

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

November and December 2013

From the Minister:

We had three very successful harvest thanksgiving services in October, all were extremely well attended with high quality musical contributions. At Downpatrick the preacher was Rev Dr John Nelson and the Dromore Male Voice Choir sang. At Ballee the visiting preacher was the moderator of Synod, the Rt Rev Paul Reid and Voices of Lecale sang at the service. At Clough we welcomed the choir of Comber NSP Church and I preached. Our thanks goes to all the participants and to the organists – Betty Taylor, John Strain and Alfie McClelland. All the churches were beautifully decorated and we are grateful to everyone who helped in the decoration as well as with the subsequent dismantling, the cleaning up and the distribution of the produce.

The services of Harvest Thanksgiving are very important in the life of our churches and it was good that we were able to celebrate the occasion so fittingly.

At the joint service at Downpatrick on Sunday, 29th September the children of the Sunday Schools presented a cheque for £500 to Gordon Kelly and Joy McBride for Mainstay DRP, money that was raised at the Beetle Drive and at the Downpatrick Children's Day earlier in the year. Well done everyone.

I was also very touched when the children sang happy birthday to me, which was quite a surprise!

We are now almost into Advent and the preparation for Christmas - time does fly. Among other things in this Calendar are some of the details for the special services for the Christmas period. The congregational carol services will be announced nearer the time. The dates for communion can also be found in this Calendar.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Sunday, 3rd November at 4.00 pm
Presbytery of Bangor visitation service
at Ballee.

Monday, 11th November public
meeting Downpatrick Methodist
Church at 8.00 pm Rev Dr Johnston
McMaster 'Remembering: The
Future'.

Saturday, 23rd November 8.00 am –
12.30 pm Dromore Big Breakfast,
minimum charge £5 per person.

Tuesday, 26th November 7.30 pm
meeting of the Presbytery of Bangor at
Moir.

Saturday, 30th November Downpatrick
Church Table Quiz, Lakeside Inn at
8.00 pm.

Wednesday, 11th December at 7.30 pm
Candlelight Carol Service, Ballee.

Wednesday, 25th December at 10.30am
Christmas Day Service, Downpatrick.

Sunday, 29th December at 11.15 am
Joint Service for Christmas and the
New Year, Clough.

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
3 rd November	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion	4.00 pm Presbytery Visitation Service	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson
10th November Remembrance Sunday	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Very Rev William McMillan
17 th November	11.15 am Very Rev William McMillan	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion
24 th November	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
1 st December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson
8 th December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
15 th December	11.15 am Very Rev William McMillan	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
22 nd December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson
29 th December	<i>11.15 am</i> <i>Joint Service</i> <i>Clough</i>	<i>11.15 am</i> <i>Joint Service</i> <i>Clough</i>	11.15 am Joint Service for Christmas/New Year

Christmas Services

Candlelight Carol Service
Wednesday, 11th December at 7.30 pm at Ballee

Short Service for Christmas morning
Wednesday, 25th December at 10.30 am at Downpatrick

Joint Service for Christmas and the New Year
Sunday, 29th December at 11.15 am at Clough

Seaforde Masonic Lodge No.1009, Bicentenary Church Service

We were pleased to welcome Seaforde Masonic Lodge Number 1009 to Clough on Sunday, 15th September when they held a special service to celebrate the 200th anniversary of their foundation. There was a very large congregation at the service which was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers, the special guest preacher was the Rev Colin Campbell. The visitors very much appreciated the welcome they were given and have written to the church in appreciation.

Ballee Table Quiz

The Fundraising Table Quiz for Ballee Church was held at the Lakeside Inn, Ballydugan on the evening of Saturday, 21st September. This was an immensely successful occasion, there was a very large attendance and everyone had a great time. Our thanks goes, as ever, to Margaret, Geoffrey and Anna Ferguson for their marvellous hosting of the event, to Jackie Hughes our question master, to everyone who donated prizes and helped with refreshments and to everyone who helped in any way. It is especially pleasing to note that the magnificent sum of £1,045 was raised on the night.

Dedication of New Organ at Clough

A special service to mark the dedication of the new Allen organ at Clough was held on Sunday, 22nd September. at 3.00 pm. The dedication was conducted by the Moderator of the General Synod, the Rt Rev Paul Reid, who also preached. The organ was demonstrated by our organist Alfie McClelland who played as a voluntary the 'Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves' (Speed Your Journey). The first reading, Psalm 150, was given by Amanda Ramsey. We were also delighted to welcome the Quoile Area WI Choir with their conductor Isabel Keenan and accompanist Kathleen Gill. During the service the minister thanked church treasurer, George Hay, for his very generous donation towards the purchase of the organ and thanked and welcomed Steven Corry who was present and who had supplied the organ. The service was followed by refreshments in the church hall and most of the very large congregation present were able to stay for tea. It was also pleasing to welcome a number of clergy to the service both from the denomination and from local churches. The collection totalled £860.

Visit of Dublin Congregation to Joint Service

Our joint service on Sunday, 29th September at Downpatrick was joined by members of the Dublin congregation accompanied by the Rev Bridget Spain who travelled up to be with us before spending the day visiting Downpatrick.

Macmillan Cancer Support

Rachel Loughins the volunteer manager with Macmillan Cancer Support is seeking volunteers for a Macmillan Community Helpers Scheme to provide practical help to people affected by cancer at home. This has emerged as a real need particularly when someone is going through treatment and finds it extremely difficult to complete tasks they had managed before. If you would like to help her contact details are rloughins@macmillan.org.uk mobile 07989917700 and landline 90708610

Ballee Badminton Club

Ballee Badminton Club will recommence on Friday, 1st November at 7.30 pm. All existing members and new members will be made very welcome.

Visitation to Ballee

Thanks goes to everyone who helped with the Presbytery of Bangor visitation to Ballee on Tuesday, 3rd September. There was a very full evening of meetings in the church. The visitation service will take place on Sunday, 3rd November at 4.00 pm. There will be no morning service at Ballee on that day instead we will gather at 4.00 pm when the service will include the various commission reports.

Downpatrick Table Quiz

The Downpatrick Church Table Quiz will be held at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 30th November at 8.00 pm. The cost is a donation of £5 per head which includes light supper. As always advance booking for this quiz is essential. Tables will comprise six people although single bookings or bookings of less than six are also very welcome. Please contact Margaret Ferguson, Mary Stewart or Myrtle McBride as soon as possible to ensure a seat.

Communion Classes

Any teenagers who would like to join a communion class this autumn are asked to speak to the minister. However, there will be a special communion class this autumn for adults who are interested, including those who perhaps missed out when they were younger or those who would like a refresher class or anyone who would like to attend. Please speak to the minister if you are interested.

Baptisms

The baptism of Hannah Amy Rooney took place at Clough on Sunday, 1st September and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Ruth and Neil.

The baptism of Olivia Yvonne Rooney took place at Clough on Sunday, 13th October and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Louise and Mark.

Wedding

The marriage of Nicola Cleland and Samuel Thompson took place at Downpatrick on Saturday, 24th August and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Nicola and Samuel.

Funerals

Denis Stewart died on Wednesday, 11th September after a period of illness and some time in Carnalea nursing home. His funeral took place at Roselawn Crematorium on Saturday, 14th September and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Denis's ashes were buried in Ballee church grave yard on 10th October. Our deepest sympathy goes to his sister Jean and to all the family circle.

John McCoubrey died at Woodlodge care home Castlewellan on Saturday, 21st September after a period of illness. His funeral, attended by a very large congregation took place at Clough on Monday, 23rd September and was conducted by Rev Dr David Steers and was followed by burial in the church grave yard. Our deepest sympathy goes to Jane, Joyce and Alan, David and Rachel and to his grandchildren, Karen, Niall, Michael, Katherine, Conor and Ciara, and to all his wider family circle.