

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

November and December 2014

From the Minister:

This Calendar is coming out slightly earlier than usual – we are still very much in the harvest season at the moment – and the Calendar covers the period from our Autumn communion services on to the Christmas period.

At the time of writing the Clough harvest service still has to take place and we have a great number of special events and services following on from that. Many of them are listed here and as can be seen there is a joint service at Clough at the end of November and we will be holding the Joint Candlelight Carol Service at Downpatrick and the Christmas Day Service at Ballee.

One unexpected event which occurred in September was the chance to meet Prince Edward who visited Downpatrick on 22nd September. Dean Henry Hull kindly invited all the clergy in the town to come to the Cathedral to meet him as a recognition of the close co-operation between all the churches. This was thought to be the first royal visit to Downpatrick for many years.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Friday, 24th October

Anna Ferguson will give an illustrated talk about her work over the summer at a mission hospital in Malawi, also visiting Kenya and Zanzibar. In Downpatrick church hall at 8.00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Thursday, 6th November

NSPCI Orphan Society meeting at Ballee at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday, 25th November

Meeting of the Presbytery of Bangor at 7.30 pm. (Venue to be announced).

Saturday, 29th November

Downpatrick Table Quiz at 8.00 pm at the Lakeside Inn. Everyone welcome – please to remember to book your place in advance.

Sunday, 7th December

Service to mark 25th anniversary of the opening of the new church at Cairncastle at 7.00 pm. Preacher Rev David Steers.

Wednesday, 10th December

Joint Candlelight Carol Service at Downpatrick at 7.30 pm.

Thursday, 25th December

Short service for Christmas morning at Ballee at 10.30 am.

Thursday, 8th January

Meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at 7.30 pm at Newtownards.

Sunday, 11th January

Ordination of elders at Downpatrick by Commission of the Presbytery of Antrim at 3.30 pm.

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
2nd November	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson
9 th November	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev William Haslett	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
16th November	11.15 am Rev William Haslett	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion
23 rd November	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson
30th November	<i>11.15 am Joint Service Clough</i>	<i>11.15 am Joint Service Clough</i>	11.15 am Joint Service Clough Rev Dr David Steers
7 th December	11.15 am Rev William Haslett	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
14 th December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Very Rev William McMillan	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
21 st December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Very Rev William McMillan
28 th December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev William Haslett	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers

O God who hast given us this good land for our inheritance, deepen our gratitude this day that so much is bestowed upon us. For the fruitfulness of the earth yielding its increase, for the beauty of hills and valleys, fields and woodlands, lakes and mountains, for wide rivers carrying their commerce to the oceans – for all, O God, that makes our country beautiful and great, we thank Thee. Yet, more than this we thank Thee for the heritage our fathers have bestowed upon us, with liberty and justice and the sacredness of human rights. We are grateful for this liberty wherewith we worship, none able to forbid us, and for minds unhindered as they seek the truth; for prophets, also, and exemplars, who were faithful to the vision, calling us to build a new and better world.

Prayer for ‘Thanksgiving’ by A. Powell Davies from *The Language of the Heart*.

Around the Fellowship

Our prayers are with all those who have been unwell in recent times, especially those who have been in hospital including Daphne Hughes, Joan Thompson, Ruby Law and Adam Moffett who had to have an operation on his appendix at very short notice. We wish all who have had operations or been undergoing treatment recently good health in future.

Christmas Services

**Joint Candlelight Carol Service
Downpatrick at 7.30 pm, Wednesday, 10th December.**

**Short service for Christmas Morning
Ballee at 10.30 am, Thursday, 25th December.**

Downpatrick Elders

At the AGM the congregation elected two new elders – Margaret Ferguson and Carol Nixon. According to our rules new elders have to be ordained to this position by the Presbytery and this will take place in the new year. On Sunday, 11th January at 3.30pm there will be a service of ordination of new elders by a commission of the Presbytery of Antrim. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be no morning service at Downpatrick on that Sunday.

Downpatrick Harvest

There was a very large congregation at Downpatrick on 5th October for the harvest. We were very pleased to welcome the Quoile Area WI Choir with their conductor Isabel Keenan and accompanist Kathleen Gill. The hymns were accompanied on the organ by Betty Taylor, readings were given by Robert Neill and Carol Nixon and the preacher was Rev David Steers. Thank you to everyone who helped with the decoration and the refreshments and helped to make such a splendid occasion.

Ballee Harvest

There was another good attendance at the Ballee Harvest when we welcomed the Larne Concert Choir to the church for the first time. Readings were given by Tierna Kelly and Doreen Chambers, the preacher was the Rev David Steers and John Strain accompanied the hymns on the organ. Once again thanks go to everyone who helped in any way to make the occasion such a success.

Ballee Table Quiz

Ballee Table Quiz was held at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 13th September and raised over £1,000 for church funds. This is an excellent return from what was first class and very enjoyable evening. Thanks go to question master Jackie Hughes and to everyone who helped and to Margaret, Geoffrey and Anna Ferguson for hosting the event.

Downpatrick Table Quiz

This will be held at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 29th November at 8.00 pm. It is always an enjoyable event, tickets are £5 per person and teams can include up to six people. As always it is essential to book in advance for what is always a very popular evening. Please speak to Margaret Ferguson, Mary Stewart or Myrtle McBride if you would like to book your place.

European Heritage Open Day

This year Ballee was open for the first time as part of the European Heritage Open Days. We had a total of fourteen visitors who all enjoyed their visit and were made very welcome with tea and refreshments provided by our own volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Down Museum Peace III Learning Resources

A copy of 'Different Pieces but One Big Picture' published as part of Down County Museum's Peace III Community History Project is available in the church for anyone who would like to see it. It contains quite a lot of information about the Downpatrick church as well as other faiths in Northern Ireland.

Ballee grounds

Many thanks to David and Allan Chambers who have completely cleared the tennis court field, trimmed all the trees and hedges around it and started to put in place new fences at the boundaries. We also have new gates into that field and into the manse grounds and the small field behind the church hall which all look very fitting.

Safeguarding Awareness Training

The South Eastern Health and Social Care trust are holding this event for those who work with vulnerable adults in churches. This is at the Presbyterian Church in Downpatrick on Wednesday, 26th November 10.00 am – 12 noon. For details contact Emma Nellis (02844616915) or Linda Wray (02890417234)

Faith in a Divided Community?

A public meeting on this topic will be held at Downpatrick Methodist Church on Thursday, 23rd October at 8.00 pm when the speaker will be Baroness May Blood. Everyone is welcome

Nostalgia

Soroptimist International of Downpatrick and District are hosting this concert by performers "Toccatà" at St Patrick's Grammar School on Saturday, 1st November at 7.30 pm. Tickets (available from Down Arts Centre and Downpatrick Visitor Information) are £10 each and are in aid of "Birthing in the Gambia".

Baptism

The baptism of Nathaniel Bailie Skillen took place at Ballee at the morning service on Sunday, 7th September and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations go to Debbie and Neil and the whole family.

Addresses

First Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) Church, Downpatrick

Secretary: Miss M. Stewart, 9A Buckshead Road, Downpatrick, BT30 8JB. Tel: 028 44 612309. *Treasurer:* Mrs M. McBride, 5 Orchard Road, Rathmullen, Downpatrick, BT30 8TA. Tel: 028 44 851515. *Sunday School Superintendent:* Miss M. Moffett, 73 Vianstown Road, Downpatrick BT30 8AB. Tel: 028 44 614712.

Ballee Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

Secretary: Miss J. Caven, 16 Milltown Road, Downpatrick, BT30 7EE. Tel: 028 44 842053. *Treasurer:* Mr A. Chambers, 29 Downpatrick Road, Clough, Downpatrick, BT30 8NL. Tel: 028 44 812008. Tel: 028 44 842053. *Sunday School Superintendent:* Mrs D. Chambers, 29 Downpatrick Road, Clough, Downpatrick, BT30 8NL. Tel: 028 44 812008.

Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

Secretary: Mrs R. Rooney, 26A Ballykeel Road, Downpatrick BT30 8HX. Tel: 028 44 218447. *Treasurer:* Mr G. Hay, 2a Knocksticken Road, Clough, Downpatrick, BT30 8RE. Tel: 028 43 751235. *Sunday School Superintendent:* Miss E. Nelson, 61 Woodgrange Road, Downpatrick BT30 8JH. Tel: 028 44 612381.