

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

May and June 2016

From the Minister:

Among our visiting preachers we look forward to welcoming Rev Bill Haslett, Rev Dr Will Patterson, Rev Ernie Boggs, David McCord and Sue Steers over the next couple of months. We are very grateful to all our visiting preachers and look forward to welcoming the Rev Ernie Boggs on his first visit to one of our churches as a preacher on 22nd May.

We will be celebrating Communion at Ballee and Downpatrick on 1st May and at Clough on 15th May, all members are encouraged to attend this important service.

So far only Ballee have held their AGM but the Downpatrick AGM will take place on Wednesday, 11th May and Clough will be preparing for their annual meeting soon. Please give these your full support. The date has been set for the Children's Day Service for Ballee (19th June), those for Downpatrick and Clough still have to be announced but they will follow the denominational Sunday School service which this year will be at Dunmurry on the first Friday in June.

Looking a bit further ahead Downpatrick will be holding their Summer Treasure Hunt and Hog Roast at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 23rd July starting at 7.00 pm. Please make a note of this event, which is always hugely enjoyable, in your diary.

I will be away on Sunday, 22nd May to take part in a theological conference in Manchester.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Wednesday, 11th May

Downpatrick congregational Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday, 31st May

Presbytery of Bangor meeting at Ballyhemlin at 7.30 pm.

Friday, 3rd June

Sunday School Exhibition of Work and Service at Dunmurry at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday 14th June & Wednesday 15th June

General Synod of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland and associated meetings held at Glenarm and Cairncastle.

Thursday, 7th July

Presbytery of Antrim meeting at a venue to be announced at 7.30 pm.

Saturday, 23rd July

Downpatrick Treasure Hunt at the Lakeside Inn starting at 7.00 pm.

| Date | Downpatrick | Ballee | Clough |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1st May | 11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion | 9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion | 11.15 am Rev William Haslett |
| 8 th May | 11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers | 9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson | 9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers |
| 15th May | 11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson | 9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers | 11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion |
| 22 th May | 11.15 am David McCord | 9.45 am David McCord | 9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs |
| 29th May | 11.15 am Joint Service Downpatrick Rev Dr David Steers | <i>11.15 am</i> <i>Joint Service</i> <i>Downpatrick</i> | <i>11.15 am</i> <i>Joint Service</i> <i>Downpatrick</i> |
| 5 th June | 11.15 am Sue Steers | 9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers | 11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers |
| 12 th June | 11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers | 9.45 am Rev William Haslett | 9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers |
| 19th June | 11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers | 9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers Children's Day | 11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson |
| 26 th June | 11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers | 9.45 am Rev William Haslett | 9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers |

“The early Christians shared *agape* (love) feasts in their small communities. Somehow eating together creates a space where we can be vulnerable and present. By sharing our food, or by coming empty handed and receiving from another's bounty, we enter true communion. Dependent on physical nourishment, we connect with the root of our human need. We are blessed by the generosity of a farmer's labour, the Earth's abundance, the joy of companionship.”

(Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation – Community)

Around the Fellowship

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has been unwell or has been undergoing treatment recently and also with those who have recently moved house. Our best wishes go to Adam Brown who had to have a small operation on his eye recently. Our thoughts are very much with Ballee church secretary Jayne Caven who despite having cracked a number of ribs and in a lot of pain still came to the Church AGM to organise the meeting and take the minutes.

Our best wishes go to all the younger members of our churches who face important examinations in the coming months.

Our kindest regards also go to the Rev Sam Peden who stood in at short notice to cover a vacancy in the preaching plan at Downpatrick on 3rd April. Unfortunately Sam had a nasty fall on the stairs at the entrance to the church. Thankfully he was not seriously injured but I know he appreciated the care and concern shown by many church members as well as passers-by. Sam is in good health now despite the fall.

Ballee Outdoor Bowling Club

Ballee Outdoor Bowling Club was re-opened for the 2016 Season on Saturday, 16th April. New Members are very welcome.

Women's League

All three churches have been supporting this year's ballot organised by the denominational Women's League in aid of charities connected with Motor Neurone disease. If you have any tickets to return please bring them back so they can be sent off to the organisers.

NSPCI Sunday School Exhibition

This year's Sunday School Exhibition of Work and Service is being held on Friday, 3rd June at Dunmurry at 7.30pm. All music/drama/recorded entries are to be submitted to Adele Johnson by Thursday 12th May. There is also a request that in order to make the judging process easier, could recorded entries be saved on either pen drives or CDs/DVDs rather than tapes. All pen drives/CDs/DVDs will be returned. All other entries (as well as cups to be returned) should be brought to the McCleery Hall in Dunmurry on Sunday, 29th May between 2.00 pm and 5.00pm.

Downpatrick Fireside Quiz

Thank you to Marion Moffett who organised this quiz based on 25 Bible questions in aid of Downpatrick Sunday School and to everyone who supported it. It raised over £100. June Clarke of Tandragee was the winner with Jayne Caven of Ballee runner up.

Downpatrick Beetle Drive

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the Downpatrick Beetle Drive which was held at the Lakeside Inn on Tuesday, 29th March. There were around 90 people there, the magnificent sum of £440 was raised to be shared between the Sunday School and the Knockevin Sensory Room appeal and the night was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who was there. Thank you to everyone who helped

with the preparations and refreshments, those who donated eggs and Margaret Ferguson for hosting the event.

Women's World Day of Prayer

This event was this year held at Down Cathedral on Friday evening, 4th March. Thank you to Eileen and Rachel Neill and Marion Moffett who took part in the service and to Annabel Cleland for all her work in helping to organise the service.

NSPCI Sunday School Games

Clough, Ballee and Downpatrick Sunday Schools were all well-represented at this event which this year was held on Saturday, 5th March at Trinity Methodist Church Lisburn. This is much more about being a fun day for the Sunday Schools rather than the competitive games of former years and all the children had a great time. Thank you to everyone helped with transport and refreshments.

NSPCI Synod 2016

This year's Synod will be held at Glenarm and Cairncastle on Tuesday, 14th and Wednesday 15th June. The meetings will be as follows: Tuesday, 14th June, Glenarm: 3.30 pm Remonstrant Synod; 4.15 pm NSPCI Trustee Company; 7.30 pm Communion Service; 8.15 pm Synod Service and Installation of Moderator. Wednesday, 15th June, Cairncastle: 10.30 am Business Meeting; 7.30 pm Social Evening.

Ballee and District Community Group

The Community Group has a number of events planned for later in the year. These include a Fundraising Tea Party at Ballee on Saturday, 18th June from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm. There will be lots of coffee, tea and plenty of cakes and buns. There will also be a wide range of activities for the children outside. Everyone is welcome.

There will also be 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, early booking is advised and those who have attended these events before will get first preference.

Ballee Annual General Meeting

This was held on Monday, 11th April and thank you to everyone who attended and gave reports and to everyone who carries out the many tasks that need to be done over the year or holds any of the various offices. The minutes of the meeting are pinned up in the vestibule for everyone to read.

Wedding

The marriage of Natalie Kelly and Laurence Annett took place at Ballee on Friday, 22nd April and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Natalie and Laurence.