

NEWSLINK

JUNE - JULY 2026

CANTON UNITING CHURCH



Photographs of the church garden taken by Geraint Atherton

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
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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,

June 2026

For many of us the weeks of May and June are holiday time. On our holidays we leave home. We enjoy time in other people's homes or visits to hotels or houses not our own. We enjoy the comfort of returning home and sleeping in our own beds. Some of our journeys may include returning to a home we moved from years ago. (We had a bit of that in April when we went to the US.)

The author Thomas Wolfe famously wrote, 'You can't go home again.' Of course, he meant after you leave a place, if you return there is change in the place and in you. So what you imagined as 'home' is no longer the same. Despite the changes home is such an important image.

There are lots of sayings which remind us of the importance of home. Home is a safe space. 'A man's home is his castle.' 'Home is where the heart is.' 'There's no place like home.' 'Home is where one starts from.' Sometimes we also talk about church as our home, our family.

We hear the longing for home in stories of immigration, when those seeking asylum were forced to flee their homes. One of our daughters once commented that when we were in the US we called the UK home and when we were in the UK we called the US home. Where is home? Is it where we come from or where we find ourselves? Is it where we have always been or a longing for somewhere new?

The church historian Diana Butler Bass wrote, 'The overarching narrative of the Bible is that of searching for home. In the beginning, God created the beautiful earth as humanity's home, but we carelessly misused it, resulting in our exile. The rest of the (Bible) story recounts how we either faithfully tended to our earthly home or sinfully abused it, with consequences of blessing or curses. . . God not only creates our earthly home, but God is our home.'

The Israelites' flight from Egypt led to them searching for a land of their own, a home. Later the Exile meant that Israelites longed for home. We heard Jesus tell the disciples that anyone who followed him would have nowhere to lay their heads—in effect no permanent home.

But as Bass suggests, there is good news to counter this narrative of searching for home—for our home is in God. Augustine wrote that our hearts are restless until we rest in God. Maybe the longing for home reflects that desire to find our place of peace with God.

So as we travel over the next few months, as we return to our homes, may we also find our peace in God, our place in the community of faith.

A Blessing for the Traveller

May you find joy on our journey, in conversation with friends, in drinking coffee in far flung places, in new vistas and on well-worn paths. May you see God around you, knowing the world and its people are God's.

And when you put the key in the door of your house, set your case down inside your home, may you feel peace in the place and in God's presence with you.

A Blessing for the One at Home

May you find joy in the rest of a home, a place that holds laughter and tears.

When you walk through the door, may your home welcome that feels like a gentle hug.

May your home offer welcome to those who visit. As you share your home with others, may they find the warmth of love and friendship.

In God's love,

Martha and David

Concerts at CUC, Summer 2026



The concert on the **3rd of May**, 2026, was a wonderful event! Ten students of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama entertained an appreciative audience of around 50, with a variety of pieces, from Bach to

Barber. Three of the performers were singers, a baritone, soprano and mezzo-soprano, and they were accompanied by strings for some pieces, as well as piano and organ. No-one left the hall without feeling moved.

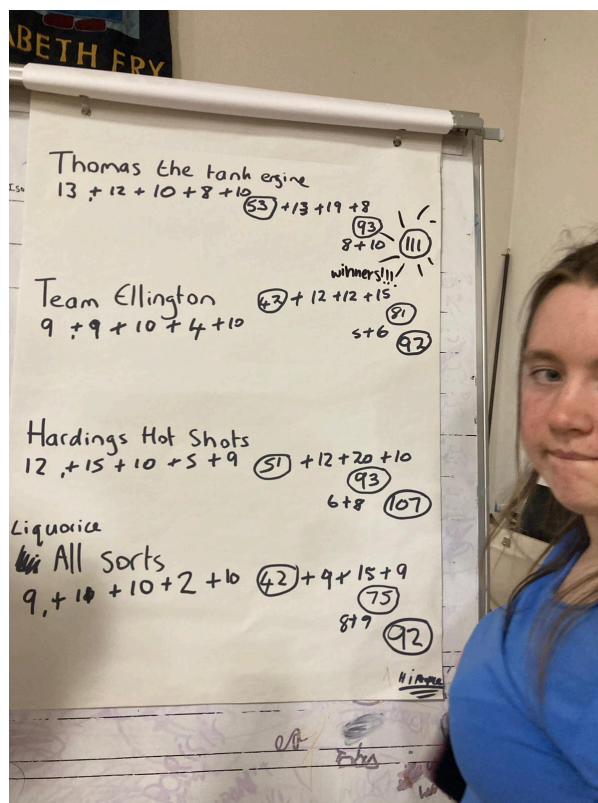


Following the hour-long concert, tea, coffee and cake was provided, and we had the opportunity to speak to and thank the young people.

Quiz Night

Congratulations to the March/April birthday group for organising a fun-filled evening! It was very much enjoyed by all (well, most...!)

The quizmasters performed admirably, and the sausage and chip supper was much needed by the end of what was a mentally taxing evening...!



Team Thomas the Tank Engines steamed ahead to win the contest, closely followed by Harding's Hot Shots. Trailing somewhat in their wake were Team Ellington and the Liquorice Allsorts, level in third position. No-one came last!

The Teens Group report

The Teens group has had fluctuating attendance over the past year, with Ore leaving for university and the addition of several of our younger teens attending sessions - Nifeme, Alistair and Tait. On average we've had a consistent attendance of 5 people, plus of course our illustrious leaders, supervisors and occasional wranglers Fiona, Abi, Martha, and David for whom we are very grateful.

In these sessions, we've created a number of window displays, including our current "Who do you say Jesus is" and the peace-crane rainbow in the smaller window facing the co-op car park. We've also planned and carried out a few services, at Christmas and at other points in the year with a memorable look at the story of Gideon and the Midianites. We've had discussions taking us into the neighbourhood and up to Thompson's Park, played games and altogether had a productive and enjoyable year.

The two URC residential weekends this year, to Youth Assembly and to the 1T4 event, have had strong presence from the young people here - we put forth almost the entire Welsh contingent to YA in late February, where I led a small group. This year, Korede applied for the role of Equality and Diversity Representative for the URC Youth, which she now holds! The weekend was a lot of fun and we're looking forward to potentially taking more people next year, as this year had a lower turnout from us than previously. 1T4 was similarly successful, taking place earlier this month over the long weekend. Much fun was had by all, with 5 young people from Canton joining 2 boys from Swansea in making their way to Staffordshire for the event.

Korede and I have also made it to a few (though different) meetings for the Youth Executive, either over zoom or in person - I still hold the position of Wales Synod Youth Representative.

As a shameless plug to leave, the teens group is looking forward to hosting the "Table tops games" fundraising event for the building fund on the 14th June and it would be lovely to see all of you there.

Leo Munnick

Growing Together Report Canton Uniting Church AGM 24th May 2026

Weeks of rain hampered our efforts to keep the garden under control during late Autumn, Winter and much of the Spring, though the resilience of many of the plants means it certainly is not bare! The vegetables and herbs, such as chard, fennel and chives, as well as the yellow raspberries and strawberries, have been particularly prolific. However, we march on and it remains a space to sit and enjoy and few relaxing moments – particularly when the sun is shining. We still need to crop back the yellow raspberries so if anyone wants a pot then please let me know. First come, first served.

Our Garden Goons WhatsApp group has recently been joined by four new residents, so our thanks go out to them. However, most local helpers are informal passers-by. Marieke has done an amazing job in connecting with them. Some have donated plants for which we are profoundly grateful. This is what we like to encourage – sharing plants as well as ideas. It is true to say that there is a wealth of expertise out there.

Two jobs that have been particularly useful are the construction of a compost heap, made by one of our resident neighbours from disused wooden pallets, and the setting up of a structure for our runner beans. Huge thanks to them. Most of us are not tall or strong enough to undertake some of the jobs. Church members and local people rallied round when Marieke had her leg, then eye, mishaps. This was particularly the case during the summer when people rallied round to water the garden during the scorching summer. It became clear how much we had been depending on Marieke's labour and social skills to keep the garden going. We have realised that we cannot depend on one person and it would not be right. This is everyone's garden and many of us could play a role – however small.

We are now trying to be more organised: meeting as a group at 5.30 on a Friday afternoon. When we get in the swing of the routine, the first 15 minutes will be to agree, over a cuppa, what we are going to do until 6.45 (when some of use go to music group - if it is on).

Megan and I recently met to discuss what needs doing over the coming months. Lucy, with her amazing gardening expertise, has also agreed to contribute ideas and has also ordered plug plants and seeds. These include tomatoes, rocket, dwarf French beans, brussels sprouts, chicory, courgettes, parsley, sugar snap peas, lettuce, sweetcorn, beetroot, oriental salad mix, and some bee butterfly wildflower mix, which should fill our planters as the months roll by. Potatoes are already planted - and I know that junior church enjoyed digging them up last autumn. Please help yourselves when the produce is ready. We will let you know when they are ready to harvest. There are already herbs ready for the taking – including mint and fennel. Neighbours are also welcome to enjoy the 'fruits' (ha, ha) of our labours.

Megan is keeping a close eye on our compost and earlier this week fed it with tiger worms, who have already started their labours. These worms are environmentally friendly and are ideal for breaking down organic waste. We also discussed having a blackboard which would display what we were doing in the garden each week and what is ready for the taking.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed this year. Even if it was just for a day, it has helped. And a quick and kind plea to anyone thinking of joining us sometime for a chat and contribution to making our garden plentiful – whether it is weeding, planting, pruning or harvesting. We thank you in advance for your service.

Eva Elliott

TREASURER'S REPORT from Ken Woods

This report summarises key features extracted from the detailed accounts for 2025. The General Fund transactions are summarised to the nearest £100, for 2024 and 2025 actuals. The latest 2026 trend forecast is also reported.

The income totals are split between ongoing and one -off. Ongoing income goes down from £52,900 in 2024 to £52,300 in 2025 to £50,700 in 2026 – the biggest cause being a reduction in hiring income, reflecting budget cuts by the Council and NHS. There is no reason to think that hiring income will fall further after this year. Partly offsetting this fall in income is a good news story on offertories. Offertories in 2025 showed an increase from 2024 of around £2,100, just under 7½ % increase. This, I believe, justifies our decision to discontinue Gift Day as an annual event for unspecified general income; in 2024 Gift Day raised around £1,600, so we had a net increase in giving of £500. Thank you to everybody who was able to respond so well to the challenge for extra giving.

After adjusting for one-off items, total income was £45,900 in 2024, £53,600 in 2025 and is forecast to be £50,700 this year.

Expenditure has swung from £49,500 in 2024 up to £53,700 in 2025 and forecast to go down to £48,800 this year. The big story here is energy costs – up by £2,200 from 2024 to 2025 and then forecast to go down by £2,600 this year. The increase in 2025 reflects the end of the favourable gas tariffs that had been negotiated by my predecessor Bev. And we also had a significant gas usage in February last year when the new boiler took a long time to get the hall back to normal temperature. The recent reduction in energy costs - which actually started in the autumn of 2025 - is a result of turning the heating right down in the halls.

The balance at 1st January 2024 was £47,300. After the downs and ups of the subsequent two years, it is forecast that we will have £45,700 in the General Fund at the end of 2026. Giving to Charities was as follows:

Tea and Coffee money £258;
Christian Aid £1,051;
Birthday Box for Baptist Missionary Society £126;
Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support £222;
Space4U supporting asylum seekers and refugees £420.

This totals £2,077, compared with 2024 giving of £2,479.

Out of the tea and coffee donations, we gave £200 to Bronwen's Wish - a mental health charity that creates safe spaces for children.

The Building Fund totals are also reported to the nearest £100. The various sources of income in 2025 totalled £11,400, including donations, events and bank interest. The largest items in the expenditure of £60,900 in 2025 were for re-covering the lower and upper flat roofs of the church, but the new hall boiler £4,800 is also included. The balance in the Building Fund has gone down to £45,900 at 31st December 2025. The cumulative

income and expenditure for the Building Fund since the project got under way in 2020 until 31st December 2025 has been Income of £41,800 and expenditure of £79,900.

Two questions were raised on the accounts and my report. The first queried why we needed a note to explain that all of our Building Fund money is in the Baptist Union deposit account. The reason is that, although, as a charity excepted from registration, we do not have to follow specific accounting rules, we will be sharing our accounts with large funders who are used to seeing rule-based balance sheets that identify which assets belong to restricted funds.

The other question relates to the vulnerability of the investment held on our behalf by the URC Synod of Wales Trust Company and that is available for our building project. Like all investments subject to movements in the Stock Market, our investment is subject to rises and falls in value on a daily basis. It may be noted that our investment has risen by around 70% over the last 8 years.

Church Meeting agreed to adopt the detailed annual accounts for 2025 including the notes thereon and the report of the independent examiner.

All church members at the AGM indicated that they had had sight of the accounts. Any member not present and who has not seen the accounts may ask me for a copy.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT TO AGM, MAY 2026

I am presenting this report on behalf of myself and Alison, who are the safeguarding coordinators.

Our main role is to ensure that Canton Uniting Church is a safe space for all our church family and friends, as well as others who use the building. This means making sure that we have DBS checks in place for key people, such as deacons and Junior Church teachers, and that the people who need to receive appropriate safeguarding training.

Most recently, Alison and I have been reviewing the church's Safeguarding Policy with the deacons. There were some minor changes that we needed to make to clarify a couple of points and to update changing contacts. A copy of the safeguarding policy is available for you to look at on the noticeboard in the foyer. We will replace this with the updated version once it have been signed off by the deacons.

The main concerns raised during the year are about safety of little ones after service, when there is a lot of coming and going and doors are sometimes left open. We have had little ones wandering out into the street outside, which is clearly a risk. This has been raised before with the church before, but I just wanted to say again that the Junior Church passes responsibility back to parents and grandparents, once the service has ended. However, everyone can help to make sure that doors are kept closed unless someone is watching, and that little ones don't wander out.

We are blessed as a church in having such a wonderful group of children, all of different ages and with different gifts and needs. Alison and I have been working with the Junior

Church leaders to make sure that they all feel safe and happy and that this is a good place to be, where they can learn and have fun. Sian has had some great ideas for improving on this, so we will be supporting her to make sure that things happen.

So, please look out for each other and especially for the younger members of the church family. And if anyone has any concerns of any kind, please speak to either me or Alison confidentially. Thank you.

Ceri George, 24th May 2026

DEVELOPMENT REPORT from Ken Woods

The total cost of the project (excluding expenditure to date) is now put at £1,135,000. The money we already have available to fund it amounts to £408,000. This is made up of the Building Fund balance of £45,900 plus money held for our project by the Synod Trust Company.

Where will the rest come from?

First, the fantastic hot-off-the-press news is that Parkminster URC – one of our sister churches in the pastorate – voted last Sunday to give us £75,000 for the project. Alison has written to warmly thank them.

We are being encouraged to seek £80,000 from URC central and Synod of Wales funds. That leaves £577,000 to find from our own endeavours and external fundraising. Taking a step back to look more broadly at the Development project, the highlight of 2025 was undoubtedly the celebration in September, when we invited local people and potential partners to share in the good news of getting planning permission for our project.

Since then we've started on community audit and fundraising. Community audit has two main purposes. One is to build on the meetings we've had with local people. The other purpose is to demonstrate to potential funders that our project meets a genuine need. Thus, Eva is very busy at the moment conducting interviews with individuals and focus groups. And we all of us have been busy filling in the survey questionnaire and getting other local people to do likewise.

As mentioned by Rob, enhancing our green credentials means including the provision of a heat pump to replace our gas boilers. The costings therefore include the cost of an air sourced heat pump. Heat pumps are probably not economic in the short term at present. But the feeling is that we should do the right thing for the sake of planet Earth – 'cos there ain't no planet B!

For fundraising, the birthday groups for March/April and May/June have paved the way. The professional fundraiser Richard Newton and his assistant Annabelle Elletson met with our Fundraising Group on 7th April. Since then Richard has compiled a plan for external fundraising. The proposed strategy is to apply for significant grants from two big funders and to target a number of other funders for smaller amounts. The two major funders to whom we plan to make applications are the Senedd's Community Facilities Programme and the National Lottery Community Fund.

At some point, we envisage that members of the congregation will be invited to make personal pledges. But before then we expect to seek Church Meeting's approval for the main features of a Business Plan. Also, we need to formalise a number of our unwritten policies such as on equalities, which will also need to be shared with a church meeting, probably around end-June.

Church Meeting agreed to endorse the intention to make an application to the National Lottery in the name of Canton Uniting Church, for a grant or grants in furtherance of the church's building and community garden project.

CUC Music Group Report, May 2026

The Music Group has suffered from illness in the ranks, exam fever and been rained on. These problems have occasionally brought it to its knees, but it has never failed to deliver. We have never had a Sunday service without music. And then at other times we have been blest by a tsunami of talent. Last Sunday was a case in point, when we were able to sing Tallis' 'If ye love me' to a high standard, with a choir of ten. How I long for more such occasions.

Talking of talent, we are able to draw on an amazing and rich pool of musical experience, headed by Geoff Eales, an international figure in the world of jazz, alongside Mike Munnik, whose roots go deep into the folk tradition. With Andrew's more traditional (?) background and Hiroko's Japanese culture expressed in her koto, we offer a remarkably varied expression of our Christian faith. Of course we encourage the congregation in singing their well-loved songs, but we also hear and enjoy music written by Geoff, Mike, Andrew and Phil. We are definitely different.

Highlights have been provided by concerts: Mike Munnik on April 22nd 2025, Alison's jazz group 'Heads Up' on 11th October, a solo concert from Geoff on 19th October, a Munnik concert on 25th October, and Geoff's jazz group on 22nd March this year. Andrew and his dream companion have offered duet concerts in November and February. and to the corner organ, which has served us well for 15 years. It is being replaced by a beautifully sounding instrument that will also be useful for visiting choirs. Proceeds from the sale go to the Building Fund.

We are sad to say goodbye to Gloria, now training as an optometrist, but it is wonderful to have Isobel with us on the flute. Where has she been all this time?! Don't forget, you can join us, like Isobel, without audition!

AGWD

May 24th 2026

Personnel:

Singers: Eva, Ceri, Phil, Hugh (backed up by singing instrumentalists)

flute: Isobel

violin: Lucy (sometimes Leo)

guitar: Mike

koto: Hiroko
alto sax: Alison
timpani and percussion: Leo and Hugh
keyboards: Geoff and Andrew, assisted by Emily
librarian: Leo

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.

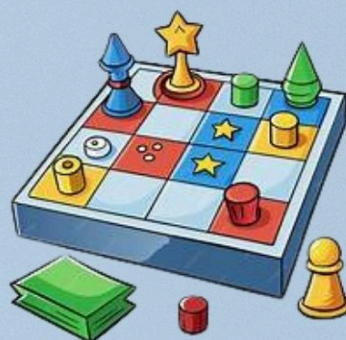
The accommodation and food are fabulous.



Thanks to Megan for this highly relevant cartoon!

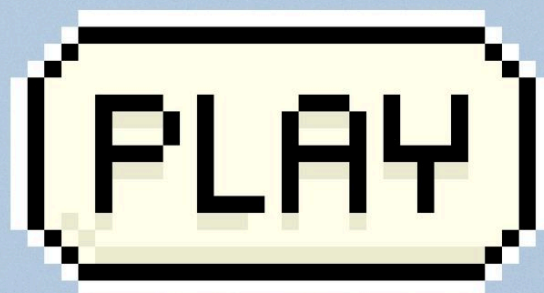


An invitation for the Teens group fundraising event:



14th of June

Table top games!



**£5 entry
1pm**

Bring and share lunch

Canton Uniting Church Services Rota June - July, 2026

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

Sunday 7th 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: Rob

Deacon on Notices: Megan

Readers: Abi and Megan

Refreshments: The Munniks

Sunday 14th June 2026

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2,12-19; Romans 5.1-8; Matthew 9.35-10.8(9-23)

Worship Leader: Maggie Kirkbride

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Ken

Deacon on Notices: Eva

Readers: Sian and Alan

Refreshments: Ann

Sunday 21th June 2026 Communion

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10,16-17; Romans 6.1b-11; Matthew 10.24-39

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 28th June 2026 No Service in CUC – in Beulah, Rhiwbina

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42

Worship Leader: Joint pastorate Service at Beulah United Reformed Church

Sunday 5th July 2026

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Romans 7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

Worship Leader: Dr Phil George

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Megan

Deacon on Notices: Fiona

Readers: Jan and Hugh

Refreshments: Hugh and Bence

Sunday 12th July 2026

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9,18-23
Worship Leader: Megan
Welcome Deacon/Steward: Sian
Deacon on Notices: Alison
Readers: Fiona and David
Refreshments: Abi

Sunday 19th July 2026 Communion

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12,23-24; Romans 8.12-25; Matthew 13.24-30,36-43
Worship Leader: Revd Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean
Welcome Deacon/Steward: Alan
Deacon on Notices: Ken
Readers: Becky and Megan
Preparation of Communion: Fiona
To serve at the table: Marieke and Steve
Refreshments: Sian and Josh

Sunday 26th July 2026

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11,45b; Romans 8.26-39; Matthew 13.31-33,44-52
Worship Leader: Revd Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean
Welcome Deacon/Steward: Fiona /Rob
Deacon on Notices: Megan
Readers: Ceri and Hugh
Refreshments: Megan

Sunday 2nd August

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 32.22-31; Psalm 17:1-7,15; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21
Worship Leader: Revd Dr Marc Dummer and Revd Alison Dummer
Welcome Deacon/Steward: Abi
Deacon on Notices: Eva
Readers: Taiwo and Ken
Refreshments: Hiroko

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

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

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

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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, July 19th, 2026.**

Email address: hughmorgans@hotmail.com

