

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

July and August 2014

From the Minister:

June is always a very busy month for all of us and this has been especially so this year with the Synod being held at Clough. All of this is underlined by the latest issue of the *Down Recorder* (18th June) where I counted at least eight photographs featuring one or more members of our churches plus at least two further articles which mentioned our members, all involved in churches, charities, schools, sporting clubs and community events. That number is probably not that unusual but it all underlines the extent of engagement with voluntary and community activities by our members across the board, and how much we contribute to the wider society.

The Synod went very well with the help of many people with the planning and management of the event. It was a pleasure to welcome everyone to Clough including a number of visitors. The Synod has been quite widely reported in the local press. A big thank you to everyone who helped.

As we did last year we will be sharing in joint services between the three churches over the months of July and August. This year, however, please note that we have agreed that the services will be at 10.30 am each Sunday in July and August. The full details can be found inside this

Calendar. I will be on holiday in the first week of July and the first two weeks of August and pastoral cover in case of any emergencies will be arranged.

For two weeks in July we will also welcome to our churches Philip Waldron (and if circumstances permit also his wife Lucy) who will be staying here for a couple of weeks and will be preaching at the joint services at Downpatrick on 20th July and at Clough on 27th July. Philip comes from Liverpool and is a student for the ministry at the Unitarian College, Manchester. A former director of his own theatre company Philip is also site manager at Ullet Road Church in Liverpool. Please give his services every support. He will be visiting churches and places of interest in Northern Ireland and hopes to join us on the Downpatrick Treasure Hunt and other events over the summer.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Thursday, 3rd July Presbytery of Antrim meeting at Ballycarry at 7.30 pm.

Saturday, 19th July Downpatrick Treasure Hunt from the Lakeside Inn starting at 6.30 pm. Please book your place in advance.

Tuesday, 26th August Presbytery of Bangor meeting at a venue to be announced at 7.30 pm.

Services in July and August

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
6 th July	Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr William Patterson
13 th July	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
20 th July	10.30 am Philip Waldron	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>
27 th July	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Philip Waldron
3 rd August	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev William Haslett	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
10 th August	10.30 am Rev William Haslett	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>
17 th August	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers
24 th August	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
31 st August	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>

Of all the creatures both in sea and land
 Only to Man thou hast made known thy ways,
 And put the pen alone into his hand,
 And made him secretary of thy praise.

Beasts fain would sing; birds ditty to their notes;
 Trees would be tuning on their native lute
 To thy renown: but all their hands and throats
 Are brought to Man, while they are lame and mute.

Man is the world's high Priest: he doth present
 The sacrifice of all: while they below
 Unto the service mutter an assent,
 Such as springs use that fall, and winds that blow.

From 'The Temple' (1633) by George Herbert

Around the Fellowship

Well done to all the young members who have been sitting examinations in recent weeks. Special congratulations also to all those who have achieved some particular goals. Congratulations to Eileen Neill whose artwork was displayed in the St Patrick's Centre as part of the Blackwater Integrated College GCSE exhibition in June. Well done to Tierna Kelly who was part of the Down High Seven a Side football team which won the Northern Ireland Schools Championship. Tierna is the youngest in the team and in the year at school one year below most of the other players. Congratulations also to Adam Moffett who in June represented Ulster at the Special Olympics in Limerick and won a gold medal in Bocce. Adam only took this sport up recently and trained very hard to win the gold medal. (Bocce is a version of bowls or boules).

Sunday School

Thank you to everyone who supported the denominational Sunday School Service and Exhibition at Ballyclare on Friday, 6th June. There was a good attendance from Downpatrick, Ballee and Clough and a vast amount of truly wonderful work entered by the children of all three Sunday Schools. The three Sunday Schools all won a good number of prizes – Clough 18; Ballee 5; Downpatrick 18 - including two of the special prizes - Eileen Neill won the Michael Richardson Award for Best Freehand Painting or Drawing (actually the fourth year in succession which Eileen has won this prize for art, which underlines her great ability as an artist) and Louise Steers won the Domestic Mission Award for Best Denominational Entry (on the history of the NSPCI). But everyone did very well indeed, our Sunday Schools did exceptionally well.

At the time of writing the Children's Day at Clough has still to take place but the Children's Days at Ballee and Downpatrick have both already been held and both were excellent. The children and young people all conducted the worship very effectively. Prizes, both for work in the Sunday School Exhibition and for attendance, were distributed to all the members. There was an excellent attendance at both services and gifts were distributed to all the men present for Fathers' Day.

At Ballee Ross Kelly, who led the service, presented a cheque for £300 for the Moderator's Appeal for the charity Water Aid. This was made up of £130 collected by the Sunday School from serving tea after the service on the first Sunday of the month plus the collection on the day of the Children's Day. At Downpatrick the collection was for the Alzheimer's Society and, including over £300 raised by the Beetle Drive earlier in the year, the Sunday School has now raised around £500 for this charity. Well done to everybody including the teachers and helpers for all their work over the year.

School Visits

At Downpatrick we welcomed a visit from St Patrick's High School (Year 9) on Wednesday, 18th June and look forward Down High School visiting soon.

Ballee Cash for Clobber Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Ballee Cash for Clobber project. This was very worthwhile and, including a donation of £30, has raised a total of £420 for church funds.

Downpatrick Treasure Hunt

This will be held on Saturday, 19th July and is always a hugely popular and enjoyable event. Starting at the Lakeside Inn at 6.30 pm cars set off on a trip around the county Down countryside following clues that lead you back to the Lakeside Inn where you can enjoy a supper of fish and chips, sausages and chips or chicken burger and chips. The cost is £10 per adult or £5 for a child under 16. This is always very popular and it is essential to book in advance, stating what you would like for your supper from the Fish and Chip van. If you would like to go please book with Margaret Ferguson, Myrtle McBride or Mary Stewart as soon as possible.

Summer Services

There will be one service each Sunday in July and August at 10.30 am in each church in turn. Please show your support for these services. We particularly look forward to welcoming UCM ministerial student Philip Waldron to Northern Ireland. He will be preaching on 20th and 27th July. There will also be other opportunities to meet Philip while he is over.

Clearing the Ballee manse grounds and field

Many thanks to Jim Kelly who has trimmed the field adjoining the church. Thank you also to Allan and David Chambers who have cleared the large overgrown area around the edge of the manse grounds and taken down the old wall. They have also uncovered the old well which once provided the water supply for the manse which must have remained hidden for decades.

Synod 2014 at Clough

Clough hosted the Synod this year on Tuesday, 10th June and Wednesday 11th June and it is very pleasing to report that everything went extremely well. Thanks must go to the large number of people who put a lot of time and effort in to preparing for the Synod. An immense amount of hard work was done by a great many including cleaning the hall and kitchen, putting out cones first thing in the morning to keep parking spaces, providing and serving tea and refreshments, laying out chairs and the stage, preparing the materials for communion, providing music at the services and helping in many other different ways. On Tuesday afternoon 31 people went over to Frenchies restaurant for an excellent dinner and following the service in the church George Hanna provided refreshments in the hall for all those who were in attendance. On the Wednesday of the Synod George Hanna and his staff served a wonderful three course lunch to the more than 50 people present in our hall. The meal was truly first class and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Our thanks goes to George for all his help over the Synod. The Synod ended with an excellent concert by members of the Baillies Mills Accordion Band who are always so kind to support our events. Following this refreshments were served by the ladies of the church, thank you to everyone who helped on that night too. Thanks were expressed by the whole Synod to the Church for what they contributed and messages of thanks have been sent by many participants including one of the visitors, the Rev Bob Pounder of Oldham, who sends his "warmest greetings and thanks to everyone at Clough for a great couple of days".

Websites

Ballee: www.balleensp.org.uk/

Downpatrick: www.downpatricknsp.org.uk/

Would anyone like to create a website for Clough?