



# ST. COLUMBA'S DERRYVOLGIE

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

CHURCH OF IRELAND

[www.derryvolgie.com](http://www.derryvolgie.com)

FEBRUARY 2021



## Rector's Letter

Hello, we continue to live in strange times, unprecedented for this our generation. This current pandemic is being described as the most serious threat to our country since WW2. In many ways it has gripped us like never before. We have been shattered by the loss of those we love, upturned by the change in our circumstances, isolated by the sense of staying in our own bubble. We are nearly one year down the line and in many ways, we have become accustomed to some of the new ways of doing life – the wearing of masks, queuing outside shops – yet when we view it in its entirety we are still unsettled by the newness of the situation.

Whilst we say this is unprecedented – is it? The bible says that '*What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.*' Ecclesiastes 1:9. There has been pandemics before, the world has been gripped with serious threat to health. This COVID 19 crisis has brought new opportunities. As a parish we have developed in so many ways and will continue to look for new ways to engage with our community.

The story of Esther in the bible rings so loudly for this season. The most popular line that comes from that story is 'for such a time as this.' Let us be vigilant for the voice of the Lord in this moment. Let us be bold in how we share our faith. Let us be vibrant in how we carry the hope that we have into the situations around us. Maybe, just maybe Derryvolgie parish is here 'for such a time as this.'

Every Blessing  
James

## Praying for Derryvolgie

Prayer is vital to the life blood of the Christian and is key in the growth of God's kingdom. If you are like me, you can sometimes find it difficult to focus your prayers. By receiving a regular email, you could become part of a group of people who have signified that they would like to be kept up to date with things that will help to focus their prayers for this parish and the community we are a part of.

We are proposing three ways to do this:

1. Regular updates - you will receive a sheet with different points for prayer, this will vary each time bringing a different focus to the update. It is designed with ease of use in mind and hopefully contains enough detail to sharpen our prayers. Whether you use it digitally or print it out, keep it somewhere handy that you can refer too easily.
2. Specific items - from time to time you will receive an email asking you to pray for something specific that has come up in our parish or community.
3. New developments - we would hope to develop new and exciting ways to pray over the next couple of months and would love you to join us on this journey.

*If you haven't already signed up you can do so by speaking to James or Sarah or use the link in Facebook or the website.*





**DVK Online** is our kids' ministry programme that has been running on Friday nights since September. Each session lasts about 30 minutes on Zoom; we watch a video Bible story, followed by a short discussion or quiz. We have learnt about the early days of Jesus' ministry and about some Old Testament characters including: David, Daniel, Jonah and Joshua. In every story we learn or are reminded about God's character, whether that's his faithfulness, goodness or power; there is always something to encourage us.

We play online-friendly games (scavenger hunts have proved very popular!) and do activities such as a memory verse challenge or prayer activity. Each week the kids get a chance to share their news: birthdays, wobbly teeth, reading achievements . . . the leaders love hearing their stories.

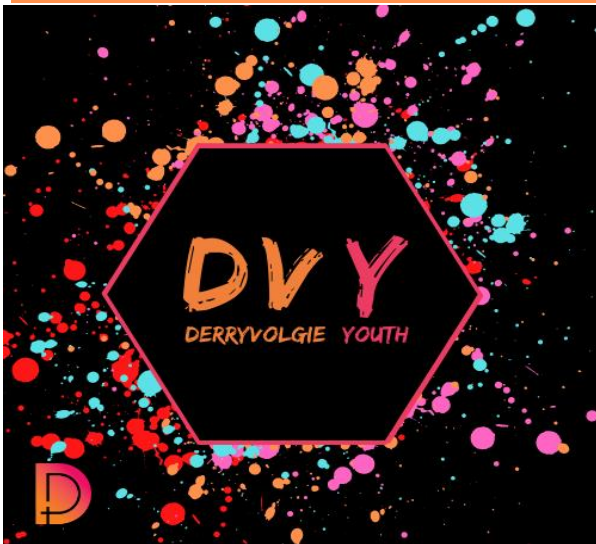
After a successful Christmas party where the kids received craft packs, we decided to include craft in the programme every so often and give the kids an opportunity to be creative.

Although meeting online is not the same as meeting face to face, it's an opportunity for the kids to connect with each other and the leaders, and to learn more of God's character, which in times like these is a great encouragement and comfort to us all.

**Anne McDowell**



### DerryVolgie Youth Update



**DVY** has been an exciting group started up for the young people of the church and surrounding area. It officially launched last October with a pizza party to introduce leaders and young people, and to get an idea of what the young people would like this group to be for them. As leaders, we were very excited to hear that the young people wanted to focus on studying the Bible, and threw out a few big questions that they would like to cover, such as talking about the Trinity. This was the first and sadly the last time that we as a group have been able to meet in person as of yet.

Every other Friday evening we have met online via zoom for games, activities, and Bible studies. Before Christmas, we focused on the group getting to know each other with a few Bible studies and many games (including some very frustrating ones from Jonny McMurray...)

Thanks to Jonny Rainey (Belfast Bible College student on placement from October to January), we have an exciting Bible study series from January to June of this year focusing on the 'big questions' out there such as 'How can I have Faith?' and 'Who and what is the Holy Spirit?'. This series uses the Youth Alpha Film series to help guide and promote discussion among young people to help make their faith real to them and help answer these questions they may have. A devotional has been sent out to the young people to help provide context for this series we will be going through.

We are very excited about this group of young people, and are excited to get to know them more. We are hopeful and pray that we will be able to meet in person soon as a group.

**Caryn McMurray**

## Christmas Carol Service - With a difference



If I asked you to describe Christmas 2020 in one word, I wonder what it would be? For many perhaps they'd say lonely or quiet, but I assume many would say different. There has been a lot of difference over the past year, a lot of changing circumstances in our lives but the one thing that doesn't change is that the baby born in a stable is still Emmanuel, God with us.

For our Carol Service this year we had a lot of thinking to do, we knew, regardless of the current restrictions, that it was always going to be different but as we discovered, different is not always bad, in fact it can turn out better than ever imagined. Approaching Christmas local restrictions were rapidly changing on a weekly basis and it was impossible to predict whether or not we would be able to gather in person for the service. With this in mind we decided to pre-record a good portion of the service until we knew closer to the time what specific restrictions were.

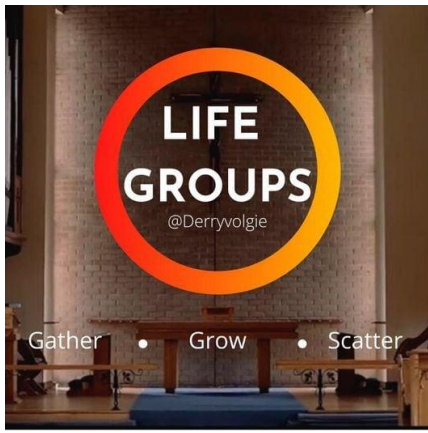
With the help of Wilson Lynn, our resident videographer and our amazing tech team, we had an evening of recording carols in the church. In addition, we recorded readings both within the church as well as other locations, such as a windy Divis mountain. Closer to the time it was announced we could have the service in person but also stream online to those who were unable to be there. And so, on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December we held our annual Christmas Carol Service.

Christmas 2020 seemed to be celebrated earlier than ever, we saw Christmas pyjamas in the shops in early November and colourful lights around our cul-de-sacs. We needed Christmas more than ever this year. In the run up it appeared as if the world was falling apart and we wouldn't have a perfect Christmas as dreamed. But when we think about the first ever Christmas it was far from perfect, in fact it was full of scandal - a baby born to an unmarried teenage girl in an unhygienic stable. As we approached Christmas 2020 our minds were weary and filled with headlines about vaccines, homelessness and refugees but these were true of the first Christmas also. As the Savior entered the world in a dirty stable there was illness, struggle for power and many familiar things to us today. But that baby born in the smelly manger brings us hope, for with a thrill of hope the weary world rejoices. Hope was infused throughout our Carol Service that regardless of what happens on earth the baby born in a stable conquered it all on the cross and this Christmas we needed to be reminded of that more than ever.

I don't know where you are reading this today, perhaps you're feeling a little heavy hearted with all that's *still* going on in the world but please know that Emmanuel is not just for Christmas. We may be distant from one another at the moment but Emmanuel is with us, right where we are in this moment and he'll be with us till the end. If you missed our Carol Service, you can catch up by watching it on our Facebook page. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Wilson Lynn, David Pedlow, Jonny McMurray and all who helped make our Carol Service possible.

**Sarah Parkinson**





**LIFE GROUPS - Gathering together to **Grow** in our faith and live it out by **Scattering** into the world.**

Back in September we began a sermon series entitled ‘You are the church’ over the course of the series we learnt what it means to be the church, that a church isn’t necessarily the building. We gather together, we grow in our faith and we scatter into our daily lives taking with us what we’ve done together in gathering and how we’ve grown in faith. We also focused on what it means to be church in the midst of a global pandemic when we are at times unable to meet physically. One of things highlighted in that series was that the gathering of the church wasn’t just a Sunday based activity, that the growing our faith wasn’t limited to a specific time or place.

We had a vision that our sermons would ignite passion within people to live out their faith, we didn’t want to just listen on a Sunday and nothing to have changed. And so, with this in mind we wanted to create a platform where we could look in more detail at what was learnt on a Sunday and how it applies to our daily lives. We created LIFE GROUPS with the intention that we would be able to meet physically but due to restrictions we have not been able to thus far. Regardless, we have been meeting on zoom on a weekly basis for Life groups. We begin with a deeper look into the passage covered on Sunday and from there we split into our zoom breakout rooms for some discussion questions in smaller groups. It’s a great time to build relationship with one another, encourage each other in faith and to ultimately grow in our relationship with God by going deeper into his word.

Life groups is everyone from all ages and backgrounds, it’s a time for us all to learn together and grow deeper in our relationship with one another and Jesus. If you’d like to be a part of it or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with James or Sarah. **Sarah Parkinson**



**DERRYVOLGIE does TAKEAWAY!**



Christmas may now be a distant memory but it would be remiss to let it pass without a mention of the Takeaway Christmas lunch. Pandemic restrictions may have made it impossible to put on the traditional sit-down Christmas Lunch in church, However, our hospitality team, led by Margaret and Lynn Perry, didn’t allow disappointment to get in their way. Margaret and Lynn, their army of helpers and Margaret’s spiral notebook(!) were soon at work preparing turkeys, hams, potatoes, desserts and all the other trimmings.

The Rector was heard to comment that: “It is pleasing just how creative churches can be in the present circumstances.” He added: “The Takeaway Christmas Lunch was a very practical way in which the church set about serving its members.” He referred to a take-up rate of people receiving a lunch, up some 50% on recent years. The Takeaway Lunch was provided for a section of parishioners and for the wider community. It would be easy to take a takeaway lunch for granted..... until you remember the amount of preparation, buying of food, cooking, packaging, deliveries, etc.

No doubt, a great sense of camaraderie made the Christmas Takeaway the success it was, from the spirit of cooperation amongst the cooking team and the packaging team to the social chitchat amongst those who queued up outside the church door to collect their lunch. The Takeaway Lunch was a novel event in church but it sure provided a great lead-in to the Christmas programme. All those who enjoyed their lunch convey their appreciation to Margaret Perry and her band of helpers. **Derek Shuter**



## A Favourite Hymn



### ***“Morning has broken, like the first morning”***

“Morning has broken” is a hymn that is sung often in church. It is a favourite hymn of many. Indeed, in the 1970s, some people may remember that it was also a hit recording for the singer, Cat Stevens. It is a hymn appropriate to springtime with the rebirth of nature it brings. It is a short and quite modern hymn. In simple language, the hymn describes the daily routine of nature, as it brings with it new light each day, birds singing, dew on the grass, rain to encourage growth and so on. In gentle terms, the hymn reminds us to appreciate

and give thanks for each new day. The last two lines are especially appropriate with their invitation: “Praise with elation, praise every morning, God’s recreation of the new day.” They remind us of the lines in Lamentations 3:22-23: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases: his mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Our lives recently have been affected by the pandemic and coronavirus. It has been difficult to ignore anxieties and uncertainties. Perhaps the situation has caused us to look differently at life. It has been hard not to be obsessed by statistics, restrictions, etc. And yet, just recently, maybe hope has started to appear again. Just as the “blackbird’s singing” and “the rain’s new fall” make their appearance each day, so too vaccines have recently made an appearance. Hopefully, they will offer protection against the virus. Hopefully, they will help us to appreciate life fully again. And so, in a sense that is different from what the hymn refers to, maybe, soon, we can once again, be mindful and praise “God’s re-creation of the new day.”

## Derryvolgie Music Group



It’s Hi from everyone in the Derryvolgie music group! We do hope you are enjoying singing along with us on Sunday mornings. There are not so many of us now as our numbers are limited under current regulations but hoping it won’t be long before we are back to normal. Many thanks go to Anne and Mark, Caryn, Kirsty, Graham, Joe, Andy, Frank and Lindsay for their recent appearances. Also, I would like to pay tribute to our good friend John



Atcheson who passed away in June last year, John loved his music, he was a keen guitarist who didn’t like to miss a service; fondly remembered.

As you know our music goes out live online now, this makes it all very exciting (but not much room for mistakes!) but we are getting used to it. A big thank you to the Rev. James and the Select Vestry for our new sound system, and to our tech team guys – Wilson, David and Jonny who make it all possible.

Take care everyone!  
**Jim Hamilton & Co.**

## Easter General Vestry

It is the intention,  
(restrictions permitting)  
to hold the  
**Easter General Vestry**  
on  
**Sunday 21 March**  
at  
**11.30am.**

As with the nature of most meetings at present, further details on how this will take place will be publicised closer to the time.

## Revision of the Vestry Register

The Register of General Vestry Members at the Parish of Derryvolgie is open for review from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February and is available for inspection upon request. Those whose names appear on the register are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting and are eligible to be nominated and elected to the Select Vestry, subject to their consent. If your name is not already on the Register of Vestry Members and you wish to have it added, you must:

- Be over 18 years of age.
- Subscribe to Parish funds in such a way that is recordable.

You must sign a Form of Declaration, which can be obtained from the Resources section of our website. These forms need to be signed and returned to the Rector or Church Wardens before Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm when the review meeting will take place. The Select Vestry will receive the Forms of Declaration,

and if there are no objections, the names of all qualified persons who have completed Forms of Declaration shall be added to the Register. The names of those who are no longer qualified (that is those who have left the Parish or those who no longer subscribe to the Parish) will be removed from the Register. Please contact the Rector/Treasurer if you wish to discuss your financial contributions to the parish.

**STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES**

### COVID 19 Update

In all walks of life, we are hearing the message 'stay at home.' This has become necessary to ensure we minimise contact with those who are not from our household thus helping to curb the spread of COVID 19. Since we re-opened after the first lockdown in September, we have made every effort and taken all necessary steps to ensure the safety of those who visit our buildings. This is something we have continually evaluated and often put in place extra measures over and above the basic requirements.

With the infection rate rising in early January, we once again closed the doors of our buildings having taken advice from both the Government and the Diocese of Connor.

This decision was re-evaluated in late January and our buildings will remain closed until at least 5<sup>th</sup> March (with the exceptions of funerals and weddings which are limited to 25 people) when we will once again review the situation.

Our Sunday services, Kids, Youth and Life Groups all continue online. If you need more information about these, please do get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support and as I said many times during the first lockdown 'when people know they are known and loved by you and by Jesus a beautiful legacy will come out of this awful mess.'

Continue to look out for each other, stay safe and if you think we can help in any way please get in touch.

### **A COVID Poem - Missing GOD**

My heart aches and my soul CRIES  
My spirit breaks and my hope DIES  
COVID's caught us all by SURPRISE.

To be banned from church sounded ABSURD  
Oh, how we have all missed Your WORD  
COVID's trying to stop You being HEARD.

To worship together is all that we ASK  
To praise Your name without the dreadful MASK  
COVID's attack has been Satan's TASK.

To hear Your word is what we NEED  
And receive forgiveness for any bad DEED  
COVID's never going to SUCCEED.

Help us Lord, so our heart's don't STRAY  
Send Your Holy Spirit to show us the WAY  
COVID's going to be defeated, one DAY.

**Mark Johnston**

**WASH YOUR  
HANDS**



**WEAR A  
MASK**



**KEEP YOUR  
DISTANCE**



## CEP (Centro de Estudios Pastorales) Audio project

Thank you for this opportunity to write in a piece for the Derryvolgie magazine!

CEP is the Chilean Anglican Church's training institution. The three-year course has been in operation for approximately 15 years. Each year group has in the region of 7-10 students who come from Chile and beyond (e.g., Peru, Argentina). Before the call to ordination has been recognised by the Bishop and Diocesan structures, an individual has to show that they have undergone suitable training. CEP has been a wonderful strategic addition to the Chilean church as it seeks to train leaders for the future.

This past pandemic year has revealed an opportunity for CEP to expand its reach in Chile (and beyond). Due to the vast distances involved (Chile is 4000km long), training in Chile has been curtailed somewhat. There are



other potential theological students who have been identified, but are unable to fulfil training requirements due to logistical issues of travel and relocation.

Under the direction of the Principal Cris Cerón, CEP is now planning to increasingly deliver quality Theological training via internet training platforms to HUBS up and down the vast length of Chile.

SAMS Ireland has been approached by CEP with a project proposal which would see the purchase of specific Audio-Visual equipment. Once people have been trained in its use, lectures will be recorded for posting on CEP training portals. This will allow greater access to much needed theological training material.

I am delighted that Derryvolgie has seen planned involvement with this CEP Audio Visual project as a very practical way of helping overseas mission work. I have heard that your own recent installation of equipment has made a positive contribution in people's ability to engage with weekly worship on site and on-line. This will become more important in the future. As your former Rector, I can wholeheartedly recommend this CEP project for your continued prayerful consideration. Derryvolgie Parish has been a faithful supporter for South American Mission Society for many years. This focused act of generosity will have far reaching positive effects for the Gospel in Chile and beyond.

**Stephen McElhinney**  
**SAMS Ireland Mission Director**



We would like to say thank you once again to everyone who has supported and donated to Lisburn Foodbank in 2020. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Please note that our opening times each week are as follows:

**Monday: 11am - 1pm**

**Tuesday: 11am - 1pm**

**Thursday: 11am - 1pm**

**Friday: 11am - 1pm**

Friendly reminder: when visiting Lisburn Foodbank, please may we ask that you wear a face mask at all times, Thank you!

### Parish Register

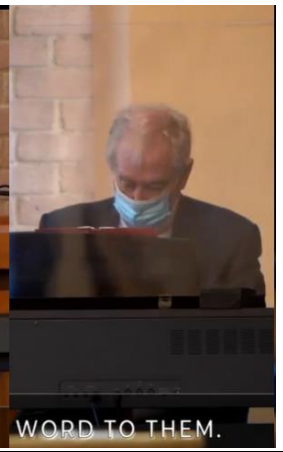
#### Deaths:

Jane Brown	-	April 2020
Ida Leary	-	May 2020
Robert Dawson	-	May 2020
Anne Beatty	-	June 2020
John Atcheson	-	June 2020
Michael Acheson	-	July 2020
Eileen Frazer	-	January 2021

#### Weddings:

Sarah Crawford	-	December 2020
Daniel Parkinson	-	





I WILL GO, LORD,

WORD TO THEM.

### STATEMENTS FOR JANUAURY – DECEMBER 2020

FWO No.	TOTAL	FWO No.	TOTAL	FWO No.	TOTAL	S.O.	TOTAL
1	Non-Issue	32	£520.00	63	£270.00	1	£600.00
2	£0.00	33	£139.10	64	£520.00	2	£480.00
3	£60.00	34	£158.00	65	£420.00	3	£480.00
4	£0.00	35	£60.00	66	£55.00	4	£300.00
5	£395.00	36	£1,000.00	67	£590.00	5	£240.00
6	£180.00	37	£1,040.00	68	£3,110.00	6	Non-Issue
7	£125.00	38	£0.00	69	£520.00	7	£720.00
8	£290.00	39	£51.00	70	£600.00	8	£760.00
9	£300.00	40	£0.00	71	£0.00	9	£264.00
10	£105.03	41	£60.00	72	£200.00	10	£375.00
11	£260.00	42	£650.00	73	£150.00	11	£770.00
12	£0.00	43	£0.00	74	£1,060.00	12	£540.00
13	£0.00	44	£702.00	75	£10.00	13	£600.00
14	£375.00	45	£211.00	76	£0.00	14	£48.00
15	£310.00	46	£170.00	77	£1,440.00	15	£2,700.00
16	Non-Issue	47	£155.00	78	£0.00	16	£1,020.00
17	Non-Issue	48	£150.00	79	£0.00	17	£1,460.00
18	£840.00	49	£5.00	80	£0.00	18	£240.00
19	£500.00	50	£700.00	81	£148.00	19	£5,750.00
20	£1,005.00	51	£264.00	82	£30.00	20	£96.00
21	£455.00	52	£600.00	83	£520.00	21	£480.00
22	£313.00	53	£520.00	84	£204.10	22	£1,080.00
23	£345.00	54	£670.00	85	£50.00		
24	£245.00	55	£510.00	86	£5,760.00	<b>Annual No</b>	
25	£53.00	56	£350.00	87	£310.00	1	£150.00
26	£0.00	57	£83.00	88	£260.00	2	£500.00
27	£135.00	58	£180.00	89	£0.00	3	
28	£530.00	59	£190.00	Anon	£450.00		
29	£89.00	60	£540.00	Anon	£600.00		
30	£0.00	61	£1,040.00	Anon	£100.00		
31	£400.00	62	£0.00				

**DVK**  
DERRYVOLGIE KIDS  
**ONLINE**

A fun and interactive space  
for primary school children

**LIVE**  
Fridays  
@6.30pm

**SIGN UP NOW**  
[www.derryvolgie.com](http://www.derryvolgie.com)

**Praying for Derryvolgie**

SIGN UP NOW

**LIFE GROUPS**  
@Derryvolgie

Gather • Grow • Scatter

**DVY**  
DERRYVOLGIE YOUTH