



March 2019

St. Columba's Connections

CHURCH OF IRELAND DERRYVOLGIE

www.derryvolgie.com



The Rector writes:

Hello

A few years ago, if you had asked me what my favourite type of chocolate was I would have said Cadburys Crème Egg. I was delighted when I found out you could get that flavour of ice-cream and even more excited when someone challenged me to 'how many crème eggs can you eat in one sitting?' However, a few years ago they changed their recipe and now the eggs are 'just not what they used to be.'

Easter celebrates the single most selfless act that brings freedom for the greatest number of people. Ironically this freedom comes through the most historically horrific punishment that there has ever been.

'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.' Jesus

Unlike my favourite chocolate of yester year Jesus is the unchanging reality amidst a shifting world. His words are as true today as the day he spoke them. His promises stand as firm today as the day he made them. Just like the first Easter when his death brought new life the same is true today.

When we trust in him he sets us free – he never promises an easy life – but he does promise an adventure.

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36

Every Blessing
James

Lenten programme

Lent is often deemed to be a period of self-denial when we refrain from 'something' for the 40 days. Yet traditionally it has been a time set aside by the Church to focus on the significance of Easter. Why not join us once a week each Wednesday for the six weeks as we focus on different characters who appear in the Easter story? Each evening we will take time to explore their lives and see what could be of influence for us today. Using a simple structure of teaching and reflection we will journey through the exciting and powerful stories of the characters around the cross.

Starting on Ash Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm. Everyone Welcome

Easter Walk of Witness

This year we have been planning again for the Walk of Witness to take place on Good Friday 19th April. We will be starting at 10.30am from St Columba's then onto Harmony Hill Presbyterian via the Belsize Road / Moss Road and having walked up Queensway finishing with refreshments at St Colman's.

SPRING CLEAN

SATURDAY 16th MARCH
9.30am - 1pm

Weeding, pruning, cleaning.
Inside/ outside.

All welcome for whatever time you
have available.

Thank you, see you there! Rodney

Easter General Vestry

This year the Easter General Vestry will take place on **Tuesday 30th April at 7.30pm** to elect people to serve as Church and Glebe Wardens, Select Vestry members and to transact such business as may be appropriate. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We look forward to seeing our church family come together to show encouragement and support for the election of the People's Wardens and Select Vestry.

DERRYVOLGIE DEFIBRILLATOR??

The number of defibrillators found in public buildings, churches, etc is on the increase. The members of the Men's Group have been discussing the possibility of raising funds to purchase a defibrillator to be positioned in the church. It has been shown that having a defibrillator close-at-hand in the event of someone experiencing cardiac arrest improves survival chances greatly. The Men's Group has decided to raise as much funding as they can to purchase a defibrillator for the church. Likely cost is around £1100. We hope to have funds in place in next 3 months or so. Watch out for more details. All support for this effort will be greatly appreciated. **Derek Shuter**



Contact: Rev. James Boyd, 35 Kirkwood's Park, Lisburn, BT28 3RR. Tel. Number: 028 92 671662



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

There was a great feeling of community when we sat down for Christmas lunch on Friday 14th December. We, of course, were the “not-so-young-anymore” members of the parish! The chairs in church had been moved to the sides and tables laid out with festive décor. Margaret Perry and her team surpassed themselves in the standard of food they had prepared. The waitress service was faultless. The conversation was hearty. A certain amount of nostalgic talk could be overheard but this was hardly surprising given the profile of those attending! To ensure that we had a memorable end to the lunch, a large choir from Harmony Hill Primary School entertained us with a selection of seasonal songs and carols. Sincere thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of this event. It certainly emphasised the community aspect of belonging to a church and it gave a great start to the Christmas season.



Parish D.I.Y Group

Can you spare an hour?

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month - 9.30am - 12noon. We gather at the church to give the building and grounds a spring clean, this includes a general tidy up, cleaning, dusting and minor repairs etc. No experience necessary and everyone is very welcome. Tea, coffee and good craic are provided!

For further information, contact Rodney on 028 92 601717

Bible in One Year

Towards the end of December, I decided to take up the challenge of reading the bible through in one year. This is something that I have done previously and really benefited from the breadth of the story that runs through the pages of the bible from cover to cover. I mentioned it to a couple of people in conversation and before I knew it there was group of ladies who were keen to join in. So, we have been reading in our own homes and then plan to meet up once a month over the course of the year for tea and a natter to share our thoughts about what we have read. Hopefully we will be able to do more of these kinds of things soon so keep your eyes peeled and your ears open for what is yet to come.

Shirley Boyd



Hi Everyone,

Brendon and I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone so very much for their kindness and love, especially over the last few months. Words can't express how much it has meant to us all. I am happy to report that Brendon is now home, after a long 5 week stay in hospital recovering to better health. He is resting and thankfully getting stronger each day. We are just so touched by everyone's support and well wishes.

We thank everyone who gave up their time to go and visit Brendon. He really enjoyed his many visitors and catching up on the news, although probably mostly sporting news, but none the less it cheered him up immensely. We thank Rev. James for his visits and comforting prayers.

We are touched by all the thoughtfulness from the numerous “Get Well” cards and also the kind food parcels, fruit, stews, pies and soups, which are so delicious and have been an amazing help to have. As good nourishing food is what the doctor has ordered, so we thank you for your generosity. It is reassuring to have a great support, and comforting for me to know that help is just a phone call away should we need it. We are just so grateful and fortunate to have so many friends amongst our church.

Thank you all so very much for your kindness and prayers.

Love from Helen & Brendon



Festive Food

The Men's Group has continued their monthly meetings. In December, we followed our tradition of a Christmas meal together. This was held in Del Toro restaurant when about 20 members attended. The evening was arranged and organised by George Summers. Our thanks to George. Perhaps the best tribute that we can pay to George and to Del Toro is to say that scarcely a scrap was left on any dinner or dessert plate. The conversation and the goodwill led to a very enjoyable evening.

Derek Shuter



Visiting the PSNI!

On 21st January 16 members of the group attended Lisburn Police Station..... on a voluntary basis. rather than having been arrested! We were met by an experienced member of the Neighbourhood Policing team and given an introduction to the Lisburn and Castlereagh District. Resource allocation, policing priorities, command structure and specialist departments were explained. We moved to the custody area where suspects and witnesses are interviewed. We participated in a role playing exercise with Derryvolgie actors playing the parts of criminal, solicitor and police officer. No admissions were made and we were relieved that we did not have to find a new Honorary Treasurer! Some time was spent in the CCTV room where multiple screens showed in live time what was happening around Lisburn, Moira, Hillsborough and even further afield. The ability to track suspects who were in vehicles or on foot was demonstrated. It was comforting to know that Big Brother was indeed watching and recording! We had the opportunity to ask questions and were given some information on some scams which are rife. The old adage "If it sounds too good to be true – it probably is!" is still relevant. An interesting evening with a greater appreciation gained of how we can help the police in reducing crime and bringing offenders to justice.

Andy Sproule



Bowling

Lisburn Bowl was the venue for the February meeting. Joe McCartney had done a good job in persuading 16 members that they could be energetic ten-pin bowlers. Three lanes were occupied. Our enthusiasm and our expectations, however, seemed to be greater than our skill level! There was a marvellous variety of techniques on display, some of them deliberate.....but most of them accidental, as the bowls seemed to have a will of their own! At the end of the session, we all considered ourselves winners..... but the prize for the highest

score on the night went to Alan Hill. Thanks to Joe for organising both the bowling and the meal which we enjoyed in Eds restaurant afterwards. In most cases we were better at the eating than the bowling!

Derek Shuter

Martha Joy's Baptism Service

What a lovely Baptism Service we had on Sunday 10th February 2019! Congratulations to David, Sarah, Naomi, Esther and all the family on the baptism of their beautiful daughter Martha Joy Pedlow.





Our youth club for primary age children meets on the first 3 Friday nights each month of term time from 6.30 – 8.00pm. We have 56 children registered, though usually an average of 26 turn up on any night.

Rebekah Simpson has been a great leader over the years but sadly (for us) she now works on Friday nights which means she can't be with us. Good luck with the new job Rebekah – we really miss you!

Please help us in one or more of the following ways:-

1. As a leader – regularly or on a rota basis.
2. On the sign in desk – this would free up a leader to be with the children, again regularly or on a rota basis.
3. Regular prayer for the work, the young people and the leaders.



SUNDAY CLUB

2019 has started with very good attendance! There are 26 names on Roll and the average number each week is 15, which is wonderful!

This year we are piloting a new Sunday school programme Jill Hamilton has produced along with a few other churches in the area and it is proving a useful framework. However with a widespread of ages – ranging from 2 – 13 years, we need to think about splitting the group up for part of the lesson. We now have a small team teaching on a rota basis which is wonderful but we also need an assistant each week to cope with the numbers and encourage our children in activities. There is a monthly rota sheet on the Sunday club notice board so please consider putting your name on it if you could volunteer for even one or two Sundays in the year.

Noreen Kavanagh



Church of Ireland GAZETTE

The Gazette is the magazine which provides news and articles on the church throughout Ireland. It is now published monthly and is available by subscription. A few free samples are available on the table in the porch. The Gazette office is based in Lisburn. Anyone interested in purchasing the Gazette should contact:

Church of Ireland Gazette, 3 Wallace Avenue, Lisburn BT274AA.

Tel: 028 92 675743. Email: gazette@ireland.anglican.org



An Update from Claire Holmes –SAMS

I have just been back to Paraguay a few days, after having spent some time at home over Christmas which was lovely. Apparently it was one of the hottest summers ever, so I am more than happy to have missed that.

Here the children and young people are just starting back to school after the Summer Holidays and all the church activities are starting again, as well as opportunities to teach the Bible in a local primary school.

At the end of January a lot of our young people were at a diocesan camp in Asunción and have come back really encouraged from that, and enthusiastic to serve God in

different ways. We pray that this will continue and that as leaders we will know how to encourage them.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Love and prayers.

Claire.

CAMEO – DERRYVOLGIE LADIES GROUP



On 4th February Dr Susan Buchanan joined DVG ladies group to talk about “Good mental health in the 21st Century”. Every seat in the committee room was filled, an indication of the importance we place on mental wellness today.

Dr Buchanan addressed some of the most prevalent conditions including anxiety and depression, quoting statistics on the age groups most likely to be affected. A medical explanation of how these conditions affect the body in various ways ensued, concluding with the many ways in which we as individuals can promote good mental wellness. Top tips from the evening include: importance of sleep, healthy eating and exercise.

On behalf of DVG ladies, thank you to Dr Buchanan for taking the time to join us.

We continue our topic of mental health at next month's meeting, when the wonderful Kirsty Orr will join us in “Singing for mental health”.

We look forward to seeing you all again on **Monday 4th March at 7.30pm.**

Nuala & Lyn



The Big Breakfast & Craft Fair

Well it's that time of year again, the New Year's resolutions have been long forgotten and the effects of winter have taken their toll and all we really fancy is a calorific FRY!

With that in mind, here's a date for your diary –

Saturday 23rd March 9.30 - 1pm. Come along and enjoy fellowship with friends and family over a bit of breakfast before taking a dander down to the Craft Fair where we have Mother's Day covered with an array of all things HANDMADE by local crafters and artists.

We will be running a Facebook Competition to spread the word and to enable a lucky pair to win breakfast on us!! Why not pop over and like

the event on our church Facebook and invite your friends and family along! This is one of our big fund raisers in the church Calendar and we need our church family to support and spread the word! Sharing is caring! <https://www.facebook.com/DerryvolgieParish/>

A big thank you for all the donations for all of our hampers for our raffle - it doesn't go unnoticed and it is really appreciated!

I look forward to seeing many, if not all of your faces tucking into your breakfast in March (that is if Margaret hasn't nabbed you to flip eggs or fry bacon!!)

Laura Coburn





Today tomorrow and always He is there

In Sickness or health, in suffering
and pain
In storm-laden skies, in sunshine
and rain.
God always is there to lighten
your way
And lead you into a much
brighter day.

Inspirational Verses by
HELEN STEINER RICE



We have a full fun packed programme to look forward to, including pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and Easter crafts etc.... so come along and join in the fun! You will be made very welcome by Margaret Perry and her team!

Toddlers' Together

Toddlers meet every Tuesday morning at 10.00am. All are welcome; Mums, Dads, Grand Parents, Childminders and anyone else who looks after children of below school age.

GIFT AID..... DID YOU KNOW??.....

Anyone who pays tax is eligible to Gift Aid and the parish claims a refund of tax on the total of their gifts (free will offering envelopes and any other donations). If a parishioner wishes to receive free will offering envelopes please contact one of the Church Wardens. This is a valuable asset and generates a substantial amount of revenue to help run our parish.

The Gift Aid system allows the parish to claim back income tax on donations received from parishioners who have signed declaration forms. The current amount claimed by the parish is 25p of tax on every £1 donated (this equates to £25 refund from the government for every £100 donated).

Thank you for your continued support.

STATEMENTS FOR JANUARY - DECEMBER 2018.

F.W.O. STANDING ORDER AND ANNUAL DONATIONS

FWO	TOTAL	FWO	TOTAL	FWO	TOTAL	FWO	TOTAL	S.O.	TOTAL	ANNUAL	TOTAL
1	260.00	22	367.00	43	0.00	64	NON ISSUE	1	432.00	1	150.00
2	0.00	23	260.00	44	676.00	65	NON ISSUE	2	480.00	2	500.00
3	260.00	24	105.00	45	199.00	66	1896.00	3	480.00	3	0.00
4	0.00	25	NON ISSUE	46	290.00	67	270.00	4	300.00		
5	260.00	26	250.00	47	150.00	68	0.00	5	240.00		
6	20.00	27	637.00	48	215.00	69	520.00	6	1140.00		
7	240.00	28	530.00	49	59.00	70	690.00	7	720.00		
8	195.00	29	76.60	50	324.00	71	10.00	8	600.00		
9	495.00	30	5.00	51	7.00	72	180.00	9	264.00		
10	150.60	31	NON ISSUE	52	238.00	73	370.00	10	708.00		
11	260.00	32	520.00	53	NON ISSUE	74	NON ISSUE	11	660.00		
12	0.00	33	150.10	54	510.00	75	NON ISSUE	12	540.00		
13	0.00	34	156.00	55	520.00	76	20.00	13	360.00		
14	205.00	35	25.00	56	230.00	77	1475.00	14	48.00		
15	0.00	36	520.00	57	36.00	78	20.00	15	2400.00		
16	200.00	37	710.00	58	130.00	79	20.00	16	1020.00		
17	624.00	38	100.00	59	55.00	80	10.00	17	960.00		
18	570.00	39	52.00	60	540.00	81	640.00	18	240.00		
19	390.00	40	0.00	61	1040.00	82	114.00	19	5400.00		
20	1248.55	41	770.00	62	0.00	83	265.00	20	96.00		
21	475.00	42	612.00	63	0.00						

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO DERRYVOLGIE PARISH CHURCH.