



HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE?

We have just returned from a hill walking holiday in Sicily. It's a beautiful island, the largest province of Italy, and often remembered because of the Mt Etna volcano. Jane and I walked about 12 miles each day through the hills from village to village.

By the middle of the day however, it was picnic time, and we needed a place of shade and a stone to sit on for lunch.

In the gospels, picnics with Jesus sometimes made headlines. Once he had people following him for three days without food! He wants to get them food. The disciples

say where in this place can anyone get bread? His answer was "How much do you have?"

When we hear about the plight of the homeless, the hungry, the refugees and migrants, it's hard not to have Jesus' question come to our minds. It's a question we can never ignore. It challenges our natural instinct to look after ourselves before those in need and distress.

Too often these times, the voice of compassion is being swamped by an 'us first' culture. That was never the way of the people of God. Jewish people teach 'Welcome strangers, because you were once strangers in Egypt', and Jesus says 'whatever you do for the least of these people, you do for me.'

So when confronted by the needs of others the question to answer is **HOW MUCH DO WE HAVE?**

"TOGETHER IS BETTER" with our Church Family!

Following on from the departure of Stephen, Cathy and the children, it has been agreed that our church motto for the next 6-7 months is "**togetherness**". It is so important that during our church vacancy, we work together as a church family to maintain the good work that both Stephen and Cathy have helped us develop. With this in mind, both the Select Vestry and the Events Committee are working together to establish plenty of events in the church calendar from now until Christmas, as we feel it is so important to keep our church family together. To name but a few we hope to hold our Walk and Summer BBQ at Lady Dixon Park, Pot Luck Harvest Lunch, a Movie Night (because we all love a good film and popcorn!) as well as the return of the successful Christmas Craft Fair (24th November 2018).

With that in mind, I will be bombarding the ever growing 'WhatsApp group' with a few little events for your diary, as well as the church notices over the coming weeks when dates are finalised. No doubt I will be roping a fair few of you into helping in some shape or form! You have all been warned!

We would be so grateful of your support and prayers for these events and for all of those who work behind the scenes to make it all happen!

Laura Colburn

SUNDAY CLUB

When you read this, Prize day will be over and Sunday Club will be taking it's summer break. It is so lovely to see and hear children in church so hopefully families will still come and should the time be long for some little ones the committee room is always available if you wish to take them out.

Sunday Club is for children and young people from 3 years. We look forward to seeing you all again on **Sunday 2nd September**, and hope you have a great summer.





The New Windsor Park

On 18th June, some nineteen members of Derryvolgie Men's Group were given a conducted tour of Windsor Park. This was the DVM final outing of this year's programme. For the non-sporting, Windsor Park is situated in south Belfast and is the home of the NI international football team. The stadium was built in 1905 but has been transformed in recent years into a large modern complex. The capacity of the football stadium is around 18,000 but the complex also contains a surprising range of other displays, meeting rooms, and corporate suites, many of which bring back

memories of heroes, goal scorers, managers, famous matches, etc.

We had the opportunity to look closely at the newly laid pitch and to sit in the dugout occupied by the NI management team during matches. In the press room, three of our members had the chance to pretend they were big stars being interviewed after a game. A few other brave souls weren't able to resist trying their luck as penalty-takers against a virtual Pat Jennings. We had, too, a privileged look at the George Best Corporate suite, used for entertaining dignitaries on match days

In the Heritage centre could be seen echoes of NI's footballing past. There were glimpses of World Cup campaigns, film clips of heroes such as Best, Blanchflower, Bingham, Bamber and so on. The place was simply packed with snippets of interesting information. The highlight of the evening came at the end when 19 men became boys again as we sat in the NI changing room with an international shirt behind us and the name of an international player above our head. And we all took a moment to think: "Oh! what might have been!"

The tour, followed by a meal in Dunmurry Golf Club, brought our DVM programme to a very pleasant end for the year. Our thanks to Billy, Stewart and Andy for arranging the evening. Indeed, sincere thanks to all who arranged events or speakers this year. Suggestions for next year's programme will be very welcome.

A Round at Down Royal

Tuesday 21st May saw the members of the Derryvolgie Men's Group hit the fairways at Down Royal Golf Course. This year the short pitch and putt course was left behind, as our golfers tackled the more demanding challenge of the nine hole Valley course with its longer holes and tricky greens,

The first group included Brendan Kane and Geoff Hamilton, both of whom had many years' experience on their side. They were accompanied by Stephen McElhinney and by Andy Sproule, both of whom, of course, had God on their side! In the second group, the youthful enthusiasm of David Pedlow, Mark McDowell and Glen Coburn was matched by the maturity of Stewart Gavin. Glen set a first for DVM Golf outings when he brought along his own coach/caddy, the vastly experienced Billy Groves! The strong breeze and the cool evening did not put our keen sportsmen off and they lived up.....and down!....to their expectations!

Completing their rounds just before darkness fell, our golfing superstars were swiftly conveyed to Fred Hughes' house to join some other DVM members. Amongst many talents, Fred is a dab hand on the barbecue. His hospitality to weary golfers gets better every year. This year's food was great and the banter was good-natured. Mind you, the truth of some of the stories from the golf course was questionable to say the least!

It was indeed an enjoyable evening. Everyone was a winner but fittingly, the prize for the best score went to Stephen McElhinney. This was Stephen's last official outing with DVM. That being so, we need to make it very clear that there is no truth in the rumour that the result was fixed! Thanks to everyone for their enthusiastic participation in the golf and in the barbecue and special thanks to Fred Hughes for his hospitality.

Derek Shuter





EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

At our last Events Committee meeting, it was agreed that we would like to have several events in the pipeline to help keep Parishioners joining together and to keep supporting the Church during the vacancy period. We feel socialising together and having fun is just as important as it is to raise money for funds.

PARISH EVENTS including SUNDAY SERVICE CALENDAR

SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER:- We wish to welcome everyone back after their holidays and catch up on news and enjoy a fun morning together. There will be a leisurely walk around Lady Dixon Park in the morning, followed by a Barbeque lunch.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER:- There will be a Movie Night, with a film for all ages to enjoy. The church will be transformed with a big screen and comfy seats, Popcorn and treats will be served to make it a fun experience. Date of Movie Night is yet to be confirmed.

SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER:- Harvest Sunday: This will be our annual 'Pot Luck Lunch' after the Harvest Service. Signup sheet will be in the Foyer at the back of the church nearer the time.

SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER:- Remembrance Sunday Service.

SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER:- We are having a Christmas Craft Fair with Various stalls and lunch available.

FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER:- This will be our Parish Christmas Dinner, when we can enjoy a lovely turkey and ham dinner with all the trimmings and entertainment from Harmony Hill Choir.

SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER:- Evening Carol Service.

SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER:- Nativity Play.

Helen Kane

DERRYVOLGIE CHOIR

The next Choir practice is on **Thursday 19th July 7.30-8.30pm.** We will be singing On Sunday 22nd July! I'm also looking for names as we aren't a 'pop up' Choir any longer, We are a fixture!

Thanks Kirsty Orr



Derryvolgie Kids: Q & A with Allegra Robinson

Q: What does church mean to you?

A: I've been coming to church as long as I can remember. It helps me remember what God has done and how He gave His only son to die for us. Sometimes I find it hard to study when I'm not at church. I've got a friend that believes in God but her mum and dad don't, but she keeps on believing.

Q: What does it mean to be a Christian?

A: Being a Christian means a lot to me. When I'm scared I can just think of a Bible verse to cheer me up. Some people think it's hard praying, but it's not. Being a Christian helps me relax because I know God is with me.

Q: What's something wonderful God has done for you?

A: God has given me a great life because he has blessed me with loads of things. It was hard to pick just one, but He has blessed me with food, family and friends.

Allegra Robinson





Derryvolgie Ladies Group

~~~ **CAMEO** ~~~

*(Come And Meet Each Other!)*

In February Rev Stephen McElhinney called a meeting of ladies to investigate the need for a parish ladies group. Fifteen attended ranging from young Mums (one even had a sleeping baby with her!) to more 'experienced' ladies and a few others were interested but unable to attend that night. It was apparent there was a need and so we worked over 2 evenings discussing and developing a format.

As a church group we look:-

**Up to God** – each evening will have a short bible reading and a prayer.

**Out to the community** – by supporting others and our community, e.g. knitting for hospitals

**In to ourselves** – by supporting each other, having speakers or visits of interest and helping our church e.g. producing crafts for the fair.

We will meet on **first Monday each month - 7.30 – 9.00pm** ending with tea, biscuits and chat, and if everyone brings their own cup no one will have to stay behind to wash up!

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May** – Show and Tell. Several ladies brought and talked about items linked to the past which were all very interesting, followed by lots of cake tea and chat!

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June** – meal out at Lisburn Golf Club. 22 ladies enjoyed lovely food and craic, (thank you to Sylvia Carr for organising)

We meet again on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** when we will plan our year. Our leaders for the year will be **Nuala Barr & Lyn Dobbin**. All ladies very welcome!!



**Toddlers Together** have just finished another successful year! We started way back in September with lots of new boys and girls, along with returning members. On a normal day we have playtime, a craft item, snacks and drinks followed by singing. In December, we made cards for Christmas and as the big day approached Stephen did his always popular Christmas talk followed by a visit from Santa who gave each child a gift. For Valentine's Day, the children decorated biscuits with pink icing and a chocolate heart. Shrove Tuesday was next; We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with homemade pancakes, one of the Mums said they looked just like real (bought) pancakes! Mothers Day saw us make cards and each Mum/Granny received a small pot plant. Easter was marked by every child making up an Easter bag filled with goodies followed by Stephen's Easter talk. Sports day proved a very lively occasion with running races crawling through tunnels etc, everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves! For Father's day each child took home a card and a bar of chocolate for Dad. I would like to thank both Maureen and Thelma for all their help during the year. Stephen and Cathy have now moved on to pastures new and will be sadly missed by everyone. Toddlers will reopen on **Tuesday 4th September 2018**.

**Margaret Perry**

### **FAB Holiday Bible Club - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

This has proved so popular in the past we are going to run it but slightly shorter due to availability of leaders. Instead of a barbecue we are going to ask parents to join us for the last hour on the final night for a Beetle Drive. Please pray for the leaders as they plan for this and for the children who will attend.



### **Christian aid Week 13–19 May 2018**

Christian Aid is an annual door to door collection which Derryvolgie supports each year. Many thanks to all our collectors and donators, our collection amounted to **£860**. Our collection will go to help people less fortunate than ourselves facing unimaginable natural disasters across the world.

**George Summers**



### **BOWLING CLUB**

We had a few good matches last season and we are happy to say we did not end up bottom of the league!!!! We are still in need of a few new members, so anyone interested is very welcome to come along on a Thursday night at 8 pm. for a bit of craic and a cup of tea. We are planning to recommence in mid-September. We must say a huge thank you to Isabel Kirkwood for her dedicated role as Bowling Treasurer for 42 years. Unfortunately at our last AGM she decided to retire. We wish her well in her retirement however we still look forward to seeing her on a Thursday night.

**Brendon Kane**

**Note from the Editor** If you know of anyone who would like to receive our magazine electronically, or you would like to receive it this way yourself, please give Rhona Gavin an e-mail address or e-mail the information to [rhona.gavin@ntlworld.com](mailto:rhona.gavin@ntlworld.com)



Dear friends, I Hope you're well. It's so good to always have the opportunity to keep in touch with you through the magazine which I love reading. Thanks so much.

We have a group from the organisation 'REMAR' (an organisation which works with people with drug and alcohol addictions, with street children and with victims of domestic abuse) staying with us at the minute and it was so encouraging to hear their testimonies of how God transformed their lives. Please pray for them in this important ministry. They shared so openly with our young people and it was good for them to be able to chat with them and listen to their advice as there is a lot of pressure to take drugs.

In July there is a team from Annaghmore coming to the Chaco and Concepcion. We are really looking forward to it as teams from home are always such an encouragement to the church. One of the children said 'they must really love us to come all this way to spend time with us.' - God's love shown through mission.

Also at the end of July or start of August we have our Annual Church Meeting where decisions are made for the next year. We would so appreciate your prayers for this, for wisdom and unity for the team leading the church and that the Lord would provide us with a minister. We will also be praying for you as a church at this time of change.

Thanks so much for all your support and prayers, *Love Claire*

### Pray for our Nominators

As our Bishop, Diocesan Nominators and Parochial Nominators (Andrew, David, Noreen and Stewart) strive to seek out and appoint a new Rector, it is vitally important that we, as a church family, pray for God's input, wisdom, knowledge and guidance. Please pray continually and ask for the right servant to be placed with us.

Change is a part of life, and although there will definitely be a need for some extra patience and flexibility by everyone in our church family, we will get through this... especially if we follow these tips:

**1. Be Faithful to Attend Services** – The lack of a permanent Rector can make some of us feel less enthused or connected with our church family and may promote more frequent absences. However, if there was a time our church needed you, this is it! This is a time for us to increase our faithfulness in every area. We don't want to be fair-weather friends of the church... we want to remain faithful even during this uncertain time.

**2. Be a Person of Prayer** – People in our church must always be sincerely devoted to prayer... but even more so during this time when our church is without a Rector. If he can, our enemy, Satan will attempt to use the Rector's vacancy to incite mischief, conflict and discouragement in the flock, so prayer and spiritual vigilance is especially important during this time. Come on! Let's pray and stick together!

**3. Be Extra Patient and Understanding** – The interim period for our church may become tense and stressful, creating the possible atmosphere for any number of misunderstandings, so it is very important and helpful for everyone to add an extra seasoning of patience to our attitudes. Now that our Rector has moved on, following his calling, we, as a church family will discover the many things he did. We may notice that things may not run as smoothly as it once did... tasks may fall through the cracks or be forgotten about. It is not a time to find fault, but be understanding and pitch in and help make up the shortfalls. With God's help, we can Do It!

**4. Continue to Contribute Financially** – During a time of leadership transition, church finances can often become one of the first casualties to suffer... so it is vitally important for us to remain steadfast with our tithes and offerings. Remember, the tithe belongs to the Lord, continue to be faithful to Him, regardless of the changing nature of our church.

**5. Volunteer More than Usual** – Sometimes people look at changes in church leadership, as an opportunity to make changes of their own... perhaps to leave the church or to give up a position or responsibility. This is a critical time to step up and volunteer more than normal. Our church is not merely an agency to provide a service, our church is a relationship-based community, a family, where people serve and bless "each other" mutually... and it takes everyone's participation to make it work the way it should. Another way to look at it is... our church isn't as much like a restaurant, where customers are "served" and "pampered" ...but is more like a pot-luck lunch where everyone brings a dish to share with each other..... And we do love our Pot Luck Lunches!

