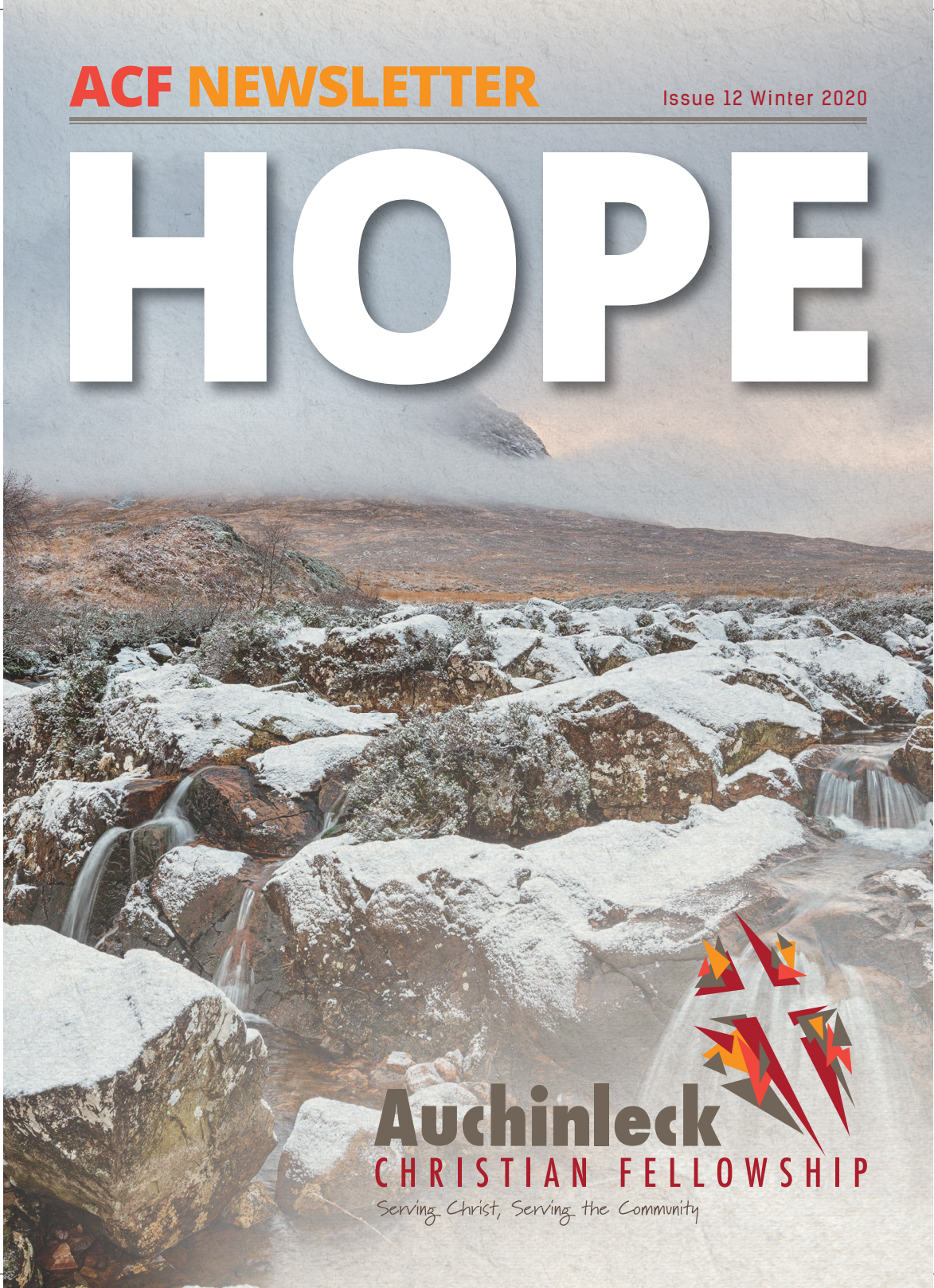


ACF NEWSLETTER

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HOPE



Auchinleck
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Serving Christ, Serving the Community

A Different Christmas

We are being told by our politicians that this **Christmas will be different**. Due to the coronavirus, and the call for social distancing, there will be no parties, no large family gatherings, no carol services and no Christmas Eve services as we have known them in the past. A **"disease" has changed everything** – the very way we live and interact as social beings, our economy, our ability to travel to where we want to go and so on and so on. It has brought loneliness, anxiety, pain, despair, suffering and death to so many.

Imagine, if on Christmas day, a miracle occurred. A **100% cast iron guaranteed cure for Covid 19**, and all its mutations, was found and announced to the world. It was free and instantly available to all. Wow – **that would indeed be good news**. People all over the world would be desperate to avail themselves of it, ASAP.

Well, that is really the story of Christmas. The whole of humanity is affected by the spiritual disease of sin – it brings loneliness, despair, destruction, devastation, separation, suffering and death. We listen daily to the number of Covid 19 related deaths. Statisticians can tell us the proportion of deaths from all sorts of different causes, but, surely, **a universal effect must have a universal cause**. The Bible teaches us that that universal cause is sin. "The wages (consequences) of sin is death..." (Romans 6.23). So what if there was a cure for sin – that would be good news!!

"...but now once in the end of the world he has appeared to **put away sin** by the sacrifice of himself."

(Hebrews 9.26) So here we have one of the reasons why Jesus Christ was born – He came to deal with the disease of sin, to make available a cure, which He offers freely and immediately to all. He dealt with sin by dying for sin ("**Christ died for our sins**" 1 Corinthians 15.3). How

do we avail ourselves of this cure and experience salvation from our sin and its consequences – "**...repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**" (Acts 20.21).

The cure is available, will you avail yourself of it?



POET'S CORNER

The Great Physician

How lost was my condition
Till Jesus made me whole!
There is but one Physician
Can cure a sin-sick soul.
Next door to death he found me,
And snatched me from the grave,
To tell to all around me,
His wondrous pow'r to save.

The worst of all diseases
Is light, compared with sin;
On every part it seizes,
But rages most within:
'Tis palsy, plague, and fever,
And madness - all combined;
And none but a believer
The least relief can find.

From men great skill professing
I thought a cure to gain;
But this proved more distressing,
And added to my pain:
Some said that nothing ailed me,
Some gave me up for lost;
Thus every refuge failed me,
And all my hopes were crossed.

At length this great Physician,
How matchless is his grace!
Accepted my petition,
And undertook my case:
First gave me sight to view him,
For sin my eyes had sealed;
Then bid me look unto him,
I looked, and I was healed.

A dying, risen Jesus,
Seen by the eye of faith;
At once from danger frees us,
And saves the soul from death:
Come then to this Physician,
His help he'll freely give;
He makes no hard condition,
'Tis only - look and live.

John Newton



MEET A MEMBER

KIMBERLEY MCARDLE

I wasn't brought up in a Christian home, my grandparents were Christians, but other than that my household definitely wasn't. However, this changed when I was around six and my mum started to take me and my siblings to the "Monday Children's Club" at our local Gospel Hall in Dreghorn where I learned the Gospel through the songs, learning the memory verse and the Bible Stories. I put my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation on the 27th of September 2009, at the age of seven. It was the annual Bible Teaching Conference for the Dreghorn meeting which was held at Greenwood Academy and one of the speakers was a man called Archie Carew. After the conference everyone went back to Ebenezer Hall where Archie gave a short Gospel Message and at the end of this, I spoke to him, asking him what I had to do to get saved. He gave me a little booklet, written by himself, called, "Things the Young Believer Should Know" and encouraged me to read it. I read it in bed that night and after realising that I was a sinner and that the Lord Jesus had died for my sins, **I asked the Lord Jesus to come into my heart and to forgive me.** On the 15th of February 2013, I then followed the Lord's commandment by being baptised by immersion which also took place in Ebenezer Hall, Dreghorn. A few years after this, as a family, we stopped attending the meetings of the church and I found myself, as a senior in high school, **facing peer pressure that I found difficult to cope** with and sadly, in this period of my life, I wasn't very good at living the Christian life. I followed the crowd and the only Christian influence I had was from the friends that I had made at the Ayrshire Youth Camps that I had previously attended and enjoyed. Every so often I would also attend the church in Kilmarnock where my grandparents were members. **Thankfully, the Lord preserved me through this difficult time** in my life and in April 2018 I started to attend the Youth Fellowship every second Friday evening at Auchinleck Christian Fellowship and also started attending the Gospel Meeting each Sunday. Earlier this year, in the month of March I followed the Lord's next commandment by joining fellowship with the local Christians in the Auchinleck.



Nativity Crossword

Read the clues below and fill in the blanks to complete this puzzle on the nativity.



ACROSS

1. Luke 2:36-38 She was a prophetess who recognized that the infant Jesus was the Messiah.
2. Luke 2:13, 14 "there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising ____, and saying Glory to ____ in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."
3. Luke 1:26,27 "in the sixth month the angel ____ was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph"
4. Matt 1:20 "Joseph, thou son of ____ fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife"
5. Luke 2:8 "there were in the same country ____ abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."
6. Luke 2:5 Joseph's espoused wife.

DOWN

1. Luke 2:15 "as the ____ were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass,"
2. Matt 2:7-12 One wise man brought ____
3. Matt 2:1 "____ was born in Bethlehem of Judaea ...
4. Matt 2:1 "...in the days of ____ the king,"
5. Matt 2:2 "...Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his ____ in the east, and are come to worship him."
6. Luke 2:7 Mary "brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a ____"

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

AIRDS MOSS

The Battle of Airds Moss took place on the 22nd July 1680. Government troops, led by Bruce of Earlshall, came across a group of covenanters led by Richard Cameron. The battle was brief, nine covenanters, including Cameron, were killed, five were captured and the rest escaped. The battle is commemorated by a memorial in the shape of a small obelisk which can be seen off to the left on the Cumnock/Muirkirk Road.

Cameron was passionate about Christ and the Gospel.

Please ponder the following words which he preached one day standing out on the moor :-

"It's sad to think upon the West of Scotland, the wild Highlands have not neglected as many invitations as you have done. **Maybe you think you have enough**, and therefore you have no need of the Gospel. Yet, you are the people in all Scotland who are in the worst condition. What do you say, shall I go and tell my Master that you will not come unto Him? These hills and mountains around us testify that I have offered Him to you this day. Angels are wondering at the offer. They stand beholding with admiration that our Lord is giving you such an offer this day. Nay, those that have gone to hell many years ago, and who are now crying out in the agonies of torment, may be saying, "O, that we had such an offer as yonder parish of Auchinleck!"

Powerful words spoken out of a heart of genuine love for the souls of men. **Having preached Cameron, and many present, stood and wept for the souls of men.**

His message was based on the words of the Lord Jesus, "**You will not come to me, that you might have life.**" (John 5.40) On another occasion the Lord said, "**I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**" (John 10.10). Christ was, and still is, offering LIFE – eternal, abundant, spiritual life. Who wants life? Surely someone who is dead? In Ephesians 2.1 we learn that we are all "**dead in trespasses and sins**" – physically alive but separated from God and thus spiritually dead. Existing, but not really living as God intends us to



live. Even if man is, by and large, unconcerned with this situation, God is, and has done something about it. God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world to reconcile us to Himself. He came to deal with the sin that caused the problem. He did that when He died for our sins on the cross and subsequently rose from the dead. Through Christ, and indeed in Christ, **God now offers life to all who will receive it by faith.** The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6.23)

When an invitation, or an offer is made, the one who receives it must make a choice – receive it or reject it!! Cameron's grief over the people of the West of Scotland in his day was similar to the grief of the Lord Jesus over His generation – "you will not come and receive the life which is on offer". Cameron reminds us – **"angels wonder at this gift" and "lost souls in hell long for it"** and maybe you, like many others, are treating it with contempt. Is the Lord Jesus sadly speaking these words over you today, "You will not come that you might have life"? How tragic – **refusing a gift that is incomparable with anything that has ever been offered** – a gift that is for our enjoyment now and for eternity. A costly and precious gift that was purchased by the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus on the cross. **He laid down His physical life that we might have eternal life.**

On the morning of his death on Airds Moss, Cameron, as he washed his hands and face, said, "This is their last washing; I have need to make them clean, for there are many to see them." His head and hands were subsequently severed from his body and taken to Edinburgh where Bruce claimed his reward for the killing. How like his Saviour who was put on public display – a hostile mob gazed at His hands (nailed to a cross) and His head (crowned with thorns) after He had been betrayed for the reward of thirty pieces of silver – **the ultimate rejection** – **He offered them life and they put Him to death.** We read the words of Scripture, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." (Hebrews 2.3) The reality is there is no escape. The offer of eternal life is made in time and, if refused, will be regretted for eternity. In the words of Richard Cameron, "those that have gone to hell many years ago, and who are now crying out in the agonies of torment, may be saying, "O, that we had such an offer as yonder parish of Auchinleck!!"

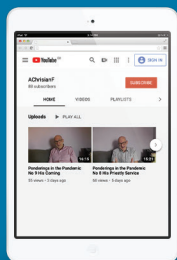
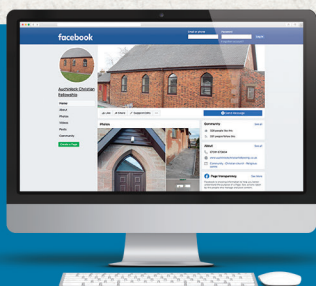


Free Bible and/or a
Free Copy of

*"Where is God in
a Coronavirus
World?"*

by John Lennox

*please contact us by any
of the means below*



Auchinleck-
Christian-
Fellowship



YouTube
AChrisianF



**Struggling - Benefits Cut,
Sanctioned, finding it difficult
to make ends meet??**

We provide a food bank in the hall at Park
Road at 2.00pm every Thursday

& at The Hub, Furnace Rd Muirkirk at
11.00am every Friday

CONTACT DETAILS

www.auchinleckchristianfellowship.co.uk
hecares4you2@aol.com Mobile :- 07734 709 834
Park Road, Auchinleck. KA18 2AZ