

CONTACT

APRIL/MAY 2022

The Monthly Magazine of

ANNAN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



APRIL AND MAY SERVICES

DATE	EVENT	LEADER
03/04/2022	Communion Service	Lesley Richmond
10/04/2022	Service	Rosalind Fearon
17/04/2022	Easter Inc. Communion	Revd John Bremner
24/04/2022	Service with Fellowship Time	Worship Group - Post Easter Reflections
01/05/2022	Communion Service	Revd Hayden Higon
08/05/2022	Service	TBA
15/05/2022	Service	Nan Maxwell/Revd Andy Braunston from Digital Services
22/05/2022	Christian Aid Service with fellowship time	Lesley Richmond

Advance Notice

The Church AGM will take place after the Service during fellowship on Sunday 19th June 2022

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Items for the June Contact Magazine should reach Judith by 21st May.

DEATH

We are sad to record the recent death of

Margaret Jones of Wood Avenue, Annan.

Margaret was a member of this church, an elder,
and a friend to many and a willing servant of the Gospel.

She will be greatly missed by the church family.

We give thanks for her life and offer our sincere condolences to her family.

Welcome the Stranger

The definition of a refugee is a person who has a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of their race, nationality, religion or political opinion. War in the Ukraine highlights thousands of people who leave their homes to escape persecution and oppression, despairing of being able to put down roots as their life's foundations crumble.

Jesus was a refugee! This is a fact we don't often think about and certainly not as Easter is celebrated. Joseph obeyed the message from the angel and took his family to Egypt to escape Herod's decree to murder children. Shelter and safety is the goal of every refugee.

How we respond to the refugee crisis is for individual and corporate action. We know more about the situation in the world than ever before. The community is global, and actions of governments and big business is spotlighted every day of each week. Our response lies in the products we buy, the decisions we make and our prayers for change.

Are we to welcome refugees locally and nationally? Genesis 18 v 1-8 tells how Abraham welcomed strangers. People from different backgrounds, but the biblical message is clear – we are asked to welcome strangers as if it were Jesus himself coming to us. It's not just a Christian duty – but loving means trying to see others as God sees them with their attractive and infuriating characteristics.

The plight of refugees and our response to it is a test of our Christian Faith.

Haydn Higton

Hunger for Justice

The Community and Events Manager of Christian Aid invites us to celebrate Christian Aid Week from 15-21 May. "It is a week when we come together to transform lives. For the first time in a generation more of our neighbours around the world are being pushed into poverty and in Christian Aid Week we can provide food and hope in times of crisis and change".

Envelopes will be available for our gifts or you can donate online – please be generous with your gifts and with your prayers. It is an opportunity for churches to help improve the world!

Eighty per cent of the world's resources are consumed by five percent of the world's population – and we are part of that five percent. Even in our own community there are some who have more than enough for their needs and others who live in poverty. So add your voice to your practical support to help Christian Aid and other agencies to develop and continue giving a better life to the deprived and more justice in this world.

Haydn Highton

Synod Meeting

Douglas Maxwell attended this two-day Synod meeting via Zoom. The following report has been published in the latest edition of the Synod of Scotland E-news. If you would like to keep up with E-News it is published monthly and can be found on the synod website <http://www.urcscotland.org.uk/> under the heading Synod News.

The National Synod of Scotland September Meeting

The National Synod of Scotland met in Helensburgh United Reformed Church and online on 11th-12th March. In his opening address the Moderator, Revd Paul Whittle, asked what it means to be the church today as we celebrate the Jubilee of the URC but also consider the global context of the pandemic, climate crisis and war. He encouraged us to look to the Synod Aspirations and particularly the desire to celebrate God's unconditional love, the challenge of inclusivity and the counter-cultural nature of radical love and invited Synod to engage more deeply with the aspirations. Much of the business concerned clarification on the roles and responsibilities of Synod Trustees, the Synod Executive and Area Council, together with some thinking on Committee structures. All but one of the proposed resolutions passed and further work is now possible to find people to serve in the revised structures.

The Pastoral Committee introduced a new scheme, 'Our Church, Our Faith, Our Work' which replaces Local Mission and Ministry Review. This will involve church visits, working with the Synod team and Mission Action Planning to enable congregations to develop their life. Unlike LMMR this is a voluntary scheme and will involve ministers and congregations working together.

A resolution asking the Joint Public Issues Team to work on a campaign on fuel poverty was brought by the Church and Society Committee and the Ecumenical and Interfaith task group brought a further resolution proposing Ecumenical Guidelines for the Synod, both of these were passed. Synod also noted the appointment of Duncan Walker as Synod Treasurer.

Synod will meet again on Saturday 17th September.

CAN WE MAKE FORTY?

For most of our readers forty years of age and what we did then is only a memory. However, you can help reach forty people attending on Saturday, May 14th for an afternoon of fun, chat and food.

We hope you will make a special effort to attend and if you need a lift to come ring one of the Pastoral leaders, and it will be arranged so we can reach forty or more.

AN EASTER CAROL

*Spring bursts to-day,
For Christ is risen and all the Earth's at play*

*Flash forth, thou sun
The rain is over and gone, its work is done*

*Winter is past
Sweet spring is come at last, is come at last*

*Bud, Fig, and Vine
Bud, Olive, Fat with fruit, and oil and wine*

*Break forth this morn
In roses, thou but yesterday a thorn*

*Uplift thy head
O pure white lily, through the winter dead*

*Beside your Dams
Leap and rejoice, you merrymaking lambs*

*All herds and flocks
Rejoice, all beasts of thickets and of rock*

*Sing, creatures, sing
Angels, and men, and birds and everything.*

Church Gardner

Thought for the Month

Jesus said I was an outcast, and you took me in - I was hungry and you fed me

ANNAN URC - STAY SAFE AND PROTECT OTHERS

As of the 21st March some of the Covid-19 Regulations have changed, however the Synod Moderators have issued the following guidance to all United Reformed Churches. (This statement was issued prior to the Scottish Government announcement of 15th March 2022)

'Although regulations have changed and the current rate of infections is showing signs of easing, infection rates remain high across the United Kingdom. We would therefore urge the continued use of face coverings in churches, including during singing, as well as maintaining good hand hygiene and appropriate physical distancing.'

Therefore for your **own safety** as well as for **others** it is recommended that we continue to wear a mask at all times whilst inside the church premises until at the very least early April. (Subject to next Scottish Government announcement)

It is also recommended that we continue to wear face coverings whilst singing hymns.

We will continue to use the one-way system at present in operation throughout the church.

Entry to church is by the MAIN DOOR unless of course you require to use the ramp access.

On arrival, please observe the one metre rule until admitted & when on the premises

On entry you will be asked to sanitize your hands.

Entry into the sanctuary is by the door opposite the John Tweddle Room.

In an emergency or to use the toilet, please contact a steward.

Households are allowed to sit together, but it is recommended that there be at least one empty seat between household groups and individuals from separate households.

The only available toilet is the Disabled Toilet adjacent to the ramp. It must be sanitized after each use by the user prior to them leaving it.

We are serving tea & coffee during fellowship time after the service. We would ask you to please at the end of the service move to the tables & chairs provided, speedily & sit & wait while your drink is brought to you.

We also recommend that you continue to wear a face covering & that you observe 1metre social distancing whilst moving about the church & whilst seated for refreshments, face coverings may be removed when you are having your refreshments but they should be fitted once you have finished your drink.

Please leave the sanctuary by using the door marked exit & leave the church building by way of the side door at the ramp.

If you have an offering for church funds please leave it in the bowl which can be found next to the exit door.

FLORAL ART CLASS TUESDAY 5TH APRIL 2022
AT 10.00AM IN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Outdoor Easter Wreath Design

Wire wreath ring – available from class

Moss

Reel wire for binding moss to ring

Moss pins or wire to make pins – available at class

Narrow ribbon if wished

Flowers

10/15 stems of tulips

3 stems of September flower / wax flower or similar

1 bunch anemone if available or spray carnations

You can add decorations if wished such as small chicks and or small artificial Eggs

ooOoo

Because of Covid we will not be serving our usual biscuits and tea but you are welcome to bring your own.

Masks must be worn entering the building and walking round class. You are not required to wear masks at your worktable. It would be appreciated if you would bring a rubbish bag and take home any clippings.

Looking forward to seeing you at class.



