

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

July and August 2016

From the Minister:

Over the summer we will again be having joint services each Sunday at each church in turn at the time of 10.30 am. Please give all the services all your support. It is nice for us to be able to get together to share in our worship. On one Sunday (still to be chosen) we will have a praise service and select our favourite hymns to be sung at it. The location of the services over July and August are listed in the Calendar as well as the preachers. We will also be welcoming Rev Dr Will Patterson, Rev Ernie Boggs and David McCord to our pulpits.

Thank you to the representative elders who attended Synod at Glenarm and Cairncastle. This year it was not without controversy as a difficult situation had arisen in which the Congregational Federation (which group the current moderator of Synod has been pushing for us to have closer links with) had been seen to be wanting to lay down terms for friendship which misunderstood our historic position at the same time as dictating to us who else we might link to. This clearly was unacceptable and an emergency motion proposed by myself and the Very Rev William McMillan was passed by 23 votes to 5 to set the record straight. This has been sent to the Congregational Federation. If anyone would like a copy of the resolution or would be interested in

knowing more please let me know. There are a number of ways in which I think we need to think much more clearly and carefully as a denomination about who we are and the way we carry out our business. But thank you again to our three representative elders who travelled to county Antrim to take part in the meetings.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Thursday, 30th June

Battle of the Somme Centenary cross-community prayer vigil at Down Cathedral at 7.30 pm.

Saturday, 2nd July

Afternoon tea for members of all three congregations at the Lakeside Inn at 2.00 pm. Fuller details are available inside the Calendar.

Thursday, 7th July

Presbytery of Antrim meeting at Banbridge at 7.30 pm.

Saturday, 23rd July

Downpatrick Treasure Hunt at the Lakeside Inn starting at 7.00 pm. Fuller details can be found inside.

Advance Notices – Table Quizzes

Ballee - Saturday, 17th September.

Downpatrick - Saturday, 26th

November. Both at the Lakeside Inn.

Services in July and August

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
3 rd July	Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers	Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am
10 th July	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>
17 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 Rev Dr David Steers
24 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>
31 st July	10.30 am Rev Ernie Boggs	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>
7 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 David McCord
14 th August	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr William Patterson	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
21 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>
28 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

Natural theology is being rediscovered in our own age as astronomers and physicists seem to be pointing to something beautiful and mysterious at the furthest extremities of space and at the very heart of matter. They are helping us to regain something of the sense of awe and wonder with which our ancestors looked on the world about them and gazed up at the heavens. A recovery of the Celts' ability to find God's love and glory reflected through the natural world is going to be essential if we are to save our planet from environmental destruction. But scarcely less important for us today is a return to that other long neglected theme of Celtic Christianity – a view of human nature not as being radically tainted by sin and evil, intrinsically corrupt and degenerate, but as imprinted with the image of God, full of potential and opportunity, longing for completion and perfection.

From Ian Bradley *The Celtic Way* (New Edition, 2007)

Around the Fellowship

Warmest congratulations go to Mary Stewart, our Downpatrick church secretary who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List on 11th June. This is richly deserved and has been celebrated by many people in the local area and beyond. Mary's award is for services to the community in Downpatrick and includes not only her long service as church secretary, but also her work with the Girl Guides, the Sunday School and as a School Principal as well as for being the author of our most impressive history of the Downpatrick congregation. On Sunday, 12th June, during the service Laura Neill of the Sunday School presented a hydrangea plant to Mary on behalf of the whole congregation. There have been excellent reports on Mary's award in both the *Down Recorder* and the *Mourne Observer*. In the church and in the reports in the papers Mary very graciously said that she accepted the award on behalf of everyone who had worked with her and allowed her to be part of her life. But it is a very much deserved award and everyone sends their warmest congratulations to Mary for this honour.

Congratulations also go to Norman Caven who was awarded the CBE in the same honours list. Norman is a former Registrar General and is the son of the late Tom Caven. Norman and his family presented the beautiful pulpit fall in Ballee in Tom's memory.

Members of all three churches were saddened to hear of the death of the Rev Dr George Eagleson. In retirement from his own ministries George was a frequent and very popular visiting preacher in each of our congregations. He greatly enjoyed coming to our churches and his visits were always appreciated. He died on 26th May and his funeral was held on Thursday, 2nd June at the First Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee. Our churches were well represented and our deepest sympathy goes to George's family.

One positive aspect of having the Synod at Glenarm and Cairncastle was that we were able to say thank you to the Rev Lena Cockroft who retires at the end of July. Lena has given many years of faithful service to the denomination and built the new church at Cairncastle. We wish her and Brian a long and happy retirement.

NSPCI Sunday School Exhibition and Service

At the time of going to press our churches still have to hold their Children's Day Services and we look forward to them. One of the things that will be done at them is the distribution of prizes from this year's Sunday School Exhibition of Work and Service which was held on Friday, 3rd June at Dunmurry. At this point it is enough to say that everyone did exceptionally well, all three Sunday Schools had a lot of entries included, all of the highest standard. It was also great to see the three churches well represented at the service with a particularly large contingent from Ballee Sunday School. But we look forward to our Children's Day Services, seeing their work and rewarding their success.

Ballee and District Community Group

The Community Group will be organising a Children's Summer Scheme from 15th - 19th August from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm each day. The cost is £30 for the week. Places are limited, those who have attended these events before will get first preference.

Ordination of Elders at Clough

At the Clough AGM the congregation unanimously elected Jim Newell and Alfie McClelland to the position of elder in the church. Alfie is already an elder at the

Cairncastle congregation so technically will be transferred to Clough but we hope to organise a service of ordination on Sunday, 4th September to ordain and appoint both gentlemen to this office. Further details will be available nearer the time. We thank them both for being prepared to serve in this way.

Afternoon Tea/Social Event for the three congregations

We are hoping to hold an event for members of all three congregations at the start of July, but particularly for more senior members who perhaps find getting out and about a bit more difficult. We will be having Afternoon Tea at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 2nd July at 2.00 pm. There will be a marquee, tea, coffee, cakes, buns, strawberries and cream etc. and a chance to relax together. We are very keen for this to be open to members of all three churches and particularly hope that family members and friends can help bring along church members who would not otherwise be able to get out. There will be no charge for the event but we will need help in all three churches with people bringing traybakes and other things and someone to liaise with in regard to numbers and helping serving the food on the day. If you would like to help please contact Margaret Ferguson (Tel: 07789208859) and if you know someone who would like to come but would need a lift please do help if you can. This should be a really good event and we hope that as many will come along as are able. With very many thanks to Margaret Ferguson for her kindness in staging this event.

Ballee Working Party

Many thanks to everyone who came along to help clear up the grounds and property on Saturday, 11th June.

Downpatrick Treasure Hunt:



The poster features two identical illustrations of a person in a white shirt and dark trousers looking at a map in a field under a blue sky with clouds. The text is centered and uses various colors and bolding for emphasis.

Treasure Hunt

Saturday 23rd July 2016

Take a trip around the countryside following clues, beginning and ending your adventure at **The Lakeside Inn**. Followed by organised children fun and games.

Cars leaving between 7pm – 8pm.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL BEFORE 20th July 2016

Cost £12 per adult, £4 per child under 16

includes Hogg Roast with Salads for adults and Hot Dog suppers only for children.

Please contact Margaret Ferguson, Mary Stewart or Myrtle McBride to purchase your ticket

before 20th July 2016.