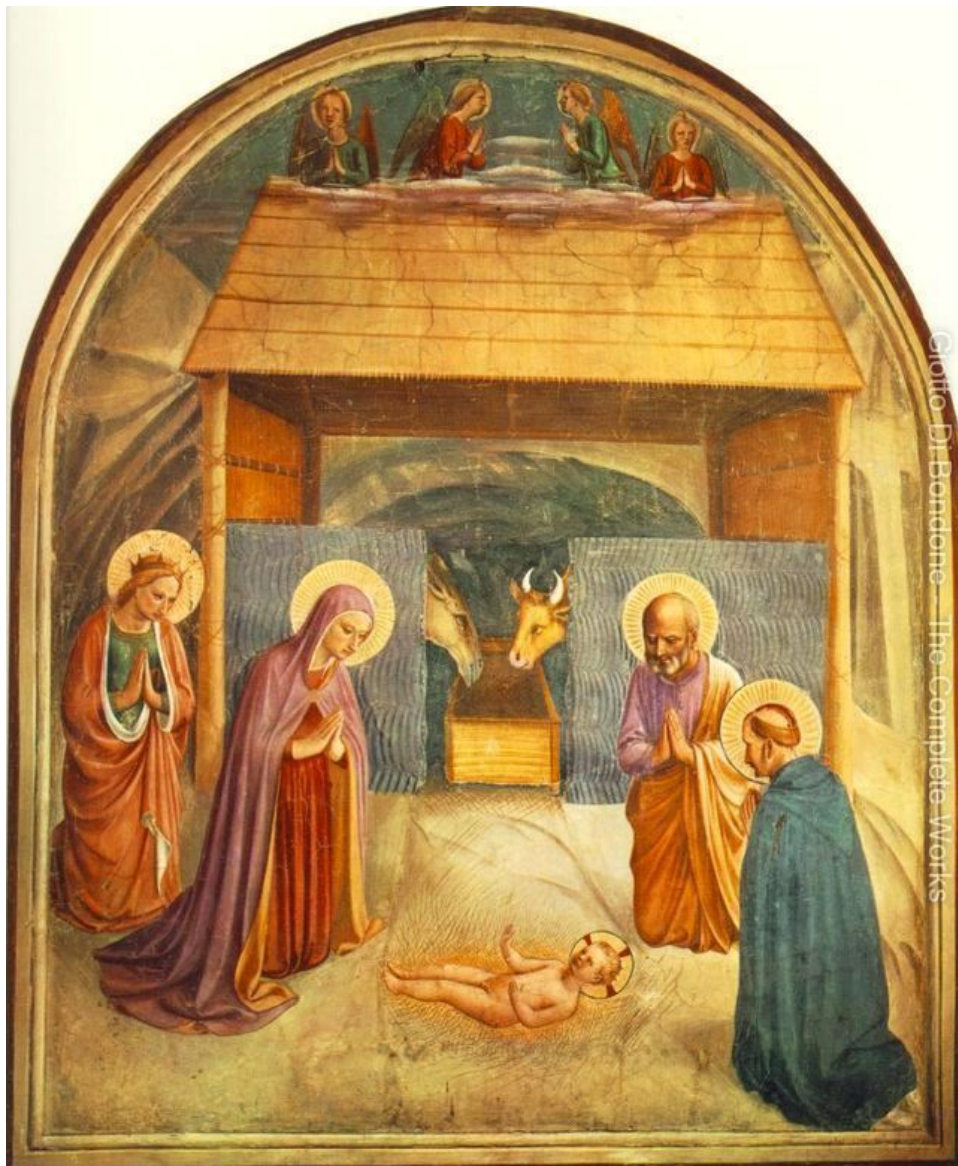


# NEWSLINK

DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

## CANTON UNITING CHURCH



**Giotto** di Bondone was an Italian painter and architect from Florence during the Late Middle Ages. He was born around 1267 in Tuscany. Giotto is considered among the most influential artists in Western art history, as he introduced naturalism, spatial construction, and emotionality into his many paintings, including polyptychs and frescoes.

## **Canton Uniting Church Deacons in October 2024**

Alison Walker (Chair)	<a href="mailto:Chair@cantonuniting.org.uk">Chair@cantonuniting.org.uk</a>
Audrey Takle	<a href="mailto:Bookings@cantonuniting.org.uk">Bookings@cantonuniting.org.uk</a>
Barbara Morgans (Minutes Secretary)	
Eva Elliott	<a href="mailto:Garden@cantonuniting.org.uk">Garden@cantonuniting.org.uk</a>
Fiona Harding (Secretary)	<a href="mailto:Secretary@cantonuniting.org.uk">Secretary@cantonuniting.org.uk</a>
Megan Atherton	
Richard Edge	
Sian Jones	
Steve Phillips	
Ex officio	
Andrew Wilson-Dickson	<a href="mailto:Music@cantonuniting.org.uk">Music@cantonuniting.org.uk</a>
Kenneth Woods (Treasurer)	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@cantonuniting.org.uk">Treasurer@cantonuniting.org.uk</a>

Dear Friends,

December 2024

Well, it has been some month. Well, it has been some year. All of us can probably remember and celebrate some good things that have happened in our lives over the past month or year. We may also note the events across the world (election results, use of new arms in Russia/Ukraine, naming war crimes in Palestine). We wonder, maybe worry even, about the impact of elections, taxes, climate change, etc.

In contrast to fears and worries we enter now the frenzy and joy of December and Christmas celebrations. 'Santa Claus is coming to town.' We are meeting family and friends we haven't seen for awhile. Our diaries are full of parties and meals and children's plays. . . and funerals and anniversaries. Life is busy, busy, busy, bringing with it joy and sadness.

Amidst all the cultural clutter and family festivities, we let's intentionally make space to remember the birth of a baby. After all, it is the birth of Jesus around which we have created all these December traditions.

When Jesus was born, God took a risk to midwife the birth of Love. We can see through the Old Testament that time and again God reached out to people in love--and they strayed from the message. They forgot to seek justice and to care for those who were vulnerable. Despite the forgetfulness and wandering of the people, God's love didn't let go. God tried again and again. God's message came to the world again in the birth of Love in Jesus.

Sharing love is always a risky business. When the message came this time, the people of God were living under an oppressive regime, the Romans. They were vulnerable, but God saw their pain and sent Jesus to show them what love looks like. Jesus/Love was born in a humble place, amid ordinary people.

In this fragile time and broken world, we may wonder about the wisdom of Love revealed in Jesus. With war, poverty, tyranny and fear dominate across the world we may wonder how Love can be born among us now.

Madeleine L'Engle encourages us in 'The Risk of Birth':

This is no time for a child to be born,  
With the earth betrayed by war & hate  
And a comet slashing the sky to warn  
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,  
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;  
Honour & truth were trampled to scorn—  
Yet here did the Saviour make His home.

When is the time for love to be born?  
The inn is full on the planet earth,  
And by a comet the sky is torn—  
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

It is clear that 'what the world (still) needs now is 'Love, sweet Love.' In the midst of the fun, the fear, and the festivities of this season may we let Love be born for us, and through us.

May you have a blessed Advent and a joy-filled Christmas.

Martha and David

### **Future Pilgrimage?**

Some of you may have been to Greenbelt before. Some of you may have heard of it. Some may think this is a land designation. In fact, Greenbelt is 'somewhere artistry meets activism, the secular meets the spiritual, politics meets positivity (it is) somewhere to come together once a year, where we're just as likely to dream up a better world as we are to dance and debate, to pray and to party.'

There are a number of people across the pastorate who attend regularly. The URC has a strong connection to the festival and hosts a cafe and craft tent as well as the youth tent. We are wondering whether there is any interest in taking a group from Cardiff. Would you like to attend in 2025?

Greenbelt is held outside Kettering, about 3 hours from Cardiff. Some people camp. Some find local B & B's in which they stay and travel to the site for the day. Some people attend and some people volunteer to reduce their costs. The dates are 21-24 August 2025.

If you are interested in going with others from Cardiff, have a word with Martha and David. We can also put you in touch with others who have been and may attend again.

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## Silent Film Night



Andrew's festive Silent Film Night will be held at CUC, DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

It is a wonderful occasion, if you haven't yet been! Andrew provides a piano soundtrack to some of the stars of the silent film era. Previous films have starred Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton.



Contributions on the evening will go to charity.

## Concerts in CUC.

**December 1, 2024 - 6pm**  
Principal flautist of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment Lisa Beznosiuk performs a recital of French baroque music with Lucy Robinson (viola da gamba) and Andrew Wilson-Dickson (harpsichord).



Tickets are available by going to the website 'Sunday at Six'.

## Church Tidy-up Day, November 2nd, 2024

Comment: This concert has already happened and here is a photo of the audience just before the concert started. More than 70 people came, a record for 'Sunday at Six'!



So CUC is getting on the musical map...

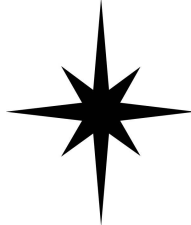





Thanks to all who were able to help at the Tidy-up! Good progress was made, although there will be more opportunities to help in the future. Thanks to Marieke for the photos.

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## Christmas Greetings

<p>Wishing all of you a Peaceful and blessed Christmas and hoping that the year ahead is good for us all, With love and best wishes,</p> <p>From Alison</p>	
<p><b>Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!</b> <b>From Laide, Taiwo, Ore, Korede and Nyemi</b></p>	<p>Tom and I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas! Love, Ann and Tom</p>
<p>Nadolig Llawn i chi gyd! Boldog karácsonyi ünnepeket! Cariad, Barbara, Hugh a Bence</p>	<p>PEACE AND BLESSINGS TO ALL OUR CHURCH FAMILY, FAR AND BEAR, WITH LOVE FROM THE GEORGES</p>
	<p>A joyful and peaceful Christmas to everyone, and wishing you a happy 2025, From Ken Woods</p>
<p><b>Doreen &amp; Roland send Christmas greetings to all the Church family. We wish you all every blessing in the New Year.</b></p>	<p><i>Wishing everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas, Best wishes, Mandy, Steve and family</i></p>
<p>The Atherton family wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. God Bless.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas to everyone! From, Keith</p>
<p><b>Happy Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year!</b> Love, Jan</p>	<p>Wishing you every blessing over Christmas and the New Year! Love, Fred and Rowena</p>

<p>Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year,</p> <p>Love, Bronwen</p>	
<p><i>Merry Christmas everyone!</i> <i>Wishing everyone more love and</i> <i>laughter this New Year!</i> <i>From</i> <i>Gloria, Rita, Gabriel and Michael</i></p>	
<p>Merry Christmas everyone and a Happy New Year, 2025! Love from the Harding family, Fiona, Rob, Isabel and Alistair</p>	<p>A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Loving New Year, Love from Eva</p>
<p>Wishing everyone at CUC a happy Christmas and wonderful New Year!</p> <p>Toni xx</p>	<p>Wishing all our friends at CUC a happy Christmas, From, Siân, Steve, Josh and Harri</p>
	<p>The Munnik family - Katie and Mike, Leo, Tait, and Isla returning from Canada - wish everyone a peaceful, restful Christmas, and hope for goodness in the New Year!</p>
<p>Merry Christmas everyone and have an amazing New Year!</p> <p>Love from, Cindy, Arwyn, Nye and Caian</p>	<p>Lucy and Andrew are so grateful for the encouragement the Church community gives us. It's very special! A joyful Christmas to all.</p>





## **Canton Uniting Church Services Rota, October – November 2024**

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

### **Sunday, 1st December 2024, Advent 1**

Lectionary Readings: Jeremiah 33.14-16; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36

Worship Leader: Rev Dr Tom Arthur

Deacon/Steward: Rob

Readers: Lucy and Marieke

Refreshments: The Munnik Family

### **Sunday, 8th December 2024, Advent 2**

Lectionary Readings: Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 1.68-79 (Benedictus); Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6

Worship Leaders: Dr Ceri and Dr Phil George

Deacon/Steward: Jan

Readers: Alison and Rebecca

Refreshments: Fiona and Rob

### **Sunday, 15th December 2024, Advent 3**

Lectionary Readings: Zephaniah 3.14-20; Isaiah 12.2-6 (Canticle); Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

Worship Leader: Revd Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean

Deacon/Steward: Alan

Readers: The Munnik Family

Refreshments: Marieke and Alison

Preparation of communion: Audrey

Serving at Communion table: Megan and Steve

### **Sunday, 22nd December 2024, Advent 4**

Lectionary Readings: Micah 5.2-5a; Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat); Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45(46-55)

Worship Leader AM: The Young People Nativity Service

Deacon/Steward: Steve

Readers: The Young People

Refreshments: Hugh and Bence

P.M. : Carols by Candlelight Service led by either Revd Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean-

### **Wednesday, 25th December 2024, Christmas Day**

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14,(15-20)

Worship Leader: Rev Martha McInnes or Rev David Dean

Deacon/Steward: Ken

Readers:



**Sunday, 29th December, 2024**

Lectionary Readings: 1 Samuel 2.18-20,26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52

Worship Leader: Megan

Deacon/Steward: Abi

Readers: Sian and Abi

Refreshments: Sian and Josh

**Sunday 5th January 2025**

Lectionary Readings: Jeremiah 31.7-14; Psalm 147.12-20; Ephesians 1.3-14; John 1.(1-9),10-1

Worship Leader: Rev Dr Tom Arthur

Deacon/Steward: Ceri

Readers: Taiwo and Ken

Refreshments: Megan

**Sunday 12th January 2025**

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 43.1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17,21-22

Worship Leader: Rev Martha Mc Innes or Rev David Dean

Deacon/Steward: Fiona

Readers: Megan and Fiona

Refreshments: Hiroko

**Sunday, 19th January, 2025**

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 62.1-5; Psalm 36.5-10; 1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11

Worship Leader: Rev David Salisbury Moderator of URC Wales

Deacon/Steward: Sian and Josh

Readers: Hugh and Steve

Serving communion: Ceri and Alison

Refreshments: Ann

**Sunday, 26th January, 2025**

Lectionary Readings: Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a; Luke 4.14-21

Worship Leader: Rev Martha Mc Innes or Rev David Dean

Deacon/Steward: Megan

Readers: Jan and Alan

Refreshments: The Munnik family

**Sunday, 2nd February, 2025**

Lectionary Readings: Jeremiah 1.4-10; Psalm 71.1-6; 1 Corinthians 13.1-13; Luke 4.21-30

Worship Leader: Rev Gareth Dyer

Deacon/Steward: Eva

Readers: Eva and Roland

Refreshments: Fiona and Rob

**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

Secretary: Mrs Fiona Harding Email: [Secretary@Cantonuniting.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@Cantonuniting.org.uk)

Treasurer: Kenneth Woods Email: [Treasurer@Cantonuniting.org.uk](mailto:Treasurer@Cantonuniting.org.uk)

Chair: Mrs Alison Walker Email: [Chair@Cantonuniting.org.uk](mailto:Chair@Cantonuniting.org.uk)

Website: [www.cantonuniting.org.uk](http://www.cantonuniting.org.uk)

## USUAL WEEKLY DIARY & MONTHLY EVENTS -

The Wednesday evening prayers on Zoom have finished.

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**AND FINALLY ...** Please hand in material for the next Newslink to Hugh Morgans by the end of the Morning service on **Sunday, 19th of January, 2025.**

Email address: [hughmorgans@hotmail.com](mailto:hughmorgans@hotmail.com)

