

ST Finnian's

APRIL 2022

The Healing Power of The Cross



*Holy Week services 11th - 14th April at
7.30pm with Dr Stephen Rodgers.*

*Good Friday prayer vigil—church open from
7am - 7.30pm. Service of Tenebrae at 7.30pm.*

Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 11am & 7pm.

All welcome.

Dear Friends

As we journey through the season of Lent, it's often a season when we strip things back. We perhaps try to give up some treats or luxuries we normally enjoy. We perhaps try to immerse ourselves in some spiritual disciplines like Bible reading or prayer or to attend some special services during this season which might awaken us further to the presence of God in our lives.

Some people like to avail of the opportunity recently reopened to us of sharing Holy Communion weekly on Wednesday mornings and to pray for the sick. Some people always like to attend our Thursday night Lenten services at 7.30pm. These short services of 35-40 minutes will be on the topic of Discipleship and will have already begun by the time this magazine goes to print. Our speaker this year is our curate Reverend Andy Hay who did his final dissertation on the topic of Discipleship so I have no doubt he will have helpful insights to share with us. Hopefully they will both encourage and challenge us as we seek to follow Jesus in our daily lives.

During Holy week from 11th-15th April, we look forward to

welcoming Dr Stephen Rodgers as our speaker from Monday-Thursday. Stephen is a medical doctor serving in general practice and the Pastor of King's Way Church in Dunmurry. He is going to speak on the topic of "The Healing Power of The Cross". The series was designed as we emerge from the pandemic and consider how it affected our lives in so many ways over these past two years. We now also have the backdrop of the conflict in Ukraine and there is a sense that our world is in need of God's healing perhaps more than ever before. The Lenten services and Holy Week services will all be live-streamed and we thank the technology team for all their work in making this opportunity available to those who cannot be with us for various reasons. We do want to encourage people to try to come to these services in person if you can as they are always a very special focus in our mission and ministry in this place. We are hoping that it will be possible to leave the church open for private prayer on Good Friday from 7am until after our evening service and there

will be some prompts for prayer in the church. It is always a special and sombre day and it will be good to have a stream of constant prayer for the world and our parish flowing throughout that day if you can come and take responsibility for praying for half an hour. Your prayers are greatly needed at this very worrying time for the world as we invite people to pray for peace and for all our world leaders and those who are in positions of influence.

The Easter General Vestry, the Annual Business Meeting of the church, will hopefully take place on Tuesday 5th April in the parish hall at 7.30pm. At this meeting we normally hear a report from the Rector, from the Honorary Treasurer and elect a new Select Vestry to serve for the incoming year. Those who are registered as Members are entitled to vote.

Over this season of Lent we often turn our thoughts to those going through times of difficulty. We have coordinated our parish response to the Ukraine Crisis through the Bishops' Appeal. They are working in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and Christian Aid in working with partners on the

ground to offer help and support to refugees making their way across the Ukrainian borders to neighbouring countries. We have also been inviting those who can to bring tinned fruit or vegetables for The Larder Foodbank.

The impact of the war in Ukraine is being felt through rising fuel and gas bills and many people are finding it difficult to manage.

If you find yourself in that position please get in touch with either the Curate or myself and we will do all in our power to offer some practical assistance in a small way. The church is a family and we need to work together and support one another in these very challenging times. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our organisations and their leaders who have been endeavouring to get up and running in person again in recent months. It's not easy as we try to follow the Guidance and enable everyone who comes, to feel both welcome and safe. I know those who participate in these activities have really valued the opportunity to meet again in person.

We are likely to continue some activities online for a while still as sometimes they work better practically for people.

After Easter we therefore hope to be running a new Alpha course online and offering the opportunity to people who want to pray for the world and the parish to do so online on Thursday evenings.

As you slow down and pray and reflect during this Holy Season may you find the presence and peace of God in your life.

With very best wishes.

**Yours sincerely,
Jonathan Pierce (Rector)
Telephone 02890 793822**



PARISH PRAYER MEETINGS BY ZOOM

Our Parish Prayer Meetings by Zoom will resume at 7pm on Thursday 28th April. During these meetings we pray for our province, our church and the world around us. If you would like to join us, send an email to zoomtostfinnian@btconnect.com or contact the Rector.

St.Finnian's flower arranging for 2022



In St. Finnian's we have been very lucky over the years to have a group of very dedicated ladies who keep our church looking beautiful with fresh flower arrangements. The church will be decorated with fresh flowers again for Easter. The flower donation rota, in memory of loved ones who who have died, will be operating from September for anyone who wants to take part again and any new donations will be very welcome.

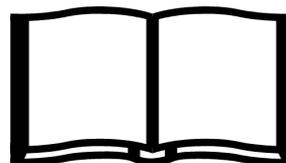
Unfortunately the numbers in our team of flower arrangers have dwindled, so only simple arrangements will be prepared in future unless we can strengthen our team of volunteers. If you would like to join the flower donation rota or are willing to help with the flower arrangements, please contact Linda in the church office, (contact details on back of magazine). Volunteers would be greatly appreciated!

From the Registers 2022

Christian Burial

10th March - Samuel James (Jim) Woods

26th March - Harry Irwin



THE BOYS' BRIGADE/ANCHOR BOYS EASTER ARRANGEMENTS

The Junior and Company Sections will finish for Easter by attending the Holy Week service on Monday 11th April at 7.30pm. The Anchor Boys will finish on Tuesday 5th April. Both Anchor Boys and BB will return after Easter on the week beginning Monday 25th April.

If you would like to find out more about joining the Anchor Boys and BB, contact Trevor Smyth, Tel: 07710732592. New members welcome!

Use of Halls – Heating



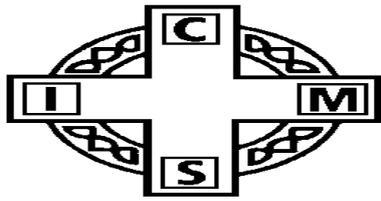
We will all be aware of the recent increases in the cost of oil and gas, our halls are heated by oil so it is important that we manage carefully the use of the heating system.

Would all organisations using the halls please make sure that if for any reason the hall is not to be used on one of your regular days/nights, you contact one of the people listed below to make sure the heating is not operational on that occasion. This may be particularly true around holiday times, as it may not be clear when regular usage stops and restarts. This way we can avoid any possible wastage.

Many thanks for your cooperation, stay warm!

Peter Cooper Mobile 078 0246 4848

Jim Haughey Mobile 078 5038 9831



Paul Clements will be making a return visit to the Men's Society on Thursday 21st April at 8.00 pm. This time he will be speaking about the Wild Atlantic

Way. In the summer of 1991, Paul hitchhiked along the coastline of Ireland for his first travel book, "Irish Shores: A Journey Round the Rim of Ireland". Twenty-five years on, he retraced his footsteps for a new book based on a journey along the Wild Atlantic Way, stretching from Donegal to West Cork. This time he took his own wheels, but also travelled by bike, horseback, ferry and on foot along what is classified as the world's longest continuous driving route. He found many changes and challenges, and presents the highlights of his journey as an illustrated talk that reflects the myths and folklore of the people of the West of Ireland.

This is one not to be missed. Come along, bring a friend, and be immersed in Ireland's rich tapestry.

Ralph McMurray

Hon. Secretary

General Maintenance



The church premises require regular maintenance to keep them in good order, so it is an advantage to have a regular schedule for works both for buildings and grounds. This would give people an opportunity to volunteer a few hours a month to assist in the upkeep of our estate. Accordingly, the **last Saturday** of each month will be designated for a work morning, with attendance programmed for, say 9.00 am to 11.00 am, for anyone who might be available. Work would include general light duties, tidying up, pruning, spraying, brushing etc.

The next date is Saturday 30th April 2022.

See you then !

Jim Haughey

Glebewarden

Ladies' Open Door **Friendship Group**

Hello Ladies

I hope you are all enjoying our meetings. I have included a photograph of one of the displays from Johann Henderson's very artistic flower arranging demonstration from our meeting in February.



Our normal first meeting of this month falls in Holy Week so we'll just be getting together once in April. On Wednesday 27th at 2.00pm, we are pleased to welcome Esther Ross who will describe her passion for beekeeping.

All ladies of the Parish are warmly invited to this meeting.

Julie Cunningham

Tel: 07814928398

ST. FINNIAN'S TODDLERS

The booking system is no longer required for Toddlers in line with Government Guidelines . Our last day of meeting before Easter is Monday 4th April. We are closed for Holy Week beginning 11th April and Easter week beginning 18th April. We will return on Monday 25th April but are then off again on Monday 2nd May . Happy 80th birthday to our friend Sadie King and best wishes for many more. We would like to thank Sadie for all her support, friendship and devoted service to Toddlers over many years.



Services for April



Sunday 3rd April (5th Sunday in Lent)

11.00am Morning Prayer
7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 10th April (Palm Sunday)

11.00am Morning Prayer
7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 17th April (Easter Day)

11.00am Holy Communion
7.00pm Holy Communion

Sunday 24th April (2nd Sunday of Easter)

11.00am Morning Prayer
7.00pm Evening Prayer

ST. FINNIAN'S MIXED INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

This month the bowling club will be meeting on Wednesday 6th and Wednesday 20th April from 2 - 4pm in the Huston Hall. All equipment is provided.

Feel free to come along - everyone is very welcome.

We play for fun!





FIELDS OF LIFE UPDATE - APRIL 2022

Tony Gaston, CEO of Fields of Life (FOL) has recently returned from Uganda. The highlight of his trip was spending some time at the new FOL VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE at Gulu in Northern Uganda.

This large scale project has been over 5 years in the making, made possible by a strong vision and a lot of faith. The Covid pandemic has significantly delayed the build and classes commenced just 3 weeks prior to Tony's arrival. The campus covers several acres with multiple buildings, incorporating workshops, dormitories, a café, an IT suite and more. This Centre offers young adults a chance to be trained in a trade or skill, enabling them to earn a living or even start their own business. The skills being taught include the following: Automotive Mechanics, Building and Construction, Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry, Tailoring, Dressmaking and Fashion, Hairdressing, Internet Technology, Management (including Entrepreneurship), etc.

The day starts with the students attending assembly for morning devotions in one of the large workshops. The whole ethos of the college is based on Christian teaching and students are tutored accordingly. Tony states it was humbling to see all the students in the classes enthusiastically learning many 'hands on' skills, hoping and dreaming of what they could achieve. The teachers are equally enthusiastic and joyful to be back in the classroom after the pandemic shutdown.

James, the Principal, tragically lost his wife to Covid, leaving him to look after 3 children alone. If funds allow, FOL would like to build onsite accommodation for James and his family. The dormitories will also need to be extended in the near future, as students are enrolled from a wide area and the dormitories are now full. This area has been badly affected by rebel activity in the past. Some of the children's parents were killed and young girls were abducted and forced to marry rebel soldiers. Many of the boys were coerced into becoming rebel 'soldiers' or shot if they refused. These children are now young adults and the girls have children of their own, resulting from the marriages. Many of the young adults are uneducated and traumatised due to past activities in their young lives. The opportunity offered by the Institution of Learning is like a miracle for the young people in this area. Tony says it brought Isaiah 43, v19 to mind:

***“See I am doing a new thing! Do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the
wasteland”***



2022 - 90 YEARS OF WORSHIPPING TOGETHER AT ST.FINNIAN'S



The Choir

The St. Finnian's choir has been in existence since the church began. It was in 1947 that they bought their own robes, raising not only the money (nearly £100) but also the Clothing Coupons, since all clothing was rationed at the time. In 1952, the choir became affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music and boy choristers were introduced.

On 14th September of that year, 11 boys led the procession of choir and clergy for the first time and later, head choir boys regularly attended courses in the Royal School. It took another 23 years before girl choristers were introduced, in 1975. That same year, the original robes were replaced. Half the cost was paid by the Select Vestry with choir members raising the other £540 through odd jobs such as painting, sewing and knitting. In 1975 too, the choir began to travel to take part in the worship of other parishes, first to Ballina, Co. Mayo and later to places like Ballynore, Raphoe and Rathmullan, Co. Donegal and St. Stephen's in Dublin.

The choir continues to lead us all in our worship today.

Singing has always been an important part of any church service and this became very evident over the last 2 years when singing was not allowed in churches due to the pandemic. The congregation has missed singing and has also missed the choir to give a lead, offering our praise to God.

St. Finnian's choir over the years has been very much a family based choir. Families such as the Christie family, the Gallagher family, the Logan family, the Davison family and the Hay family which included the choir's longest serving member and friend, Eric who served in the choir for over 70 years and his twin brother Jack, who served for nearly 60 years.

Even today, the choir has two Hayward families, the Armstrong family and the Clements family. The choir has many happy memories of weekends away. Visits were also made to other churches to join with them in their Harvest Services. One church visited many times was Ballyculter near Strangford where the choir was always greeted with a roaring fire. They had to change in a small Orange Hall amidst drums and flags and the toilet is best not mentioned! The most recent visit was to St. Salvator's in the grounds of Castle Leslie, Monaghan where they were very warmly greeted and enjoyed good food and fellowship. For those who stayed overnight in the Lodge there was an interesting tour of the Castle itself the next day. Another event the choir took part in quite a few years ago was a competition in which they came 2nd. This sounded very good until they told everyone it had been a two horse race between themselves and Cregagh Presbyterian! However, they still performed well. In the family life of the church there are sad occasions and happy occasions and the choir are also involved at these times to give a lead and support to the families. The choir has had some very dedicated organists/choir masters such as Sam Lown and our present organist Mark McGrath and also when needed, Daniel Clements. It would be lovely to think that we will always have a choir at St. Finnian's church in the years to come. If anyone has children or grandchildren who are showing an interest in singing, or indeed if anyone who is still young at heart enjoys singing, please have a word with Mark.



ST.FINNIAN'S CHOIR—
volunteers needed!



The choir would be very grateful for any volunteers who would be able to join them to sing at weddings and funerals.

Sometimes due to work/other commitments regular choir members are unavailable at these times.

On these occasions singing can bring great joy or comfort so any assistance would be very welcome.

If you feel you can help, please speak to one of the choir members.



Saint George's Singers

Conducted by Mark McGrath

“Hear the voice”

A Springtime Concert of Early Music

Sacred and Secular music from the Renaissance and Baroque Periods performed by the Choir, String Quartet and Soprano Soloist. For full programme details please visit Website.

Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 7.45 p.m.
Saint George's Church, High Street, Belfast

Admission by ticket £15 from Choir Members, through website: www.saintgeorgessingers.co.uk or phone 07793018748 for further information.



May 1st sees the return of the Belfast City Marathon for 2022. It is a great opportunity for charities to raise some money to help keep their services open, reaching out to those they serve. CAP is no different in requiring funding to service the many who are looking to us for help during these particularly challenging times. I have seen a steady increase in the number of people making enquiries through our Debt Helpline (0800 328 0006) and have had large numbers attending back-to-back CAP Life Skills and CAP Money Courses. People are really feeling the pinch and if financial predictions are correct, 2022-23 will only get worse for everyone. I cover a geographical area from Dundonald to Carryduff and into the city centre so anyone you know who lives within this catchment area may well be next to need our help. One way you can help your local Belfast Central CAP Centre, is to sponsor the team I have entered for this year's Belfast Marathon. Unfortunately, you cannot all run (as the maximum for a team is 5) but you can all donate some money as an incentive to those who have volunteered to be part of the team. Joining me (James) will be Peter Elliott (Knockbreda), Tiago Ramos (St. Clements), Chris Higgins (Willowfield) and Sarah Myles (Willowfield). If you live along the route, do come out and cheer them on (they will be wearing CAP tee-shirts). If you would like to sponsor the team, there are a number of ways you can do that:

On-line banking: Danske Bank 950114/80033383 Willowfield Parish
Comm Assoc Ref: MARATHON

Through Kindlink: <https://www.kindlink.com/fundraising/willowfield-parish-community-association/capgiving>

By sending a cheque made payable to: "WPCA" to Micah Centre,
149A My Lady's Road, Belfast BT6 8FE with a note to say it is for
"CAP Marathon"

Thank you for your support. Every mile I run I will remind myself of Isaiah's words in 40v31 ***"Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."***

Do pray that the team will keep well before the race and safe on the day.

**Thank you ... James Myles
(Belfast Central CAP Debt Centre Manager)**

St. Finnian's Pilates



Spring has finally sprung and Pilates is springing back after an enforced break of 2 weeks in March due to the instructor (i.e.me) coming down with Covid. The period of isolation made me realise just how important it is to look after ourselves, keeping moving and having fun with others, and hopefully that's what happens on a (sometimes cold and wet) Wednesday evening at St. Finnian's. It's been great to see everyone coming along and making the time to participate in the classes and trying to follow a raft of strange instructions including 'switch on your core' and 'keep your spine neutral'. Mind you, that doesn't mean we don't get a laugh and on that subject I have to mention the amusing names some people have for classic exercises - Joseph Pilates himself would probably chuckle at my favourite one; 'The Hundred' being referred to as 'The Flappy One'! Maybe I should ask folk to suggest their own names for each exercise! Until then it's back to the normal routine - Wednesday nights from 7-8pm in the Huston Hall. **We will be taking a short break during Easter week with no Pilates on 20th April.**

If you have any questions or want to find out more about Pilates, please contact me by phone (+447941368546) or email at jcwworth@yahoo.co.uk

John Waterworth

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

After a lengthy season of being unable to meet in person it was lovely to resume our Mothers' Union meetings, starting off with the Holy Communion and Enrolment Service followed by supper in the upper hall on Thursday 3rd March.

Thanks go to our Rector Jono and our Curate Andy for leading the service. Everyone seemed to enjoy each other's company, there is something special about something ordinary such as a chat over a cup of tea and some food.

Just to correct a mistake in the March magazine, Mrs Julie Cunningham was commissioned as Treasurer as well as the other Office Holders in the service. It was a pleasure to

welcome our three newly enrolled members, Mrs Felicity Clements, Mrs Phyllis Maginnes and Mrs Clare Monaghan.

There will be no meeting in April. The next meeting is on 5th May 2022 at 8pm in the Huston Hall where we intend to have a Beetle Drive. If members want to invite non-member friends, feel free to do that.

Our annual outing is due to take place on Saturday 11th June at 2pm at Coleman's Garden Centre, Templepatrick for Afternoon Tea and shopping. The cost is £18.50 per person and the money should be brought to the May meeting.

As we continue our journey through Lent, into Holy Week and Easter may you have every blessing including hopefully some better weather and light nights over the Easter holidays and beyond. See opposite for the Midday Prayers for April.

Angela Harvey , Branch Secretary

For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and
only Son, that whoever
believes in him shall not
perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Mothers' Union—Midday Prayers—April 2022
Praise and thanksgiving

Monday: Praise and thanksgiving

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

1 Peter 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We come before you with thanksgiving!

God of Promise and God of Hope,
who through your great mercy
have granted us new birth
through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,

we praise your wonderful name!

God of Glory and God of Might
who through your great power
have granted us new strength
to endure all things through faith in Christ our risen King,

we praise your wonderful name!

Amen.

Tuesday: Grace and peace

Grace, mercy, and peace, which come from God the Father
and from Jesus Christ—the Son of the Father—will continue
to be with us who live in truth and love.

2 John 1:3 (NLT)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We come before you with thanksgiving!

Grace to you and peace
from him who is
and who was
and who is to come,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead,
and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us

and freed us from our sins by his blood,

made us to be a kingdom,

**priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion
forever and ever.**

Amen.

Wednesday: Praise and thanksgiving

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

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We come before you with thanksgiving!

Through Jesus Christ,
you have lavished on us every spiritual blessing
we could possibly imagine!

Before the world was created,
you already knew us and loved us.

You adopted us as your own children,
and redeemed us through the blood of Christ.

Even more, you have made us your heirs,
and given us your own Spirit as a sign and guarantee.

How we praise you!

**May our worship bring you honour and glory,
for you alone are worthy of our praise.**

Amen.

Thursday: Grace and peace

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age,
according to the will of our God and Father,

Galatians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We come before you with thanksgiving!

For peace beyond understanding –
Shalom –

your desire for all that is good and fruitful,
all that makes us whole,

we thank you.

For grace we do not deserve,
freedom,

forgiveness for all that is wrong in our lives
that keeps us from you,

we thank you.

For life
poured out on a cross –
salvation –

That divine mystery
of love by which all
might know you as Abba,

Father,

we thank you.

Amen.

Friday: Praise and thanksgiving

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort.

2 Corinthians 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We come before you with thanksgiving!

Dear Heavenly Father,
thank you for the joy, peace, help and blessings
that you give to us each day.

Thank you for this wondrous world
filled with all the wonderful gifts
you have given to us.

Thank you for our families, friends
and the fellowship of your Church.

And we thank you for the most wondrous gift of all –
the forgiveness of our sins, bought for us by the love
of your most blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Saturday: Lives of thankfulness

Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,
rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught,
and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7

Risen Lord,

You love us,

You call us,

You change us.

Let us recognise your coming
however gently or dramatically you approach us.

Let us recognise your coming
whoever you use to make your coming known to us.

Let us recognise your coming
whatever time or situation you use to approach us.

Let us recognise your compassionate emergence
into the dark places of our lives,

Your generous summons which you constantly utter,
your transforming touch upon the bleak places of our world.

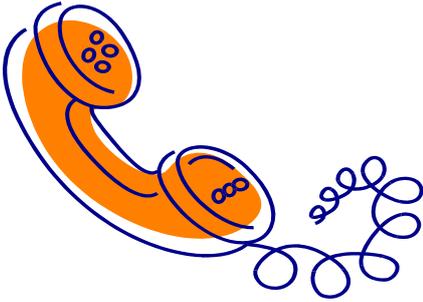
**Lord of Life, of hope, of resurrection,
we make our prayer in your name, Jesus.**

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

Why not receive your magazine by email and help the environment by cutting down on the use of paper? If you would like to receive your magazine this way, contact Linda in the church office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 9.00am - 2.00pm. Tel. 028 90792793 or email office.cregagh@down.anglican.org

Magazine

Please send articles for inclusion in the **May** magazine to **office.cregagh@down.anglican.org** or telephone the Parish Office 028 90792793 by NOON on **Tuesday 5th April.**

Don't forget to check out the church website:

www.stfinnians.org



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The Charity Commission for
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