

ST Finnian's

JUNE 2022

*Celebrating the
Queen's Platinum Jubilee
with a parish picnic.*



**PLATINUM JUBILEE
CELEBRATION**

See you on Sunday 5th June.

Dear Friends

On the 6th February, Her Majesty The Queen became the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. A special 4 day bank holiday is being marked with events to celebrate this significant landmark from Thursday 2nd June - Sunday 5th June.

We hope to celebrate in church with a special all-age Family Service on Sunday 5th June which is Pentecost Sunday. On that Sunday we are inviting parishioners to come to the service at 11am and bring a picnic for yourself and your household which we will share together on the lawn after the service (weather permitting). If the weather is inclement, we will relocate to the church halls. We hope to send each household in the parish an invitation to that service and picnic and each household will also receive a specially commissioned book of photographs and prayers called "Our Faithful Queen" to celebrate this unique occasion. After the past few years we are very excited about being able to

gather together in person to celebrate this special weekend in the life of our nation.

The Queen has always been a wonderful ambassador for the Christian Faith speaking very openly about how important it is in her own life. Faith has sustained her through difficult times both in her own personal life and indeed in the life of the nation and the Commonwealth where often she has spoken words of hope and encouragement in times of crisis and adversity. We hope you will be able to join us on the day on Sunday 5th June.

There are a couple of other special events coming up in the month of June which we wanted to make people aware of.

On Sunday 26th June, our Sunday School prize-giving will take place where we take the opportunity to honour our children who have been learning about faith on Sundays throughout the year.

We also take that opportunity to thank all our teachers who have worked with dedication and commitment to pass on the faith to the next generation. On that particular Sunday, we are hoping to have another all-age Family

Service so we would love to see you there. On Thursday 30th June at 7.30pm we look forward to welcoming Bishop David to a Service of Confirmation. We ask you to pray for Oliver, Robyn, Finn, Patricia and 3 candidates from St. Columba's, Knock who will be confirmed that evening. It is always a significant and special occasion for the candidates and their families and for the life of any congregation so we hope many will come to support those who are taking this important step of faith.

As this magazine goes to print we have been awaiting news about the processing of visas for our Ukrainian family. It has been a slow process but we are hopeful that progress has been made in recent weeks and we are grateful for the intervention of local MLAs and Bishop David to progress this matter. We hope it won't be long until we can welcome this family who have been through so much and we continue to pray for Evgan, Caterina, Inna, Alina and Arina and for their safe passage to Northern Ireland and that they would feel welcomed and supported in

every way as they settle into a new land and a new culture. Recently BBC Newsline did an interview at the church highlighting the delays in the visa process not just for this family but for many families and the faith groups and community groups who are trying to support them and get them here.

Normally in June we take the opportunity to wish those who are doing exams well.

Exams are often accompanied by a rise in temperatures and pleasant weather conditions which make study that bit more challenging but we invite you to pray for those who are preparing for important exams in schools and universities.

Some will be preparing to finish schools and move from primary to second level education and others will be preparing for the transition from second to third level education so we wish all our parishioners well in their academic endeavours.

Could I also say a huge thank you to those who have been helping to keep the grounds tidy on a monthly basis and the members of the St. Finnian's Hedge project who have been gardening

and learning new skills while combining forces to set off the church grounds so beautifully at this time of year. Thank you to all our volunteers and groups who have done so much to facilitate meeting together after these difficult years. It has been so good to see people mixing and mingling and enjoying one another's company again in services and organisations during this past number of months.

With very best wishes.

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



PARISH PRAYER MEETINGS BY ZOOM

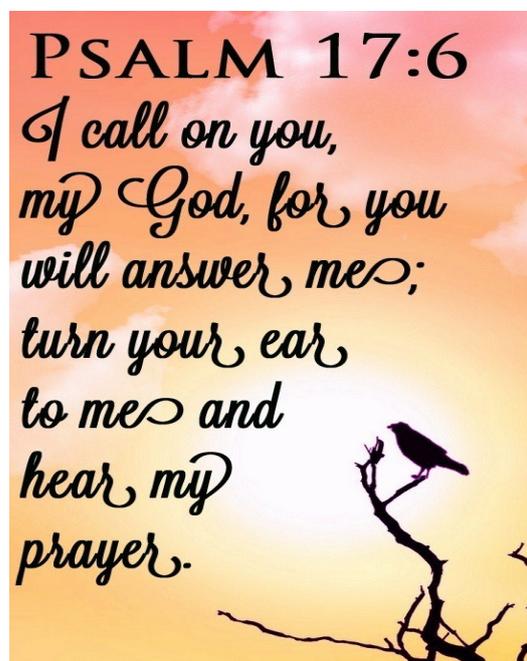
Our Parish Prayer meetings by Zoom will take place in June on Thursday evenings at 7pm. Please note there will be no meeting on Thursday 30th June due to the Confirmation service. If you would like to join us, send an email to zoomtostfinnian@btconnect.com or contact the Rector.

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



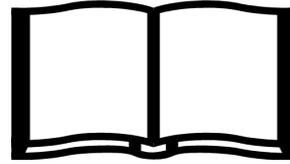
CHURCH KNEELERS

There are some old spare church kneelers available if anyone would like one. These may be useful for gardening or doing chores around the house. Please contact Linda in the church office if you are interested. Contact details are on the back of the magazine.

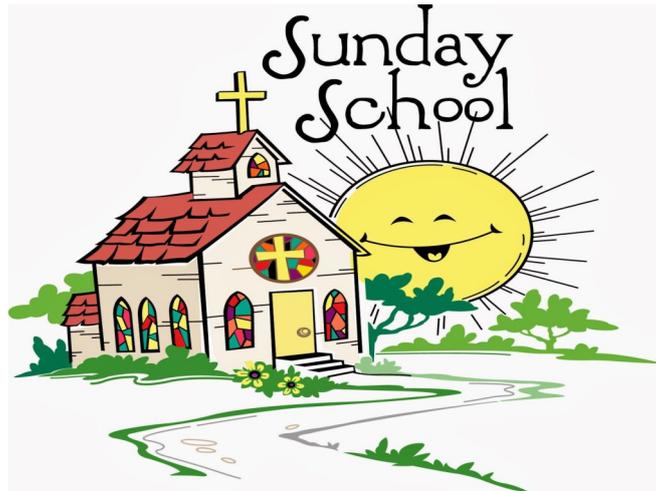
From the Registers 2022

Christian Burial

10th May - Meta Greer



**Special Family
Service &
Sunday School
prize-giving**



On Sunday 26th June our 11am service will be a Family Service where we will be presenting prizes to our Sunday School children in recognition of their faithful attendance throughout the year. This promises to be a very special service so please come along and enjoy the family atmosphere and support our young people on their faith journey.



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 is 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 25th June 2022.

See you then !

Please note that there will not be a “work week” in June this year, it is likely that this will take place in August, details will be advised.

**Jim Haughey
Glebewarden**

ANCHOR BOYS & BB



The Anchor Boys and BB are now taking a break for the Summer and will resume again in September.

As always, new members are very welcome.

***If you are interested, contact Trevor Smyth on
Tel: 07710732592.***

Services for June



Sunday 5th June (The Day of Pentecost)

11.00am Jubilee Family Service
7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 12th June (Trinity Sunday)

11.00am Morning Prayer
7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 19th June (1st Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Holy Communion
7.00pm Holy Communion

Sunday 26th June (2nd Sunday after Trinity)

11.00am Family Service & Sunday School prize-giving
7.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 30th June

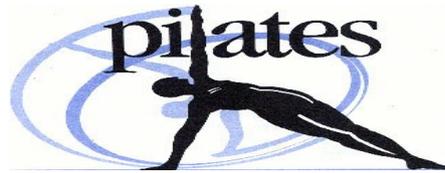
7.30pm Service of Confirmation

Wednesday morning
communion &
prayers for the sick



Just a reminder that the Wednesday morning communion service with prayers for the sick has now resumed. The service starts at 10.30 am and everyone is welcome.

St. Finnian's Pilates



Hello everyone

It's about time for another update about Pilates at St. Finnian's. Wednesday evening class has become a fixture in the church calendar and that's also the case for a regular group of willing participants. In a much earlier post I had mentioned some of the aims of Pilates - developing a strong core (abdominals, hips, lower back muscles) and a strong and flexible spine, and the benefits these bring to everyday life. To that I can add an improvement in posture and balance. In the case of the latter this has included such gems as the 'balance beam', 'tree pose' and the 'star'. All I need say is the level of wobble has definitely decreased with time and practice! Joking aside though, this is something we all need to maintain and I would definitely encourage everyone to try standing on one leg. While it's good to aim for and to progress from basic level to more complex and challenging ones, it's also important to note that just because you could do an exercise at a certain level last week, this doesn't guarantee that you'll be able to do the same the next week, and the key is to ensure that you can do the exercise correctly and safely - as I've mentioned before I don't subscribe to the 'no pain no gain' philosophy. For those who are reading this and wondering if they should give it a go, I would say try it and see and you never know, you might end up enjoying getting fitter and healthier. Until the next time keep moving!

We meet on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm in the Huston Hall. Everyone is very welcome and a small donation of £3 per class is requested to go towards church funds.

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

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



The Men's Society

*St. Finnian's Church Of Ireland Men's Society
Celebrates 40 years!*

In October 1982 at the 50th anniversary of St. Finnian's it was decided to start a Branch of the Church Of Ireland Men's Society to promote fellowship and support among men in the parish. Under the dedicated leadership of Chairperson, Bill Christie, Secretary, Bill Ruddock and Derek Catney, their enthusiasm and community connections encouraged a good selection of men and outstanding quality of speakers to come along. Forty-five men joined in the first year, rising to fifty-five members in some years.

Visiting speakers have included Bishops, Leaders of other churches, Chief Constables, local politicians, Secretaries of State, Chief Executives of charities, local historians, sportspeople, musicians and local personalities. For many years Dr Roddy Evans took notes (and asked many incisive questions) and wrote comprehensive reports for inclusion in the church magazine.

In recent years Garth Corbett took on the correspondence role. Both Roddy and Garth had extensive connections which they used to bring high profile and influential people to the Men's Society and on one occasion, a visit was arranged to President Mary Robinson at her residence in Phoenix Park in Dublin.

For the Men's Society AGM each year a visit is made to a local venue for a guided tour and a meal. Visits have included Stormont Parliament Buildings, HMS Caroline, The Skainos Centre and Belfast Activity Centre.

Each year the Church Of Ireland Men's Society under the leadership of Arthur Macartney (a former St. Finnian's parishioner) organises a Church Service, Quiet Day and an outing. Some other St. Finnian's members have been involved in the central committee. Members have also been involved in helping with car parking at parish events.

The Men's Society also took its turn at serving the Harvest Supper and at one stage there was a Men's Society choir which sang a hymn at Easter.

The current Secretary is Ralph McMurray and the Chairperson is Jim Haughey and recent speakers have included Dame Mary Peters, Lord Eames and Dr Eamon Phoenix. Quite often the Mothers' Union and other Men's Societies are invited to the meetings.

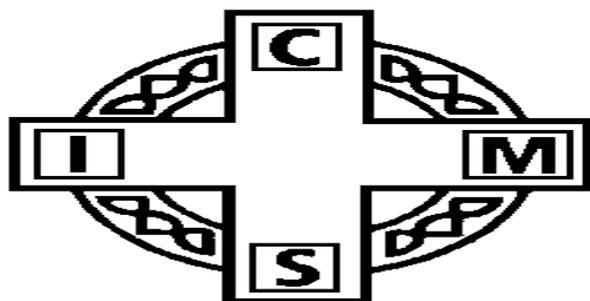
Before lockdown the Men's Society had thirty-seven members but sadly has lost several prominent members and a few more are no longer able to attend.

A new Committee was elected in 2019 and is trying to look for new ideas for our meetings.

Two meetings have just been held in March and April this year with local travel journalist Paul Clements talking about Ulster colloquialisms and his journey on The Wild Atlantic Way.

Another new season will start after the Summer break and all men of the parish are welcome to come along and join.

You don't have to be over 50 or retired!



Reverend Desmond Logan 1939 -2021

Desmond became a member of St. Finnian's in the 1950s when his family came to live in Downshire Park Central. As a teenager he was a very active member of the parish becoming involved in the Youth Guild, the Badminton Club and serving as a Sunday School teacher. He also sang in the choir alongside his great friend Eric Hay where they formed part of a very audible bass section. He later became a member of the Select Vestry and served as Churchwarden for a number of years. In the 1970s with Canon Mehaffey encouraging greater Lay participation in the church's life and worship, Desmond took on leadership of one of the newly formed Parish Study groups and was also licensed as a Lay Reader helping to lead worship in the church. Conscious of a calling to serve God further, Desmond then completed a number of years study under the direction of Canon Brian Mayne and in 1978 he was ordained by Bishop George Quin as one of the first non-stipendiary Ministers in the Diocese.



In the coming years Desmond served in an auxiliary capacity in the Parishes of Belvoir, St. Columba's Knock, St. Brendan's Sydenham as well as his own parish of St. Finnian's until he took early retirement from his full-time job as a civil servant in 1995. At this time, he took up full-time ordained ministry serving as Curate in Bangor Abbey before being appointed as Rector of St. Clement's in 1997 where he served for 14 very happy years until his retirement in 2011.



After his retirement from St. Clement's, Desmond and his wife Joan returned to St. Finnian's as full-time parishioners and Desmond continued to help out providing occasional holiday cover and assisting in services until a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease in 2015 meant that he could no longer serve in a Ministerial capacity. He remained a faithful parishioner, always very keen to attend the morning service on a Sunday and the Church of Ireland's Men's Society whenever he could.

Desmond had a great love of St. Finnian's and he and his sister Maureen (Corbett) presented a stained glass window in memory of their parents Nan and Sam Logan and their young brother Michael who tragically died at the age of nine. His widow Joan, children Tabitha, Tim and Jeremy and sister Maureen continue to be members of the Parish.

Hello everyone



Our next Messy Church will be live in the church hall on Friday 24th June from 3.30 pm until

5.30 pm. This will be a ticketed event and knowing how many are attending will ensure that we have enough yummy food prepared for everyone who arrives on the day. We will provide tea, coffee and biscuits for accompanying adults, so please get your tickets booked through Eventbrite. You will be able to follow the link when it is posted in the coming weeks on St. Finnian's Parish Church website or the Facebook page.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to a fun day of craft, songs, games, prayer time and a Bible story; all following on with our topic of seasons as we learn about God's love for us through the theme of **Summer**.

Lord willing our next dates for Messy Church will be Friday 30th September and Friday 25th November.

Make sure to put these days in your diary and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for fun days together through faith.

Messy Church would be extremely grateful for any volunteers who could spare a couple of hours to help out on the day or to prepare crafts in advance; many hands make light work. If you can assist in any way, please let Linda in the church office or anyone in the Messy Church team know.

Thank you so much.



UKRAINE REFUGEE PROJECT

As already announced, St. Finnian's Parish will be providing accommodation and other support for a number of Ukrainian refugees. Although we do not yet have a date for their arrival, some parishioners have already made donations towards the cost of this support. A separate fund has been set up within the parish accounts to help us keep track of the funding, in much the same form as for the Uganda Project, and the title of the new project is the Ukraine Project. We estimate that the initial cost of the Project will be in the region of £1500 per month, which will reduce as time goes on. Anyone who would like to make a donation can do so either by cash or by cheque, or by electronic bank transfer. If you are making a donation by cheque, please make the cheque out to "St Finnian's Parish Church" so that we can lodge the donation in the parish Ukraine Project Fund. Please place cash or cheque donations in an envelope marked "Ukraine" (it isn't necessary to put the full title) and place this in the collection plate or give to the Churchwardens in the normal way. If you pay tax, please write your name and address on the envelope, write the words "please claim Gift Aid" and sign the envelope.

It would be particularly helpful if anyone is able to make a commitment to make regular payments by Standing Order.

If you would like to make a payment electronically or set up a standing order, the parish bank details are:-

Sort Code 95-01-34

Account number 11089757

Account name St Finnians Parish Church

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

For example, the label will look like: Mr. A Smith xxx Church Street Belfast 000xxx (Please use this number as your reference).

When support is no longer needed (for example, the war ends and refugees return to Ukraine) the Ukraine Fund would be closed and any surplus monies transferred to the parish Response Fund.

Robert Crawford
Hon. Treasurer

Hello everyone

Just to cheer you up there are 207 shopping days to Christmas from 1st June to 24th December 2022! Here we are at the midpoint of the year with the longest day occurring on June 21st. Now rewind the clock to 1st January. Remember all those New Year resolutions we made, how are we doing with them? Well sorry to say with most of mine I've sadly fallen by the wayside. This reminded me of a business mnemonic that I heard over 35 years ago and haven't thought of since - SMART meaning, specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timebound. I'm going to revisit those resolutions personal and spiritual e.g. losing weight - say a stone by September, reading through the gospels over the next month etc. A couple of years ago someone gave me a calendar of quotes from Irish writers. This is my favourite one which is apparently very famous. "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better". God offers and wants to help us make a new start every day no matter what's gone on before. Have a good summer and enjoy getting back on track.

Reminder date: Saturday June 11th 2022

Visit to Coleman's Garden Centre 2pm

Contact details: Liz Walker Mobile 07774617549

Angela Mobile 07596075081

See opposite for the June Midday Prayers.

Angela Harvey, Branch Secretary

 Create in me
a pure heart, O God,
 and renew a
steadfast
spirit within me.

- Psalm 51:10

Mothers' Union—Midday Prayers—June 2022
Steps to Transformation

Monday: Listening to God

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times,
'Samuel! Samuel!'

Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

1 Samuel 3:10

**Loving Lord,
we thank you that you speak to us
as we rest in your presence.**

Speak to us, Lord, as we draw near to you.

Still our restless thoughts and calm our active minds.

Quieten our spirits to hear your gentle voice.

Open our ears to listen well;

open our hearts to sense your will.

Give us your grace to heed your words
and follow where you lead.

Speak to us, Lord,

for your servants are listening.

**Loving Lord,
we thank you that you speak to us
as we rest in your presence.**

**May we continue to hear your voice
throughout this day.**

Amen.

Tuesday: Listening to others

Let everyone be quick to hear (be a careful, thoughtful listener),
slow to speak (a speaker of carefully chosen words),
and slow to anger (patient, reflective, forgiving).

James 1:19

Word of God

open the mouths of those
who are silent and afraid.

Give speech to those who have no voice.

Teach us to hear

the words beneath the silence.

Bear witness to the cries

that are the beginning of speech.

Open our ears to each other

so that when we listen and speak

we may recognise in our words

your Word and make it flesh.

**Make us slow to speak and quick to listen;
patient and forbearing with each other;
that we may reflect the example of Christ.**

Amen.

Wednesday: Discovering vision

I gain understanding from your precepts...
Your word is a lamp to guide me
and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:104-105

**God of glory,
open our eyes to discern your vision.
May vision inspire us to worship
and spur us to action.**

Thank you, Lord,
for those who encourage us
and share in making vision reality.
For those who spur us on
to acts of love and good works.
Lord of all,
unite us in our shared vision
of a world which is transformed
by the all-encompassing love of God,
revealed through our words and deeds.

**God of glory,
lead us forward as people of vision;
may vision inspire us to worship
and spur us to action.**

Amen.

Thursday: Building relationships

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them
and healed those who were ill.

The disciples said, send the crowds away,
so that they can go and buy themselves some food.

Jesus replied, They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.

Matthew 14:14-16

God of relationship
we look to your example
to show us how to value the people
you bring into our lives.

**May we be slow to judge
and quick to reach out;
ready to treat others
as we wish for ourselves.**

Give us insight to build up confidence and energy;
discernment to listen to what lies behind
both words and silence;
grace to model your love and compassion
as we build positive relationships.

Amen.

Friday: Celebrating our resources

To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given,
and they will have an abundance.

Matthew 25:29

Loving Lord,

we thank you for your blessings,
given to us in buds of gifting,
ready to blossom and bear fruit
as we set our hearts
to using them well.

Open our eyes to your abundant provision;
the resources already at hand
to transform our communities
and bring fullness of life.

Work deeply within us to develop our abilities,
our creativity and personal qualities;
that we may reach the full potential
of all you have bestowed upon us.

Loving Lord,

**nurture our desire to use your gifts well;
for the blessing of many,
and the transformational growth
of your Kingdom on earth.**

Amen.

Saturday: Stepping out in faith

Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6

**Lord, as we put our trust in you,
bless our tiny steps of faith
that we may be transformed.**

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.

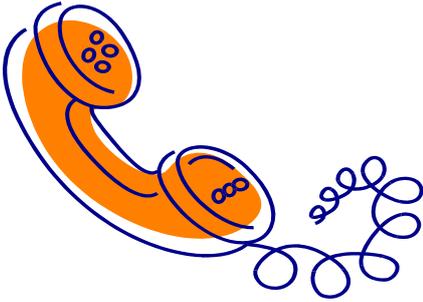
And so may we set out with renewed purpose,
resolved to live and work for you,
in the assurance that you are with us,
now and always.

**Lord, as we follow your path,
take our tiny steps of faith
and use them to transform your world.
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 **July/August** magazine to office.cregagh@down.anglican.org or telephone the Parish Office 028 90792793 by NOON on **Tuesday 7th June.**

Don't forget to check out the church website:

www.stfinnians.org



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