

# CALENDAR

## Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

### Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

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#### September and October 2015

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##### From the Minister:

Over the summer we held joint services in each church in turn which were all a great success. Perhaps the highlight of the Sunday services was on 19<sup>th</sup> July when a very large congregation assembled at Clough to join in a service led by Godshandiwor Puppets. This was a great occasion which was very much enjoyed by everyone of every age group. It was fully reported in the local press afterwards. A big thank you to Sam and Sylvana Shaw and their team for bringing their puppets along to Clough. On Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> July Downpatrick had a very successful Treasure Hunt at the Lakeside Inn, Ballydugan. This was also a great success, full details can be found inside this Calendar and thanks goes to everyone who helped or supported the event.

All forthcoming events are listed within – please make a special note of the table quizzes – and of the Harvest Thanksgiving Services in October. This year the Downpatrick harvest (4<sup>th</sup> October) will be conducted by the Rev Colin Campbell of our Holywood and Ballyclare churches with special music provided by the Larne Concert Choir. At Ballee (11<sup>th</sup> October) we will welcome local Church of Ireland rector, the Rev Cecil Wilson of Ballee, Bright, Rathmullan and Killough, with special music being provided by the PSNI Ladies' Choir. At Clough (18<sup>th</sup> October) we look

forward to welcoming the Rev Chris Carson, rector of the Church of Ireland parishes of Dundrum, Kilmegan and Maghera, special music will be provided by the Quoile Area WI Choir. There is so much to look forward to, I hope everyone will make every effort to support each of the harvest services.

At our Sunday morning services we look forward to welcoming back to our pulpits the Rev Dr Will Patterson, the Rev Bill Haslett, Dr Heather Walker and Sue Steers.

David Steers

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##### Forthcoming Dates:

##### **Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> September**

Ballee Table Quiz will be held at the Lakeside Inn. Book your place now with Jayne Caven. Tickets £5 per head including light supper.

##### **Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September**

European Heritage Open Day at Ballee 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm with an organ recital given by John Strain at 2.30 pm.

##### **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October**

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

##### Advance Notice:

The Downpatrick Table Quiz will be held on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> November at the Lakeside Inn. Further details will be available nearer the time.

## Services in September and October

	<b>Downpatrick</b>	<b>Ballee</b>	<b>Clough</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> September	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
13 <sup>th</sup> September	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers
20 <sup>th</sup> September	11.15 am Dr Heather Walker	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
27 <sup>th</sup> September	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev William Haslett	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
4 <sup>th</sup> October	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Rev Colin Campbell	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
11 <sup>th</sup> October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Rev Cecil Wilson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
18 <sup>th</sup> October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Rev Chris Carson
25 <sup>th</sup> October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers

***Dear Lord, I expect to pass through this world but once; And any good thing, therefore, that I can do...Let me do it now. (Stephen Grellett, contemporary writer.)***

Yalda Shams is one of the few girls who received an education while the Taliban governed Afghanistan. She cut off her hair, dressed in boys' clothes and kept quiet. Now there are 6,000 girls at her school in Herat. During the time when they could not go to school, almost their only entertainment came from copies of the Rainbow magazine, which was brightly coloured and full of uplifting stories. It was produced by the Sanayee Development Foundation, which contributes to reconciliation and peace-building in Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan. Now the magazine is emphasising practical steps to build a peaceful country.

Do you find the size of a problem of world poverty daunting? It's easy to feel there's nothing you can do that will make a difference. But to change the life of one person is worthwhile. It cost about 15 cents to produce each copy of Rainbow. Christian Aid...helped pay the Foundation to buy a better printing press. There are many agencies which offer relief aid and support development schemes. From ***Peace in our Hearts Peace in Our World A meditation for everyday*** (2015) by Marcus Braybrooke

### **Around the Fellowship**

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been in hospital recently. Especially with Barbara Nicholson who is currently in the Downe and with Robyn Nixon, Ivy Shaw and Pearl Shaw who have been in hospital but happily are all now home, and with all those who have had treatment or short visits to hospital in recent weeks.

Congratulations goes to all those younger members who have faced important examinations this year. Particularly Anna Ferguson who graduated from Queen's University in medicine in July. Also Jack Steers who has won a place at Queen's, Eileen Neill for passing her AS Levels and Rachel Neill, Matthew Cleland and Louise Steers for passing their GCSEs and to everyone else who had important examinations this year or who will be starting at a new school this autumn..

### **Downpatrick Treasure Hunt and Hog Roast**

Around 125 people attended this event on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> July. It was a great night that was hugely enjoyed by all attending. Many thanks to Marion Moffett and Anna Ferguson for setting the questions and to Margaret and Geoffrey Ferguson for hosting the event at the Lakeside Inn and to everyone who helped in any way including those who organised and donated to the ballot, those who organised the car parking and those who sent the treasure hunters out, did the timings and the marking. It was a great night with everyone enjoying the hog roast when they had completed the journey. The evening also raised a total profit of £1045 which is a tremendous outcome. Thank you to everyone who supported the night.

### **Clough Annual General Meeting**

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM and particularly to the Finance Committee which has done so much to sort out the finances which, with the help of our accountant, are now completed. Thank you also to David Rooney and Jim Newell who have transported the new safe to the church.

### **Downpatrick Sunday School Outing**

The Downpatrick Sunday School Outing took place on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> August when nearly 40 went to the Ulster Folk Park, Cultra. Everybody attending had a great day out and thanks goes to Annabel Cleland and Marion Moffett for organising the day.

### **Ballee Table Quiz**

The Ballee Table Quiz will be held on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> September at the Lakeside Inn starting at 8.00 pm sharp. Tickets are £5 per head, including light supper, in teams of six. If you need help finding a team please ask and this can be organised. Early booking is essential so please speak to Jayne Caven to book your place for what is always a very enjoyable evening.

### **Godshandiwor Puppets at Clough**

This was a great occasion on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> July when a very large joint congregation assembled at Clough to enjoy the service led by Godshandiwor Puppets. We hope to be able to get Sam and his team back again on some future occasion.

At the end of the service Thomas Rooney, on behalf of Clough Sunday School, presented a cheque for £230 to Ashley McKinley for the Downpatrick and District Autism NI Parents Support Group which charity the Sunday School has been supporting over the past year.

### **Downpatrick Organists**

Over the summer Betty Taylor has stepped down as regular co-organist at Downpatrick after many years of faithful service for which we are very grateful. In her place we are very pleased to welcome Laura Patterson who will be playing the organ, together with Alfie McClelland, starting in September. We owe a great debt of gratitude to all our organists in all three churches for what they do.

### **European Heritage Open Day**

Ballee will again be open for this event on the afternoon of Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm. There will be a special event at 2.30 pm when John Strain will be giving an organ recital. There will also be tours of the church for visitors and refreshments. We hope to welcome many new visitors to the church.

### **Downpatrick Table Quiz - Advance notice**

The Downpatrick Table Quiz will be held on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> November at the Lakeside Inn. Further details will be available nearer the time.

### **Christian Aid Strangford Sportive Cycle Event**

Ballee have been asked to help with this major fundraising event by Christian Aid on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October when up to 500 cyclists will follow a 120 km route through co. Down that goes past the church. Full details will be available in the church.

### **Wedding**

The marriage of Aimee McConvey and Aden Bennett took place at Narrow Water Castle on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> August and was conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Aimee and Aden.

## **Harvest Thanksgiving Services**

### **First Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) Church, Downpatrick**

Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> October

At 3.00 pm

Special Preacher: Rev Colin Campbell (Ballyclare & Holywood NSP Churches)

Special Music: Larne Concert Choir

### **Ballee Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> October

At 3.00 pm

Special Preacher: Rev Cecil Wilson (Ballee, Bright, Rathmullan & Killough Church of Ireland)

Special Music: PSNI Ladies' Choir

### **Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church**

Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> October

At 3.00 pm

Special Preacher: Rev Chris Carson (Dundrum, Kilmegan & Maghera Church of Ireland)

Special Music: Quoile Area WI Choir