

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

July and August 2015

From the Minister:

Summer is almost upon us and, in July and August, we will follow the same pattern as last year and have a joint service each Sunday at 10.30 am. This is a chance for us all to come together for family worship every Sunday at a special time for the summer months. We can also do some different things for the services and the most notable of these will be on Sunday, 19th July at Clough when our worship will be led by Godshandiworck puppets. This will be a very special service – it has children in mind but it will be fun for all ages. So do please come along.

On Saturday, 25th July there will also be the Downpatrick Treasure Hunt and Hog Roast. All the details are available in this Calendar don't forget to book your tickets.

Well done also to the Sunday School members of all three churches who did exceptionally well at the denominational Sunday School Exhibition at the start of June. And every good wish to all our younger members who are waiting for exam results over the summer.

But don't forget – joint services in July and August each Sunday at 10.30 am. Full details can be found inside this Calendar.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Tuesday, 30th June

Clough Annual General Meeting at 7.45 pm.

Thursday, 2nd July

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

Saturday, 25th July

Downpatrick Treasure Hunt and Hog Roast. Cars will leave from the Lakeside Inn between 7.00 pm and 8.00 pm.

Tuesday, 25th August

Meeting of the Presbytery of Bangor at a venue to be announced at 7.30 pm.

Advance Notices:

Table Quizzes

The Ballee Table Quiz will be held on Saturday, 12th September and the Downpatrick Table Quiz will be held on Saturday, 28th November both at the Lakeside Inn. Further details will be available nearer the time.

European Heritage Open Day

Ballee will again be open for this event on the afternoon of Sunday, 13th September. John Strain will be giving an organ recital at 2.30 pm and there will be tours of the church and refreshments. Further details will be available nearer the time.

Services in July and August

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
5 th July	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
12 th July	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>
19 th July	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Godshandiwork Puppets	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>
26 th July	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
2 nd August	10.30 am Rev Dr William Patterson	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>
9 th August	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr William Patterson
16 th August	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
23 rd August	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>
30 th August	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Dr Heather Walker

Let all the earth acclaim the Lord!
 Worship the Lord in gladness;
 enter his presence with joyful songs.
 Acknowledge that the Lord is God;
 he made us and we are his,
 his own people, the flock which he shepherds.
 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
 his courts with praise.
 Give thanks to him and bless his name;
 for the Lord is good and his love is everlasting,
 his faithfulness endures to all generations.

Psalm 100 (*Revised English Bible*)

Godshandiwork Puppets - Sunday, 19th July at 10.30 am

On Sunday, 19th July we will have a joint service at Clough which will be led by Godshandiwork Puppets. These are a popular and well established group organised by Sam Shaw from Downpatrick. Sam says on their website:

Godshandiwork puppets are a Christian puppet team; we tell Bible stories; our puppets sing and perform dramas. Our team members have been from many different church backgrounds and none, from both traditions in Ireland. The team members juggle and use simple illusions to share their faith, what God has done in their lives. We exist to share God's love, forgiveness, and hope while training young people to share their faith, in a fun and relevant way.

The team has had the privilege of doing programs all over Ireland, in churches, parishes, schools and on the streets as well as in England, Scotland and much further afield. They have made trips to train and equip others in Ukraine, South Africa, Germany and Brazil. In addition we have travelled with "The Agape Puppets" who share with over 60,000 children a year.

It promises to be a wonderful occasion, whatever age you are, do make sure you are there.

Sunday School

This year's denominational Sunday School Conference was held on Friday, 5th June at Moneyreagh and all three congregations were very well represented at the service. All three Sunday Schools had entered a large amount of excellent work and the quality of this was reflected in the number of prizes that was awarded to our Sunday School members. A total of 10 prizes were won by Ballee, 10 by Downpatrick and 18 by Clough. This is an excellent result, with prizes being won in every category, both group and individual, and in every age group.

At Ballee Thomas Cleland won a 1st; Craig Kelly a 3rd; Olivia McManus won a 1st and a 2nd; Tiarna Kelly won a 2nd and a 3rd; the under 4 Group won a 2nd; the 8-10 Group won a 3rd; the 11-13 Group won a 1st; the 11+ General Group won a 1st. In addition the Sunday School won the James Meneely Award for Best Arts and Crafts Entry. All these prizes – along with prizes for attendance and participation in the Sunday School were presented at the Children's Day Service on 14th June. This was a first class service led by the children which was enjoyed by everyone present. Congratulations were extended to the children and thanks to the teachers for all their hard work throughout the year.

At Downpatrick Ethan Straney won a 3rd; Zak Straney won a 1st; Laura Neill won a 1st; Megan Neill won a 3rd; the 6-7 Group won a 1st and a 2nd; the 14+ Group won a 1st; the 11+ General Group won a 2nd; the Music group won a 3rd. In addition Laura Neill won the Michael Richardson Award for Best Freehand Painting or Drawing. This is the first time Laura has won this top award – but she succeeds her sister Eileen who won the same award for the four previous years running! The Children's Day was also held on 14th June and was a great success, much enjoyed by everyone present. Once again we are indebted to the teachers who work so hard all year round. All the prizes were presented along with the attendance awards for the year.

At Clough Lexie Rooney won two 3rds; Sarah Rooney won a 3rd; Molly Rooney won a 2nd; Ryan Rooney won a 1st; the under 4 Group won a 1st and a 2nd; the 4-5 Group won a 1st, a 2nd and a 3rd; the 6-7 Group won a 1st and two 2nds; the 8-10 Group won a 1st and 3rd; the 11-13 Group won a 1st, a 2nd and 3rd. At the time of writing the Clough Children's Day still has to take place but all these prizes – along with those for attendance - will be distributed on that occasion.

But to all our Sunday School teachers we extend our thanks for all the work throughout the year and all the preparation and rehearsal that goes into the Children's Day Services, including the organists who also contribute such a lot.

Clough Annual General Meeting

The Clough Congregational AGM, somewhat delayed this year due to circumstances beyond our control, will be held on Tuesday, 30th June at 7.45 pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

Nepal Earthquake Appeal

On the first two Sundays in May all three congregations held retiring collections for the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal to give aid to Nepal following the terrible series of earthquakes there. These were very generously supported with £274.15 collected at Downpatrick (rounded up to £300), £135 at Ballee and £171 raised at Clough, making a total of £606 sent on behalf of our churches to the aid agencies in Nepal. Thank you also to the church members of all three congregations who again supported the Women's League appeal through their ballot, this year for charities working with autism.

Ballee Working Party

Many thanks to all those who came along to help with the work around the buildings and grounds at Ballee on Saturday, 13th June. A great deal was done to maintain the buildings, clean the windows and tidy the grounds and everything looks very smart indeed. Thank you also to John Skillen who fixed the door to the pulpit which had previously become detached.

Downpatrick Windows

Two of the downstairs windows in the church have been completely renewed by Mark Rooney. We thank Mark and Sammy and Myrtle McBride for getting everything organised.

Clough Presbytery Visitation

The visitation by the Presbytery of Bangor to the Clough congregation will take place in November at a date to be announced.

Downpatrick Treasure Hunt and Hog Roast

This will take place on Saturday, 25th July. Cars will leave the Lakeside Inn between 7.00 pm and 8.00 pm. The cost is £10 for adults and £3 for children which includes the cost of the hog roast with salads for adults and hot dogs for children. It promises to be a great evening, demand is always high and advance booking is essential. Please contact Margaret Ferguson, Myrtle McBride or Mary Stewart to book your tickets.