

# CALENDAR

## Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

### Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

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#### May and June 2019

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##### From the Minister:

While people were celebrating Easter all across the world the Christian community in Sri Lanka suffered a terrible attack as they met for worship with over 250 people being killed in churches and in hotels in another unbelievable act of violence directed at people engaged in prayer. This is just the latest act of this nature that we have seen in the world. In Sri Lanka it is particularly heart breaking given the vicious civil war that had seen tens of thousands of people being killed over some years but which seemed to have drawn to a close and ushered in a better period of peace and security for that country. Our prayers are with the people of Sri Lanka as they move forward.

This Calendar will be available in all our churches for collection and will also be sent by email to all those who have signed up to receive it that way. In addition those who have signed up for email will also receive what might be termed the 'colour supplement' which contains accounts of recent and forthcoming events as well as colour pictures which cannot easily be incorporated in this Calendar. If you don't get either of these via email and would like to please let me know and I will add you to the list.

Please note in this Calendar particularly the dates of Communion to which all members are encouraged to attend and the dates of the Children's

Day Services at Ballee and Clough, Downpatrick will again be holding a Family Service in September.

David Steers

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##### Forthcoming Dates

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May Downpatrick Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May meeting of the Presbytery of Bangor at Ballyhemlin at 7.30 pm.

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May Presbytery of Antrim visitation service at Crumlin at 3.30 pm.

Tuesday and Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June, General Synod and associated meetings at Moira.

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> July meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at Raloo at 7.30 pm.

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##### **The Universal Pattern**

To believe that Jesus was raised from the dead is not really a leap of faith. *Resurrection and renewal are, in fact, the universal and observable patterns of everything.* We might just as well use non-religious terms like springtime, regeneration, healing, forgiveness, life cycles, darkness and light. If incarnation is real, then resurrection in multitudinous forms is to be fully expected. Or to paraphrase a statement attributed to Albert Einstein, it is not that one thing is a miracle, but that the whole thing is a miracle!

Richard Rohr

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	<b>Downpatrick</b>	<b>Ballee</b>	<b>Clough</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>11.15 am</b> <b>Rev Dr David Steers</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>9.45 am</b> <b>Rev Dr David Steers</b> <b>Communion</b>	11.15 am Sue Steers
12 <sup>th</sup> May	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Sue Steers
19 <sup>th</sup> May	11.15 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	<b>11.15 am</b> <b>Rev Dr David Steers</b> <b>Communion</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> May	3.30 pm Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Sue Steers
9 <sup>th</sup> June	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Sue Steers
16 <sup>th</sup> June	11.15 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am <b>Rev Dr David Steers</b> <b>Children's Day</b>	11.15 am <b>Rev Dr David Steers</b> <b>Children's Day</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
30 <sup>th</sup> June	11.15 am <i>Joint Service Ballee</i>	<b>11.15 am</b> <b>Joint Service Ballee</b> <b>Rev Dr David Steers</b> <b>Favourite Hymns</b> <b>Service with hymns chosen by John Strain</b>	11.15 am <i>Joint Service Ballee</i>

### **Around the Fellowship**

Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Alan and Elaine Strain and their whole family circle following the recent death of their son Jonathan.

Our best wishes go to Tierna Kelly who will be participating in a mission trip with *Exodus* to Gran Canaria at the end of June for two weeks. We wish her all the best in this work.

Congratulations to Thomas and Sophia Cleland who have been raising money through their school during the month of April in support of Challenge Ministries' appeal to help following the drought in Swaziland. Thank you to everyone in Ballee who supported their appeal.

### **Spring Communion Services**

Please note this year Communion will be celebrated on the following days:

Ballee – Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> May at 9.45 am

Downpatrick – Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> May at 11.15 am

Clough – Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May at 11.15 am

All members are encouraged to attend. If anyone would like communion brought to them at home please let the minister know.

### **Annual General Meetings**

The AGMs of both Clough and Ballee have now been held. Thank you to everyone who attended and particularly to those who prepared reports and to all those who took on office and serve on the committees. In both cases the copies of the financial reports are available in the church vestry. At Downpatrick the congregational Annual General Meeting, will take place on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

### **Downpatrick Sunday School Beetle Drive**

There was a really good turnout for a great night for the Downpatrick Sunday School Beetle Drive on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April at the Lakeside Inn. Thank you to everyone who supported the occasion, some £463.09 was raised in aid of Kodi's Krew. Kodi is 11 and lives in Killinchy, she is currently receiving treatment for a brain tumour in Germany. A big thank you goes to everyone who helped, particularly to Marion Moffett, Annabel Cleland and Rosemary Neill and to Margaret and Geoffrey Ferguson for hosting the event.

### **Advance Notice – Treasure Hunt**

Please make a note in your diary for this year's Downpatrick Treasure Hunt which will be held on a Friday this year. This year the Treasure Hunt will take place on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Advance Notice – Godshandiwork Puppets**

We will again be having joint services over the months of July and August and look forward in particular to welcoming back Godshandiwork Puppets who will again be leading our worship this year at Clough on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30 am.

### **Denominational Sunday School**

Well done to everyone who took part in the Sunday School Games at Lisburn on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a Sunday School Committee on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 at Killinchy. The Sunday School Committee has announced that Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May will be the deadline for receipt of recorded entries for the Exhibition of Work. Entries should either be posted to Adele Johnson on a pen drive or dvd or sent via WhatsApp or Google Drive. The deadline for all other entries for the Exhibition of Work will be Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June when work should be brought to All Souls' Church, Elmwood Avenue, Belfast between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm. The Exhibition of Work, the Denominational Service and the Prizegiving will take place on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm at All Souls' Church.

### **Ballee Work Day**

This will take place on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May from 9.30 am. Everyone who is free is invited to come along to tidy up the premises and grounds.

### **Joint Service Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June**

The last Sunday in June is also the fifth Sunday in the month on 30<sup>th</sup> June and that service will be a Joint Service at Ballee. That will also be a special hymn service with hymns chosen by John Strain who this year celebrates 40 years as our organist at Ballee. We have invited John to pick his favourite hymns and hope everyone will come along to share in the occasion.

### **Murland Family Vault**

There was a good attendance at Clough on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March to hear Dr Finbar McCormick give a really interesting and entertaining talk about 'Mausolea & Memorials to the dead in Ireland'. It was amazing to hear of the architectural background to the Murland Vault, which is so highly regarded by architectural historians, and see the tremendous variety of such buildings across Ireland. The evening was also a fund raising night for the Follies Trust who are undertaking the conservation of the Vault where work is hoped to begin in June. Primrose Wilson of the Follies Trust has written to thank Clough for their support in the evening which was very well received and a big thank you goes to everyone who helped on the night with refreshments and in any other way and especially to Gavin Ringland for setting up all the necessary technical equipment.

### **Decoration and Repairs**

The various works continue and the interior of the hall and stairs at Downpatrick have now been painted and look transformed and the work on the three main entrance doors to Ballee is now also completed.

### **Visiting Preachers**

As ever we are very much indebted to all our visiting preachers who come to lead our worship. I will be preaching at Dunmurry on 12<sup>th</sup> May and 9<sup>th</sup> June.