

**ACF NEWSLETTER**

Issue 7 Spring 2019

# HOPE



**Auchinleck**  
**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

*Serving Christ, Serving the Community*



# Welcome to the Spring Edition of our Newsletter

## New Life

Spring is an uplifting time of year. It's the part of the cycle of seasons that brings us joy and hope. Winter is marked by coldness, death and misery but spring ushers in warmth, life and joy. **It is the season of resurrection.** The plants that died over the winter months, lying hidden in the ice and snow-covered ground, suddenly burst into life again. The trees that have been divested of their leaves start to regain foliage, blossom and ultimately fruit. The landscape becomes aglow with colour – the drabness of winter passes, **lifelessness gives way to vibrancy.**

Resurrection is a wonderful and comforting truth in the Bible. Without the truth of resurrection our existence on earth is **pretty pointless** – “let us eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die” could well be the best philosophy if that's the case. Paul however, writes a whole chapter about resurrection in his first letter to the Corinthians. He said, “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But **now is Christ risen** from the dead..” (1Cor 15.19-20).

What is the implication of resurrection? It means that death is not the end!! **Beyond death there is life!!**

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.

**Whoever believes in me**, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. **Do you believe this?**” (John 11.25-26); “I am come **that they may have life and have it to the full.**” (John 10.10);

“Now **this is eternal life:** that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” (John 17.3).

**Do you have the assurance of eternal life with Christ?**



## POET'S CORNER Victory in Christ

The Lord is ris'n; and death's dark judgment flood  
Is passed, in Him who bought us with His blood.  
The Lord is ris'n: we stand beyond the doom  
Of all our sin, through Jesus' empty tomb.

The Lord is ris'n: with Him we also rose,  
And in His grave see vanquished all our foes.  
The Lord is ris'n: beyond the judgment land,  
In Him, in resurrection-life we stand.

The Lord is ris'n: and now redeemed to God,  
We tread the desert which His feet have trod.  
The Lord is ris'n: the sanctu'ry's our place,  
Where now we dwell before the Father's face.

The Lord is ris'n: the Lord is gone before.  
We long to see Him, and to sin no more.  
The Lord is ris'n: our triumph-shout shall be,  
“Thou hast prevailed! Thy people, Lord, are free!”

## EASTER EXPLORERS KIDS CLUB

From  
Monday 1st until  
Friday 5th April  
Each morning  
from 10.30 till 12.15

**Bible Stories;**  
**Games; Singing;**  
**Crafts; Quizzes;**  
**Refreshments;**



# MEET A MEMBER

## ANNE SAMSON

### Jesus is all you need.

In 1995 I was convicted by the truth that I was a sinner. I heard the gospel preached at a Christian Fellowship that I was attending. Initially I had gone there because I felt I might find help regarding my ex-husband's drinking problem. Little did I know that I needed to see my own problem – that **I was a sinner without a Saviour.**

One day I was asked if I wanted to be saved. I said yes, and repeated the words of the "sinners prayer" and I was saved, or was I? Repeating words is what it says it is – repeating words!! Later I was sitting in my bedroom reading my Bible when my eyes became fixed on John 14 v 14, "**If you ask anything in my name ....**" It was as if the Lord was speaking to my heart and I knew there and then that I was a sinner before a Holy God and as I cried out for forgiveness Jesus saved me. I knew He poured His love into my life **at that moment, I was forgiven.**

As a young Christian you don't fully realise the price Jesus paid to save you. I thought I would never hurt Him because of all that He had sacrificed for me. **I loved Jesus so much.**

From the word go, **addiction was the monster** that was trying to destroy my family. I thought I would take on the responsibility of being the rescuer and make everything right. As the years went by, through seeking the Lord and fellowshiping with His people **I found strength, comfort and compassion.** For many years the Lord gave me all I needed to fight this monster that was destroying my family. The Lord is patient and kind, but **I hadn't fully surrendered my will to Him** and felt that I had to fix my own problems, after all, I didn't want anyone to die from this addiction.



However, when you make life hard for yourself, by trying to sort everything out, you become proud and hard-hearted. **I started to drift away**, prayed less and no longer had a heart to please the Lord. Bit by bit other things came into my life, I fell in love, ran away and married someone else.

**Where was God in all this?** He is righteousness and although hurt by my sin, as a perfect Father He waited for His rebelliousness child to come home to Him. I didn't think the Lord would ever love me again for breaking the sanctity of marriage and sinning greatly against Him. I started to take steps back toward the Lord by reading my Bible. I read Psalm 34 v 4, "**I sought the Lord and he heard me...**" I was thrilled to think that the Lord was listening to me, a sinner who had rebelled against Him. One day I was reading Psalm 51 and it was then that I repented of my sin. I knew I had sinned against God and Him alone, it was so personal. I felt the weight of what I had done against Him. **I truly felt I deserved to die**, but in His grace and mercy He restored me. I asked the Lord for one thing, to restore to me the joy of His salvation, and He has.

I now attend Auchinleck Christian Fellowship a group of Christians who love the Lord and the community of Auchinleck. We are all being changed day by day as we find ourselves in new challenges and new chapters in life. **We are all different but the one thing we have in common is that Jesus is our Saviour.**

My life is full of challenges, as are all our lives. **I was diagnosed with breast cancer** 1 year to the day of our first wedding anniversary. However, I know I am eternally secure in Christ. When you are alone with your problems, what do you cling to? Some people cling to their self-righteousness, some to their religion, some to their money but where we are going for eternity, there is no money, no religion and no self-righteousness. **There is only one certain place to put our trust – the Lord Jesus Christ**, who is unchanging.

**Love from Anne.**



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### HIS WOUNDS – MY MERITS

In a fairly secluded part of the Dumfries House Estate, on top of a small hillock, beside a small dirt path in the middle of a group of trees you will find a statue of Christ on the cross. It has recently been extensively cleaned so that the inscriptions on it are now clearly seen.

The part that interests me particularly, is the inscription on the pillar of the cross, "**Thy wounds are my merits.**"

This gets right to the very heart of the message of the Bible, the fact that **the death of our Lord Jesus Christ was for me!!** The prophet Isaiah in chapter 53.5-6 says, "**But He** was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and **by His wounds we are healed.** We all, like sheep, have gone astray, **each of us** has turned to our own way, and **the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**"

**Wow** – how true this is, we are all just like sheep who are prone to wander, going our own way and getting ourselves lost!! The Psalmist, David, said, "**I have gone astray like a lost sheep...**" (Psalm 119.176) However, the Lord Jesus said, "For the Son of man (Jesus) is come to **seek and to save** that which was lost." (Luke 19.10). He told a parable in Luke 15 about a "lost sheep", verse 4, "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, does not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and **go after that which is lost**, until he find it?"; and in verse 6, "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, Rejoice with me; for **I have found my sheep which was lost.**" What a lovely picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Good Shepherd, seeking a lost sinner, like you and me. We are lost, **hopelessly and helplessly lost**, until Jesus



finds us and saves us. We can do nothing to save ourselves from our sin and its consequences but He, thank God, is able to do all that is needed. He is the "**Good Shepherd who gave Himself for His sheep.**" (John 10.11). He died to save us, He died in our place!! He died that we may live. He suffered that we may be saved. He shed His blood that we may be forgiven. He was wounded that we may be healed.

It is on the basis of what Jesus Christ suffered on the cross on our behalf alone, **that we can be accepted in God's presence** now and dwell there eternally. We can do nothing of ourselves to merit favour with God – **we have nothing to bargain with** – we are totally dependent on his mercy and grace.

Ephesians 2:8-10 :- "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, **not by works**, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Titus 3:4-6 :- "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, **not because of righteous things we had done**, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour."

O I am my Beloved's,  
And my Beloved is mine;  
He brings a poor vile sinner  
Into His house of wine!  
I stand upon His merit;  
I know no other stand.  
I'm hidden in His presence  
And held by His own hand.

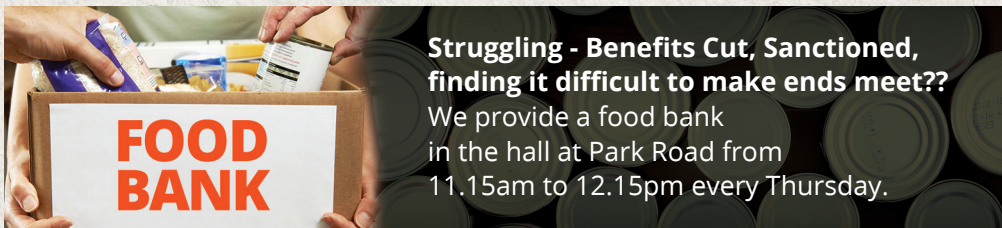




## Parent and Toddler Group

**Thursday @ 9.30 - 11.00** (term time only)

Please contact Ruth on 07402 468 244 for details.



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

We provide a food bank in the hall at Park Road from 11.15am to 12.15pm every Thursday.

## COFFEE MORNING

Why not drop in for coffee, cake and chat the 1st Monday of each month from 9.30am to 11.00am  
**(6th May; 3rd June and 1st July)**

**Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.**

**All free of charge.**



## 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

## Times of Services

### SUNDAY

11.00am – Breaking of Bread  
12.45pm – Family Service  
14.45pm – Bible Teaching

### MONDAY

7.30pm – House Meeting @  
101, Main Street

### TUESDAY

7.30pm – Prayer Meeting

## CONTACT DETAILS

[www.auchinleckchristianfellowship.co.uk](http://www.auchinleckchristianfellowship.co.uk)  
[hcares4you2@aol.com](mailto:hcares4you2@aol.com) Mobile :- 07734 709 834  
Park Road, Auchinleck. KA18 2AZ