

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

January and February 2019

From the Minister:

This issue goes to press in the middle of the Christmas holidays and I hope everyone is having an enjoyable time and I wish everyone a very happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

We had a very successful joint Candlelight Carol Service at Clough on Wednesday, 12th December. Thank you to all our readers, to those who decorated the church, to Alfie McClelland who played the organ and to the Laganvale Ensemble who once again took part in the service and played brilliantly. We had a good joint service for Christmas morning at Ballee and on 30th December, the last Sunday of the year we will have a joint service at Downpatrick to celebrate the end of one year and the start of the new one. Each church had held its carol service and parties or special events for the Sunday School have either been held or are about to take place. Pictures of some of the Christmas events will go online soon, including pictures of Santa who made time in his schedule to visit each of our churches in turn!

We have had a lot of busy events over recent months but thank you to everyone who supported the service to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War and the dedication of the new Roll of Honour of all the men and women of the denomination who served in the Great War including those who gave their lives. This was held on Sunday,

18th November, that is the Sunday after Remembrance Sunday and there was a good attendance from across the denomination at the service as the Roll of Honour was dedicated.

I am continuing as minister in charge of Dunmurry during the vacancy which means I have to be there to conduct worship every so often. I will be conducting worship at Dunmurry on Sunday, 20th January and Sue will be covering for me that day. But a big thank you as always to all our visiting preachers who lead worship in our churches. Over the next couple of months we will also welcome Rev Dr Will Patterson and Rev Ernie Boggs.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Sunday, 6th January short committee meeting after morning service at Clough.

Thursday, 3rd January meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at 7.30 pm at Templepatrick.

Saturday, 12th January chopping logs for sale for Ballee at 9.00 am. Details will be given out in church.

Thursday, 21st February Presbyterian Historical Society Lecture by Rev Dr John Nelson at Newry NSP Church at 8.00 pm.

Tuesday, 26th February meeting of the Presbytery of Bangor at 7.30 pm at Comber.

	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
6 th January	11.15 am Rev Dr Will Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
13 th January	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers
20 th January	11.15 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Sue Steers	11.15 am Sue Steers
27 th January	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
3 rd February	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Ernie Boggs
10 th February	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr Will Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
17 th February	11.15 am Rev Dr Will Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
24 th February	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers

"And suddenly you know: It's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings."

- Meister Eckhart

For lo! the days are hastening on,
 By prophet bards foretold,
 When, with the ever-circling years,
 Shall come the Age of Gold;
 When peace shall over all the earth
 Its ancient splendours fling,
 And all the world give back the song
 Which now the angels sing.

- Edmund Hamilton Sears

Around the Fellowship

Our thoughts and prayers are with all members who have been unwell or in hospital recently including those undergoing treatment or operations. So we think especially of Renée Cleland, Edna Brown, Thelma Lowry, Barbara Forsythe and Robin Nicholson.

Dedication of the First World War Roll of Honour

This service was held at Downpatrick on Sunday afternoon, 18th November. It both commemorated the centenary of the end of the First World War and included the dedication of the new Roll of Honour, which was undertaken by the Moderator of the General Synod, the Rt Rev Colin Campbell. Everyone who attended received a copy of the fifty page Roll of Honour which Downpatrick congregation has published on behalf of the denomination, It contains the names of the 588 men and women who served in the Great War plus biographies of the 98 servicemen who gave their lives. As well as the minister and the moderator those taking part in the service included Rev Bridget Spain, Rev Brian Moodie, Rev Paul Reid, Sue Steers and Jeffrey Martin. Laura Patterson was the organist, Jack Steers played the Last Post on the trumpet and Laura Neill played some laments on the bagpipes. The collection raised £855.90 which has been shared between the Poppy Appeal and Help for Heroes. Copies of the Roll of Honour are now available for purchase, price £5 each, all of which also goes to the Poppy Appeal and Help for Heroes. Copies are also available by post from either the minister (223 Upper Lisburn Road, Belfast BT10 0LL) or church secretary, Miss Mary Stewart (9A Buckshead Road, Downpatrick BT30 8JB). Please add £1.26 for postage in the UK (£3.85 elsewhere). So far over £200 has been raised for the charities from sales. Copies have also been sent to libraries, record offices and museums all over the British Isles.

Church Repair Work

The repair work in Downpatrick has all been completed and we are now preparing to have the church interior painted. The work to restore the main doors and the steps in Ballee is now underway and we hope to see this completed in the near future. At Clough we are exploring the possibility of a charity restoring the Murland mausoleum, one of the most architecturally significant tombs in Northern Ireland.

Interdenominational Divine Healing Ministries, Day of Prayer for Downpatrick

Thank you to everyone who supported this day of prayer in the town on Saturday, 24th November which went round all the churches beginning with our church.

Clough Dance

The dance held in the Hall on Friday, 23rd November was a great success and enjoyed by everyone there. The hall was full and £340 was raised for church funds. A big thank you goes to the Straney family and to everyone who helped.

Downpatrick Table Quiz

The Downpatrick Table Quiz was held on Saturday, 2nd December at the Lakeside Inn. It was another great evening and our thanks goes particularly to Margaret and Geoffrey Ferguson for hosting the event and to Arthur Gibson our question master. The Quiz also raised at least £795 for church funds.

Ballee Stable Clear Out

Thank you to everyone who helped with the working party on Saturday, 8th December to clear out the stable at Ballee which is now fully fit for use.

Christmas Services

As well as the Candlelight Carol Service on 12th December each congregation has held its own Carol Service. At Clough the children of the Sunday School led the service on 16th December. The Sunday School enjoyed a trip to see the pantomime 'Little Bo-Peep's Christmas Mix-Up' at the Down Arts Centre on Friday, 7th December. Over the year Clough Sunday School have purchased charity gifts through Christian Aid to help improve the lives of others and have purchased a goat and a sheep for families in Ethiopia and a hand pump for a family in South Sudan. Clough Sunday School Christmas party was held on Saturday, 22nd December. Ballee Carol Service was held on Sunday, 23rd December, led by Sunday School members and teachers. The Sunday School outing will be held to Lisburn Bowl on Saturday, 29th December. Downpatrick Carol Service was also held on 23rd December with the service being led by members of the congregation including the Sunday School and younger members of the church. The Downpatrick Sunday School outing – a trip to the pantomime Snow White by the Belvoir Players - was supported by over 60 people and took place on Thursday, 27th December.

Funerals

Hugh Robinson died suddenly on Sunday, 25th November after a period in hospital in the Downe and the Royal Victoria Hospital. A life-long member of the church he was a former treasurer of Clough for 26 years. Hugh was very well known in the local farming community and was a founder member of the Seaforde Working Vintage Club and did a lot of work in relation to vintage farm vehicles and their restoration, helping to raise money for charity in the process. This was reflected in the very large attendance at his funeral which took place at Clough on Thursday, 29th November followed by burial in the church yard. The funeral was conducted by Rev Dr David Steers and Rev Robert McKee. Our deepest sympathy goes to Hugh's sister Marjorie and to the whole family circle.

Myrtle McBride died on Saturday, 8th December after a period of illness. A life-long member of Downpatrick Myrtle had grown up in the house that originally stood at the corner of the church on Stream Street. Myrtle was the treasurer of Downpatrick for more than thirty years until her recent retirement, bringing great care and clarity to all her annual reports for the church. She also undertook the essential job of treasurer for the joint ministry between the three congregations. The esteem in which Myrtle was held was illustrated by her election as an elder to which position she was ordained by the Presbytery of Antrim as recently as September. Myrtle began her working life in Melia's electrical shop before becoming an air traffic controller with the RAF and later working for many years at Knockevin Special School. There was a very large attendance at Myrtle's funeral which was held in the church on Tuesday, 11th December, followed by burial in the church yard. The service was conducted by Rev Dr David Steers who read a tribute prepared by her brother in law Arthur Gibson. Matthew, one of Myrtle's grandchildren, read Psalm 121 during the service. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Samuel and to David, Neill and Jane, to her daughters in law Sharon and Lisa, her grandchildren Matthew, Jack and Ella and her sisters Jean, Anne and Jennifer, and the whole family circle.