

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year from Derryvolgie!

www.derryvolgie.com



Hello

We are fast approaching Christmas, a time of expectation and celebration. When I was growing up, if I received a present it was duly put below the tree until Christmas morning. There was no ripping the paper off there and then. On a daily basis sometimes more I would return to the tree and lift a specific present and shake it and squeeze it and dream of what might be in it. The sense of expectation grew in me until Christmas morning when I knew it would all be revealed. Sometimes the contents went far beyond the dream and other times the contents shattered the dream. I find it hard to recall what was in the present now, but I vividly remember the sense of expectation.

This is the day that the Lord has made, this is his gift to us, that is why it is called the present. I wonder do you have a sense of expectation at what God will do in the present. We are inheritors of something that is so far beyond our dreams that it is almost unimaginable – yet totally attainable because God sent his Son at Christmas to be the Saviour of the world. Your Saviour and my Saviour. So receive God's present this Christmas and don't wait until Christmas day to open your heart.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5

From all at the Rectory we wish you a happy Christmas and a new year filled with many blessings.
James

Bishop Alan Abernethy

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, has announced that he is to retire on 31st December 2019 on health grounds. Bishop Alan said that, following medical advice, he had taken this decision with 'a very heavy heart and spirit.' Breaking the news to the diocese of which he has been bishop for more than 12 years, the 62-year-old said it had been 'an amazing privilege and joy' to have served Connor as its bishop.

Bishop Alan was diagnosed with prostate cancer during a sabbatical in 2018. His treatment began early in November, and the bishop has taken part in a clinical trial, knowing this may help others in the future. He announced his retirement on the day he had his final session of treatment. In a statement to the diocese, Bishop Alan said: "The last 12 months have been exhausting and it has been difficult to focus on anything other than my treatment plan. I have just received my last proton injection as part of the clinical trial and this stage of the journey is complete. I now need time to recover and regain my strength and energy. Having advanced prostate cancer means that I will be receiving quarterly hormone injections for the rest of my life and will have very regular check-ups with my oncologist. There are no guarantees, but it is hoped that I will be free of further treatment for years to come." The bishop concluded: "It has been an amazing privilege and joy to have served you as bishop."

As a parish we thank Bishop Alan for his ministry amongst us over these last 12 years and we wish him and Liz and their family every blessing. We also begin in earnest to pray for the process to elect a new Bishop with the preliminary meeting already having taken place we might see an appointment in early Spring.



Revision of the register of Vestry Persons

Each January we as a parish revise a list called 'Register of Vestry Persons.' What does this mean? This is an important and vital register to the successful running of our parish. It is a bit like being eligible to vote in an election. Having your name on the list does not mean that you are standing for an office/role in the church – it simply means you are eligible to vote for those who allow their names to go forward at our Easter General Vestry Meeting (AGM). So if you are new to the parish or are unsure whether your name is on it please speak to the Rector or one of the Wardens and they will be able to help answer your questions.

Parish Register

Deaths:

Rosemary Sheard
Burial: 03/10/2019

Beryl Blackshaw
Burial: 05/11/2019

Agnes English
Burial: 20/11/2019

Margaret Hamilton
Burial: 28/11/2019



We are pleased to say that we are partnering with around 20 other churches in Lisburn to share the power and presence of Jesus with 10,000 people in 2020. There will be loads of events happening across the city and we will be hosting some local ones here in Derryvolgie as well as running large events in the Leisure Centre for our children and young people alongside Crown Jesus Ministries. There will be more details coming soon but the important work begins now..... praying for others. You can pick up a bookmark in church where you can enter 5 names..... if we can get 2000 people praying for 5 people each then we will reach our target of 10,000. There are other training events happening as well so please visit www.crownjesus.org/events and sign in to ones marked with the 10,000 lives logo.

Praying for Harmony Hill Primary School

So often we get frustrated with the education system, its lack of funding or inability to be flexible to needs of individual children. It is an awesome privilege to live in a country where education is free and where we have a large and well-run primary school in our parish. We want to be able to soak it in prayer. Seeking that God's Kingdom would come and that children would not only receive a good education but that they would flourish and grow in maturity, reaching the amazing potential that is within each one of them.

So we gather to pray for Harmony Hill Primary School on the SECOND FRIDAY of every month at 9.30am in the Committee room. Coffee/Tea will be on the go from 9.15am and pre-school children are welcome to come along with you - some toys are provided for them. If you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or someone with a vested interest in the school you are most welcome.



**Is back on
Friday 10th January – 6.30pm.**

St Columba's Derryvolgie

2 Corinthians 9:15
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!



You're invited to our Christmas happenings

Community Carols - 15th December 5.00pm
(Featuring Murley Silver Band, Fivemiletown)

The Nativity - 22nd December 10.30am
(An inter-generational re-telling of the Christmas story)

Christmas Communion - 24th December 11.30pm
(Festive Refreshments served from 11.00pm)

Christmas Day Celebration - 10.30am
(A short service for everyone including Holy Communion)

Visit our website www.derryvolgie.com for more information
Follow us on Facebook @derryvolgie 



DEFIBRILLATOR FUND

Thanks to everyone who supported our Defibrillator Fund. As you will see, a defibrillator has been placed in the reception area of the church. This is for use, in an emergency, by anyone using the church buildings. We were pleased to hold a familiarisation session and we are grateful to Dr Susan for leading this, with help from Maureen. Special thanks to Stewart Walker, parent of a child in the Irish Dancing class which uses the church building. Stewart works for local firm Heartsine which just happens to manufacture defibrillators. Thanks to Stewart, we were able to access the Heartsine community scheme, which helped with the purchase of our defibrillator. Response to the fund has also enabled us to



provide some outreach to the local community. We have been able to place a defibrillator in the Mace in Moss Road. Some parishioners will remember that this shop unit was the original location of St Columba's as a church. We are delighted to keep this historic connection. We have also been able to place a defibrillator in Froth Coffee Shop. Froth is used by numerous members of St Columba's. Our thanks to the staff of Mace and of Froth.



CAMEO NEWS

Following the planning meeting in September and making her debut as guest speaker, for our October gathering, was Shirley Boyd, our Rector's wife – or Di-Rector. She told us how she had met James - he apparently had done all the chasing - their respective families and other parishes where they had served. Shirley shared her faith and gave a unique insight into the challenges faced by a rectory family.

In November our very own Sheena Morton and two equally talented friends, demonstrated the art of decorating flower pots, candles and soap in a Christmas theme. These lovely items, together with a wide variety of

other hand crafts were on sale at the Craft Fair. A total of just over £400 was raised on the stall and ballots for the pamper/food hampers. A big thank you to all who contributed and helped in any way. In early December 23 ladies, beautifully attired in Christmas jumpers and sparkly tops went to Dunmurry Golf Club for a festive meal. The food was first class and the staff were very attentive. There was a buzz of conversation around the cosy conservatory throughout and secret Santa presents were exchanged at the conclusion of the evening. Our next meeting on 6th January 2020 will feature Linda Murray from the Lisburn Tourist office for what promises to be a very informative evening. Kirsty and Sheena will be providing refreshments. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

Carol and Johanna



Carol Singing

Would you like to help us spread some festive cheer? It is a wonderful privilege to visit the local folds; Belsize Court and Harmony Fold and the wards of Lagan Valley Hospital singing some well known Christmas Carols. If you would like to join us on Monday 16th or Tuesday 17th December at 6.30pm please speak to Jim Hamilton.





Once again we had a fantastic morning of Christmas Crafts and teas! Our crafters came from near and far and they certainly didn't disappoint us! With 20+ tables including local crafters, both new and old, our ladies group 'Cameo' and our raffle of the hampers we had a really successful day with visitors coming from not only the local area but from across our wee country!

It was a day of great shopping and fellowship over a good old cuppa with a really warm and festive atmosphere! I hope all of you enjoyed your morning of shopping and that any of those purchases which have been earmarked as gifts this Christmas time, go down a storm!

A big thank you to all who helped in the promoting, setting up, tidying up of the hall as well as the 'workers' in the kitchen who ensured our event went off without a hitch. Without your support it would never have been as successful as last year and it is really appreciated! Our welcoming and friendly attitudes didn't go unnoticed with many a visitor through

our doors on the day passing comment, with many leaving with an open invitation to come back again soon to visit! We raised a whopping £1461.45!! So again, a big THANK YOU to each and every one of you who made our Christmas Fair so successful yet again! **Laura Coburn**



Derryvolgie Mens' Group

Visit Ulster Aviation Society!

In September, the Men's Group visited the Ulster Aviation Society Museum at the Maze. The museum is housed inside two large hangars. However, the outside appearance of the hangars gives no idea of the big variety of aircraft which is housed and maintained inside. We were surprised, to say the least, to see that the museum holds some 40+ aircraft. The Society is a charity but has managed to acquire a selection of aircraft e.g. fighter planes from WW11, planes designed by Shorts, transport carriers and a huge military helicopter. A model of the plane in which Harry Ferguson made his first flight over Newcastle beach has a prominent position. Our visit was made all the more interesting by the informative commentary provided by our guides. It was easy to understand why the Ulster Aviation Society museum is No.1 on Trip Advisor for Things to see in Lisburn. Our thanks to Andy for making the arrangements for this visit.

Blue Watch shows us around!

For their October outing, the Men's Society had a very informative and enjoyable visit to Lisburn Fire Station. The members of Blue watch were on duty on the evening of our visit. After an introductory briefing into the role of fire-fighting today, we were given a tour of the building, including the gymnasium, sleeping quarters, the engines and the command vehicles. We had the opportunity to see at first hand the various wheels, knobs and whistles and we were shown their uses. The visit brought home to us that firefighters are a highly trained and closely knit band of men and women who, on a daily basis, deal with all kinds of traumas. We left, feeling that they are undoubtedly deserving of our best support.

City Cemetery comes to life!

Tom Hartley is an ex Mayor of Belfast. Now, his particular interest is in the cemeteries of Belfast. He is the author of several books entitled "Written in Stone." In these, he says that he tries to "bring to life" stories from the City Cemetery, Milltown cemetery and Balmoral Cemetery.

At the November meeting of the Men's Group, Councillor Hartley gave us a fascinating insight into the history of the City Cemetery in Belfast. We learnt that a wall had been built underground to separate the graves of different sections of the community. We saw slides of a variety of headstones and Gaelic crosses. We got an opportunity to understand the mix of denominations..... Jewish, Presbyterians, Church of Ireland, etc. Inscriptions on headstones showed us the varied backgrounds and life stories of some of those buried in the cemetery.....unionist politicians, military officers, business leaders, etc. Councillor Hartley's presentation gave us an insight into the history of Belfast and into local identity. His talk was different but fascinating. We all came away with something to think about. Our thanks to Joe for setting up the talk.

