

CONTACT

January 2022

Annan United Reformed Church



JANUARY SERVICES 11.00am

2/1/22	Communion Service	Revd Haydn Higton
9/1/22	Service	Nan Maxwell / Lesley Richmond
16/1/22	Service	TBA
23/1/22	Service with Fellowship Time	Lesley Richmond
30/1/22	Service	TBA

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Magazine

Please note items for the February issue of Contact Magazine should reach Judith by
Monday 24th January

Your Resolution

“Your presence is required” were the opening words on invitations to an Investiture or a Royal Garden party, and recipients of such invites were honoured and delighted to receive them. It made their day to attend and participate on such occasions.

The church family are not in the practice of invitations, but we do need your presence at services and other events. Seeing folk supporting whoever is leading is heartening, and to know that we still have support by you being there makes all the efforts worthwhile.

Volunteers are required for keeping the activities in the church programme going - we have to keep a note of hymns used to comply with the Copyright licence, more folk are needed for reading, prayers and welcoming in services, and we need to ensure that existing leaders are not overburdened.

Covid will be with us for the foreseeable future but don't use it as an excuse! Your presence is required whenever you are physically able – your support is a top priority as plans are made for the future. The Action Plan will be discussed as part of the service on 23rd January – make a resolution to be there then and every Sunday to ensure the future of the church family.

The title of the Prayer Handbook for this year celebrating 50 years of the URC is “Freed to live” – let that be our motto going forward. The editors of the handbook say “the Jubilee is an opportunity to look honestly, carefully and prayerfully where we are and where we as the people of God are encountering God in everyday events.

Haydn Higton

SERVICE

Christ's idea of serving in the church is detailed in John 13, and the idea Jesus set should be our guiding principle. Our church has only five active Elders and the administration required to enable the church to function seems to increase so that taking the Gospel to community is not the priority it should be. URC guidelines suggest that Elders be re-elected at 3-year periods which allows some Elders to have a “sabbatical” if they wish. Annan has never followed this practice.

The church has many ministries – not just taking part in worship by praying, reading or teaching and ordinary ways of life can be regarded by a Christian as ministry - the way we act and speak. In the New Testament church Deacons were appointed to assist the Elders or Presbyters, and Deacons took responsibility for church buildings, care for finances but always in close co-operation with Elders

Upon the “ministry” of the church (which includes everyone) largely depends the success or failure of the church's mission. Should Deacons be set aside as part of our leadership? How do we encourage folk from groups using the buildings to participate in its administration and maintenance, and its mission in the community?

Haydn Higton

How To Be Happy Throughout the Whole of 2022

Happiness is something
We create in our mind
It's not something you search for
And so seldom find,

It's just waking up
And beginning the day
By counting our blessings
And kneeling to pray,

It's giving up thoughts
That breed discontent
And accepting what comes
As a gift Heaven-sent,

It's giving up wishing
For Things we have not
And making the best of
Whatever we've got,

For it's by completing
What God gives us to do
That we find real contentment
And happiness too.



Church Gardener

Moving stories

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Prayer Time

God, I am angry at the loss of innocent lives; that people don't have enough to eat; at the police for not executing justice, with the very rich for hoarding wealth and then oppressing the helpless; at the stupid military forces for making people homeless. I am angry with the unequal distribution of resources around the world. God, this is damn unfair! Amen.

Edited from Liturgies from Below: praying with peoples at the ends of the world p190. Claudio Carvalho



Healing Racism

A child asks Greta, 'Mmmm... Why do children look like their parents?'

Greta answers, "Because of tiny things inside parents called 'genes'. Genes tell mum's body to make blue eyes or brown skin. These genes pass from parents to children and to their children. Genes don't pass from foster or adoptive parents. But not to worry! Their children get an extra helping of love!"



Kamal Gazi's Story

Traidcraft has shared Kamal Gazi's story, a farmer living in Bangladesh. Kamal summarises the struggles of his community in just one sentence...

"Our children's education is in peril; their books have been washed away."

Commitment
for **Life**
Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Just imagine a school in Norfolk or Tenby having all its books washed away in a flood... These books represent hope to people like Kamal – an education, the chance of a bright future for his children.

Not only climate disruption, but COVID has also impacted on communities like Kamal's. These hardships make ordinary life more difficult, and poverty less escapable. Kamal continues:

"Before, I used to work and earn a living only by farming but now I have to work as a day laborer in addition to my agricultural work. Climate change has turned a farmer into a day labourer"

By supporting programmes like *Commitment for Life* and through your purchase of Traidcraft products, you can make a difference.



Pic. Khuku and Kamal Gazi – photo credit: Traidcraft