

CONTACT

NOVEMBER 2022



The monthly magazine of
Annan United Reformed Church



November Services

06/11/2022	Service	Mrs Seddon
13/11/2022	Remembrance Sunday Service from 11.15	Revd Haydn Higon
20/11/2022	Service	Nan Maxwell
27/11/2022	Service	Revd Nick Mark

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Items for the December Magazine should reach Judith by 22nd November

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Here is a simple rule-of-thumb guide for behaviour. Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them.

(Matthew 7 v 13)

Interim Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Apart from the onset of winter recognised by the clocks having gone back at the end of October by an hour, November can easily be seen as depressing with the Annual service of Remembrance on the 13th and this year all the issues coming from our Political and economic crisis.

A big ray of hope though comes from our faith because God is there all the time however bleak things may seem to be. It was a privilege to attend both the lunch and the concert in October. Not only that attending the Girls Brigade first meeting of the new term and our hosting Hecklegirth School's Harvest Assembly was heart-warming as well because all four events were well supported and a genuine sign that people do see a purpose for our Church in bringing God's message of hope to the world.

Our Gospel readings in November continue to come from Luke's Gospel until of course the 27th when we begin a new Church year with the first Sunday of Advent when we look at Matthew chapter 24. Remembrance Sunday on the 13th of November is always a difficult day for everyone because few of us can say that war has not impacted upon us in some way during our lives. The point though for me about Remembrance Sunday is that there are two aspects to it. One is the obvious one of remembering those who gave their lives that we might have the freedoms we have today. The other is remembering there is always hope coming through the adversity of war and reminding ourselves of the continual need to work for peace and stability.

It doesn't need me to tell you how times are changing but the strength that our fellowship can give in such times is very important. In my short time with you I have seen how important it is that we maintain our weekly services and regular events because they provide an important support to people as we gradually emerge from the worst of the Pandemic. Many people have struggled to have the courage to again mix because of the fear of becoming ill. When I spoke to one of the excellent artistes at the Concert he said it was the first time in many months that he had been able to perform in public and he realised how much he had missed this opportunity to exercise his God given talent. Not to mix though is equally harmful to our mental health and general welfare. Sincere thanks go to those on the team who keep our church clean and provide all the covid prevention systems which are now an essential part of giving visitors to our church a sense of reassurance.

As we prepare for the season of Advent let us all continue to pray for better times and give thanks to God for all the loving care we receive through the work of the Holy Spirit.

With every blessing

Nick Mark

We are sad to report the recent deaths of:

Mr Ronald Woodman of Hill view Crescent, Annan

Mrs Lesley Richmond of Mill Dam, Gatehouse of Fleet

Mr David Lynch of Summergate Road, Annan.

**All were members of this Church and will be missed by the
Members of the Church Family.**

**We give thanks for their lives and offer our sincere
condolences to their families.**

The hymn The Day Thou Gavest Lord is ended was the first hymn sung at the recent funeral of Queen at Westminster Abbey. It was also used during the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897.

The hymn written by Rev John Ellerton in 1870 has been a favourite of my dad's for many years and was also sung many times during my 34 years as an Officer in the 1st Annan Girls Brigade Company, at the end of Annual Displays and Parents Evenings. The Girls Brigade has a special version written with words with special meaning to the organisation

The verse that begins The Sun that bids us rest, reminds me of spectacular sunsets over St Brelades Bay in Jersey, in the Channel Islands which I hope to see very soon.

Unable to visit the island which is so special since 2019 the sunsets will be more than ever appreciated. They are a kaleidoscope of colour at the end of a day which is ending as darkness falls.

Fiona Glass.

Sharing God's Love with Children around the world

Each year we are reminded that the shoeboxes we have packed and donated to Samaritans Purse may go to children who have never received a gift before. Since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine, thousands of Operation Christmas Gifts for children have already been distributed, and the goal this year is to send two-thirds of shoeboxes from the U.K. to Ukraine or the neighbouring countries like Moldova and Romania that are hosting many Ukrainian refugee families.

A thank you letter from Samaritan Purse says: - During the early days of the crisis, a shoebox distribution for refugees touched the lives of many families. It was the most emotional event. We told each child how much God cares and loves them. There were so many grateful mums in tears. Many left their homes without anything, they just managed to grab their children and run. In the boxes there were so many things they needed”.

The shoebox appeal is a simple way to make a big difference. Our filled shoeboxes are collected at the beginning of November to bring hope, light and the Good News of Jesus Christ. It's never too early to begin collecting items for boxes next year!

Haydn Higton

REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance Sunday helps us to recall all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country in two World Wars and other conflicts. And still there is land being annexed by foreign countries, armed aggression and civil strife. The world never seems to understand what loving our neighbour demands of us.

In the shadow of the Scott Monument in Edinburgh's Princess Street Gardens a tree is decorated with poppies – a tribute to our Armed Forces. Each poppy displayed or worn is a reminder that so many of us have our own reasons to remember.

Haydn Higton

WELL DONE

The Church Family can have a pat on the back for effort in the past few weeks. Vestry Day raised a total of £1565.00 which helps tremendously when the energy charges for the summer quarter were £492.00.

Since we began donating for the Food Bank again at the beginning of September, 15 bags of food have been donated to Kate's Kitchen and this includes our Harvest Thanksgiving

Haydn Higton

Wintery November

Wintery November has come round to stay

Don't worry that it will bring dark, dreary days

Perhaps like the fifth there'll be fireworks and sparks

Excitement and colour to brighten our hearts,

A dull day or one with a crisp, cold bright sun

A day for reflection or one filled with fun

We can't ever know what tomorrow will bring

A sorrow, or joy that will make our soul sing

Live life to the full and don't worry ahead

"For I'm with you always "our Lord Jesus said.

Church Gardner

Annan Girls Brigade

On 6th October 2022 at the United Reformed Church, Annan the 1st Annan Girls Brigade Company held its yearly Enrolment and Dedication Service. This was taken by Rev. Nick Mark who was also welcomed as the new Chaplain of the Company by Captain Paula Mitchell. The Company Staff would like to say a big thank you to all the parents, family, and church members for the wonderful turn out in support of the girls.



Advertising

In the New Year it is hoped to include a limited number of adverts in the magazine. If you would like to place an advertisement for either business or personal please contact Judith to discuss. There will be a small charge for advertising.

MOVING STORIES

Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Supporting | our global partners | **FAIRTRADE EDITION**

Facts 'n Figures on Fairtrade



ON AVERAGE EACH FAIRTRADE PRODUCER ORGANISATION RECEIVED MORE THAN **£90,000** IN FAIRTRADE PREMIUM



£169 MILLION IN FAIRTRADE PREMIUM PAID TO FARMERS AND WORKERS IN 2020



Prayer for Fairtrade

God of Abundance, help our church to support Fairtrade. Put into leadership business leaders with a conscience. Help them place people before profit.

We pray for Fairtrade across the world but especially in Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Israel and Palestine.

Amen.

UK Retailers commit to Fairtrade

Commitment for Life supports The Fairtrade Foundation who work in partnership with 1.9 million farmers and workers globally to address the root causes of poverty. The good news is that more UK retailers are committed to Fairtrade. "It is inspiring to see that public trust in, and preference for, Fairtrade is at its highest ever," says Michael Gidney, chief Executive of Fairtrade Foundation.

Lidl is the biggest buyer of Fairtrade cocoa. It rolled out its 'Way 2 Go' chocolate across 400 stores. Aldi launched the Choco Changer, a new chocolate bar that commits to Fairtrade's Living Income Reference Price for cocoa. Aldi also provides opportunities for flower farm workers in Ethiopia to meet objectives on gender equity. Other Fairtrade cocoa conversions were made by SPAR. It introduced three new products on trial. Proper, building on their brand commitment as the 'only Fairtrade sweet popcorn' introduced two new Proper Chocolate Popcorn bars, while Asda launched a new FSI cocoa chocolate bar. 100 percent Fairtrade brand Tony's Chocolonely also launched in major retailers in 2021.

Since 2005, Greggs has sourced Fairtrade coffee beans for all its coffee products. It has since added bananas, apple juice, orange juice, sugar sticks, sugar syrup, hot chocolate, black tea, mint tea, and green tea as part of its Fairtrade commitments. In August 2021, Greggs announced a switch to using only Fairtrade chocolate in its own products, which include Milk Chocolate Cookies, Caramel Shortbread and Chocolate Brownies.



