

# CALENDAR

## Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

### Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

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#### January and February 2018

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##### From the Minister:

Can I begin by wishing everyone a very Happy New Year. A new year brings a new start, new opportunities and a new beginning and for us all as individuals and as congregations I wish everyone the best for 2018.

At the end of October 2017 we celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. January 2018 sees the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Edict of Torda, the first expression of religious toleration in Europe and I have been invited to be present at events to mark this in Transylvania, Romania where Torda is situated. This is a notable commemoration and I will be giving a full report when I return from the visit.

David Steers

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##### Forthcoming Dates:

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> January meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at Larne at 7.30 pm.

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> January Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Holocaust Memorial Day at Downpatrick Presbyterian Church at 7.00 pm. All welcome.

Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February meeting of the Presbytery of Bangor at Moira at 7.30 pm.

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##### Around the Fellowship

Our thoughts and prayers are with all members who have been unwell or in hospital in recent times, especially with

Edna Brown who is hospital at the moment, we wish her a speedy recovery. Our best wishes go to all our members who have been under the weather recently. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Rev Tom Banham and Rev William McMillan who have both been in hospital in recent weeks.

Our deepest sympathy is also with those of our members who have suffered family bereavements in recent times, including Mary Straney on the loss of her grandson, Ann Skillen on the loss of her brother, David McCurry on the loss of his wife and Annabel Cleland on the loss of her mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of them at this sad time.

##### Clough Visitation

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Clough Presbytery Visitation which took place on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December. This passed off very well, copies of the visitation report can be found in the church.

##### Sunday School Christmas Parties and Outings

At the time of writing some of these still have to take place but a number of the Sunday School parties have been held and Santa has been kept very busy making personal appearances at all three of our churches. A big thank you goes to everyone who has planned and organised all the different Christmas events.

	<b>Downpatrick</b>	<b>Ballee</b>	<b>Clough</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> January	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
14 <sup>th</sup> January	11.15 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson
21 <sup>st</sup> January	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
28 <sup>th</sup> January	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
4 <sup>th</sup> February	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson
11 <sup>th</sup> February	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
18 <sup>th</sup> February	11.15 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs	11.15 am Rev William Haslett
25 <sup>th</sup> February	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson

**Christmas Carol Services** These were all very successful. The Carol Services were held at Downpatrick and Clough on 17<sup>th</sup> December and at Ballee on 24<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you to all the readers, to the musicians and everyone who took part and helped in any way. Prior to these we held our joint Candlelight Carol Service this year at Downpatrick. There was a good turn out for this and we were very pleased to welcome the Laganvale Ensemble to accompany our worship. *Santa visited Clough on Christmas Eve:*

