

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

November and December 2016

From the Minister:

As many of you will know I will shortly have to go into hospital for an operation that will require a period of recuperation afterwards. The actual date has come up with shorter notice than I expected but with the help of many people I think we have got everything sorted out for the next few weeks.

I am very grateful to my wife Sue for covering for me for many of the Sunday services. Sue was licensed for the ministry at a meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim on Thursday, 6th October at Greyabbey after three years of training and preparation. Our best wishes go to her for this and to Heather Walker and Roger McKee who were also licensed at the same time, and also to Keith Parke who was accepted as a student for the ministry at the meeting.

As you will be able to see from the preaching plan inside we will welcome (or welcome back) to our churches over the next few weeks, Rev Dr William Patterson, Rev William Haslett, Rev Ernie Boggs, Dr Heather Walker, David Gilkinson, Keith Parke and David McCord.

This Calendar also includes the details of our Christmas services. We will be having our joint Candlelight Carol Service, this year also accompanied by the Laganvale Ensemble, and joint services for Christmas Day and New Year's Day

(both of which are on a Sunday) which will be conducted by our own members.

While I am not available my colleagues in the ministry will be on hand should any kind of emergency arise and the Rev Dr John Nelson, Rev Paul Reid and Very Rev William McMillan have indicated that they will be available to help if a pastoral emergency arises and the assistance of a minister is needed.

But thank you all for your help and support at the moment, it is greatly appreciated.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Saturday, 26th November
Downpatrick Table Quiz at the Lakeside Inn at 8.00 pm.

Sunday, 27th November
Presbytery of Antrim visitation to Cairncastle at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday, 29th November
Presbytery of Bangor meeting at Rademon at 7.30 pm.

Wednesday, 7th December
Joint Candlelight Carol Service at Ballee with the Laganvale Ensemble at 7.30 pm.

Thursday, 5th January
Presbytery of Antrim meeting at Templepatrick at 7.30 pm.

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
6 th November	11.15 am Communion Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Communion Rev Dr William Patterson	11.15 am Dr Heather Walker
13 th November Remembrance Sunday	11.15 am David Gilkinson	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am David Gilkinson
20 th November	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	11.15 am Communion Rev William Haslett
27 th November	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs
4 th December	11.15 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Sue Steers	11.15 am Sue Steers
11 th December	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am David McCord	9.45 am Sue Steers
18 th December	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	11.15 am Keith Parke
25 th December Christmas Day	<i>Joint service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Joint Service for Christmas Morning
1 st January New Year's Day	10.30 am Joint Service for New Year's Day	<i>Joint service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>

Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world? It is not he who prays most or feels most; it is not he who gives most alms, or is most eminent for temperance, charity and justice; but it is he who is always thankful to God, who receives everything as an instance of God's goodness, and has a heart always ready to praise God for it.

William Law (1686-1761)

Around the Fellowship

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our members who have been unwell in recent times, especially Peggy Brown who has been in hospital, and George Strain who has been admitted to hospital at the time of writing. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Harvest Services

We have had a very successful series of harvest services in October. At Downpatrick we welcomed the Rev Dr John Nelson as guest preacher and the Harlandic Male Voice Choir conducted by Elaine Hawthorne to lead our worship. Laura Patterson played the organ and the church was specially decorated to represent the changing seasons of the year as well as the sacrifice of those who served in the First World War. At the service we also launched the new colour leaflets put together by Mary Stewart, our church secretary, which give an account of the three members of the congregation who gave their lives in the First World War. These are available in the church if you have not yet got one. A presentation of a cheque for £350 was also made to Ann Cooper, Principal of Knockevin School, by Laura Neill, Zak Sraney and Robyn Nixon on behalf the Sunday School. Following the service everyone enjoyed the refreshments and a time of fellowship.

At Ballee the walls were decorated by the Sunday School with the first verse of the hymn "Go work in my vineyard..." and each window was superbly decorated with a different line from this. Our visiting preacher was the Very Rev William McMillan and we welcomed back the Bailliesmills Accordion Band who played at the service. The organ was played by John Strain. Many of those present also supported Ross Kelly who is fasting in November to help raise funds for Nicola's Campaign to Beat MS. Again there were refreshments after the service and it was good to see so many staying for this.

At Clough I was the preacher and we welcomed the Clare Chorale under the direction of Sheelagh Greer to lead our worship. A large and accomplished choir their singing filled the church which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Alfie McClelland played the organ. A letter of thanks was read from Rhode Moles, Principal of Cumran Primary School, thanking the Sunday School for the money they had collected towards the purchase of a defibrillator for the school. Afterwards we again were delighted to have so many stay behind for refreshments and fellowship in the hall. A very big thank you goes to all who helped decorate the churches (and who helped with all the clearing up afterwards), those who helped with refreshments and those who assisted in the organisation in any way as well as to our visiting preachers and musicians who all helped to create such meaningful acts of worship.

Ordination of Elders at Clough

Congratulations to Jim Newell and Alfie McClelland who were formally appointed to the eldership at a service at Clough on Sunday, 4th September. We welcome them to the Church Session and thank them for coming forward for this work.

Christian Aid Strangford Sportive

Thank you to all the members of Ballee who staffed the refreshment stop at the church held this year on Saturday, 1st October. Something like 150 cyclists took part in this major fundraising event, cycling three routes around county Down and covering up to 120 km.

Ballee Badminton Club

The Club will reopen on Friday, 4th November at 7.30 pm. New members will be very welcome.

Ballee Charitable Registration and Clough Visitation

Ballee is now registered as a charity under the new legislation. Many thanks to Jayne Caven for processing this. All three of our congregations are now formally registered as charities. Thank you to everyone at Clough who took time out to meet the commissions for the visitation. This will now take place at a date to be announced.

Sunday School Outings

Downpatrick Sunday School will have a trip to see the Belvoir Players pantomime *Sleeping Beauty* on Tuesday, 27th December at 3.00 pm. Please speak to Annabel Cleland or Marion Moffett if you would like to go. Clough Sunday School outing will be to see the pantomime *Old Mother Hubbard's Crazy Christmas* at the Down Arts Centre on Friday, 9th December at 7.00 pm. Tickets are £7 please speak to Elsie Nelson if you would like to go. Both of these events are open to all.

Downpatrick Table Quiz

The Downpatrick Table Quiz will take place at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 26th November at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £5 with teams of up to six. This is always a popular event, please speak to Margaret Ferguson, Myrtle McBride or Mary Stewart to book your place. We are also looking for donations of prizes for the quiz and the raffle and there is a list in the church if anyone would like to sign up.

Ballee Table Quiz

This was very successful and took place on Saturday, 17th September. Thank you to Margaret and Geoffrey Ferguson for hosting the event and to everyone who helped in any way. It was a great evening and so far has raised over £1012.

Baptism

The baptism of Joel Louie Bennett took place at Ballee on Sunday, 18th September conducted by Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Aden and Aimee.

Christmas Services

Candlelight Carol Service Wednesday, 7th December 7.30 pm at Ballee with musical accompaniment from the Laganvale Ensemble.

Service of prayers and readings for Christmas morning at 10.30 am at Clough, Sunday, 25th December.

Service of prayers and readings for New Year's Day at 10.30 am at Downpatrick, Sunday, 1st January.