

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

September and October 2019

From the Minister:

I hope everyone is returning suitably refreshed from the summer. Sue and myself had a fascinating time in Poland and at a date to be announced I will give an illustrated talk about the story of the Polish Brethren, a church of the radical reformation which flourished in Poland for about 100 years and which we were looking at while we were in Poland, visiting historic sites connected with this group which was suppressed by the authorities in 1658.

At the end of June we celebrated John Strain's 40 years as organist at Ballee at a joint service at Ballee on 30th June. There was a good attendance as we sang hymns specially chosen by John and heard John's reasons for appreciating them. At the end of the service a special presentation was made to John before we shared in refreshments in the hall. We are greatly blessed in having John's skill at the organ at Ballee.

I am continuing to act as minister in charge of the Dunmurry congregation and so need to be away from the pulpit from time to time to be there. Following the retirement of the Rev Norman Hutton the Banbridge congregation will also be without a minister and from the start of September I have been asked to be minister in charge of that congregation. However, I will usually be able to preach at Dunmurry and Banbridge on

the same Sundays so this means that I will not need to be away from our own churches with any more frequency.

The death of the Rev Tom Banham has been a very sad loss to the denomination. Tom died suddenly on 14th August and his funeral was held at Roselawn Crematorium on Monday, 20th August. Our churches were represented at his funeral and John Strain played the organ. Many of our members worked with Tom in different committees and organisations over the years and he was someone who made a tremendous impact on the denomination. We remember him with great affection as a minister and friend to many.

Keith Parke has accepted a call to the congregations of Newry and Warrenpoint. We wish him and the congregations every future happiness.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates

Tuesday, 27th August meeting of the Presbytery of Bangor at Comber at 7.30 pm.

Saturday, 7th September Presbytery of Antrim ordination of Rev Keith Parke at Newry at 3.00 pm.

Sunday, 8th September at 11.15 am Downpatrick Family Service.

Saturday, 21st September Ballee Table Quiz at the Lakeside Inn at 7.30 for 8.00 pm.

Thursday, 3rd October meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at Newtownards at 7.30 pm.

	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
1 st September	11.15 am Sue Steers FRSA	9.45 am Sue Steers FRSA	11.15 am Rev Dr Will Patterson
8 th September	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Downpatrick Family Service	9.45 am Sue Steers FRSA	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
15 th September	11.15 am Rev Norman Hutton	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers
22 nd September	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers FRSA	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
29 th September	11.15 am Joint Service Downpatrick Rev Dr David Steers	<i>11.15 am Joint Service Downpatrick</i>	<i>11.15 am Joint Service Downpatrick</i>
6 th October	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Sam Shaw	9.45 am Sue Steers FRSA	11.15 am Sue Steers FRSA
13 th October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Rev Brian Moodie	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
20 th October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	3.00 pm Harvest Thanksgiving Rev Dr Will Patterson
27 th October	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers FRSA

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

***Downpatrick: Sunday, 6th October 3.00 pm Preacher: Sam Shaw Special Music:
Counterpoint***

***Ballee: Sunday, 13th October 3.00 pm Preacher: Rev Brian Moodie Special Music:
Lyndsay Chorale***

***Clough: Sunday, 20th October 3.00 pm Preacher: Rev Dr Will Patterson Special Music:
Fruits of Mourne***

Around the Fellowship

Our thoughts and prayers are with all members and friends who have been unwell recently, especially with Geraldine McClelland who is now through her operation and about to return home, we wish her a full recovery.

Congratulations to all our younger members who have graduated or taken examinations in recent months. Especially well done to Eileen Neill who graduated with a Bachelor of Design with Honours in Graphic Design and Illustration at the University of Ulster and Anna Truesdale who graduated with a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Agricultural Technology with Professional Studies at Queen's University. Very well done to both of them. Well done also to those who took their A levels this year especially to Alex Cleland who will be going to the University of Ulster to study International Hospitality; to Tierna Kelly who will study History, Politics and Economics at Queen's University; to Megan Neill who will study Biochemistry at Queen's University; and to Louise Steers who will study for an HND in Graphic Design at Belfast Metropolitan College. Our best wishes also go to all those who are waiting for their GCSE results at the time of writing.

Downpatrick Treasure Hunt

This was held on Friday, 19th July at the Lakeside Inn and there was a large participation of around 120 people taking part and we were particularly pleased to welcome members of Dunmurry who joined us. Everyone enjoyed following the clues round the countryside and the hog roast back at the Lakeside Inn. Our thanks goes to everyone who helped on the night, especially to Anna Ferguson and Marion Moffett for setting the questions, Renie Finlay for providing us with musical accompaniment and, to everyone who helped with the ballot, with car parking, marking and timing and to Margaret and Geoffrey Ferguson for hosting the event. In a closely fought contest the Treasure Hunt was won by Thomas Cleland and his team. The evening has so far raised £810 for church funds.

Godshandiwork Puppets

We once again welcomed Sam Shaw and Godshandiwork Puppets to a joint service at Clough. This was on Sunday, 4th August and a good congregation really enjoyed another wonderful occasion. Our thanks go to Ruth Rooney who introduced and closed the service.

Downpatrick Sunday School outing to Belfast Zoo

A very large group took part in the Downpatrick Sunday School outing to Belfast Zoo on Monday, 12th August. The day was blessed with good weather. Everyone had a great time and really enjoyed themselves. The day also included time to visit the Abbey Centre for shopping. Many thanks go to Annabel Cleland for organising the day and to everyone who helped or supported the event.

Clough Sunday School Superintendent

Clough is now much blessed in having one of the largest Sunday Schools in the denomination, a Sunday School which plays a tremendous part in the life of the congregation and the denomination. In June Elsie Nelson retired as Superintendent with everyone's best thanks for the first class job she has done for some years. But we do now need to appoint a new Superintendent. It is exciting and important work that will be most fulfilling and rewarding for whoever takes it on.

Ballee Table Quiz

This will be held at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 21st September at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Always a great night, please speak to Jayne Caven to make sure you book your place in advance.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

Elsewhere in the Calendar we have details of the Harvest Services. At Downpatrick our Harvest Service will include the dedication of the new additions to our sound system which includes a loop system. This has been made possible by a generous donation by the Baptist Church in Downpatrick which gifted us a very generous sum on its closure earlier this year. At the Harvest Service we will particularly welcome Sam Shaw to lead the service. Not only is Sam well known to everyone for his work with Godshandiworck Puppets, he was also one of the leaders of the Baptist Church in Downpatrick and is an Ecumenical Canon at Down Cathedral. We are delighted that he is able to be with us. We also look forward to welcoming to Ballee, for the first time, the Rev Brian Moodie, the minister of Dromore and at Clough we welcome the Rev Dr Will Patterson, always a welcome visitor, but coming to lead our Harvest Thanksgiving for the first time. We will also welcome some talented musicians and singers to our churches who will lead our praises. At Downpatrick we will welcome Counterpoint, a mixed voice choir of 30 members based in Lurgan. At Ballee we will welcome the well-known group of singers, the Lyndsay Chorale, and at Clough we will welcome the local flautist group Fruits of Mourne. Please make a note in your diaries for our services of Harvest Thanksgiving and invite your friends.

Ballee Badminton Club

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

Murland Vault at Clough

Work on the restoration of the Murland Mausoleum is due to commence at the end of August.

Downpatrick Table Quiz Advance Notice

This will take place on Saturday, 7th December at the Lakeside Inn. Please make a note of the date.

Funeral

Sydney McMullan died on Wednesday, 17th July after a short period in King's Castle nursing home in Ardglass. He was a life-long member of Downpatrick and, indeed, our oldest member. He served the congregation his whole life through with great devotion, supporting its activities and always, with Margaret his wife, a regular worshipper so long as his health permitted. His funeral took place in the church on Friday, 19th July and was followed by a service of committal at Roselawn Crematorium which were conducted by the Rev Dr David Steers. Our prayers and deepest sympathy go to his family, to Ronald and Valeria, to Helen and Roy, to Stephen, and to Sydney's grandchildren, Luanna, Julia, Rachael, Alice and Ellen, and to all the family circle.