

# Annan United Reformed Church

[www.annanurc.btck.co.uk](http://www.annanurc.btck.co.uk)



## November 2018 Newsletter



## **NOVEMBER 2018 WORSHIP AT ANNAN URC**

### **Sunday 4th November : Communion Service - Mrs Lesley Richmond**

Prayer Leader: J Murray

Bible Readings: F Glass  
J Murray

### **Sunday 11th November: Remembrance Service - Rev Haydn Higton**

Prayer Leader: H Higton

Bible Readings: M Jones  
E Woodman

### **Sunday 18th November: Morning Service - Rev Iain Mackenzie**

Prayer Leader: M Jones

Bible Readings: N Maxwell  
H McNairn

### **Sunday 25th November: Morning Service and Church Meeting**

Prayer Leader: N Maxwell

Bible Readings M Lamont  
D Maxwell

*Note to Prayer Leaders and Readers:* visiting Service Leaders have the option to choose their own theme and readings, and may wish to lead prayers themselves.

Such information will be given to you as soon as possible.

## THE BORDER STRATHSPEY AND REEL SOCIETY

A huge vote of thanks to the Society, and everyone that contributed to the Concert and Dinner on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Both were very enjoyable and resulted in £678-10 being raised for our funds.



The programme leaflet reminded us too of the Vision statement for Annan URC which says:

*Our Vision: Our purpose as a congregation is to communicate God's Purposes and this we do through worship, preaching the Gospel and serving others. Our mission statement is*

***'Moving forward in Faith and Service.'***

*In living this statement, we wish to continue being outward-looking, sharing our resources with others and being a positive, active partner with the communities in which we serve. We are known for our hospitality, for responding to pastoral needs and for organising festivals/events etc, and we feel that it is through these mediums that we have scope to develop how we live out the Gospel in Annan.*

***<http://annanurc.btck.co.uk>***

Are we living up to this vision? Can we improve upon it? Contribute your views at the next Church meeting.

*Haydn Higton*

## **REMEMBRANCE**

“This year we are marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Great War – the momentous moment when, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month 1918, the Allies and Germany signed the Armistice. At the end of October in Edinburgh’s Prince’s Street Gardens, Poppy Scotland has created a Tree of Thanks to honour the Armed Forces, past and present.”

These words are taken from an appeal letter from Poppy Scotland but it is important to remember not only in November that lives are being lost or ruined by war and conflict in 2018 and beyond. We don’t seem to learn the lessons of the last 100 years!

However, 1918 was a year of new beginnings for Britain and the world. Women became more active in many walks of life, in getting to vote and becoming equals. It was the birth of a world that we experience, and we should give thanks not only for the past but also for what we enjoy because of the past.

*Haydn Higton*

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## **A BRITISH/GERMAN PARTNERSHIP – 100 YEARS ON FROM 1918**

For over 60 years the URC has had a Covenant of Pulpit and Table Fellowship with the Protestant Churches in the Palatinate region of Germany, the ‘Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz’. Drawing on this partnership for the 100 years commemoration of the 1918 Armistice, the URC have been working with our German partners to produce a shared resource, which can be downloaded as two separate booklets.

Entitled ‘One hundred years after the First World War: Looking back, looking forward’, the first booklet contains personal stories, reflections and poems written by British and German contributors. An accompanying booklet provides worship material: meditation, prayers, newly written hymns and biblical reflections and closes with a commitment to peace building. These publications can be accessed from the home page of the URC website with an accompanying news story introduction. We hope this combined British/German initiative will bring a thought-provoking dimension to the 100 year commemoration of the end of World War One.

*Editor: The above and the following extracts are © 2018,  
The United Reformed Church and Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz.  
The Biblical references quoted are from the NRSV*

## **FROM “LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD”**

In May 2018, Pfarrer Martin Henninger and the Revd David Pickering paid a pilgrimage to the Somme, where a century ago, both their grandfathers - Friedrich and Frederick - had served on opposing sides. The ministers reflected on this experience in the form of a series of letters, beginning first of all with a note from Mr Pickering to his grandpa on the eve of the trip to Northern France.

Dear Grandpa

I'm shortly to set off for the Somme to meet a German, retracing the journey you took just over 100 years ago to face the Germans. I'm taking your identity tag inscribed with your name and military number, and scant memories of what you experienced. My uncle, your youngest son, told me that your service included collecting those injured and the bodies of those killed from no man's land. I wonder about the goodbyes you said, and if you had any idea of what you'd face. I wonder what it was like to first step into a trench and see the conditions of service. I wonder how you felt going over the top, experiencing the true horror of war. I wonder how you felt about those whose instructions you obeyed, or those whose weapons you faced. The enemy, or others caught up in the costliest of wars?

The German I'm meeting is named Martin, a friend from a partnership between the Churches we serve. We discovered that we each had grandfathers who served at the Somme. He like you, was a Christian. You share Christian names too, you are Frederick and he is Friedrich. As we meet, Martin will remember his grandfather and I'll remember you, and we'll both reflect on the folly of war. I wonder if in another 100 years, other friends may meet to remember the folly of conflicts fought in our lifetime, for we have not yet learned to live in peace.

Yours in love, sorrow and hope,  
David

## REMEMBRANCE HYMN—A SONG OF MEMORY, HOPE AND PEACE

*Suggested tune Lucerna Laudoniae Rejoice & Sing 41*

For once beauty of the Somme,  
rolling hills and fertile fields,  
singing birds by streams belonged,  
human life and nature pealed:  
All creations' voices raised,  
singing peaceful songs of praise.

For the horrors of the Somme,  
shells and guns and frightened men.  
Whistles blew a deadly song,  
noise and cries the loud refrain:  
Human voices scream and shout:  
Tommy, Pomme, or Fritz and Kraut.  
*(In the second line of the chorus, the words are said, not sung, music  
played more staccato)*

For the memories of the Somme,  
deathly silence, land laid bare.  
Back at home the women mourn  
private wailing, public tear:  
All creations' voice falls quiet ...  
.....  
*(Musician only plays second line, fading in volume)*

For the lessons of the Somme,  
children come to learn true cost.  
Swords to ploughs, their new-found psalm,  
youth no more to war be lost:  
Furrows turn and skylarks sing  
may God's peace on earth now ring.

Yet, for healing of the Somme,  
nations must from conflict cease.  
Love, forgiveness be your song,  
Pray and work, unite in peace:  
All creations' voices raise,  
singing hopeful songs of praise.

*Words by Martin Henninger and David Pickering  
Written while visiting the Somme, May 2018*



## **SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AFTERNOON TEA GET-TOGETHER**

The time is drawing near for the event when the Worship Group Planning Committee are looking forward to welcoming people who find it difficult to get to church on Sundays.

Anyone wishing to come, please let any of the worship group know. Transport will be provided if required.

*Marion Kerr*

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### **REPORTS TO SYNOD**

Some comments made in the Reports for the Synod in September include:

Ministries – the key restriction on ministerial numbers is a policy agreed at General Assembly that the number of ministers is linked to number of members and congregations. As these fall, so too does number of ministers. Funding is not the driver.

Resolution on plastics – Synod notes the extremely damaging environmental impact of single-use plastics and

a) resolves to eliminate all single-use straws from Synod events and meetings,

b) encourages all local churches to adopt a similar policy.

Faith and Order – discussion at General Assembly led to the comment “that if the URC spent less energy on the minutiae of Reformed Theology and more on making our faith relevant to ordinary people we may get somewhere as a Church.”

*Haydn Higton*

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### **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

The work of our church (and every church) is dependent on people who volunteer to help in a variety of ways. If you will offer YOUR HELP, please speak to one of the Elders so that you can be included!!

In December, the Rotas for January to April 2019 will be formulated, and if you know of any Sundays when you will be unable to come to church in this period please let Haydn Higton know. This will save you having to try to find a “stand-in”.

*Haydn Higton*



**Dumfries Fairtrade Group's**

**10th Annual**

# **Fairer World Fair**

**Saturday 10 November 2018**

**10am – 2pm**

**St George's Church Hall, George St,**

**Dumfries DG1 1EJ**

**Fairly traded gifts, crafts and foods**

**from around the world**

**Café - homebaking - soups**

**Admission free**



**[www.dumfriesfairtrade.org.uk](http://www.dumfriesfairtrade.org.uk)**  
**[dumfriesfairtrade@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dumfriesfairtrade@yahoo.co.uk)**

** @FairDumfries  
and on facebook**



## **FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP**

The Friday Fellowship has recommenced, on the last Friday of each month. There is an interesting syllabus made up for the session.

In September our speaker was Mia Glendinning from Visibility, See Hear Project, for Dumfries and Galloway. She gave an excellent talk on the aids available for people with hearing and vision loss, to help them maintain independence. There is also a Sensory Support Team provided by the Council if we need help.

In October we have Mr Kenneth Simons, from Annan Fire Station, speaking on Fire Safety.

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November, we look forward to hearing a talk by a representative from Ruthwell Savings Bank Museum.

The Friday Fellowship meets usually at 2:00pm on the last Friday each month and everyone is welcome. Why not come and join in? If you would like a syllabus, please see me.

*Marion Kerr*

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## **DAILY THOUGHTS FOR NOVEMBER**

Don't we sometimes take for granted all the treasures of the sky,  
The rainbow after showers, and the white clouds riding high?  
Nature weaves eternal wonders, greater far than man could do:  
Seasons in their timeless pattern, as the light of day breaks through.  
There's a purpose planned for living, from the greatest to the least,  
Whether it be man or insect, bird or fish or pastured beast.  
Whether it be weed or flower or blossom time in spring  
In the pulsing life around us, there's a joy in everything.  
So remember when it seems the world appears a hopeless grey  
Stop awhile, and bask a moment, in the timeless hour of day.  
Breathe the Spirit of God's blessing, as his mantle ends all care;  
From the shadows to the sunshine, God takes heed of every prayer....

*Church Gardener*

*Editor:*

*Financial information on this page is only available in printed copies.*

## **NOVEMBER 2018 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Thu 1st	Girls Brigade - 6.00 pm in hall, and every Thursday in term time
Fri 2nd	ACT Fridays in Faith - 7:00 pm in The HUB, Ednam Street
Sun 4th	Communion Service and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am
Tue 6th	Knit & Natter - 10:00 am in hall, and every Tuesday
Tue 6th	All Ability Games - 2:00 pm in hall, and every Tuesday
Tue 6th	Rainbow Tribe and Spectrum - 6:00 pm, and every Tuesday in term time
Wed 7th	Deadline for Christmas Shoebox Appeal
Thu 8th	Soup & Sweet Lunches - 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in hall
Sun 11th	Remembrance Service and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am
Mon 12th	Floral Art Group - 7:00 pm in hall
Wed 14th	Arts and Crafts Group - 2:00 pm
Sun 18th	Morning Worship and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am
Sun 18th	Deadline for December Newsletter items to reach Ruth Mitchell, please, including your group meeting diary dates
Sun 25th	Morning Worship and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am
Sun 25th	Church meeting following short morning service
Fri 30th	Friday Fellowship - 2:00 pm

A REMINDER TO GROUPS:

We are a Fairtrade Church.



We have committed to:

Use Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings for which we have responsibility

Move forward on using other Fairtrade products (such as sugar, biscuits, fruit)

Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight – and through other activities whenever possible