

ST Finnian's

OCTOBER 2021

*Looking forward to the reopening of
some parish activities in person.
(see inside for details).*



*Come & celebrate
Harvest Thanksgiving on
Sunday 24th October.*

Dear Friends

We are really excited to announce our continuing plans to resume some of our regular parish activities and organisations in October as we work our way through the risk assessments we need to complete. During the past month the Sunday School, the Boys' Brigade and Anchor Boys, Messy Church and St. Finnian's Toddlers have been looking at how to return to meeting in person safely. These processes are not without their complexity and I want to thank, on all our behalf, our dedicated leaders and volunteers who are working in partnership with the Glebewardens and the Select Vestry to see if we can make these important activities happen again. As we make these preparations and plans we want to reassure you that people's safety is our paramount concern. We want our activities to feel safe for both our leaders and all participants and so we need to work well and cooperatively together to ensure this is possible. As the regulations continue to change it will also involve new risk assessments in the church itself

as we put in place measures to allow for a gradual increase in numbers allowed to assemble at services. While these are really exciting and positive developments we are also aware of the high infection rates at present and in order to keep one another safe we ask you to continue to wear a face mask, to wash your hands and keep your distance as we gather together. I want to thank our wardens and caretaker and stewards for the way in which they have worked so hard and cheerfully to keep us all safe over this past 6 months since the building reopened after the last lockdown. The Mothers' Union and Men's Society are also exploring how best to approach their return and all these important discussions take time as we try to consult with people and see how they feel about returning. While we are doing all in our power to reopen we ask for your prayers and we recognise the ongoing challenges of our current situation. Regulations are constantly changing and we are doing our best to respond to these and put in place the best

measures we can to keep all our parishioners safe. There is also the recognition that people feel the need to be cautious and may not yet feel ready to return to such activities at the present time. Throughout this difficult season we have sought to be as open and transparent with people as we possibly can and we will continue to do so and communicate any information we have about the changing situation.

We are also looking forward to our Harvest Thanksgiving services at the end of October. We look forward to welcoming Reverend Adrian McCartney, Rector of Belvoir as our preacher at the morning service on 24th October and our preacher at the evening service will be the rector of St. John's Orangefield, Reverend Ross Wilson. Adrian and Ross are both very gifted communicators and we look forward to having two of our neighbouring Rectors from our local Area Deanery coming to share with us on this special Sunday. Because of the current restrictions we will not be in a position to decorate the church as we normally do with all the

flowers and fruits of Harvest but we hope we will be able to have some flowers by that point and we also hope to encourage our congregation to bring some non-perishable foodstuffs which will be distributed through The Larder foodbank run from St. Christopher's, Mersey Street. We have partnered with The Larder before and it's a real beacon of hope and support for families going through desperately difficult times so we hope you can get involved in that. In particular The Larder would be grateful for tinned fish, custard and rice pudding. Keep an eye on the church's Facebook page and the parish website and there will be further information given out in church announcements in the coming weeks. It is a real joy to have Reverend Andy Hay among us as our new curate and I know he has really appreciated your kindness and welcome as he gets settled in with his wife and family.

Last year we were forced to conduct our annual service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for those who have died in the past year in very restricted circumstances.

As a result, we asked the congregation to stay at home and watch or listen online as we invited the families who had lost loved ones to come in person to that particular service. This year we hope to offer the Service of Thanksgiving & Remembrance at both the morning and evening services. Further updates will appear on the church website and Facebook page.

Can we ask you to pray for all schools and teachers and pupils as they work their way through this term? It would be wonderful for students at primary, secondary and third level to get through this year without the disruption of the past number of years.

Can we please remember too to stay in touch by phone or cards with those who live alone or have moved into nursing homes or sheltered accommodation?
One of the great strengths of this parish is how people support one another and we have seen the value of this in the past couple of years so if

we can continue to build upon that into the future.

Very best wishes to everyone.

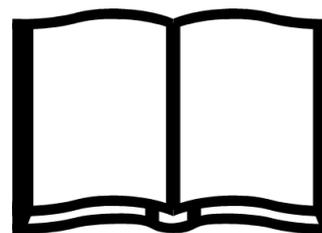
**Yours sincerely,
Jonathan Pierce (Rector)
Telephone 028 90793822**

**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.

BOOK ONLINE NOW

From the Registers 2021

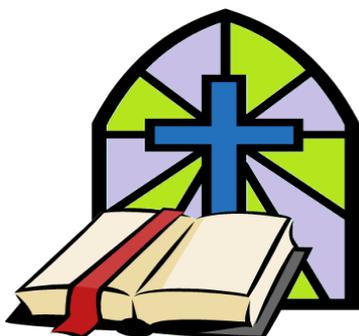


Christian Marriage

8th September - Erin Healey & Simon Davey

Holy Baptism

26th August - Emily Kidd
(daughter of Sarah & Simon)



Service of Remembrance

On the first Sunday in November
(on 7th November this year) we are
holding our annual

Service of Thanksgiving and

Remembrance for those who have died in the past year. It is always a poignant service in which we give thanks to God for those people who have been part of our church's life. The Book of Remembrance is always updated at this time of year and should be returned to us in time for this special service. This year we hope to hold the service at both the 11am and 7pm services. Keep an eye on the church website and Facebook page for more information. Family members and friends of those who have died are invited to submit photographs which will be displayed during the service.

If you would like a photograph of your loved one to be included, please email it to Peter Cooper at pcooper@ntlworld.com before Sunday 10th October.

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. Our activities have been severely curtailed because of COVID but we are looking forward to the new Boys' Brigade year which is scheduled to begin on Monday 4th October for the Company and Junior Sections with the Anchor Boys resuming on Tuesday 5th October. This will be subject to the prevailing conditions at that time. As we seek to return to face-to-face activities, we are required to meet Government, Boys' Brigade and local Church requirements to ensure the safety of the Officers, the boys and their families. This will include increased PPE, socially distanced activities and a structured programme reflecting the current conditions. You will have read in the August magazine that numbers have decreased across the range of youth related activities within St. Finnian's so as we start our new session we would be delighted to welcome new members for all Sections. 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. The Anchor Boys' activities consist of a 5-zone programme for which the boys receive one badge each year.



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

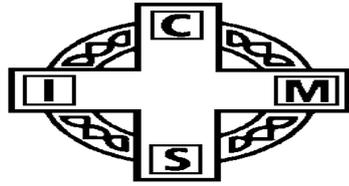
Junior Section is our second section and is for boys aged between 8 and 11. Junior Section meetings are crammed full of challenges, games and activities. The award programme is specifically designed to encourage a child to look beyond themselves. Many are interested in one type of activity - perhaps 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. We will, subject to Government COVID guidance, also get to go on trips and days out to places like the zoo, theme parks or a farm.

Company Section - Mondays - 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 please feel free to contact any of our Officers in charge of the Section:-

Company Captain: Trevor Smyth	Tel: 07710732592
Company Section: Michael Cunningham	Tel: 07834237415
Junior Section: Linda Lyons	Tel: 07724878607
Anchor Boys: Matthew Elder	Tel: 07450587826



Church of Ireland Men's Society

As most members will already know, we have decided to delay the recommencement of meetings, which would normally begin again in October after the summer break. We are now aiming to restart at the beginning of the New Year. While we are anxious to meet again as soon as possible, the health of our members is paramount, and numbers diagnosed with COVID are still high. Also, by delaying now, we have a better chance of maximising numbers attending when we do start, as well as attracting speakers who may be hesitant at this time to recommence speaking engagements. Hopefully, by the start of the New Year, restrictions will be further relaxed and we will feel more at ease in mixing socially. In the meantime, we hope and pray that all members, family and friends stay safe.

Ralph McMurray
Hon. Secretary.

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.



PRACTICALLY PERFECT
(CHARITY SHOP IN NEWTOWNARDS)

During lockdown, the staff in the **Fields Of Life** charity shop have worked hard and redecorated and 'revamped' the shop. I am delighted to report this has increased our sales. As a result we are currently looking for donations. We accept all clothing but at present are particularly looking for ladies' handbags and bric-a-brac. Any donations will be gratefully received and if I can help with small items please contact me on **028 90798817**. Also, if you are shopping in Newtownards, we would love to see you. (The shop is opposite Wardens.) Thank you.

Helen McKnight





SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

WHEN? Sunday 3rd October at 11.00am

WHERE? Church Hall

After what seems like such a long time, we are delighted that Sunday School will be back in the church hall at the 11am service on Sunday 3rd October. Throughout the lockdown, Sunday School continued to meet over Zoom, so well done to all the teachers and children who took part so faithfully to allow us all to stay in touch.

It will be great to see everyone again and any children in P1-P7 who would like to come along will be very welcome. We will be having fun as always learning Bible stories, making crafts and playing games.

All Covid guidelines will be followed to ensure that everyone will be safe.

If you are thinking about sending your child and have any queries, please contact Linda in the church office on 028 90792793 (Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9.00am-2.00pm), or email office.cregagh@down.anglican.org

Services for October



Sunday 3rd October (18th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning Prayer
7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 10th October (19th Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Morning prayer
7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 17th October (20th Sunday after Trinity)

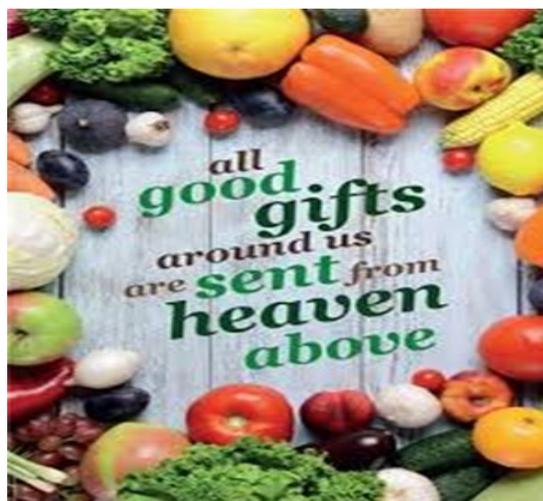
11.00am Holy Communion
7.00pm Holy Communion

Sunday 24th October (5th Sunday before Advent)

11.00am Harvest Thanksgiving
7.00pm Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 31st October (4th Sunday before Advent)

11.00am Morning Prayer
7.00pm Evening Prayer





The team at St Finnian's church in Cregagh, has been working hard to bring you our Messy Church online. We will be up and running from **Friday 24th September 2021** (Facebook, St Finnian's church website & YouTube) and we would love you and your friends & family to come along and join us. Hope you have fun.

Find us at: <https://www.stfinnians.org>

HOPE is our theme this year and we are going to look at the third letter P for **Perseverance**.

This is a long word, which just means to keep trying as hard as you can to get something done or to get better at doing something. Praying to God and asking our family to help us can give us strength to persevere, to keep working to finish a task or learn something new - never give up...



There will be songs, stories, crafts and puzzles and you will learn a bit more about how Noah persevered to build the Ark like God asked him to, and the importance of spending time asking God to help you.

We would love to see your finished crafts - take a picture and then send it to the Messy Church team at <mailto:office.cregagh@down.anglican.org>



Craft materials

Black felt tip
2 toilet roll tubes
Sellotape/
Pritt Stick

Coloured card Yellow/orange;
grey/purple/blue/ red/ green

4 googly eyes

Pipe cleaners (but can use
coloured card)

A small box painted blue
Paper

Perseverance

Philippians 4:13 God gives me strength

Prayers for climate change

Creator of our common home,
You fill the earth and sea and sky with life
Forgive us our neglect of your creation
The choking waste of our pollution
The damage done by careless habits
And our indifference to future generations.
Help us to amend our lives
To refuse more plastic if we can't reuse it
To lift our voice for lasting change
And to live well and gently on the earth
To the glory of your Son, the Living Word
Through whom you made this fragile world.

Amen.

Creator God,
We acknowledge that as your handiwork, we stand alongside all
that you have made.
Trees and rivers, mountains and valleys, soaring birds and
scuttling creatures, all are held within your care.
May we grow in our love and appreciation for the fabulous variety
around us and may our awe and wonder draw us closer
to the natural world, and through it to you,
the God of all things.
We pray in Jesus name,

Amen.

God of life, we praise you for the beauty of creation,
its richness and variety; yet, through greed and ignorance,
we scar your world with plastic waste and throw so much away.
Make us more like Jesus, treading gently on our common home,
and breathe your Spirit on us, that we may care more deeply for
your Earth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Samaritan's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2021

Have you got your shoe box ready, packed with gifts for a child for Christmas?.....then bring it back in to church and I will get it on its way for you.....

Shoe boxes can be left at the church during the 11 am service on Sunday 3rd or Sunday 10th October.

I will be outside to collect them from you.

Many thanks.

Jill McPeak

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





Hello Ladies

Can you believe that it is October already ? Normally we would be having our opening service and meeting - it was always a busy night wasn't it? As you all know we have been unable to meet due to current restrictions however we have decided to hold a **Mothers' Union Holy Communion Service in St Finnian's church on Saturday 2nd October at 10.30am**. The service will be conducted in line with the current regulations. I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend this service. It will be lovely to see you all again. I am happy to report that Clare and I have finally completed our walk (10 miles) for the Mums in May / Branch funds. If you would like to sponsor us for the walk please send your donation (with your name and address) to **Helen McKnight, Branch Treasurer, 21 Elsmere Heights, Belfast BT5 7TN by 30th October 2021**.

If you would like to order the Mothers' Union Diary, 2022 Calendar or 2022 Year Planner details of the costs are as follows:-

Mothers' Union Diary - £4.50

A4 Calendar 2022 - £1.90

2022 Year Planner - £3.90

Helen McKnight, Branch Treasurer, will be placing an order for our Branch so if you would like to order any of the above items please contact **Helen (Telephone No:028 90798817) by 30th October 2021**. When ordering please provide Helen with your name, address and telephone number. Helen will order from the MU shop and then she will deliver and collect the money for the items when she receives them.

Finally, the Midday prayers for October are set out overleaf.

Carol Bell

Branch Secretary

Mothers' Union—Midday Prayers—October 2021
Rebuilding hope and confidence
Hope for freedom

Monday: Freedom from sin

**Loving Lord, break the chains of sin
and set us free to follow you.**

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Charles Wesley

Christ our Saviour, we struggle to break free from the bonds of sin and selfishness.
Loose their hold, through your atoning love, that we may follow you.
Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free
from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:2

When Christ makes us free, we are free indeed.

Praise be to God.

Amen.

Tuesday: Imprisonment

**Loving Lord, break the chains of crime
which bind both culprit and victim.**

Lord, you offer freedom to all people:

We pray for those in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends;
prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded
by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another.

To act justly, love mercy

and walk humbly together with Christ

in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day.

Amen.

www.prisonweek.org

The Lord is merciful, compassionate, patient, and always ready to forgive.

Psalms 145:8

When Christ makes us free, we are free indeed.

Praise be to God.

Amen.

Wednesday: Mothers' Union prisons work

**Loving Lord, break the chains of troubles
for families torn apart.**

We pray for the work of Mothers' Union
to help those in prison and their families.

Bless our efforts to support the families
to cope with the challenges they face.

Give us favour with authority for access to those who need our care.

**Renew and strengthen us
to work together
for a free and just society;
to grow your kingdom on earth.**

Amen.

“When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?”

The King will answer, “I tell you the truth.

Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me.”

Matthew 25:39-40 (ICB)

When Christ makes us free, we are free indeed.

Praise be to God.

Amen.

Thursday: Freedom from captivity

**Loving Lord, break the chains of captivity
over body, mind and soul.**

Proclaim your words of freedom to those enslaved by oppression.

**Lord, break the chains that bind,
and set the captives free.**

Send your Spirit of freedom to those enslaved by fear.

**Lord, break the chains that bind,
and set the captives free.**

Impart your power of freedom to those enslaved by addiction.

**Lord, break the chains that bind,
and set the captives free.**

Reveal your way of freedom
to those enslaved by adversity.

**Lord, break the chains that bind,
and set the captives free.**

He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released...
that the oppressed will be set free.

Luke 4:18

When Christ makes us free, we are free indeed.

Praise be to God.

Amen.

Friday: Freedom in Christ

**Loving Lord,
break the chains of legalism
and set us free to walk in grace.**

Amazing grace!

We are set free from the shame of sin
and clothed in righteousness.

**All praise to our Redeemer;
all glory to his name.**

We are set free from failing God
and share in the victory of Christ.

**All praise to our Redeemer;
all glory to his name.**

We are set free from the fear of death.
and given fullness of life.

**All praise to our Redeemer;
all glory to his name.**

Christ has set us free! This means we are really free.
Now hold on to your freedom and don't ever become
slaves of the Law again.

Galatians 5:1 (CEV)

When Christ makes us free, we are free indeed.

Praise be to God.

Amen.

Saturday: Freedom from poverty

**Loving Lord, break the chains of poverty
that all the world may flourish.**

God of compassion, your eyes are turned to the poor and needy.

Turn our gaze to see the need around us.

Give us a vision of an equal world where poverty has no place.

**God of justice,
your face is set against poverty.**

Shake us out of our comfort.

Challenge us to counter injustice whatever the cost to ourselves.

Envision us to act and pray.

Inspire us to work for a future hope of fullness of life for all.

Amen.

I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor
and upholds the cause of the needy.

Psalms 140:12

When Christ makes us free, we are free indeed.

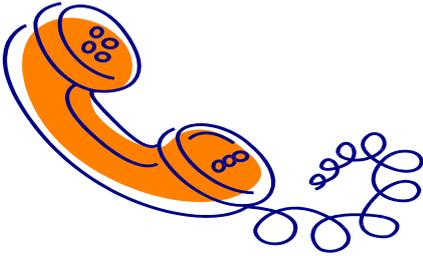
Praise be to God.

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 BY EMAIL

If you would like to receive your magazine by email, contact Linda in the office (details above). This helps the environment by cutting down on the use of paper and also saves postage.

Magazine

Please send articles for inclusion in the **November** magazine to office.cregagh@down.anglican.org or telephone the Parish Office 90792793 by NOON on **Tuesday 5th October.**

Don't forget to check out the church website:

www.stfinnians.org



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

Registered with
The Charity Commission for
Northern Ireland NIC101977