

Annan United Reformed Church



August 2016 Newsletter



www.annan.urc.org.uk

August 2016 - Worship at Annan URC - all services are at 10:30am

Sunday 7th August:

Communion - Rev Haydn Higton

Bible Readings: Luke 22: 7-20 – Jim Murray
Matthew 26: 16-20 – Marion Kerr

Service Theme: *Come and Go*

Sunday 14th August:

Led by Joseph Kidd-Bentley

Prayer Leaders: Doug Maxwell and Nan Maxwell

Bible Readings: Luke 12: 49-56 – Margaret Jones
Jeremiah 23: 23-29 – Fiona Glass

Sunday 21st August:

Bible Readings: 1 – Robin Richardson
2 – Edith Woodman

Sunday 28th August

Prayer Leaders: Christina Beattie and Margaret Jones

Bible Readings: 1 – Mamie Lamont
2 – Joseph Kidd-Bentley

AN INTRODUCTION:

A refreshed version of the United Reformed Church logo was officially launched on 1st June, to make the denomination's visual identity more positive, striking and adaptable. The updated logo took eight months of hard work and consultation, and is intended for use on all denominational printed and online material.



This can be found on the URC website, which also states guidelines for use. Copyright is owned by the United Reformed Church. The logo is also available in a colour version with the fish in a lovely shade of blue – you can see this on our website.

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## ANOTHER INTRODUCTION:

Robert and Ruth Mitchell have been worshipping with this congregation since Christmas 2015, but you may already know us, as we have lived in Annan for thirteen years. Raised in the south of England, we have also lived briefly in Yorkshire before spending thirty years in Lancashire. We have three children: our son lives with us, one daughter in County Durham and the other daughter in Inverness. We have two grandsons (one married and living in Laurencekirk, the other engaged and in Dunfermline) and two granddaughters (one about to begin work in High Wycombe and the other studying "A-levels"). We are expecting the elder grandson and his wife to give us a first great grandchild this November.

We have had various roles in a number of churches, ranging through worship, pastoral, administrative and practical, and we look forward to serving Annan URC through the newsletter and website.

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Message from Haydn:

WRITE TO YOUR MP AND MSP

Forty years ago, the United Kingdom made a commitment aiming to spend at least 0.7% of our national income on overseas development assistance.

As Christians, we should support all efforts to address the root causes of poverty, and predictable funding enables doctors, nurses, teachers and aid agencies to make their work more effective so that countries can move more quickly to a future free of aid dependency.

Continued ...

Message from Haydn: continued

The impact of UK aid:

- UK aid is contributing to many successes around the world. For example:
 - In the last 40 years, extreme poverty has halved.
 - Since 2000, the number of children dying from malaria has halved.
 - Since 1990, child mortality has halved.

- Our support for immunisation saves a child's life every two minutes.

- In the last four years UK aid has:
 - provided 41.3 million people with access to clean water, better sanitation or improved hygiene conditions
 - supported 10.2 million children, including 4.9 million girls, to go to school
 - ensured that 3.6 million births took place safely with the help of nurses, midwives and doctors
 - provided over 15 million food rations and sheltered around 100,000 people in Syria
 - provided 54.4 million people, including 26.9 million women, with access to financial services to help them work their way out of poverty
 - helped 85.8 million people to hold their authorities to account and have their say in the community's development.

- With support from DFID funding, Christian Aid projects have, for example:
 - helped Christian Aid partners to improve access to health care and build profitable, resilient livelihoods for 8.2 million of the most vulnerable people in 23 countries
 - helped Christian Aid partners to deliver vital healthcare to mums and babies in Kenya
 - helped women to start food businesses in Ethiopia.

Data Source: Christian Aid

We must ensure that both the UK and Scottish governments continue to support the poor countries of God's world.

David Mundell MP can be reached at Monro House, Duncan Drive, Moffat, DG10 9JW.

01683 222746 Email: <mailto:david@davidmundell.com>

Oliver Mundell MSP has an office at 78 High Street, Lockerbie, DG11 2EU.

01576 203910 Email: <mailto:oliver.mundell.msp@parliament.scot>

Haydn Higton

MINISTER'S HOLIDAY

The Minister is on holiday from Sunday 31st July until Wednesday morning 17th August; anyone in need of pastoral assistance during this time should contact their elder in the first instance.

CHURCH LUNCHESES

Thanks are due to all who made the Strawberry and Summer Lunches so enjoyable and successful in June and July, including all who came along to support them. There is no Lunch in August, but Soup and Sweet Lunches will resume on Thursday 8th September.

GAMES AFTERNOONS

The Games Afternoon is not on in August; we will restart in September.

SHOEBOXES

Some folk have taken boxes and are busy filling them to help bring a smile to children in eastern Europe at Christmas time. However, there are boxes still available - each already provided with a hat and scarf – it would be helpful if more folk will help with this outreach. Lists of other acceptable items are available.

Some ten years ago our church family filled over ninety boxes – can we aim for the same number this year?

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## **CHRISTIAN AID SCOTLAND LAUNCHES MALAWI FOOD CRISIS APPEAL AS MILLIONS FACE HUNGER**

Christian Aid Scotland has launched an emergency appeal to help support communities in Malawi through a devastating drought that has left 6.5 million people – around a third of the country's population – without access to enough food.

Reflecting the scale of the crisis and the depth of support in Scotland for Malawi, Christian Aid has made the unprecedented move of launching a direct appeal to its supporters in Scotland. At least the first £70,000 donated will be matched pound for pound by the Scottish Government's International Development Fund.

Malawi is facing its worst food crisis for a decade, following prolonged dry spells, erratic rainfall and last year's devastating floods, which destroyed food reserves, farm land and crops, sending food prices soaring.

With support from the Scottish Government's Climate Justice Fund, Christian Aid has helped families in Nsanje district – one of Malawi's poorest regions – to improve water supplies and food security. Last month, two solar-powered irrigation pumps were installed to enable farmers to water their crops even through the toughest droughts, protecting communities against future crises of this nature.

However, the failure of the last two harvests has forced people to move away in search of food. Christian Aid's appeal will provide interim support so that farmers don't have to abandon their recently-sown crops or sell agricultural tools and land.

Continued ...

## CHRISTIAN AID MALAWI APPEAL continued

Launching the appeal, Head of Christian Aid Scotland Sally Foster-Fulton said: “Since a State of National Disaster was declared in April, the numbers needing urgent food aid in Malawi has risen from 2.8 million to 6.5 million people. After the May-June harvest, the hardest-hit families only had enough food to last them one month.

“Without a major humanitarian response, the development progress made by the people of Malawi, alongside Christian Aid and other agencies, could be all but wiped out. That’s why any short-term relief work must link to wider, long-term efforts to help Malawi’s communities to withstand disasters that exacerbate poverty. Only then will the country stand a chance of breaking its cycle of food insecurity, once and for all.”

Pansi Katenga, Christian Aid’s Malawi Country Manager, based in the capital Lilongwe, said: “The food crisis is very painful. I have seen first-hand the plight of people in villages here, whose harvests have completely failed. This lack of crops will have a severe impact on families, as people begin to resort to severe coping strategies to deal with food insecurity. This could perpetuate poverty – for instance, there is a real risk that children could be pulled out of school or that girls could be asked to marry early, as desperate parents run out of options.

“Christian Aid in Malawi has made many strides in tackling the root causes of poverty that plagues countless communities in our country. That’s why we need to provide immediate short-term support to these people, until it’s time for them to harvest in three months’ time – otherwise there’s a real risk they could leave the crops and focus their attention on addressing their urgent day-to-day food needs.

“Therefore, any support we can offer them, through this emergency appeal, will save lives and will prevent the situation from deteriorating. So I appeal to the people of Scotland to join hands to safeguard the gains we’ve made, to save resources and to save lives. The cost of inaction will be huge in the long-run.”

Minister for International Development and Europe Dr Alasdair Allan said: “Worsening food shortages in Malawi caused by a severe drought mean 6.5 million people are now not expected to be able to meet their food needs in the coming months.

“As part of our on-going role in addressing global challenges, the Scottish Government is committed to assisting the people of Malawi in this time of need. We will match fund, up to £70,000, every pound raised by Christian Aid’s public appeal until 31 October.

“I would encourage people the length and breadth of Scotland to consider supporting fund raising efforts to assist Malawi at this critical time”.

To donate to the appeal, visit:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/malawi-food-crisis>

## WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO FINDING A TIMELY SOLUTION TO CONFLICT IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

The Central Committee of the WCC, meeting in Trondheim, Norway, from 22-28 June 2016, authorized the convening of an international ecumenical conference in 2017 “to reaffirm and strengthen ecumenical witness for peace with justice for Israelis and Palestinians.”

In its ‘Statement on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Peace Process,’ the Central Committee called on member churches and ecumenical partners to “listen and respond to the voices of Palestinian Christians;” to take “active steps to encourage a continued robust indigenous Christian presence in the Holy Land;” to “promote and support all nonviolent efforts to end the occupation of Palestinian territories;” to “intensify dialogue and cooperation with Jewish and Muslim partners on the pilgrimage of justice and peace;” and to “support leaders and members of the churches in the area, strengthening their presence in the cradle of Christianity.”

<http://www.oikoumene.org>

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

02/08	Tea and Natter 10:00am
09/08	Tea and Natter 10:00am
16/08	Tea and Natter 10:00am
23/08	Elders’ Meeting at Manse 6:30pm
24/08	Church open for quiet time 10:00am-noon
25/08	Girls’ Brigade enrolment evening
30/08	Tea and Natter 10:00am
31/08	Church open for quiet time 10:00am-noon

Please submit material (eg September meeting dates and articles) for the September Newsletter as early as you can, and definitely by Tuesday 23rd August, to

ruthmitchell821@btinternet.com and robertmitchell821@btinternet.com

01461 201450

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**Minister’s phone number:** 01461 206988

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Old Testament</b> | <b>New Testament</b>  |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01/08       | Judges 13.1-23       | Luke 10.38-42         |
| 02/08       | Proverbs 15.15-end   | Matthew 15.21-28      |
| 03/08       | Isaiah 45.1-7        | Ephesians 4.1-16      |
| 04/08       | Jeremiah 16.1-15     | Luke 12.35-48         |
| 05/08       | Jeremiah 18.1-11     | Hebrews 1.1-9         |
| 06/08       | Jeremiah 26.1-19     | Ephesians 3.1-13      |
| 08/08       | Ruth 2.1-13          | Luke 10.25-37         |
| 09/08       | Proverbs 16.1-11     | Philippians 3.4b-end  |
| 10/08       | Deuteronomy 11.1-21  | 2 Corinthians 9.6-end |
| 11/08       | Ecclesiastes 2.12-25 | John 16.1-15          |
| 12/08       | Obadiah 1-10         | John 19.1-16          |
| 13/08       | 2 Kings 2.11-14      | Luke 24.36-end        |
| 15/08       | 1 Samuel 17.32-50    | Matthew 8.14-22       |
| 16/08       | Proverbs 17.1-15     | Luke 7.1-17           |
| 17/08       | Jeremiah 5.20-end    | 2 Peter 3.8-end       |
| 18/08       | Daniel 2.1-23        | Luke 10.1-20          |
| 19/08       | Daniel 3.1-28        | Revelation 15         |
| 20/08       | Daniel 6             | Philippians 2.14-24   |
| 22/08       | 2 Samuel 7.4-17      | 2 Corinthians 5.1-10  |
| 23/08       | Proverbs 18.10-21    | Romans 14.10-end      |
| 24/08       | Judges 4.1-10        | Romans 1.8-17         |
| 25/08       | Isaiah 49.14-end     | John 16.16-24         |
| 26/08       | Job 9.1-24           | Mark 15.21-32         |
| 27/08       | Exodus 19.1-9        | John 20.11-18         |
| 29/08       | Haggai 1             | Mark 7.9-23           |
| 30/08       | Proverbs 21.1-18     | Mark 6.30-44          |
| 31/08       | Hosea 11.1-11        | 1 John 4.9-end        |