

# Annan United Reformed Church

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



## April 2018 Newsletter



## **APRIL 2018 WORSHIP AT ANNAN URC**

### **Sunday 1st April:**                    **EASTER SUNDAY Communion - J Kidd-Bentley**

Prayer Leader:                    H McNairn

Bible Readings:                John 20:1-18    H Higton  
    Isaiah 25:6-9    J Murray

### **Sunday 8th April:**                    **Morning Service - Rev Iain Mackenzie**

Prayer Leader:                    D Maxwell

Bible Readings:                        N Maxwell  
    H Higton

### **Sunday 15th April:**                    **Morning Service - Mrs Lesley Richmond**

Prayer Leader:                    C McCreadie

Bible Readings:                        E Woodman  
    M Kerr

### **Sunday 22nd April:**                    **Morning Service - Mr Alan Dodds**

Prayer Leader:                    J Murray

Bible Readings                        F Glass  
    J Pool

### **Sunday 29th:**                    **Morning Service - Rev David Whiteman**

Prayer Leader:                    J Kidd-Bentley

Bible Readings                        M Lamont  
    R Richardson

*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.

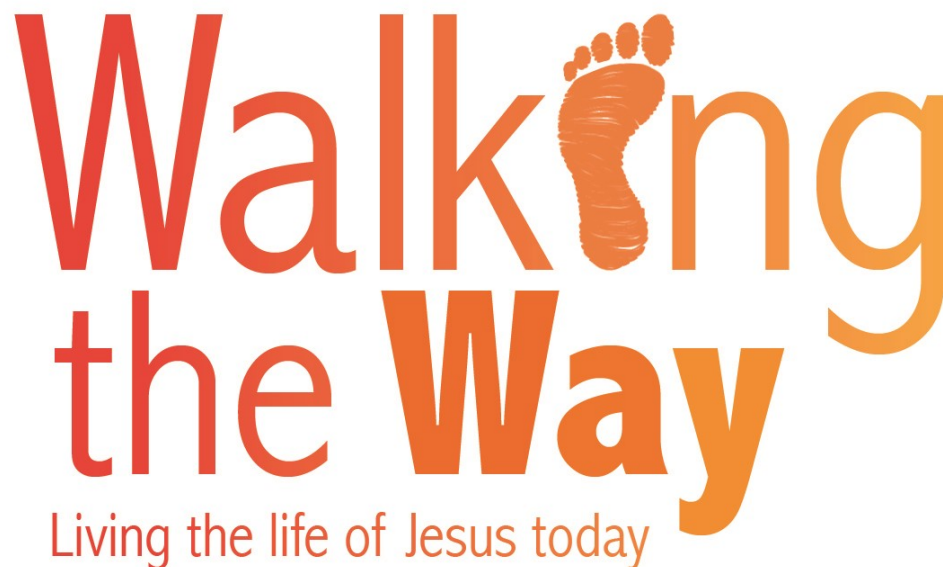
Such information will be given to you as soon as possible.

## **A NEW BOOK**

C S Lewis wrote: "When pain is to be borne, a little courage helps more than much knowledge, a little human sympathy more than much courage, and the knowledge of the love of God more than all."

Over the past year there have been times when illness or accidents of members of the church family have not been communicated so that we could include prayers in our Services. There will now be a book at the entrance to the church and if you know of anyone who needs our prayers please fill in the details in the book BEFORE the Service so that our prayers can be included that Sunday, and members can use them in their own devotions during the week.

*Haydn Higton*



## **IMPORTANT NOTICE - HOSPITAL IN-PATIENTS**

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act, the new Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary (DGRI), in line with other health boards, no longer has In-patient Pastoral Visiting Lists available for our perusal.

If you know of anyone who has been admitted to hospital, can you please advise the Revd. Haydn Higton or your Elder.

If we don't know, we can't visit.

*Jim Murray*

## **UNSUNG HEROES**

The flowers distributed on Mothering Sunday are a timely reminder that there are many jobs done on behalf of the church family for which we don't often express our gratitude. It's worth remembering that the church family would be so much poorer if these tasks were not done.

It is tempting to provide a list of names and the work done for the church, but this may not include all aspects, so the next time there is a call for a volunteer to continue the mission of the church think about becoming one of the unsung heroes and heroines!

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## **SYNOD**

The spring Synod meeting took place at Tulliallan police college on 16th to 18th March 2018. Unfortunately, and despite our best intentions, ill health overcame Benjamin and thus we were unable to attend.

We were saddened at this as we had been looking forward to the weekend for some time. However, our inability to adequately represent Annan, due to the aforementioned ill health, helped to confirm some thoughts we have held for a while - that it is time for someone else to be synod reps for our church.

We have enjoyed our time as synod reps and would wholeheartedly recommend attending the spring meeting especially. As well as business a great deal of fun is often had and friendships are made.

Although we cannot offer a personalised report, we can still give our report booklets to anyone who asks, and likewise can share the minutes of the meeting once they are released.

We want to use this opportunity to announce to the church that, with regrets, we are stepping down as synod reps. We will of course pass on any information we get regarding synod to the elders and/or new reps once elected.

We would like to thank Annan URC for giving us the opportunities we have had, apologise once more for our inability to attend this most recent meeting, and offer our support to anyone who wishes to be a synod rep in the future.

*Joseph & Benjamin Kidd-Bentley*

## **TUESDAY AFTERNOON**

Billed as a Games Afternoon – but do you know what happens? Both Knit and Natter on Tuesday mornings and the Games in the afternoon need more participants.

Games include Dominoes and Kurling – yes, with a “K”, and it can be played sitting down if you prefer. Kurling involves getting your “stone” (metal disc with wheels) from one end of the hall to the other. Other table games, such as Drafts, Scrabble or Chess, could be included if there were folk to play them.

It gets you out each week, and not only to play but to enjoy tea, coffee and cake, and to have a bit of a chat. The afternoons are from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and we can offer transport if required – come and join in.

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## **WHERE HAVE ALL THE BAKERS GONE?**

Each month there are appeals for donations of cakes, pastries, chutney, jams etc to help raise funds at our Soup & Sweet and other lunches but very few contributions are received. When Alan was inducted and the church was packed we had a surfeit of food donated, and in the past our folk could be relied upon to support church activities.

If you do not bake now, you could come to the lunches and we promise you will not be asked to serve or wash up! Just come - to help our fund-raising!

We have an estimate approaching £10,000 to seal the church roof – will you help by coming to support YOUR FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE?

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## **“WHO’S GOT THE HANDICAP?”**

If you fail to see the person but only see the disability, then who is blind?

If you cannot hear your brother’s cry for justice, who is deaf?

If you do not communicate with your sister, who is disabled?

If your heart and mind do not reach out to your neighbour, who has the mental handicap?

If you do not stand up for the rights of all persons, who is the cripple?

Your attitude towards persons with disabilities may be our biggest handicap, and yours too.

*(by someone with cerebral palsy)*

## **COMMITMENT FOR LIFE - BANGLADESH - GOLDEN DREAM**

Major flooding from the sea over 70 kilometres away, has left the ground unusable in a small village in South West Bangladesh. Christian Aid partner, The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh, worked with the villagers to find ways to help them should flooding happen again. Previously flood water drained away naturally but a dam was built to stop sea water entering the delta. This altered the flow so now water can't drain away sufficiently, leaving the ground salinated and unable to sustain crops. At one point the people dug up the bulbs of water hyacinths or lilies to eat. They are not nutritious but fill up the stomach.

The first thing CCDB suggested was to set up the Sonalir Shopnaw Mohila forum. The forum members were then encouraged to build a small hut to meet in and to decide what they felt was needed for their community. This process has taken a while but now the hut is well used for climate change adaption training and basic literacy. Inside they keep books on climate change, a megaphone to use as an early warning system, torches, bottles of water and a radio. The forum members meet once a month to discuss any current issues and are well informed about climate adaptation.

The first project involved raising the platform for the pump to 6ft above ground level. This means that if a flooding happens the villagers can still get water. CCDB have given the forum saline tolerant seeds and encouraged them to diversify away from crops. They have also tried growing turmeric on floating gardens made from layers of water hyacinths.

The Vice President of the forum, Shova Biswas, explained how she had been in the forum for 3 years and how support and training from CCDB has changed their lives.

"We have been able to save money and become more self-reliant through selling fish and chickens. We are using saline resistant seeds but the yield is not always so good. They have made us more aware of the issues and the benefits of working together. CCDB also helped with some basic education. Now, I can write a little English and read Bangla. This helps my children."

Shova hopes one day that she can travel and tell her story. "Being a lady from a poor area we have already gained and, in the future, can gain more. This forum's name means 'Golden Dream' and I hope our dream will be fulfilled."



## **MONTH OF RAINBOWS**

April is the month of rainbows: sunshine after rain.  
April comes to tell us that in spite of strife and pain -  
Joy is ever waiting at the threshold of the heart.  
Life has always something good and lovely to impart.

April comes to give us lessons in philosophy –  
When the day is dark and stormy, suddenly we see  
Silver edges to the linings of the skies of grey;  
In a moment it is light, a bright and sunny day.

Rainbows spanning earth and heaven: promise of new hope –  
In the presence of such glory, dare we grieve or mope?  
Is not this the hand of God upon the cloud above:  
The symbol of his covenant of mercy and of love?

*Church Gardener*

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## **SHOEBOX TIME**

It's never too early to start packing shoeboxes to make a youngster happy next Christmas.  
There is a supply of empty shoeboxes in the church already covered in Christmas paper and  
waiting for you to take some to be filled.

Boxes can be filled with soap, toothbrush and paste, warm hats and gloves, crayons, drawing  
and writing pads, pens, toys, hairbrushes, clasps and ribbons etc.

We never know who will receive a box but we do know boxes are given to youngsters who  
struggle to get basic necessities and a shoebox may be the only gift they receive at Christmas.

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## **BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE ...**

Or the second one half price ... and so on. We are bombarded with offers and promises to  
persuade us to buy or contribute. Please bear in mind the Food Bank, where the need is  
becoming greater and greater.

The church donated another 4 bags in February and donations of tinned or packaged soup,  
tins of coffee, hot chocolate, cereals, tins of fruit or vegetables, tins of meat (corned beef, ham,  
sausages) will always be useful.

Keep up your caring for others.

*Editor's Note:*

*Financial details on this page are only available in printed copies.*



## **APRIL 2018 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

|          |                                                                                                            |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 1st  | Easter Sunday Communion Service - 10:30 am                                                                 |
| Tue 3rd  | Knit & Natter - 10:00 am in hall, and every Tuesday                                                        |
|          | All Ability Games - 2:00 pm in hall, and every Tuesday                                                     |
| Sun 8th  | Morning Worship and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am                                                              |
| Mon 9th  | Floral Art Group - 7:00 pm in hall                                                                         |
| Thu 12th | Soup & Sweet Lunches - 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in hall                                                         |
| Sun 15th | Morning Worship and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am                                                              |
| Tue 17th | Rainbow Tribe and Spectrum - 6:00 pm, and every Tuesday in term time                                       |
| Thu 19th | Girls' Brigade - 6:00 pm in hall, and every Thursday in term time                                          |
| Sun 22nd | Morning Worship and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am                                                              |
| Sun 22nd | Deadline for May Newsletter items to reach Ruth Mitchell, please, including your group meeting diary dates |
| Fri 27th | Friday Fellowship - 2:00 pm in church                                                                      |
| Sun 29th | Morning Worship and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am                                                              |
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### 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.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL

|          |                          |                        |
|----------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Sun 1st  | Ezekiel 37:1-14          | Luke 24:13-35          |
| Mon 2nd  | Isaiah 54:1-14           | Romans 1:1-7           |
| Tue 3rd  | Isaiah 51:1-11           | John 5:19-29           |
| Wed 4th  | Isaiah 26:1-19           | John 20:1-10           |
| Thu 5th  | Isaiah 43:14-21          | Revelation 1:4-end     |
| Fri 6th  | Isaiah 42:10-17          | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 |
| Sat 7th  | Job 14:1-14              | John 21:1-14           |
| Sun 8th  | Isaiah 26:1-9,19         | Luke 24:1-12           |
| Mon 9th  | Ezekiel 1:22-end         | Revelation 4           |
| Tue 10th | Proverbs 8:1-11          | Acts 16:6-15           |
| Wed 11th | Hosea 5:15 - 6:6         | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11  |
| Thu 12th | Jonah 2                  | Mark 4:35-end          |
| Fri 13th | Genesis 6:9-end          | 1 Peter 3:8-end        |
| Sat 14th | 1 Samuel 2:1-8           | Matthew 28:8-15        |
| Sun 15th | Deuteronomy 7:7-13       | Revelation 2:1-11      |
| Mon 16th | Exodus 24:1-11           | Revelation 5           |
| Tue 17th | Leviticus 19:9-18,32-end | Matthew 5:38-end       |
| Wed 18th | Genesis 3:6-21           | 1 Corinthians 15:12-28 |
| Thu 19th | Isaiah 33:13-22          | Mark 6:47-end          |
| Fri 20th | Nehemiah 9:6-17          | Romans 5:12-end        |
| Sat 21st | Isaiah 61:10 - 62:5      | Luke 24:1-12           |
| Sun 22nd | Exodus 16:4-15           | Revelation 2:12-17     |
| Mon 23rd | Jeremiah 31:10-17        | Revelation 7:9-end     |
| Tue 24th | Job 31:13-23             | Matthew 7:1-12         |
| Wed 25th | Genesis 2:4b-9           | 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 |
| Thu 26th | Proverbs 28:3-end        | Mark 10:17-31          |
| Fri 27th | Ecclesiastes 12:1-8      | Romans 6:1-11          |
| Sat 28th | 1 Chronicles 29:10-13    | Luke 24:13-35          |
| Sun 29th | Isaiah 60:1-14           | Revelation 3:1-13      |
| Mon 30th | Genesis 15:1-18          | Romans 4:13-end        |
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|          |                          |                        |