

# CONTACT

October 2022



The monthly magazine of  
Annan United Reformed Church



# October Services

02/10/2022	Digital Service	Revd. Andy Braunston
09/10/2022	Service	Revd. Nick Mark
16/10/2022	Service	Revd. Haydn Higon
23/10/2022	Service with Fellowship Time	Revd. Nick Mark
30/10/2022	Songs of Praise	

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Email	annanurc@gmail.com
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Church Facebook	Annan URC
Church Administrator	Doug Maxwell 01387 249300
Magazine Editor	judith-stannard@hotmail.com 01461 203328

Items for the November Magazine should reach Judith by 20<sup>th</sup> October

## For your Diary

13 <sup>th</sup> October	Soup and Sweet Lunch
15 <sup>th</sup> October	URC Anniversary Concert
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Soup and Sweet Lunch
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch

Dear Friends,

Our Lectionary readings in October focus on chapters 17, 18 and 19 of Luke's Gospel and they focus on faithful service, patience, persistence and making the best use of the talents God has given the members of our congregation. We begin that cycle of readings by looking on Sunday the 2nd at Luke 17 verses 5-10 where we consider the disciples request to Jesus to increase their faith. The answer they get is to jolly well get on with it and simply faithfully serve and use the powers God has given us and not demand more. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of October in looking at Luke 17 verses 11-19 we consider the simplicity of God's healing grace. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October we look at the first 8 verses of Luke 18. Here is the parable of the widow who pesters the judge for justice. There is a very real message here for the congregation in Annan of recognising what you are fighting for and of how persistence actually does pay off. It is easy for all of us when a mission initiative seems to produce a nil result to say well, we tried but there is no point in ever having another go. The widow keeps on trying to break the seemingly impenetrable barrier and with God's help succeeds.

The 23rd of October Lectionary reading from Luke 18 verses 9-14 brings us down to earth with a bump so to speak in the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. The punch line is that Jesus points out the better Christian is the humble despised Tax Collector not the exemplary Pharisee who makes sure everybody knows who he is.

The 30<sup>th</sup> of October Lectionary reading from Luke 18 verses 1-10 is about the transformation of Zacchaeus from a dishonest tax collector to a man prepared to repay those he had swindled

So our October Sunday readings will be a chance to reflect in our congregation how much God blesses us and wills us on and encourages us when we feel down to look around us and see how we can grow in faith and continue to pursue our God given calling. It also challenges us to engage with people in the community outside who we may have shunned for previous misdeeds. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the URC and we can truly reflect on how patient and persistent we have been because the goal when the URC was formed in 1972 was to achieve a united Christian Church, is a long way from fruition, but times and thinking have moved on and our continuing efforts to promote ecumenism have not faltered.

With every blessing

Nick Mark

# **CELEBRATE**

October marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the inception of the United Reformed Church and we celebrate this Jubilee at a time when declining attendances and shortage of Ministers makes some despair about the Church in future. The U.R.C was formed in 1972 by a union of the Presbyterian Church of England and a majority of the Congregational Church in England and Wales.

In 1981 the Reformed Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland united with the U.R.C and in 2000 the Congregational Church in Scotland united too. This is a summary of our heritage in which the Church acknowledged it's "duty to be open at all times to the leading of the Holy Spirit".

With changes in Monarchy and Government there is a change and an air of crisis in the church and in the world. God's world has always been one of transition – of change and sometimes of great uncertainty. So, our memories of the past can be a source of comfort – the church has faced many difficulties in the past but God will guide us as he did our ancestors.

So, in this Jubilee year make time to reflect on and recall God's faithfulness across the ages to his people and His Church. Remember what God has done for you, and then celebrate what He is doing now, and look forward to all He is yet to do.

A changing world creates new opportunities for us to be guided by the Holy Spirit and with our minds and hearts thinking positively there are many chances to create better times.

Haydn Higton

## **Prayer**

**Faithful God, teach us today and always, to live in the light of all that you have done;  
the love you have so faithfully shown;  
guidance so faithfully given;  
promise so faithfully fulfilled and blessings so faithfully offered.**

**Teach us, remembering such constancy to celebrate the present and trust you for the future**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

# CONGRATULATIONS

To Haydn and Lyn on their  
Sapphire (65<sup>th</sup>) Wedding Anniversary on the 5<sup>th</sup> October  
The Church family would like to join with their family in wishing  
them all the best.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Annan Girls Brigade**

1<sup>st</sup> Annan Girls Brigade had a very successful registration evening on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. The Company has had a number of girls returning after the summer holidays along with a great number of girls joining the Company for the first time. Our numbers presently are at 30 and we have had a few more enquiries.

We started the session with a games night and the girls integrated well with each other. The older ones, ensuring that the younger ones knew what they were doing or vice versa in some cases, but a great night was had by all.

Over the coming weeks we will be beginning our badge work across all sections of the Company.

The Company is delighted to have Vikki Oliver join us as a Trainee Leader. Vikki has completed the training required for this role. We are seeking new leaders for the Company due to the number of girls, so if you or you know of anyone who may be interested in coming along and having lots of fun on a Thursday evening, please get in touch with one of the GB leaders.

Also, if you or if you know of anyone who would like to come along one evening and support the girls with their badge work, which covers the four areas of service, spiritual, physical and educational, please contact one of the GB Leaders.

We meet on a Thursday evening from 18.00-19.30 in the church hall.

Paula Mitchell  
Captain  
1<sup>st</sup> Annan Girls Brigade



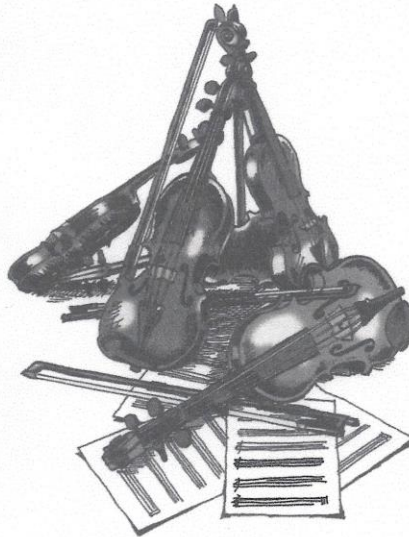
*The Border  
Strathspey  
& Reel Society*

*With*

*Local Guest Artists*

*Present*

*An Evening Of Scottish Music*



*7pm on*

*Saturday 15th October 2022*

*at*

*Annan URC Church*

*Station Road Annan DG12 6AT*

*Tickets £5*

*Tickets Available from Church Members or on the Door*

# AUTUMN COLOURS RUSSET, SCARLET AND GOLD

When the last petal has fallen  
From the Red Rose and White,  
And the garden chairs and the paddling-pool  
Are put away out of sight,  
How lovely to welcome Autumn  
As she drifts through the misty air  
With a crown of Michaelmas Daisies  
Upon her flame-bright hair!

When Summer's glory is over,  
And nights grow dark and cold,  
Then in her friendly homespun of russet, scarlet and gold  
With a necklace of Hawthorn berries  
And her smoky purple gaze  
Brave and bewitching Autumn  
Lights up the woodland ways

Though oft we may yearn for Summer  
Its sunshine, its skies of blue  
And sigh for halcyon days gone by  
And all the joys we knew,  
Let us sing Autumn's praises  
As the leaves come fluttering down,  
Autumn, with her tawny hair  
Her Michaelmas daisy crown

Church Gardener

## SOUP AND SWEET LUNCH

Thursday 13<sup>TH</sup> October

In the Church Hall

11.30 – 1.30