

# CONTACT

## FEBUARY 2023



The monthly magazine of  
Annan United Reformed Church



## Services February 2023

Date	Event	Leader
05/02/2023	Communion	Revd Nick Mark
12/02/2023	Digital Service	Revd Phil Nevard
19/02/2023	Church Meeting	Short Service Worship Group
26/02/2023	Service	Mrs Marilyn Parkes-Seddon

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Items for the March Magazine should reach Judith by 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

*The founder of the Helen House a hospice for sick children said “one of the gifts the children have given us is the ability to live in the now, because they do not know if there is going to be a tomorrow. The message is that the present moment is what we’ve got – live in it!*

## **Interim Minister's Letter February 2023**

By the time you read this edition the church will have already experienced its first warm hub meeting in the Hall on a Thursday Morning. We have agreed to review this new venture after a month but hopefully and prayerfully it will fit in with what we are asked to do in our Sunday morning readings and that is help revitalise our communities.

Our reading from Matthew 5 verses 13 -20 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February demands of us to be proactive not reactive. It reminds me very much of a conversation that I had many years ago when I was training for Ministry with a fellow student. He attended one of those mega Baptist Churches. We were talking about different styles of pastoral care. He was full of admiration for the URC style of pastoral care that each regular attender really mattered because in his large church of over 400 regulars they didn't worry about somebody leaving because there was always, it seemed, someone else appearing to take their place.

Matthew wants us to be a light to the world following the guidance of Jesus. I take this opportunity to thank sincerely all those who took part in the sandwich outreach over the Christmas holidays. Although we discovered that this was not something the recipients it was designed for wanted it did establish clearly that we have a number of people who like to see us actively working in the community for those more vulnerable to the vicissitudes of the challenging world we find ourselves in. Matthew puts across well the desire of Christ to see his followers actually practising what he preaches.

Many of us will say I am too old and disabled to do much in the community but when it comes down to it we need to rethink that philosophy because it is possible to work in the community without huge physical or monetary outlay. For example, the warm hub idea involves us in making beverages and being ready to engage with other people in conversation. Jesus didn't want followers who listened but followers who implemented his ideas in their own inimitable style.

Later in the month we look at another aspect of the teaching of Jesus and that is found in Matthew 5 verses 21 -37 which stresses what qualities a follower of Jesus needs. It particularly focuses on an aspect which we don't find difficult fortunately. Namely being in category of a follower who is in for the long term not the short term. To achieve that though requires more than just stamina it is about seeing things through and working together to support each other particularly if one of us is especially downbeat.

The 19<sup>th</sup> of February tackles that momentous event called the Transfiguration. To really comprehend that requires of us an ability to really feel close to the God we love and adore. Transfiguration takes us beyond our normal comfort zones. It is something that for me at least shows me the exciting reasons for trying to be a faithful person.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of February in Matthew 4 verses 1-11 we look at a really challenging aspect of faith and that is summed up in one simple word temptation. It is very easy to go off track in our faith because following a faith journey is not so to speak "a walk in the park" but rather something which requires dedication and persistence. It is worth it because I have over the years found that the easy option of following temptation is never as satisfying as trying to be a dedicated follower of Jesus.

With every blessing

*Nick Mark*  
Interim Moderator

## **Words to cheer you up if you're feeling down.**

When spirits tend to get quite low,  
With winter weather on the go,  
Take a walk and look around!  
Green shoots are bursting through the ground,  
Snowdrops growing in bright array,  
Bring some brightness to the day,  
Simple things that do amaze,  
In the midst of cold drab days,  
Surprises that you're bound to find,  
Are sure to lift your frame of mind,  
Ever full is nature's book,  
If we only care to look.

Church Gardener

## **COLOURS OF THE DAY**

Have you noticed how we seem to be applying colours to days of the week – Green Monday or Black Friday? Colours applied to what we expect on a particular day. What colour would you apply to Sunday?

Would it be red? A red letter day as the most important day of the week when we meet with fellow Christians for worship and fellowship? Perhaps we might regard Sunday as golden because it is precious to us and if we are isolated we miss a valuable part of our everyday living.

A rainbow has many colours and so have our lives but the family of the church ought to show the truth and reality of the Gospel in what it says and does. We need to look at our life together if we want to make a difference in the world. The God of love and peace is for people of all colours and attitudes – so come together using the gifts God has given us. He is calling us again and giving us a chance to serve His purpose. Colours of day – go into the street and let's give the message to the people we meet.

## **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT (27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH)**

Fairtrade aims to ensure standards are met in production of ethically produced products. It means workers rights are upheld, that they have safe working conditions and fairer payments for both farmers and workers.

Fairtrade stands for fairness and equality, creating change, from investing in climate friendly techniques to developing leadership for women.

# Warm Hub Drop In

Annan United Reformed Church Hall  
Station Road, Annan

## Thursdays 10 – 12

Everyone of all ages guaranteed a  
warm welcome.

Drop in for a chat with tea or coffee.

Looking forward to seeing you.