

# Annan United Reformed Church



## September 2016 Newsletter



[www.annan.urc.org.uk](http://www.annan.urc.org.uk)

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

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September:**

**Communion**

Bible Readings: Luke 14:25-33 Marion Kerr  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Haydn Higton

Service Theme: *Stark choices*

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September:**

**Prayer Leaders:** Haydn Higton & Jim Murray

Bible Readings: Luke 15:1-10 Nan Maxwell  
Exodus 32:7-14 Doug Maxwell

Service Theme: *Lost values*

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September:**

**Church Meeting**

Bible Reading: Luke 16:1-13 Christina Beattie

Service Theme: *It's complicated*

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September:**

**Harvest Service**

**Prayer Leaders:** Lyn Higton & Helen McNairn

Bible Readings: Luke 16:18-31 Marion Kerr  
Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Jim Murray

Service Theme: *Mind the gap*



## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

As most will be aware now, I announced on 21<sup>st</sup> August that I had 'Preached with a View' at the Fife and Tayside Pastorate (Coaltown, Dundee, Dunfermline, Dunning and Newburgh) to which I received a calling and have accepted. This means I will be leaving Annan (subject to concurrence by Synod Pastoral Committee and the moderator's diary) in November with my last service probably being Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

There are many things I am going to miss about living and having my ministry in Annan (not least of all are the people I have come to know both in the Church and in the Community).

Obviously my decision to ask the moderator to put my name forward to moderators' meeting was not a decision that I made on my own or lightly; Trish and I had many a long discussion. I was reflecting on this when I was on holiday: "Why now?" My thoughts turned to Ecclesiastes, used so often at funerals, and the fact that there is a time for everything – it has become clear to Trish and me that it is time for us personally to move on. This is no reflection on the Church, the Community or the Joint Pastorate discussions – it was personal to us. I do not know where God will lead my ministry in the future (although I do know I will really enjoy being able to see the Forth Rail Bridge easily) but I do understand that it will be God leading me.

Part of my heart will always lie with Annan, for the good times and understanding of the congregation in my first pastorate, for how much space I was given to learn. I do pray that a way forward is found for Annan being part of a cluster in the near future.

There is still a lot of work to do in the coming three months:

- The kitchen refurbishment can now go ahead as we have received a £10,000 grant from the Big Lottery
- We need to look at applying for a grant from the Synod to fix the plaster coming off the wall
- The Christmas Tree Festival is in the process of being organised
- The work to have the Church open more days a week continues.

Perhaps this is a reminder that, no matter what changes happen in our personal lives, God's work continues.

God Bless

*Alan*

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Of course there will be appropriate times for individual and fellowship thanks and farewells to be said. Meanwhile, can we all please pray for Alan and Trish as they move forward to this next stage in ministry, for peace about their decision, for strength and stamina in all the practical issues and for the Fife and Tayside churches as they prepare to receive them.

Also, we need to pray for the ongoing work of Annan URC, for our Elders, for those who will take up the yoke of leading services and providing pastoral care, for any who feel bereft at losing our Minister, and for those who will seek and find solutions for our future.

Editors

## PLANTING A GARDEN

I found these words on a leaflet in a church in the Lake District recently. St Anthony's, Cartmell Fell was built in 1504 and there has been a worshipping community for over five centuries there.

First, plant five rows of peas;  
Patience, Promptness, Preparation, Purity, Perseverance.

Next plant three rows of Squash;  
Squash gossip, Squash criticism, Squash indifference.

Then plant five rows of Lettuce;  
Let us be faithful, Let us be unselfish, Let us be loyal,  
Let us be true to obligations, Let us love one another.

And no garden is complete without Turnips;  
Turn up for worship,  
Turn up for important meetings,  
Turn up with a smile,  
Turn up with good ideas,  
Turn up with determination to make everything worthwhile.

Haydn Higton

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## **The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.**

*Edmund Burke 1729 - 1797*

If you missed the service on 14<sup>th</sup> August, you may like to consider the words of this hymn that we sang after Joseph's talk, which used the day's lectionary readings to challenge us to **act**, for God and for good:

### Verse 1

Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by endless pain,  
Aware of God's own bias, we ask him once again:  
'How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?  
How long dare vain self int'rest turn prayer and pity blind?'

### Verse 5

God asks: 'Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?  
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?  
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?  
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?'

*John L. Bell and Graham Maule*

And another quotation from Edmund Burke, to encourage us in the times when we feel small, weak and inadequate:

'Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little'.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### GIRLS' BRIGADE

The Girls' Brigade meets every Thursday evening from 6:00pm for an hour and a half of fun together. All girls from Primary One upwards are welcome:

*EXPLORERS: P1-P3      JUNIORS: P4-P7      BRIGADERS: SECONDARY*

### FLORAL ART

The Floral Art Group resumes meeting from 5<sup>th</sup> September, at 7:00pm on the first Monday in each month, with room for new participants. For further information, please contact Edith Woodman 01461 204715.

### RAINBOW TRIBE

Rainbow Tribe resumes Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Please note new meeting times:

*JUNIOR GROUP and MINI SPECTRUM 6:00 to 6:30pm*

*OLDER PRIMARY GROUP and SECONDARY GROUP 6:45 to 7:30pm*

*SPECTRUM 7:30 to 8:30pm.*

### WOMEN'S UNION

The Women's Union will meet for a meal at The Anglers, 61 High Street, Annan at 12 noon on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Please let Marion Kerr know if you wish to attend – this is open to all, including men, but we do need to know whether you are coming!

### ANNAN CHURCHES TOGETHER - FRIDAYS IN FAITH

Fridays in Faith offers a safe sacred space for families and individuals of all ages to explore faith and share experiences together.

*GAMES – FAITH – FUN – DRAMA – CRAFT – FELLOWSHIP*

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – from 7:00 to 8:30pm – “Making a Difference”

New meeting place, The HUB, (Old School in Ednam Street).

### 'LET US BUILD A HOUSE'

Event in St Andrew's to help Nepal rebuild after their earthquake on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Posters on noticeboards; tickets priced £10 from Revd Kate Vivers.

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### BOOKCASES WANTED

Books are a source of fundraising and it has been suggested that we could have a regular “book sale” for all users of the premises more frequently than the Soup and Sweet lunches. If anyone is planning to dispose of a wooden bookcase, please speak to Haydn as soon as possible.

## SELL THE CHURCH

Before anyone has a heart attack, be assured that the suggestion is not to market the buildings and land for redevelopment. This is especially so since the sanctuary has been updated, and plans for modernising the kitchen are proceeding.

However, we do need to see that the buildings are utilised more and are of interest to and for community activities. We wish more people will see the church buildings as a place for their activities, and financial donations will help costs for heating and lighting as well as maintenance.

So if you know or hear of groups or individuals looking for premises please tell one of the Elders or the Minister so the enquiry can be progressed.

Haydn Higton

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## COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

As part of this programme between Christian Aid and the United Reformed Church, our church family chose to focus on Bangladesh. A Christian Aid leaflet highlights how the country is vulnerable to flooding and climate change worsens their plight. Heatwaves and extreme rainfall are increasingly common, and our prayers and our giving can help. Annan URC provides a goodly proportion of our Synod's contribution to Commitment for Life – can we increase it this year?

A Prayer from Bangladesh, published by Christian Aid:

O Saviour Christ, in whose way of life lies the secret of all life and the hopes of all the people, we pray for quiet courage to meet this hour.

We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age  
but let its problems challenge us,  
its discoveries exhilarate us,  
its injustice anger us  
its possibilities inspire us  
and its vigour renew us;  
for your Kingdom's sake.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

The church gardens have once again won the Best Commercial Garden in the Annan Garden Competition. I know how much work my Dad has put into the gardens over the years and this recognition is well-deserved. Many townspeople often comment on their presentation as they pass and on the amount of colour displayed in them throughout the seasons. Well done, Dad!

Fiona Glass

We are sure all members of the church would wish to add their congratulations to Irving Kerr and thank him for the wonderful cheery welcome the gardens give to all who come to the church and hall.

Editors

## WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE ISRAEL 2016

“GOD HAS BROKEN THE DIVIDING WALLS” (Ephesians 2:14)

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) of the World Council of Churches invites member churches, faith-based communities and civil society organizations to join together for a week of advocacy and action. The theme of the week, 18-24 September 2016, is: “***Dismantling barriers***”.

Congregations and communities are encouraged to:

- **Pray** with churches living under occupation, using a special prayer from Jerusalem and other worship resources prepared for the week.
- **Educate communities** about actions that make for peace and about facts on the ground that do not create peace, especially related to separation and barriers.
- **Advocate** with political leaders using ecumenical policies that promote peace with justice.

PIEF, established in 2007, is an instrument to “catalyse and coordinate new and existing church advocacy for peace, aimed at ending the illegal occupation in accordance with UN resolutions, and demonstrate its commitment to inter-religious action for peace and justice that serves all the peoples of the region.” The PIEF works towards increasing solidarity between and among churches committed to peace and justice for communities living under occupation. Its inter-faith dimension invites people of other religions in the Middle East and elsewhere to join the search and struggle for a just and comprehensive peace.

### **The Separation Barrier (from WWPP)**

In November 2000, the then Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and his Labour-led government approved construction of the separation barrier. The planned route of this barrier, the stated purpose of which is the physical separation of Israelis and West Bank Palestinians, would be 712km long. About two thirds of the barrier has been completed with a mixture of fences, ditches, razor wire and concrete walls of up to eight metres high.

Significantly, the wall is being built not in Israeli territory or on the Green Line (the internationally recognised boundaries of the Israeli state) but the vast majority runs through Palestinian territory. The barrier’s construction violates international law yet building continues.

A 2004 statement of the WCC Executive Committee says, “Israel has serious and legitimate security concerns and we recognise Israel’s right and duty to protect its people against attacks and suicide bombers inside the state of Israel. Yet, the construction and location of this wall is a breach of international humanitarian law. Security must therefore be safeguarded through alternative methods, without collective punishment of innocent civilians.”

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### **Key Facts**

8.5% of West Bank land is situated to the West of the barrier's planned route cutting 27,520 Palestinians off from the West Bank.

The separation barrier is over twice as long as the Green Line (the internationally recognised Israeli border).

A further 3.4% of West Bank land is completely or partially surrounded by the barrier affecting 247,800 Palestinians.

The International Court of Justice ruled that the barrier's construction was illegal in 2004 but construction has continued ever since.

In some parts the barrier consists of a concrete wall of up to eight metres in height. This is over twice the height of the Berlin Wall.

From URC Resources – Moving Stories.

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### SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

When you look in the dictionary for the meaning of holiday, it tells you it is not normal days, but days that are spent away from work or school. Over the past few weeks I have enjoyed the opportunity to do lots of different things.

The holiday began meeting up with an old friend who I have kept in touch with over the years. I'm sure many of you will remember Linda Bentley; her mum Mattie McArthur played the piano at Girls Brigade and Sunday School for many years. It was great to see Linda again and she sends her love and best wishes to all those who remember her.

The first week of the holidays was busy as we took off to Edinburgh for a few days, for our son's graduation ceremony. It was a fantastic day and luckily the sun did shine for most of the day. The Usher Hall was a fantastic venue for this. We felt very proud (and relieved, no more rent to pay). The end of this week we had a friend's wedding which was another great day and another excuse for a new outfit!!

Time away was spent in Galashiels with another trip on the Borders Railway and time to catch up with my sister. We visited Holyrood Palace and took in an exhibition of the Queen's clothing for her 90th birthday when we were there too, and a little shopping on Princes Street.

Of course, my Summer Holiday would not be complete without a visit to Northumberland. We visited Alnwick Garden again. It is beautiful and the garden is so well established now. It was lovely just to sit and watch the world pass by. The Holy Island tide times allowed us a short visit across: enough time to visit the church of St Cuthbert and walk around the island. I also visited St Aidan's church in Bamburgh; St Aidan is said to have worshipped here. It is a beautiful old church in the heart of the village.

All too soon the last week of the holidays came and this took us to New Lanark and the Mill Hotel. We found out lots about Robert Owen and his reforms of working life for people who worked in the mills. The restoration of these old mills is amazing. Here began the working of what we know today as the Cooperative.

Back home now and back to the normal routines. I had a great summer holiday.

Fiona Glass.

## SEPTEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup>	Girls' Brigade 6:00-7:30pm in hall (and each Thursday)
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fridays in Faith 7:00pm The Hub, Ednam Street
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	Floral Art 7:00 pm in hall
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	Tea & Natter Group 10:00am in hall (and each Tuesday)
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	Games Afternoon restarts 2:00pm – indoor kurling & dominoes (and each Tuesday)
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	Rainbow Tribe & Spectrum restart (new times) (and each Tuesday)
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	Church open for Quiet Time 10:00am – noon and each Wednesday
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	Soup & Sweet Lunches from 11:30am - 1:30pm
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	Synod meeting – Coatbridge United Reformed Church
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	'Let us build a house' in St Andrew's
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	The minister is attending a Church and Society Meeting in Glasgow at 6:30pm
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	Annan Churches Together meet at 7:00pm in Kate's Kitchen premises on Bank Street
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	The minister is attending a Synod Pastoral Committee Meeting in Glasgow at 10:00am
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Church Meeting
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	The minister is attending a South Link Pastoral Group meeting in Hamilton at 7:00pm
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	The minister is attending a meeting of the Lanarkshire Trinity Pastorate in his role as Convener of the joint pastorate group at 7:00pm in Airdrie
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Service
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	Women's Union meal at The Anglers
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	The minister is attending a meeting in Glasgow as part of the Synod Communication Advisory Group at 11:00am
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	Last date for material for October Newsletter to reach Ruth & Robert
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Vestry Day

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

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Old Testament</b>   | <b>New Testament</b>   |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 01/09       | Lamentations 3.34-38   | Romans 7.14-end        |
| 02/09       | 2 Kings 19.4-18        | I Thessalonians 3      |
| 03/09       | Deuteronomy 29.2-15    | 2 Timothy 3.10-end     |
| 05/09       | Job 12.1-16            | Matthew 15.1-9         |
| 06/09       | Proverbs 8.1-11        | Luke 6.39-end          |
| 07/09       | Proverbs 2.1-15        | Colossians 1.9-20      |
| 08/09       | Genesis 1.1-13         | John 1.1-18            |
| 09/09       | Deuteronomy 7.7-16     | 1 Corinthians 1.18-end |
| 10/09       | Jeremiah 1.4-10        | Luke 2.41-end          |
| 12/09       | Genesis 21.1-13        | Luke 1.26-38           |
| 13/09       | Ruth 4.7-17            | Luke 2.25-38           |
| 14/09       | 2 Kings 4.1-7          | John 2.1-11            |
| 15/09       | 2 Kings 4.25b-37       | Mark 3.19b-35          |
| 16/09       | Ruth 1.1-18            | John 19.25b-30         |
| 17/09       | Exodus 15.19-27        | Acts 1.6-14            |
| 19/09       | Exodus 19.16-end       | Hebrews 12.18-end      |
| 20/09       | 1 Chronicles 16.1-13   | Revelation 11.15-end   |
| 21/09       | 1 Chronicles 29.10-19  | Colossians 3.12-17     |
| 22/09       | Nehemiah 8.1-12        | 1 Corinthians 14.1-12  |
| 23/09       | Isaiah 1.10-17         | Mark 12.28-34          |
| 24/09       | Daniel 6.6-23          | Revelation 12.7-12     |
| 26/09       | 2 Samuel 22.4-7, 17-20 | Hebrews 7.26 - 8.6     |
| 27/09       | Proverbs 22.17-end     | 2 Corinthians 12.1-10  |
| 28/09       | Hosea 14               | James 2.14-26          |
| 29/09       | Isaiah 24.1-15         | John 16.25-33          |
| 30/09       | Jeremiah 14.1-9        | Luke 23.44-56          |
|             |                        |                        |