

# Annan United Reformed Church

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



## January 2018 Newsletter





## **MOTTO FOR THE NEW YEAR**

So, what are you determined to change in the New Year? Is there a new year resolution that will, if kept, change your life for the better? Perhaps you can adopt a Bible verse as a motto. You have plenty of choice since most Bibles have over 23,000 verses.

Nearly everyone can recite John 3:16, or you could choose the shortest verse – John 11:35 – or the longest – Esther 8:9. Whatever choice you make, call it to mind each day, remembering that, no matter what happens, God loves you.

A Gospel is summed up in John 1:14 - God became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us.

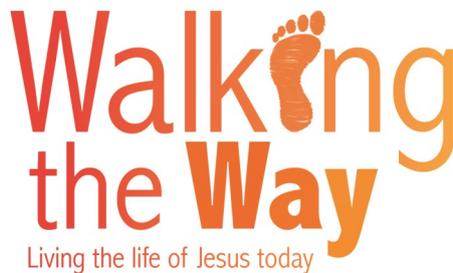
*Haydn Higton*

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## **A PRAYER FOR WALKING THE WAY**

God of all, as Jesus walked this earth sharing love, grace and mercy, he fed the hungry with the bread of life and brought healing and hope to those he met. Renew us through the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we may do likewise. As we step out on this exciting, yet daunting, journey of discipleship, we pray that we will place our footsteps in yours and walk where you lead as we live out your life in our daily living for Jesus' sake.

Amen



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## **Girls' Brigade Christmas Fayre**

The fantastic amount of £610.30 was raised at the Girls' Brigade Christmas Fayre on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. Thank you to all those who contributed goods to sell, came on the night or who made a donation.

Each year Girls' Brigade Headquarters sets fees for each girl and leader within the Company to pay £24 each, and this amount will go towards the costs of these fees.

An extra special thanks to Rebekka Woodhouse, Lieutenant for arranging such a fabulous event.

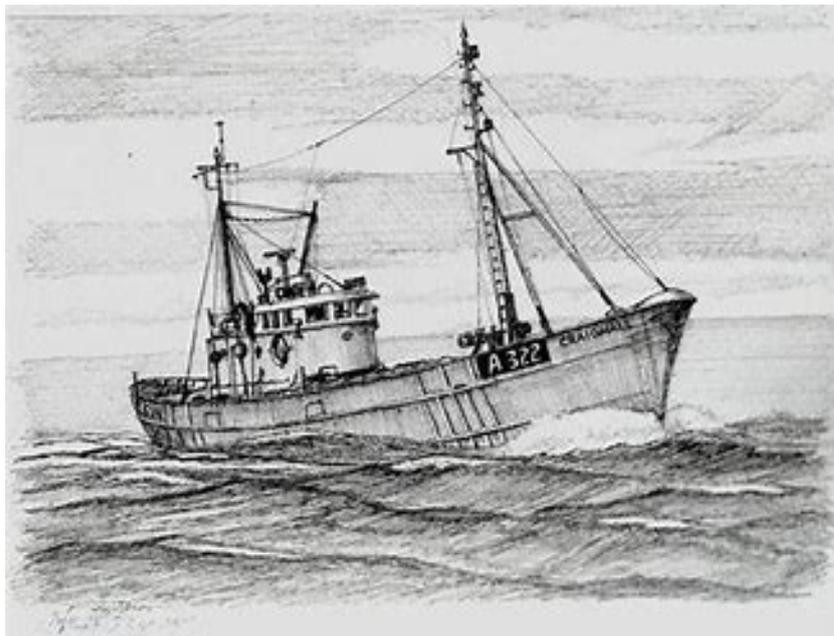
*Paula Mitchell*

## **EPIPHANY**

This word comes from the Greek, meaning manifestation. Today we use it to celebrate the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus.

Jesus is revealed as the hope of all peoples. He is the light of the nations. The story of the Epiphany in the gospel tells us that those who are wise listen to God's voice and find peace in discovering Jesus.

*Haydn Higton*



## **THE FISHERMAN'S CHURCH**

The Annan Harbour Action Group are organising a "Book Launch" in our church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January from 2 till 5pm. The book celebrates the fishing heritage of Annan and the Solway Shore and is titled "Ebb and Flow – Annan's Fishing Heritage".

The Annan Harbour Action Group comment "For more than 100 years fishing for Salmon, Shrimps and other species played an important role in the economic prosperity of Annan. Now, despite the many hundreds of people gaining employment locally from fish processing, there is no commercial fishing left in the Inner Solway. Through this Ebb and Flow project, AHAG has gathered the stories of the last generation of Fisher Folk who wrested a living from these dangerous waters, so that their testimonies can be available for future generations. It is hoped to have the interviewees as well as the writers and the funders at the event".

I hope many of our church family will come to this interesting event – many fishermen were church members and you may recall Clive Bonner compiled a remembrance record which complemented the Fishers memorial.

The launch is open to everyone – come along and build on our heritage.

*Haydn Higton*

## THE TURN OF THE YEAR

As one year closes and another opens up,  
I reflect on all that has gone before  
and the possibilities lying in wait  
in the months ahead.

So much from the last year was full and good  
and yet there were difficulties and heartache too;  
but Lord, I want to thank you for your faithfulness:  
I know you were walking through last year with me,  
every step that I took, you were by my side.

As I look forward now, knowing some but not all of what lies ahead  
it is such a comfort to realise that you are in control.  
You know what each moment will contain,  
the tears and the laughter I will experience - with others but also alone -  
and you will be by my side through it all again.

Whatever year, month, day or even hour it is  
I can face it with confidence,  
knowing my Heavenly Father is my guide.  
Help me to acknowledge that, and to include you  
in every moment of this next year.

*Church Gardener*

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### DATES FOR OUR PRAYERS JANUARY 2018

- |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                       |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>  | New Year's Day - pray for peace, and a year in which people everywhere show a greater desire to help others, especially the poor and oppressed.                                                                  |  |
| Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>  | World Braille Day – pray for communication with blind and partially sighted people, and that they won't feel isolated and alone.                                                                                 |                                                                                       |
| Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> | World Religion Day – pray for dialogue and understanding between people of different faiths.                                                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
| Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> | Holocaust Memorial Day – commemorating the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, this is also a day to remember the victims of more recent genocides and pray that such atrocities never happen again.               |                                                                                       |
| Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> | World Leprosy Day aims to raise awareness of a disease that many people believe to be extinct, when in fact around 210,000 new cases are diagnosed each year, and it is thought that millions more are affected. |                                                                                       |
| Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> | RNLI SOS Day – an opportunity to be aware of the work of the RNLI, to give thanks for many lives saved at sea and to remember casualties of incidents around our coast.                                          |                                                                                       |

## **COMMITMENT FOR LIFE - BANGLADESH**

In Bangladesh, Christian Aid Bangladesh continues to focus on resilience, climate change, market and humanitarian responses and inclusion. They are also ensuring that gender and social inclusion is considered in all focus areas. Core resources are focused on strengthening work around market inclusion and innovation. The programmes help achieve strategic outcomes which are:

- Resilient livelihoods
- Accountable institutions
- Equal rights for all.

Looking at the wider situation, they are seeing changing perceptions of aid. Aid is no longer automatically seen as a good thing among the general population and a very economically and educationally strong middle-class group is emerging. Moreover, the rise of different extreme groups has created the demand for being more cautious.

Considering this changing context, CA Bangladesh has shifted its focus from unrestricted to restricted resources. This year their major priorities are to strengthen relationships with existing donors while considering new possibilities with new donors. They are also developing networks within Bangladesh of other similar agencies, partners and donors in order to work together more effectively.

New areas of development that they are working on include innovations like ICT and involvement with markets. Intersectionality of different groups of people is becoming important so that they can evaluate how different groups have different needs while some people may be in more than one marginalised group. Women led responses is one of the emerging concepts that CA Bangladesh has been promoting at a national level, in order to empower and promote women to take part in humanitarian responses, Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives, resilience work and contribute to decision making for projects.

### **Rohingya Refugee Crisis**

The escalating violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State in late August 2017 has forced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes, including many Rohingya refugees who have fled to Bangladesh, fearing for their lives. More than 500,000 Rohingya people have crossed the border into Bangladesh and unknown numbers remain displaced in Myanmar. As villages in Myanmar continue to be destroyed, figures are expected to rise, with up to 15,000 people crossing the border each day. Those fleeing to the border have walked for miles, and for days on end. They have no money for food or shelter. Many mothers are escaping with newborn babies. With limited medical facilities, people are sick and at risk of serious disease. To read more and to donate [www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/rohingya-crisis-appeal](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/rohingya-crisis-appeal)

## JANUARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|          |                                                                                                             |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tue 2nd  | Knit & Natter – 10:00 am and every Tuesday                                                                  |
| Fri 5th  | ACT Fridays in Faith - 7:00 pm in The HUB<br>Theme: “Build a House” - this month: “Windows”                 |
| Sat 6th  | Epiphany                                                                                                    |
| Sun 7th  | Communion Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30 am                                                             |
| Mon 8th  | Floral Art Group – 7:00 pm                                                                                  |
| Tue 9th  | Games Afternoon – 2:00 pm and every Tuesday                                                                 |
| Tue 9th  | Rainbow Tribe & Spectrum 6:00 pm and every Tuesday in term time                                             |
| Thu 11th | Soup & Sweet Lunches – 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in the hall                                                      |
| Thu 11th | Girls’ Brigade 6:00 pm and every Thursday in term time                                                      |
| Sun 14th | Morning Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30 am                                                               |
| Sun 21st | Morning Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30 am                                                               |
| Sun 21st | Deadline for February Newsletter items to reach Ruth Mitchell -<br>including your group/meeting diary dates |
| Fri 26th | Friday Fellowship - 2:00 pm in church                                                                       |
| Sun 28th | Morning Service and Sunday Seekers – 10:30 am                                                               |
|          |                                                                                                             |

### 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 JANUARY**

|          |                                |                        |
|----------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Mon 1st  | Deuteronomy 30:11-end          | Acts 3:1-16            |
| Tue 2nd  | Isaiah 66:6-14                 | Matthew 12:46-50       |
| Wed 3rd  | Deuteronomy 6:4-15             | John 10:31-end         |
| Thu 4th  | Isaiah 63:7-16                 | Galatians 3:23-4:7     |
| Fri 5th  | Isaiah 12                      | 2 Corinthians 2:12-end |
| Sat 6th  | Isaiah 60:1-9                  | John 2:1-11            |
| Sun 7th  | Genesis 25:19-end              | Ephesians 1:1-6        |
| Mon 8th  | Joel 2:28-end                  | Ephesians 1:7-14       |
| Tue 9th  | Proverbs 8:12-21               | Ephesians 1:15-end     |
| Wed 10th | Genesis 19:15-29               | Ephesians 2:1-10       |
| Thu 11th | Genesis 17:1-14                | Ephesians 2:11-end     |
| Fri 12th | 1 Kings 10:1-13                | Ephesians 3:14-end     |
| Sat 13th | Joshua 3:1-8,14-end            | Hebrews 1:1-12         |
| Sun 14th | Isaiah 42:1-9                  | Ephesians 2:1-10       |
| Mon 15th | Isaiah 41:14-20                | John 1:29-34           |
| Tue 16th | Exodus 17:1-7                  | Acts 8:26-end          |
| Wed 17th | Exodus 15:1-19                 | Colossians 2:8-15      |
| Thu 18th | Zechariah 6:9-15               | 1 Peter 2:4-10         |
| Fri 19th | Isaiah 51:7-16                 | Galatians 6:14-18      |
| Sat 20th | Leviticus 16:11-22             | Hebrews 10:19-25       |
| Sun 21st | Isaiah 60:9-end                | Hebrews 6:17-7:10      |
| Mon 22nd | 1 Kings 17:8-16                | Mark 8:1-10            |
| Tue 23rd | 1 Kings 19:1-9a                | Mark 1:9-15            |
| Wed 24th | 1 Kings 19:9b-18               | Mark 9:2-13            |
| Thu 25th | Leviticus 11:1-8, 13-19, 41-45 | Acts 10:9-16           |
| Fri 26th | Isaiah 49:8-13                 | Acts 10:34-43          |
| Sat 27th | Genesis 35:1-15                | Acts 10:44-end         |
| Sun 28th | Jeremiah 3:21-4:2              | Titus 2:1-8, 11-14     |
| Mon 29th | Ezekiel 37:15-end              | John 17:1-19           |
| Tue 30th | Ezekiel 20:39-44               | John 17:20-end         |
| Wed 31st | Nehemiah 2:1-10                | Romans 12:1-8          |