

# NEWSLINK

DECEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

## CANTON UNITING CHURCH



## Canton Uniting Church Deacons

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Sian Jones		
Steve Phillips		

We wish all of our friends and members of the Church Family

and those who have supported us during 2019,

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



From all of the Leaders & Boys

3rd Cardiff Boys' Brigade Company.





# Canton Uniting Church News



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

The induction of Revs Martha McInnes and David Dean took place on Saturday October 12th, 2.30pm, at Beulah URC in Rhiwbina. It was lovely to share this special occasion with them and the other churches in the pastorate, and good to see so many of our fellowship supporting, bringing cake and participating in the service. Big thanks to Beulah for their hospitality too.

Charities: The charities supported for the second half of 2019 are Mission Aviation Fellowship ([www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org)) and Bethan Roper Trust ([www.bethanropertrust.org.uk](http://www.bethanropertrust.org.uk)). In September we also held a Macmillan coffee morning which was very well supported, and further charity events for Health Help International and Touch Trust Japan are planned for December. Please let the deacons know of any other charities (local and national) that the church could support.

Gift Day: Many thanks to everyone who has given to the church for Gift Day – it isn't too late if you haven't!

Happy birthday! Congratulations to Barbara Ball and Barbara Farnham who have both recently celebrated their birthdays – 90 years young!

Library books: the library continues to have new additions including music resources – please do browse 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.

At our last church meeting in September, the following change to the constitution was agreed: "The Church Chair shall be elected every three years at the Annual Church Meeting. If they are not elected from among the deacons, they shall become ex-officio members of the deacons' meeting." We received information on the church financial situation from our treasurer, and voted unanimously to accept Malou Pabilona-Smith into membership which took place in November 2019. We also heard an update on the Garden project from the group chair, Ceri George. The next church meeting will take place in January 2020, date TBA. During this meeting we plan to discuss communion to hopefully come to an agreement on CUC's position, honouring our different traditions.

On Saturday 16th November, several members enjoyed a session with Rev Stephen Best on 'Exploring Scripture in Worship'. There will be further opportunities to explore our faith and scripture in smaller groups across the pastorate in the spring with Stepwise – please see me if you need more information.

Buddy groups are being established in the church – you can find news on these elsewhere in Newslink. Please let Audrey T./ Ken know if you aren't in a group and would like to be. The deacons have also been looking at the official church membership list and getting in touch with members we haven't seen in a little while.

Please do sign the tea and coffee list – it would be good to have more volunteers in advance rather than a 'shout' during the notices! (Why not get a group together and sign up for a few Sundays?)

GDPR compliance – if you aren't getting any email from the church, or your name isn't appearing anywhere in the Newslink, this could be because we don't have up-to-date GDPR consent from you. Please let me know if this is the case and I will get a copy of the consent form to you.

Room hire charges: from January 2020 the hire charges for rooms in the church will increase. Church or school room: £18/hour, Coffee lounge £15/hour.

Website reminder: the church website now contains the Newslink and information on upcoming worship leaders (this is also displayed on the church noticeboard). Please pass on anything for the website to Andrew [agwd391@gmail.com](mailto: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

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

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**Dear Friends,**

**December 2019**

As we enter December, our minds and lives turn toward the tasks of Christmas. Between church, and home, and work, there are a variety of tasks for us to do. There are things that need to be completed before Christmas. The end of the year is looming and it is another deadline for us.

Poetry often offers a way to clear our minds of the clutter and focus on what we value. For us as followers of Jesus, that is remembering the love of God made real in a child named Jesus, born to humble Jewish parents. His birth, his life changed the world and we want to mark that rather than getting lost in everything that calls to us this time of year, Madeleine L'Engle wrote these words:

**After Annunciation**

This is the irrational season  
When love blooms bright and wild.  
Had Mary been filled with reason  
There'd have been no room for the child.

Sometimes it doesn't make sense, but as we move through all we have to do, as we prepare for Christmas, may we allow the beauty, the poetry, the music, the art of this season to transport us to a place where God's love blooms again in our hearts; where there is room for this child who changed the world; where there is room for us to share love with others who are desperate to be touched by good news, love, hope, and peace.

May love bloom bright for you and yours. Happy Christmas and may the new year be full of blessings.

Peace, Martha and David

## THE CHURCH IS LIKE A TABLE, A TABLE THAT IS ROUND

Just over 400 years ago, on Christmas day 1618, Lancelot Andrewes preached a sermon before King James I comparing the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to the crib of the baby Jesus:

The Angels began. The Shepherds they follow, and praise GOD, for all that they had heard and seen; the Sermon they had heard, the sign they had seen. We, to come in at our turn, and to do the like. They but took it up; we to keep it up; and never to let it go down, or die on our hands, but from year to year, as we have occasion, still to renew it.

You say, well, Yes, because we have heard, we may come; but, not for any Sign; Yes, I say: For that too. The Sacrament we shall have here, and of the Sacrament we may well say, it is a Sign; and by it, ye shall find this Child. For finding his flesh and blood, ye cannot miss, but find him too. And, a Sign, not much from this here. For, CHRIST, in the Sacrament, is not altogether unlike CHRIST in the crèche. To the crèche we may well liken the husk or outward Symbols of it. Outwardly, it seems little worth, but is rich of contents; as was the crib, this day, with CHRIST in it. For, what are they, but weak and poor elements of themselves: yet, in them find we CHRIST. Even as they did, this day, in the beast's crib the food of Angels: Which very food our signs both represent, and present unto us.

A few weeks ago Marieke was in the church with some people who were tidying up after using the sanctuary for a film-making project. One of the young men asked Marieke where the altar should go. Marieke replied that it wasn't an altar, but a table, so it could go just about anywhere up front toward the middle.

What do you think is the difference between an altar and a communion table? I would assume that most of us here at Canton Uniting would say it is just a matter of words, of what you call it. The nonconformists call it a table and the Anglicans call it an altar. But that wasn't the situation in the days of Lancelot Andrewes.

The Reformation in England and Wales in the sixteenth century did away with altars. "Altars" were those elaborate structures, often of stone, railed off in a sacred space that could only be entered by the priest, and often raised from the floor of the ordinary church space by a series of steps. Adorned with candle stick, gold crosses and costly fabrics, they were where the priest performed the "sacrifice" of the mass, at a distance, where the laity couldn't quite hear the eucharistic prayers. "Hoc est corpus meum" ("this is my body") sounded like "hocus pocus". Altars inspired a piety of awe and deep reverence for untouchable holiness. They were placed in the east end of the chancel (all churches were built on an east-west axis in those days), with the altar itself set on a north-south axis, up against the wall.

In the second Prayer Book of Edward VI and in the Elizabethan and Jacobean Prayer Books "altars" were turned into "tables". The elaborate stone structures at the end of the chancel were torn down, to be replaced by a simple wood table covered by a plain linen cloth and, when in use, placed in the middle of the church and set "table-wise", on an east-west axis, or longways in the church. The presiding minister was to stand on the north side of the table "where he could be heard"—presumably he would also be facing the people rather than "toward God" (as if God were located at the east end of the chancel!), as in former days.

It varied from parish to parish, but sometimes the people were served at the table, either kneeling or standing, and sometimes in their pews. In any case, the piety of those heady early days of the Reformation was centred less in the sacraments and more in the interaction between minister and people in the sermon. The new Prayer Book brought with it a calendar of readings, the “lectionary” we call it, that was part of the strategy of making the Scriptures, now in English, available to, studied by and responded to by the laity. It was the preacher’s job to make Scripture as clear and transparent as possible, with the primary focus being on the direct relationship between the individual Christian and the transformative power of the Word.

By the beginning of the seventeenth century it became fashionable again to restore those altars of pre-Reformation days and the piety of awe and reverence that went with them. Rediscovered too was the authority of the Church and the “sacerdotal” power of the clergy. Lancelot Andrewes himself was one of the first to have the table re-converted into an altar, in his personal chapel, and Archbishop William Laud, in the 1630s, made it a matter of national policy.

I didn’t understand why at the time, but when I was a young adult serving my internship year at University Church in Chicago, the communion table there was placed “tablewise” in the midst of the church, with the pews arranged around it, with two banks of pews facing toward one another with the table in the middle, and the remaining pews, in the back half of the nave, facing forward, toward the table, as before. Now I understand that this was the original Reformation way of doing it. A lot of continental churches in the Reformed family are arranged “in the round” like this. But for some reason the churches in Britain, nonconformist and conformist alike, have all reverted to what would become after the Restoration in 1662 the normative “Anglican” style.

Whatever happened to our grand plan to replace our Victorian communion furniture with something more suitable to a contemporary worshipping community? For me, its hierarchical exuberance just doesn’t fit who we are. Siarlys told me once that the only reason the old furniture was still with us was that we ran out of money when the new church was built. But that is no longer the case. Andrew Wilson-Dickson suggested to me about a year ago that a new communion table could be made of a serious size and drop-leafed, with the drop leaves round so that when the table was fully assembled it would be an oblong affair. His idea was that with a small gathering, such as we have on Maundy Thursday, we could all sit around it as at a proper Reformation-style dinner table. Or, indeed, it could be set out Sunday by Sunday in our midst as in the churches of spiritual ancestors, no longer as an altar but as a welcoming sign in a (non-hierarchical) society of friends. If Christ is to be born anywhere this Christmas day, surely it is to be here, in the midst of who we are.

Merry Christmas, Tom and Marieke Arthur



Left: the communion table at Llanfair, Penrhys.



Right: Communion table at University Church, Chicago

## Finance, Charity and Gift Day Update.

1. Between January and the end of June we raised the sum of £260.40 from the Communion Collections and Tea / Coffee money after Church Services. This money will be split between the Charities "Let Yourself Trust" & "Touch Trust" .
2. Our Gift Day total so far for 2019 is £2260.00, a wonderful total so far!! Remember Gift Day never closes!!!
3. Our new Collection Envelopes for 2020 are now available, if you require envelopes or if you have not yet completed a Gift Aid Declaration form which would allow us to claim up to 25% of your donations back from HMRC then please see Alan who will be happy to assist.

Thank you for your financial efforts in 2019.

Bev & Alan (AKA The Treasury Team)

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It is always a pleasure to listen to Hiroko playing the koto, and it was lovely to see Lola and Paige moving to sit in front of her during her most recent performance. They seemed enthralled!

There will be another opportunity to listen to Hiroko soon. See church diary for further information.

Thanks to Marieke for the photo.

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## ADVANCE NOTICE.

Junior Church Party.

Our Junior Church Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 12th January 2020 after the Morning Service commencing around 11.30-11.45am.

The Children will be having Games, Food and some unusual entertainment in the Schoolroom afterwards. (IT'S A SECRET !!!!)

It would be good to see as many of the Children as possible at this event.

## Buddy Group news

On 6th October the congregation split into 5 groups to discuss possible ways forward for improving pastoral care and involvement. These were informal and no written records were required; however, readers of Newlink may be interested in some of the discussions.

Group 1 (Canton South) got to know a bit of each other's stories, a time that they agreed was pleasant and well spent, with some surprises. Contact details were exchanged, and they agreed to meet again during a Sunday coffee in November, with a further meeting to decide what the next step may be for them as a group. (Subsequently group members have frequently been in touch with each other.)

Group 2 (Canton North) agreed to explore further on 30th November, getting together at a group member's house.

Group 3 (Pontcanna) identified who would take responsibility for each of the group's absent persons, some of whom have difficulty in getting to church. In addition, provisional arrangements were explored for *WhatsApp* communication within the group for those who have access to the Internet. Two of their number offered to host an evening of music and refreshment.

Group 4 (Llandaff/Pentrebane) Some members of the group were unhappy that they were separated from their friends in Grand Avenue; it was mentioned that movement between groups was fine as long as the deacons were informed and that people can also attend meetings of other groups. Next meeting to be agreed when Steve and Mandy return from holiday!

Group 5 (Ely) want to provide for good communication amongst group members. Telephone numbers were shared with this in mind. In addition, Communion has been provided for one of the group buddies.

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## THANKS

I would like to thank all my church friends for making my 90th birthday so special. Thank you for your lovely singing, all the cards, flowers and good wishes. A big thank you too for the donation to the MAF to celebrate my birthday. This is a charity very close to my heart and you could not have given me a better present.

God bless you all,  
Barbara Ball

I would like to thank all of my friends at Canton Uniting Church for all of your love and support during the past weeks. Thanks for the cards, lifts and good wishes - they have been much appreciated.

Millie McQuade

## Snapshots from the Garden Consultation – Saturday 28th September

It was good to see around 60 people come and see the possibilities for the Garden Development and the new Centre Block building that the Church is looking at.

Friends, Neighbours, Users and Church Members mingled together looking at old plans and thinking about new ways that CUC might serve the Community of Canton that it has been placed in.

Some broad themes emerged from those conversations:

### Centre Block Building

- It should be sustainable – Green, Carbon neutral and environmentally friendly
- It should be accessible
- The building should be welcoming
- Have space for a variety of activities
- Good Kitchen

### Community Garden

- Grow a variety of plants – vegetables, fruit trees, flowers
- It should be accessible
- Provide a variety of spaces to sit
- Bandstand for live performances
- Gardening Workshops

### A Community Hub

- A number of comments revolved around the idea of the combined spaces serving as a 'hub' for the Community – 'A Place to Be'
- It should be inclusive, with something for all ages.

The Project Group will now take forward all the comments made and organise them into a Design Brief that will be used to go out to Tender for a Design Team to be appointed.

Thank you to everyone who came and contributed on the day and subsequently. All the comments made are being used.

Thank you to all the Project Members who organised the Consultation.

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## THANKS

Many heartfelt thanks for the beautiful flowers and card signed by so many, also the cards and messages received on my 90th Birthday.

May the Lord keep you and give you many blessings in your lives.

Barbara Farnham

**Bethesda**

8 December, 6.15 p.m.  
Ecumenical Carol  
Service at Aion Baptist  
Church

25 December, 10 a.m.

**City**

8 December, 10.30 a.m. Gift Service  
for the Salvation Army  
17 December, 6 p.m. Carols at Bar 33  
22 December, 10.30 a.m. Children's Service and  
Party  
22 December, 7.30 p.m. Carols in the Upper Room  
with The Gathering  
24 December, 11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion  
25 December, 10.30 a.m. Family Service

**Beulah**

1 December, 6 p.m. Ecumenical Advent Service, Bethany  
8 December, 6 p.m. Light for our Loss  
19, 20, 23 December Community Carol Singing p.m.  
22 December, 10.30 a.m. Young People's Christmas Service  
22 December, 6 p.m. Carol Service  
24 December Community Carol Singing a.m.  
24 December, 5 p.m. Blessing the Crib  
24 December, 11.15 p.m. Midnight Communion  
25 December, 10.45 a.m. Family Service

**Canton Uniting**

21 December, 7 p.m.  
Silent Movies (*Free Entry*)  
22 December, 10.30 a.m.  
Young People's Christmas Service  
22 December, 6 p.m.  
Carols by Candlelight  
25 December, 10 a.m.  
Family Service



**Cardiff and Penarth URCs  
Pastorate Christmas Services**

**PARKMINSTER**

1 DECEMBER, 10.30A.M.  
ADVENT SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS  
LUNCH

8 DECEMBER, 10.30 A.M.  
TOY AND GIFT SERVICE  
FOR TY HAFAN

11 DECEMBER, 6.30 P.M.  
BROWNIES AND GUIDES NATIVITY  
STORY

22 DECEMBER, 10.30 A.M. FAMILY  
CHRISTMAS SERVICE

**Elfed Ave. United Church**

1 December, 10.30 a.m. Advent  
Communion  
8 December, 10.30 a.m. Gift Sunday  
for Ty Bronna and The Huggard Centre  
22 December No morning  
Service  
22 December, 4 p.m. Carol Service  
24 December, 11.30 p.m. Midnight  
Communion  
25 December, 10 a.m. Family Service

Christmas Greetings

<p>Christmas Greetings to all our church family, and we wish all every blessing in the New Year.</p> <p>Barbara and Doreen</p>	<p>Joy &amp; Dave would like to wish you all every blessing for Christmas the New Year</p>
<p><i>Wishing our friends in Canton Uniting Church a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.</i> <i>Liz, David, Louri, Amelia and Nia</i></p>	<p><b>Merry Christmas everyone!</b> <b>Love from</b> <b>Arwyn and Cindy</b></p>
<p><i>Happy Christmas to all!</i> <i>Love Beverley, Christopher, Jack, Ioan and Evelyn xxx</i></p>	<p>Christmas blessings to all! From, Sylvia</p>
<p>A Happy Christmas to all my new friends at Canton Uniting Church, From, Ken</p>	<p>Wishing all at CUC a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Love, Elinor Kapp</p>
<p><i>Best wishes for a lovely Christmas</i> <i>From</i> <i>Ann</i></p>	<p><i>Jan Richens would like to wish everyone at Canton Uniting Church a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2020.</i></p>
<p>Peace and blessings for Christmas Love Marc and Alison</p>	<p>! Nf'fi\Q'OR'`f\b'd VUJ] RNPR'N[ Q' b__\b[ Q' f\b'd VU'UV 'XcR'aUV` , U_V aZ N' /_RQ'N[ Q'&amp;\d R[ N'</p>
<p>A warm Christmas and a peaceful New Year to everyone in the Canton Uniting Church community. Thank you for all your love and care you have given me over the last few months. Eva Elliott</p>	<p><b>Boldog karácsonyi ünnepeket!</b> <b>Nadolig Llawen iawn i bawb!</b> <b>A Merry Christmas to all!</b> <b>Cariad mawr,</b>  Hugh, Barbara a Bence</p>
<p>Wishing everyone Peace and Joy this Christmas and a Happy New Year Bronwyn</p>	<p>A Happy Christmas to everyone, Best wishes, David Cook</p>
<p>Warm Christmas greetings and a Happy 2020 to all – Barbara &amp; Alan Farnham</p>	<p>5`j Yf m\ Uddm UbX`dYUWZi`7\ f]gha Ug`UbXA &lt; UddmB Yk`M Uf`Æ 5 i XfYmH"Æ</p>
<p>Many blessings for Christmas and the New Year Peter and Toni</p>	<p>5`A Yff m7\ f]gha Ug`hc`U``a mZf]YbXgžÆ 6Ygh`k ]g\YgžÆ ?Y]h\`fB]W_ŁÆ</p>
<p>Christmas Greetings to all at Canton Uniting Church, From Mary Jones (Droitwich)</p>	<p>Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon sa inyong lahat! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all! David and Malou Smith</p>

<p>"Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda i chi gyd." Rob, Fiona, Isobel and Alistair Harding</p>	<p>Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year Jean H.</p>
<p>Megan, Chris and family wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!</p>	<p>! WYR! P%bNOR'd V UR` 'NYNa` 9 9 9N` cR_f`! R_f` U_V aZ N` N[ Q'N` fIN] ] f` " Rd` - RN_!`</p>
<p>Wishing everyone a blessed and peaceful Christmas, and a very Happy New Year. Audrey (M)</p>	<p>Good wishes for a joyful Christmas and peaceful New Year with love from Phil, Ceri and all the Georges.</p>

## PASTORAL NEWS

Let us share our caring for all in our fellowship.

Mrs Pat Marshall, now in Holme Towers for palliative care;

Rev. Tom Arthur;

Marc and Alison are both doing well;

Mr Keith Flynn

Miss Sylvia Neate;

Mrs Millie McQuade;

Mr Peter Edwards, awaiting treatment;

Steve Jones' mother, Joyce;

Mrs Ceri George's uncle, Dando(?)

Mrs Nancie Waterfield.



Congratulations to:

Jenny and Ceri on their recent engagement;

Mrs Barbara Farnham, on her 90th birthday.

May our Advent preparations be pleasing before you, O Lord. May we not use worship preparations for our own glory but for yours. Amen

TONI



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**1st December, 2019 Evening Communion Service**

Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44

**Deacon: Megan** **Steward: Alan**

**Readers: Janice & Linda.**

**8th December, 2019**

Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-7,10-14; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12

**Deacon: Audrey** **Steward: Janice**

**Readers: Angie & Ceri**

**15th December, 2019 - Morning Communion Service**

Isaiah 35.1-10; Psalm 146.5-10; Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat); James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11

**Deacon: Sian** **Steward: Liz**

**Readers: Alison & Hugh**

To serve at Communion: Barbara, Debbie, Sian & Steve.

**22nd December, 2019 - Christmas Festival Service Am Carols by Candlelight PM**

Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-7,17-19; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

**Deacon: Steve** **Steward: Mandy**

**Readers: Marieke & Phil.**

**25th December - Christmas Morning Communion Service at 10: 00**

Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12; John 1.1-14

**Deacon: Alison** **Steward: TBA**

**Readers: Megan & Toni**

To serve at Communion: Audrey & Marieke.

**29th December, 2019**

Isaiah 63.7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2.10-18; Matthew 2.13-23

**Deacon: Marieke** **Steward: Bronwen**

**Readers: Alan & Steve.**



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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Tel: 029 20221380.

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## 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!

### December 2019

Sunday 1st	12pm	Health Help International – fundraiser after service
Sunday 1st	2.30pm	Concert in aid of Touch Therapy Japan
Saturday 7th		Open Manse Day
Saturday 21st	7pm	Silent Movie evening with Andrew Wilson-Dickson

### January 2020

Friday 3rd	10.30am	Pastorate Tweens event at Canton
Weds 15th	7.30pm	Deacons' meeting

AND FINALLY ... Please hand in material for the next Newslink to Barbara Ball or Hugh Morgans by the end of the Morning service on **Sunday 19th January 2020**