

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

September and October 2017

From the Minister:

I hope everyone has had a good summer and those who managed to get away on holiday had a good time. It is always nice to visit new places and then always nice to come home.

We had a lot of successful and enjoyable events over the summer. Including the joint Afternoon Tea at the Lakeside and the Downpatrick Treasure Hunt also held at the Lakeside Inn. The Downpatrick Sunday School outing to Carnfunnock Country Park and Ballymena was well supported by all three churches although somewhat less blessed by good weather. Especially in Carnfunnock it was extremely wet although it dried out a bit in Ballymena.

We had a number of well supported joint services over the summer months and these included addresses on aspects of the history of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. If you would like a copy of any of these addresses please let me know. I have also edited them and put them on a new website. It can be found at:

<https://nonsubscribingpresbyterian.wordpress.com/>

if you would like to see them, paper copies can also be provided to anyone who wants them.

On Sunday, 2nd July we welcomed back Sam and Silvana Shaw of Godshandiwork Puppets to lead our joint worship at Clough. There was a large attendance of children and adults

and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. During the service Sarah Rooney also sang 'For God so Loved the World'. You can see pictures of the day online here:

<https://velvethummingbee.wordpress.com/2017/07/02/godshandiwork-puppets-at-clough-2/>

We look forward to our Harvest services which are detailed inside. Another special service will occur on Sunday, 29th October which will be the joint service at Clough. On that day we will be having a special service to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. There will also be an exhibition in the church concerning the legacy of Martin Luther's nailing of his 95 Theses to the church door at Wittenberg.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Tuesday, 19th September at 8.00 pm, special meeting of the congregation, Clough.

Saturday, 30th September at 9.00 am, Christian Aid Strangford Sportive, Ballee.

Saturday 30th September at 8.00 pm Ballee Table Quiz, Lakeside Inn.

Thursday, 5th October at 7.30 pm meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim, Raloo.

Sunday, 29th October at 11.15 am Joint Service, Clough for 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
3 rd September	11.15 am Family Service Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am David McCord
10 th September	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am David McCord	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
17 th September	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
24 th September	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am David McCord	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
1 st October	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Rev Ernie Boggs	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
8 th October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Rev Adrian Dorrian	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
15 th October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Rev Paul Reid
22 nd October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am David McCord	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
29 th October	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 11.15 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 11.15 am</i>	Joint Service at Clough at 11.15 am Special Service for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Rev Dr David Steers

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

Downpatrick, Sunday, 1st October 3.00 pm Rev Ernie Boggs (Minister Emeritus Downpatrick Presbyterian Church). Special Music: Lyndsey Chorale

**Ballee, Sunday, 8th October 3.00 pm Rev Adrian Dorrian (Ballee Church of Ireland)
Special Music: Quoile Area W.I. Choir**

**Clough, Sunday, 15th October 3.00 pm Rev Paul Reid (Old Presbyterian Church, Larne)
Special Music: Harmonic Progression**

Around the Fellowship

Our thoughts and prayers are with Andy Nixon who is now home following a spell in hospital, we wish him a speedy and full recovery. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Alex Cleland who was admitted to hospital just after she received her GCSE results. We wish her all the best for a speedy recovery.

Our deepest sympathy is with Lorna Kelly following the death of her brother in law Joe. Joe was an active member of the Ballee Badminton Club and our sympathy goes to all his family. Congratulations go to all our younger members who have sat examinations recently at school or university or will start new courses in the autumn. Well done especially to Tierna Kelly, Megan Neill and Alex Cleland who all got excellent results in their GCSEs and will go on to study for their A levels now. Well done also to Rachel Neill who has got excellent grades in her A levels and will be going on to Queen's University to study Law. And well done to Luke Steers who has been awarded a PhD in Maths by Queen's for a thesis on 'Algebraic Finite Domination'.

Congratulations also to Pearl Shaw who has received an invitation to Hillsborough Castle for afternoon tea. We look forward to hearing all about her visit.

Communion Class and Youth Club

We will be holding communion classes over the autumn (usually about four evenings) for those who are interested in becoming communicant members of our churches. Please speak to the minister if you are interested. There has also been a suggestion that we set up our own Youth Club. If you would be interested in this or would like to help please speak to the minister.

Joint Afternoon Tea

This was a wonderfully successful occasion held at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 8th July and was well supported by members of Downpatrick, Ballee and Clough. We were blessed by good weather and during the afternoon made a special presentation to Myrtle McBride for her 30 years of service to Downpatrick as congregational treasurer. You can see some pictures of the occasion and also of the Treasure Hunt online here:

<https://velvethummingbee.wordpress.com/2017/08/03/events-in-july-at-the-lakside/>

Downpatrick Treasure Hunt and Hog Roast

This was another wonderful occasion also held at the Lakeside Inn this time on Saturday, 22nd July. Again we were fortunate in having really good weather and it was a very pleasant evening to be driving round the countryside. The event was very well attended and a big thank you goes to Marion Moffett and Anna Ferguson who devised the questions, to all those who slaved away marking the papers, to those who organised games for the children, and to the band of helpers who marshalled all the cars and helped with parking. Our thanks, as always, is due to Margaret and Geoffrey Ferguson for hosting the event and the tea party. On top of everything the evening raised £966 for church funds. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Christian Aid Strangford Sportive at Ballee Saturday, 30th September

For the last few years Ballee has been one of the refreshment stops for this cycle event which is a major fundraiser for Christian Aid. The help given by Ballee members is much appreciated by Christian Aid and we will need volunteers on the day. It is the same day as the Table Quiz so it will make for a busy day for everyone but we hope people will be able to support this event. We know from feedback that our participation means a lot to Christian Aid and the cyclists.

Ballee Table Quiz

The Ballee Table Quiz will take place on Saturday, 30th September at 8.00 pm. This is always great fun and is a major fundraiser for the church. Speak to Jayne Caven and book your place as soon as possible.

Clough Congregational Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the Clough congregation Tuesday, 19th September at 8.00 pm to discuss the new draft rules for the graveyard.

Sunday Schools

The Ballee Children's Day, including prize giving, was held on Sunday, 18th June when the children delivered readings, prayers and songs that told the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. The children had also raised £150 over the year for Youth Initiatives and a cheque was presented by Tierna Kelly to Hayleigh Stevenson during the service. This Children's Day was an especially important occasion because it also marked the retirement of Doreen Chambers as Superintendent after twenty years in post. At the end of the service thanks was expressed to Doreen for all her work and the Sunday School sang the song 'Good Times' and made a number of presentations to Doreen.

Clough Children's Day was also on Sunday, 18th June. The children led the service with readings, prayers, songs and actions before they received prizes for attendance and their 17 prizes won at Holywood. The Sunday School also raised £300 over the year for Shine Northern Ireland and Ethan Perkins presented the cheque to Shine's representative Kirsty Smith.

Also on Sunday 18th June at Downpatrick Laura Neill played the pipes at morning service before being presented with her prizes, by Rev Dr Will Patterson, for the denominational Sunday School Exhibition which included the Synod Prize for the Best Written Entry. Downpatrick are holding a special Family Service on Sunday, 3rd September at 11.15 am.

Downpatrick Sunday School outing

On this occasion we didn't get the greatest weather and Carnfunnock Country Park was very wet! But things dried up in Ballymena and in the end it was a very enjoyable day. Many thanks to Annabel Cleland and Marion Moffett for organising the day.

Advance Notice

Downpatrick Table Quiz Saturday, 25th November, Lakeside Inn.

Funeral

Jean Stewart died on Tuesday, 13th June after a period of illness. Jean was born in New Zealand although had a long-standing family connection with Ballee. In her working life she travelled the world as an air hostess and also worked in the library of the House of Commons. Her funeral took place at Ballee, followed by burial in the graveyard, on Thursday, 15th June and was conducted by Rev Dr David Steers. Our deepest sympathy is with Margaret and Niall and the whole family circle.