



ST. COLUMBA'S DERRYVOLGIE

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

CHURCH OF IRELAND

www.derryvolgie.com

SEPTEMBER 2020



It is so good to see life return to our buildings, on Sunday 30 August 2020 we re-opened the buildings for worship and subsequently several other organisations have returned as well. We have not quite got back to the hustle and bustle of pre-COVID times but the echoes of laughter and the tunes of worship once again reign in the buildings and that is a heart-warming experience.

I want to say a big thank you to everyone who has put so much effort into ensuring our buildings re-opened and that they are a safe space for us to gather. Thank-you also must go to those who encouraged us and enabled our online presence during lockdown. I am so glad to say that we can continue our highly effective online presence. We have recently installed a new Audio-Visual system in the building which will enhance much of the communication throughout our parish ministries. We are joining with SAMS in a very

innovative project around this (see the section Communicating Clearly). I am pleased to say that because parishioners managed to contribute by post, personal delivery or electronically, free will offering has held up well over lockdown. However, we remain down on the monies that we would bring in through rent and fund raising. If you have not already passed on your normal contributions, we would appreciate that you do this as soon as possible.

Over the 23 weeks that our doors were closed the effective witness of Derryvolgie grew through our Sunday services, short videos, singing and the sharing of favourite verses/hymns. Many of those who connected with us for the very first time continue to do so, and I want to say a warm welcome to our church community.

Parish life continues all be it in a different way. Some of the existing organisations will restart in their new format and there will be some new ones as well (see the section New Initiatives). When we encourage and support each other, the Kingdom of God flourishes and grows. Jesus once said, *'By this they will know you are my disciples, if you love one another.'* As we embark on this 'new normal' and try some new things can I strongly encourage you to get behind them. To set aside time and focus on the things that will enable us to flourish as we step into the future.

It is with delight that we can welcome Sarah Crawford and her finance (soon to be husband) Daniel to our parish. Sarah is serving her Deacon Intern year with us and will be involved in many aspects of parish life.

We were approached by Belfast Bible College who were looking to place one of their students with us between now and the end of January. Jonny Rainey comes with much experience in children's and youth ministry and will be helping to develop these during his time with us.

I think lockdown and the closing of the buildings has reinforced the truth that the church is not a building rather it is the people. I am so excited to be teaching through the series U R the Church each Sunday. It is bringing a fresh perspective into what the Lord is calling us to be and what we are to do here in Derryvolgie.

Looking forward to connecting again soon.

James

Rev James Boyd

Rector

Small Steps

With an air of uncertainty still around us it is understandable that for many reasons' individuals feel that a return to a Sunday service is just not possible for them at present. We will be trying a smaller mid-week service on a Tuesday morning at 10am from 13th October which will last for approx. 20 minutes. This will be a simple said service of Morning Prayer. Our building will be laid out in a safe environment following all the government guidelines. As we anticipate there will be a smaller number of people present it may be something you feel you could join us in.

Small Steps
Tuesdays at 10am
A SHORT SAID SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER



Meet our new Deacon Intern

Hello, my name is Sarah Crawford, I look about 16 but I'm actually 26 (I'm told I'll be glad of this when I am older). I've lived in Lisburn all my life, attended Pond Park Primary School and then went onto Hunterhouse College, Belfast. After leaving school I completed a degree in Theology at Belfast Bible College while working in my part-time job in a local Pharmacy. Growing up I changed my mind every week as to what I wanted to do with my life. It went from archaeologist to nurse and even a journalist but as a child I never imagined being a minister. After obtaining my degree I became the Children's ministry intern in my home parish of Lisburn Cathedral. I felt the call to ordained ministry while studying for my degree. I initially brushed it off labelling it as too academic for me or something I would be unable to

do. Over time the call from God became stronger and more evident, so I applied and successfully got through the selection process. I was then accepted to The Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin (CITI). There has been both challenges and joys studying in Dublin but my passion for serving the people of God has grown. Throughout my two years at CITI, I have completed placements in Eglantine Parish Lisburn, St Mark's Armagh and Church on the Hill in Magheraberry. I was ordained deacon on 13th September in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast. Daniel and I are planning to get married in January 2021 after having to postpone our wedding in July due to covid-19.

I am delighted to have been appointed to St Columba's as deacon and Daniel and I cannot wait to meet everyone and settle into parish life. It is our prayer that our ministry will be encouraging and rewarding for all as we journey with people who are growing in a relationship with God and proclaiming his name throughout the city of Lisburn.

Harvest Foodbank

Harvest is a time when we gather together and give thanks to God for all that he has provided including clothing, shelter, clean water and food. So often we take for granted all the things that we need daily to survive. Harvest this year at Derryvolgie might look a little different than imagined or even from previous years. Regardless, we will be gathering as a community in the building and online to celebrate on 11th October at 10:30am where Bishop Ken Clarke will be our preacher.

In the run up to our harvest service there will be a shopping trolley in the church building where items can be left for Lisburn Foodbank. Lisburn foodbank provides emergency food and essential parcels to those living in the Lisburn area who are facing financial difficulty. With the rise of unemployment and Covid-19 crisis there is great need in the Lisburn area and with this in mind we want to give practically to our local community and those in need. A list of items that foodbank needs will be circulated on a Sunday morning / Website / Social media pages, if you've any queries about what to bring please contact Sarah.

In addition to our non-perishable food collection there will be children's harvest craft packs available from the exit of the church door. We are unable to massively decorate the building this year due to restrictions and maintaining a clean and safe environment. However, we would love the children to get involved in some way. So, if you have a child(ren) or know of any children please lift a pack from the exit door in the building and give it to them (all they need including instructions will be inside). If you can please bring the completed craft back before Friday 9th October or alternatively you can scan or take a photo of the craft and send it to sarahrachelcrawford@icloud.com . The crafts will be used in whatever way possible to decorate the church for our annual harvest service.

ST COLUMBA'S DERRYVOLGIE

HARVEST SUNDAY

BISHOP KEN CLARKE

11TH OCT 2020

This year we will be decorating the church with dried foods. We would love you to contribute over the next few weeks by leaving your items in the porch. Which in turn will be donated to Lisburn Foodbank



Easter General Vestry



Each year the parish holds its AGM around Easter hence why it is called the Easter General Vestry Meeting. However due to lockdown this hasn't happened this year. The diocese has now given us new dates for when this meeting can be held by. Subsequently our General Meeting will be held on **Sunday 4th October** after the morning service. Its purpose is to elect Church Wardens, Glebe Wardens and Select Vestry persons for the current year along with Parochial Nominators and Diocesan Synods people for this triennium. Several reports are also presented including the annual accounts.

Please note that any parishioner can attend the meeting but your name needs to be on the register to be eligible to vote or stand for election.

DerryVolgjeKids

We are excited to launch our brand-new children's ministry **DVK** (Derryvolgje Kids) online. We went live on Friday 18th September and have plans to continue for 6 weeks before reviewing how things are going. Each session starts at 6:30pm and lasts for approximately 30 minutes. It will be a fun and interactive time for all primary school aged children as they learn more about Jesus and hang out. If you have any children or know of any who would like to be a part please sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/QWZ7yq8HeiUh2GGUA>.

Once you have completed the consent form, we will email you with the details of our Zoom call. Please pray for all the leaders and children involved that this will be an encouraging and rewarding time as we learn about Jesus.

A fun and interactive space
for primary school children

DVK
DERRYVOLGIE KIDS
ONLINE

LIVE
Fridays
@6.30pm



SIGN UP NOW

www.derryvolgje.com

Youth



As we look ahead, we are conscious and prayerful for the young people in our parish. We will be holding a social gathering for Year 8+ on Friday 9th October at 8pm. We will be gathering in the church building to get to know one another, have fun, and see what the young people in Derryvolgje would like to see happen in our youth ministry. Our aim is to provide a safe space to encourage young people to grow in their relationship with God while having fun.

ST. COLUMBA'S
DERRYVOLGIE

*Youth
Social
Gathering*

Where: Derryvolgje

When: Friday 9th October @ 8pm

Who: 1st year-6th form

For more details contact info@derryvolgje.com
or chat to James & Sarah



Communicating Clearly

Several months ago, the Select Vestry took the decision to upgrade the Audio-Visual system in our buildings. We are pleased to say that this is nearly at a completed stage and the difference is very noticeable. The new audio system enables both the leaders of the service and the musicians to be heard clearly. The new screens greatly enhance our ability to provide the liturgy and the words for the songs not to mention the video clips or camera images. We have also installed a feed down into the Youth Hall which means that our services can be shown there in case of overflow on Sundays (or indeed at larger gatherings in the future). Both the audio

and visual upgrades have also proven efficient as we stream our services live online, allowing us to provide our service to a wider congregation.

This has been made possible with the limited cashflow that we as a parish have at our disposal. However, this now needs to be backfilled for us to pay for the upgraded system without running in the red at the end of year. I was struck on one occasion when I entered the building during the install to find the screens being placed on the wall with a heavy mechanical lift. The screen was too heavy for one or two people to place into position. The same is true with this project we now need to do the heavy lifting of giving and praying as we seek that God would bless this endeavour.

At a recent meeting of the Select Vestry it was recognised and agreed that as we raise the funds for this project it could an opportunity to help others. Looking out to our world as well as resourcing the mission of our parish. In conversation with Rev Stephen McElhinney (SAMS Ireland) we are partnering with the Anglican Theological College (CEP), Santiago in Chile to enable them to purchase new technology that will enhance how they train individuals for ministry in South America. This will enable them to develop a new media department to provide online system for theological education and formation. Being able to provide quality recorded media for theological training will make a significant impact in a country which is 2,600 miles long.

At this stage we are uncertain of the total amount that needs to be raised as Rev Cristobal is working on the logistics of what is needed in Chile and we have made a number of amendments to the install here in Derryvolgie which could bring our costs down. We would hope to have a figure by Harvest Sunday when we will kick start this 12-month project of raising these funds. Your harvest donation this year will enable us to not only consider a different kind of harvest but to practically put the nuts and bolts in place here at home and in Chile to ensure that the good news of the gospel is shared with as many people as possible. It is a beautiful thing to consider that your donation will have an impact for Jesus not just in the here and now but for generations to come as new ministers are formed and shaped for service in the global church.

We also want to give you the opportunity to donate to this project over the 12 months and so would encourage you to set up a direct debit for £5 / 10 / 20 / 50 per month. These details can be found below.

✂

Dear Sirs

Re: Account number.....

Address.....

Ref: **Communicating Clearly**

Please institute a new standing order to Derryvolgie Parish Church sort code 98-09-60 account number 40516024 in the amount of £....., the first payment being made now then monthly thereafter on the 20th of the month or the first banking day thereafter.

Yours faithfully,

Signature..... Date.....