

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

September and October 2016

From the Minister:

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and refreshing summer. Congratulations to all our young people who sat important examinations this year and who have done so well, many of whom will be embarking on study at new institutions this autumn. We wish them all well.

As many of you know I will have to go in to hospital for an operation at some point in the near future. I still don't have a date for this but as soon as this is known we will be able to make arrangements. Clearly this will involve some disruption to our usual pattern and we might need to be flexible with some matters but full pastoral cover will be made available for as long as it takes. Thank you all for your support and good wishes.

We are getting close to the harvest season and the harvest services are listed in this Calendar. We will welcome the Rev Dr John Nelson to Downpatrick, the Very Rev William McMillan to Ballee and I will be taking the service at Clough. We also have some very special musical guests lined up for each service, the full details of which can be found inside.

We also had some hugely enjoyable events over the summer including the joint afternoon tea at the Lakeside Inn and the Downpatrick Treasure Hunt also held at the Lakeside Inn. The Downpatrick

Sunday School excursion was also widely supported across the three churches. Inside this Calendar I will include the Downpatrick NSP magazine News of the Churches reporter's account of some of these events. In recent months the NSP magazine hasn't always appeared regularly and reports and pictures from all three of our churches have not always appeared. It is to be hoped that the magazine will shortly get back on a more even keel but the Downpatrick reports from these events supported by our three churches will appear in this Calendar.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Sunday, 4th September

Ordination of new elders for the Clough congregation at 11.15 am. Jim Newell and Alfie McClelland will be ordained to the church session.

Saturday, 24th September

Ballee Table Quiz at the Lakeside Inn at 8.00 pm. Tickets £5, teams of six. Always a good evening advance booking is essential. Please speak to Jayne Caven or Margaret Ferguson.

Advance Notice

The Downpatrick Table Quiz will be on Saturday, 26th November also at the Lakeside Inn.

Services in September and October

	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
4 th September	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
11 th September	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson
18 th September	11.15 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
25 th September	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev William Haslett	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
2nd October	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Rev Dr John Nelson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
9th October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Very Rev William McMillan	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
16th October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Rev Dr David Steers
23 rd October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
30th October	<i>11.15 am Joint Service at Clough</i>	<i>11.15 am Joint Service at Clough</i>	11.15 am Joint Service at Clough Rev Dr David Steers

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Downpatrick – Sunday, 2nd October 3.00 pm

Preacher: Rev Dr John Nelson. Special Music: Harlandic Male Voice Choir

Ballee – Sunday, 9th October 3.00 pm

Preacher: Very Rev William McMillan. Special Music: Bailliesmills Accordion Band

Clough – Sunday, 16th October 3.00 pm

Preacher: Rev Dr David Steers. Special Music: Clare Chorale

Around the Fellowship

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our members who have been unwell in recent times, particularly with Peggy Brown who is now recovering from a time in hospital.

Children's Day Services

We had three excellent Children's Day Services. On Sunday, 19th June the Sunday School of Ballee conducted morning worship with music, songs, readings, prayers and a presentation on fathers. Prizes for attendance and for work entered in the denominational Sunday School Exhibition were presented, including the Millennium Cup for the most Original Entry which was won by the Sunday School for a wonderful art work depicting the gospel story of the fishermen.

The Sunday School and young people of Downpatrick also led the worship on Fathers' Day with musical pieces, readings, songs and prayers. As part of the service prizes were awarded for attendance and for work entered in the denominational Sunday School Exhibition.

On Sunday, 26th June Clough Sunday School held their Children's Day Service. The children led the worship with readings, prayers and songs and during the service Kayla Ramsey presented a cheque for £280 raised by the children for this year's charity and prizes were presented to the children for work entered in the denominational Sunday School Exhibition at which they won a magnificent 18 prizes.

In all three churches the work was on display and a great deal of thanks goes to the Superintendents and teachers in the Sunday Schools for the tremendous work they do all year round.

Summer Events

With thanks to the Downpatrick News of the Churches reporter for the following reports:

Afternoon Tea Party

On behalf of everyone who attended the united afternoon tea party at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 2nd July we extend a sincere 'Thank you!' to Margaret and Geoffrey for hosting the event. The setting was idyllic with an 'old English charm' and most relaxing. This had been especially for our members who were unable to attend Sunday Services but it quickly became evident that the members from Ballee, Clough and Downpatrick were most interested in supporting the event. There was a surprise birthday cake for our members George Strain and Renée Cleland whose daughter Eleanor was home from Geneva. Many thanks to all who were present and joined in the relaxed atmosphere of the day. In addition, we genuinely acknowledge Margaret's work in ordering the cakes, Divina Fryars for making the scones and the ladies and young folk who laid out the food and served the tea. Word is out that this might become an annual event for our churches!

Summer United Service

As our summer, united services continue we in Downpatrick welcomed the members of Clough and Ballee to our service conducted by Rev Dr David Steers.

Our organist Mr Alfie McClelland accompanied the hymns: 'All people that on earth do dwell', 'Children of the heavenly King', 'Glorious things of thee are spoken' and 'Onward Christian soldiers'.

Fund Raising Event: Treasure Hunt/Hog Roast

On Saturday, 23rd July 2016, the Downpatrick congregation held its annual Treasure Hunt accompanied by a hog roast and salad supper. The evening remained warm and dry allowing everyone to participate in the quest and return to a most palatable alfresco supper. We yet

again and wholeheartedly thank Margaret and Geoffrey Ferguson for hosting the event and opening their suitable premises at the 'Lakeside Inn' for the event.

We also thank Anna Ferguson and Marion Moffett for setting the trail in which thirty-one cars participated, solving fifty-one clues in the shortest time possible. Congratulations to the winning car owned by Ballee Treasurer, Allan Chambers and his wife Doreen accompanied by two friends, Pamela and Aubrey Campbell. This was a closely won competition with the time factor being used to separate the second and third places.

Wendy Taylor and Marion Moffett collected the food donation for the ballot hamper, which was won by Geraldine Smyth. William Truesdale won the second prize of a fruit hamper. We thank everyone who provided ballot donations and sold tickets.

Whilst guests enjoyed a hog roast salad Renée Ritchie played many familiar tunes and we acknowledge her for sharing her talent and adding to the joyful environment. After expenses the sum raised towards church funds was in excess of £1,000.

The Minister, Committee and members of the church wish to thank everyone who worked so willingly to make this such a successful event and warmly acknowledge all the participants who supported the evening by their presence and with their donations.

Church Excursion

On Monday, 15th August 2016 members set off from Downpatrick at 9.30 am on the annual excursion. Mrs Annabel Cleland and Miss Marion Moffett are to be congratulated on arranging what turned out to be a most enjoyable day helped by some glorious weather with one of the warmest days this summer.

It was wonderful that members from our joint charge of Clough and Ballee were also able to attend. The party first travelled to the Watertop Farm at Ballycastle where there was a good display of animals for young and old to enjoy. A trip on the paddy wagon across the farm was, by all accounts, memorable in itself! Everyone had brought a packed lunch but many took advantage of the tearooms as well.

In the afternoon, the coach moved on to Portrush where everyone was free to enjoy the sights and amusements before eating and returning home at 7.30pm. Every person is to be thanked for arranging and supporting the trip.

Ordination of Elders at Clough

This will take place at the morning service on Sunday, 4th September at 11.15 am when we will formally welcome Jim Newell and Alfie McClelland into the Church Session.

Funeral

Dr David McKeown died on Wednesday, 23rd June. A doctor by calling and profession David was the son and grandson of doctors, he was also the great-grandson and great-great-grandson of ministers of Ballee (the Rev John Porter minister from 1860 to 1884 and the Rev David Whyte minister from 1811 to 1871). He took a great interest in the church at Ballee and his funeral took place in the Church on Saturday, 25th June followed by burial in the church yard and were conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our deepest sympathy is with his whole family especially with his wife Merle and with John and Beccy, with Neil, with Moyra and Gareth, and with his grandchildren. Megan, Layla, Ruby and Cuchulain.