

**ACF NEWSLETTER**

Issue 9 Autumn 2019

# HOPE



**Auchinleck**  
**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

*Serving Christ, Serving the Community*



# Leaving Date

For the last few weeks we have been reminded time and time again that we, as a nation, whether we like it or not, are leaving the European Union at **midnight on the 31st October!!**



All sorts of preparations have been made for this historic moment in our history. Things are going to be different. The government needs to make preparations – **we are leaving** – the time has been set!!

However, as we know, there are a number of factors (at the time of writing) that could still prevent Brexit from happening.

I want to solemnly remind us all that there is another, more important, “exit” that we all need to personally prepare for. This exit will take place on the date that has been appointed – no doubt about that.

Hebrews 9.27 :- **“it is appointed unto men once to die**, but after this the judgment”

It's not the prime minister, the cabinet, or parliament that has set the date of our departure – it is the Almighty God Himself. It is **an appointment that cannot be postponed or cancelled** – no revoking of an article is possible. It is a date set in heaven but as yet unknown to us here on earth. We need to prepare. **Just as there will be life after Brexit there will be life after death.**

The Old Testament prophet Amos wrote, **“Prepare to meet your God.”**

What preparation can we make?

Thankfully God, the God who we must prepare to stand before, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, has made preparation on our behalf. We read in 2 Corinthians 5.19, **“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.”**

Because of our sin we are separated from God and facing His judgement.

However, God sent His Son to die on the cross for our sin – to take the punishment we deserved – and through our acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ and His substitutionary death by faith, we can be reconciled to God now and **prepared to meet Him in heaven when we die.**

**Are you ready to leave?**



## POET'S CORNER **Rock of Ages, cleft for me**

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From thy wounded side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure;  
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labours of my hands  
Can fulfil thy law's commands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to the cross I cling;  
Naked, come to thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

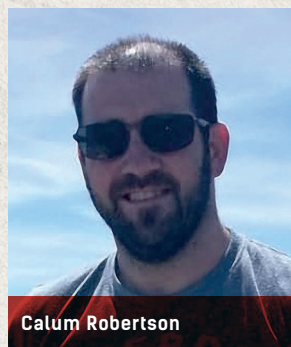
While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyes shall close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in thee.

*Augustus Toplady*



## MEET A MEMBER

### CALUM ROBERTSON



I was born into a family, where **I was taught about God**, Jesus and the Bible from as young as I can remember. My parents attended a small church in Galston, where I grew up, and I, along with my three siblings, were taken along every week to listen as various preachers explained about the central message of the Bible. I learned that the world and everything in it was created by God and for God. I was taught about the introduction of sin into God's perfect world which caused man's relationship with God to be broken. **I learned about God's great plan of Salvation**, to bring people back to Himself, by sending his Son Jesus to die on the Cross for their sins. I learned it, in my head I believed it, I could even repeat it and tell it to others, but I had never personally accepted Jesus as my Saviour.

When I was six years old, I told my parents that I had become a Christian. My two older siblings were already Christians and I knew that nothing would make my parents happier than if I became a Christian as well. My parents biggest longing for their children was not that we would be kept healthy, have a good education or be successful in life BUT that we would each accept the Lord Jesus as our saviour and live our lives for Him. Sadly, however there was no truth to it **and I had merely said what I thought my parents had wanted to hear**. I had been taught that becoming a Christian would change my life. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians ch 5 v 17:- "If anyone is in Christ (becomes a Christian), he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new". **I never changed!!** I spent the next 6 years telling people I was a Christian, but the boy they saw at Church was a different one from the one who went to school. Hypocrisy is one of the things that God hates most and that's exactly what I was like.

At the age of 12 **I remember God speaking into my life**. He showed me the emptiness of the statement that I had made, 6 years earlier. He showed me that simply saying something because I thought it was the right thing to say wasn't enough. **I had to truly repent of my sin**, accept the Lord Jesus as my saviour and allow him to change my life. At this point, all that I had known in my head became a reality in my life. God became more than someone I could simply know about, He became someone I could know personally. He became more than someone I could read about in a book but became someone that I could have a personal relationship with! **My life started to change**, and that change was noticed by others. For instance, previously I had a vile temper but subsequent to receiving Christ into my life my temper became much more even.

As I write this and reflect on almost 25 years as a Christian, have I always been the Christian I should have been? - sadly, No! Has he always been the God He said he would be?- Absolutely! Have I always been faithful to Him?- I'm afraid not! Has He always been faithful to me?-without a doubt! **I have learned that my Christian life is not so much based on me holding onto God but rather God holding onto me**. Jesus says in John ch 10 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from Me, for my Father has given them to me, and He is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand".



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### THE LAMAGEE OR LAMARGLE STONE

Rocking stones (also known as logan stones or logans) are large stones that are so finely balanced that the application of **just a small force causes them to rock**. Natural rocking stones are found throughout the world.

The word "logan" is probably derived from the word "log", which in an English dialect means to rock. To log is a verb in general use throughout Cornwall for vibrating or rolling like a drunken man.

The Logging Rock is, therefore, descriptive of its peculiar motion. Ayrshire apparently is endowed with a geology that lends itself towards the formation of these stones hence in Ayrshire we can find several rocking stones, or stones that used to rock at one time. One such is the Lamargle or Lamargee rocking stone in a hollow by the Bello or Bellow Water near its junction with the Glenmore Water near Lugar. The Lamargle stone is **made of two vertical stones, and a horizontal stone** about 6' long, 3' broad and 4' high. However, due to the build-up of earth and small stones it no longer rocks.

It's interesting that God is often referred to as **The Rock**. Thankfully, He provides a firm, unshakeable foundation for those who rely on Him – no rocking at the touch of a finger for Him!! The hymn writer wrote, "**On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand**". He is a sure, secure, solid, safe foundation!! Are you resting everything on Him?

Jesus told the story of two men building houses, one built on the sand, the other on a rock. Guess which one stood when the storm came? He says one was wise and the other foolish and it's obvious which one was which. He then likened these men to all men. **We are all building our lives on something**. What is at the foundation of your life? What are you depending on for life and indeed for death and eternity? As humans, we all need...an object of trust, one on whom we can lean, one in whom we can confide, one to whom we may look for defence and safety. Everybody has some rock — some object of dependence and trust; for without this, there would be recklessness or despair.

Some make a 'rock' of their wealth, some of their talents, some of their station in life, some of their friends, some of their good deeds, some of their religious observances, some of their name or fame.

But **the Christian's rock is his God**, that is — God in Christ. Yes, Jesus is . . . the foundation of his hopes, the source of his strength, the anchor of his safety, and the fountain that supplies him! The Lord Jesus says in Matthew 7, "whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (vs 24) "and every one that hears these sayings of mine, and does them not, shall be likened to a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand" (vs 26) What are you building your life on – shifting sand or the solid rock? **Remember the testing storms are coming**. In Isaiah 40.8 we read, "The grass withers, the flower fades: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." Men's ideas and philosophies change, our human resources fail, we ourselves are marked by decay, deterioration, disease and death but God's Truth remains – sure and steadfast – absolutely reliable. The poet wrote these words :-

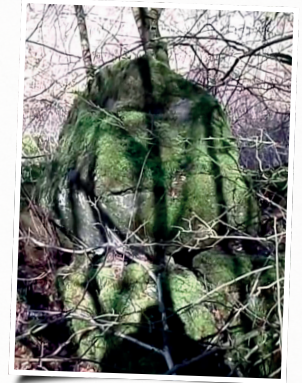
The Bible stands like a rock undaunted  
'Mid the raging storms of time;  
Its pages burn with the truth eternal,  
And they glow with a light sublime.

The Bible stands though the hills may tumble,  
It will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble;  
I will plant my feet on its firm foundation,  
For the Bible stands.

A century ago an ocean liner sank off the southwest coast of England, taking many people down with it. A 16-year-old galley boy, who was tossed up along the rugged shore, survived by clinging to a rock all night long. When he was finally rescued, he was asked, "Didn't you shake as you were clinging all night to that rock?" The boy replied, "Yes, of course. But **the rock never shook once**."

O safe to the Rock that is higher than I  
My soul in its conflicts and sorrows would fly;  
So sinful, so weary -- Thine, Thine would I be;  
Thou blest "Rock of Ages," I'm hiding in Thee.  
-- Cushing

**"There is no Rock like our God!"  
(1 Samuel 2:2)**

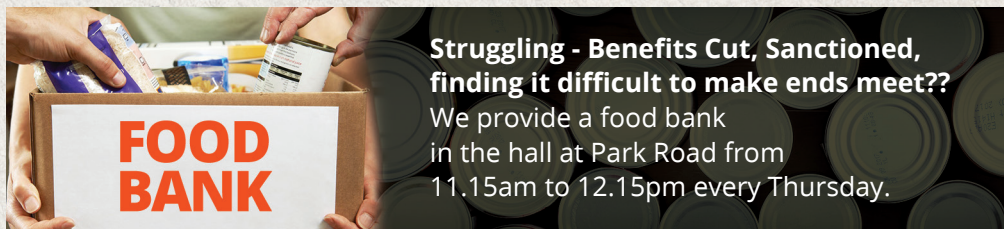




## Parent and Toddler Group

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

Please contact Ruth on 07940 355 882 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  
**(7th Oct, 4th Nov, 2nd Dec)**

**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)

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