

Annan United Reformed Church

www.annanurc.btck.co.uk



October 2018 Newsletter



OCTOBER 2018 WORSHIP AT ANNAN URC

Sunday 7th October: **Harvest Thanksgiving Communion Service -
Rev Iain Mackenzie**

Prayer Leader: D Maxwell

Bible Readings: H McNairn
 N Maxwell

Sunday 14th October: **Morning Service - Rev John Scott**

Prayer Leader: M Jones

Bible Readings: M Kerr
 M Jones

Sunday 21st October: **Morning Service - Rev Sarah Moore**

Prayer Leader: H McNairn

Bible Readings: H Higon
 J Pool

Sunday 28th October: **Morning Service - tba**

Prayer Leader: N Maxwell

Bible Readings D Maxwell
 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.

ARE YOU IN?

So far, it's been a very mixed year from the weather point of view - a cold wet winter followed by a summer of hot sunshine. The year has also seen some changes in our church life, and we should continue our search to spread the love of God and see that the local churches are serving in the local community.

We are still seeking a minister to help us uphold the wonderful traditions and worship within the church, and to help us maintain serving among our contacts and groups outside our buildings, and we need to see the church family as an integral part of the community.

A church doesn't exist just to hold Sunday services – it should be active, vibrant and hard-working in going out into the neighbourhood, because that's what a church should do and where a church should be – upholding individuals and families in times of need or celebrating with them through joyful times. The church needs to be there for people whenever it is needed.

All these things need people, especially You – we cannot serve without your hands, feet and ideas. We need a refreshed attitude, so that supporting the work is a privilege not a chore and more people come very regularly – not just when they have nothing else on. Make the work of God a priority in your life!!

Being a church family in vacancy is a challenging time, but our aim is not just to survive: our aim is to show the love of God in many ways in Annan and elsewhere. With the help of generous and loving people we are doing that – thanks to everyone who comes regularly – but we welcome others to come and join us regularly.

Haydn Highton

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## **CHURCH GARDENS SUCCESS**

The church gardens once again won The Best Commercial Garden in the Community Council's annual garden competition this summer.

The gardens are not only enjoyed by the people in our church, but also by all the visitors who come through our doors and members of our town.

Well done again to our gardener. I can remember as a little girl being asked to shout Dad in for his tea from the church garden, and he's still there all these years on!

*Fiona Glass*

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Since 1990, more than 157million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Every shoebox is a tangible expression of God's amazing love and the support of churches and other groups is vital; and it supports other communities across the world.

The countries UK sent to in 2017 are:

Albania, Belarus, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Central Asia, Estonia, Latvia, Liberia, Macedonia, Middle East, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

Samaritan's Purse sent 678,000 shoeboxes from the UK last year – this enabled local churches working in their own communities in over 160 countries around the world to share God's love with children receiving a gift-filled shoebox.

It also presents an opportunity in more than 100 countries for churches to invite children into a deeper relationship with Jesus through "The Greatest Journey Bible Discovery Course".

The impact of your shoeboxes is described by a boy whose sister received a shoebox. He said: "I wish to say thank you for the wonderful things you are doing to put a smile on the face of a child. The donations you make really mean a lot to children and families. I'm hereby saying thank you and please do not stop doing good, because it brings joy and love in the lives of little ones".

Can we bring our shoeboxes by 7th November ready for despatch? Everyone can join in by praying for Operation Christmas Child and all its efforts.

*Haydn Higton*

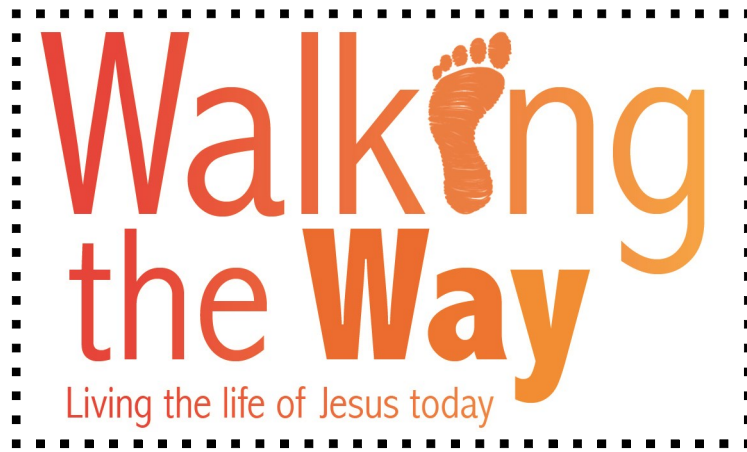
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SAFEGUARDING

All organisations involved in contact with young and vulnerable people are required to have and operate a Safeguarding Policy. Part of this provision is to have a nominated Safeguarding Officer. This person has the responsibility for ensuring the maintenance of necessary documentation and being the first reference point in the church for any queries about the policy or matters covered by it.

Paula Mitchell previously fulfilled this role (thank you Paula) but has now resigned, and the Elders are urgently seeking a replacement person to ensure that we comply with the latest legal requirements. If you are interested in undertaking this task, please contact Haydn Higton (who is temporarily acting as point of contact for safeguarding matters).

Church Administrator



WORSHIP PLANNING GROUP

No doubt, you will all be aware of “Walking the Way”, which the URC churches are embarking on. Thence, we as a church are very conscious that many of our elderly church members are no longer able to attend Sunday services for different reasons.

On Saturday 17th November, we are planning a get-together, in the form of an afternoon tea with entertainment given by Mrs Barbara Lewis’s choir, in the church at 2:00pm, to which all the elderly folk will be invited. Transport will be provided (if required).

PS If any of our church members know of anyone who would like to come, could you please let any of the worship planning group know, so that we don’t miss anyone out.

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### **ANNAN FOOD BANK**

A reminder that dried, tinned & packaged items for the Food Bank are always needed.

Contributions can be left in the appropriate marked box in the church vestibule, from where they are regularly delivered to Kate’s Kitchen for distribution to those in need in Annan.

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LUNCHES

The total raised at the Harvest Lunches held on Thursday 13th September was £603.45. Our grateful thanks to all those who helped on the day & also to those who came along & supported the event. Our regular Soup and Sweet Lunches are served on the second Thursday in each month (except August) and are enjoyed for good food, friendship and fellowship. There is always a stall selling delicious home-bakes such as cakes, biscuits pies and preserves, and also a tombola. Items for the stall are always welcomed on the morning of the lunch, and donations for the tombola can be brought at any time and left in the marked box in the church vestibule.

The next lunch will be on Thursday 11th October between 11:30 and 1:30 in the church hall.

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE – STORIES FOR CHANGE – 146

(After several months when we didn't receive Stories for Life from Linda Mead, she discovered an error in my recorded email address – she has now corrected it, so these regular bulletins should resume – Editor)

BANGLADESH

The Rohingya crisis is an important part of Christian Aid's work at present in Bangladesh. Their site management team has created an action plan for the Jamtoli Camp, mapping out activities in 5 areas:

- ⇒ Site improvement (new road, solar lights),
- ⇒ Community engagement (complaint & feedback mechanism),
- ⇒ Information management (database for individual household info),
- ⇒ Site coordination.
- ⇒ GPS map of the entire camp including locations of toilets, showers, tube wells.

Ongoing challenges include waste management. With a densely-packed camp of over 50,000 people, poor toilet planning can lead to high risk of disease (i.e. chronic diarrhoea, cholera). Christian Aid is coordinating with WASH partners to ensure proper installation and maintenance of latrines, including installing latrines with double chambers or deeper pits. They are currently piloting a block-by-block complaint & feedback mechanism for the Jamtoli's Rohingya population, including use of voice recorders and tablets.

Agriculture and Seed Promotion Program

Demand for quality seeds is very high in Bangladesh. Almost 80% of the total demand is met by the farmers themselves whilst the rest comes from the government, non-government organisations and private companies

Quality seeds are crucial to maximize the production of crops but often the seeds produced by the farmers fail to meet the quality standard. In view of this, CCDB has extended support to the farmers in the form of knowledge and skills so they can produce and preserve good quality seeds to ensure a better yield.

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## **PERSONAL DATA PRIVACY**

Many organisations that hold personal data have recently found it appropriate to publish a statement of how they comply with the latest General Data Protection Regulation.

For our church the Elders have agreed a Data Privacy Statement to cover the arrangements concerning personal data about church members that is held by the church.

Encapsulated copies of the full Statement have been posted on the church noticeboards in the church and hall buildings, and the full text is available on the church website.

*Church Administrator*

## THE HARVEST OF THE SPIRIT

The harvest is gathered, the crops are brought in.  
Give thanks, now, for fruit and for grain,  
The bounty of nature, gifts in good measure.  
All blessed by the sun and the rain.  
The harvest is needed to feed everyone,  
To help every day to begin;  
But the Fruit of the Spirit sustains us  
And nourishes us daily within.

The harvest of Spirit is faith, joy and peace,  
With hope for tomorrow today,  
With beauty around and love in abundance  
And guidance to show us the way.  
Rejoice in the harvest and all the earth gives,  
Give thanks for the blessings you find.  
Reach out to each other with trust and with love,  
Share the harvest with all of mankind.

*Church Gardener*

*The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity,  
Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. Galatians 5:22-23 NRSV*

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*A THANK-YOU FROM THE
OCTOGENARIAN CHURCH GARDENER*

*I would like to thank all who gave me gifts, cards and
good wishes on my 80th Birthday.*

It was very much appreciated.

Irving

What did I do in my Summer Holidays?

Being one of the very fortunate people who work in a school, I enjoyed seven weeks of lovely holiday this summer.

It was a great time to catch up with family and friends and I took full advantage of the lovely hot days we had week after week this year.

My first trip this year was to Carlisle Castle to visit the Weeping Window ceramic poppy display by the artist Tom Cummings which has been touring the country over the past months. The display was breath-taking as the poppies cascaded over the castle and made a bridge up on the high roofs. The day I visited it was bathed in bright sunshine which made it so beautiful. It was a poignant reminder of the significance of the poppy to us all today.

Poppies once again featured on our week in Northumberland as the local church in Beadnell where we stayed had a poppy display to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1. These poppies were hand knitted and covered the altar of the small church and hung from the pews. A lovely display of white poppies mixed with red added an interesting colour variation to the display. The church door also had poppies all round its arch.

When we visited the amazing Alnwick Garden this year it had silhouettes of first World War soldiers or Tommies placed in the garden to remember the 13 members of the Duke of Northumberland's staff who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the First World War. One was placed high up on the entrance to the Rose Garden with a tiny speck of red against the black frame of the soldier.

As well as Northumberland I was again in the Scottish Borders having time in Galashiels with my sister. The Borders Railway took us into Edinburgh - always such a busy city. We also had a day trip to Berwick Upon Tweed, bringing back happy memories of caravan holidays there when our sons were young. Their joy of having a pet crab for a week in a bucket and the sadness on the last day of having to release it back into the sea - simple pleasures but happy memories.

Simple pleasures were reading lots of books that had sat unopened for many months (read in the sun in the garden when Jet our Labrador had rare times of exhaustion and actually slept and didn't want to play ball!!). Being a lady who went to lunch or a spa morning were also very enjoyable.

We once again marvelled at the foresight of Robert Owen when we visited New Lanark at the end of the holidays.

The term is now in full swing, but the October holidays are getting closer.

Fiona Glass

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

Editor

Youthink

National Synod Of Scotland Youth Exec Newsletter

Up Coming Events

Outdoor Activity Weekend

19-21 October 2018

Ardeonaig outdoor centre

For people aged P7-21

For forms contact Patsi at the synod office pdickie@urcscotland.org.uk

We are hoping to have a great weekend, a chance to catch up with friends we have already made and make new ones, we plan to do two activities. We also plan to have a campfire, games and a film night.

There is a limited amount of spaces so its first come first serve.



Youth Assembly 2019

One Body : We're all in this together

18-20 January

A weekend to focus on Jesus, to share in community with other young people, and explore what it means to be a church together.

For people aged S3 to 25

Book your place at

<https://goo.gl/forms/gwgvpc1CagszIWF32>

Or

Contact the children and youth office

Tel. 020 7916 8683

Email : children.youth@urc.org.uk

The Synod usually pays for 10 places, if more than 10 people wish to attend all places will be subsidised equally

Tiree Pilgrimage

August 2019

A Chance for the youth to spend time together and explore their own personal faith

Further information will be available nearer the time

Charity event to raise money for the homeless

The youth have asked each church in the synod to raise money for a homeless charity of their choice before March synod 2019. The youth will talk about it more at the synod meeting in September.

OCTOBER 2018 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 1st	Floral Art Group - 7:00 pm in hall
Tue 2nd	Knit & Natter - 10:00 am in hall, and every Tuesday
Tue 2nd	All Ability Games - 2:00 pm in hall, and every Tuesday
Tue 2nd	Rainbow Tribe and Spectrum - 6:00 pm, and every Tuesday in term time
Thu 4th	Girls' Brigade - 6:00 pm in hall, and every Thursday in term time
Fri 5th	ACT Fridays in Faith - 7:00 pm in The HUB, Ednam Street
Sun 7th	Harvest Thanksgiving Communion Service and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am
Mon 8th	Elders Meeting - 6:30 pm in John Tweddle Room
Wed 10th	SHAP Art and Craft - 2:00 pm in hall
Thu 11th	Soup & Sweet Lunches - 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in hall
Sun 14th	Morning Service and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am
15th-26th	School October Holiday
Sun 21st	Morning Service and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am
Sun 21st	Deadline for November Newsletter items to reach Ruth Mitchell, please, including your group meeting diary dates
Fri 26th	Friday Fellowship - 2:00 pm in church
Sun 28th	Morning Worship and Sunday Seekers - 10:30 am

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 OCTOBER

Mon 1st	2 Samuel 22:4-7,17-20	Hebrews 7:26 to 8:6
Tue 2nd	Proverbs 22:17-end	2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Wed 3rd	Hosea 14	James 2:14-26
Thu 4th	Isaiah 24:1-15	John 16:25-33
Fri 5th	Jeremiah 14:1-9	Luke 23:44-56
Sat 6th	Zechariah 8:14-end	John 20:19-end
Sun 7th	Joshua 3:7-end	Matthew 10:1-22
Mon 8th	1 Kings 3:3-14	1 Timothy 3:14 to 4:8
Tue 9th	Proverbs 27:11-end	Galatians 6:1-10
Wed 10th	Isaiah 51:1-6	2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Thu 11th	Job 26	1 Corinthians 11:17-end
Fri 12th	Job 19:21-end	Mark 15:33-47
Sat 13th	Isaiah 44:21-end	John 21:15-end
Sun 14th	Joshua 5:13 to 6:20	Matthew 11:20-end
Mon 15th	1 Kings 6:2-10	John 12:1-11
Tue 16th	Proverbs 31:10-end	Luke 10:38-42
Wed 17th	Jonah 1	Luke 5:1-11
Thu 18th	Exodus 12:1-20	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Fri 19th	Isaiah 64	Matthew 27:45-56
Sat 20th	2 Samuel 7:18-end	Acts 2:22-33
Sun 21st	Joshua 14:6-14	Matthew 12:1-21
Mon 22nd	1 Kings 8:22-30	John 12:12-19
Tue 23rd	Ecclesiastes 11	Luke 13:10-17
Wed 24th	Hosea 14:1-7	2 Timothy 4:1-8
Thu 25th	Isaiah 49:1-7	John 19:16-25a
Fri 26th	Proverbs 24:3-22	John 8:1-11
Sat 27th	Deuteronomy 6:16-25	2 Timothy 1:1-14
Sun 28th	2 Kings 22	Colossians 3:12-17
Mon 29th	Isaiah 42:14-21	Luke 1:5-25
Tue 30th	1 Samuel 4:12-end	Luke 1:57-80
Wed 31st	Haggai 1:1-11	Mark 1:1-11