

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

July and August 2017

From the Minister:

We had a very successful visit of the Attorney General to Clough to deliver his lecture on the Clough case of 1836 on Wednesday, 24th May. There was a very good attendance of close to one hundred people, everyone was made very welcome and many people stayed in the hall for refreshments after the meeting. We welcomed people from many different churches, from the Presbyterian Historical Society, the Lecale and Downe Historical Society and the Irish Legal History Society and many other quarters. Professor M.A. Stewart made the journey from Edinburgh to be here. Thank you to everyone who helped to make for such a successful evening.

We have a number of special events coming up over the summer and these are all listed in this Calendar. We also will again be having joint services in July and August at 10.30 am at each church in turn. These are all listed including the visit of Godshandiwork Puppets to Clough on 2nd July. It is two years since we first welcomed them and everyone will remember what a splendid occasion it was last time. It is something that will be enjoyed by everyone, young and old alike.

We also will have another Afternoon Tea party for the three churches at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, 8th July at 2.00 pm. This was very successful last

year and it is very much hoped that this will again be well supported. Please see the information inside this Calendar.

Downpatrick will again be holding a Treasure Hunt and Hog Roast over the summer – this year on Saturday, 22nd July. As with the Afternoon Tea booking is essential so please see the details inside the Calendar.

Following the Attorney General's lecture a number of people have asked me about different aspects of the history of the denomination, many of which were alluded to in the lecture. By popular demand therefore (honestly) I will look at some of these issues over the summer at the joint services and at the same time try and explain why – or if - these issues still have any relevance to us today. So these will be, in order: the first subscription controversy of the early eighteenth century – where does authority lie? (23rd July); the second subscription controversy of the early nineteenth century – what are the limits of freedom? (30th July); the Dissenters Chapels Act – legislation to protect our property (6th August); the 'third' subscription controversy of the mid-nineteenth century – Non-Subscribers contest the parameters of faith (13th August). I will try and bring in the local side to these stories and consider how they fit in with the modern world.

David Steers

Services in July and August

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
2nd July	<u>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</u>	<u>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</u>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers Godshandiwork Puppets
9 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>
16 th July	10.30 am Rev Sam Peden	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>
23 rd July	<u>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</u>	<u>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</u>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers 'The First Subscription Controversy'
30 th July	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers 'The Second Subscription Controversy'	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
6 th August	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers 'The 1844 Dissenters' Chapels Act'	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>
13 th August	<u>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</u>	<u>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</u>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers 'The Third Subscription Controversy'
20 th August	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Sam Peden	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
27 th 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>

Around the Fellowship

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our members who have been in hospital recently or have faced recent surgery. Our best wishes go to Robert Neill as he gets back to full fitness again, as well as to Raymond Hodges and Sydney McMullan who were both in hospital for a short time. We wish them all speedy recoveries. Our thoughts and prayers also go to those members who have been bereaved recently especially to Lorna Kelly on the loss of her mum, to Ivy Shaw on the loss of her sister and to Wendy Taylor on the loss of her sister.

Annual General Meetings

Clough Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 28th June at 7.45 pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

Ballee and Downpatrick have both held their AGMs and reports and details from both have been circulated. Thanks goes to all our members who serve our churches through their work in so many different ways and to all those who were newly elected to the committees and sessions. We say an especially big thank you to Myrtle McBride who retired as Treasurer of Downpatrick and to Doreen Chambers who is retiring as Sunday School Superintendent at Ballee. Both Myrtle and Doreen have given wonderful service in these roles to their churches and we thank them very much for all that they have done. It is pleasing to report that Carol Nixon has taken over as Treasurer of Downpatrick and that Donna Lightbody is taking over as Ballee Sunday School Superintendent. We very much appreciate their volunteering for these responsibilities.

Sunday Schools

At the time of going to press we are preparing for the Ballee and Clough Children's Days on Sunday, 18th June. Downpatrick will be holding a Special Family Service on Sunday, 3rd September.

This year's denominational Sunday School Exhibition of Work and Service was held at Hollywood on Friday, 2nd June. Thank you to everyone from our churches who went along and supported this event. Thank you also to the teachers and members of our Sunday Schools who make such a full contribution to the occasion. The quality of the work that is submitted to this event from all over the denomination is outstanding and it is always encouraging to see how much of this comes from our own three Sunday Schools and that it is always so impressive. It is no surprise then to see that once again our Sunday School members have won a lot of prizes – earning six prizes for Downpatrick, five for Ballee, and 17 for Clough. Well done everyone. All the work will be displayed in the churches and the prizes will be distributed to the winners. Particular congratulations go to Laura Neill of Downpatrick who won the denominational Committee Award for the Best Written Entry in the Exhibition.

Working parties

Thank you to the working parties that met at Ballee on 10th June and at Downpatrick on 5th June. A lot of work was done and the galleries in Downpatrick are now cleared of accumulated junk which filled a skip. The old Bible has been placed in a more prominent position in the Squires Gallery and the very old oil portraits of Rev and Mrs S.C. Nelson are now in the vestry and await restoration.

FORTHCOMING DATES

Godshandiwork Puppets Sunday, 2nd July 10.30 am at Clough

On this Sunday we will have the first of our joint summer services at 10.30 am.

This will be at Clough and will be led Godshandiwork Puppets. We were pleased to welcome them to a similar service two years ago and are delighted that they can come back to us. Godshandiwork Puppets work all over Ireland and indeed all over the world with young people and the young at heart in churches, parishes, schools and on the streets. Their website says: "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." Everyone is welcome to what promises to be a wonderful occasion and we hope that as many people as possible, of all ages, will come along.

Afternoon Tea, Saturday 8th July at the Lakeside Inn at 2.00 pm

There will be a Joint Afternoon Tea for all three congregations in the Marquee at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday 8th July at 2.00 pm.

Everyone is welcome.

Booking is essential for this event so that the premises can be set up and the appropriate amount of food can be obtained. Please speak to Margaret Ferguson on 07789208859 if you would like to book or if you could help on the day or with the preparation.

Downpatrick Treasure Hunt

Downpatrick Congregation's Annual Treasure Hunt

Saturday, 22nd July 2017

Treasure Hunt with Hog Roast and Salads

Hot Dog and Salads for children

Take a trip around the countryside followed by organised Fun and Games for the Children at The Lakeside Inn

Cars leaving between 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Cost £12 per adult / £4 per child (under 16)

Booking is essential before 18th July for catering purposes and it would be preferred if you could purchase your tickets before the event from Margaret on 07789208859 or any member of Downpatrick's congregation.

Advance Notices: Ballee Table Quiz, Saturday 30th September.

Downpatrick Table Quiz, Saturday, 25th November.