

# CONTACT

**November 2021**



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



# ANNAN URC SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Favourite Hymns	Marion Kerr
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service Moderator of the URC Scottish Synod	Revd. Paul Whittle
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Short Worship and Fellowship	Haydn Higon
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Advent 1 including Communion	Lesley Richmond

## CHURCH ROTA

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Door Welcomer</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Prayer Leaders</u>
7th November	A Foster	R Richardson, J Pool	M Kerr
14th November	M Kerr	L Richmond, H Higon	D Maxwell
21st November	R Richardson	D Maxwell, M Kerr	H McNairn
28th November	E Woodman	H McNairn, N Maxwell	H Higon
5th December	L Richmond	H Higon, E Woodman	D Maxwell
12th December	A Foster	R Richardson, J Pool	N Maxwell
19th December	L Highton	M Kerr, D Maxwell	L Richmond
26th December	M Kerr	N Maxwell, H Higon	H McNairn

### 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 01461 203328

## **Statement by Revd Alan Poolton, M.A.**

It is with genuine surprise and regret that I find myself writing to the church as your former minister.

As recently as the elders meeting last Friday] we were envisaging the steps necessary to move forward on the basis of the decisions taken at the last church meeting.

You will recall that I had explained to the church that due to the state of my health ( it genuinely takes me a week to recover from taking a service) current arrangements would not be sustainable in the long term but if there was a single vision from within the church along the lines presented by the eldership I would continue as long as my health allowed.

Alas during the elders meeting it became obvious that there exists, and will continue to exist a fundamental and irreconcilable difference within eldership regarding the way forward.

I was particularly disappointed that though we have as a church agreed a “ direction of travel” there are those on elders who cannot, or will not accept this.

The unified approach I am seeking will therefore not be possible and I truly regret that my health must come first. I have been in touch the Moderator who has accepted my resignation.

I had looked forward to starting a new phase around a Community Outreach Worker, and I know that Synod of Scotland were excited to see this as a possible model for other, similar situations, and I deeply regret that you must do this without me.

Prior to this I had arranged for our Moderator ( Revd Paul Whittle) to lead our Remembrance Service on November 14th and I am sure that there will be a time to talk options through with him then

Friends, I am sorry it has had to end this way

Best wishes

Revd Alan Poolton

12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## AUTUMN IS THE SEASON

Nature has four seasons  
But Autumn is the best  
When all is gathered in  
To line the winter nest

Orchards bulge with fruit  
And barns are packed full of hay  
The nuts are safely stored  
Away in the Squirrel's drey

Mellow days abound  
Welcome tranquil skies  
Calm before the storm  
Of a Wintertime surprise

Mature is this season  
Man's autumn is so too  
His lifetime labour's done  
He'll relax the winter through

The Church Gardener





# Moving stories

Committed to supporting | our global partners | in BANGLADESH

## Prayer Time

Heaven and earth are filled with your praises, O Creator God! You taught us to love the lilies, the birds, and our neighbour. Help us forgive all debt as You taught us in prayer; to lives beyond the reaches of unjust economic systems that devastate the earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## No Debt @COP26

We pray for a big commitment to be made at COP 26 for the unconditional cancellation of debt for the global south. This will help countries invest in climate adaptation and mitigation, and help frontline communities stay in their homes as Climate Chaos threatens to displace them.

Cancelling debt will also help global south governments to rebuild public services and buy Covid-19 vaccines.

Debt cancellation would help atone for the climate and ecological debt owed by the global north to the global south. Commitment for Life joins Global Justice Now in calling for massive debt write-offs with immediate additional finance to compensate for loss and damage due to climate change.

## POWER TO THE PEOPLE

***Christian Aid works hard to shift the balance of power in decision making to the local level.***

The current international humanitarian system in Bangladesh tends to be dominated by a few, large international organisations. These end up working with sizable international actors, who frequently ignore local and national actors. This creates an imbalanced power relation between international agencies and local ones. Locals end up on the periphery of a humanitarian response, and all that local knowledge, leadership, and capacity for decision making is lost.



*One of our trusted partners in Bangladesh is 'GUK.' They work with locals to enable sustainable change in the livelihoods of communities living in extreme poverty. GUK is well-known locally for its work with women, who are among the poorest of people in Bangladesh. GUK specialises in resilient livelihoods development, climate change, disaster risk reduction, gender and women's empowerment, and good governance accountability. Inspired by the belief in 'release not relief', GUK works with socially marginalised individuals and communities to bring about positive and self-sustaining change.*

*Pic. Community members gather during needs assessment after flash floods in Haor floods. Credit: Shakeb Nabi/ Christian Aid.*



A big thank you to Edith, Margaret and Karen for the beautiful Floral arrangements for Harvest Sunday also to Irvine for his wonderful vegetables

## **Church Cleaning**

On behalf of the church I just want to record our thanks to Helen, Doug, Jimmie & John the four people who have assisted me with the church cleaning & sanitization since the reopening of the church after lockdown.

They have come along, when available, on a Wednesday morning at 9.30am to lend a hand with the cleaning to ensure that all is neat & tidy & germ free & ready for the service on Sunday morning.

I cannot thank them enough for giving up their time in order to help me ensure that come the Sunday we have a Covid free sanctuary.

This work is ongoing for the foreseeable future so if you think you could be of assistance with the cleaning please do get in touch with me for it is a true saying that 'many hands make light work'

*Robin Richardson*

## **Church Service Times**

At fellowship time on Sunday we discussed the option of reverting the service time back to 10:30 am rather than 11 am.

In the not so distant past we have tried 10:30 am all year and we also tried changing to 11:00 am in the winter months only.

Recently we moved to 11 am to accommodate Zoom while we could not meet in church.

During the discussion it became evident that some like 11:00 and some like 10:30!

If the service start time impacts your ability to attend church then please let me have your views so that we can assess what will be the best way forward.

Doug Maxwell