

Annan United Reformed Church

www.annanurc.org.uk or www.annanurc.btck.co.uk

(see page 7)



March 2018 Newsletter



MARCH 2018 WORSHIP AT ANNAN URC

Sunday 4th March: Communion Service - Mrs Lesley Richmond

Prayer Leader: C McCreadie

Bible Readings: D Maxwell
N Maxwell

Sunday 11th March: Morning Service (Mothering Sunday) - Rev Haydn Higton

Prayer Leader: J Kidd-Bentley

Bible Readings: R Richardson
J Pool

Sunday 18th March: Morning Service - tba

Prayer Leader: H Higton

Bible Readings: J Kidd-Bentley
M Kerr

Sunday 25th March: Morning Service (Palm Sunday) - Mrs Rosalind Fearon

Prayer Leader: N Maxwell

Bible Readings: M Lamont
F Glass

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

Prayer Leader: H McNairn

Bible Readings: H Higton
J Murray

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.

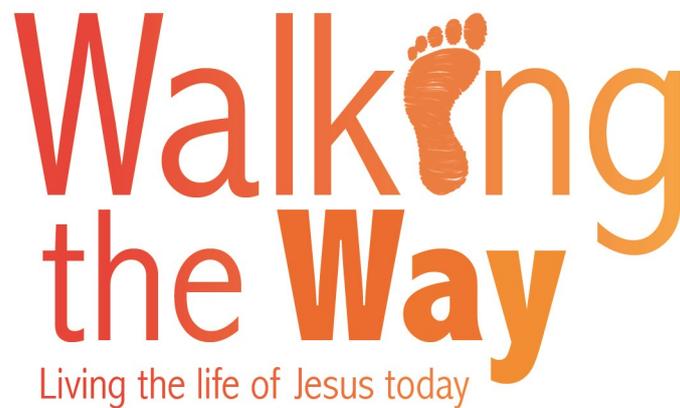
Such information will be given to you as soon as possible.

LENT – GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT

We are in the period in the church calendar leading up to Holy Week and Easter. It is a time to consider a change of heart – to look into what we do and say – to think whether we need to change. Self-examination – seeing ourselves honestly as God sees us – is neither easy nor pleasant.

But the way Jesus walked wasn't either. His way took Him to Gethsemane and Calvary and to Resurrection. Let Jesus into your life and experience a time of growth as we take up our cross of self and follow Christ and His Way.

Haydn Higton



MUM

A badge on a birthday card said “The Best Mum in the World” and we can spend a little time thinking what makes the best mum so special. Perhaps it is because she is always so caring, always wants the best for us – or she is a good cook, or a willing taxi-driver to school or other activities, and she is always there to listen to us.

On Mothering Sunday, we reflect on the importance of mothers – we can give them thanks, gifts and kind deeds. Every mother has made an incredible contribution to our personal lives.

So, this month let us support families with our prayers and encouragement, whether they are close to us or only some that we know slightly. It is from mothers that we learn to love.

Mothering Sunday was traditionally a day when people returned to their mother church – a congregation in which they had been brought up within the faith community. Can we hope that members of the church family whom we don't see often might take the opportunity to make Mothering Sunday a day to come to church to praise God for mothers and all the good things in life?

Haydn Higton

MARCH – MONTH OF THE GOLDEN DAFFODIL

I am sure you will agree that William Wordsworth's poem – "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud", describes daffodils to perfection.

I WANDERED LONELY AS A CLOUD
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

Church Gardener



WILL YOU COME?

Friday 2nd March at 2 pm in the URC: World Day of Prayer Service

Friday 2nd March at 7 pm in the Hub, Ednam Street: ACT Fridays in Faith
for adults and youngsters – all welcome.

Thursday 8th March from 11:30 to 1:30 in the hall: Soup and Sweet Lunches
Come and enjoy the food and a chat

Saturday 10th March from 10 am to noon in the URC building:
Annan Churches Together Spring Fayre

Friday 16th March at 2:30 in church: Friday Fellowship Daffodil Tea
with Lockerbie Salvation Army Singers – all invited

Saturday 17th March from 10 am to noon at Richard Greenhow Centre, Gretna:
Kate's Kitchen needs your vote at the Funding Review to secure funding to enable their
vital work to continue

About this event: The Scottish Government has introduced a new method of funding called "Participatory Budgeting" (see [www.gov.scot/.../participatory budgeting](http://www.gov.scot/.../participatory-budgeting)). An appointed panel will decide on funding for organisations which apply for Community Choices Fund monies, through a public vote. The procedure asks that applicants put on a display in relation to the application at the venue and members of the public who attend will then vote for the applicant they deem worthy. The money will be shared among the applicants in proportion to the votes.

ACT HOLY WEEK SERVICES - ALL AT 7PM

Monday 26th March at St John's Episcopal Church

Tuesday 27th March at St Andrew's Church of Scotland

Wednesday 28th March at St Columba's Roman Catholic Church

Thursday 29th March at Dornock Church of Scotland (Annan Old Parish)

Friday 30th March at the United Reformed Church

Good Friday 30th March from 10 am to noon in Annan High Street:
Distribution of Hot Cross Buns and collection of prayer requests

Easter Sunday 1st April at 8 am at the Motte: Easter service
followed by breakfast at Annan Old Parish Church hall

FOUR BAGS FULL

This is the quantity of food donated to the Food Bank at Kate's Kitchen for the month of January – four large polybags filled. Well done – keep the donations flowing in.

As you are all aware, Kate's Kitchen was born from Annan Churches Together, and support from the churches has always been amazing and helped in so many ways. You can become a "Friend of Kate's Kitchen" for an annual subscription of £5, and you then receive a quarterly newsletter with news and events, plus an invitation to an annual tea party/garden party.

Further information can be obtained from Catherine Dale – telephone 01461 700324 or mobile 07775 449558 or email cat.dale@btinternet.com

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## **EBB AND FLOW**

The launch of this book in our church in January emphasised our connections as the Fisherman's Church. Despite a snowy afternoon, those folk who braved the weather enjoyed a programme of readings, poetry and songs, all rounded off by "fish-based" food refreshments in the hall.

Copies of the book can be obtained from any member of the Annan Harbour Action Group, or at their premises at Unit 1a, Silverlaw Industrial Estate, in return for a small donation to their funds.

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A USEFUL WALL

We hear much about walls being built to keep people in or out, or to divide communities, so it is refreshing to read in the CARE Prayer Diary:

"There are 20 African countries working together to create The Great Green Wall of trees and plants to combat creeping desertification. This natural wonder of the world stretching eight thousand kilometres across the entire width of Africa aims to provide food, jobs and a future for the millions of people who live on the front line of climate change. Once completed, The Great Green Wall will be the largest living structure on Earth".

Haydn Higton

NEW WEBSITE COMING

For the past six years our church has had a website – www.annanurc.org.uk. This was maintained via the URC facility called iChurch based at the Windermere Centre. That facility has relocated following closure of the Centre and is now moving onto a commercial footing with annual fees.

In light of this, the Elders have authorised transfer to a different website service. This new one is free to charities and will not incur any charges.

We do not know exactly when the old website will be removed, but the new one is already set up (in draft form) as www.annanurc.btck.co.uk.

It will take some time to compile the full version of the new site. In the meantime, content on the existing website will continue to be updated weekly, whilst pages are also gradually added to the new one. Anyone interested can access either the old site (until it is switched off) or the new site, which is already 'live'.

If anyone has content they would like to see appear on our website, please feel free to send a note about it to me, or draft wording of a page item. You can send an email to robertmitchell821@btinternet.com, or written notes can be left at church addressed to Robert Mitchell, Communications.

Robert Mitchell

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## **FAIRTRADE DROP IN TASTING EVENING**

Dumfries Fairtrade Group is holding a free event on Thursday 1st March

7pm to 9pm at The Stove, 100 High Street, Dumfries.

Short Films - Info - Free Tastings - Coffee - Tea - Chocolate - Wine

All welcome

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FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP – AN INVITATION

On Friday 16th March, the Friday Fellowship are having a Daffodil Tea in the church, commencing at 2:30 pm. The entertainment for the afternoon will be provided by the Lockerbie Salvation Army Singers.

Friends from the other churches in the town are joining with us on this occasion. This will be a light-hearted time of music, song and fellowship; we hope members of our own congregation will support this event.

Marion Kerr

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE - BANGLADESH

It is always good to hear how the training and help from Christian Aid partners has changed lives and brought joy. Here are a few messages from forum members in South West Bangladesh, supported by Christian Aid partner Shushilan:

Kazol Mondal: "People are willing to learn. This is very important. I hear what is being said at meetings so, with the training, I can go and try it out and then help others. This is making life good."

Hadondada Mondal: "Before Hurricane Aila hit us we used to get a good crop but, after Aila, the crops were not healthy and the yield low. Through Shushilan we have learnt to adapt. This has helped us to stay here. Now we use less seeds as we measure our fields out. First, we prepare the beds, then we sow the seeds and then plant them out in rows. Through this system nothing is wasted. Earlier it was haphazard but now we put them 6 inches apart in straight rows. It is simple, and it reduces the fertilizer and makes it easier to harvest."

Gogonananka Kaman Mondol explained: "We have benefitted from production training. Now we go to market first and negotiate the price before we bring the produce. If it is a good price, we take the crop to the buyer. We negotiate, and this make us proud."

Karuna Raptan has been involved in fish cultivation: "Earlier I went about it in an unplanned way. After a year and one harvest I was taught to clean the pond, then put food in with the new fish eggs. This has meant I have double and sometimes triple the yield than I had before. I use snails as food. I break the shells and mix with sand, dust, straw and use as food and fertilizer."

Blowing a shell to make a noise is a sign of joy in Bangladesh. In this community forum, that sense of joy is palpable, especially among the women playing a full part in the business and work.



COMMITMENT FOR LIFE – KNITTING AGAIN

An extra message from Commitment for Life co-ordinator Linda Mead:

Some of you will remember that last year I asked for knitters to make fruit for Greenbelt, the Christian arts festival held in August. The response was tremendous and so well received by festival goers. This year we are looking for volunteers to make flowers to create a garden in the tent, as part of a pilgrimage theme. The flowers can be made of anything, wool, paper, felt etc. They can be of any size and colour and amount. If you have a craft group that might be interested, please email me at this address and I can give you more details.

Linda Mead <linda.mead@urc.org.uk>

DATES FOR OUR PRAYERS MARCH 2018

- 27 Feb Fair Trade Fortnight continues to 11th March.
- 1st World Book Day - give thanks for our access to the written word and pray for accessibility to books for adults and children throughout the world.
- 1st Self Injury Awareness Day - self-harming is a coping mechanism which people use to deal with intense emotional distress. Pray that those in need can gain access to the help which is available.
- 7th World Maths Day - students from across the globe unite in a celebration of numeracy over the internet - pray for a global lifting of standards of numeracy.
- 8th International Women's Day - celebrate the achievement of women while focussing on progress which still needs to be made in the attitudes to and treatment of women.
- 9-18 National Science and Engineering Week (formerly National Science week) - pray for interest and participation in science, engineering and technology – for all ages.
- 11th Mothering Sunday - pray for mothers, especially those who grieve for children, and for children without mothers. (See also article on page 3)
- 11-17 World Glaucoma Week - a response to concern over the world-wide increase in people with Glaucoma. Pray for greater awareness and availability of treatment to prevent an increased risk of total blindness if people go undiagnosed and untreated.
- 20th World Storytelling Day - in a country with a story-telling tradition, pray for the tradition to continue, and for us to be willing to listen to the stories others have to tell.
- 21st World Forestry Day – the world needs to be aware of the importance of its forested areas: for the health of the planet, for biodiversity and the preservation of habitat for forest flora and fauna, and for human activity.
- 21st International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - the anniversary of that day in 1960 when police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid pass laws. We need to pray against the current rise in such similar discrimination.
- 22nd World Day for Water - pray for the global need for awareness of the importance of water sources and accessibility of drinking water. At their time of drought, pray especially for the people of Cape Town.
- 24th World Tuberculosis Day - are we aware that TB is still found in epidemic proportions in many parts of particularly the third world? This date commemorates the discovery of the TB bacillus.



Editor's Note:

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

MARCH 2018 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thu 1st	Girls' Brigade - 6:00 pm in hall, and every Thursday in term time
Thu 1st	Fairtrade Tasting Evening - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at The Stove by Dumfries Fairtrade Group
Fri 2nd	World Day of Prayer Service - 2:00 pm in URC church
Fri 2nd	ACT Fridays in Faith - 7:00 pm in The HUB, Ednam Street
Sun 4th	Communion Service and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am
Mon 5th	Floral Art Group - 7:00 pm in hall
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
Thu 8th	Soup & Sweet Lunches - 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in hall
Sat 10th	ACT Spring Fayre - 10:00 am to noon at URC
Sun 11th	Morning Service (Mothering Sunday) and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am
Fri 16th	Friday Fellowship Daffodil Tea - 2:30 pm
Sun 18th	Morning Worship and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am
Sun 25th	Morning Worship and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am
Sun 25th	Deadline for April Newsletter items to reach Ruth Mitchell, please, including your group meeting diary dates
Mon 26th	ACT Holy Week Service - 7:00 pm at St John's Episcopal Church
Tue 27th	ACT Holy Week Service - 7:00 pm at St Andrew's Church of Scotland
Wed 28th	ACT Holy Week Service - 7:00 pm at St Columba's RC Church
Thu 29th	ACT Holy Week Service - 7:00 pm at Dornock Church of Scotland
Fri 30th	ACT Hot Cross Buns distribution and Prayers collection 10:00 am till noon in High Street
Fri 30th	ACT Holy Week Service - 7:00 pm at United Reformed Church
Sun 1st April	ACT Easter Service - 8:00 am at the Motte followed by breakfast in Annan Old Parish Church hall
Sun 1st	Easter Sunday Communion Service - 10:30 am

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
Thu 1st	2 Chronicles 29:1-11	Mark 11:15-19
Fri 2nd	Exodus 19:1-9a	1 Peter 1:1-9
Sat 3rd	Exodus 19:9b-19	Acts 7:44-50
Sun 4th	Exodus 5:1 to 6:1	Philippians 3:4b-14
Mon 5th	Joshua 4:1-13	Luke 9:1-11
Tue 6th	Exodus 15:22-27	Hebrews 10:32-end
Wed 7th	Genesis 9:8-17	1 Peter 3:18-end
Thu 8th	Daniel 12:5-end	Mark 13:21-end
Fri 9th	Numbers 20:1-13	1 Corinthians 10:23-end
Sat 10th	Isaiah 43:14-end	Hebrews 3:1-15
Sun 11th	Exodus 6:2-13	Romans 5:1-11
Mon 12th	2 Kings 24:18 to 25:7	1 Corinthians 15:20-34
Tue 13th	Jeremiah 13:12-19	Acts 13:26-35
Wed 14th	Jeremiah 13:20-27	1 Peter 1:17 to 2:3
Thu 15th	Jeremiah 22:11-19	Luke 11:37-52
Fri 16th	Jeremiah 17:1-14	Luke 6:17-26
Sat 17th	Ezra 1	2 Corinthians 1:12-19
Sun 18th	Exodus 7:8-24	Romans 5:12-21
Mon 19th	Joel 2:12-17	2 John
Tue 20th	Isaiah 58:1-14	Mark 10:32-45
Wed 21st	Job 36:1-12	John 14:1-14
Thu 22nd	Jeremiah 9:17-22	Luke 13:31-35
Fri 23rd	Lamentations 5:1-3, 19-22	John 12:20-26
Sat 24th	Job 17:6-end	John 12:27-36
Sun 25th	Isaiah 5:1-7	Mark 12:1-12
Mon 26th	Lamentations 1:1-12a	Luke 22:1-23
Tue 27th	Lamentations 2:10-18	Luke 22:24-53
Wed 28th	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Luke 22:54-71
Thu 29th	Leviticus 16:2-24	Luke 23:1-25
Fri 30th	Genesis 22:1-18	John 19:38-end
Sat 31st	Hosea 6:1-6	John 2:18-22