

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

November and December 2015

From the Minister:

Thank you to everyone who supported the Harvest Services in our churches. These were all great occasions with large congregations and were very successful. Their success is very much based on the effort and enthusiasm of everybody involved who all work so hard to make sure they are so effective. We are also grateful to our visiting preachers and the three visiting choirs who came to lead out worship for the Harvests.

As outlined in this Calendar our autumn communion services will be held in November.

This Calendar also includes the Christmas period and the special joint services are listed here. The dates of each congregational carol service will be announced nearer the time.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Friday, 30th October

Ballee Badminton Club recommences at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday, 24th November

Presbytery of Bangor meeting at 7.30 pm, venue to be announced.

Saturday, 28th November

The Downpatrick Table Quiz will be held on this evening at the Lakeside

Inn at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £5 each.
Please book in advance.

Sunday, 29th November

Presbytery of Antrim visitation of the Ballycarry congregation at 7.30 pm.

Monday, 28th December

Downpatrick Sunday School trip to the Belvoir Players Pantomime "Rapunzel A Tangled Panto Tale" on Monday, 28th December at 3.00 pm. Further details inside.

Joint Christmas Services

Candlelight Carol Service

Clough

at 7.30 pm

Wednesday, 9th

December

Short service for Christmas Morning

Downpatrick

at 10.30 am,

Friday, 25th December

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
1st November	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion	11.15 am Dr Heather Walker
8th November Remembrance Sunday	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
15th November	11.15 am Dr Heather Walker	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion
22 nd November	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson
29th November	<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 Clough Rev Dr David Steers
6 th December	11.15 am Rev William Haslett	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
13 th December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
20 th December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson
27 th December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers

The wilderness will rejoice and blossom, Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; It will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. Isaiah 35, 1-2.

Flowers fade, but many plants bloom again in the spring. Nature gives many signs of hope that even defeat and despair can be transformed. The Biblical prophet Isaiah compared the gift of the Spirit to water poured on dry land. The dejected exiles would ‘spring up like grass in a meadow or like poplar trees by a flowing streams.’ For many Indians, the lotus is symbolic as it is something beautiful that has grown from what is dirty. It suggests that human beings too can grow from murky circumstances to achieve great things. Truth and Love can purify each person and make of him or her a beautiful treasure.

From *Peace in Our hearts, Peace in Our World. A meditation for everyday* by Marcus Braybooke (2015).

Around the Fellowship

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been in hospital recently including Renee Cleland who is currently in the Ulster Hospital. It's good to be able to report that Barbara Nicholson is now home following her operation. Our deepest sympathy is with Edna Brown and her family following the recent death of Edna's mother.

Ballee Table Quiz

The Ballee Table Quiz was held on Saturday, 12th September at the Lakeside Inn and was a very successful evening. Thanks should go to everyone who helped on the night, particularly those who donated prizes for the ballot or brought food for refreshments. It was a great night all round and we raised a total of £980 which is a great result. Special thanks go to Jackie Hughes for setting the questions, to Denis Cahill, for being our question master, to Jayne Caven for her excellent organisation and to Margaret, Geoffrey and Anna Ferguson for hosting the event.

Downpatrick Organist - thanks to Betty Taylor

During our harvest thanksgiving service at Downpatrick on 4th October a special presentation was made to Betty Taylor to mark her recent retirement as organist and thank her for all her service over ten years with music in the church for Sunday and special services.

European Heritage Open Day

Ballee was open for this on the afternoon of Sunday, 13th September and although we did not get a large numbers of visitors everyone who came was given a tour of the building, had the chance to enjoy excellent refreshments and was able to listen to John Strain's organ recital. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to help.

Clough Finance Report

Copies of these are now available in the church for all members with special thanks to Yvonne Rooney and the Finance Committee.

Christian Aid Strangford Sportive Cycle Event

Thank you to everyone who helped with this. More than 300 cyclists took part and everyone that stopped at Ballee was offered a hot cup of tea and coffee. This was greatly appreciated by all the participants. Helen Newell has sent the following card expressing thanks on behalf of Christian Aid:

“Dear Rev Steers

I just wanted to write to you and your team for providing one of our refreshment stops along the Strangford Sportive. The cyclists were wonderfully welcomed and refreshed before setting off again, and your stop particularly was appreciated! The feedback from participants has been very encouraging, especially regarding volunteers like yourselves who added so much to the day. So far we have raised over £8,000 which will make a huge difference to the communities that Christian Aid are supporting to lift themselves out of poverty.

Please do pass on our thanks to the rest of the team and to the church for allowing us to use the premises, we were so grateful.

Many thanks,

Helen Newell, Christian Aid.”

Harvest Thankgiving Services

All three harvest services were very well attended and much appreciated by everyone who was there. At Downpatrick the special preacher was the Rev Colin Campbell (of Ballyclare and Holywood) with special music being provided by the Larne Concert Choir with their conductor John Dooris and accompanist Richard Barnes. The organist was Laura Patterson. At Ballee we welcomed as preacher the Rev Cecil Wilson (minister of the neighbouring Church of Ireland parishes of Ballee, Bright, Rathmullan and Killough) with special music being provided by the PSNI Ladies' Choir and their conductor Yvette Anderson, accompanist Donald Blair and soloist Joanne Lowden. The organist was John Strain. At Clough the special preacher was the Rev Chris Carson (of Kilmegan, Dundrum and Maghera Church of Ireland parishes) and the special music was provided by the Quoile Area WI Choir, conducted by Isabel Keenan and accompanied by Kathleen Gill. Alfie McClelland was the organist. A big thank you goes to everyone who helped to decorate the churches (and to take the decorations down and distribute them after the services) and to everyone who helped with the refreshments. It was great to see so many for a cup of tea and a time of fellowship in all three churches after the harvests.

Safe & Well Down and Lisburn Area

Leaflets from this project of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust which helps older people to remain living independently in their own homes are available in the churches for anyone who might be interested.

Downpatrick Table Quiz

The Downpatrick Table Quiz will be held on Saturday, 28th November at the Lakeside Inn 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.

Ballee Badminton Club

The Club will recommence on Friday, 30th October at 7.30 pm. All new members will be very welcome.

Downpatrick trip to the pantomime

Thanks to Robyn Nixon Downpatrick Sunday School are planning a trip to the Belvoir Players Pantomime "Rapunzel A Tangled Panto Tale" on Monday, 28th December at 3.00pm – Tickets £10.00. If you are interested in coming along please speak to Marion Moffett, Annabel Cleland or Robyn Nixon by 7th November 2015.

Weddings

The marriage of Rebecca Harkness and Neville Gorman took place at Ballee on Saturday, 19th September and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Rebecca and Neville.

The marriage of Nadine Tate and Alan Tougher took place at Clough on Friday, 25th September and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Nadine and Alan.