

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

January and February 2014

From the Minister:

We have had some very successful services over the Christmas period, starting with the Candlelight Carol Service at Ballee on 11th December and followed by the congregational carol services at each church on 22nd December. Unfortunately I was out of action for a time at the end of November and start of December but thank you all for your prayers and good wishes which were very much appreciated. I was very sorry not to be able to conduct Jack Hutton's funeral, I also missed Downpatrick's Table Quiz and was unable to conduct the services at Ballee and Downpatrick on 1st December. But I am grateful to Sue who sorted out all the service needs and to Rev Dr John Nelson who conducted the funeral with hardly any warning and to Very Rev William McMillan who conducted the services that Sunday. Indeed I am grateful to all our visiting preachers who have taken services over the last year including Sue Steers, Rev Bill McMillan, Rev Dr Will Patterson, Rev Bill Haslett, and David McCord.

I will be taking a break from 30th December to 6th January, I would thank everyone for their help and support over the last year and wish you all a very happy new year.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Thursday, 2nd January 3.00 pm Ballee Sunday School outing to see 'Little Red Riding Hood' at the Waterfront Studio.

Thursday, 9th January 7.30 pm meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at Templepatrick.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th – 24th January. Special Services will be announced.

Tuesday, 25th February 7.30 pm meeting of the Presbytery of Bangor at Killinchy.

Hymn for a New Year

Great God! We sing that mighty hand
By which supported still we stand;
The opening year thy mercy shows;
Thy mercy crowns it till its close.

By day, by night, at home, abroad,
Still are we guarded by our God;
By his incessant bounty fed,
By his unerring counsel led.

With grateful hearts the past we own,
The future, all to us unknown,
We to thy guardian care commit,
And peaceful leave before thy feet.

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
5 th January	11:15 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9:45 am Rev William Haslett	11:15 am Very Rev William McMillan
12 th January	11:15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9:45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9:45 am Sue Steers
19 th January	11:15 am Very Rev William McMillan	9:45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11:15 am Rev Dr David Steers
26 th January	11:15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9:45 am Sue Steers	9:45 am Rev Dr David Steers
2 nd February	11:15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9:45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11:15 am Rev Dr William Patterson
9 th February	11:15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9:45 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9:45 am Rev Dr David Steers
16 th February	11:15 am Rev William Haslett	9:45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11:15 am Rev Dr David Steers
23 rd February	11:15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9:45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9:45 am Very Rev William McMillan

Almighty God, the unfailing source of light and mercy, who hast brought us to the beginning of this year; prepare us, we beseech thee, for the coming days. In thy grace enlighten our darkness and strengthen our weakness. Deepen within our hearts the love of truth and goodness. Inspire us with new purposes and new hopes. Enable us to use the wondrous opportunities of these earthly days, and to discern the sacred purpose for which they are given. Have compassion upon us, and forgive us, and keep us in the strong confidence of thine eternal love. Amen.

Orders of Worship

Around the Fellowship

Our prayers and best wishes are with all those members who have been in hospital recently, especially with Sydney McMullan and Ruby Law who, after a spell in hospital, are both now back home.

Ballee Horticultural Project

The Horticultural Project at Ballee has been very successful with turnips, potatoes, carrots, peas and beans being grown. Many thanks to everyone who helped with this, to Isabel Kelly who created the project, Jayne Caven who kept the whole thing running, everyone who helped with the preparation and planting and to Allan Chambers who gave a very interesting public talk on growing vegetables as part of the project.

Downpatrick Table Quiz

The Downpatrick Church Table Quiz was held at the Lakeside Inn, Ballydugan on Saturday, 30th November. This was another wonderful occasion and raised a total for the church of £834.50. Our thanks goes to Margaret, Geoffrey and Anna Ferguson for their hosting of the event, to Arthur Gibson our question master and his wife Anne for marking the papers, and to everyone who donated prizes and helped with refreshments and to all who helped in any way.

Congratulations to Margaret Ferguson

It is very pleasing to be able to report that Margaret Ferguson has been made Bar Person of the Year at the Pubs of Ulster Awards in November. This is testimony to Margaret's hard work and brilliant hosting which our churches have much to thank her for, especially in terms of the table quizzes and the treasure hunts, and which have been such a great benefit to other churches and charities in the locality and to the whole community.

Congratulations to Eileen Neill

The considerable artistic talents of our young member Eileen Neill have again been recognised. Eileen won a competition to design a Christmas card for the South Eastern Education and Library Board and was presented with a framed copy of her winning design at her school by Gregory Butler, the chief executive of the SEELB. Well done Eileen.

Communion Classes and Youth Club

A group of five adults attended the special communion classes held over the autumn which proved very successful. We are hoping to extend this to a general discussion group. Please speak to the minister if you are interested.

There has also been a suggestion that we set up a youth club for teenagers in the three churches. If you would like to attend such a club or have any suggestions about one or would like to help, again please speak to the minister.

Philippines Typhoon Appeal

All three congregations have very generously supported the denominational appeal for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal to help in the Philippines following the terrible destruction Typhoon Haiyan.

Sunday School

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Sunday School party at Downpatrick on Saturday, 21st December. It was a great afternoon and we were pleased to be visited by Santa who also turned up at Ballee following the service on the next day. The Sunday School members at Clough were presented with prizes at the carol service on Sunday, 22nd December. The Sunday School outing at Ballee will be on Thursday, 2nd January to see 'Little Red Riding Hood' at the Waterfront Studio.

Christmas Carol Services

On Wednesday evening, 11th December Ballee was beautifully decorated for the Joint Candlelight Carol Service at Ballee. Representatives of all three churches gave readings including Anna Ferguson, Elsie Nelson, Fay Lightbody, Tierna Kelly, Doreen Chambers, Amanda Ramsey, Helen Wilson, Eleanor Baha, and Myrtle McBride. Many thanks to all who took part. The service was well attended as were all three of the congregational carol services on Sunday, 22nd December each of which was led by Church and Sunday School members.

Baptisms

The baptism of Ellie Beth Ringland took place at Ballee on Sunday, 22nd December at the Christmas Carol Service and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Lee-Anne and Gavin.

The baptism of Abi Courtney Straney took place at Downpatrick on Sunday, 22nd December at the Christmas Carol Service and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Leeanne and Keith.

Funerals

Jack Hutton died on Tuesday, 26th November following a period in hospital. His funeral took place at Downpatrick on Friday, 29th November and was conducted by Rev Dr John Nelson and was followed by burial in the church grave yard. Jack was a life-long member of the church and well known in the local community. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Jennifer, their children Cathy, Rozi, Barbara, Judy and Robert, their grandchildren and the whole family circle.

William Stevenson died on Saturday, 8th December in Slieve Dhu Nursing Home, Newcastle. His funeral took place at Downpatrick on Tuesday, 10th December and was conducted by Rev Dr David Steers and was followed by burial in the church grave yard. A life-long member of the church who had served on the committee for over fifty years Willie had also been an elder for the last 37 years, for many years also fulfilling the role of representative elder. Willie was too a very generous benefactor to the church which he had served with such loyalty and distinction. Willie married Annie just over 25 years ago. Her death earlier in the year was a great blow to him but he received great support from Annie's children and our deepest sympathy now is with Alan and Patricia, Davey and Wilma, William and Kathy and the whole family circle.

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