



FEBRUARY 2018

# St. Columba's Connections

CHURCH OF IRELAND DERRYVOLGIE

[www.derryvolgie.com](http://www.derryvolgie.com) or  
[www.stcolumbascoi.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbascoi.co.uk)



The Rector writes:

***'for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God'***

**Romans 3:23**

'Is it going to make it.....?' These were the words uttered in hundreds of Irish living rooms on a recent Saturday evening when Jonny Sexton struck the last kick of the match against the French in a Six Nations match. The ball seemed to hang in the air forever, before it finally passed the cross bar of the posts. The ball did make it - just about, and what a celebration that followed! Ireland won 15-13. Too close for comfort.

Sometimes, we imagine that the trajectory of our lives is a bit like that ball.

We put so much effort into keeping our lives on track and giving it our best shot, only to find that it falls short of the mark. Something doesn't work out, we end up saying something that we regret, we were hurtful, inconsistent, dishonest... the list could go on.

One of the Old Testament words that describes sin has the same idea of falling short of the mark. The aim was good, but the follow through doesn't reach the intended target.

The good news is that Easter is all about Jesus, who took it on himself to aim to destroy the power of sin and follow through completely in it's annihilation. This was for our sake. God's aim was perfect and God's power is more than a match for sin's power.

As we journey through the season of Lent, let's honestly consider, once again, the true state of our lives and the ways in which we have fallen short. As we look to God the author and perfecter of our faith, we do not stay in this place of misery. Rather, because of the Cross of Jesus Christ, we can know genuine forgiveness for the guilt of sin through Jesus who is risen!

Your friend

Stephen

**38 Thompson Manor, Lisburn, BT28 3GA. Tel. number: 028 92108705**

## **Bishops Lent Evening**

The theme for this year's Bishop's Lent course is: "God's mission and the church today." Everyone is invited to go along to Lisburn Cathedral **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**. Please see Stephen for more details and to book a place.

## **New Choir**

Following on from the success of the choir at Christmas time, a choir will rehearse once a month to sing a song at the Holy communion Service on the first Sunday of the month. If you would like to take part in this new venture, then please meet on the previous Thursday at 7.30pm  
Rehearsals are: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March

St Columba's Church, Belsize road

**Mothers' Day Weekend**

**BIG Breakfast**



**& Craft Fair**

**Sat 10 Mar 9-1pm**

## **Mothering Sunday weekend**

### **'Big Breakfast and Craft Fair'**

Would you like to make a big impression on the most important lady of your life? (Yes - your Mother!) Well, on Mothering Sunday weekend we all have the perfect opportunity to spoil our Mums by taking them out to enjoy the world famous Derryvolgie fried breakfast.

After a lovely breakfast, you will be able to spoil her even further as you take her around the various stalls of handmade crafts and goodies.

The best bit is you won't even have to do the dishes, and you get to make a good impression before the Sunday! This is too good an opportunity to miss...

So, what are you waiting for? Send those texts, make the phone calls and get the family together on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. All funds raised will help with funding Church work.



### Seniors Christmas Dinner, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

The hall was set up and decorated, the lovely smells wafted from the kitchen which meant that only one thing could be happening, the Seniors Christmas Dinner. We were using different criteria for invitations this year, those who were living alone in ones and twos. We entertained thirty six people all together. On arrival, people were greeted with a glass of mulled wine and there was plenty of chat and catching up with one another while we waited for our dinner. The delicious dinners were prepared under the watchful eye of Lyn and Margaret Perry, their little team had been hard at work preparing tables and all the trimmings.

After having enjoyed a very satisfying main course, a welcome pause came in the form of music from Harmony Hill Primary School. Every year, the children bring a wonderful joyful presence in the form of music and song.

After the children left, desserts were served from the creaking trolley, such was the abundance of seasonal treats! Lips licked, and fabulous food settled with lashings of tea and coffee then folks left, satisfied that the festive season was well and truly under way.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this another great day.

### Easter Vestry

The Annual General Meeting of Derryvolgie Church is planned for **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 8pm**. This meeting is where we review the year and thank many people who have contributed to the life of the church. The accounts are presented by the Treasurer and a new Select Vestry is elected to serve. Please consider supporting the ongoing work of the Church by your attendance.

### Holy week 24 Hours of Prayer

This Holy Week on **Wednesday evening 28<sup>th</sup> from 7.00pm until Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm** we would like to encourage people to sign up for an hour (or more!) and come and spend time in the quietness of our own prayer room at Derryvolgie. Like last time, there will be different prayer stations in the room to help encourage thoughtful prayer. Look out for the 'sign up' chart nearer the time.

### Easter Events

Date	Item	Time
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Easter Vestry AGM	8.00 pm
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Evening Service	7.00 pm
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Meditation	7.00 pm
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	24/7 Prayer room opens	7.00 pm
Thur 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	24/7 Prayer room closes	7.00 pm
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Good Friday walk of Witness	10.30am
Easter Sunday	Easter Celebration Holy Communion	10.30am

### 'The Gathering' Wednesday evenings 8pm

Date	Theme:
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Contentment and Simplicity Deut 8
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Generosity and Hospitality Psalm 112
7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Issues of Poverty and Justice Deut 15
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Caring for Creation Gen 1
21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	No Meeting due to Easter Vestry AGM

During Lent, we will be following Wednesday readings from the Church of Ireland Evangelical Fellowship Lent booklet entitled 'God and Mammon' by Ron Elsdon.







### **Craft Fair & Big Breakfast**

Following on from our Christmas Craft Fair which raised almost £1,600 the Events Committee are planning a Big Breakfast and Craft Fair on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 9am-1pm. With Mothers' Day, the very next day, it will be the perfect opportunity to treat all mums to a big breakfast. The Craft Stalls will have an array of beautiful gift ideas ranging from handbags, jewellery, cakes, candles and soaps which would make lovely presents for mums. Why not even try your luck at winning a lovely pamper hamper or a flower arrangement to surprise your mum. Remember to keep this date free and spread the word, invite all your family and friends for a lovely day out.

**Helen Kane**

### **Bishops appeal Envelopes**

**Lent 2018** The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal, Eco-Congregation Ireland and the Representative Church Body are joining forces to promote the Lenten Initiative #Jars4Journeys.

**The Idea:** We are inviting people to save an old jam jar or other recyclable container and every time they make a journey that is not by foot or by bike, they can donate to offset the impact of their carbon footprint. The money raised will go towards three conservation projects around the world that support and help build resilience in communities that are most affected by climate change. The Bishops' Appeal and the RCB are match-funding the first €1000/£1000 raised. Join us this Lent in being mindful of the impact of our lifestyles on others and on the planet.

**The Resources:** Take part in #Jars4Journeys by downloading jam jar labels here and donating every time you take the car, bus, train or airplane. Go deeper by taking more practical and prayerful steps to reduce your carbon footprint.

Jam Jar Labels: [www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/get-involved](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/get-involved)

Creation Care Bible Study: [www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/pray](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/pray)

Practical and Spiritual Resources:

<http://ecocongregationireland.com/modules>

Environmental Audits for Parishes:

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources>

Any money you have raised may be put in the Bishop's Appeal envelope provided and returned to the Church after Easter.

Do you know what you need then like this:  
Our Father who art in  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
as it is in

### **Pastoral Visiting Group**

There are many people associated with the Parish who appreciate a visit from a friendly face. A visit takes on a very special quality when the Bible is read for encouragement and a prayer is said. There will be a special meeting for those who would like to explore the possibility of being part of a visiting group in Derryvolgie. If you aren't quite sure what's involved, why not come along and find out more.

Meeting to take place:  
**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.30pm**



### **Baptism Service**

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018 we all witnessed yet another wonderful baptism! Congratulations to Andy, Lyndsay, Charlie, Rory and all the family on the baptism of their beautiful daughter Freya McCleary!

### **Derryvolgie Women's Group**

Following on from a discussion on the first meeting of 2018, held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February, the next women's planning meeting will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Please come along and bring a friend! **Everyone welcome.**

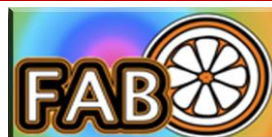






**ReAct** is our church's youth group who meet on a Sunday night. We are already six months in and we have a strong, steady group of young people and the "banter is mighty". We are progressing our way through the biggest issues that face young people and talk about the troubles and concerns that young Christians face. This allows each young person to be equipped with the word and the wisdom of God as they go out and face the world each week, in order to be able to live their lives through Jesus' ministry. The next thing on our agenda is hopefully to head away for a weekend to allow the young people to explore their faith and have fun together in an environment that is completely their own. They can use this place to deal with any issues or problems that they are facing in a safe place.

**Lewis Mason**



It wasn't long until FAB was up and running again after the Christmas break.. Around 30-40 children meet at 6.30pm on Fridays and enjoy letting off steam as they play all sorts of games and enjoy some crafts. After juice and biscuits, we settle down for a presentation and sing some favourite songs. Since Christmas time, we have been looking at God's love for each of us. FAB is open to all children of primary school age, and meets from 6.30-8pm. Friday dates for the rest of this term are:

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018

9<sup>th</sup> March - CLOSED (Craft fair set up)

16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

6<sup>th</sup> April CLOSED (Easter Holidays)

13<sup>th</sup> April 2018

20<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Review of Register** To comply with church regulations, St Columba's parish has carried out a review of the Register of Vestry persons which it will hold for 2018. Many parishioners are already on the Register. Following the recent review, twelve additional parishioners have indicated that they wish their names to be added to the Register.



### **DVM - Derryvolgie Men's Group**

**November:** The members of DVM had a tour of Belfast City Hall. Our guide met us at the bottom of the Grand Staircase. He pointed out that City Hall had been opened on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1906, at a time of relative prosperity in the city. The building cost was then £369,000. We had the chance to examine close at hand the sturdy and ornate Portland stone that the City Hall is built out of. The elaborate chandelier in the rotunda above the staircase was memorable in its size and beauty. During our visit, we walked along the Mayor's corridor, getting a brief look at the official portraits of those who had served as Mayors. We were fortunate that the present Mayor came along by chance and paused to say "Hello!" Inside the Council chamber, we had the chance to take on the

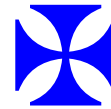
role of local councilors, through taking up their official seats.....if not, their political stances! We visited the Councilors' robbing rooms and also the banqueting room. Everywhere, stained glass windows stand out, as do portraits of dignitaries such as Sir Edward Harland and Lord Pirrie, who commissioned Titanic. Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, our guide had to cut short our visit. That left us with time to spare. Resisting the lure of city centre night clubs, we settled for a quiet..... but dampish!..... stroll through the 32 stalls of the Christmas Market. Ostrich, wild boar and crocodile burgers were sampled..... but not necessarily enjoyed!..... by the more venturesome members of the group, before we set off for home again!

**December:** On a cold Wednesday in December, members of DVM donned their Christmas sweaters and gathered at Del Toro restaurant. The food and the conversation matched the Christmas spirit. On our plates, servings were very generous. In fact, at one stage, Rev. McElhinney was asked to pray that we could do justice to what we had been served. Very fittingly, he resorted to that not very well-known prayer "Oh Lord! Make us equal to the task!" With the aid of prayer and a healthy appetite, everyone managed to enjoy the fine food on offer. There was, of course, time too for interesting conversation. The evening demonstrated the best of Derryvolgie fellowship and gave the opportunity for sharing conversation and thought with each other. Our thanks to George Summers who made all the arrangements and laid the foundation for a memorable evening.

**January:** The DVM had the opportunity to get an insight into a year in the life of the Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. Our speaker was Councilor Brian Bloomfield, who along with his wife, Rosalind, had been Mayor and Mayoress last year. Councillor Bloomfield is well known to members of DVM and it was a pleasure to have him as our guest. The former Mayor outlined what was involved in the role of Mayor. In particular, Councilor Bloomfield gave an interesting glimpse at the number and variety of engagements which a Mayor might attend in any day: official government functions, meetings with individuals, support for charity organizations, etc. Councilor Bloomfield illustrated his talk with a slide presentation of photographs. Councillor Bloomfield and his wife were especially supportive of the Tiny Life children's charity during their year in office. DVM were pleased to make a donation to Tiny Life as our appreciation to Councilor Bloomfield for his presentation.



St. Columba's Parish,  
Church of Ireland,  
Belsize Road, Lisburn.



STATEMENTS FOR JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017

F.W.O. AND ANNUAL DONATIONS

F.W.O.	TOTAL	F.W.O.	TOTAL	F.W.O.	TOTAL	F.W.O.	TOTAL	ANNUAL	TOTAL
1	265.00	22	335.00	43	33.70	64	17.00	1	150.00
2	25.00	23	270.00	44	689.00	65	0.00	2	500.00
3	270.00	24	110.00	45	236.70	66	2430.00		
4	0.00	25	0.00	46	350.00	67	265.00		
5	81.00	26	500.00	47	150.00	68	0.00		
6	0.00	27	712.00	48	195.00	69	535.00		
7	280.00	28	557.00	49	75.00	70	584.50		
8	220.00	29	85.00	50	417.65	71	0.00		
9	938.50	30	15.00	51	0.00	72	180.00		
10	330.99	31	0.00	52	260.00	73	380.00		
11	265.00	32	360.00	53	0.00	74	0.00		
12	0.00	33	158.90	54	540.00	75	0.00		
13	0.00	34	159.00	55	530.00	76	155.00		
14	0.00	35	75.00	56	120.00	77	1480.00		
15	150.00	36	500.00	57	51.70	78	184.65		
16	400.00	37	1000.00	58	130.00	79	90.00		
17	656.00	38	110.00	59	0.00	80	0.00		
18	505.00	39	53.00	60	540.00	81	890.00		
19	375.00	40	0.00	61	1060.00	82	123.50		
20	1226.50	41	710.00	62	0.00				
21	500.00	42	612.00	63	91.00				

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO DERRYVOLGIE PARISH CHURCH