

# CALENDAR

## Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

### Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

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#### January and February 2020

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##### From the Minister:

This Calendar comes with best wishes for everyone for the New Year. We are already well into the twenty-first century now having reached the year 2020.

As ever a big thank you goes to all those who lead our worship each week. The end of this year has been marked by lots of colds and flu and you have done well if you have managed to avoid some of these germs. Because of illness some visiting preachers were not able to come out on different Sundays and a special thank you goes to those who filled in at services, often at short notice, on different dates and an especially big thank you goes to Mary Stewart who led our service at Downpatrick on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December at very short notice.

With regard to the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, this year's service will be held at Downpatrick on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 pm. This is the first time we have hosted the service for 10 years, although the format did change for a while and there were a number of years when, along with other churches, we had a series of services each night during the week, some of which were in our church. But we have gone back to holding one big service which this year will be in Downpatrick and we hope that everyone will come along and support the service.

With every good wish to everyone for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

David Steers

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##### Forthcoming Dates

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at Ballyclare at 7.30 pm. (This is a change from the original advertised date as listed in the previous Calendar).

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> January service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Downpatrick at 7.00 pm.

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January meeting of the Presbytery of Bangor at Comber at 7.30 pm.

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*O Lord:*

*In a world where many are lonely,  
We thank you for our friendships.*

*In a world where many are captive,  
We thank you for our freedom.*

*In a world where many are hungry,  
We thank you for your provision.*

*We pray that you will:  
Enlarge our sympathy,  
Deepen our compassion,  
And give us grateful hearts.*

*Amen*

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(A prayer by Terry Waite)

	<b>Downpatrick</b>	<b>Ballee</b>	<b>Clough</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> January	11.15 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
12 <sup>th</sup> January	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs
19 <sup>th</sup> January	11.15 am Rev Norman Hutton	9.45 am Sue Steers, FRSA	11.15 am Sue Steers, FRSA
26 <sup>th</sup> January	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr Will Patterson
9 <sup>th</sup> February	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Norman Hutton	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
16 <sup>th</sup> February	11.15 am Rev Dr Will Patterson	9.45 am Rev Norman Hutton	11.15 am Rev Norman Hutton
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers, FRSA

To you, God of creation, we sing a new song of praise

A song of trees planted by streams of living water,

A song of mountains clapping their hands for joy,

A song of cities delighting in heavenly harmony,

A song of people that were lost and have been found.

For the earth is the Lord's and we shall be glad in it.

Hallelujah.

*A prayer by the people of Pitt Street Uniting Church, Sydney, Australia*

### **Around the Fellowship**

Our prayers are especially with all our members who have been in hospital recently or who have been undergoing treatment. It is good to say that everyone is doing very well and our best wishes go to Alfie McClelland, Charles Stewart and Carol Newell and everyone who has faced any illness or hospitalisation recently and also to Anne Strain who was in hospital over Christmas following her operation and is now coming on well. Our congratulations go to Robert Neill who graduated with his master's degree at Queen's University in December and who will be continuing his researches into animal life and is planning to travel to Peru in 2020 on a study tour. We wish him every success with his work. We also remember John Robinson in Aberdeen who sadly lost his wife Margaret before Christmas, our deepest sympathy goes to John and his family. Our thoughts and prayers are also with the Rev Roger McKee, minister of Newtownards and Greyabbey, who had a heart attack in November, it is good to hear that he is now recovering well.

### **Clough Dance**

The most recent dance at Clough was held on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November. There was very large number in attendance, the hall was full and everyone had a great night. A big thank you goes to Freddie and Margreta Straney and to everyone who helped with preparation, prizes, on the night itself or with clearing up afterwards. The total raised was a wonderful £400.

### **Downpatrick Table Quiz**

This was held on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Lakeside Inn and was a great night. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, with donations of prizes, the refreshments, marking the answers or in any way, and particularly to Margaret and Geoffrey Ferguson for hosting the evening and to Arthur Gibson for being such a wonderful question master. The evening raised £781.50 for church funds which is a fantastic achievement.

### **Murland Vault at Clough**

The work on the restoration of the Mausoleum is now complete. A substantial amount of work has been done to the building and we look forward to holding a short service/ceremony to mark its completion in conjunction with the Folies Trust probably some time in February at a date to be announced.

### **Christmas Events**

We have had some wonderful Christmas Events in recent weeks. On Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December we held our joint Candlelight Carol Service this year at Ballee. John Strain was the organist and once again we were delighted to welcome the Laganvale Ensemble under the direction of Gareth Downey to play for us. Equal numbers of readers from all three churches took part and were: Robert Neill, Eleanor Baha, Thomas Rooney, Elsie Nelson, Sarah Rooney, Mary Stewart, Sophia Cleland, Eve Lightbody, and Donna Lightbody. Each of our churches held their own Carol Services and at Clough the Sunday School children led the carol service with readings, poems, songs and solos to retell the Christmas story on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. On the following Sunday Ballee held their carol service with readings given by Sunday School members and teachers, at the end of the service everyone was delighted by a visit from Santa Claus who fitted the church in to his busy schedule and brought presents for all the children. On the same day, Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, Downpatrick

held their carol service with readings being given by members as well as by the Sunday School who did reading and songs with Laura Neill also playing some seasonal tunes on the bagpipes.

On Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December Clough Sunday School went to see *Santa's Sooty Christmas* at Down Arts Centre and on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> December Downpatrick held their Sunday School party in the church hall complete with visit from Santa Claus. At the time of writing we are still looking forward to the Ballee Sunday School Christmas Outing to see *Spies In Disguise* at the Downpatrick Omniplex followed by a visit to Dakota Bob's Diner, and to the Downpatrick Sunday School Christmas Outing to see the Belvoir Players' production of *Aladdin* followed by tea at Dundonald. A big thank you to all the helpers who plan and prepare these events which are so much enjoyed.

### **Fundraising for Ben Taylor**

Downpatrick Sunday School arranged a Beetle Drive at the Lakeside Inn on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October as a further fundraiser for Ben Taylor. The night was great fun and raised £340 which together with the £170 previously raised in the collection at the Church's Family Service in September meant that a cheque for £510 could be presented Ben's aunt and uncle, Samantha Leonard and Chris Taylor on the evening. However, following that night there has been such an overwhelming response from members and friends all over Ireland that a total of £1,000 has now been raised for Ben. Taken altogether the appeal for Ben has raised more than the £60,000 necessary for his life changing SDR (Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy) operation. Ben has now had this operation and it is great news to hear that it has been a great success and is already making a significant difference to his life. Members of Ben's family were present at the Downpatrick Christmas Carol Service on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December and Bertie Taylor was able to give everyone an update on the success of the operation and Ben's progress.

### **Email Contact**

If you don't receive these Calendars by email and would like to do so, along with other regular email updates, please send your email address to the minister via [npresb@hotmail.com](mailto:npresb@hotmail.com).

### **Funeral**

Adam Brown died on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December in Blair House, Newtownards where he had been resident for a few years. A loyal and devoted member of Downpatrick Church since 1993 he was one of the members who worked hard to keep the graveyard and church grounds neat and tidy and, as a keen gardener, regularly brought flowers in to the church for the communion table. As well as a gardener Adam was also a farmer and he combined his farming with 30 years as a policeman, serving through the most difficult and testing years of the Troubles. In his youth Adam had also been a very successful athlete winning an Irish Gold Medal, being part of a winning team in many championships and representing the police in meetings all over the UK and in Europe. Our deepest sympathy goes to Edna, and to their children Carol, Raymond, Alison and Jennifer, to their grandchildren Christopher, Stuart, Emma, Robyn and Jamie, and the whole family circle. Adam's funeral took place at S. Clarke & Son's Funeral Directors, Newtownards, on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December followed by committal at Loughview Cemetery, Comber and was conducted by Rev Dr David Steers.