



### Rector writes

'It seems like no time since I began writing these notes for the magazine in 2011. It is with a sense of nostalgia and sadness that I write for the last time. Cathy and I are so thankful to God for all that He has done here in Derryvolgie over the past 6.5 years. Some of the special moments have been:- Getting to know people, Summer Holiday clubs, starting FAB Friday club, many types of small group initiatives to pray, study the Bible and have fellowship with one another, 'Freedom in Christ' and the 'Purpose Driven Life' courses, Special events (Big Breakfasts, Craft Fairs, Sunday evening concerts), Harvest Pot Luck lunches and the young family teas, Christmas (Carol Services, Nativity Plays, Senior dinners) 24 Hr prayer times, the Vision Building exercise, Servant Evangelism times and having the privilege to open the Bible Sunday by Sunday and hear what God is saying from His Word...

These are just some of the memories that I will take with me, when God was at work building the Community of Derryvolgie Parish. Thank you to everyone who made Cathy, Ruby, Patrick, Scott and me so welcome.

*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.  
(Psalm 127 v1)*

Your friend  
Stephen



### My new SAMS role

***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1v8***

On the 6<sup>th</sup> March, I was appointed as Mission Director for South American Missionary Society (SAMS). The role of the mission director is multi-faceted. A lot of time will be spent travelling to different churches in Ireland, building and maintaining support for the organisation. As God is missional (i.e. He sent His Son Jesus into the world), so our personal response should reflect what God has initiated. As a church we encourage each other to be mission minded day by day as we engage with people wherever we find ourselves. When we note the words from Acts 1 above, we see that there is a three fold process to being witnesses. For most people, it's at home, down your street, at work or chatting at the school gates. For others, they have moved to another part of the country in order to be part of the work of a church. The third set are few and far between. These people have had a 'call' to another nation. For some reason, God has placed on their heart a conviction for a certain people group in another region of the world. My role in SAMS will be to meet such people and journey with them as they seek to clarify the sense of vocation to which God may be calling them. This will obviously be specific to people who are enquiring about South American nations. Another part of my role at SAMS will involve helping to bring Latin American people to Ireland in order for them to be missional here. All types of people projects will be developed further.

All types of Mission are close to SAMS heart, whether at home or abroad, we will seek to do our part as God continues to bring his Kingdom closer. I would appreciate your prayer.





**24 hour Prayer Room** The Holy Week prayer room was open for 24 hours from 7pm Wednesday through to 7pm on Thursday. For each 1 hour slot, a person had signed up to say they would be present. In all, over 30 people were able to attend. Once again, people were moved by the peacefulness of the space that had been created. Many commented on the way each prayer point helped them to think about their lives in a more meaningful way and understand something more of God's love.

### **New Select Vestry**

The Easter Vestry was held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March. This AGM meeting looked back over the past year and the Treasurer presented the accounts. After all posts were declared vacant, we were delighted to elect and appoint the following posts:-

Rector's Church Warden:	Andrew Sproule
Rector's Glebe Warden:	Lyn Perry
People's Church Warden:	Maureen Atcheson
People's Glebe Warden:	Stewart Gavin
Honourable Secretary:	John Atcheson
Honourable Treasurer:	Colin McDonald

### **Other Members (in alphabetical order):**

Frank Baillie	Rodney Ingram
Laura Coburn	Noreen Kavanagh
Rhona Gavin	David Pedlow
Jim Hamilton	Derek Shuter
Ann Ingram	George Summers

The Select Vestry is responsible for the 3 'F's - Finance, Fabric and Furnishings within the Parish. The Select Vestry of St Columba's Church meets on the second Monday of each month from September to June inclusive.

***As a wider church, we are very appreciative of those who give of their time to be a Select Vestry member. Please remember them in your prayers over the coming year.***

### **Parish Vacancy arrangements**

Following the departure of a Rector, the Diocese make various arrangements during the vacancy (the period between an old Rector departing and a new Rector being instituted). They appoint various people to Sunday duty and provide emergency pastoral care. It is important to realise that Sunday services will still continue and that in the event of a serious pastoral matter, help will be available.

A subgroup of the Diocesan Council called the Permanent commission makes a visit to talk to the Select Vestry. The Permanent Commission establish certain facts that allow them to make recommendation to the Diocesan Council that the Parish is suitable for a new Rector. The Bishop then calls a Board of Nomination to appoint a new Rector for the Parish. This Board of Nomination is made up Diocesan nominators and Parish nominators and the Bishop. During the period of the board meeting (3 months), all nominators are unable to discuss what is happening until an appointment has been made. Once an appointment has been made, it is usually three months until a service of Institution happens.

Please pray for all those who will be involved, nominators, Select Vestry, Diocesan personnel, Bishop Alan and of course the new Rector to be.





**The Mothers' Day Craft Fair** On the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018, despite the wet weather, we still had a lovely morning at our Craft Fair and Big Breakfast. This event was themed around Mothering Sunday weekend and was an opportunity for last minute gift ideas for Mums, sisters and Aunties. The Craft Fair offered lovely gifts of jewellery, sweet parcels, paintings and candles.

Thanks to the generosity and kindness of parishioners donating items for the Pamper hamper, we were able to create 7 hampers. We were delighted that 4 of our own parishioners were winners and hope that they enjoyed all the goodies!

The kitchen team were kept really busy as the big breakfasts were a huge hit. Hopefully lots of mums were treated to the day off from cooking and had time to enjoy a lovely cooked breakfast.

The amount raised that morning came to £1300.00 and will go towards Church Funds. *Helen Kane*

### **Good Friday Walk**

Three local churches joined together for the annual Good Friday walk of witness. A simple service following the passion story as told in John's gospel was read in each church. After leaving Derryvolgie Church, the carried Cross made its way down the Moss road to Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church. After pausing here, there was one final walk to St Colman's chapel. After the short service 160 people were guided to the adjoining hall, where refreshments were served. Once again many local people were able to stand together in fellowship as we remembered the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made for all people. Thanks to all who planned the walk and especially to those who provided the lovely refreshments at St Colman's.



### **Choir**

Please remember that there is the opportunity to become part of the Derryvolgie pop up choir which meets before the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month in order to practice a piece. Those with experience and none will be most welcome to join. Next date is this Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of April at 7.30pm (Please note the change of day for this month coming).

### **Parish Register: Funerals**

Vera Gilmour  
Whitla Road  
Buried 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Jonathan McConnell  
Formerly Oakridge Ave  
Buried 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018



There are only two more weeks left of FAB for this season. The remaining Friday nights are:- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of May. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped FAB have another successful season.



Last week, the young people's group planned their very own special meeting. They must have been hungry since a whole lot of Dominos Pizza arrived for their 'takeaway' night. The pizza didn't last long then there was time to chill and at the end they were given their own takeaway thought about how the Bible is the source of all the spiritual nutrition they will ever need in life. ReAct has been meeting each Sunday from 6.30-8pm. All young people (Secondary school age) are welcome.



### **Nathan's news!**

Nathan Ervine, our placement student from last year received good news earlier this month. He was informed by Bishop Alan that he had been recommended for ordination training beginning this Autumn. We wish Nathan, his wife Grace and baby Jacob every blessing as they begin this new and exciting chapter of their lives.

### **Parish Visiting Group**

Following on from a meeting to explore the possibility of of a visiting group, we have gone ahead and set up a basic visiting group which will operate during the vacancy. Several of our older house bound parishioners will benefit from a visitor from the Parish. The purpose will be to keep in touch with these people who are more isolated and to be a friendly face.



### **Knocking over the skittles!**

The members of Derryvolgie Men's Group have continued their monthly programme of activities. In February, the bowling lanes at Lisburn Leisureplex welcomed an enthusiastic group of bowlers. We were all intent on seeing the skittles scattered with every bowl we threw. Alas! That was a bit of a forlorn dream, since, for most of us, our ambitions were higher than our skills! The scores were not always high but the enjoyment and the banter could not have been better. In terms of enjoyment, we were all winners but the highest number of points gained during the evening went to George Summers. We brought our

evening to a close with a great value meal in Ed's Diner. Our thanks to Joe McCartney for organising an excellent evening!

### **St Anne's and the Spire of Hope**

In March, we welcomed a guest speaker to our meeting. Ken Patterson has had a longstanding involvement in the management of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. Ken gave us a very detailed and interesting talk on the history and the development of the Cathedral. The foundation stone of St Anne's was laid in 1899 and the new cathedral was built around an old parish church. Various bits of building work continued over a period of 80 years. The Cathedral is unusual since it serves two dioceses, Connor and Down and Dromore. St Anne's plays a leading part in the civic life of Belfast. It attracts a large number of tourists and is a central point for the new cathedral quarter. Ken accompanied his talk with a slide presentation. He outlined the story of how the Spire of Hope came to be added to the Cathedral. The starting point was a design competition in 2004 which was won by Box Architects. The spire itself was manufactured in Switzerland. It cost almost £1million and was finally put in place in 2007. It is made out of stainless steel and rises some 80metres above ground level. Ken concluded his talk by encouraging members to arrange a visit to the Cathedral.



### **The one that got away!**

The weather improved in April.....except for the evening of 16<sup>th</sup>!!!! That was when the members of DVM tried their hands at fishing on the Moira Lakes. A strong breeze and a biting cold provided a bit of an extra challenge as we took up our positions along the lake shore. Our instructor showed us how to cast a line into the waters and how to wait, expectantly for the first fish to bite. Fred Hughes, a seasoned angler, looked the part but it was Andy Sproule who caught the prize fish of the evening. The rest of us settled for describing the ones that got away! In spite of the weather conditions, this was another evening thoroughly enjoyed by the members of DVM. Our thanks to Stephen for suggesting it and for arranging the evening.





Hi everyone,

Greetings from a hot Paraguay, winter is approaching but the temperatures are still in the mid 30's!

The 22<sup>nd</sup> April was Election Day here and the new president is 'Marito' an ex student of the 'Anglican school 'Saint Andrew's College.' During their time at the school (from the age of 3 - 18) the students have a time of Bible Study each day. At one point during his campaign he said 'I respect what the Bible says.' We pray for him as he takes up office on 15<sup>th</sup> August and that he will indeed respect what God says as he makes decisions.

'Mother's Day' in Paraguay is in May and we always have special events where we invite the mums of the children that attend our 'Children's Clubs'. Many of them don't go to church so we pray that it will be a real opportunity to share with them about Jesus and his love as the children also show their mums how much they love and appreciate them.

We would appreciate your prayers for F, a 13 year old who has been coming to one of our Kid's Clubs since she was a toddler. Some families, for some reason, when their daughters reach their teenage years, don't allow them to come to church anymore. She has stopped coming to the youth group over the last weeks and months. Last week I heard her plead with her dad to let her attend and he wouldn't. The same thing happened with her sisters. Please pray for F and her family and for others who go through the same thing.

Thank you so much for all your support and prayers.

God bless.

Love Claire.

Dear Praying Friends,

*"Wow! The Word of God is perfect".* These were the words of a fourteen year old girl at our Youth Group in Ramonita this week. Lorena was telling the Bible Story of "The Leper" and how Jesus touched him, healed him and made him clean. Through the questions, Kamila saw the connection between what Jesus did for the Leper, touching him, healing him, making him clean and what He did for us, dying on the cross and cleansing us from our sins. When she saw this her face lit up, and she said, 'God's Word is perfect.' I loved that reaction.



### ***Praise God for:***

- Workshops in Asuncion and Chile.
- The Indian Shelter And Saul, Norma and family as they serve there.
- Young Leaders who are being raised up.

### ***Please Pray For:***

- For increasing commitment amongst the young people and that the Lord will continue to raise up leaders.
- For the church which has now had almost four years without a Pastor and for God's provision for us.
- For Ricardo, Cristina and family as they lead.

*(Extract from Claire's Prayer Letter)*