



St. Columba's Connections

CHURCH OF IRELAND DERRYVOLGIE

www.derryvolgie.com



Hello

We have been involved in partnering with 16 other churches across Lisburn from a variety of denominations in a project called 10,000 lives – lighting up Lisburn with the power and presence of Jesus.

The idea is simple. As individual churches we all play a part in seeing God's Kingdom grow in our city. We each have different styles and groups of people, yet we have the same goal to bring glory to God and carry the message of Jesus' transforming power out into our community.

You will soon see more publicity with the 10,000 lives logo on it and I am pleased to say that we have several exciting events coming up in Holy Week and closer to the summer. You can take a look at these later on in the magazine. In the meantime, let's continue to pray for and invite others to join us on our journey with Jesus.

Every Blessing
James

'Now to Him who can do immeasurably more than all we ask, seek or imagine. To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus. Now and forever. Amen.'



A GOOD PROBLEM TO HAVE?

Getting cars parked for the Sunday morning service at 10.30am has become increasingly difficult for some parishioners, excluding those who are in their seats shortly after 10am. The reasons are two-fold, the longstanding members of the parish who continue to faithfully attend but also many recent additions. Church attendance at the 52 Sunday morning services from January to December 2019 was up by 24% from 2018, and up by 27% for the last four months - September to December. We have asked the owner of the van and car who regularly parks inside our wall, to move them for



Sunday mornings – he has made a donation to the Parish to be allowed to use our car park. We also open the gates to the rear of the premises to facilitate a number of extra cars. The Select Vestry are greatly encouraged by the increased number of people attending our worship services and great credit has to go to Reverend James Boyd – who has recently completed his first year in post. Well done to you all and please keep up the good work.

Andy Sproule

A Favourite Hymn



"Abide with me" is a well-known hymn. Traditionally, it is sung at funeral services but the interesting thing is that it also often features on happier occasions and at official ceremonies e.g. it has been sung at the FA Cup Final every year since 1927 and it was sung at the opening of the London Olympics. The meaning of the words and the sound of the music bind well together. For NI people, the hymn has local connections. The author, Henry Francis Lyte, was a pupil at Portora School, Enniskillen. Abandoned by his father, Lyte was fortunate to be taken under the care of the Headmaster in Portora School. A memorial plaque to Lyte can still be seen in the school today.

In later life, Lyte became an ordained minister. Unfortunately, his life was blighted by ill health. Tuberculosis left him frail and often he had to seek warmer surroundings in Europe. His last parish was in Brixham in the south of England. After a period of extreme ill health, he insisted on taking, what he knew, would be his final service. The story has it that soon after this service, he completed the words of what was to become "Abide with me." Perhaps the words take on an even deeper meaning when we realise that the writer was aware of his imminent death when he composed them. At the age of 54, Lyte came to the end of his life. It was a life brought to an end too quickly but, at the same time, a life that left behind an enduring hymn, which has much to tell us of the different circumstances of life.



Our **Alpha Course** is continuing each Wednesday night in **Froth Coffee Shop**. We are grateful to Karen for facilitating our meeting there. This has been a great course so far with plenty of questions and chat around a variety of different issues. We look forward to our Away Day when we will look at the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Please do continue to pray for us and watch out for our next course if you didn't make it along to this one.

Easter General Vestry

This year the Easter General Vestry will take place on

Monday 30th March 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.

This is also a triennial year when we elect Diocesan Synod members and Parochial Nominators.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Parish Register

Deaths:

Ina Geddis

Derryvolgie Park, Lisburn.

Cremation: 27/02/2020

Easter Walk of Witness

This year we have been planning again for the Walk of Witness to take place on Good Friday 10th April. We will be starting at 10.30am from St Columba's then onto Harmony Hill Presbyterian via the Belsize Road and having walked up the Queensway finishing with refreshments at St Colman's.

Lisburn Faith Forum

Several churches have been journeying with statutory agencies in Lisburn to explore how we can better partner with each other in the area of mental health. This has resulted in training for leaders and volunteers and the beginning of a strategy on how to move this forward in both a positive and practical way. One of the ways we can improve our mental health as individuals is by using a simple but effective strategy called 'Take 5.' These points are listed below with some reflections on how we can continue to walk with Jesus at the same time.

1. Connect – being part of a parish group, coming to worship and being a good neighbour.
2. Be active – walk to church, join a club or walking group, prayer walk the streets around your home and church or visit a neighbour.
3. Take notice – the beauty around us, other people's wellbeing and praying for those in need.
4. Keep learning – daily devotions, attend the bible study, have a coffee while chatting about spiritual things.
5. Give – volunteer your time, talents and money, be generous and be involved.

24 Hours of Prayer

Each year we commit to pray in our buildings for a 24-hour period. This normally happens during Holy Week. This year it starts on Wednesday at 9.00pm after the God on Trial event through to Thursday at 9.00pm which will include praying for the persecuted church at the Faith Under Fire event. The concept is simple – many organisations will set up different displays which help to inform our prayers, some will be information others will be interactive. You can sign up in the porch and take as many slots as you feel appropriate.



God on Trial – Wednesday 8th April at 7.30pm

Often, we have questions, many questions: Why did God not heal me? How can I forgive when...? How can you believe the bible when it is outdated? How can I proclaim my identity? We will seek to explore the questions that you bring to us as we host a panel of well-known local people? This will be a great opportunity to engage in discussion around the big topic of today.

Faith under Fire – Thursday 9th April at 7.30pm

Today, right now individuals are being asked to either deny Jesus or face the

consequences. Open Doors will help us to engage with a topic that at its heart is an individual standing up for his/her faith. This will be an evening not to be missed as we engage with what it means to stand up for faith or maybe even be displaced from your home country.

Walk of Witness – Good Friday 10th April at 10.30am

Joining with other local churches and starting at St Columba's Derryvolgie we will carry the Cross through the streets of the Lambeg area.

The day of all days – Good Friday at 7.30pm

This will be a short service that promises to be a reflective and powerful portrayal of the events that changed the world forever.

Easter Sunday – 10.30am

A service for all ages and stages as we celebrate the life changing truth that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today.



Audio Visual in Church

We have been blessed over the last few years of being a growing congregation, with previous members returning and new people arriving. As we seek to continue to grow and develop our ministries the Vestry has been looking at our current Audio-Visual capabilities. As a result, we need to upgrade our system to enable it to be fit for purpose.

We have taken advice from a number of companies and have worked extensively with one to bring the cost into as competitive a bracket as possible. As you are already aware the vestry seeks to be good stewards of the monies that are entrusted to it and has already been able to make £5000 available towards the overall cost of approx. £10000.

The new system will:

- Enhance our worshipping community
- Allow us to extend services to those who are house bound through recordings.
- Ensure that the children will be both seen and heard appropriately when taking part in services.
- Facilitate our growing music group.
- Enhance the musical capabilities of the congregation.
- Assist our Pop-Up choir.
- Enhance the visual presentations including liturgies.
- Other benefits will follow not just during worship but at other organisations/events like FAB, DVM, CAMEO and Craft fairs etc.

In the very near future you will hear of several opportunities that will enable us to reach the target of installing the new Audio-Visual system and I would ask that you give generously to this worthwhile cause.

CAMEO - Greetings from Carol and Johanna



We continue with our great programme for 2019/2020 meeting on the first Monday of the month.

At our first meeting in January of a new decade we welcomed our speaker Linda Murray who is from the Tourist Office in Lisburn. She entertained us with lots of humorous stories and tales.

In February we had Rebecca who is from Christians against Poverty. She made us both laugh and cry with her experience about getting into debt. What a wonderful story she told us and got the message across that debt can happen to any one of us and how the charity helped her get debt free and to say that she had a happy ending to her story. Our CAMEO group is open to anyone who would like to come along and bring a friend. We have great friendship and lots of craic, plus tea/coffee and biscuits, each month from 7.30pm.

Let all that you do be done with Love - 1st Corinthians 16:14

Derryvolgie Men's Group see life through the lens in January! Wilson Lynn very kindly agreed to leave his normal seat in the pews and be our guest speaker. Wilson gave us a very personal and informative account of his life behind the camera lens, running his own photography business. In his working life, Wilson covers a great variety of types of photographic work. We were fortunate to see film extracts from some of his commissions. Wilson talked, in particular, about films he has made. He spoke with real enthusiasm about involvement in film projects which serve to promote the work of Christian and charity organisations. He showed part of a film he had made during a visit to Peru. This film gave an insight into the work of the South American Missionary Society there. Another of his films promoted the work of the Exodus organisation. Wilson explained that he had a particular preference for photography with a Christian purpose. However, he also finds himself capturing the crucial moments at weddings. "Weddings," he admitted, "can be the trickiest of all photography, making sure you capture special moments!" Commercial contracts also feature in his workload. For example, he showed us a very memorable clip from a promotional video he had made for the famous Loudon guitar company. Ed Sheeran is one of the famous users of Loudon guitars. This was a most interesting talk. We were all impressed by the amount of planning, preparation and creativity involved in Wilson's work. The Men's Group members are very grateful to Wilson and extend their best wishes to him.

Derek Shuter

DVM enjoy the February Bowl! Lisburn Bowl was the destination in February for the latest excursion by the members of DVM. On arrival, players' details were carefully entered into the computer, the weight of ball was carefully selected by each competitor, the run-ups were rehearsed, and then battle commenced. In truth, there was a somewhat slow start, but then the strikes and spares began to appear (for some of the group anyway!) Two players stood out on the night: Johnny 'Pin Mauler' McMurray and Andy 'Spin King' Sproule. The trophy went to McMurray.... but, truth to tell, a steward's enquiry is still not out of the question! Afterwards, the battle-hardened troops were refreshed by a meal at Ed's Diner. This was a welcome treat after the fierce bowling competition. It was noted nevertheless that David Pedlow went for a considerably less 'super-sized' option this year! Apparently, he was missing his partner-in-crime from last year. We'll not mention any names however! Thanks must go to Joe for, once again, organizing the whole event. It was a great success and good craic and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Mark McDowell

Dragons in March! The March outing for DVM will take the form of another visit to the Kingspan Stadium for the match between Ulster and the Welsh Dragons. Watch out for the Sign-up Sheet or speak to Stewart for details.

