



NOVEMBER 2017

St. Columba's Connections

CHURCH OF IRELAND DERRYVOLGIE

www.stcolumbascoi.co.uk



The Rector writes:

As the dark nights of winter move in, the News and Papers seem to be telling another story. It's as if strong search lights have been pointed at certain people and illuminating dark corners of their lives. All of a sudden, some famous people are having to defend themselves against accusations of improper or scandalous behaviour, often from many years ago. What has been hidden, has been revealed. Shocking actions have at last had the deserved consequence despite the perpetrators assumed position of infallibility. It is right that such people be brought to justice, even if

it is a long time in coming.

But before we get too comfortable with our own lives, what does the Bible have to say about all sin, not just the particularly offensive ones? Psalm 44:21 says *Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.* God sees and knows all things, all the time. If we think otherwise, we fool ourselves. To God, all sin is as blackness. BUT... Christmas is the celebration of the grace and goodness of God. Into the blackness of a sin afflicted world, he chose to send his only Son Jesus as a **light**. A light to shine and chase away the darkness. Old Simeon who met baby Jesus in the temple in Luke 2 said this *For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles*

Yes, God shines a light into our hearts to reveal how we really are, but at the same time He has given us the Light of Jesus, God's ultimate plan to chase away the effects of sin and darkness in our lives. Let's be people who encounter afresh the light of the Christ Child and then give away God's light to the people we meet day by day.

Your friend
Stephen

'The Gathering'

Wednesday evenings 8pm

These informal mid-week get togethers will be looking at Heros of Prayer from the Bible. There will be opportunity for Praise, Prayer and discussion.

Date:

Theme:

8th Nov

Abraham

15th Nov

Moses

22nd Nov

Hannah

29th Nov

David

6th Dec

Daniel

Prayer: The Purpose of Prayer By Oswald Chambers

.....one of His disciples said to Him, "**Lord, teach us to pray...**" — Luke 11:1

Prayer is not a normal part of the life of the natural man. We hear it said that a person's life will suffer if he doesn't pray, but I question that. What will suffer is the life of the Son of God in him, which is nourished not by food, but by prayer. When a person is born again from above, the life of the Son of God is born in him, and he can either starve or nourish that life. Prayer is the way that the life of God in us is nourished. Our common ideas regarding prayer are not found in the New Testament. We look upon prayer simply as a means of getting things for ourselves, but the biblical purpose of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself.

"Ask, and you will receive..." (John 16:24). We complain before God, and sometimes we are apologetic or indifferent to Him, but we actually ask Him for very few things. Yet a child exhibits a magnificent boldness to ask! Our Lord said, "...unless you...become as little children..." (Matthew 18:3). Ask and God will do. Give Jesus Christ the opportunity and the room to work. The problem is that no one will ever do this until he is at his wits' end. When a person is at his wits' end, it no longer seems to be a cowardly thing to pray; in fact, it is the only way he can get in touch with the truth and the reality of God Himself. Be yourself before God and present Him with your problems— the very things that have brought you to your wits' end. But as long as you think you are self-sufficient, you do not need to ask God for anything.

To say that "prayer changes things" is not as close to the truth as saying, "Prayer changes me and then I change things." God has established things so that prayer, on the basis of redemption, changes the way a person looks at things. Prayer is not a matter of changing things externally, but one of working miracles in a person's inner nature.

(From webpage www.utmost.org/the-purpose-of-prayer/)



Congratulations to Nathan and Grace!

We were delighted to hear of the safe arrival of baby Jacob (14th October and weighing in at 8lb 11oz) to the proud parents of Nathan and Grace Ervine. You will remember that Nathan was on placement with us last year. We wish them God's blessing in this new chapter of their lives together. We look forward to seeing them again at Derryvolgie on Sunday 31st January 2018.

(Photo- thanks to Andy Sproule)



The Festive Craft Fair and Lunch



Just a little reminder that, the Christmas Craft Fair is fast approaching. The date for your diary is **Saturday 25th November commencing 11.00 am until 3.00 pm**. There will be 20 craft stalls to browse around, ranging from jewellery, candles, sweets and even an opportunity to buy your Christmas tree. Don't forget to visit our Derryvolgie Parish craft stall, with beautiful handmade Christmas decorations, gift ideas and stocking fillers. Also a reminder to our bakers about the cake stall, any buns, tray bakes and cakes for this stall should be left at the church on Friday evening at 7pm or Saturday morning.

There is the chance to win the Christmas Hamper with tasty treats and goodies, and donations for the hamper would be very much appreciated. We still need some volunteers for the kitchen, to man or woman a stall or to help tidy up afterwards, so if anyone is available to help even for an hour, please let Helen or Margaret know.



After your morning shopping, get a spot of lunch and refreshments, as soup, sandwiches, tea and coffee will be served all day.

Admission to the craft fair is £1 for adults and free for children. So please come along and enjoy a lovely morning and remember to spread the word and bring along friends and family.

Helen Kane



Lisburn Harmony Ladies Choir Evening

On Friday 20th Oct we welcomed some of the Lisburn Harmony Ladies Choir. A group of sixteen local Ladies with a big sound, were conducted by Kirsty Orr and accompanied on piano by Charlotte King. Just before the event started, the heavens opened but even the rain outside could not dampen the evening's entertainment. Whether you enjoyed the sound of a musical, a film piece or a wonderful selection of Irish themed music, there was something for everyone. Even the 'cleaning lady' who appeared from the Vestry room got in on the act and led us in a good old sing along at the end! A huge thank you to Kirsty for arranging the enjoyable evening and the Events committee for their part. The evening raised over £800!





MND Night – Liz McElhinney's Poems

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the special fundraising evening for Motor Neurone Disease Association in Shankill Parish Church, Lurgan on Friday 10th November. There are some copies of Liz's poetry available for £10. All proceeds go towards the valuable work of MNDA.

Lisburn Foodbank appeal

Lisburn Foodbank is hoping to make Christmas hampers for needy families this Christmas. They have asked if possible that Derryvolgie Parish supply tins or boxes of biscuits and 1 litre bottles of diluting juice. Next collection 10th Dec. Thank you.

FAB – Friday At Belsize

- After a longer than usual break (half term and MNDA poetry evening), FAB resumed half way through November with it's 'Friday Feeling Formulae'. Lots of time for primary school aged children to run about and play games, followed by juice and biscuits and ending with a fun Bible presentation. Our favourite song continues to be the 'Wiggles song'! Dates for December are:- **Friday 1st, Friday 8th and Friday 15th (Christmas Party Games and Food)**



Christmas Events

Date	Item	Time
Tuesday 12 th Dec	Carol Singing, Lagan Valley Hospital	6.30pm
Friday 15 th Dec	Seniors Christmas Dinner	12 noon
Sunday 17 th Dec	Carol Service	5pm
Wed 20 th Dec	Carol singing Belsize Court Fold & Harmony Hill Fold	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Christmas Eve	Children's Nativity Play	10.30am
Christmas Eve	Late Night Christmas Holy Communion	11.15pm
Christmas Day	Early Holy Communion	9.00am
Christmas Day	Christmas celebration	10.30am



Would you like to try singing in a choir? Well why not come along on Sundays 6.30-7.30pm between now and Christmas to rehearse for the Carol service on Sunday 17th December.

Everyone Welcome

Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal

We will again be collecting for the Salvation Army toy appeal. Below is a list of possible items for different age groups. No used items and please bring your gift UNWRAPPED. Thank you. Please bring your gift for collection on **Sunday 10th December 2017**.



Suggested Gift List for Children and Young People

- 0-3 years: dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, CDs of suitable music and nursery rhymes, puzzles.
- 3-5: dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, DVDs and CDs (music and nursery rhymes), colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles.
- 5-9: educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), CDs & family friendly DVDs, books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords.
- 9-12: games and toys, stationery, CDs, DVDs, books, T-Shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats.
- 13-16: CDs, DVDs, books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, T-Shirts, hair accessories.

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has had a new lease of life since the start of the term. Lewis Mason (our placement student) has a weekly session on Sunday evenings from 6.30-8pm. This has proved to be a popular time for our teenagers. This year we have benefitted from quite a few new members who had been regulars at Friday night FAB. Now that they have moved to secondary school, they have been able to continue a regular Sunday evening at the older ReAct group. Each evening starts with chat and games. After some snacks, we move into the committee room where we think about different passages from the bible and relate it to the lives of young people. Please continue to pray for all our secondary aged school children as they grow up and learn to cope with a whole host of different pressures on their lives. Pray also for Lewis as he continues to settle into Derryvolgie and plans for the year ahead.



£940 for Christian Aid - Christian Aid Week was held earlier in the year. The team of collectors from Derryvolgie covered streets in the immediate locality, leaving envelopes, going back to collect them and receiving all sorts of donations. Christian Aid Week was begun 60 years ago to provide support for people left with nothing after World War Two. Since then, support has been provided throughout the world in countries where there is poverty, injustice and refugee emergencies. The Derryvolgie collection raised the very commendable total of £940. Thanks to those who contributed, to those who collected and to George Summers who coordinated the collection.

Young Families and Newcomers Potluck Tea

An informal get together has been planned for **Saturday 2nd December at 5.30pm**. This is primarily for young families and Newcomers to the church. The plan is to share food together and get to know each other that bit better. Please sign up in the Church foyer.

DVM Derryvolgie Men's Group

Mon 20 th Nov	Belfast City Hall	Leaving church car park at 5.45pm
Wed 13 th Dec	Christmas Dinner at Deltoro	Meet at Deltoro 7.00pm
Mon 15 th Jan	Talk – Brian Bloomfield on his year as Lord Mayor	7.30pm Committee Room

D.I.Y

We meet 1st and 3rd Thursday 9.30am approx. General tidy up, cleaning and repairs inside and outside. Have you an hour to spare? All welcome Ladies and Gents, no age limit. Tea/Coffee provided.

Rodney

PARISH REGISTER: **Funerals**

Jim Adams
Hillview Gardens
9th October 2017

Jackie Hamill
Belsize Road
9th October 2017

William Murphy
Formerly of Harmony
Hill Fold
11th October 2017

Attending the Connor Diocesan Synod in Carrickfergus



The Diocese of Connor held its annual Synod in Carrickfergus on 18th October. This was my first time to attend. Some 300 people gathered, first for a service of Holy Communion held in the historic church of St Nicolas and then for the business of the Synod which took place in the Methodist Conference Centre nearby. Of the 300, some 70 or 80 were clerics of the diocese. The remainder were lay representatives from the parishes of Connor.

I discovered that the Synod is like an Annual General Meeting. There were detailed reports from a variety of committees; there were elections to a range of positions within

the administration of Connor and beyond; there were interesting talks, illustrating developments and projects in the Connor diocese; there were, thankfully, opportunities to socialise and to partake of the usual refreshments. In his opening address, the Bishop covered a variety of topics. He paid public compliments to the quality and care provided by the NI health service. He indicated that he intended to take a three month break from duties in 2018. He informed Synod that a book was "slowly taking shape" in his mind and he hoped to devote his sabbatical to writing it. We learnt that the administrative structure for managing the diocese's affairs had been streamlined and had resulted in a financial saving and greater efficiency. We were given enthusiastic details by the Diocesan Development Officer of how parishes were reviewing what they were doing. The Youth Officer outlined a commendable variety of projects and activities, initiated and engaged in by young people. The Chair of the Priorities Fund gave details on how parishes could be supported through the finances of this Fund. In the evening session of the Synod, the speaker was Dr Heather Morris, past Moderator of the Methodist Church.

I came away from the Synod trying to keep a lot of detail in my head. Some of the detail, I'm afraid, has escaped from my memory! However, several things remain very clear: first, attending the Synod emphasised to me a very positive side to church life; second, there was a strong feeling that each parish is a part of a much bigger unit; thirdly, I must say that I will never forget how daunting an experience it is for a lay person to sit surrounded by some 70 or 80 clerical collars!!!

Derek Shuter



TODDLERS' TOGETHER



Since commencing in September after the summer break, Toddlers have been very busy! Margaret and Lynn Perry and their team of helpers make us all feel very welcome and keep us warm by providing a lovely mid morning tea break and goodies (including healthy snacks) for the little ones! The children enjoy the wide range of toys available and the crafts they get to make on a regular basis. Sending out a big **THANK YOU** to Margaret and her team! We love Tuesday mornings!! Toddlers meet every Tuesday 10am-12noon and is open to all pre-school children and their 'grown-ups' Also, if you would like to help with any aspect of toddlers, just come along and let Margaret know! See you there!



Hi everyone.

Greetings from Paraguay. There has been lots happening over the past few months as the young people organised special events for youth week / month which is celebrated throughout Paraguay. These included music, games and Bible teaching. It is always so encouraging to see the young people use their gifts for God and his glory. Please pray that they will continue to, more and more and that they will be strong to keep going in their Christian lives.

We have started to practise for Nativity Plays which we are going to do with children and young people in seven different areas where we work. The children love it and we do too, as it is a way of building up

relationships with them as we teach them God's word and why Jesus came. We always get new children coming to be part of this, and also their parents usually come to see them. We pray that it will be a real opportunity to share God's love and word with others. Another way we hope to do this is through taking food to the hospital at Christmas, to those who are staying with sick people, spending some time with them and praying with those who would like prayer.

In January Bryan Thompson is coming from Northern Ireland to do a Bible training workshop called 'Simply the Story' with a team from the church in Concepcion helping him. This time it will be in the capital city and largely with youth leaders and young people. We would appreciate your prayers for this and for us as we prepare.

Thank you for all your support and prayers as you are in mine too. God bless you.

Love Claire.

Sunday Tea Rota

As you know, each Sunday a time of informal fellowship, with a cup of tea or coffee follows our Service. We would ask anyone who would like to join the Rota to give their names to Rhona or one of the Church Wardens. Although many members like to bring little "extras" (which are yummy and always welcome!) It is only necessary to provide biscuits and milk. Thank you to everyone for all the continued encouragement and support.

Sunday Club

Children are welcome in our church at all times. Each Sunday in church there is a mini Kids' talk and then the children go out to their club during the sermon. We enjoy gathering together each week to sing, hear stories, take part in dramas and make different crafts. On the 2nd Sunday in the month there is an 'all age service' which is very child friendly. So remember, Kids are very welcome, bring them along!