don't allow those contacts to stop as they have been such a lifeline of support to many people. Parishioners have been so appreciative of the calls they have received from fellow members of different organisations and even having calls from people they didn't know previously. These contacts have lifted the spirits and boosted morale through difficult times.

Technology has made a huge difference to so many through the livestreaming of services and the availability of the dial-in opportunity to listen to services on the telephone. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to those who make these things possible for us.

Going forward I think our future will be a hybrid mixture of in-person worship and the continued provision of recorded services for those who are unwell or shielding for various reasons. Some activities may continue online like the provision of the Alpha Course and prayer meetings and some other meetings.

If there are people who might have an interest in getting involved in technology in church, perhaps learning about how to operate our web cameras and stream services, please do get in touch with the Rector. We are very keen to train more people in the use of this equipment.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a good summer. Whether you are going away or enjoying some time off at home, we hope you will have the opportunity to be refreshed

and to reconnect with family and friends if that opportunity is there for you.

Our services will continue on Sundays at 11am and 7pm over the summer months.

With very best wishes.

**Yours sincerely,
Jonathan Pierce (Rector)
Telephone 028 90793822**



St. Finnian's Work Week.

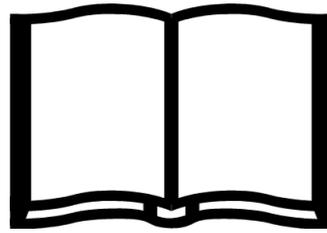
Due to the current Covid circumstances, we do not intend to hold a normal 'work week' this year. However, there are some works which have to be done, notably the clearance of the grass dumps along with some other gardening tasks. Many hands make light work, so please come along and help if you can spare some time for this yearly effort to keep our church and grounds looking well. We plan to work on Wednesday 30th June, Thursday 1st July, and if needed, Friday 2nd July, anytime you are free between 10 am and 8.30 pm. Please remember to bring gardening gloves. We look forward to seeing you.

**Karen Gately and Jim Haughey
Glebe Wardens**

From the Registers

Christian Burial 2021

25th June - Myrtle Hodgett



Holy Baptism 2021

3rd June - Leah Byrd
(daughter of Erin & Kwesi)

6th June - Eric Moore
(son of Ryan & Helen)

Remember to book online for Sunday Morning Services

Just a reminder that if you would like to attend the Sunday morning 11am service it is now necessary to book online using the 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.

The 11am service will continue to be livestreamed 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.

BOOK ONLINE NOW



Special Family Service & Sunday School prize-giving

On Sunday 27th June at our 11am service, we will be presenting prizes to our Sunday School children. Our children have been very faithful in participating in Sunday School over Zoom for the past 16 months. We would like to thank all our Sunday School teachers who have worked hard to facilitate this and keep our children and church connected during a very challenging time.

JESUS SAID, 'LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE.'
MATTHEW 19:14



General Prayers

Heavenly Father, as I come before you in prayer,
I give you thanks for the gift of my life, and for all those good
things I have received in it.

I offer you all that is broken within me and within my
relationships, and ask for your healing.

I hold before you all those people I know who are suffering
and in need today.

I ask you to bless my community and all those who care for
others.

I place into your eternal arms all those I love who have died.

O Lord, you hear the voice of all people,
and your ears are open to our calling.

Receive all the prayers of my heart,
and be with me each day as I continue my journey of life.

Amen.

Almighty God, whose Blessed Son Jesus Christ went about
doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease
among the people, continue in our hospitals his gracious work
among us; console and heal the sick; grant to the physicians,
nurses, and assisting staff wisdom and skill, diligence and
patience; prosper their work, O Lord, and send down your
blessing upon all who serve the suffering; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord, thank you for the small businesses in our communities,
for the hard work, the blood, sweat, and tears that have gone
into them. For many, their businesses are not just shops or
companies, they are the fabric of their lives and the lives of
their loved ones. We pray God that You will guide these small
business owners and provide for their families during this
difficult and uncertain time.

Amen.

Services for July



Sunday 4th July (5th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning Prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 11th July (6th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 18th July (7th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning Prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 25th July (8th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Holy Communion

7.00pm Holy Communion

Services for August



Sunday 1st August (9th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning Prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 8th August (10th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 15th August (11th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning Prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 22nd August (12th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning Prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 29th August (13th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Holy Communion

7.00pm Holy Communion

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

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



Samaritan's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2021

It is a bit early I know to be thinking about our shoe boxes, but I just wanted to remind anyone who is interested, that there will be an appeal again this year. Last year was very different but this year we hope things will be a bit more normal.

We should be able to shop for the boxes again and I will be able to provide the pre-printed boxes.

I will give an update in the September magazine and hopefully we can get going again with our shoe boxes.

Everyone always does such a great job and it would be lovely to get back to our normal way of doing things.

I will let you know how it is going to work as soon as I get more information.

Thank you to everyone.

Jill McPeak



Mothers' Union—Midday Prayers—July 2021
Rebuilding hope and confidence
Praying with purpose

Monday: Praying with purpose

We take a moment in the quiet to focus on our various prayer needs and make ready to bring them to God.

Jesus said:

Ask and keep on asking and it will be given to you; seek and keep on seeking and you will find; knock and keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:7-8 (AMP)

With faith and trust we ask:

We keep on asking for the needs we have or for those who are too weak to pray.

With prayerful purpose we seek:

We keep on seeking the answers we long for to find the way ahead.

With hope and confidence we knock:

We keep on knocking on heaven's door to open the resources we need.

With faith and trust we bring our prayers

**trusting in God's readiness to hear
and his power to answer.**

Amen.

Tuesday: Praying with thanksgiving

We take a moment in the quiet to remember our reasons for gratitude and make ready to pray with thanks to God.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

With faith and hope we bring our prayers to God; we enter his presence with joy.

Praise be to God,

who never discounts my prayer

or withholds his steadfast love from me!

May we cherish these times:

Precious moments with God

to pour out our hearts and listen for his reply.

Praise be to God,

who always listens to our prayers

and lavishes his steadfast love on us!

With joy and praise

we bring our prayers to God;

we enter his presence with faith.

**Praise be to God for the privilege
of drawing near to him in prayer.**

Amen.

Wednesday: Praying in steps

We take a moment in the quiet to focus on our prayer requests and make ready to take our first step in prayer.

Jesus said:

If you have faith as small as a mustard seed,
you can say to this mountain,
“Move from here to there,” and it will move.
Nothing will be impossible for you.

Matthew 17:20

**God of miracles bless our tiny steps in prayer
that mountains may be moved.**

Almighty and loving God,
take our faith, weak though it is.
Kindle the sparks of life within us
and fan a new flame within our hearts.

We set out on our journey in prayer,
with each step strengthening our faith
to continue to ask for the answers we seek
from our powerful, generous God.

**God of miracles take our tiny steps of prayer
and use them to bless your world.**

Amen.

Thursday: Praying creatively

We take a moment in the quiet to thank God for his inspiration and make ready to engage creatively in prayer.

May my prayer be set before you like incense;
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

Psalms 141:1-2

**May our prayers to God be as incense
as our intercessions rise heavenward.**

**May the lifting of our hands
be an offering of praise
as we linger in your presence.**

Lord, you keep the lamp of my life burning brightly.

Psalms 18:28

**By the lighting of a candle
I am reminded
to be your lamp in this dark world.**

I am reminded to share your warmth with others.
I am reminded of lights that have gone before.
I am reminded of lights that even now grow dim.
I am reminded to bring my prayerful offering.

**I am reminded to go from this place in joy.
Amen.**

Friday: Praying with others

We take a moment in the quiet to give thanks for our unity and make ready to pray together to God.

If two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

Where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.

Matthew 18:19-20

Loving Lord,

we thank you for the joy of coming together into your presence; to petition and plead in unity and faith.

**In unity and faith, as the family of God,
we offer you our prayers.**

We thank you for the joy of finding our numbers are swelled by the company of the Holy Spirit, who shows us how to pray and adds his prayers to ours.

**Through the prompting of the Spirit,
as the family of God,
we offer you our prayers.**

Amen.

Saturday: Praying as Jesus taught

We take a moment in the quiet to give thanks for Christ's example and make ready to pray as he showed us.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.

When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Luke 11:1

**Lord God,
like the disciples we ask, teach us how to pray.**

Teach us the secret of prayer – when to speak and when to keep silent, when to accept and when to go on seeking, when to persevere and when to let go,

teach us how to pray.

Teach us the power of prayer – its ability to challenge, to encourage, to transform all life,

teach us how to pray.

Teach us the joy of prayer - to express our worship, discover your will, and hear your voice.

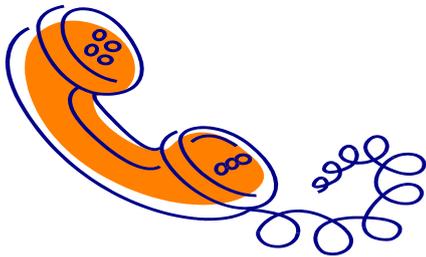
In the name of Christ.

Amen.

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 **September** magazine to **office.cregagh@down.anglican.org** or telephone the Parish Office 90792793 by NOON on **Tuesday 10th August.**

Don't forget to check out the church website:

www.stfinnians.org



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