

# Annan United Reformed Church

[www.annanurc.org.uk](http://www.annanurc.org.uk)



## June 2017 Newsletter



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**



Guarantees  
**a better deal**  
for Third World  
Producers



## **JUNE WORSHIP AT ANNAN URC**

### **Sunday 4th June:**

#### **Communion Service - Rev Andrew Gebbie**

Prayer Leader: N Maxwell  
Bible Readings: D Maxwell  
R Richardson

### **Sunday 11th June:**

#### **Morning Service followed by Church Meeting**

Prayer Leader: H Higton  
Bible Readings: J Kidd-Bentley

### **Sunday 18th June:**

#### **Morning Service - Rev Iain Mackenzie**

Prayer Leader: M Jones  
Bible Readings: F Glass  
N Maxwell

### **Sunday 25th June:**

#### **Morning Service - Joseph Kidd-Bentley**

Prayer Leader: H McNairn  
Bible Readings: Matthew 10: 24-39 J Murray  
Genesis 21: 8-21 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.

## CAN WE DO BETTER?

This is a question we should ask ourselves frequently – being smug and self-satisfied is not part of the life lived by developing Christians. We ought never to think we have learned everything – we should always have open minds to try to see what God wants us to do and say. As we pose the question as individuals and as a church family, you might include the following:

**Food Bank** – we have the box in the vestibule to accept donations of dried food, tins, tea, coffee etc which are then taken to The Beacon to be made into food parcels and distributed. In the last six months the box has only needed emptying twice! If we purchased one extra item for the Food Bank with our weekly shopping, the local hungry and homeless could be helped more easily.

**Lunches** – we now depend on these monthly events to supplement income for the church, yet last year we spent £6000 more than our income. We are extremely grateful to those who organise and help, but there are many others who could come just to enjoy a lunch and a chat. If you need transport, just contact one of the Elders and it will be arranged.

**Tombola** – we also have a box for donations of items to use as prizes, and this helps to raise money too. It is a continuing problem to find goods – can you help?

**Volunteering** – we don't find it easy to put ourselves forward, but age is only an excuse. Could you think prayerfully and carefully about sharing in the life of the church more fully? It will only cost you an hour or two of your time and that need not be every week if we have enough volunteers – a rota could be organised. We have asked and are still appealing for folk to help with the cleaning of the church, with assisting the Girls' Brigade, with folk coming to support Knit and Natter, Gentle Games on Tuesdays, Friday Fellowship (one afternoon each month) and we should ask ourselves:

Could we do more to help the church grow?

**Can we do better?**

*Haydn Higton*

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The Hope Project enhances mission, and we participated in HOPE08 in 2008. In 2018, many church leaders are encouraging local churches to participate again. HOPE seeks to unite churches of all denominations to use words and actions to make Jesus known.

What is hoped is that churches in towns, villages and cities will work together in new or existing projects using the HOPE logo, and so portraying unity in Christ.

An OPEN meeting for everyone to discuss how we make Jesus known in OUR COMMUNITY is being held on Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> from 10.00 am to 12 noon at St Andrew's Church.

A draft document to begin you thinking is available from Haydn Higton. Get one and come along – our church family needs to support Churches Together events. This is one aspect we could do better.

## **THINK ON THESE THINGS**

A congregation that is growing requires GOOD LEADERSHIP to nurture disciples. New Elders are needed – if you wish to explore whether this is for you, speak to Haydn Higton or one of the existing Elders.

The church family needs to have a clear mission and purpose, a willingness to self-reflect, to CHANGE AND ADAPT.

With a reduced reliance on a Minister, we shall find that if roles are rotated regularly and we involve new people in our congregation in all the aspects of being Church, that WILL LEAD TO GROWTH.

What do these thoughts mean for our Church Meetings? Come and make a positive contribution and voice your opinions openly at our quarterly church meetings.

*Haydn Higton*

Next Quarterly Meeting Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June (after morning worship).

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## **DATES FOR YOUR PRAYERS**



- June 4<sup>th</sup> - Pentecost Sunday
- June 5<sup>th</sup> - World Environment Day
- June 8<sup>th</sup> - World Oceans Day
- June 11<sup>th</sup> - Trinity Sunday
- June 14<sup>th</sup> - World Blood Donor Day
- June 18<sup>th</sup> - Fathers' Day
- June 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> - Refugee Week
- June 24<sup>th</sup> - Armed Forces Day
- June 25<sup>th</sup> - Day of the Seafarer

## **KATE'S KITCHEN**

This is still part of the outreach of the churches, and the latest report to Annan Churches Together contained facts for our information and prayer.

30 food parcels were given out in March, and stock of food for Kate's Kitchen is also running low. Tinned, dried and non-perishable goods are now required for both. There is a new safeguard to ensure that the system is not being abused. Additional support sessions are working with those receiving regular food parcels, to help them take back control of their lives.

Hot meals provided in March included 46, 43 and 42 as the highest numbers in any one day.

Statistics for January to April include:

New clients	28
Meals served	1055
Support sessions	80
Wiltshire Suite	255 uses
Client attendance	1250

A Fairer Food Project has been established, along with a craft group, and a group of socially isolated men are particularly involved in the Outside Space Project.

Alan McGougan acted as Treasurer for Kate's Kitchen and a replacement is still being sought. Do we have a volunteer?

*ACT Report written by Rev K A Vivers*

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## **THE GLORY OF A GARDEN**

Read not through the dusty tomes  
that hold the world's philosophy.

If for God your soul is seeking,  
in your garden you will see  
proof beyond the heart's desiring  
of the mind behind all things.

Scent and colour of the flowers,  
the hum of bees, the beat of wings;  
greater proof could not be given  
of the wonder of His ways  
than the glory of a garden  
in the golden summer days.

*Church Gardener*

## FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

At the April meeting of the Fellowship, the speaker was Susan Shillingford, from the Food Train.

Susan gave a very detailed account of all the services provided to customers of the Food Train.

The Food Train is a Scottish Charity working with social volunteers providing a vital grocery delivery service to older people living in Dumfries and Galloway (over the age of 65 years).

Your shopping list is collected, then the order is made up and packed in a box in the shop, and then collected by a volunteer and delivered to your home.

On receipt of your shopping, you pay the cost to the Food Train, plus a small delivery charge.



Other services provided by the Food Train to customers:

### ***Food Train Extra***

In response to customer request, the Food Train now has a service offering help and support, on a regular basis, with practical everyday household tasks. There is also a service which will uplift any old furniture and fridges etc and dispose of them, for a small charge.

### ***Befriending Service***

Befriending Options: Telephone calls, home visits, group activities and outings.

Befriending takes place on a regular basis, so the customer can rely on companionship and a friendly face.

*Marion Kerr*

## COMMITMENT FOR LIFE REPORT

### **BANGLADESH**

Christian Aid continues to work with a total of 19 partners across Bangladesh. Their partners range from national level policy and advocacy organisations that focus on climate change, to partners that work in the field dealing with the issue of secure livelihoods and gender. Christian Aid also works on climate change, disaster risk management, gender equality and human rights issues.

As the global climate changes, Bangladesh is likely to experience more than most, making it an 'impact hotspot.' Recent extreme temperatures demonstrated how average temperature rise can also increase the likelihood of dangerous heatwaves. Both average and extreme rainfall are projected to further increase, which will raise flood risks from the large rivers that meet in the country's floodplains. This combination of increased flooding and moisture stress means that the 80% of Bangladeshis whose lives depend on agriculture must substantially increase their resilience.

The shrinking of civil society space has had a direct impact on aid policy, making it increasingly difficult for civil society organisations to obtain funding approval from the NGO affairs bureau to implement rights based programmes. Simultaneously, international donor agencies are becoming increasingly reluctant to fund tangible service delivery projects, preferring instead to fund rights based programmes. Hence funding for Bangladesh's programme is becoming increasingly hard to come by, and permission to implement projects increasingly hard to secure from government bodies.

Within the context of the ever-changing climate mentioned above, livelihoods work has continued to be a focus of Christian Aid's work in Bangladesh over the last six months. Partners have worked on scaling up existing good practices, and implementing projects which have a particular focus on sustainability in light of these climate change challenges. Partners have focused on diversifying income generation options, climate adaptive livelihood and adaptation measures, resulting in enhanced levels of resilience to climate change.

These climate adaptation measures have included floating gardens and hanging vegetables in water logged areas, saline tolerant rice varieties, saline tolerant maize and sunflower varieties in saline prone areas, vermicompost in river basin areas, and diversification into duck rearing and lamb rearing.

*from Stories for Change June 2017*

## JUNE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|               |                                                                       |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 4th       | Communion Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30 am                       |
| Tue 6th       | Knit & Natter – 10:00 am and every Tuesday                            |
| Tue 6th       | Games Afternoon – 2:00 pm and every Tuesday                           |
| Wed 7th       | ACT Holiday Bible Club Preparation – 7:00 pm at Annan Old Parish Hall |
| Thu 8th       | Strawberry Lunches – 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in the church                |
| Sun 11th      | Morning Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30 am                         |
| Sun 11th      | Quarterly Church Meeting – 11:15 am                                   |
| Mon 12th      | Floral Art Group Meal – 7.00 pm at The Townhead, Lockerbie            |
| Wed 14th      | ACT Holiday Bible Club Preparation – 7:00 pm at Annan Old Parish Hall |
| Sun 18th      | Morning Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30 am                         |
| Wed 21st      | ACT Holiday Bible Club Preparation – 7:00 pm at Annan Old Parish Hall |
| Sat 24th      | ACT Open Meeting – St Andrews Church 10:00 am                         |
| Sun 25th      | Morning Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30 am                         |
| Wed 28th      | ACT Holiday Bible Club Preparation – 7:00 pm at Annan Old Parish Hall |
|               |                                                                       |
|               |                                                                       |
| 24-28 July    | ACT Holiday Bible Club – 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at Hecklegirth School |
| Sun 30th July | Joint Service led by Holiday Club – 11:15 am at Hecklegirth School    |
| Sun 30th July | No service at Annan URC                                               |

The Newsletter Editors intend to take a break in June and therefore there will not be a full July Newsletter, simply a short Newssheet.

Newsletter will return with a full edition for August. Deadline for items for that edition is Sunday 23rd July.

*Ruth and Robert Mitchell*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR JUNE**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Old Testament</b> | <b>New Testament</b>     |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Thu 1st     | Ezekiel 11:14-20     | Matthew 9:35-10:20       |
| Fri 2nd     | Ezekiel 36:22-28     | Matthew 12:22-32         |
| Sat 3rd     | Micah 3:1-8          | Ephesians 6:10-20        |
| Sun 4th     | Joel 2:21-32         | Acts 2:14-21             |
| Mon 5th     | Genesis 12:1-9       | Romans 4:13-end          |
| Tue 6th     | Genesis 13:1-12      | Romans 12:9-end          |
| Wed 7th     | Genesis 15           | Romans 4:1-8             |
| Thu 8th     | Genesis 22:1-18      | Hebrews 11:8-19          |
| Fri 9th     | Isaiah 51:1-8        | John 8:48-end            |
| Sat 10th    | Joshua 2:1-15        | James 2:14-26            |
| Sun 11th    | Isaiah 6:1-8         | John 16:5-15             |
| Mon 12th    | Exodus 2:1-10        | Hebrews 11:23-31         |
| Tue 13th    | Exodus 2:11-end      | Acts 7:17-29             |
| Wed 14th    | Exodus 3:1-12        | Acts 7:30-38             |
| Thu 15th    | Exodus 6:1-13        | John 9:24-38             |
| Fri 16th    | Exodus 34:1-10       | Mark 7:1-13              |
| Sat 17th    | Exodus 34:27-end     | 2 Corinthians 3:7-end    |
| Sun 18th    | Ruth 2:1-20a         | Luke 8:4-15              |
| Mon 19th    | Genesis 37:1-11      | Romans 11:9-21           |
| Tue 20th    | Genesis 41:15-40     | Mark 13:1-13             |
| Wed 21st    | Genesis 42:17-end    | Matthew 18:1-14          |
| Thu 22nd    | Genesis 45:1-15      | Acts 7:9-16              |
| Fri 23rd    | Genesis 47:1-12      | 1 Thessalonians 5:12-end |
| Sat 24th    | Genesis 50:4-21      | Luke 15:11-end           |
| Sun 25th    | 1 Samuel 18:1-16     | Luke 8:41-56             |
| Mon 26th    | Isaiah 32            | James 3:13-end           |
| Tue 27th    | Proverbs 3:1-18      | Matthew 5:1-12           |
| Wed 28th    | Judges 6:1-16        | Matthew 5:13-24          |
| Thu 29th    | Jeremiah 6:9-15      | 1 Timothy 2:1-6          |
| Fri 30th    | 1 Samuel 16:14-end   | John 14:15-end           |