ST Finnian's

JULY/AUGUST 2024

Hoping the summer gives you the opportunity for rest and spiritual growth. (see Rector's letter inside)



Dear Friends

It's hard to believe that the summer months are upon us again. For some people, summer offers the opportunity to take a step back from the regular routines which keep them constantly busy and have some time away or a holiday. If you do have the opportunity to do so, I always encourage people to take the opportunity to visit a local church wherever you manage to get away if that is possible. It always offers local congregations in holiday destinations great encouragement to have visitors. It also sometimes helps to ease the economic burdens for small and scattered congregations to have more people in the worshipping community during holiday seasons. In the parish, many of our organisations take a well-deserved break after a busy programme running throughout the year. We do hope to run a few things which we hope will be of interest over the summer months. There will be 2 further writing workshops with local author Paul Clements as we try to capture memories from the past 50 years of our parish's history. The first will be on Wednesday 3rd July at 2pm in

the Huston Hall and the second will be on Wednesday 14th August at 2pm also in the Huston Hall. Maybe you have memories of being in a parish organisation or of the setting up of a project or some special function or event? We'd love to capture those special memories as we think ahead to our parish's 100th year anniversary down the tracks a little. In the week between Ascension and Pentecost, the Diocese hosted a series of 8 events about church growth called Grow. They looked at different topics that are very important as we consider church growth and invited a range of different speakers. These special events were recorded on YouTube and we hope to hold a series of evenings on the Tuesdays in July/August to watch their presentations and have a think about the topic. Each evening will be no longer than one hour and 15 minutes and will be held in the Coffee Bar at 7.30pm. The topics for our consideration will be Evangelism, Worship, **Growing Healthy Christian** Communities, Generosity, Prayer, outreach into the community and ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The evenings are open to all and we hope they will stimulate our thoughts and deepen our faith. Our weekly Communion Service will continue on Wednesdays at 10.30am and the weekly prayer meeting over Zoom will continue at 7pm on Thursdays. If you have never been part of this and would be interested in giving it a go, why not contact one of the clergy and they can include you in the email list which the link is sent to each week.

Another event to keep in your prayers on 4th July is the local and national elections. We recognise how important it is to have political stability in our country and how precarious that is in an increasingly polarised world. Please pray for all the candidates as they campaign in the coming weeks and that the policies they put forward, would work for the good of all in our community. There are huge pressures on budgets and the provision of services that are so important to those who use them. The pressure will therefore be on those elected to public office which is why we commend the whole process to your prayers. We hope that whether you find yourself at home or in a holiday

destination, the summer months will offer you some refreshment and rest. With very best wishes.

Jonathan Pierce (Rector) Telephone 02890 793822

PRAYER MEETINGS BY ZOOM

Our parish prayer meetings by Zoom take place on Thursday evenings at 7pm. If you would like to join us, send an email to zoomtostfinnian@btconnect.com or contact the Rector.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School in July and August. We hope all our children and Sunday School teachers have a great summer. Sunday School will resume again in September.

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

Wednesday morning communion & prayers for the sick



The Wednesday morning communion service with prayers for the sick will continue to take place over the summer months on Wednesdays at 10.30am. Everyone is very welcome. Please note there will be no refreshments served again until September. Our thanks go to Hilda, Jean, Liz, Angela and Tom for all their hard work and commitment every Wednesday and for feeding us so well with such willing hearts.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2024



A big thank you to the volunteers involved in the door-to-door collection for Christian Aid Week this year and also to all those who donated so generously.

St. Finnian's raised the grand sum of £1219.71

Jonathan Johnston

CAPTURING OUR PARISH HISTORY



Do you have a story to tell relating to the history and life of St. Finnian's?

To help inspire those who wish to write something for a future book about the 100th anniversary of the church, the author Paul Clements is encouraging anyone who would like to write a personal memory.

During a series of informal sessions over the summer he will consider different ways of shaping your story connected to the parish. He proposes to hold a number of afternoon sessions where everyone is invited to come along and speak about their recollections with a view to putting them down on paper. Practical handouts will stimulate your creativity and unravel writing possibilities. **All are welcome.**

The sessions will take place on Wednesday 3rd July and Wednesday 14th August in the Huston Hall at 2pm.

If you would like to attend but need a lift, please contact Linda in the church office.

DIVINE HEALING MINISTRIES

Please note that the Divine Healing Ministries' services will not be held in July and August.

Norman Sleator

BIBLE WEEK

This year's Bible Week at the end of the summer will welcome the Rt Revd Stuart Bell. Stuart is an Assistant Bishop in the Anglican Convocation in Europe with primary responsibility for Wales.

An Englishman by birth, Bishop Bell was formerly a Canon of the Church in Wales and a former Rector of St. Michael's Church, Aberystwyth, the largest Anglican congregation in Wales.

As well as inspiring teaching, the annual Bible Week includes worship and prayer ministry. It is a wonderful opportunity for clergy, leaders and parishioners alike to be refreshed ahead of the busy autumn term.

The venue this year is St .Saviour's, Dollingstown and the dates are Tuesday 27th – Friday 30th August. Don't miss it!

FLOWER DONATION ROTA

JULY

7th Lyons Family 14th Mrs P Moore 21st Mrs H Leckey 28th Mrs E Walker

AUGUST

4th Mrs J Crossett 11th Mrs L Heatley 18th Mrs C Bell 25th Mrs H Arnold



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 gives people an opportunity to volunteer a few hours each month to assist in the upkeep of our estate. Accordingly, the last Saturday of each month is designated as a work morning, duration from 9am to 11am for anyone who might be available. Work would include general light duties, tidying up in the halls and church and optional pruning, spraying, brushing etc. The next dates are **Saturday 27th July and Saturday 31st August.**

See you then!

Jim Haughey

Glebewarden

GRASS CUTTING IN THE CHURCH GROUNDS

We are now at that time of year when regular grass cutting is needed in the church grounds.

We presently have need of volunteers to operate our ride-on lawn mower in order to keep the grounds in good order.

If you are interested in helping the church in this activity, please contact one of our Glebewardens, Jim Haughey on 07850389831 or Karen Gately on 07877124763.

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Services for July



Sunday 7th July (6th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Connect Service (Huston Hall)

7.00pm Holy Communion

Sunday 14th July (7th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

7.00pm Compline

Sunday 21st July (8th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Baptism

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 28th July (9th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Morning Prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Services for August



Sunday 4th August (10th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Connect Service (Huston Hall)

7.00pm Holy Communion

Sunday 11th August (11th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am Holy Communion11.00am Holy Communion

7.00pm Compline

Sunday 18th August (12th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Morning Prayer

7.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 25th August (13th Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Baptism

7.00pm Evening Prayer



Hello everyone

On Saturday 1st June a group of our MU Branch members enjoyed afternoon tea and shopping on a repeat visit to Coleman's Garden Centre. As we say in Northern Ireland, it was good craic and the weather was great as it was last time.

Young people are just finishing exams and looking forward to a well-deserved break over July and August. Mums, dads and grandparents accustomed to hectic school runs, helping with homework and extra curricular events are resting from that and many other activities that stop over the summer. I came across this startling message translation of a very well known invitation in

Matthew 11:28-30: "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

We can recharge our batteries in physical and spiritual ways every Sunday and in these summer months too. Liz, I and the rest of our Committee - Belinda, Carol, Joan, Julie and Karen wish you all the best until we meet again in October. We would also want to mark the passing of five faithful long-term members of our Branch in recent months, Jennifer McCullough, Sadie King, Elsie Christie, Georgie Graham and Betty Curry. Each of us will have our own memories of these folk and they will be missed.

Reminder dates for your diary:

MU Diocesan Holy Communion Service Thursday 1st August 11:15am in Down Cathedral.

MU Diocesan Big Hymn Sing Sunday 8th September 7pm in St. Finnian's Parish Church.** <u>Following the service, refreshments</u> will be served in the Huston Hall. Everyone is very welcome.

** If you would like to nominate your favourite hymn/worship song please let any of the Committee know what it is and we will put it forward for consideration-hymns chosen will depend on how many votes each hymn receives.

October 3rd (Thursday) 2024 Autumn Reopening: Bring and Buy Sale

All Ireland MU Getaway Weekend Friday/Saturday 11th,12th October 2024 City Hotel Armagh

Angela Harvey, Branch Secretary - Mobile 07596 075081



Mothers' Union Midday Wave of Prayers July 2024

1 July: Eastern Zambia in Zambia; Mombasa in Kenya; Gwagwalada & Ekiti-West in Nigeria; Leicester in England and Temotu in Solomon Islands

2-4 July: Renk in South Sudan; Cyangugu in Rwanda; Arochukwu/Ohafia & Ile- Oluji in Nigeria; St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane in Scotland and Sittwe in Myanmar

6-8 July: Wad Medani in Sudan; Kondoa in Tanzania; Ikwo & Remo in Nigeria; Montreal in Canada and the Windward Islands in St. Lucia, Grenada, St Vincent & The Grenadines

9-11 July: El Obeid in Sudan; Butere in Kenya; Nnewi in Nigeria; London in England and the Province of the USA

13-15 July: Toliara in Madagascar; Mbale in Uganda; Zaria & Ndokwa in Nigeria; Rochester in England and Chhattisgarh in India

16-18 July: Lake Malawi in Malawi; Byumba in Rwanda; Jalingo in Nigeria; St Edmundsbury & Ipswich in England and Lucknow in India

20-22 July: Gitega in Burundi; Murag'a South and Mbeere in Kenya; Enugu North in Nigeria; Tonga in Diocese of Polynesia and Jaffna in Diocese of Church of South India

23-25 July: George in South Africa; Bungoma in Kenya; Western Tanganyika in Tanzania; Ideato in Nigeria; Sodor & Man in Isle of Man and Toronto in Canada

27-29 July: Northern Zambia in Zambia; Mpwapwa in Tanzania; Gusau & Osun in Nigeria; Sydney in Australia and Rayalaseema in India

30-31 July: Boga in DR Congo; Manicaland in Zimbabwe; Tanga in Tanzania; Ogoni in Nigeria; Carlisle in England and Melbourne in Australia



Mothers' Union Midday Wave of Prayers August 2024

- 1 August: Boga in DR Congo; Manicaland in Zimbabwe; Tanga in Tanzania; Ogoni in Nigeria; Carlisle in England and Melbourne in Australia
- 3-5 August: Juba in South Sudan; Kitale in Kenya; Minna & Lagos in Nigeria; Moray, Ross & Caithness in Scotland and Madurai-Ramnad in India
- 6-8 August: Northern Malawi in Malawi; Eldoret in Kenya; Ngbo & Akure in Nigeria; North West Australia in Australia and Aipo Rongo in PN Guinea
- 10-12 August: Niassa in Mozambique; Masindi Kitara in Uganda; Langtang & Esan in Nigeria; North Queensland in Australia and Kolhapur in India
- 13-15 August: Natal in South Africa; Kajiado in Kenya; Okigwe & Western Izon in Nigeria; Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island in Canada and Toungoo in Myanmar
- 17-19 August: Kasai in DR Congo; Shyira in Rwanda; Ijumu & Egba West in Nigeria; Liverpool in England and Sambalpur in India
- 20-22 August: Central Zimbabwe in Zimbabwe; Lango in Uganda; Kebbi in Nigeria; Tamale in Ghana; Sheffield in England and Guadalcanal in Solomon Islands
- 24-26 August: Saldanha Bay in South Africa; Karamoja in Uganda; Udi & Etsako in Nigeria; Wellington in New Zealand and Yangon in Myanmar
- 27-29 August: Matabeleland in Zimbabwe; Mount Kenya Central in Kenya; Niger West in Nigeria; Wangaratta in Australia; Clogher in All Ireland and Hpa-An in Myanmar
- 31 August: Harare in Zimbabwe; Machakos in Kenya; Ogori-Magongo & Ekiti in Nigeria; Southwark in England and Phulbani in India



A soup lunch is being planned for 15th September after the 11am service.

As numbers are limited, a list will be placed at the back of the church in August for you to sign if you wish to attend for a delicious bowl of soup and dessert.

We hope to see you there!

More details will be published nearer the time about how you can help.

Heather Leckey



THE LINDSAY CHORALE SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER AT 7.30PM

The Lindsay Chorale will be coming to entertain us with their extensive repertoire from sacred, classical, folk, stage musicals and even a little pop music. Conducted by Keith Acheson and accompanied by our very own Daniel Clements. Keep the date free - it promises to be a great night's entertainment with a cup of tea served for good measure! Tickets will be available in September from our Glebewarden Karen Gately at a cost of £15. All proceeds will go to St. Finnian's Parish Church.



Our BB boys finished their 2023/24 session with a sunny day of activities at the BB Outdoor Centre at Ganaway. The Officers and boys thoroughly enjoyed the climbing wall, a very wet and muddy assault course and laser tag - paintball without the bruises! The Officers would like to thank all those who have supported the Company throughout the year and look forward to seeing everyone back in action in September.













Hello everyone

We had such a lovely time together at our last Messy Church before summer and the rain did not dampen our mood or hamper our plans in any way.

Great fun was had testing out our new giant parachute, in fact no-one wanted the game to end - and that included the adults. Andy told us all about Jonah and the whale. It reminded us of the wideness of God's love and how He gives us all the chance to change our ways when we are not just so good. We can never hide from or outrun our loving God – especially when He has an important task for us to complete.



Whilst our crafting of glittery sea horses and jelly fish with diamanté tentacles was going on downstairs, upstairs was like an adventure playground. The children played Connect 4, giant Snakes & Ladders, badminton, volleyball and mini games with bean bags, cones and hoops. Thank you to all parents and grandparents for joining in so enthusiastically. As usual our day came to a close with food, chat and ice cream. Each family was also presented with a copy of 'My very first Bible' and some sweet treats to take home with them.

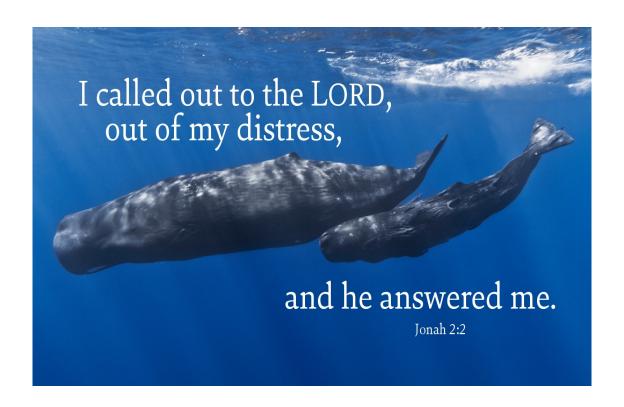
We look forward to more fun and faith at our next Messy Church on Friday 27th September 2024 at 3.30pm.

Have a happy, restful summer.

God bless.

With warmest wishes.

The Messy Church Team





UPDATE ON THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE



The horrors and atrocities that took place in Northern Uganda between 1986 and 2009 are difficult to fathom. Children were abducted and forced to carry out unthinkable acts. Some children were even forced to kill their own parents. Girls were taken captive as sex slaves, millions of people were displaced and more than a hundred thousand people lost their lives. It is hard to comprehend what this does to a community and the generations that come after. Surely only God can bring healing to a community like this. Through Fields of Life, we have seen hope rise from the ashes and on Friday 26th April, I had the opportunity to witness some of what God has been doing through Fields of Life over the last decade. I attended the graduation of the first cohort of students at the Archbishop Janan Luwum Vocational Training Institute (AJLVTI), constructed by Fields of Life and the occasion will stay in my memory forever. We witnessed 439 young people graduate with skills in automotive mechanics, fashion and design, building construction, welding and metal fabrication, cosmetology and beautification, hotel and institutional catering and agriculture. It was incredible to meet these young people who were filled with hope about their futures. What I loved about it most was how there was no talk about their past...l've read their stories about how many have been abused, how many have been orphaned, how many have struggled through extreme poverty...but instead of focusing on the past, this event was about their future, which was now full of hope!

These young people were smartly dressed, hair done, smiling with their proud family members and teachers.





78 of these students were the first cohort to graduate with National Certificates, an in-depth 2-year course, which will change the trajectory of their lives. Out of these, 25 received 1st Class Certificates, the highest grade someone can achieve. Each of these students received a toolkit upon graduation to thank them for their hard work and allow them the opportunity to go on and use their skills for their futures. As I walked around the campus, I congratulated dozens of young people. Everyone I met said that the time at this college was transformational for them. Not just in terms of skills that they had developed, but the friendships they have made, the devotional times together, and the holistic environment they had been embedded in, teaching them Christian values, entrepreneurship, leadership, agriculture and mental health and wellbeing.

I couldn't help feeling that these young people were being released to change their communities and nation.

Bishop Godfrey Loum of the Diocese of Northern Uganda put it this way:

"we believe (this institution) will rewrite and change the story of many young people in this region." Fields of Life has been investing deeply in the region of Northern Uganda for some time, building 4 schools, 3 nurseries and a vocational college as well as many quality education interventions, well drilling and so much more. It is both humbling and sobering to play a small part in the healing process of this region and see young people who will rise up and build a better future.

When I first visited the Archbishop Janan Luwum Vocational Training Institute (AJLVTI) in 2019, it was still a dream and only a construction site. Fields of Life had been gifted land from the Church of Uganda and granted more than \$2million in donations to construct a first-class vocational institute which would upskill thousands of young people of this region and give them tangible and real hope. At the time, it was a highrisk project. Injecting this much money into a poverty-stricken region would take determination, focus and grit. We have so often heard the risks of constructing "white elephants" across Africa; empty buildings, constructed by well-meaning charities who hadn't considered the sustainability of what they were trying to achieve. When the vocational institute construction was finally complete, the reality set in that the project was only beginning. We needed a Board of Governors, staff, financial due diligence, safeguarding, budgets, curriculum, sustainability plans, marketing, recruitment of students and so much more.

There were many challenges we faced and at times we felt it was perhaps too difficult, relationships too strained or sustainability too ambitious. One of the worst points was during the Covid-19 pandemic when we were finished the construction but were unable to open. All travel had been halted through lockdown, making relationships more strained with our partners and schools and colleges were forced to close for almost two years.

Trying to start a vocational institution would be difficult in normal times but in this environment, it felt almost impossible. Yet, thanks to the tireless work of many people, not only has the college opened, but it is a thriving institution upskilling hundreds of young people and providing education, values and life skills.

To have our first graduation at the AJLVTI was a special moment for everyone who has been involved, from vision to execution, over the last 5-10 years. I am confident it will be the first of many graduations and I am excited by the prospect of the thousands of young people who will walk through this campus and have their lives transformed.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in this project, from those who sponsor students to study and provided the infrastructure, to the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to make this dream possible. To God be all the Glory.

Tony Gaston CEO Fields of Life



St. Finnian's Pilates



Hello everyone, and welcome to yet another instalment in what I hope have been interesting and useful articles on the subject of Pilates. Most recently these have discussed the importance of correct alignment of the spine and the role that Pilates can play in improving the most common instances of 'non ideal' postures. This month I'd like to focus on the posture type referred to as 'the Swayback', which is particularly popular among teenagers who have mastered the art of slouching! There are a few similarities to the previous posture (Kyphosis-Lordosis) in that the head is thrust forward and the neck flexors are once again weak. However, in this case the thoracic spine (chest area) has swayed noticeably backwards, the pelvis is tilted backwards but moved slightly forward, and the curvature of the lower spine i.e. the lumbar spine is reduced and flattened. This posture is associated with a number of muscle imbalances such as short upper abdominals and weaker lower abdominal muscles, longer and weaker hip flexors, weak gluteals and shortened hamstrings. As a consequence, the hip joints are in extension and the knees are often held locked back. If you're finding it hard to picture this, just think about the character 'Shaggy Rogers' from the cartoon series Scooby Doo (or ask your parents:)). As I had mentioned in last month's article, there are a number of exercises that are recommended for this postural type that can strengthen and/or lengthen the appropriate muscles and muscle groups to improve your posture. These include Single Leg Stretches, Spine Curls, The Star, side seated Arm Openings and Side Rolls. Most, if not all will feature in regular classes and over time will address the muscle imbalances causing poor posture. As we're heading into the summer months I would like to give a bit of notice about a short break in the classes during July. There will be no Pilates on the 10th, 17th and 24th July, but classes will begin again on the 31st July.

In the meantime, stay safe and keep moving!

We meet on Wednesdays at 7pm 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 me - John Waterworth by phone (+447941368546) or email at jcwworth@yahoo.co.uk

SAMARITAN'S PURSE 2024 SHOE BOX APPEAL

Hello everyone

We know that November is a little while off yet but we just wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the Shoe Box Appeal will be starting again in the autumn time in St. Finnian's.

Will you help us achieve our target of 100+ shoe boxes? Janet had a lovely idea of the Cregagh Crafters group making little bags for each shoe box. Isn't this a wonderful thing friends? If anyone else has any other suggestions please do not hesitate to share these with us.

Over the summertime we will be keeping our eyes peeled for little items that the boys and girls would take pleasure in finding in their boxes.

The age groups are: 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14.

Items such as dolls, wrist watches, pumps, musical instruments, blow-up balls, yo-yos, pants, vests, clothing items, flip-flops, crayons, notebooks, rubbers, pencils, combs, toothbrushes, washcloths, fun stickers, plastic eating utensils, hats, hair accessories, play dough, colouring books, small action figures, frisbees, skipping ropes, cars, Lego and interactive toys are some ideas to consider.

During a time when there is great financial pressure on so very many, thank you so much for your generosity and thought for those children less fortunate than ourselves in very many parts of this world.

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me' Matthew 25:40.

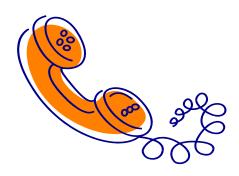
Love and God bless you all.

Mark and Charmaine

CONTACT DETAILS

Rector: Tel: 028 90793822

Curate: Tel: 07905368474



Magazine

Please send articles for inclusion in the **September** magazine to **office.cregagh@down.anglican.org** or telephone the Parish Office 028 90792793 by NOON on **Tuesday 6th August.**

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

Don't forget to check out the church website:

www.stfinnians.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

Find us on Facebook! Facebook.com/StFinnians

Registered with
The Charity Commission for
Northern Ireland NIC101977