

# CONTACT

**June 2022**



The monthly magazine of  
Annan United Reformed Church



## June Services

5/6/2022	Communion	Revd Haydn Higton
12/6/2022	Service	Revd Nick Mark
19/6/2022	Service with Fellowship Time	<b>Including Church AGM</b>
26/6/2022	Service	TBA

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Email	annanurc@gmail.com
Church Website	<a href="https://annanurc.chessck.co.uk">https://annanurc.chessck.co.uk</a>
Church Facebook	Annan URC
Church Administrator	Doug Maxwell 01387 249300
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Items for the July Magazine should reach Judith by 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

### DEATH

We are sad to record the recent death of

Mary Stuart of Winterhope Road, Annan.

Mary was a member of this church and an elder;  
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.

## **Interim Moderator**

We are very pleased to announce that the Scottish Synod has appointed the Revd Nick Mark as Interim Moderator to Annan URC. He writes: -

Dear Friends,

The Synod of Scotland realise that it is always a hard time for a Church when their minister leaves and tries to do something to cover the period that follows until a permanent appointment can be made with some kind of limited ministerial assistance known as an Interim Moderator. To that end the Moderator has appointed me to that role. I am a retired URC Minister living with my wife Janet in Lockerbie and am still involved in URC matters as a National Trustee and as a small part of the team that oversee discipline of Ministers. I preach regularly in a number of churches. My last post before retirement in early 2020 was being a member of the Cumbria URC team of ministers covering North Cumbria from a base in Carlisle. My background before my Ordination in 2002 was as a Solicitor working in the Probate field and since Ordination I have served in various parts of England and developed a great interest in Ecumenical matters which was why I spent almost the last 8 years of my ministry in Cumbria where the Anglican, Methodist, Church of Scotland, Salvation Army and URC churches worked very closely together. I have also been a volunteer Police Chaplain, Sea Cadet Chaplain and Boys Brigade Chaplain. Elders have agreed that I should conduct one service a month so that I can get to know as many of you as possible and also attend important meetings. My role is really to support the initiatives that Alan Poolton and the Elders were in the process of carrying forward before his retirement and to give guidance where required.

Nick Mark

## **Thought for the month**

John Stott said 'The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not by power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only the hands of those who humble themselves to serve.

## **What does God Require of us?**

On one occasion in the past it was felt that our church might close, and the meeting to discuss closure drew so many people that every seat was taken and folk were left standing. Is this a scenario to be repeated to persuade folk who have stopped attending during Covid to come more regularly?

The world and the church is changing and reforming. Our Church family are at a stage where vital decisions have to be made – about ourselves and our attitudes as well as organisation and governance. We hold on to the familiar with a monthly event to try to attract people from our local community, but we are on a journey and there is no turning back. We need a different approach to bring new disciples into the church family, and we need you to help with the mission God expects of us.

The role of the local church is more important than ever. It is not enough to look for people to come in and join – relationships need to start, to be fostered – where folk are accepted, and we are renewed in our commitment to serve. A commitment with no ‘ifs’ and ‘buts’ enables a chance to build something positive.

A church family with only a dozen people worshipping together is raising concern, and there is opportunity for you to join in discussion about our life and witness as a church family at the Church Meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

We are part of the Christian community in Annan, and we need everyone connected with us to come, to make their voice heard so that we build on the heritage of the past for the witness we bear in the future.

An advert in Reform asks “Are you interested in joining us to build a progressive, inclusive, activist church that works to transform our local community? Will you respond?”

Haydn Higon

A big thank you to all who helped to make the afternoon tea and entertainment on 14<sup>th</sup> May a great success.

## **Serving**

Each May we join Christian Aid Week, but we realise that the work to address hunger, disease and deprivation is a task that never ceases. The only way in which we can show our gratitude to Christ for what he means to us is by what we do for others – we can't be indifferent to these people who are struggling to survive.

How are you progressing with our Shoebox Appeal? We have many boxes waiting to be filled and they are so important to give deprived children at Christmas. Take boxes to fill – it's part of our giving to help others.

The need to think and act to help other people should be our aim - our legacy – what folk might remember about us.

Haydn Higton

## **Exploitation**

There is much publicity condemning slavery in the past, but CARE (Christian Action Research and Education) reminds us that slavery still exists in many forms. Woman, children, and men are trafficked into forced begging, benefit fraud, petty criminality, organ removal, building and agriculture, prostitution and pornography.

It is estimated that this could involve over 4 million people worldwide and 100,000 in the U.K. in some form of modern slavery.

We cannot change the past, but we can influence the present times!

Haydn Higton



# *Jubilee Tea*

*Come along and join us for a Strawberry Jubilee Tea*

*In the Church Hall on*

*Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June from 2pm*

*All proceeds will go to Ukrainian Refugees*



## The Church Gardener's Mid-Summer Dream

Dreaming in the Garden  
As work thoughts drift away  
The sun is calmly setting  
On the remnants of the day  
Still the glow of summer warmth,  
From its' last descent  
Lighting up the roses  
As its final rays are spent  
Restful green around us  
Birdsong bids goodnight  
Breathing in the blissful peace,  
Welcoming twilight  
On this sleepy gentle evening  
Our words are softly said  
Marvelling in creation  
Before thoughts turn to Bed

Church Gardener





# MOVING STORIES

Commitment  
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Committed to supporting | our global partners | in **BANGLADESH**

## Prayer and Reflection

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts: it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.*

*Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.*

*No statement says all that could be said.*

*No prayer fully expresses our faith.*

*No confession brings perfection.*

*No pastoral visit brings wholeness.*

*No program accomplishes the Church's mission.*

*No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*This is what we are about.*

*We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.*

*We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.*

*We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.*

*This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.*

*It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.*

*We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.*

*We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.*

*We are prophets of a future not our own.*

*Ken Untener, Saginaw.*

One of the partners we support in Bangladesh is **ActionAid**. They do outstanding work, like helping 10-year-old Jesmin who lived on the streets of Dhaka.

Jesmin's family was so poor they barely had anything to eat. Now **Jesmin lives in an ActionAid funded 'Happy Home'** - where she can enjoy a proper meal, learn, and play with other girls, and gain skills for the future, safe from harm.

*"When I used to live on the street, boys used bad words against me and they were beating me," Jesmin said. "So, my understanding is girls are not safe on the streets."*

*"Now I love living in Happy Homes. I can eat healthy food regularly. I've learned to make necklaces, bracelets, anklets, and I can do embroidery. And I can study. I am in class 5. My favourite subject is Social Science and English."*

Thank you for your prayers, advocacy, and generosity in support of remarkable young people like Jesmin, who thrive if only given a chance.

Photo:  
GMB/Akash/P  
anos/Action  
Aid





# BIG WEEKEND AWAY



A Weekend of Fun in the Highlands for  
Young People in S1 and Up involved in the  
URC across Scotland with two BIG Outdoor Activities!



**Book by 19th June 2022 to avoid disappointment!**

Contact [youthsecretary@urcscotland.org.uk](mailto:youthsecretary@urcscotland.org.uk) for more information and to book your place.

**Outdoor  
Activities  
Weekend  
Abernethy  
Nethy Bridge  
30th Sept -  
2nd Oct 2022**

**£30\*** per person

\*If you need assistance with  
the cost, please get in touch.  
We will be happy to help.

**PLUS! SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday 27th August Synod Youth Day Out in Glasgow!**

## URC National Synod of Scotland

### Outdoor Activities Weekend Nethy Bridge Outdoor Centre

#### Information

<b>Who is the weekend for?</b>	Young people in S1 and up involved in the URC across Scotland.
<b>How much will it cost?</b>	<p>£30*. This event is being heavily subsidised by the Synod of Scotland Youth Executive.</p> <p>You will also have to meet the cost of your travel.</p> <p>*If you need assistance with the cost then please be in touch with John or Matt</p>
<b>Where is it?</b>	Nethy Bridge Outdoor Centre,
<b>When is it?</b>	The weekend takes place from 8pm on Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September until lunchtime on Sunday 2nd October.
<b>When do I have to book?</b>	Bookings <b>MUST</b> be received <b>by 19<sup>th</sup> June</b> . NO BOOKINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE. At the moment spaces are limited to 18 so you are advised to book early. Additional spaces may be available but this cannot be guaranteed. Booking forms and completed consent forms should be sent to: The Youth Executive, URC Synod of Scotland, 3/2 Atlantic Chambers, 45 Hope Street, Glasgow. G2 6AE
<b>Where will I sleep?</b>	Accommodation is in a variety of different sized rooms. Leaders will be accommodated in their own rooms in close proximity to the young people.
<b>Do under 18's need to have an adult with them?</b>	<p>No – but local youth leaders are not excluded from attending. Please discuss this with either John or Matt.</p> <p>If a young person requires additional support from an adult in order to attend then please discuss this with either John or Matt.</p>
<b>What should I bring?</b>	A recommended Kit List will be sent out prior to the weekend.
<b>What will happen?</b>	In addition to a full day of outdoor activities on the Saturday there will be indoor activities, games, worship & plenty of time to chat.
<b>Where can I get more information?</b>	<p>John Sanderson (Secretary to the Synod Youth Executive) <a href="mailto:youthsecretary@urcscotland.org.uk">youthsecretary@urcscotland.org.uk</a></p> <p>or</p> <p>Matt Baines (Synod Youth Work Development Worker) <a href="mailto:youthministry@urcscotland.org.uk">youthministry@urcscotland.org.uk</a></p>

# Synod Outdoor Activities Weekend

## Booking Form      Nethy Bridge 30/9/22 – 2/10/22

To book a place on the activity weekend –

- Complete the booking form below
- Complete the appropriate Consent/Health form (under 18's / 18 and over)
- Make payment: £30

Payment can be by cheque payable to 'URC Synod of Scotland' or by bank transfer\*:

A/c No. 00130361      Sort Code : 832108

\*If you are paying by bank transfer please put "Youth Event" as the reference.

- and send to: The Youth Executive, URC Synod of Scotland, 3/2 Atlantic Chambers, 45 Hope Street, Glasgow. G2 6AE

### Booking Form

Church			
Name			
Address			
Post Code			
Telephone			
Gender		Preferred pronoun	
Date of Birth			

**Remember – spaces are limited so please respond quickly to avoid disappointment.**



*The Border  
Strathspey  
& Reel Society*

*And*

*The Gallovidians*

*Present*

*An Evening Of Scottish Music*

*In Aid of*

*Ukrainian Refugees*



*7.30pm on the 18th June 2022*

*at The Bridge, Glasgow Road*

*Dumfries. DG2 9 1W*

*Tickets £10. Under-16s Free*

*Tickets available from John Douglas Music, King Street, Dumfries and by post by  
contacting: [admin@bordersstrathspey.co.uk](mailto:admin@bordersstrathspey.co.uk)*