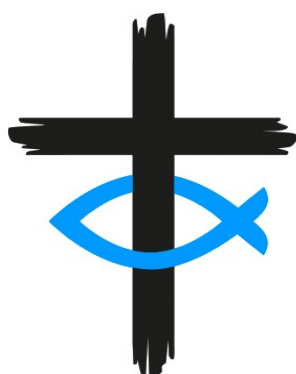


# **CONTACT**

## **March 2022**



**The monthly magazine of**  
**Annan United Reformed Church**



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

# March Services 11.00am

Date	Event	Leader
06/03/2022	Communion	Revd Haydn Higton
13/03/2022	Service	Revd. Sarah Moore
20/3/2022	Service with Fellowship Time	Revd. Haydn Higton
27/3/2022	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
Magazine Editor	judith-stannard@hotmail.com

The next edition of Contact will cover both April and May so please note that items for the this issue should reach Judith by Monday 21st March

## DEATH

We are sad to record the recent death of  
Mrs Marjorie (Peggy) Scott of Winterhope Road  
Peggy was a faithful member of this church  
We give thanks for her life and offer our sincere condolences to her family.

**ANNAN URC**  
**STAY SAFE AND PROTECT OTHERS**

Wear a mask at all times on church premises.

Covid regulations still require us to wear face coverings whilst singing hymns.

There is a one-way system 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 wait outside the inner doors until invited to enter by a steward. If there is a queue, please observe the one metre rule when on the premises and until admitted.

On entry you will be asked to sanitize your hands and to have your contact details noted.

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 two empty seats 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 leaving it.

We are serving tea & coffee during fellowship time after the service. But have to live within the current Covid regulations. 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 ask that you continue to wear a face covering. We recommend that you observe 1 metre social distancing whilst moving about the church & whilst seated for refreshments, face coverings can be removed when you are having your refreshments but they must 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.

# Get involved with Fairtrade Fortnight 2022

This year, Fairtrade Fortnight is about understanding of the role Fairtrade plays in addressing the climate crisis.

## Fairtrade Fortnight 21st Feb- 6th March

For more information visit: <http://www.dumfriesfairtrade.org.uk/>



## WILL YOU COME

These words are part of a familiar hymn challenging our response, and the same phrase might be used as we try to identify why folk are not attending church events in the same ways as they did before the Covid pandemic. Whilst change is not easy, things and churches are changing as no change is not an option.

Holding on to the familiar and the past may be a barrier to the future. If we keep the same pattern of worship and traditional practices can the church have a meaningful life for a new generation? The pandemic taught us to make more use of technology, but this also means more folk with knowledge to operate it—will you come?

How we respond to new ideas, new practices, new ways of understanding how to communicate our faith to others is our challenge for the future and it will not be effective with lukewarm hearts. We need to decide what to keep in our lives and what we leave behind— as individuals and as a member of the church family. It will require discussion and understanding—it will require as many folk as are able to resume coming to church events to make a contribution to taking all aspects of our witness into the community. If you need transport to come it can be arranged, but the challenge is— Will You Come?

Haydn Highton

## Thought for the Month

Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if you must

(St. Francis of Assisi)



## THANK YOU

Despite the challenges of the pandemic over 9.1 million children experienced the joys of receiving a shoebox last year—a special gift with treasures inside such as crayons, toothbrushes, hats and gloves, toys, books and so on. Something the children had never owned before.

It is never too early to begin packing your shoeboxes for this year and the boxes already covered can be collected from church now. As you fill the boxes be inspired by the good news and great joy you can contribute to a child at Christmas, and thinking of their gratitude may be uplifting for you as well.

A small shoebox gift can bring a big smile to a child in need!

Haydn Higon



The Dumfries and Galloway Befriending Project is a charity which supports young people between the ages of 8-18. We are an early intervention service which exists to promote the wellbeing of young people who are going through a difficult period in their lives. This is done through one-to-one befriending by a fully trained volunteer adult befriender. The volunteer befriender spends time with the young person, listening and enjoying community-based activities like walking, going to a café or baking. There are a few befriending matches based in Annan who will be hiring the United Reformed Church Hall and kitchen. If you would like any more information on the Befriending Project or would like to find out how to become a befriender then please feel free to contact the Befriending Project at [projectoffice@befriending.org](mailto:projectoffice@befriending.org) or 01387 247812 or have a look at our website – [www.befriending.org](http://www.befriending.org).

## The Month of March is a time of Optimism and Expectation

Are you feeling winter-weary  
Tired of wind and rain?  
Seen enough of dark grey skies  
And looked for sun in vain?

Yet just around the corner now  
Spring Waits to raise her hand  
To touch the earth with light and hope  
And smile across the land

So put away depressing thoughts  
And wait a little while,  
Look out for buds and soft green shoots  
To brighten every mile

The days will soon grow longer  
The way they've done before,  
As just around the corner  
The spring returns once more.

Church Gardner

The following article featured in the latest Synod enews

## **Annan**

Rainbow Tribe and Spectrum were very excited to be able to perform - keeping to Government Guidelines - to a live audience before Christmas. The ecumenical children's and youth choir and ceilidh group meet in the church during the school year. There are about 30 children aged from 4 to late teens and are led and organized by the church organist and a local music teacher.



## **Church Story**

*Annan URC are in the process of updating our Church Mission Action Plan based on our five year mission plan:*

- *To further engage with local communities to encourage more people into the wider church fellowship by appointing a Church Outreach Worker to plan, facilitate and help deliver community mission work across all age groups to ensure that the resources of the churches are used as effectively as possible.*
- *To grow the membership and fellowship by outreach into the community.*
- *To continue to improve pastoral care for the members, the fellowship, and the community.*
- *To spread the Good News beyond the church walls with church-led events out with the church building encouraging ecumenical and community friends to participate*
- *To grow worship leaders/participants.*

*It is good news that Annan URC have been able to re-engage with the local community once again with adult, youth and children's groups being able to use the premises for various activities.*

## **Prayer**

Lord we know the way we should always be facing - towards the light - to be fully immersed in grace, the joyful favour of God shown to the unlikable; the peace of God given to the agitated; the undeserved favour of God. The Light shines on us, and in us and through us. Everything we do flows from this light - we are part of the light and we know that this light will never go out.

May Annan URC be a faithful place that reflects the Light.

Amen



# MOVING STORIES

Commitment  
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Committed to supporting | our global partners | in Bangladesh

## Prayer Time

Jesus, you declared a New Jubilee at the very start of your ministry, a promise to cancel all debt demanded by the rich. And then you overturned the tables of unjust economic structures. Praise be to God! Help us, Jesus, to follow in your footsteps. Give us the wisdom, tools, and courage to subvert the deeply unjust economic structures of empire in our day, and in so doing, to usher in the kin-dom of God. In your name we pray. Amen.

## Service for Central America

Commitment for Life has worked alongside Christian Aid in Central America for over a decade. We have helped countless poor communities with everything from women's empowerment to drought resistant coffee beans. But things change. Christian Aid is steadily winding down its presence in the region, and it's time to say a fond farewell to our presence in the region as we consolidate and engage with our three remaining regions: Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Palestine and Israel. Join us on Zoom for a fond farewell service of celebration with the wonderful Susan Durber (see poster.)



Photo Credit: Shakeb Nabi Christian Aid

Angela Biswas writes: "Each morning I wake up with the clucks of my hens. I was able to build up my poultry farm with the support of Christian Aid Bangladesh which gave me a hope to stand strong despite my poverty. It allowed me to make a handsome amount of savings."

Thank you for your support for our work in Bangladesh. What an enormous difference it makes!