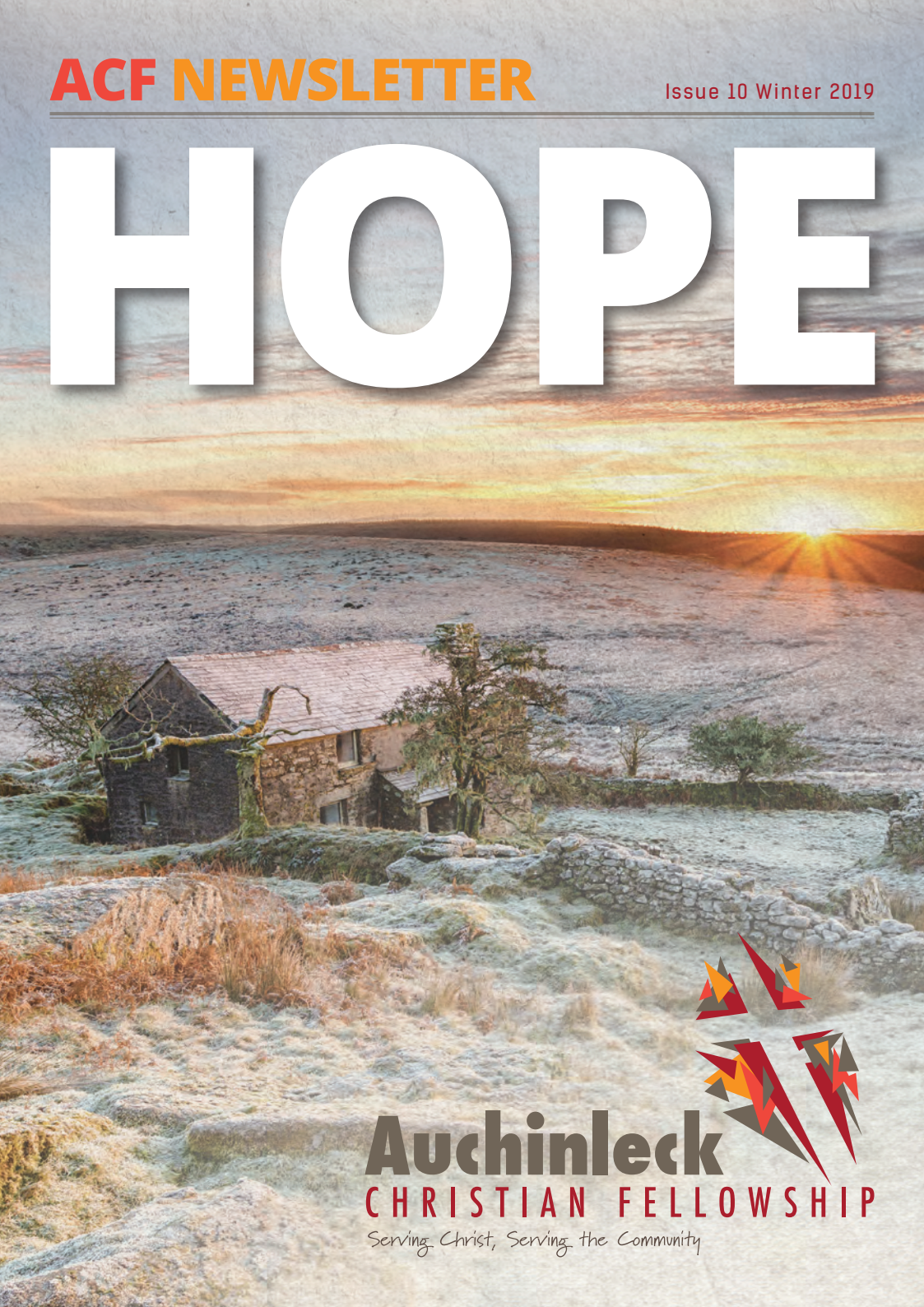


ACF NEWSLETTER

Issue 10 Winter 2019

HOPE



Auchinleck
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Serving Christ, Serving the Community

A Saviour Born

The story of the birth of Jesus is one of the most amazing stories you could ever read. A young woman, possibly in her mid-teens, had made some seemingly outrageous claims regards being visited by an angel who told her she was going to have a baby even although she was a virgin. Nine months later she is walking with her fiancé the 90-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem where she gave birth to a baby boy, called His name Jesus, and laid him in a cattle trough surrounded by wondering shepherds.

Strange story – unbelievable – except for one thing – God!!

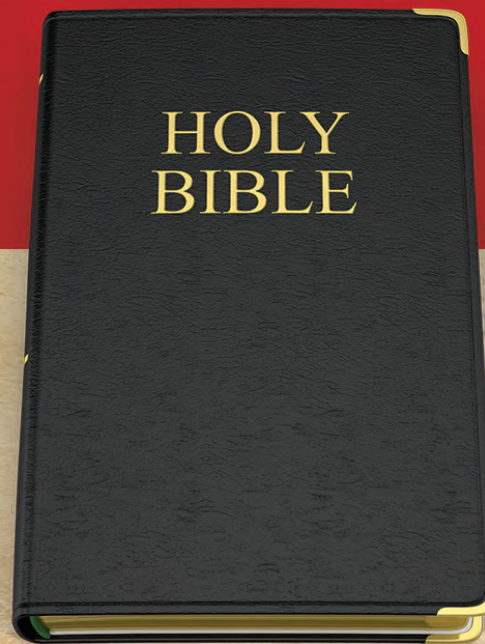
This was the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies and promises – God had entered the world or, in the words of John, “The Word (had) became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1. 14) One modern translation says, “He moved into our neighbourhood”. God, in the person of His Son (Jesus) had become a man and was living as a man, a sinless man, among sinful men.

But, why had He come? He had come to save His people from their sins, which is the meaning of His name – Jesus – Jehovah the Saviour!!

The existence of sin in the world, and indeed in our own hearts is undeniable. Sin is like an incurable disease. However, we read that, “he appeared to put away sin (deal with it) by the sacrifice of Himself”. (Hebrews 9:26) It wasn't enough for Jesus Christ to be born as the Saviour, he had to die to become our Saviour. The penalty that our sins deserved, which is death, had to be paid. The Lord Jesus paid the penalty for us on the cross!! He died in order that we might be saved from sin's consequences.

How can we be saved? That question was asked by a prison governor on the verge of taking his own life. The prompt reply by the preacher was, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.” We are saved the same way, and only way – by believing (trusting) on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Are you saved?



SPECIAL Free Offer

Throughout this newsletter you have read quotations from the Bible. If you would like a **free copy of the Bible** please feel free to contact us.

You are invited to come along to our

Christmas Service

22nd December at 3.00pm

**Carols, Christmas Message
and Refreshments**



ALL WELCOME

MEET A MEMBER

IAN ROBERTSON

I have been a Christian for over 55 years but can clearly remember the night it took place. I had the privilege of being brought up in a Christian home in "The Scheme" in Kilmarnock and can remember often seeing my mum and dad on their knees praying for their three children. Praying, not just that we would keep healthy and get on in life, but that we would come to personally trust Jesus Christ as Saviour.



Going to "church" was the norm for me – Sunday School, Children's Meetings as well as the normal "church services". I learned verses from the Bible, and I suppose I could have repeated the main stories of the Bible even from a very young age. Despite these privileges the reality was I was like everybody else – I was born with a sinful nature which soon manifested itself in my sinful practices – not murder, or thieving or things like that but temper, disobedience, self-will, stubbornness and unbelief. Although knowing I was a sinner, and therefore under God's condemnation, I was never particularly troubled about it until I was nine.

I went to Hillhead Primary School and one day Mr Strachan, the headmaster, went around the classes announcing a special children's meetings for the kids would be held that evening outside the Altonhill Community Centre. This interested me, as my dad held a children's meeting inside the community centre every Monday evening during the winter months. What was this rival preacher doing on my dad's patch?? I had to go along to find out!! A large crowd of kids gathered around the man as he told us the story of Pilgrim's Progress, illustrating it by use of a flannelgraph. He showed the picture of Pilgrim with his large burden of sin on his back. He was troubled and desperate – how could he get rid of his sins? No solution was found until he came to the cross of Jesus. As he stood there realising Jesus Christ was dying for his sins he exclaimed, "Blest cross, blest sepulchre but blest rather be, the man who there was put to

shame for me." Upon that exclamation the burden of his sin rolled away. I had heard it all before but this time I was convicted of my sin – I realised I was like Pilgrim. The preacher prayed with us and sent us home. Later I went to bed but couldn't sleep. I needed to be saved. I needed the burden of my sin removed. I knew mum and dad were saved and I was lost, they were going to heaven and I was going to hell, they would go when the Lord came back for His own and I would be left behind for judgement. I tossed and turned before asking my dad to speak to me. He read these words, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3.16. My dad told me to make the verse personal – "For God so loved me....." – and as I did so everything became clear, Jesus had done all the work on the cross and I had simply to accept what He done for me. That moment, by faith I did, and was wonderfully and eternally saved, my sins were forgiven, I was born again, redeemed, reconciled to God, justified by faith, converted, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, I had become a new creation.

A few years later I was baptised and became part of a local church where I just wanted to serve and honour God. Along with my wife Mary, I have continued to serve the Lord for the most part of my life. Thirty years ago, I gave up secular employment so that I could serve Him "full-time". This was a massive step of faith for us, as we had no regular income. We were looking to God to provide for our needs. We can both testify to God's unfailing faithfulness to us as we have served Him together as well as bring up four children and sixteen grandchildren.

We moved to the Auchinleck area several years ago, opening the Helping Hand Café in Cumnock, where we served free refreshments to vulnerable people as well as sharing with them the Good News concerning the Lord Jesus. In addition, we opened and operated two residential rehabs for people seeking support in overcoming addictions. Over the many years of service, we have seen God work in the lives of many people, bringing them to a personal knowledge of Himself and changing their lives.

We still have our struggles, but we can testify to God's goodness and can testify with confidence concerning Jesus Christ – "He is not a disappointment"!! He is worth trusting.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

THE CILLE

Dane Love, author of "The History of Auchinleck – Village and Parish", wrote, "Probably the first building to be constructed in what is now the town of Auchinleck was a cille, or cell, a place of study where early Celtic Christians could study the Scriptures. These "cilles" were built throughout Scotland by the missionaries of the time and were usually dedicated to some saint. Few of them survive but a number are known to have existed because of their incorporation in place names such as, Kilmarnock (Cille of St. Marnock), Kilmaurs (Cille of St. Maurs) or Kilwinning (Cille of St. Winning). Cilles were stone structures, usually with a vaulted roof, and very often partly subterranean."

Interesting that from the very beginning there were a group of people who had a special place in our locality, dedicated to studying the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God.

Our nation used to be called "Bible-Loving Scotland", but sadly that is no longer the case. In this post-modern society where the idea of absolute truth has been abandoned and if something looks right, feels right, seems right to you then that's all right with me seems to be norm even although my views may be totally opposite to yours. I appreciate that may, on the surface, appear to satisfy everyone. However, there must surely be a need for a touchstone, or plum line, by which to judge whether a matter is right or wrong.

We read these words in the Bible, "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (Judges 17.6) – now that is hardly a good basis for a viable society is it? And yet sadly that seems to be where modern society is heading.

So, is everything just a matter of personal preference, or is there a handbook that can guide us through life, prepare us for death and give us hope beyond life here on earth. The apostle Paul tells us there is, he says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Timothy 3:16) What he is saying is that the Bible, tells us what is right (doctrine, teaching), what is not right (reproof, rebuke), how to get right (correction) and how to stay right (instruction)!!! Would it not be helpful to have that kind of information to guide

us through our journey in this world? Would it not make life a whole lot easier?

What is right?

Paul writes to Timothy and reminds him that the Scriptures make a person wise and that he had the privilege of knowing them from his childhood.

2 Timothy 3:15: - "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." The Bible gives us wise words for every situation in life but especially in relation to the matter of our personal relationship with God.

What is not right?

In Galatians 3:22 Paul tells us, "...the scripture hath concluded all under sin". We are not right. We are all sinners and therefore have a natural tendency to do what is wrong. Nobody ever needed to teach a child to do wrong. Our sin offends God and brings us under His judgment.

How to get right?

Paul's good news is clearly stated in 1 Corinthians 15:3: - "...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;" The death of the Lord Jesus Christ was substitutionary – He died for us!!

How to keep right?

In Romans 15:4 we learn: - "For whatsoever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." The Bible is not a book that we should just occasionally refer to but one that we should daily read, believe and obey – after all it is the Maker's Manual for our lives.

May we be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17.11)

I encourage you to read the Bible.



Parent and Toddler Group

Thursday @ 9.30 - 11.00 (term time only)

Please contact Ruth on 07940 355 882 for details.



Family Service

Our all-age family service is held each Sunday @ 12.45pm

Creche for kids

Singing, Kid's Message

plus Message for Adults

Free lunch provided for all after service

Youth Fellowship

Every second Friday @ 7.30pm

Snooker, Table Tennis, Tuck Shop,

Bible Lesson

Contact :- Simon - 07411 801 594

COFFEE MORNING

Why not drop in for coffee, cake and chat the 1st Monday of each month from 9.30am to 11.00am

(6th Jan, 3rd Feb,
2nd Mar, 6th Apr)

Tea, coffee,
cakes and
biscuits.



All free of charge.

Times of Services

SUNDAY

11.00am – Breaking of Bread

12.45pm – Family Service

14.45pm – Bible Teaching

TUESDAY

7.30pm – Prayer Meeting

CONTACT DETAILS

www.auchinleckchristianfellowship.co.uk

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