

# CALENDAR

## Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

### Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

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#### November and December 2019

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##### From the Minister:

We had three excellent services of Harvest Thanksgiving in October, these are all mentioned in this Calendar with more information available online. At the end of the summer we also dedicated the chairs given in memory of Myrtle McBride in Downpatrick. We are looking forward to a number of special events in November and December in the churches. These are all listed in the Calendar so please make a note of the different dates and times.

A Beetle Drive at the Lakeside Inn on 30<sup>th</sup> October will raise funds for Ben Taylor; Ballee Badminton Club recommences shortly; a service at Templepatrick will commemorate Flight Lieutenant John Alexander Bright, the Fund in whose name is such an essential support to this denomination; Clough Dance will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> November; and the Downpatrick Table Quiz will be on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December.

It is already time to start thinking of Christmas and we have three special services over Christmas – Candlelight Carol Service at Ballee on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm when we will again welcome the Laganvale Ensemble; Christmas Day service at 10.30 am at Downpatrick; and service for the last Sunday of the year at Clough on 29<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15 am. Other events will be planned in due course but the Downpatrick

Sunday School outing to the pantomime will be on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> December, don't forget to make your booking for that.

Looking a little bit further ahead still the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for the district will be held at Downpatrick in January 2020. It will be ten years since we last hosted this event so a return to Stream Street is long overdue.

But there is plenty going on, please keep a note in your diary.

David Steers

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##### Forthcoming Dates

Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October Downpatrick Sunday School Beetle Drive at the Lakeside Inn at 7.00 pm.

Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> November Service to Dedicate the medals of Flight Lieutenant J.A. Bright at Templepatrick at 3.00 pm.

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November Clough Dance at the Millennium Hall at 8.00 pm.

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 'Songs of Praise', Down Cathedral.

Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November meeting of the Presbytery of Bangor at Comber at 7.30 pm.

Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December Downpatrick Table Quiz, Lakeside Inn at 7.30 for 8.00 pm.

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at Ballyclare at 7.30 pm.

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> January service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Downpatrick at 7.00 pm.

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Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	<b>11.15 am</b> <b>Rev Dr David Steers</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>9.45 am</b> <b>Rev Dr David Steers</b> <b>Communion</b>	11.15 am Rev Dr Will Patterson
10 <sup>th</sup> November	11.15 am Sue Steers, FRSA	9.45 am Rev Dr Will Patterson	9.45 am Sue Steers, FRSA
<b>17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	11.15 pm Sue Steers, FRSA	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	<b>11.15 am</b> <b>Rev Dr David Steers</b> <b>Communion</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> November	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr Will Patterson
1 <sup>st</sup> December	11.15 am Rev Norman Hutton	9.45 am Rev Norman Hutton	11.15 am Rev William Haslett
8 <sup>th</sup> December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Norman Hutton	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
15 <sup>th</sup> December	11.15 am Rev Dr Will Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers, FRSA
<b>29<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<i>Joint Service</i> <i>Clough</i>	<i>Joint Service</i> <i>Clough</i>	<b>Joint Service</b> <b>Clough</b> <b>11.15 am</b> <b>Rev Dr David Steers</b>

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December Joint Candlelight Carol Service at Ballee at 7.30 pm with the Laganvale Ensemble**

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December, Joint Christmas Day Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am conducted by Rev Dr David Steers**

**Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December Joint Service at Clough at 11.15 am conducted by Rev Dr David Steers**

### **Around the Fellowship**

Our prayers and thoughts are with all our members and friends who have been in hospital recently, or have been having check-ups, or have been receiving treatment or who have not been well, including Ken Taylor, Rosie Neill, Carol Newell, Ann Strain Alfie McClelland, Geraldine McClelland, and Jim Rooney. Our best wishes for good health goes to them all. Our sympathies are with all those members who have suffered family bereavement recently including Sammy McBride, Thelma Kelly and the Rooney family.

### **Clough Sunday School Superintendent**

We are delighted that together Amanda Ramsey, Leeanne Straney and Louise Rooney have agreed to take on the duties of Sunday School Superintendent for Clough between them. We thank them very much for doing this, they will all bring a lot of experience and leadership to running the highly successful Clough Sunday School.

### **Dedication of New Chairs at Downpatrick in memory of Myrtle McBride**

On Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> August we held a well-attended joint service for all three congregations at Downpatrick which included the dedication of new chairs for the choir and church donated by the McBride family in memory of Myrtle McBride who was such a faithful elder, treasurer, church member and choir member. These chairs are a wonderful addition to the church's furnishings and complement the building very well. The organist was Alfie McClelland and during the service Jack McBride, Myrtle's grandson, read a poem entitled 'A Wonderful Choir'.

### **Downpatrick Family Service**

On Sunday, 8th September Downpatrick held their Family Service with music (bagpipes and trumpet), singing and readings provided by the children and young people of the church. It was an excellent service enjoyed by all those who were present. Prizes were also distributed to the Sunday School for attendance and for achievements awarded at the denominational Sunday School service held at All Souls' Church back in June. Of particular note were the two special awards won by Laura Neill - the Michael Richardson Award for the Best Freehand Painting or Drawing, and the Mary Warrick Memorial Award for Best Solo Performance. The dramatic video of Laura's winning piece played on the bagpipes on the county Down coast can be seen on the denominational Facebook pages. The special collection at the service raised £170 towards the appeal to support Ben Taylor.

### **Ballee Table Quiz**

This was held at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> September and was a great success raising the excellent sum of £1,007 for church funds. A big thank you goes to everyone who helped in any way, to those who made donations of prizes, money or food, to Margaret and Geoffrey Ferguson for hosting the event and to Jackie Hughes for asking the questions.

### **Harvest Thanksgiving Services**

At Downpatrick we welcomed as special guest preacher Sam Shaw, a missionary with an ecumenical order, on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Special music was provided by the long-established choral group Counterpoint, conducted by Dr Norman Richardson, who sang a number of pieces. During the service we also dedicated the church's new loop system for the hard of hearing and other additions to the sound system which had

been made possible by a generous gift from the Baptist Church in Downpatrick made on its closure recently. Laura Patterson was the organist. Ballee's Harvest was held the following week on 13<sup>th</sup> October when our guest preacher was the Rev Brian Moodie of Dromore and the highly regarded choir the Lindsay Chorale with their musical director Sheelagh Greer provided special music. John Strain was the church organist. At Clough on 20<sup>th</sup> October we welcomed the Rev Dr Will Patterson as our preacher for this special service. Special music was provided by the Flutes of Mourne flautist group who played a beautiful selection of pieces during the service. Alfie McClelland played the organ. Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the churches and helped with the refreshments in each church. Pictures can be seen online from each church harvest at <https://velvethummingbee.com/>

### **Downpatrick Sunday School Beetle Drive**

The Sunday School has arranged a Beetle Drive at the Lakeside Inn on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 pm as a further fundraiser for Ben Taylor. Everyone of all ages is welcome. Ben is aged 9 and is the grandson of Bertie and Jennifer Taylor. Ben requires a life changing operation called SDR (Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy). The operation will not be funded by the NHS. Just4Children are fundraising for the operation aimed at reducing spasticity, which hopefully will give him the chance of a better life. A sum of £60,000 is required to cover operation costs plus two years intensive physiotherapy.

### **Ballee Badminton Club**

The Club will recommence on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November at 7.30 pm. New members are very welcome.

### **Clough Dance**

The next dance at Clough will be held on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 8.00 pm. Any help with catering, ballot prizes and on the night would be gratefully appreciated. Please speak to Keith Straney if you can help.

### **Downpatrick Table Quiz**

This will take place on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Lakeside Inn at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. We hope that everyone will come along for what is always a great night. Please book in advance, donations of £5 per head with teams of up to six. Any help with refreshments and prizes will be gratefully received. To book your place please contact Margaret Ferguson on 07789208859.

### **Downpatrick Sunday School Christmas Outing**

This will be to see the Belvoir Players' production of Aladdin on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00 pm. A bus will leave the church at 1.30 pm and the show will be followed by tea at Dundonald. These are always very popular and hugely enjoyable occasions so please make sure you book with Annabel Cleland or Marion Moffett.

### **Murland Vault at Clough**

Work on the restoration of the Mausoleum is now well underway. We hope to mark the conclusion of the work with a short service, date to be announced.