

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

July and August 2019

From the Minister:

We will again be having joint services over the summer months. As has become our custom these will be at 10.30 am each Sunday at each church in turn. The full preaching plan can be found inside but please make a special note of the visit of Godshandiwork Puppets to our joint service at Clough on Sunday, 4th August.

Later in the year we will also be dedicating some additions to our sound system in Downpatrick – including a loop system - made possible by a very kind donation by the Baptist Church following its closure earlier this year. At the Downpatrick Harvest on Sunday, 6th October we will welcome Sam Shaw to lead the service. Sam is well known to everyone for his work with Godshandiwork Puppets. He was also one of the leaders of the Baptist Church in Downpatrick and is an Ecumenical Canon at Down Cathedral. Also at Downpatrick, on a date to be announced we look forward to dedicating new choir chairs in memory of Myrtle McBride thanks to a very generous donation from Myrtle's family. The date for this will be announced in due course.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates

Thursday, 4th July meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at Raloo at 7.30 pm.

Friday, 19th July Downpatrick Treasure Hunt. Cars leaving the Lakeside Inn between 6.15 pm and 7.30 pm. Full details in this Calendar.

Tuesday, 27th August meeting of the Presbytery of Bangor at Comber at 7.30 pm.

Sunday, 8th September at 11.15 am Downpatrick Family Service.

God's Temple

The word *contemplative* derives from a root that means to set aside a place of worship or to reserve a cleared space in front of an altar. In Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, a contemplative stance is obvious. The Israelites cleared space for worship with the Ark of the Covenant and finally with their temple. Jesus honoured the temple worship of his Jewish tradition but also tried to enlighten his people to realize that sacred buildings, rituals, and rules are meant to bring us into the awareness of the divine presence in us and in all of those around us. Jesus drew our attention to the doctrine of the divine indwelling in a radical declaration that he himself was the temple (John 2:19). . . . Paul elaborates on Jesus' teaching of the doctrine of divine indwelling by declaring that not just Jesus' but *our* body too is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). How marvellous! The Creator of the universe resides within our being.

Phileena Heuertz

Services in July and August

| Date | Downpatrick | Ballee | Clough |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 7 th July | 10.30 am Sue Steers FRSA | <i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i> | <i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i> |
| 14 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 |
| 21 st 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> |
| 28 th July | 10.30 am Rev Dr Will Patterson | <i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i> | <i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i> |
| 4th August | <i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i> | <i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i> | 10.30 am Godshandiwork Puppets |
| 11 th August | <i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i> | 10.30 am Rev Dr Will Patterson | <i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i> |
| 18 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 |
| 25 th 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> |



Godshandiwork Puppets will be making a very welcome return to our joint service at Clough on Sunday, 4th August at 10.30 am. Everyone welcome

Around the Fellowship

Our best wishes go to all members who have been in hospital recently or undergoing tests and we think especially of Robyn Nixon, Ken Taylor and Geraldine McClelland. Our best wishes for future good health goes to them all and to all who have been unwell recently.

We wish all the best too to all the younger members of our churches who have been facing examinations in recent weeks and will receive their results over the summer. Our prayers are also with Canon Cecil Wilson who has not been well recently. We wish him good health in the future and warmly congratulate him on his celebration of 50 years of ministry which will be marked by a special service in Down Cathedral at the end of June.

Downpatrick Treasure Hunt

This year the Treasure Hunt will take place on Friday, 19th July with cars leaving the Lakeside Inn between 6.15 pm and 7.30 pm. Travel around the countryside following the clues beginning and ending at the Lakeside Inn followed by organised fun and games for the children. The cost is £12.50 per adult and £4.50 per child under 16 which includes a Hog Roast with salads for adults and Hot Dog supper for children. This is always a great night and pre-booking is essential. Tickets are available in Downpatrick church or contact Joan Truesdale, Margaret Ferguson (07789208859) or any member of the church to purchase your ticket.

Welcome to Godshandiwork Puppets

Please remember that on each Sunday in July and August we will again be coming together for joint a service at each church in turn at 10.30 am. We particularly look forward to welcoming back Godshandiwork Puppets who this year will lead our worship at Clough on Sunday, 4th August at 10.30 am. This is an especially exciting occasion that will be enjoyed by all generations. Godshandiwork Puppets bring a tremendous energy and a lot of fun to worship, make sure you can be there.

Sunday School

The denominational Sunday School Exhibition of Work, Service and Prizegiving took place on Friday, 7th June at All Souls' Church, Belfast. It was a nice service and Ballee, Clough and Downpatrick were all well represented there. There was plenty of work from all three Sunday Schools on display and Laura Neill played a selection of pieces on the bagpipes as part of the service. In addition our Sunday Schools were highly rated by the judges. Ballee won 4 prizes, Downpatrick won 5 prizes and Clough won a magnificent 17 prizes. Not only that but Sophia Cleland was awarded the 'Cairns Cup for the Best History Entry' and Laura Neill was awarded both the 'Mary Warrick Memorial Award for Best Solo Performance' and the 'Michael Richardson Award for the Best Freehand Painting or Drawing'. But well done to everyone who took part. The Children's Days at Ballee and Clough were held on Sunday, 16th June when the children led the service and did a great job. There are audio recordings of both services as well as videos of both if anyone would like to see them. At both services prizes were awarded for work in the denominational exhibition and for attendance. At Clough we particularly thanked Else Nelson who has retired as Sunday School Superintendent for the tremendous work she has given over the years. The Downpatrick Family Service will be on Sunday, 8th September at 11.15 am.

Clough Dance

The most recent dance at Clough was held on Friday, 7th June and was a great success. The hall was packed and raised a total of £355 for church funds. Well done to everyone who assisted in any way including those who donated prizes or helped to tidy up afterwards.

Clough Sunday School

On Sunday, 23rd June we welcomed Colleen Milligan to the church on behalf of Air Ambulance. Clough Sunday School have been raising funds for this charity over the year and presented a cheque to Colleen for £300. The Sunday School sang some pieces and Colleen spoke about the work of the Air Ambulance.

Ballee Sunday School

Well done to Thomas and Sophia Cleland who together raised £178.20 for their primary school's appeal to help following the drought in Swaziland. Thank you to everyone in Ballee who supported Thomas and Sophia's work.

From Bertie and Jennifer Taylor

Our grandson Ben (aged 9) requires a life changing operation called SDR (Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy). The operation will not be funded by the NHS. Just4Children are fundraising for the operation aimed at reducing spasticity, which hopefully will give him the chance of a better life. A sum of £60,000 is required to cover operation costs plus two years intensive physiotherapy. For further information and details see: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/abetterlifeforben>

Visit to Poland

Sue and I will be visiting Poland at the end of July/start of August as part of an historical tour and pilgrimage to the sites of what was called the Minor Reformed Church or the Polish Brethren. This year is the 450th anniversary of the foundation of the town of Raków where they established a printing press and an academy and developed theological views that were broad and tolerant, ideas enshrined in what was called the Racovian Catechism. In the 16th and 17th century Poland was characterised by an outpouring of radical new ideas although these were suppressed later in the counter-reformation. Nevertheless, the ideas spread out from Poland to other countries and influenced other churches. As part of a group we will be visiting sites connected with this historical group.

Visiting Preachers

Once again a big thank you to all our visiting preachers. I will be taking the service at Dunmurry on Sunday, 7th July and Sue Steers will conduct the joint service at Downpatrick that morning at 10.30 am. We will also welcome Rev Dr Will Patterson on two Sundays over the summer when we will be away.

Wedding Blessing

The blessing of the marriage of Stacey and Evan Haney took place at Ballee on Saturday, 25th May and was conducted by Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Stacey and Evan.