

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

January and February 2017

From the Minister:

With Christmas almost upon us I wanted to put together a Calendar primarily to thank everyone for all their good wishes and help over recent times and also to circulate the preaching plan for the start of next year well in advance.

Can I first of all express my thanks to all those who have helped and continue to help, especially to Sue who is covering so many of the services and doing so much more, and also Jack who has been such a great help as driver.

I am very grateful to Rev Dr William Patterson who conducted communion at Ballee and Downpatrick and to Rev William Haslett who conducted communion at Clough in November. In addition to them I would like to thank Rev Ernie Boggs, Dr Heather Walker, David Gilkinson, David McCord and Keith Parke who have all conducted services over recent weeks. My thanks also goes to the Rev Norman Hutton for his pastoral assistance and to the Rev Sam Peden who will be among our forthcoming preachers.

On Christmas Day and New Year's Day (both Sundays this year) we will be holding joint services conducted by our own members with a service of prayers and readings for Christmas morning at 10.30 am at Clough, and a service of prayers and

readings for New Year's Day at 10.30 am at Downpatrick.

I seem to be making good progress and have been greatly supported by many people, especially members of the congregations whose thoughts, prayers, texts, emails, calls and visits all mean a great deal to me. I will see the surgeon this month, start on the recovery programme in January and at some point hope to gradually work back into things although it is too early to say just how that will work out.

I have been very sorry to miss so many special services and special events including communion and the carol services as well as the Downpatrick table quiz and the various Christmas outings and Sunday School parties. But I know that everything has been going well and have enjoyed hearing reports of events and seeing videos of some of the events.

Can I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and extend my best wishes to you all for the New Year.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Tuesday, 27th December

Downpatrick Sunday School trip to see the Belvoir Players pantomime *Sleeping Beauty* at 3.00 pm.

Thursday, 5th January

Presbytery of Antrim meeting at Templepatrick at 7.30 pm.

	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
25th December Christmas Day	<i>Joint service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Joint Service for Christmas Morning
1st January New Year's Day	10.30 am Joint Service for New Year's Day	<i>Joint service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>
8 th January	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Keith Parke
15 th January	11.15 am Keith Parke	9.45 am Keith Parke	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson
22 nd January	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Keith Parke	9.45 am Sue Steers
29th January	<i>Joint Service at Ballee</i>	11.15 am Joint Service at Ballee Sue Steers	<i>Joint Service at Ballee</i>
5 th February	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	11.15 am David McCord
12 th February	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Keith Parke	9.45 am Sue Steers
19 th February	11.15 am Keith Parke	9.45 am Keith Parke	11.15 am Rev Sam Peden
26 th February	11.15 am Keith Parke	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Keith Parke

*Bless, O Lord, the opening year
To the souls assembled here;
Clothe Thy word with power divine,
Make us willing to be Thine.*

*Bless us all, both old and young;
Call forth praise from every tongue;
Let our whole assembly prove
All Thy power and all Thy love.*

John Newton (1725-1807)

Around the Fellowship

Our prayers and thoughts are with everyone who has been unwell lately. If you know of anyone who would appreciate a pastoral visit at the moment please contact the minister directly and he will arrange for one of his colleagues to visit.

Presbytery Visitation to Clough

This was to take place at Clough on Sunday, 6th November but will now take place sometime in the New Year. All the preparatory work has been completed and the reports have been written.

Downpatrick Table Quiz

The Downpatrick Table Quiz took place at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 26th November. This was a great success and raised a total profit of £960. Thanks goes to Arthur Gibson our question master and to everyone who donated prizes, ballot items, cash, refreshments and attended the event, and to Margaret and Geoffrey Ferguson who hosted the event.

Clough Sunday School

The Clough Sunday School outing was to see the pantomime *Old Mother Hubbard's Crazy Christmas* at the Down Arts Centre on Friday, 9th December at 7.00pm. Clough Sunday School have also donated to Christian Aid's Present Aid which supports long-term development for a brighter future for the world poor. They purchased antibiotics, two chickens and a goat.

Clough Carol Service

This took place on Sunday, 11th December. Congratulations to Ryan who led the service and all the children who took part in the singing and the Nativity Play.

Ballee Sunday School

Ballee Sunday School will be going to the Ice Bowl for their Christmas outing and 'AJ's' Crossgar for their meal, full details have been announced.

Joint Candlelight Carol Service

On Wednesday, 7th December we held our joint candlelight carol service at Ballee. The service was conducted by Sue Steers and readings were given by representatives of the three churches including Jack Steers, Marion Moffett, Elsie Nelson, Amanda Ramsey, Doreen Chambers, Rachel Neill, Tierna Kelly, Craig Kelly and Ken Taylor. We were delighted to have with us for the first time the Laganvale Ensemble who provided our musical accompaniment along with John Strain on the church organ. Following the service the large congregation joined for refreshments in the hall.

Funeral

George Alexander Strain died on Wednesday, 2nd November following a short period in hospital. His funeral took place at Ballee on Monday, 7th November followed by committal at Roselawn Crematorium and was conducted by the Rev Norman Hutton. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Patricia and their children Keith and Karen and the whole family circle.



Laganvale Ensemble at the Candlelight Carol Service at Ballee



Some of those who took part in the Candlelight Carol Service



Nativity Play, Clough Carol Service