

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

March and April 2019

From the Minister:

The end of February certainly feels very much like spring with not just crocuses, snowdrops, daffodils and other flowers very much in evidence but unusually warm weather too, in fact the warmest February since records began! But it is nice to see all the familiar signs of Earth waking from its slumber.

At the moment I am continuing to have oversight of the Dunmurry congregation so am required to take some services there. I will be preaching at Dunmurry on 3rd March and 14th April. But as ever I am very grateful to all those visiting preachers who very kindly come and conduct services for us. The full list of preachers for March and April can be found inside this Calendar. Don't forget that there are five Sundays in the month of March and on Sunday, 31st March we will all join together for a joint service at Clough at 11.15 am.

David Steers

A thought for Easter:

Christ is the light that allows people to see things in their fullness. The precise and intended effect of such a light is to see Christ everywhere else. In fact, that is my only definition of a true

Christian. *A mature Christian sees Christ in everything and everyone else.* That is a definition that will never fail

you, always demand more of you, and give you no reasons to fight, exclude, or reject anyone.

The point of the Christian life is not to distinguish oneself from the ungodly, but to stand in radical solidarity with everyone and everything else. This is the intended effect of the Incarnation—symbolized by the cross, *God's great act of solidarity instead of judgment.*

Richard Rohr

Forthcoming Dates:

Saturday, 9th March Denominational Sunday School Games will be held at Trinity Methodist Centre, Knockmore Road, Lisburn 1.30pm – 4.30pm.

Sunday, 10th March Presbytery of Antrim service for the ordination of elders at Banbridge at 3.30 pm.

Wednesday, 13th March Lecture by Dr Finbar McCormick of Queen's University, Belfast at Clough at 7.30 pm. (see full details inside this Calendar).

Monday, 18th March St Patrick's Festival Service in Down Cathedral at 11.45 am.

Thursday, 4th April meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at Banbridge at 7.30 pm.

Friday, 19th April Good Friday Walk of Witness at 1.00 pm starting from Down Recorder Office.

	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
3 rd March	11.15 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Sue Steers	11.15 am Sue Steers
10 th March	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
17 th March	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am David McCord
24 th March	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
31 st March	<i>Joint service at Clough</i>	<i>Joint service at Clough</i>	11.15 am Joint service at Clough Rev Dr David Steers
7 th April	11.15 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
14 th April	11.15 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr Will Patterson	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs
21 st April Easter	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
28 th April	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr Will Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers

Dear Lord and Father of all humanity, we bring our prayers to you not just for this special day but for everyday, the everyday world in which we try to follow you from dawn to dusk, and often lose our way. But in this day-to-day world we depend utterly on so many people you give us. In our prayers we celebrate them, thank you for them, and pray for their well-being.

Lord, bless your world; bless it with thankfulness and fulfilment, bless it with kindness and hope.

Bishop John Pritchard , *The Second Intercessions Handbook*

Around the Fellowship

Our best wishes go to all members of our churches who have been unwell, undergoing treatment or in hospital at any time in recent weeks. Best wishes go to Thelma Lowry who has now finished her treatment and to Barbara Forsythe recovering from a broken leg.

Clough Dance

The latest dance was held at Clough on Friday, 25th January. The hall was full for the evening and everyone had a great time. The evening also raised £402 for church funds, a very successful evening. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Ballee Log Chop

This was held on Saturday, 12th January and was very well supported. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a successful event. On top of that the event raised approximately £1,000 for the church. Well done everyone.

Church Repair Work

The interior of Downpatrick church has now been painted and looks first class. The whole ceiling and walls have been repainted, quite an extensive re-decoration. The main church doors at Ballee have now been repaired to a very high standard and we look forward to seeing them painted in the near future.

First World War Roll of Honour

Just for interest it might be worth noting that copies of the Roll of Honour published at the end of last year by Downpatrick church for the denomination have now been deposited in a number of libraries and record offices, including: British Library, London; Bodleian Library, Oxford; Cambridge University Library; Central Library, Belfast; Christ Church Library, Oxford; Downpatrick Library; Dr Williams's Library, London; Harris Manchester College Library, Oxford; Linen Hall Library, Belfast; Luther King House Library, Manchester; National Library of Ireland, Dublin; National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh; National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland Library, Belfast; Somme Museum, Newtownards; Trinity College Library, Dublin; Queen's University Library, Belfast. Copies of the Roll of Honour are still available for purchase, price £5 each, all of which also goes to the Poppy Appeal and Help for Heroes.

Public Lecture at Clough Wednesday, 13th March at 7.30 pm

The Murland family vault at Clough Church will be the focus of a public lecture by Dr Finbar McCormick on the topic of 'Mausolea & Memorials to the dead in Ireland' at Clough NSP Church on Wednesday, 13th March 2019 at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome and the talk will be followed by refreshments. The Murland family were local mill owners and members of the church at Clough.

The tomb is in need of conservation which will be undertaken by the Follies Trust in the forthcoming months. Dr McCormick is a senior lecturer in the School of the Natural and Built Environment at Queen's University, Belfast and former Chair of the Discovery Programme.

The Follies Trust writes:

The talk will look at the history and development of memorials to the dead in Ireland and beyond. It will show how the Reformation changed people's attitude to commemorating the dead and will demonstrate how Presbyterianism in Scotland played such an important role in the development of the modern mausoleum. Dr McCormick will also show how classical ideas had such an influence on mausoleum design as can be seen in the magnificent Murland mausoleum at Clough. The Ulster Architectural Heritage Society list describes the mausoleum as 'the phenomenal Murland vault of about 1860, furnished with all the pompe funebre of the classical manner, with trimmings.' It was designed by Thomas Turner and is a fine example of the genre.

It is worth noting that each of our three churches possess interesting graveyards housing the last resting places of centuries of church members, including many notable figures. The graveyards are remarkable too for the wide variety of tombs, stones and other memorials. Of especial note are the mausolea mostly dating from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries. Downpatrick has a large number of what Professor James Stevens Curl describes (in *Mausolea in Ulster*, Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, 1978) as being of 'the barrel-vaulted variety, rather like a Nissen-hut'. These type of tombs appear to be local to the Downpatrick area and there are other examples in the locality but our church on Stream Street has the largest number of examples of them, tombs built by prominent local families and merchants. Of particular interest to architectural historians are the two tombs at Downpatrick described by Professor Curl as consisting: 'of square bases, with panelled sides, surmounted by pyramids having concave sides derived from early mausolea in the Kedron Valley, Jerusalem.' All these tombs are likely to be touched on in Dr McCormick's lecture.

Baptism

The baptism of Zara Angela Joy Rooney took place at Clough at the morning service on Sunday, 28th October 2018 and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations go to Ruth and Neil and the whole family.

Funeral

Renée Cleland died at home on Wednesday, 16th January after a period of illness which she bore very bravely, with her family gathered around her. A much-loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Renée had been a loyal member of our Downpatrick congregation for over sixty years from when she married her husband Bobby in 1957. At Ballylucas she took to her life as a farmer's wife with great skill and devotion. Sadly she lost her husband in 1990 but together they were blessed by their five children and later Renée was able to take immense pride and joy in her twelve grandchildren and now three great-grandchildren. A wholehearted supporter of all her church's activities Renée was regular in her attendance, active in its fundraising efforts and a member of the choir. Her funeral took place at Rathmullan Church, by kind permission of the Church of Ireland, and was followed by burial in the adjoining churchyard. The service was conducted by Rev Dr David Steers and Rev Adrian Dorrian. Our thoughts and prayers are with all Renée's family, especially with Eleanor, Samuel, Margaret, Rosemary and Hamilton, with her grandchildren Sara, Adam, Beverley, Nicola, Robert, Jennifer, Peter, Pamela, James, Graham, Matthew and Alex, with her great-grandchildren Charlotte, Grace and Anna and with the whole family circle.