

NEWSLINK

APRIL - MAY 2026

CANTON UNITING CHURCH



Painting: Oliver Pfaff

Pastorate Ministers

Revd. David Dean
Revd Martha McInnes

Canton Uniting Church Deacons in May, 2025

Alison Walker (Chair)	Chair@cantonuniting.org.uk
Audrey Takle	Bookings@cantonuniting.org.uk
Barbara Morgans (Minutes Secretary)	
Eva Elliott	Garden@cantonuniting.org.uk
Fiona Harding (Secretary)	Secretary@cantonuniting.org.uk
Megan Atherton	
Alan Farnham	
David Smith	
Ceri George	
Marieke Arthur	
Abi Powell	

Other contacts:

Andrew Wilson-Dickson	Music@cantonuniting.org.uk
Kenneth Woods (Treasurer)	Treasurer@cantonuniting.org.uk

Dear Friends,

April 2026

Happy Easter! As we worked our way through Lent, did you notice that the readings from the Gospel of John centred on conversations? There were conversations between Jesus and Nicodemus; Jesus and a Samaritan woman; the rulers of the Temple talking about and with a blind man, and with Jesus; and finally, Jesus and Mary and Martha after Lazarus' death. On Easter and afterwards, we will overhear other conversations. These include conversations between Jesus and Mary in the garden; with Thomas; with Peter after his night of fishing; and with the two disciples on the way to Emmaus. All the conversations recorded with Jesus were life-changing.

Conversations are important. They are part of what makes us human. Conversations involve the important skill of listening. How are your listening skills? Do you often find yourself unable to listen? Do you have to make your point so that they know you are right? Or are you great at putting your own needs aside so others have a space to be heard? We suspect your answer to those questions may be varied; sometimes you are a good listener. At other times you want someone else to listen to you. That's pretty normal.

Conversations shape who we are. In them we can feel seen and heard. In them we can find peace and security. Of course, conversations can also be hard. At Christmas there was a lot of advice on social media about how to keep one's cool when sharing a meal with those who do not share similar political views and are very vocal about being right. When we talk about prayer, we often reflect that prayer is a conversation with God. Many of us, however, do not hear an audible voice in that conversation. Sometimes, we have a 'feeling' which directs us towards God's ways. Sometimes we have a peace. And a few of us may hear a verbal direction, but I suspect many of us do not. So much of what we learn about faith comes from conversations with other followers of Jesus, either those living around us or those who have provided a recording of their thoughts--books, blogs, podcasts, etc. We listen to each other and we learn from each other.

Yet perhaps what is important in a conversation is not what is said, but the manner in which we speak and that we actually listen to each other. The poet, Maya Angelou, said, 'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.' Knowing God loves you has made us feel valued and brought many of us to faith. Listening with kindness creates space for people to heal and grow.

So we return to those conversations with Jesus mentioned above. In them he spoke and he listened. He helped people feel seen and heard. So as people who follow the resurrected Christ, perhaps part of our role is to listen in the manner in which he did--with an openness and care for all people so that they feel heard and valued. We can listen in our families, with our friends, and even with strangers. We can put our own needs aside for a few minutes and create an environment in which the other person is the most important person in the room. They will remember that because they feel we are present in the conversation for them.

As we face into the joy of Easter, perhaps conversation and listening can be a post-Easter discipline--one in which each day we can pause to listen to someone, where we put our needs to be seen and heard aside to see and hear at least one other person that day.

This is one way each one of us can follow Jesus and serve our neighbours. Let's give it a go with intention this month--being a gift to each other as we do--in the way Jesus was

the gift to so many he encountered. In doing so perhaps we, like Mary in the garden, will be surprised to encounter the risen Christ!

Peace,

Martha and David

Geoff Eales and friends



What a joy filled afternoon, celebrating Geoff's 75th birthday, with wonderful music performed by



fantastic musicians! Around 60 people attended the concert on Sunday the 22nd of March. Performers included Geoff on piano, Yuri Goloubev on double bass, Michael Munnik on guitar, Nick Francis on violin, Hiroko Sue on koto, and Brenda Ford on vocals.

The performance was followed by tea and cakes.

Many thanks to all those who took part, and who contributed to a very successful event, with £500 raised for the church building fund.

Concerts at CUC, Spring 2026

Upcoming concerts:

in the Sundays at 6 series, **April 26th** :

Viola da gamba virtuoso Richard Boothby returns to the series to deliver a fascinating lecture-recital on the friendship between the composer Georg Frederick Abel and the artist Thomas Gainsborough, whom he met in Bath in 1760. Richard will be joined by harpsichordist Andrew Wilson-Dickson, and together they will perform sonatas by Abel and Johann Christian Bach. Refreshments before the concert (which starts at 6pm)

Tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/richard-boothby-a-lecture-recital-on-abel-and-gainsborough-tickets-1978155794231?aff=oddtcreator>

and on **Sunday May 3rd at 3pm:**

Alice Martin and Emma Evans sing with a small orchestra:

Argre dich, o Seele nicht BWV189, Duet: Lass, Seele, kein Leiden / J.S. Bach

Morgen Op. 27/4 / R. Strauss

2 Songs, Op. 100 / Amy Beach

Suite for Violin & Voice / H. Villa Lobos

Il Tramonto / O. Respighi

Chanson Perpetuelle / E. Chausson

Matthäuspassion BWV244, Aria: Erbarme Dich / J.S. Bach

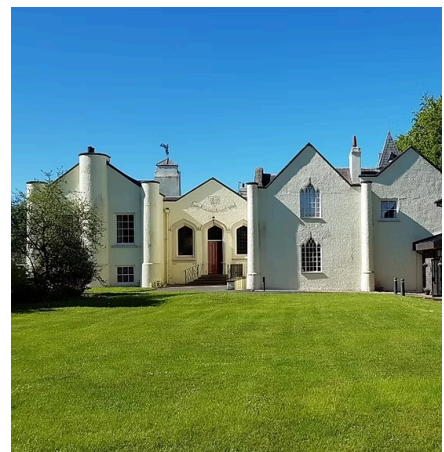
Tickets on the door, advisory charge £10 adults, £5 students in full-time education - supporting the CUC Building Project

12-14 June 2026, Trefeca

'In the Shadows' we will be looking at some of the characters we don't notice very often in the Bible.

We gather on Friday evening and leave Sunday after lunch. Saturday afternoon is free to walk, talk or explore the local area. All welcome. Talk to Martha if you are interested.

The accommodation and food are fabulous.



If you cannot do duties, please find someone to replace you. Thank you.

Sunday 5th April, 2026 EASTER SUNDAY

Lectionary Readings: Jeremiah 31.1-6; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24; Colossians 3.1-4; Matthew 28.1-10

Worship Leader: Revd Dr Tom Arthur

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Rob

Deacon on Notices: Megan

Readers: Abi and Megan

Refreshments: The Munniks

Sunday 12th April, 2026

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2.14a,22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-31

Worship Leader: Chris Atherton

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Ken

Deacon on Notices: Eva

Readers: Sian and Alan

Refreshments: Ann

Sunday 19th April, 2026 Communion

Lectionary Readings :Acts 2.14a,36-41; Psalm 116.1-4,12-19; 1 Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35

Worship Leader: Revd Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Jan

Deacon on Notices: Ceri

Readers: Ceri and Eva

Preparation of Communion Hugh and Bence

To serve on the table Ceri and David

Refreshments: Fiona and Rob

Sunday 26th April, 2026

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2.42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2.19-25; John 10.1-10

Worship Leader: Revd Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Audrey

Deacon on Notices: Fiona

Readers: Fiona and Hugh

Refreshments: Hugh and Bence

Sunday 3rd May, 2026

Lectionary Readings: 1 Peter 2.2-10; Psalm 31.1-5,15-16; Acts 7.55-60; John 14.1-14

Worship Leader: TBA

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Megan

Deacon on Notices: Alison

Readers: Jan and David

Refreshments: Abi

Sunday 10th May, 2026

Lectionary Readings: 1 Peter 3.13-22; Psalm 66.8-20; Acts 17.22-31; John 14.15-21
Worship Leader: Revd Craig Gardiner
Welcome Deacon/Steward: Sian
Deacon on Notices: Ken
Readers: Becky and Megan
Refreshments: Megan

Sunday 17th May, 2026 Communion

Lectionary Readings: 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11; Psalm 68.1-10,32-35; Acts 1.6-14; John 17.1-11
Worship Leader: Revd Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean
Welcome Deacon/Steward: Alan
Deacon on Notices: Megan
Readers: Ceri and Hugh
Preparation of Communion Fiona
To serve at the table: Marieke and Megan
Refreshments: Sian and Josh

Sunday 24th May, 2026 Pentecost Sunday

Lectionary Readings: Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.24-34,35b; Numbers 11.24-30; 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13; John 20.19-23
Worship Leader: Revd Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean
Welcome Deacon/Steward: Fiona /Rob
Deacon on Notices: Eva
Readers: Taiwo and Ken
Refreshments: Hiroko

Sunday 31st May, 2026

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 1.1–2.4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13.11-13; Matthew 28.16-20
Worship Leader: the Young People
Welcome Deacon/Steward: Abi
Deacon on Notices: Ceri
Readers: Alison and Steve
Refreshments: Alison

Sunday 6th June, 2026

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans 4.13-25; Matthew 9.9-13,18-26
Worship Leader: Revd. Dr Tom Arthur
Welcome Deacon/Steward: Ceri
Deacon on Notices: Fiona
Readers: Abi and Megan
Refreshments: Megan

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
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Treasurer: Kenneth Woods Email: Treasurer@Cantonuniting.org.uk

Chair: Mrs Alison Walker Email: Chair@Cantonuniting.org.uk

Website: www.cantonuniting.org.uk

USUAL WEEKLY DIARY & MONTHLY EVENTS -

The Wednesday evening prayers on Zoom have finished.

AND FINALLY ... Please hand in material for the next Newslink to Hugh Morgans by the end of the Morning service on **Sunday, May 24th, 2026.**

Email address: hughmorgans@hotmail.com

