

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

May and June 2014

From the Minister:

This is often a busy time of year in churches with special meetings and special events on top of everything else that is going on. This year is no exception and a full list of events can be found in this Calendar.

Clough will be hosting the Synod this year, for the first time for many years I would think. Any help will be very gratefully received but most of the meetings are open to anyone and I would particularly urge our own members to come along to the Communion service and Installation of Moderator (starting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 10th June) and the informal social evening with members of the Baillies Mills Accordion Band at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 11th June. This promises to be a good night and all are very welcome.

I have been invited to take the service for the Gift Day at Larne on Sunday, 1st June so I will be carrying out a pulpit exchange with the Moderator, the Rt Rev Paul Reid, who will be taking the services at Ballee and Clough that day.

We have had our AGMs at each church now and each congregation has agreed to hold joint services over the months of July and August. These services will be at a special time for the summer of 10.30 am. I hope that everyone will give them their support.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Tuesday, 27th May Presbytery of Bangor meeting at Banbridge at 7.30 pm.

Sunday, 1st June at 7.00 pm
Presbytery of Antrim visitation to Ballyclare.

Friday, 6th June NSPCI Sunday School Service and Exhibition of Work at 7.30 pm at Ballyclare. (All entries should be brought to Ballyclare Church on Sunday, 1st June between 2.00 pm and 5.30 pm. Music/video entries need to be submitted by Wednesday, 21st May).

Tuesday, 10th June Synod Meetings at Clough - 3.30 pm Remonstrant Synod of Ulster; 4.15 pm Trustee Company; 7.30 pm Synod Communion Service; 8.15 pm Synod Service and Installation of Moderator

Wednesday, 11th June Synod Meetings at Clough - 10.30 am Business Meeting; 7.30 pm Social Evening with music by members of the Baillies Mills Accordion Band.

Sunday, 15th June Children's Day Service at Downpatrick at 11.15 am. Ballee and Clough Children's Days to be announced.

Thursday, 3rd July Presbytery of Antrim meeting at Ballycarry at 7.30 pm.

Saturday, 19th July Downpatrick Treasure Hunt from the Lakeside Inn starting at 6.00 pm.

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
4 th May	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion	11.15 am Sue Steers
11 th May	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
18 th May	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Communion
25 th May	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev William Haslett
1 st June	11.15 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rt Rev Paul Reid	11.15 am Rt Rev Paul Reid
8 th June	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr William Patterson	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
15 th June	11.15 am Children's Day Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers	11.15 am Sue Steers
22 nd June	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers	9.45 am Sue Steers	9.45 am Rev Dr David Steers
29 th June	11.15 am Rev Dr David Steers Joint Service Downpatrick	<i>11.15 am</i> <i>Joint Service</i>	<i>11.15 am</i> <i>Joint Service</i>

O God who hast given us the earth in its beauty to be our home, help us to rejoice and be glad in it. Let us come to each new day with freshness of mind, and may our sense of wonder never forsake us. Help us also to be grateful for human fellowship and for the joy of discovering common aspirations and of sharing in combined achievements. For the power and outreach of the mind, lighting the dark places of fear and ignorance; for imagination and insight and the impulse to discover and create; for courage strengthened by defeat, spurring us on to greater efforts; for the resolve to take our part in the world, increasing the common store of good; for these and all the powers that thou hast given us, help us now to be newly thankful.

from 'The Language of the Heart', A. Powell Davies

Around the Fellowship

Our prayers are with all those who have been in hospital recently including Ruby Law and Joan Thompson. We wish our best to Wendy Taylor who is making a good recovery after her operation, it is great to see her back in church. Our best wishes also go to Matthew Cleland who ended up in hospital with a broken ankle sustained in a rugby match. We wish Matthew a good recovery. Our prayers are also with all our members who have family members who have been unwell recently including Alfie McClelland whose brother Brian is recovering in hospital and Rosemary Neill whose father is not well. Members of Ballee will also be very saddened to hear of the recent death of Lillian Cropley at her home in England, our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband Brian and to all the family circle.

Sunday School

There was a very good representation from all three congregations at the Sunday School Games held at Moneyreagh on Saturday, 22nd February. We were represented by a total of nine teams, three from Clough, three from Ballee, a joint Ballee/Clough team and two from Downpatrick. A couple of the teams were also joint ones with Rademon but altogether in the Under 5s we had Sophie, Sarah, William, Thomas and Charlotte from Clough, Sophia and Calvin from Ballee and Laura from Downpatrick. In the 6-8 category we had Eve and Craig from Ballee and Molly and Kayla from Clough. In the 9-11 age group Fay and Ross (Ballee) and Ryan (Clough) made a team. In the 12+ category Tierna was in a joint Ballee/Rademon team and Megan, Rachel and James were the Downpatrick team. They all did very well but particular congratulations go to the Under 5 Clough 'A' team, the 9-11 joint Ballee/Clough team and the 12+ Ballee/Rademon team all of which came first in their category. All participants were presented with medals and the winning teams were given a shield.

School Visits

On Thursday, 13th March we welcomed to the Church the P7 class at Cumran School who visited the church with their teachers, were shown round and heard something about the history of the congregation and the building. At Downpatrick we look forward to visits from St Mary's High School (Year 9) on Wednesday, 18th June and Down High School (three groups from Year 11) on Monday, 23rd June. Down Museum has also taken a number of professional photographs of the interior of the Downpatrick Church for an exhibition. It is very pleasing that our buildings attract such wide interest.

Ministers and Organists Board

The new board listing the ministers and organists of Ballee church in memory of Alton and Marie Kelly was formally dedicated by the minister at the joint morning service at Ballee on Sunday, 30th March. We thank the Kelly family for this generous donation to the church.

AGMs and Summer Services

All three churches have now held their AGMs, all of them successful. The various reports are now available in each church for those who have not yet received them. At Downpatrick we elected two new elders and are delighted to say that Carol Nixon and Margaret Ferguson have allowed their names to go forward for this important role. All three churches also agreed to share in joint services over the months of July and August, at 10.30 am every Sunday at each church in rotation.

Ballee Fundraising

Ballee is raising funds for the church through the Cash for Clobber project. Any help that anyone can give will be very gratefully received. Supporters are being asked to fill a bag (or two) with old clothes. These are available in the churches. We are looking for: All types of clothing; Bags and shoes (please tie shoes together using laces); Hats and belts; Towels and curtains; Bed linen. If possible could bags be left at Ballee between 11.00 am and 12noon on Saturday, 17th May. However, if you are unable to be there then collection can be arranged before 17th May. Please contact 028 4484 2053 / 07719132508.

Websites

Both Ballee and Downpatrick congregations now have a very clear presence on the net. Lee-Anne Ringland has completely re-vamped and upgraded the Ballee website which has been running for some years now. It has also been created to be entirely usable on mobile devices – so you call it up anytime on your mobile phone or tablet. It can be viewed at: www.balleensp.org.uk/ Jack Steers has also created a new website that is full of information about the Downpatrick congregation. It can be viewed at: www.downpatricknsp.org.uk/ This has also resulted in new orders for Mary Stewart's book on the history of the Downpatrick congregation, including an order for two copies from Harvard University in Massachusetts!

First Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) Church Downpatrick Tercentenary Celebrations 2011

This booklet, fully illustrated and written and compiled by Mary Stewart, is now available to download at <http://www.downpatricknsp.org.uk/Congregation.html>. A full record of every special event that took place in 2011 including services, social events, outings, visits, marriages and baptisms it can be downloaded for free from the website. It is our first venture into online publishing and is well worth downloading.

Beetle Drive

The upstairs hall at Downpatrick was completely full for the Sunday School Beetle Drive held on Wednesday, 16th April. It was a great night and £300 was raised for the Alzheimer's Society. Thanks are due to everyone who supported the event, especially those who kindly donated prizes and food and to Annabel and Marion who organised the evening and to Sammy and Jackie who were called upon for removals and plumbing jobs!

Students Working Overseas Trust

As a fourth year medical student at Queen's University Anna Ferguson will be going to Malawi for eight weeks over the summer to work in a hospital there with the Students Working Overseas Trust. Anna has been working hard to raise funds to support this venture undertaken by the students and raised £1,600 in a single night at the table quiz she organised at the Lakeside Inn recently which was supported by many church members. We wish Anna every success in her work in Africa and look forward to hearing about her experiences there on her return.

Synod 2014 at Clough

Clough will be hosting the Synod this year on Tuesday, 10th June and Wednesday 11th June. Further details are available on the front page of this Calendar.