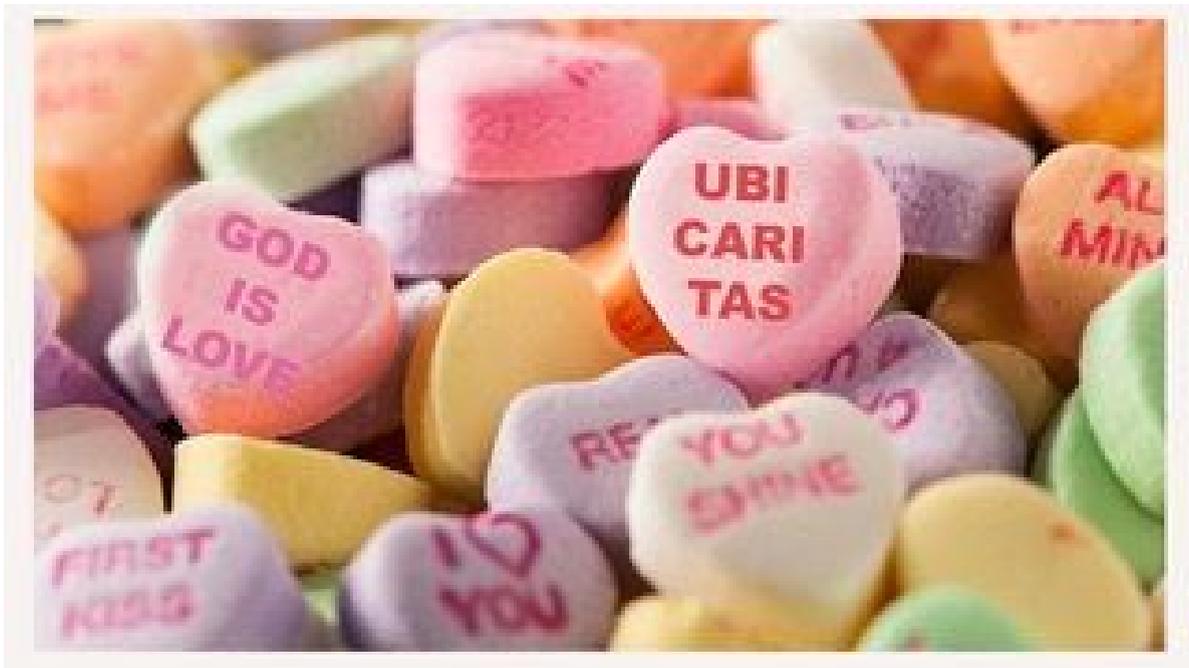


NEWSLINK

FEBRUARY 2020 - MARCH 2020

CANTON UNITING CHURCH



Canton Uniting Church Deacons

Alison Walker (Chair)	029 20221380.	a.m.walker47@googlemail.com
Andrew Wilson-Dickson		
Audrey Takle	029 2037 7757	audreytakle@live.co.uk
Barbara Morgans (Minutes Secretary)	07811 405186	
Beverley Kibble (Treasurer)	07786 144115	bubbev71@yahoo.co.uk
David Smith	01633 266781	ds@davidsmith.org.uk
Debbie Cheshire	07791387067	debbie.cheshire@hotmail.co.uk
Fiona Harding (Secretary)	029 2025 7783	
Marieke Arthur	07890 804764	marieke@pie-in-the-sky.org.uk
Megan Atherton		megan.atherton@uwclub.net
Sian Jones		
Steve Phillips		



Canton Uniting Church News



At the time of writing, there have been two Deacons' since the last Newslink. Relevant points and other matters not included elsewhere are detailed below.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the printing and deliver of the leaflets for the Christmas services and to Andrew for their design.

The deacons have been exploring having a new kitchen fitted in the coffee lounge which is to be taken to the church meeting in January. As the kitchen at the rear of the church is no longer fit for purpose, it is becoming more important that we have a space that is useful for any events we hold, particularly in the interim period before any new building works are completed. We will be looking for a group of people who would like to be involved in the finer design of the kitchen and fundraising to pay for it.



Library books: please take a look at the church library while you are having your Sunday cup of tea, especially if you are taking any part in services as there is a lot of excellent material here, including music resources and useful websites.

Please keep an eye/ear out for the date of the next **church tidy-up day** which will hopefully be happening soon – it would be excellent to have a lot of volunteers to keep the building well-maintained inside and out.



One of the charities that the church will be supporting for the period January-June 2020 with our tea and communion collections is City Hospice. City Hospice is at the heart of Cardiff, providing medical, nursing and end of life care to patients, and support to their families. If you would like to find out more about the work they do, please visit <https://www.cityhospice.org.uk>.

Thanks to those in the church who helped out with catering/tidying etc at the pastorate youth day which was hosted by CUC in January. The tweens were making new year's resolutions for themselves, the world and the church. Lots of brilliant ideas! The next day will be at Beulah during February half term, hopefully looking at homelessness.



Please ensure that any children in your care don't slide on the floor of the hall at the rear of the church, to avoid getting splinters from the wooden floor.

Date for your diary – the Annual Church meeting will take place this year on **Weds 29th April 7.30pm.**



Please do sign the **tea and coffee list** – it would be good to have more volunteers in advance! Why not get some of your buddy group together and sign up for a few Sundays? Or buy some tea/coffee/a couple of packets of biscuits as a contribution for others to serve?

GDPR compliance - Please let me know if you haven't completed a consent form and I will get a copy to you.

Website reminder: Please pass on anything for the website to Andrew agwd391@gmail.com. Finally, **if anyone feels that they can offer any help in the life of the church** then please let one of the Deacons know, or Megan Atherton in her role as pulpit secretary. Similarly, if pastoral support is needed then please let one of us know.

Fiona Harding,
Church Secretary

Twitter: follow us on Twitter [@cantonuniting](https://twitter.com/cantonuniting)

Musings from the Manse

Dear Friends,

February 2020

We recently came across an article in which a former politician in the USA wrote that climate change is not a real issue. The author took this view because she understood Noah's experience with the flooding as God promised last flooding of the world. In the face of research, it was a shock to read such a naive misuse of the Bible. (And we have to ask is God or are we causing the raised sea levels?)

I wonder if part of the reason for this claim is that the author is not willing or has no idea how to make a difference to rising sea levels and air temperatures. Climate change, world peace, knife crime, Brexit, homelessness, lack of mental health services, waiting listings—there are many issues facing us and we too may wonder if we can make a difference. Each issue takes a lot of work to change and sometimes we cannot commit our whole lives to these issues. What can a single person, or even a small group of people, do?

I spoke with a friend recently who told me the story of a 100 year old woman. This woman stood on a street in her town every Friday for 30 years demanding the government work for peace. As she entered her 100 year, she faced an election. She and her granddaughter made sure she had her postal ballot to vote in what was to be her last election. These may seem like little things, but she was involved. She took the actions she could. And maybe over 100 years her actions made a difference. She took small and sustained actions in keeping with her values.

Our values are shaped by our understanding of God. Maybe that is what we can each do—commit to actions in keeping with those values. And we can trust that over the course of our lives, our actions will work with the actions of others and will help bring about a world that looks more like the Kingdom of God. Small, consistent actions joined with the actions of others make a difference.

Rather than thinking of what we cannot do, perhaps we think of what we can do and trust that God will use what we do for the good of creation.

Yours in Christ,

Martha and David

An Opportunity to Think about Theology

Are you interested in thinking more deeply about theological issues? Now and then there will be opportunities to gather and learn about specific theological topics guided by David.

The first of these opportunities is happening in February. The topic is atonement—"the reconciliation of God and humankind through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ." There are a number of ways to think about atonement. Come along and learn about them. Reflect on what makes sense to you and in your relationship with God.

This event will happen at the Manse, on Thursday, 20 February, at 7.30 p.m. If you would like to know more, please speak to David.

The Big Picture—Tom Arthur

1. Where we're headed

On my first visit to the Netherlands, shortly after Marieke and I got married, my new father-in-law took me to see a polder as a way of explaining what Dutch society was all about. A “polder” is an area of land reclaimed from the sea. As a kid studying geography (our teacher, Mrs Dieter, happened to be Dutch), we learned about the Zuider Zee, a sea that no longer existed by the time I got to see Marieke's home country at first hand. The Zuider Zee had largely become a polder, dry land reclaimed by a series of canals, dykes and pumps, dry land that was below sea level.

The means used to move the water were huge hydroelectric pumps. Back in the old days they were windmills, but the system of pumping water from lower levels to higher levels up to the rivers that flowed out into the sea was the same. The important point is not the technology, but the level of social cooperation and public commitment it takes to accomplish something like this. Jared Diamond uses the story of polder-making in the last chapter of his book, *Collapse*, as a possible model for how we might avoid the collapse of our current civilisation. Previous chapters describe how one after another ancient civilisations, like those of the Maya or the Easter Islanders, collapsed because small groups acquired control over the means of survival, ravaging the ecosystem for their own needs so that, in Diamond's words, “they would be the last to die.”

The problem today of course is not the collapse of this or that civilisation, but the extinction of our species. That is what the Climate Change scientists are trying to get us to understand. The abuse of the atmosphere, like the abuse of the seas and municipal water systems by plastic waste, can't continue. Or we won't continue. And it's not just us. The way we live is already leading to the extinction of vast proportions of the life around us. It's not just the flooding, draught and fires that will get us. We can't survive the vast numbers of insect species that are projected to go extinct by the end of the century.

In the weekend papers there was a story about someone who is part of an organisation called the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement. No more breeding. It ends with us. Our extinction will be good for the planet.

2. An Easter faith

Will God get us out of this mess? If we think so, we've been reading the wrong story. I remember on a pastoral call in Birmingham, while a lady was fixing me a cup of tea in the kitchen, counting up 37 different Catherine Cookson novels on her bookshelf, plus a number by similar romance-writers. A friend of mine writes this kind of stuff, and says she has strict guidelines from her editors: the plot must always involve a young woman in a state of distress and a strong male rescuer figure.

Is that the Christian story? I only had at best ten or twenty minutes on a Sunday morning to present an alternative to the story she spent the rest of the week reading. To be sure, most popular theology and most hymnody sees good old Jesus in precisely this role of a strong male rescuer. We spend Lent in self-abasement, and then, *mirabile dictu!* Easter gets us out of the scrape of having to be human. This is a vision of rescue that has much more to do with the eternally returning Easter-egg rhythm of the solar cycle than it has to do with Christianity, I fear. For the most part, the Easter we celebrate is a pagan holiday, not Christian.

We are bombarded by the rescuer story day in and day out—in the James Bond and Clint Eastwood adventures, for instance, and all similar plot lines. How does Jesus save? He invites us

to live a very different story. Easter isn't a miracle cure for the crucifixion or a healing plaster for Good Friday. It is our new life in Christ, which means, as, for instance, in our baptism, that we no longer live for ourselves alone, but, as Christ did, for one another. And that means, these days, for other species and for the planet. The world we are given is not me-centred, or even species-centred, but God-centred. In very ordinary terms, that means living imaginatively and cooperatively together like polder-builders.

Information about different groups being organized for the Cardiff and Penarth Pastorate.

1) Cardiff and Penarth Pastorate discussion group

This discussion group is open to the church members and interested other people from all the churches who are part of the Cardiff and Penarth Pastorate. The meetings are on a monthly basis and rotate between the different churches. These are the dates for the next series of meetings. The themes of the discussions will be using the material from St Martin in the Fields Church, London - a different painting each time of a scene from the life of Christ and reflections on these, for discussion.

Wednesday January 8th - City URC. Baptism of Jesus
Wednesday February 12th - Elfed Ave. Martha and Mary
Wednesday March 11th - Canton Uniting. Cleansing the Temple
Wednesday April 8th HOLY WEEK NO MEETING
Wednesday May 13th - Beulah. Resurrection

Meetings are from 7.30pm to 9.00pm and you are welcome to come for just one, or to all of these.

2)The Stepwise Groups

These groups will be more structured than the discussion groups and will be focused on helping us in our Christian discipleship. They will be led by Martha, David and Stephen Best.

The initial dates for these meetings are:

Monday 27 January, at 2.30 at City;
Tuesday 28 January, at 7.30 p.m. at Beulah in the Margaret Whitaker Lounge;
Thursday 30 January, 2.30 at Bethesda.

These will run bi-weekly until Holy Week.

3) For the period of Lent

There will also be a session run during Lent on Wednesday mornings beginning on 26 February 2020 at 10.30 a.m. at Elfed Ave, Penarth . This will run weekly until the end of March.

If you are interested in attending the Lent groups, it will be helpful to notify Martha or one of the Deacons so that the materials can be prepared.

PASTORAL NEWS

We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of Pat Marshall who died in December. Pat was a faithful member of Grand Avenue URC and Canton Uniting Church when Grand Avenue joined us.

Our sympathy and prayers also go to Suzanne, Ceri and their families on the death of their grandmother, Gwen Hill. Gwen was a member of New Trinity for many years.

We express our sincere sympathy to Toni, Rhys, Sian Stephen, Josh and Harri on the death of Peter, a beloved husband, father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by all of them. Peter was a member of Llandaff Road Baptist Church before we became Canton Uniting. He will be missed by all of us.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sian, Stephen, Josh and Harri on the death of Stephen's mother who died just before Christmas.

Nifemi Kassim has had a small operation to lift a finger nail to remove an embedded splinter. We hope you are feeling better now.

To all our members and friends who for various reasons are unable to join us for worship on a Sunday. We send you our warmest greetings and would like you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers each week.

Audrey T.

Charity Donations Update.

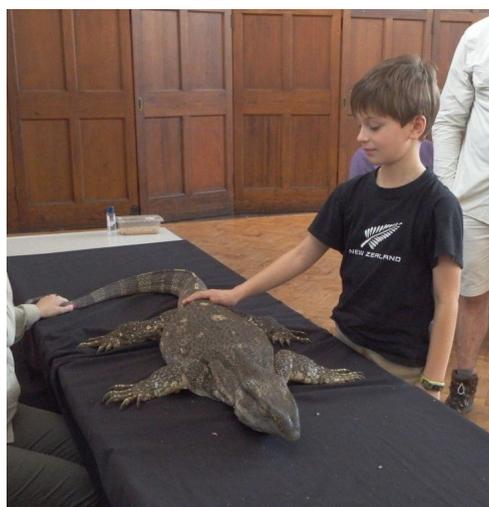
During December we have supported several Charities at various events within the Church and raised the following amounts:

1. The Silent Movies night organised by Andrew raised approximately £310 for the Homeless Charities.
2. The Collection at the Junior Church Christmas Service raised £190 for the Wales Children's Air Ambulance Charity.
3. The Collection at the Christmas Day Morning Service raised £226 for Christian Aid.

In addition to these amounts, the Collection at the Morning Communion Services has also raised £207.00. This will be split 50/50 between Mission Aviation Fellowship & Bethan Roper Trust.

Thank you to all who have supported these events.

Junior Church Christmas Party



Many thanks to all those who helped organise the Junior Church Christmas party. They all really enjoyed themselves, and had a great time making friends with the variety of animals brought to the church hall! Hopefully, all animals have left the building!

Thanks to Alan for the photos.

8th March 2020 All Age Worship

Genesis 12.1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17

Deacon : Sian

Steward: Liz

Readers: Beverley & Alan.

15th March 2020 Morning Communion Service

Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

Deacon : David S

Steward: Joy

Readers: Ceri & Megan.

To serve at Communion: Alison, Barbara, Sian & David.

22nd March 2020

1 Samuel 16.1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5.8-14; John 9.1-41

Deacon : Fiona

Steward: Rob.

Readers: Fiona & Hugh

29th March, Morning Communion Service

Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45

Deacon: Barbara.

Steward: Hugh.

Readers: Janice & Alan.

To serve at Communion: Beverley, Debbie, Fiona & Megan

5th April,2020 Evening Communion Service

Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 118.1-2,19-29; Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 21.1-11

Deacon: Marieke

Steward: Bronwen

Readers: Audrey M & Steve.

We are grateful to all those who take part in our services. Those who serve as Deacons on Duty, Stewards, Readers or lead prayers If you would like to act as a Steward or take part in the service by, Reading, Leading Prayers, or taking the Children's Address then please let Alan Farnham, Megan Atherton or Phil George know. We are trying to keep as full and up to date list of people as we can.

CANTON UNITING CHURCH was established in 1995 when New Trinity United Reformed Church joined with Llandaff Road Baptist Church and in 2013 joined with Grand Avenue United Reformed Church Ely which in 2005 had united with Saintwell URC. We are committed to ecumenism through our links with Cytûn, the Covenanted Churches and Churches Together in Canton. Our previous minister was the Chair of the Committee of the Covenanted Baptists which, with the Church in Wales, the Presbyterian, Methodist and United Reformed Churches seeks to bring about the goal of uniting together.

CONTACTS

Ministers: Revd. Martha McInnes - Tel.: 07519 831405
Revd. David Dean - Tel.: 07772 714388

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23 Llanfair Road, Cardiff CF11 9PZ - Tel: 029 2025 7783
Email: cucsecretary@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Mrs Beverley Kibble
75 Bartley Wilson Way, Cardiff CF11 8EN – Tel: 029 2140 6306
Email: bubbev71@yahoo.co.uk

Chair: Mrs Alison Walker Tel: 029 20221380.
Email: a.m.walker47@gmail.com

Website: www.cantonuniting.org.uk

USUAL WEEKLY DIARY & MONTHLY EVENTS – check below for further details

Sunday 10.30am Family Church
6.00pm Evening Service (1st Sunday of the month)
Tuesday 6.30-8.00pm Boys' Brigade
Wednesday 2.30pm Women's Fellowship [Fortnightly]
(Please see weekly notices for exact dates)
Friday 6.45-8pm Music Group Rehearsals – all welcome!

February 2020

Sunday 9 th	12pm	Deacons
Weds 19 th	6.30pm	Agapé supper (bring and share)
Thurs 20 th	10.30-2.30	Tweens pastorate day (Beulah)

March 2020

Weds 25 th	7.30pm	Deacons
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AND FINALLY ... Please hand in material for the next Newlink to Barbara Ball or Hugh Morgans by the end of the Morning service on **Sunday 22nd March 2020**