

# ST Finnian's

**APRIL 2025**

*Engage with the joy of Easter*



*See inside for details  
of services for  
Holy Week & Easter*

# Dear Friends

Have you ever found yourself switching over the channel on the TV or the radio because what you are seeing or hearing is just too unpleasant to deal with. Sometimes I find myself doing that with certain news stories where the suffering or the detail is overwhelming and I don't feel in a space to deal with it. It's not a great approach to be honest and as I switch to something less intense and more light-hearted, I wonder what this says about me? Does the reality of violence and suffering make me feel uncomfortable? Do I feel that the complexity of the situation is too big for me to make any meaningful contribution to changing it? Do I sometimes try to ignore these unpleasant realities because my situation is different? Maybe I feel guilty when I see people fleeing war and violence and I just want to focus on protecting my family as best I can. The season of Lent can feel quite challenging both to those who are familiar with the events we reflect upon in the last week of Jesus' life and those who look from the outside in. People try to figure out why the death of a man who was innocent over 2000 years ago

has any relevance or connection to their lives today? Sometimes it all seems too much or too bewildering and we turn away from it all.

Since the time I began to take Jesus seriously in my own life, these are questions that I have wrestled with. I find that time I spend looking at these events seems to reveal something new both about Jesus and about me. At times these lessons are challenging and painful. I discover how self-absorbed and self-centred I can be. I see a love that goes beyond anything I have ever known reaching out to a broken and hurting world and offering hope and meaning and purpose to those who are longing for these things. There's a lot of anxiety out there right now. The new administration in the White House, the talks to end the war in Ukraine and Russia, the fragile peace in the Middle East, the escalating conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo and trade wars that seem to be escalating in various parts of the world put everyone on edge.

Most people I know want to keep working steadily, provide for their family and see stability in the world.

The expressions of military power and aggressive rhetoric that dominate the headlines have driven many to question everything in their belief system. I wonder if the church has anything positive or helpful to contribute to that debate?

One of the messages of Easter is that we do not go through life on our own. We can share the burdens we carry with the Lord in prayer or with brothers and sisters in the church family who promise to support us in the challenges we face. Prayer is a valuable and vital superpower that followers of Jesus possess and which can change both perspectives and approaches to the big situations in front of us.

Each Good Friday we hold a day of prayer in the church where it is open from 7am to 7pm when we encourage people to take responsibility for an hour to pray. There will be points for prayer as a guideline and as we lift the world and our locality up to God, we trust that He hears and will answer as is best for us. A sheet will go up in the church inviting you to commit to an hour so we have a constant presence of prayer throughout the day.

So while the events of Holy Week are challenging, I want to encourage you to engage with them and allow them to impact your approach. This year we look forward to some visiting speakers on the first three nights of Holy Week at 7.30pm and then on Thursday we engage with the events of the Last Supper and on Good Friday we have a powerful show at 12 noon explaining the significance of Holy Week for children and families, with refreshments after in the church hall. We'd love you to come and invite your friends and we will be delivering invitations around the neighbourhood on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April if you can join us at 7pm. We will have the moving Service of Tenebrae on Good Friday evening.

One of the main reasons we focus on these events is because they hold a reservoir of meaning that can never fully be exhausted and offer so much to our world and to us as individuals.

Can I ask you to pray for the process that will be underway as you receive this magazine to match prospective curates to parishes?

We are part of this process and will be meeting with some candidates who have read a profile of our parish and who might be interested in serving here in ministry. It's a daunting time for the candidates and parishes as they try to discern God's call on their lives. Being a part of the process is no guarantee of a curacy appointment, so we await to see what unfolds in the coming months but we ask for God's wisdom and leading in it all. Towards the end of April we will be welcoming a theological student called Francis Khamanra for a 3 week placement. I know he will be made very welcome in people's homes and at services as he comes among us to gain some experience. Please pray for Francis and his impact upon those he meets that he would learn new things and share Jesus with joy and encouragement as he comes among us for a while. Another significant event in parish life is our Annual Business Meeting, the Easter Vestry which takes place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. We will hear reports from the Rector and Treasurer and elect a new Select Vestry and

appoint people to important positions to serve the church. All are welcome to this important event.

May this Season of Lent and Easter bring encouragement and growth to all of us as we engage afresh.

If anyone would like to receive Holy Communion during this season, please get in touch with the Rector and he will be glad to come to your home if you are unable to get out to church.

With very best wishes.

**Jonathan Pierce (Rector)**  
**Telephone 02890 793822**

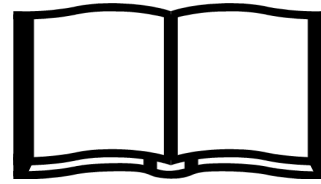
### **PRAYER WARRIOR**

Do you have a concern or problem and would like someone to pray for you? If so, contact Robin by text or email, he will be willing to help. Your contact will be completely confidential and no details will be passed on to anyone else unless you want them to.

**Mobile:07513947504**

**Email:robmill24@gmail.com**

## From the Registers



### Christian Burial

25<sup>th</sup> February - Edna Kilpatrick

4<sup>th</sup> March - Dorothy Funston

19<sup>th</sup> March - Pamela Freud



## Holy Week & Easter Services

It's always a special thing to make time for engaging with the special services of Holy Week. This year some newer voices from the wider Diocese will be leading our devotions.

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm** - Reverend Clare Kakuru

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm** - Reverend Dr Claire Aylward

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm** - Reverend Eben Grobbelaar

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm** - The Last Supper and the stripping of the Altar (Holy Communion)

**Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April** - All day prayer vigil 7am-7pm

**12 noon** The Chair, The Table and The Cross

(A show bringing Holy Week to life for children and families.)

**7.30pm** The Service of Tenebrae.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April** - Easter Day Celebrations of Holy Communion at 9am, 11am and 7pm.

**Wednesday morning  
communion & prayers  
for the sick**



The Wednesday morning communion service with prayers for the sick takes place on **Wednesdays at 10.30am.**

Everyone is very welcome to join us for tea/coffee, scones and friendship in the Sextons' Room after the service.

**Please note that the service will not take place during the Easter week (23<sup>rd</sup> April) but will resume the following week (30<sup>th</sup> April).**

**EASTER GENERAL VESTRY**



**Annual  
Vestry  
Meeting**

The Easter General Vestry, the Annual Business Meeting of the church will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Huston Hall. At this meeting, a new Select Vestry will be elected and the Rector and Treasurer will present annual reports. Everyone is welcome to attend. Those who are registered as members are entitled to vote.

**PRAYER MEETINGS BY ZOOM**

Our parish prayer meetings by Zoom will resume after Easter at 7pm on **Thursday 1st May.** If you would like to join us, send an email to [zoomtostfinnian@btconnect.com](mailto:zoomtostfinnian@btconnect.com) or contact the Rector.

**CRECHE**

A creche is now available during the 11am service. Feel free to leave your children over to the Huston Hall at any point before or during the service.

## **DIVINE HEALING MINISTRIES' SERVICE**

The Divine Healing Ministries' service will be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

The guest speaker will be David Hamilton.

Everyone is very welcome.

**Norman Sleator**

## **ST. FINNIAN'S BOYS' BRIGADE** **& ANCHOR BOYS**



### **Useful Dates: -**

**Easter** - Anchor Boys finish on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

BB Company & Junior Sections finish with the Holy Week Service on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**Post-Easter return** - BB - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Anchor Boys - **will not resume until September.**

## **ST. FINNIAN'S TODDLERS**

Our last day of meeting before Easter will be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April. We will be taking a two week break and will resume again on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

We hope everyone has a very Happy Easter.





Hello everyone

The lighter nights are in which is a good sign. Hopefully we will see our neighbours a bit more and get a chance to do those outdoor jobs that we said to ourselves during the winter we couldn't due because of the dark nights! "Procrastination is the thief of time" so the saying goes. It is definitely true in my case. At the time of writing, as I loaded up my laptop, I saw on the browser various headlines vying for my attention such as "20 of the most indelible live TV moments", "Ronnie O'Sullivan withdrawal could cost him hundreds of thousands of pounds after World Grand Prix decision", "Meghan Markle shares clip of Lilibet playing with 'Auntie' Serena." The list and Ads go on and instead of getting on with the task in hand, I waste precious time looking at these. Some of you will remember the prayer poem by Michel Quoist "Lord, I have time." The gist of it is that I can make excuses for wasting time rather than spending time wisely. Here's a quote: "Lord I have time, I have plenty of time, All the time that you give me, The years of my life, the days of my years, The hours of my days, They are all mine. Mine to fill quietly calmly...I am not asking you tonight, Lord, for time to do this and then that, But your grace to do conscientiously, in the time that you give me, what you want me to do." So as we are still in the season of Lent and the run up to Easter, isn't it good there is not the same hype and rush as with Christmas so we can catch our breath and ponder anew the truths of the new life offered by the risen Lord Jesus? Liz and I and the rest of the Committee wish you a very Happy Easter. At our February meeting we held our triennial meeting with the election of the Officers and Committee members for the session 2025-2028. The Officers and Committee members (CM) remain the same: Liz Walker (Branch Leader), Angela Harvey (Branch Secretary), Julie Cunningham (Branch Treasurer), Karen Gately (CM) and



Belinda Law (CM). We welcome Helen McKnight as our new Committee Member and Heather Leckey as an Ex officio Member by way of her position as MU Diocesan Secretary and we know their experience will be so helpful to us. Our thanks to Joan Allen and Carole McGladery who have faithfully served on the Committee for the past six years and we wish them well. Just a note to confirm that the Annual Subs for the coming year are set at £35 per person. Of this, £30 goes to MU HQ at Mary Sumner House, £2 to MU All Ireland and £3 for the Branch (pp).

***Angela Harvey, Branch Secretary (Mobile: 07596075081)***

**Dates for your diary :-**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** - MU Festival Service Seapatricks Parish Church, Banbridge 7:30pm. Bus departs Knockbreda Parish Car Park 5:45pm.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - No Branch meeting due the Festival Service the night before. Knockbreda Parish MU 5.45pm - Invitation to a musical evening with Ruth Thompson.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May** - Branch meeting. Talk - NI Air Ambulance Service.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May** - 7.30pm Cregagh Presbyterian Women's Group - Invitation to a musical evening.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May** - Indoor Members' Afternoon Tea Party at St. Ignatius, Carryduff - time tbc.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September** - Holy Communion Service Christ Church, Dublin (details to follow).

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** - Mothers' Union Getaway (details to follow).

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November** - Down and Dromore Diocesan Holy Communion Service (details to follow).

## **Mothers' Union Midday Wave of Prayers April 2025**

1 April: Toamasina in Madagascar;  
Mukono in Uganda; Ikwerre C Ife East in Nigeria;  
Down & Dromore in All Ireland and Delhi in India

2-4 April: Umzimvubu in South Africa; Lweru in Tanzania;  
On the Niger in Nigeria; Cape Coast in Ghana; Ontario in Canada  
and Limerick & Killaloe in All Ireland

6-8 April: Cueibet in South Sudan; Gahini in Rwanda; Wusasa &  
Ibadan in Nigeria and Christchurch in New Zealand

9-11 April: Nord Kivu in DR Congo; Kigali in Rwanda; Kiteto &  
Kubwa in Nigeria; Perth in Australia and Kuranagala in Sri Lanka

13-15 April: Yirol in South Sudan; Ruvuma in Tanzania; Nike &  
Benin in Nigeria; Canberra C Goulburn in Australia and  
Dogura in Papua New Guinea

16-18 April: Kindu in DR Congo; Mount Kenya West in Kenya;  
Egbu in Nigeria; Te Pihopatanga O Aotearoa in New Zealand;  
Cork, Cloyne C Ross in All Ireland and Eastern Himalayas in India

20-22 April: Kinshasa in DR Congo; Victoria Nyanza in Tanzania;  
Ahoada & Warri in Nigeria; Oxford in England and Port Moresby in  
Papua New Guinea

23-25 April: Kisangani in DR Congo; Kagera in Tanzania; Awka in  
Nigeria; Sunyani in Ghana; Manchester in England and  
Popondota in Papua New Guinea

27-29 April: Port Sudan in Sudan; Muhabura in Uganda; Niger  
Delta West C Yewa in Nigeria; The Northern Territory in Australia  
and Chennai in India

30 April: Aru in DR Congo; Kigezi in Uganda; Ikeduru in Nigeria;  
Ho in Ghana; Guyana C Suriname in Guyana and York in  
England.

# Services for April



## **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April (The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent)**

9.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am Connect Service (Huston Hall)  
7.00pm Holy Communion

## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April (Palm Sunday)**

9.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am Holy Communion  
7.00pm Compline

## **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Day)**

9.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am Holy Communion  
7.00pm Holy Communion

## **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April (The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter)**

9.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am A Service of Hymns & Readings for Easter  
7.00pm Evening Prayer



## **LADIES' FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

Hello Ladies,

Spring has arrived and Easter is upon us. We are only meeting once this month as our second meeting would be due in Easter week. On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm we are welcoming Sharon Dickson. Sharon is a well-known local story teller, so we are in for an entertaining afternoon. We look forward to seeing you.

**Julie 07814928398**



## **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 date is **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April.**

See you then!

**Jim Haughey, Glebewarden**



Hello everyone

We just wanted to share with you that we had another wonderful day at Messy Church on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Our day was a little bit different from the usual crafting and colouring. 'Play it by Ear' drama group came to share fun and faith with us through games, songs, play-acting and real-life scenarios. Our hall was full of so much laughter as we pretended to be different animals, tried to cross the Red Sea and ran just as fast as we were able to as a relay team. We learned how life is not all about being the greatest or fastest at everything but just doing our best and asking God to help and strengthen us along the way is enough. Having spent all our energy enjoying the afternoon we were glad to sit down together chatting and enjoying chips, nuggets and ice-cream. The children had such a good time that they did not want Ross and Chris to go home. Everyone was happy when we told them that 'Play it by Ear' are returning to St. Finnian's Parish Church on Good Friday when they will be bringing Holy Week to life for children and families alike. So please come along, bring a friend, a neighbour, a relative, a school buddy - or all of these, as we hear the story of The Chair, The Table and The Cross. Blessings to all our Church family, friends and community. From everyone at Messy Church.

*"I have come that they may have life and  
have it to the full."  
John 10:10.*

## **CREGAGH CRAFTERS**



Come along to Cregagh Crafters - all sorts of crafts take place on a Tuesday morning between 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Everyone is very welcome and there is always plenty of chat and a cuppa. **Crafters will be taking a break for the Easter holidays on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April.**

We will resume again on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Janet Johnston**

**07711885203**

## **FLOWER DONATION ROTA**

### **APRIL**

6<sup>th</sup> Mrs B Carlisle  
13<sup>th</sup> Miss G Stevenson  
20<sup>th</sup> Mrs L Campbell  
27<sup>th</sup> Mrs E Kells





## ST. FINNIAN'S HISTORY PROJECT 1932-2032

To celebrate 100 years of St. Finnian's we would like to collect your stories of the people, events and changes in the parish to publish in future church magazines. Do you have: -

- Photographs from over the years
- Old church magazines
- Any material for display purposes
- Information about church organisations
- Anything else that may be relevant

We are interested in your memories, particularly from older members of the congregation and people who have belonged to the parish since childhood. If you would like to write a paragraph or two of around 250-300 words, you can post this to Linda Campbell at the church office or email your story to **stfinnians100years@outlook.com**

We would be grateful if any contributions could be submitted in Word Document format for ease of editing.

If you are aware of anyone who may need help writing their memories, we would be grateful for any assistance from friends and family. If you would like to become involved in the planning and gathering of material for this project then please email **stfinnians100years@outlook.com** or contact Linda with your name and details.

Thanks to Gillian Stevenson for providing the fourth article in this history series, "It Could Happen To A Bishop!" which can be found overleaf.



## **ST. FINNIAN'S HISTORY**

### **GILLIAN STEVENSON - IT COULD HAPPEN TO A BISHOP!**

After two years of study and practical training, the long-anticipated church service arrived – my commissioning as a Diocesan Lay Reader – Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 1981. A warm, early autumn evening, the church was well filled with parishioners, family and friends offering support. Nervously, I stood at the back of the church with the choir, the clergy and the Bishop, Rt. Revd. Robin Eames, waiting for the organist, Sam Lown, to begin the processional hymn. During the service, the Down and Dromore Diocesan Singing Group, of which I was a member, sang ‘Have no anxiety about anything.’ How appropriate. Comforting. Calming. Then came the moment when I was given the nod (or, rather, an ecclesiastical bow) to step forward from the front pew where I had been sitting. The Rector, Revd. Noel Battye began, “Right Reverend Father in God, I present to you Gillian Stevenson to be admitted to the Office of Reader in the Church.” It was actually happening. This was my calling. “Has enquiry been made,” asked the Bishop, “to her fitness for this Office, and concerning her knowledge of Scripture, and of the doctrine of the Church of Ireland, and of her competence in expounding the same?” After assurance had been given, I made my vow to “exercise the Office of Reader with all due diligence”, then knelt on the chancel steps in front of the Bishop’s chair. As he laid his hands on my head in the act of commissioning, and said, “I admit you to the Office of Reader in the Church, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”, I experienced a profound inner peace. The Bishop leaned forward and placed the Reader’s blue scarf, the badge of Office, around my neck on top of my long hair .... and that’s when it happened. He didn’t let go!

I endeavoured to flick out my hair from underneath the scarf, only to meet resistance from the Bishop's hands.

How embarrassing!

As all this was happening, from the corner of my eye I could see the Rector looking on. His shoulders were shaking with barely contained mirth. He was enjoying my predicament!

Truth be told, he dined out on it for years, saying to people, "Do you remember that night when the Bishop ran his fingers through the Lay Reader's hair?"

Yes, it could happen to a Bishop!



***Pre-commissioning - circa 1980  
(with my brother, Graeme)***



***Circa 1993***

## St. Finnian's Pilates



What's the difference between Yoga and Pilates?

This is a question I've been asked a few times over the years and one I'll attempt to answer below, although even if you have tried one or other (or both) it can be difficult to tell the difference. Both are about breathing, flexibility and mindfulness and you can find many examples of movements and stretches that incorporate these elements in both forms of exercise. Yoga and Pilates incorporate low impact exercises that can be performed with body weight only, can reduce the risk of injuries, improve posture and increase overall wellbeing. However, they are considered to be completely different workouts with Pilates having a primary focus on core strength and alignment, whereas yoga will seek to take you on more of an inward journey of awareness. Yoga originated in India more than 5,000 years ago. It is an ancient spiritual practice that connects the body with the mind and spirit. It involves holding static poses and stretching your muscles while relaxing and focussing on your breathing in order to build strength and awareness both physically and mentally. On the other hand, Pilates is a baby compared to yoga as it is just 100 years old having been designed by Joseph Pilates in the early 20th century after studying many forms of exercise, with aim to either strengthen a healthy body or rehabilitate an injured one. Although the stretches and movements are similar to yoga, they are controlled by your core muscles. There are 6 key principles of Pilates, breathing, concentration, centring, control, flow and precision and the emphasis is on carrying out well-defined often small movements correctly and in balance. Pilates uses these movements to challenge your stability and work the core muscles. One interesting difference is the thickness of the mats used, with the Pilates mat being thicker at around 10 mm which allows more 'give' when performing exercises in the supine position (lying on your back). In the end which one you choose comes down to personal choice - if you are interested in spirituality then yoga would be for you, but if you have an injury then Pilates would be a better choice as it is used by many physiotherapists for rehabilitation. Take care and keep moving. We meet on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Huston Hall. Everyone is welcome and a small donation of £3 per class is requested to go towards church funds. If you want to find out more about Pilates, please contact me - John Waterworth by phone (+447941368546) or email at [jcwworth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jcwworth@yahoo.co.uk)

**Please note that there will be no Pilates class during Holy Week and Easter Week (16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April).**

**Saint George's Singers**  
with Saint George's Orchestra and Soloists  
present

## **MOZART Requiem**



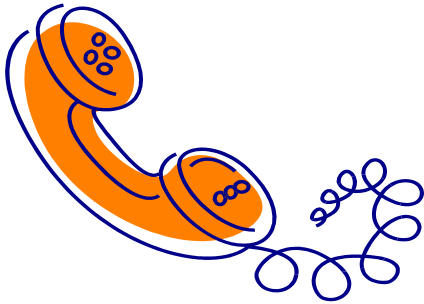
Detail of the unfinished portrait of Mozart by his  
brother-in-law Joseph Lange in 1782-1783

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.45pm**  
**Saint Peter's Cathedral, Belfast BT12 4BU**

Tickets £25 ( Student Concession £15 )  
available from Choir Members and at the door,  
or send Email to: [contactstgeorges@gmail.com](mailto:contactstgeorges@gmail.com)

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

**Rector:** Tel: 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 1<sup>st</sup> April.**

Don't forget to check out the  
church website:

**[www.stfinnians.org](http://www.stfinnians.org)**



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

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