



# ST. COLUMBA'S DERRYVOLGIE

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

CHURCH OF IRELAND

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

JULY 2021



## Rector's Letter

I once heard it said that 'you overestimate what you can achieve in one year and underestimate what you can do in five years.' In a culture that wants everything instantaneously we can certainly fall into this trap of over or underestimating what success looks like.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8

This is an important scripture in the battle against busyness. Busyness can kill and destroy and even though it looks good on the surface it can be suffocating. As we enter back into a more normal phase of life after lockdown, my prayer is that we do not miss what God is saying in the midst of getting busy. Rather we take time to be in His presence, sitting at His feet – a bit like Mary who desired to sit at the Lord's feet and soak up his every word. Yet not so complacent in our waiting that we miss the lessons we can learn from Martha – who was completing the tasks that needed done to ensure others could have their moment with Jesus. It is worth noting that on the two occasions that we meet these sisters Martha was the one who invited Jesus in.

I wonder what encouragement do you take from the story of these sisters? Maybe there is a challenge for you in it? Whatever the answer; may we look to Jesus who is the author and perfecter of our faith, the one who is concerned about our everyday moments and the one who is able to do abundantly more than all we would ask, seek, or even dare to imagine. May He be our primary focus and goal.

Every Blessing  
James



## Deacon Intern

Just under 12 months ago a young lady came to join us for her Deacon Intern year. Much has happened this year not least a change of name from Crawford to Parkinson halfway through. Our hearts are full of thankfulness for all that Sarah has brought and given to us during her time here. However, it is time to say goodbye as she and Daniel embark on the next phase of ministry, taking up the post of Curate Assistant of St Mark's, Armagh. I have known her new Rector for many years, and she will be in safe hands. Sarah's last Sunday with us is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. At that service we would hope to present her with a gift from the parish. If you wish to contribute to it, you can place your donation in the envelope clearly

marked 'Leaving Gift' or by bank transfer, again clearly marking it Leaving Gift, we would like all donations to be received by **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August**. We will take time at this service to celebrate all that has been good about the last year – and there has been much – as Sarah has thrown herself whole heartedly into the life of our parish. Sarah will be ordained Priest/Presbyter on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of August.







It was great having the Exodus team with us over the first week of July. Often young people get a bad rap in our culture – too loud, not respectful enough, maybe even labelled as lazy. Not so with the team of 12 young people and 4 leaders that we had with us. They launched themselves into what we had planned and completed a Community Audit and walked every street in the parish praying over our community.

You can read more about each of these in the articles below. They also helped us organise a Family table quiz and Safari Treasure Trail, engaging with families and individuals from the church and the wider community. To all who were involved from being members of the team, helping on the streets, preparing food and everything else in between a big thank you for making this such a successful week. You can find out more about Exodus by visiting their website [www.exodusonline.org.uk](http://www.exodusonline.org.uk)



### Communicating Clearly – June Challenge

We set out to walk 2653 miles during June, that is the length of Chile. We done it. A team of 49 people pledged a number of miles per day some as young as 5 walking with others as old as..... (Best not to speculate). It was wonderful to see the pictures

coming in daily as we walked and prayed for our community and the nation of Chile.

This project will have an impact for generations to come. Thank you to all involved. At the time of printing, we have raised **£3275** before Gift Aid. A wonderful achievement for a worthy cause.



### Prayer Walk

You may have noticed over the first few days in July a number of people with hi-visibility jackets apparently walking aimlessly around the streets of the parish. They are the young people from Exodus and some members of our parish who went around our streets praying for the people, their homes and businesses in the area. During the afternoons and evenings, we took the opportunity of having them here to join us giving thanks to God and praying for the needs of the people within our parish area. We intend to continue our prayer walking during August, meeting on a Wednesday night at 7.30pm in the church carpark and going out around the streets for approximately an hour. It would be great if you could join us.

**Frank Baillie**







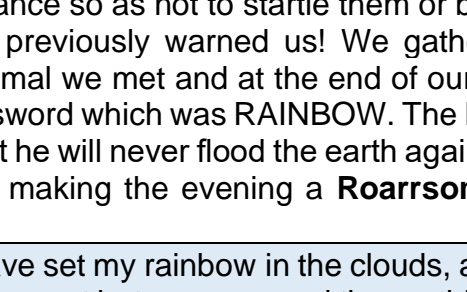
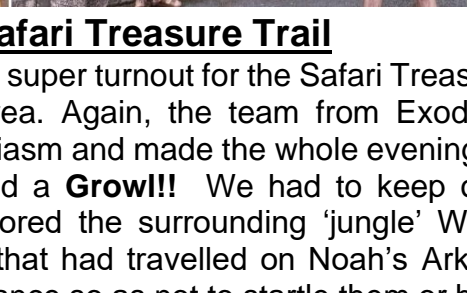
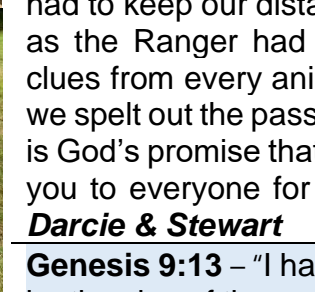
## Family Quiz Evening

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July we teamed up with Exodus and hosted a Family Quiz Evening. What an exciting evening it turned out to be! Thank you to everyone who attended and for making the night an awesome one. Congratulations to the winning teams – 1<sup>st</sup> prize went to 'The Space Tigers', 2<sup>nd</sup> prize to 'The Blondie Baps' and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize to 'Darcie's Monkeys'. WELL DONE EVERYONE!!



## 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. Please contact James if you wish your name to be added to the list.



## Safari Treasure Trail

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July saw a super turnout for the Safari Treasure Trail around our local area. Again, the team from Exodus were bursting with enthusiasm and made the whole evening go with a **Howl**, a **Yowl** and a **Growl!!** We had to keep our eyes opened as we explored the surrounding 'jungle' We met a number of animals that had travelled on Noah's Ark and we had to keep our distance so as not to startle them or be eaten, as the Ranger had previously warned us! We gathered the clues from every animal we met and at the end of our journey we spelt out the password which was RAINBOW. The Rainbow is God's promise that he will never flood the earth again! Thank you to everyone for making the evening a **Roarsome** one!!

**Darcie & Stewart**

**Genesis 9:13** – "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth".





## Community Audit

The sixteen young members from Exodus and several parishioners undertook a Community Audit from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July. This involved calling at houses and asking the residents questions about service provision in their area, activities happening, or could happen in the future, in our church. The survey, over the four days, concentrated on newer developments at Belsize Meadows, Fairfields and Magheralave Meadows but also covered the former army housing at Mountview and Oakridge. Nearly 750 houses were canvassed and if no one was in, a QR coded flyer was left, giving the occupants the opportunity to complete the questionnaire online. This information can then be used to apply for various funding streams and inform Vestry planning.

People were asked about the best (and worst) aspects of living in the area. There were questions relating to activities for different ages of children, level of police presence, and the ability to raise concerns with elected representatives. Leisure and sports provision and the availability of green spaces were examined together with recycling provision. Aspects of health and adult education were asked about as well as involvement in community groups and social interaction.

It was also an opportunity to inform respondents about church-based activities including Sunday worship and midweek organisation for both adults and children. Aspects of pastoral care and partnership with Harmony Hill School were mentioned. Residents were told about Happy Tots, Pilates and Irish dancing and the location of the defibrillator. Options to open a community garden, book exchange, prayer healing, family and seniors support hubs were mentioned to see if residents would be willing to become involved. It is hoped that there will be the opportunity for follow up contact with some individuals and families.

The Exodus team members, sporting high visibility yellow jackets, enjoyed getting out into the community and took the opportunity to pray with some families. The results of the audit will be collated and parishioners will be kept informed of developments. If you haven't had a chance to fill in a questionnaire you can use the QR to the right, this link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ZAQOYL/> or pick one up in church. **Andy Sproule**



## Parish Register

### Weddings:

MAY 2021

Ciara Brown  
& Sven Klinger

### Baptisms:

JUNE 2021

Russell Stephen  
Hutchinson

## Parish Organisations

Whilst it has been a strange time not meeting in person for many of our normal activities, we have been able to continue some over the medium of Zoom. It's not for everyone and it has its limits but over the last 18 months it has become a vital part of parish ministry. From keeping contact with our children through DVK, establishing a new group for our teenagers in DVY, Select Vestry meetings, to coffee and chats after online services. It's a vehicle that has enabled us to sustain relationships. We also started Life groups via Zoom and it was wonderful on Easter Sunday to watch people at our in-person service seeing each other for the first time without a computer screen. We would hope to look at engaging and re-establishing our in-person ministries again in the new term – restrictions permitting.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_



P	R	A	Y	E	D	G	D	W	N
J	Q	G	O	D	M	O	E	D	G
E	J	S	A	F	E	D	N	A	O
A	L	I	V	E	V	G	S	R	D
L	K	G	O	D	L	O	A	I	T
O	I	L	A	W	M	D	V	U	G
U	N	Z	G	O	D	Q	E	S	O
S	G	L	I	O	N	S	D	J	D
T	N	D	A	N	I	E	L	X	Z

Daniel

Darius

Lions

Law

Jealous

Safe

King

Prayed

Den

Saved

Alive

God (7)

**God kept Daniel safe in the lion's den.**