

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

November and December 2017

From the Minister:

These last few months have been very busy in our churches and the different events will be mentioned in this Calendar. In November we have some key events coming up – with special services including Communion and Remembrance Day (when we will be making a special dedication in Downpatrick of the ceramic poppy from the Tower of London presented by Thelma Lowry and Lorna Thompson in memory of their uncle) and the Downpatrick Table Quiz. There are a number of important meetings coming up too (listed below and inside the Calendar) and we should particularly note the Presbytery of Bangor Visitation to Clough which will now be held on Sunday, 3rd December.

We will then be moving into the Christmas Season and we have a full range of Christmas events lined up. The Joint Candlelight Carol Service will be held this year at Downpatrick on Wednesday, 6th December. We hope everyone will come along and once again we will welcome the Laganvale Ensemble to take part in our worship. Volunteer readers from each church will be needed. On Christmas Day we will have a joint service at Clough at 10.30 am and on New Year's Eve will have a joint service at Ballee at 11.15 am. In addition each

church will have its own congregational Carol Service, for Downpatrick and Clough these will be on Sunday, 17th December (both at 11.15 am), Ballee will be announced soon. There will also be parties and outings arranged over Christmas and details can be found inside of the Downpatrick Sunday School visit to the pantomime to which everyone is invited.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Wednesday, 8th November Clough Finance Committee (7.30 pm) and Church Committee (8.00 pm)

Monday, 13th November Ballee Committee meeting 7.30 pm

Sunday, 19th November Visitation of the Holywood congregation by the Presbytery of Antrim at 7.30 pm

**Saturday, 25th November
Downpatrick Table Quiz at the
Lakeside Inn at 8.00 pm**

Tuesday, 28th November Presbytery of Bangor meeting at Moneyreagh at 7.30 pm

**Sunday, 3rd December Presbytery of
Bangor visitation at Clough at 7.30
pm**

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
5th November	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson
12th November Remembrance Day	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers
19th November	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion
26 th November	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson
3 rd December	11.15 am David McCord	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
10 th December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
17 th December	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
24th December Christmas Eve	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers
31st December New Year's Eve	11.15 am <i>Joint Service Ballee</i>	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Joint Service Ballee	11.15 am <i>Joint Service Ballee</i>

Heaven and earth, all the emperors, kings, and princes of the world, could not raise a fit dwelling-place for God; yet, in a weak human soul, that keeps his Word, he willingly resides.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Around the Fellowship

Our thoughts and prayers are with all members who have been unwell or in hospital in recent times, especially Joan Truesdale and Raymond Hodges, and also with Leslie Strain who is in hospital at the time of writing. We wish them all well. Our best wishes also go to the Rev Tom Banham who is himself in hospital at the time of writing. Congratulations to Chloe Skillen who graduated from Queen's with a 2:1 Bachelor of Science in Countryside and Environmental Management and has now started work as an agricultural consultant.

Downpatrick Table Quiz

The Downpatrick Table Quiz will take place on Saturday, 25th November at the Lakeside Inn at 8.00 pm. These are always hugely enjoyable occasions and tickets (suggested donation of £5 each) are now available. Teams contain up to six people but individuals are very welcome to come as well. If you would like to book please speak to Margaret Ferguson (07789208859).

Communion Class

We held a very successful Communion Class in October with five people taking part from Downpatrick and Ballee.

Presbytery Visitation to Clough

This will now take place at Clough on Sunday, 3rd December at 7.30 pm when we will receive the various reports from the commissions which were drawn up last year. We hope all members will come along.

Ballee Table Quiz

This took place at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 30th September and was very successful. It was a great evening which raised over £1,000 for the church. A big thank you goes to Margaret and Geoffrey for hosting and for everyone who helped on the evening.

Youth Activity Beetle Drive

Thank you to everyone who supported the Beetle Drive to help set up a youth activity for the three churches. There was not an enormous attendance but it was still a very enjoyable evening which helped us plan future youth activities. Thank you to Annabel for running the Beetle Drive and to everyone who helped. Following this we are going to set up a Youth Group for the three churches which will be based around special events and outings.

Christian Aid Strangford Sportive

This took place on Saturday, 30th September (the same day as the Ballee Table Quiz) when the church was once again a staging post. Thank you to all the members who helped. Our support is greatly appreciated by both the cyclists and Christian Aid and this year the event raised over £6,500.

Downpatrick Family Service

We had a really excellent family service at Downpatrick on Sunday, 3rd September. There was a good attendance of members to hear the young members lead the service so well and receive their prizes from the denominational exhibition earlier in the year. Lauren Taylor played a solo on the flute, Laura Neill played the bagpipes and Jack Steers played the trumpet. Megan Neill, Grace McKee, Beth McKee, Eileen Neill, Robert Neill and Rachel Neill all gave readings. Thank you to Marion, Annabel and Rosemary for all their help.

Downpatrick Sunday School outing

Downpatrick Sunday School are going to see the Belvoir Players' *Cinderella the Pantomime* on Wednesday, 27th December at 3.00 pm. Following this everyone will be going to Dundonald for tea. A bus is being organised and everyone is welcome. If you would like to go please speak to Annabel Cleland or Marion Moffett before 26th November.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

We held three successful services of Harvest Thanksgiving. At Downpatrick the guest preacher was the Rev Ernie Boggs and special music was provided by the Lindsay Chorale with their conductor John Dallas. Over the year the Sunday School and young people of the church had raised £400 for the work of Daisy Lodge and during the service Laura Neill presented a cheque to Aisling Gibson, the South Down regional fundraiser for Daisy Lodge, a purpose-built therapeutic centre located in Newcastle for families affected by cancer. At Ballee the guest preacher was the Rev Adrian Dorrian, minister of Ballee Church of Ireland, and special music was provided by the Quoile Area WI Choir. At Clough the visiting preacher was the Rev Paul Reid, of the Old Presbyterian Church, Larne and special music was provided by local choir Harmonic Progression, the Seaforde based Community Choir for Women. All three churches were beautifully decorated and thank you to everyone who helped with this and with the refreshments, and thank you also to our organists Laura Patterson, John Strain and Alfie McClelland.

Baptism

The baptism of Alexandra Ruth Rooney took place at Clough at the morning service on Sunday, 10th September and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations go to Ruth and Neil and the whole family.

Wedding

The marriage of Emma McBride and Alan McConnell took place at Ballee on Saturday, 16th September and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Emma and Alan.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Joint Candlelight Carol Service at Downpatrick
featuring the Laganvale Ensemble
Wednesday, 6th December at 7.30 pm**

Christmas Day, 25th December Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am

**New Year's Eve Joint Service, Sunday, 31st December
at Ballee at 11.15**