

CONTACT

October 2021



**The monthly magazine of
Annan United Reformed Church**



SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Sunday 10th October the Revd Alan Poolton will take the service . This will be a Communion Service

On 17th October the service will feature fellowship time for a chat over coffee/tea and include a short church meeting to allow discussion of a relevant topic for the church – more about this nearer the time.

Sunday 24th October will be Harvest Festival.

Other News

Barbara Lewis is hoping to restart Rainbow Tribe with a first meeting back on 26th October

Early Years Scotland will again be running morning sessions in the hall – this time twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings starting on 21st October
Knit and Natter is now taking place in the Church on a Tuesday morning from 10am until 12 midday, Everyone is welcome.

Magazine

Please note items for the November issue of Contact Magazine should reach Judith by Monday 25th October

CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister (part time)	Rev Alan Poolton contact via church email
Church Email	annanurc@gmail.com
Church Website	https://annanurc.chessck.co.uk
Church Facebook	Annan URC
Church Administrator	Doug Maxwell 01387 249300
Magazine Editor	judith-stannard@hotmail.com 01461 203328

Alan writes

Change

I don't think any of us like change. We become comfortable with things the way we know them.

Some years ago I went on a year long, weekly Person Centred Counselling course for ministry based at a local college. The course was not remarkable, but the people on it were. I became friends with a recovering heroin addict (training to become a counsellor) who had managed to free himself from the addiction using the 12 step programme developed by Alcoholics Anonymous (I've had a few over the years in my churches). He had a unique way of looking at the world based on this (recognising that addiction is greater than you are and being humble enough to recognise when you need help).

One of the rules he taught me sounded bleak - "people never change until **the pain** of staying where you are is greater than the pain of changing". I wanted to say "what about the challenge of new things, what about the hope of starting again?....." The rule is bleak because it says that it is pain which motivates us more than hope.

I must say that my friendship with him changed the way that I saw my ministry, and though it hurt me to recognise this, I looked at the (5) churches in my split pastorate and had to admit that what was true for a recovering heroin addict was in some ways also true for upstanding God fearing folk in church. No-one likes to change.

COVID has affected all sections of society, it has taken churches and shaken them to the core and even here in Annan we have lost folk who passed away with COVID.

I cannot see all of the consequences for our church of the epidemic, but we are in a place where over the next few months we will take decisions we probably would not have taken without COVID, we are beginning a journey together looking at trusteeship, utilising the resources tied up in the manse and possibly employing a Community Outreach Worker (something I first did over 10 years ago). But I would finally have to disagree with my friend. Yes change is inevitable and necessary, but it is not all about pain, it is (as my first instinct said) also about joy and hope for the future.

When I was a young child in church we used to sing a chorus, perhaps you know it?

"I know who holds the future and he will guide me with His hand, with God things don't just happen, everything by Him is planned".....

We go together.

Take Care

Alan

Government Scheme Brings Hope

In the current issue of War Cry news of the Kickstart Initiative says the Salvation Army has arranged to employ some 16 to 24 year old youngsters who were on universal credit. The Initiative tries to provide 'vital Jobs' as the country recovers from the Covid 19 pandemic.

Some young people have become community support workers working with the food bank, delivering food parcels and supporting the launch of the community service run from a bus. One youngster said "This job makes a difference – I am not just a number on a bit of paper, I am helping to make my community better place.

Haydn Higton

Autumn Thoughts

If you have a "Strawberry Patch" one of the jobs at this time of year is tracing where the runners from the main plants have located themselves. This may be on the garden but they may have taken root on a gravel path or even through a crack in the paving stones. Runners from the plants root in surprising places!

For us we can take it as an illustration of the way God reaches out – in surprising ways and directions. His love is for all who will listen and learn and let that love into their lives to root and grow. So as we tidy up in the garden remember God's love – to listen to our anxieties, to comfort and sustain, and to give us new hope.

A recent study of some 233,000 Britons over a decade found people who spend time in their gardens were less likely to die early from heart and respiratory diseases!

Haydn Higton

CAN YOU HELP

We are now meeting regularly for fellowship as well as worship and whatever action attracts our interest it needs someone to plan, organise and arrange. Will you volunteer to help? Church is the people is a phrase used often and if our congregation is going to progress and expand it needs everyone to join in and help. Christians were never intended to be only spectators.

Haydn Higon

The Gift of Music.

Recently Mum, Dad and I enjoyed a visit to Annan Cinema to see Andre Rieu Together again concert, it was so good to be back in the cinema after so many months.

We were treated to an afternoon of fantastic music and enjoyed the special joy that music brings to our lives, we all have a special piece of music or a song that evokes memories that are special to us and this concert did not disappoint.

Some highlights include performances of The Rose, Somewhere over the Rainbow, The Blue Danube and African Dream

African Dream was performed by the soloist Kimmy Skota with the African Children's Choir and this was a really moving piece of music joined with the Strauss Orchestra. It so reminded me of the day that Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1994 as this must have been a day that he had dreamed of for many years during the time of his imprisonment .

Music lifts our mood and through the past eighteen months it has definitely played a part in lifting people's spirits throughout the pandemic. This cinema visit certainly filled you with such joy and happiness. Simple things mean a such a lot .

Fiona Glass.

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

SHOEBOX APPEAL

It will soon be time to gather filled shoeboxes so they can be delivered to deprived children in time for Christmas. Please bring shoeboxes by NOVEMBER 7TH and Lyn will organise their delivery to the local centre for checking and despatch.

