

ST Finnian's

SEPTEMBER 2021

*Welcome to our new Curate
The Reverend Andy Hay &
his family.*



*See inside as Andy introduces
himself to the congregation.*

Dear Friends

September normally marks the return to all sorts of activities and organisations in parish life. People look forward to seeing friends they haven't seen for a while and immersing themselves in those activities that are important to them.

For the second consecutive year, as these notes go to print, we can't say with clarity what will unfold for all of our organisations and activities. We have begun a process of consulting with different organisations and groups to try to get a sense of where people are at with regards to resuming activities.

Some are very keen to get going again, others are not so sure and as always in these challenging times, there are risk assessments and precautions to be set in place before anything can happen as people's safety is our paramount concern.

In that regard the Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Reverend John McDowell recently issued a statement on behalf of the Church of Ireland following the loosening of some restrictions around public worship.

In this he stressed that the wearing of face coverings will

still be legally required when entering and exiting the building. It is also strongly advised that they be worn whilst singing or moving around inside church premises.

He also emphasised that 'The clear guidance from the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Advisor remains that face coverings should continue to be worn, therefore parishioners are strongly encouraged to continue wearing face coverings for the time being when attending church services as the benefits, particularly in regard to the welfare of others, outweigh the risks.

Congregational singing also considerably increases the risk of the spread of the virus so wearing a face covering is a necessary mitigation against that risk.'

The Archbishop also pointed out that by wearing a face covering we are showing our support and consideration for other members of the congregation, particularly the more vulnerable and those with underlying health concerns.

The full statement is available on our parish website but it seems very clear that we would be rather reckless to disregard the best scientific advice available to us. It seems a very appropriate point also to pay tribute to our caretaker Barbara, our Churchwardens Greg and Catherine and all our stewards, Glebewardens and the Select Vestry who have been doing all in their power to keep us all safe as we come to public worship. There is sanitising and cleaning in between services to make this possible as well as rigorous track and trace records and we appreciate everyone's help and cooperation as we endeavour to continue to meet together in person. The recent rise in infection numbers and the prevalence of the Delta variant mean that we must continue to be as careful and vigilant as possible.

Please do keep an eye on the parish website and Facebook page as we continue these discussions with our organisations and people will be in touch with members as soon as any activities are given the green light to resume.

While we may not have the clarity we would wish for in terms of the resumption of activities and organisations, there are things we do have definite plans for.

The first is to welcome our new Curate, The Reverend Andy Hay, his wife Jackie and his daughters Maddie and Emmy to the parish in September. Andy's ordination to the priesthood is scheduled to take place on Sunday afternoon, 5th September in Down Cathedral. We hope it will be live-streamed as attendance will no doubt be restricted.

Can we ask people to continue to hold Andy and his family in your prayers as they come to join us here please? You will find an article in this magazine where Andy introduces himself to everyone. I know he is really excited at the prospect and he will bring great gifts to us as he joins our parish family.

We also hope to have another Alpha course online beginning on Wednesday 8th September. The course begins at 8pm each week for 10 weeks and each session lasts an hour.

To take part please express your interest to the Rector or

the parish office and more information will be appearing on the Facebook page shortly. We also hope to continue with our weekly parish prayers online. It is a short time of Biblical meditation and quiet prayer over Zoom and we have been very encouraged to see God's hand upon our parish as people have prayed together in this way over the past year. We usually pray for the church, for the world around us, and for people who have asked us to remember them. If you'd like to join us just send an email to zoomtostfinnian@btconnect.com and you will receive a weekly invitation.

We want to take this opportunity to wish all our younger parishioners well as they return to school and university in the coming weeks. Education has been severely disrupted over this past year and a half and we hope that things will stabilise to enable people to enter fully into all that their educational opportunities have to offer.

Very best wishes to everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Pierce (Rector)

Telephone 028 90793822

BISHOP'S BIBLE WEEK

This year there will be some excellent Bible teaching, worship and ministry at the annual Bible Week. The speaker is Rev Mark Aldridge who will lead participants in four studies in Jonah under the title, "A Confident Church".

Mark is an Assistant National Leader for New Wine and Director of Church Leadership Development.

Programme for the week

Tuesday 31st August

(online & for Select Vestries only)
Running from the call of God
(Jonah 1:1-2:7)

In-person at Shankill Parish Church, Lurgan

Wednesday 1st September

Grace, resurrection and a bolder confidence (Jonah 2:8-3:3)

Thursday 2nd September

Confidence in the toughest places (Jonah 3:4-3:10)

Friday 3rd September

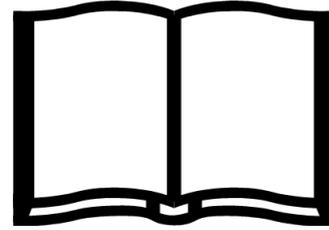
Confidence in the compassion of God (Jonah 4:1-11)

Everyone is welcome to Shankill Parish Church on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. Each evening will also be shared live via social media.

From the Registers 2021

Christian Burial

28th June - William (Billy) Glass
9th July - Ellen (Nell) Bickerstaffe
17th July - Bridie McCollum
21st July - James Crowe
2nd August - Gerald Murphy
12th August - Robert (Bob) Chalmers

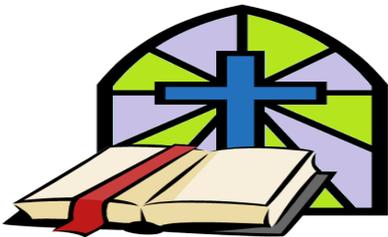


Christian Marriage

31st July - Chris Geoghegan & Aimee Cunningham
14th August - Sarah McBurney & Gareth Sloan

Holy Baptism

8th August - Daisy McElevey
(daughter of Shannon & Stevie)



Book of Remembrance

A Service of Thanksgiving for those who have died in the past year is held each year on the first Sunday of November. Prior to that date the families are contacted in September to provide details for The Book of Remembrance which is updated prior to the service. This year, due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, the forms for completion which are usually at the back of the Church will be emailed or posted to you. These should be completed and returned before **Sunday 26th September** to Linda Leonard. If you have any queries please contact Linda at 02890 594835. Arrangements for the Service of Thanksgiving this year may be subject to restrictions current in November and will be discussed with the families closer to the time.

ST. FINNIAN'S NEW CURATE



Hello everyone

I'm sure some of you remember me from my time in St. Finnian's in early 2020 where I spent 3 months on placement for my Theology degree. I am delighted to be returning as your Curate and I thought I would let you know a little bit about my background. I grew up in a Missionary family. My parents both worked with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship in Japan. Following that, my parents, sister and I returned to the UK and Dad became a minister in the Scottish Baptist Church. I studied Theology at Aberdeen University and it was there that I met Jackie, a student from Belfast who proved to be far more interesting than the official curriculum! After university, I took a postgraduate course in teacher training. That was around 25 years ago. Jackie and I are now married with two daughters: Maddie (15) and Emmy (11). Since Aberdeen, I have been a primary school teacher and it is a job I have loved. It has been an absolute privilege to serve children and their families in the classroom. Around six years ago I felt called to explore the option of serving in the church through ordained ministry. I thoroughly enjoyed the training process with the Church of Ireland, and I was treated very well during all of my placements, not least in St. Finnian's! Now I am beginning a new role within the church, and I am looking forward to serving as your Curate in St. Finnian's Parish Church. I know we will be made very welcome and it will be great to get to know you as individuals, as a congregation and as a parish over the next few years.

Andy Hay

Services for September



Sunday 5th September (14th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning Prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 12th September (15th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 19th September (16th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning Prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 26th September (17th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Holy Communion

7.00pm Holy Communion

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 still 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.



St Finnian's Messy Church is still going strong.....

Thank you to everyone who has supported Messy Church and made it happen....



Our Messy Church online has been going strong for the past 15 months. With a huge team effort we have supported the church to deliver Messy Church to families across Belfast with stories, videos and crafts.

Jono has supported us all the way with his services and he has been helped by Maximus the Mouse. The children and their families have been introduced to Pentecost, Prayer, Light & Hope, Honesty,

Overcoming things and much, much more.

The Church has provided gift bags (with craft materials and children's Bibles) and the team helped deliver 500 flyers locally to invite families along. The media department put it all online and this was a fantastic effort .. thank you to every one of you.

Watch out for our next Messy Church on 24th September.

It may be online but depending on circumstances, if we can resume in the church hall we might be back in person still offering stories about Jesus, crafts and fun.

Our next theme follows our HOPE series...

P for Perseverance

Keep an eye on the church website, www.stfinnians.org and our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/StFinnians](https://www.facebook.com/StFinnians) for updates.
Thanks. **Jill McPeak**

Prayers for the world

Loving God, Lord of heaven and earth, this earth, our home, belongs to you. Give us grace to love it as you do.

Give us courage to give ourselves, as you do, for the good of all people and all of your creation. Strengthen us to stand, as you do, with the vulnerable poor. Give us wisdom to know when we have enough, and the voice to say “enough” to all that harms creation and hurts the poorest.

This earth, our home, belongs to you.

Amen.

Dear Lord, you hold our world in your hands. You hear your creation groaning but you have promised to liberate it from its pain. We pray: renew our world. Forgive those of us who haven't used their power wisely. Give us and our leaders the courage to think beyond our own economies; to seek genuine partnerships so that all people can experience the fullness of life, and that our planet is known to be the common home for all creation and future generations.

Amen.

Lord, we pray for our leaders whose decisions and policies have the potential to impact the lives of millions of people around the world - people who they may never meet, know, or be aware of, but who are your sons and daughters. God, we pray that your spirit will fill our leaders' hearts and heads that they might hear the voices of the impoverished, the oppressed and the vulnerable. God help them see the impact of their actions, and the potential to release healing and hope through just policies.

Amen.



Samaritan's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2021

We are back.....

This year we will be supporting Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal and you will be able to fill your box and bring it into church. **Amazing**

I will be at church with the preprinted boxes (just like before) but not exactly the same as I will be outside the church this time. You will still be able to collect your box, fill it with gifts for a child and then bring it back into church.

Remember preprinted boxes are 50p (please bring the correct money as with Covid it would make it much easier).

When?

I will be at church with shoeboxes on Sunday 5th, 12th and 19th September.

Shoeboxes will be collected on Sunday 26th September and Sunday 3rd October.



Thanks.

Jill McPeak

PS: you can still donate online if you prefer.....

Hello Everyone

I hope you all have had a lovely summer enjoying the weather and the opportunity to meet up with friends and family. By now you will have all received Clare's letter explaining the issues surrounding us all meeting again etc. The Committee plan to meet in the forthcoming weeks to decide the best way to take this forward and we will let you all know what is decided as soon as possible.

It is lovely to let you all know that one of our members, Nell Moncrieff celebrated her 99th birthday in June.

Clare, Hilda, Julie and I visited her for her birthday with a birthday cake (Julie joined us later which is why she isn't in the photograph!) We spent a lovely time with Nell and are looking forward to the 'Big Bash' next year Nell.

Sadly one of our members Bridie McCollum died during the summer. Bridie had been a member of the Mothers' Union for many years and our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter Sandra and her family at this difficult time.

Sandra has sent me a card thanking me for our sympathy card and saying how much pleasure her mother took in being a member of the Mothers' Union and that she appreciated the support she had received in recent years.

The Midday Prayers for September are detailed overleaf.

Carol Bell

Branch Secretary



Mothers' Union—Midday Prayers—September 2021
Rebuilding hope and confidence
Season of Creation

Monday: Creator God

In your time, Creator God, this world was put in place,
and in your time became beautiful,
through the craftsmanship of your love.
Remind us always, as we look at sunrise,
landscape and tiny child, that at the centre of all things,
is the creative love of God.

**You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created and have their being.**

Revelation 4:11

The earth is yours O Lord

You created it and gave it form.

You called life out of chaos

**Made humankind in your image,
co-creators with you.**

You looked at all you had made and pronounced it good

Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

Tuesday: Creation

**The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.

There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

**Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.**

Psalms 19:1-4

Creation proclaims the glory of God

Let our lips not stay silent.

Nature sings its praise to God

Let our praise rise in harmony

The heavens declare the splendour of God

Let our lives reflect his beauty.

May we, who alone of all his creation,
know the joy of God's eternal salvation,
let our mouths, hearts and lives be filled
with praise and thanksgiving
above all in heaven and earth.

Amen.

Wednesday: Caring for creation

You appointed them rulers over everything you made;
you placed them over all creation.

Psalm 8:6

**All that God has made is very good;
let us steward creation with integrity and care.**

Lord we give thanks that all you have made is very good:
For the quality and quantity of your provision;
enough for all throughout your world to eat their fill and thrive.
Lord forgive us that our stewardship has not been good:
We have exploited our union with creation;
taking without replenishing; hoarding without sharing.
Lord, help us to take responsibility for the future:
To sustain and value your creation,
that those to come will find a fruitful inheritance.

**All that God has made is very good;
let us steward creation with integrity and care.**

Amen.

Thursday: Fruitfulness of creation

The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed
according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it
according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:12

**Lord of creation,
bountiful giver,
we bring you our first fruits of praise.**

One crop, one fruit, one seed,
one flower, one creature, one race.
If all creation was one of each kind,
we would overflow with gratitude and praise.
Yet, Lord, we are blessed by your lavish abundance;
we marvel at nature's diversity.

Lord of creation,
we give you thanks for nature's rich variety.
Lord of the harvest,
we praise you for creation's wondrous array.

**Lord of creation,
bountiful giver,
we bring you our first fruits of praise
and celebrate your goodness
with thankful hearts.**

Amen.

Friday: Climate change

I brought you into a land of plenty,
to enjoy its gifts and goodness,
but you ruined my land;
you disgraced my heritage.

Jeremiah 2:7

**God of life,
we pray for all those who are struggling
with the effects of climate change
and the exploitation of our earth's resources.**

Fill us with a spirit of concern for the future,
that we may learn from our state of environmental irresponsibility
and become responsible custodians of your creation.
May those in authority make decisions that will be life-giving for all.

**Inspire us to refocus our lives
and centre on all you have created,
so we may redress the injustice of climate change
and look forward
to a future full of hope
in a caring, sharing, respectful world.
In Jesus' name.**

Amen.

Saturday: Creator God

The God who made the world and everything in it
is the Lord of heaven and earth.

In him we live and move and have our being.

Acts 17:24, 28

O Divine Voice,

You sing and the universe comes into being;

O Divine Breath,

You breathe and all things spring to life;

O Divine Word,

You call and creation is sustained;

O Divine Flesh,

You are born among us,

and the Creator is clothed in creation;

In amazement and awe, in wonder and celebration
we marvel at this mystery:

In you all things live and move and have being,

In all things, you live and move

and express your Divine artistry;

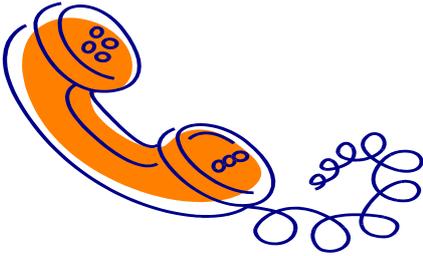
**And so we join with creation
in the eternal song of worship and wonder.**

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

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.

Magazine

Please send articles for inclusion in the **October** magazine to office.cregagh@down.anglican.org or telephone the Parish Office 90792793 by NOON on **Tuesday 7th September.**

Don't forget to check out the church website:

www.stfinnians.org



Find us on Facebook!
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Registered with
The Charity Commission for
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