

# Annan United Reformed Church

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



## February 2017 Newsletter



## FEBRUARY WORSHIP AT ANNAN URC

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February:**

**Revd Haydn Higton – Communion Service**

Theme – Light of the World

Prayer Leader:

H Higton

Bible Readings:

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 - C McCreddie

Matthew 5:13-20 - M Jones

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February:**

**Nan Maxwell – Worship preceding Church Meeting**

Prayer Leaders:

M Jones & N Maxwell

Bible Readings:

- E Woodman

- D Maxwell

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February:**

**Wilson Ogilvie**

Prayer Leaders:

R Mitchell & H Higton

Bible Readings:

- N Maxwell

- J Murray

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February::**

**Nan Maxwell**

Theme – Fairtrade Fortnight

Prayer Leaders:

H Higton & C McCreddie

Bible Readings:

- J Pool

- R Mitchell

*Note to Prayer Leaders and Readers:* visiting Service Leaders have the option to choose their own theme and readings, and may wish to lead prayers themselves. Such information will be given to you as soon as possible.

## **CARING**

“Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep” – Romans 12:15

Real personal contact with people is the aim of pastoral care – sharing both joys and sorrows. It is suggested at a Care Visiting Scheme might involve two or three training sessions to equip lay visitors, and then quarterly meetings of the group of visitors to discuss their experiences. In this way, visitors are supported in their task, learn from each other and find a strong sense of fellowship.

The role of the lay visitor is “to provide a ministry of supportive friendship” to people who are isolated and unable to take part in church services and other church activities. The caring presence of the church goes out to them where they are, through the visitor

- supporting members with personal problems or housebound
- during illness, hospitalisation or bereavement
- family troubles, emotional distress
- money problems, redundancy/unemployment
- doubt and loss of faith
- the lapsed, the active and committed.

Each visitor could liaise with an Elder or Minister; all playing a part in the shared ministry of mutual love and care.

(quoted from “Leading God’s People” by Stewart Matthew and Kenneth Scott)

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## **ARE YOU THE ONE ...**

Who will try to help improve one of the following aspects of our church family life?

1. Fabric – we have not had an official fabric group for some time but in the past few months we have spent over £7,000 maintaining the church and manse buildings. Further work to make the church building weatherproof is estimated at several hundreds of pounds and we need four or five people to plan and supervise such work. There is no need to restrict this to men and there is no expectation of actually doing the work – only of arranging suitable tradesmen.
2. Girls’ Brigade – this important part of the church’s outreach has lost some adults who volunteered to help, because of changes in their family circumstances. More helpers are needed NOW for the ninety minutes on Thursdays, and it need not be every week. If you will consider offering to help, speak to Paula Mitchell, Helen McNairn or Lyn Higton.
3. Pastoral Care – with the limited number of Elders, it is no longer possible for Elders to provide adequate oversight of a district or group from the church family. We have appealed in the past for members to consider becoming an Elder, but there is a separate issue about how we might improve our pastoral care.

There has been a very encouraging response to improving our worship by more people taking a role. Could we have a similar response in other aspects of our church life?

Haydn Higton

**1<sup>ST</sup> ANNAN GIRLS BRIGADE**

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are desperately looking for helpers or leaders to help on a Thursday evening from 18.00 - 19.30. I have tried to introduce a volunteer rota for parents with a limited amount of success, but we need people to commit on a more regular basis. The leaders that we have are fabulous and donate their time voluntarily. We have great fun and it is very enjoyable seeing the girls work through their badge work and achieve their outcomes at the end of the year. If you can help, or know someone who may be interested, please contact me.

Paula Mitchell.



**SOUP AND SWEET LUNCHES**

This month's Soup & Sweet Lunch will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 11:30 to 1:30.

As some of the folk who normally help will be absent for various reasons, more assistance is required. Please consider whether you could help with preparation in the morning, serving at lunchtime or clearing tables. Most helpers do all these things, but any part-time help would be appreciated.

We also need more contributions to sell at the cake table – this includes cakes, pies, biscuits etc and home preserves. These should be delivered to the hall on the day.

Items for the tombola stall can be left in the labelled large plastic box in the church vestibule at any time.



**QUARTERLY CHURCH MEETING**

Please make every effort to attend the Church Meeting after the short morning service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February. This is *your* church meeting, and therefore *your* chance to raise items which you feel should be discussed. If you wish to suggest agenda items, please make them known in advance to Douglas Maxwell on 01387 249300 or [doug.maxwell@btinternet.com](mailto:doug.maxwell@btinternet.com)



**ATI COMMUNITY MINIBUS AND CARS**

The church is a paid-up member of Annandale Transport Initiative. This means that church groups can book any of their minibuses or special cars, with or without ATI drivers. If you wish to know more, contact Robert Mitchell (01461 201450 or [robertmitchell821@btinternet.com](mailto:robertmitchell821@btinternet.com)) or look at [www.atibus.org.uk](http://www.atibus.org.uk)

Since Alan left, we do not have a church volunteer driver. If you might be interested in undertaking the training, please contact Robert as above.

## **SUNDAY SEEKERS**

Over the past weeks, we have looked at Epiphany and the arrival of The Wise Men to visit baby Jesus. Epiphany (meaning appearance) celebrates the story of The Wise Men, who were the first gentiles to see Jesus. We listened to the story of the journey of these special visitors, the instruction from King Herod to return to tell him where Baby Jesus was, and their decision to go home another way. We made crowns to celebrate Epiphany.

In the past two weeks we have listened to the story of Noah and the Flood, and how God kept his promise to Noah to keep his family, himself and the animals that went into the ark safe until the flood had passed. We did lots of activities to tie in with the story which the children enjoyed.

We are awaiting new materials from Scripture Union; the younger children will work with Bubbles material and the older children will work with Splash material.

Fiona Glass

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## **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT – 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Fairtrade Fortnight is an annual event to increase awareness of the benefits of dealing direct with producers to provide

- Regular income
- Minimum workers' pay and conditions
- Cleaner environment
- Housing
- Health and sanitation
- Increased efficiency
- Better business

“The Lord detests the use of dishonest scales, but he delights in accurate weights.”

“Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honours him.”

Proverbs 11:1 and 14:31 (New Living Translation)

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## **FOOD BANK**

In the church vestibule, there is a large plastic box labelled “Food Bank”. Please give generously of non-perishable staple food items such as canned goods, cereals, dried ingredients and biscuits etc. These are periodically taken to the collection point at Kate’s Kitchen for organised distribution to those in need.

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSV)

## PRAISE TO THE SNOWDROPS

Aptly named: a drop of snow.  
Sweet flowers that come when cold winds blow -  
and in the depths of winter bring  
the whispered tidings of the spring.  
You'd think such fairy things would die  
beneath the bleak and bitter sky.  
You'd wonder how the buds uncurled  
in such a grim and hostile world.

Just little frozen drops of snow -  
how daintily the small buds grow  
upon their slender stalks, that thrust  
so bravely through the earth's hard crust.  
No sunshine warms their icy bed,  
no birds make music overhead,  
when like strangers they appear  
at the gateway of the year.



Church Gardener

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### COMMITMENT FOR LIFE – BANGLADESH

Christian Aid's advocacy work in Bangladesh has focused on global issues such as loss and damage from a gender perspective. At the national level, issues such as energy security, climate finance, climate justice and resilient livelihoods have been focused on.

Christian Aid has adopted the Participatory Market System Development (PMSD) approach in its inclusive market development programming over the last year or so. It has reinforced the focus of its market work on various value chains like milk, chilli, maize, tea, and vegetables with 5,000 smallholder farmers/producers, 60% of whom are women.

Christian Aid Bangladesh believes that women are the key to ending poverty and therefore it places a focus on empowering women and girls. To this end, it has focused its gender work on gender mainstreaming over the last year.

Through partnership with Research Development Collective (RDC), Christian Aid has continued its work with the plain land indigenous communities. It is still supporting the secretariat of Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous People's Rights in Bangladesh which is a platform that advocates for the rights of indigenous people. Work on social inclusion has also broadened with the implementation of various programmes on Dalit rights.

Christian Aid Bangladesh achieved several milestones in 2016 in the implementation of humanitarian response work. For the first time it has mobilised local funding from UNDP to implement the Flood Recovery Resilience Project. Christian Aid Bangladesh has successfully implemented two European funded emergency response and recovery projects in Northwest and Southeast Bangladesh, benefiting a total of 3,800 flood affected households. The Project provided support for food security, water, sanitation and health, shelter, livelihoods and early recovery to affected communities to enable them to return as quickly as possible to their normal lives.

## FEBRUARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|                      |                                                                                            |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Annan Churches Christian Aid Committee annual meeting<br>- 7:00pm in URC hall              |
| Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Girls' Brigade – 6:00pm and every Thursday in term time                                    |
| Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | ACT Fridays in Faith – 7:00pm at the Hub, Ednam Street                                     |
| Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Communion Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30am                                             |
| Tue 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Knit & Natter - 10:00am and every Tuesday                                                  |
| Tue 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Games Afternoon – 2:00pm and every Tuesday                                                 |
| Tue 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Rainbow Tribe & Spectrum – 6:00pm and every Tuesday in term time                           |
| Thu 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Soup and Sweet Lunches – 11:30am to 1:30pm in the hall                                     |
| Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> | Short Morning Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30am<br>followed by quarterly church meeting |
| Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> | Worship Planning Group – 10:30am                                                           |
| Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> | Morning Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30am                                               |
| Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> | Friday Fellowship – 2:00pm – Miss Lorraine Priestley on Beekeeping                         |
| Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> | Morning Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30am                                               |
| Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> | Fairtrade Fortnight commences (until 12 <sup>th</sup> March)                               |
| Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> | Elders Meeting – 6:30pm in John Tweddle Room                                               |

Advance Dates:

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2 pm World Day of Prayer Service in St Columba's Church, Scott Street.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> March 10 am ACT Spring Fayre in Market hall 'Mad Hatter's Tea/Coffee Morning'.

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### A REMINDER TO GROUPS:

We are a Fairtrade Church.

We have committed to:

- Use Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings for which we have responsibility
- Move forward on using other Fairtrade products (such as sugar, biscuits, fruit)
- Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight – and through other activities whenever possible.



## DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

<b>Date</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	Isaiah 61:1-9	Luke 7:18-30
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Isaiah 52:1-12	Matthew 10:1-15
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Isaiah 56:1-8	Matthew 28:16-end
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	Habakkuk 2:1-4	Revelation 14:1-7
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis 1:26-end	Mark 10:1-16
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth 1:1-18	1 John 3:14-end
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	1 Samuel 1:19b-end	Luke 2:41-end
Thu 9 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis 47:1-12	Ephesians 3:14-end
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	2 Samuel 1:17-end	Romans 8:28-end
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	Song of Solomon 2:8-end	1 Corinthians 13
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Exodus 23:1-13	James 2:1-13
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup>	Deuteronomy 10:12-end	Hebrews 13:1-16
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 58:6-end	Matthew 25:31-end
Thu 16 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 42:1-9	Luke 4:14-21
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Amos 5:6-15	Ephesians 4:25-end
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Amos 5:18-24	John 2:13-22
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 61:1-9	Mark 6:1-13
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup>	Isaiah 52:1-10	Romans 10:5-21
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Isaiah 52:13 to 53:6	Romans 15:14-21
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Isaiah 53:4-12	2 Corinthians 4:1-10
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Zechariah 8:16-end	Matthew 10:1-15
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Matthew 10:16-22
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	2 Kings 2:13-22	3 John
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	Judges 14:5-17	Revelation 10:4-11