

CONTACT

JUNE 2023



The monthly magazine of
Annan United Reformed Church



Services June 2023

Date	Event	Leader
04/06/2023	Service and AGM 10.30	Revd. Nick Mark
11/06/2023	Service	Mr Alan Dodds
18/06/2023	Service	Mrs Marilyn Parks-Seddon
25/06/2023	Service	Mrs Nan Maxwell

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Items for the July Magazine should reach Judith by 21st June 2023

SPECIAL NOTICE

Our morning service on the **4th of June** will be very different to the norm. Firstly it will commence at **10.30am** and **secondly it will not include Holy Communion**. There will be a short service followed by our Church Annual General Meeting. After the formal parts of the Meeting our Interim Moderator will present to the congregation the results of the recent Congregational Survey for discussion.

Dear Friends,

This month sees a number of important events in our Church calendar which I will take in date order. First On the 4th of June (Trinity Sunday) comes our Annual General Meeting following a short act of Worship beginning at 10.30am. Please try and attend that day if you can as one of the great strengths of our denomination is that we believe the Holy Spirit doesn't just speak through the Elders and any Minister but through any one of us. After the AGM there will be an opportunity to listen to the presentation of the results of our recent Congregational Survey and the opportunity to not just discuss them but hopefully to use them to help the Church move forward. Second on the 8th of June we are holding one of our regular Social and Fund raising events. Instead of it being a normal Soup and Sweet Lunch though it will be a Strawberry Lunch. This will take place between 11.30am and 1.30pm. This is a great opportunity for folk to come together and to invite friends and neighbours and is helping us all get back to some kind of normality after the tough restrictions Covid forced on all of us.

My role as an Interim Moderator is to help the Church through the inevitable period of waiting for a new minister to come along and as we know most denominations are struggling to produce enough ministers to satisfy demand. We have been very fortunate though that the Scottish College who train URC ministers in Scotland have a student who all being well will join us probably in July or August for a period of at least 6 months. I will be meeting both the student and the Principal of The Scottish College in the middle of June to progress things. We are fortunate to have been chosen to host a student minister and I am sure the student will get the usual Annan warm welcome!

Our Gospel readings during June all come from Matthew's Gospel and we begin on the 4th of June with the reading from Matthew 28 verses 16-20. For some who preach on this Sunday they go on holiday because of the challenge of trying to explain the complexities of The Trinity. This year we approach it from the perspective of how Father, Son and Holy Spirit enable us to bring God's love to the increasingly sceptical world around us. On Sunday 11th we look at Matthew chapter 9 and focus on how the Trinity want us to reach out to those who feel that by their actions are excluded from God 's help or protection when in reality God is forgiving and wants us all to be going in the same Godly direction. On the 18th of June our reading from Matthew 9 is all about Jesus explaining how the Holy Spirit enables us to share our faith with others by simply sharing our own story. Then on the 25th of June our reading from Matthew 10 brings home a real sense of realism in the way that Jesus tells his disciples to expect opposition to their teaching. I may in this letter seem to be preparing a catalogue, but it is actually an important list because it helps us build on the results of the survey in which a huge number of replies really wanted us to somehow get a grip on things and look forward to trying to reach the missing generations that we don't see in church. At one time it was just the young who stopped coming but now we see in many churches few members under 60. I was gratified by the number of folk who replied to the survey and who had ideas many of which will be simple to implement.

I would also want to take this opportunity of thanking all of you who supported Barbara's Concert last month. This succeeded in raising £250 for the work of Annan Churches together and this year is very important for them with the Holiday club in the summer at Hecklegirth School. Let us go forward in prayer and practical action to serve our Lord here in Annan.

With every blessing Nick Mark

A Successful Life

It's not the amount of gold you have
Or the many acres that you own:
It's not the mansion that you may have
That spells success in your home

It's the little things you do each day
The kind word you have spoken
It's helping the one who is down and out
And healing the heart that is broken

It's doing the job the best you can
It's the loving and giving in life;
It's keeping your eye on higher things
And you chin up in every strife

If you are the kind that wants to succeed
Just try to help those in distress
A life that is clean, a heart that is true
And doing your best THAT'S SUCCESS

Church Gardener

THOUGH FOR THE MONTH

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the
Lord Jesus

Colossians 3,17

Half Way There

How are you getting on with filling shoe boxes for the Samaritans Purse Christmas Appeal. We are half way through the year and the need to bring joy to a child with a gift either at Christmas or during the year never goes away.

Some shoeboxes are being used to bring hope to displaced youngsters in Ukraine. Whatever you can do to help will be gratefully received.

STRAWBERRY LUNCHES

Thursday 8th June 2023

11.30am - 1.30pm

In the Church Hall

Stalls and Tombola

SERVICE

A recent issue of Reform reported that reasons for church closures included declining numbers of worshippers and ministers, and the pressures of maintaining buildings. The Revd. Fiona Bennet, Moderator of the U.R.C General Assembly and Minister of Augustine U.R.C. in Edinburgh commented that this report from Church Action on Poverty should be a wake-up call to reinvigorate our efforts to reach out to the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.

The recent survey among our church members is looking for views on how we should progress in future and there are opportunities for further discussion and action at church meetings, but we do need everyone to support ideas and actions. “What can I do to help”? Should be a question voiced by everyone interested in the church.

Folk from this church have made significant contribution of time and efforts over the past thirty or so years to Annan Churches Together pooling resources in co-operation with other church denominations trying to take the gospel to the community in Annan. Are there new ways of outreach or do existing ones require revision? In the words of King Charles III we are here to serve – in Christ’s name and to fulfil this His purposes.

Thursday – June 8th

Your support will be appreciated at 6.30pm at the Girls Brigade Award’s presentations. Come along and make the girls and their parents welcome as part of the Church. It is also an opportunity to thank all of the Leaders for the work they put in on our behalf week by week!



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