

NEWSLINK

OCTOBER 2020 - NOVEMBER 2020

CANTON UNITING CHURCH



Thanks to Marieke, who photographed these beautiful butterflies on a tree in Victoria Park.

Canton Uniting Church Deacons

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Dear Friends,

As October dawns, we are slipping into autumn. In addition to working from home, social distancing and masks, 2020 will be remembered for the spring that was like summer, the summer that was normal, and the autumn that was more summery (so far) than normal. Yes, we will mark the passing of the pandemic in what we have failed to do this year, but also by the unusual weather patterns and what we have noticed in the passing of the seasons during lockdown.

Yet as October dawns some of us might also be despairing. The leaves are beautiful. The skies are blues, but we had hoped for a change in the pandemic after six months, a return to normality. At this point we may now be wondering, what indeed will the next six months hold? How will we cope? Can we sustain this pattern of life for much longer? Are we feeling lost in lockdown?

When we feel that sense of lostness, what keeps us going and gives us hope? Perhaps Paul's words from 1 Corinthians 13 can guide us. He ends his hymn about love by saying, "Faith, hope, love remain. And the greatest of these is love."

No matter what is going on in our lives, love sustains us. Love helps us keep putting one foot in front of the other, day after day. We are grateful for that experience of love. The love that sustains us, in our friendships and families, is born of God's love. God's love, as described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, shapes all the love we experience. "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, it is not selfish, and it cannot be made angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it. Love is never happy when others do wrong, but it is always happy with the truth. Love never gives up on people. It never stops trusting, never loses hope, and never quits."

Even in a pandemic love shines through the acts of kindness, the giving, the care that people have shared. We can see love, in the care given by neighbours during the strict lockdown days, in key workers who have worked diligently throughout the pandemic, in the stranger who buys a cup of coffee and a sandwich for the homeless person. Those acts of love are an embodiment of God's love.

Feeling lost in lockdown has probably happened to all of us at some point. When our plans came crashing down around us, as holidays and celebrations and normal patterns of work came to a halt, when there was no flour in the shop for our special cake, when we couldn't attend our friend's funeral, we may have had a moment. Our sadness and fear became more prominent than our sense of peace and hope. That seems to be a normal part of our pandemic grief, but Paul reminds us that even when we feel overwhelmed and lost, love remains. Love is present in our lives to carry us through the pandemic, through the tasks we face, the isolation that overwhelms, and the fear that surrounds us. No matter what God's love remains.

So on those troubling days, in the moments of lostness, as the pandemic seems to be infinite, may you be surrounded by a sense of peace and love, remembering the greatest gift we have is love—love for us and love which we embody for others. When we, or someone we know, feels lost in lockdown remember, love (God) never quits.

Yours in love,

Martha and David

Pastorate Activities

Since we had to close Canton Uniting Church in the middle of March 2020, a number of activities have been taking place online for the 6 churches in our Cardiff and Penarth Pastorate. Some of our fellowship have been taking part in these activities, but we have realised that not everyone is aware of all that is happening. We thought, therefore, that it would be helpful to list all the activities and you will be very welcome to join the different groups if anything appeals to you.

These are the activities:

1) Sunday morning service. There are 4 ways in which you can access these services which are prepared by Martha and David and delivered by them, plus members from the 6 churches. The different ways of accessing these are:

- Online via Zoom from 10.30am to approximately 11.20am using a link supplied by Fiona.
- Using a MixCloud service which is an audio version of the service that you can hear online whenever you prefer, using a link also supplied by Fiona
- A CD recorded version of the service which can be sent to you, and you can use with your CD player at home. Please let Martha or David know you would like a CD.
- A printed copy of the order of service, along with Martha's reflection when she gives it, and this can be sent to you.
- A phone number you can ring and listen to the service which is on Mixcloud is: 0333 009 0887

2) A Bible Study is led by Martha on a Tuesday afternoon online from 2pm to 3pm. These have been focusing on characters from the Bible and a book by Tom Wright, God and the Pandemic. Our next study beginning on 8th September will focus on a new book Reading the Bible Again for the First Time by Marcus Borg. The Zoom link for this activity is supplied by Martha.

3) A mid-week Prayer Time is led by David on a Wednesday evening at 8.30pm online. A Zoom link to this activity is supplied by Martha.

4) An Evening Bible Study is led by David. It has focused on the lectionary texts but may take a different focus in the autumn. A link can be supplied by Martha.

5) An anti-racism meeting is held online as a mid week meeting every 2 or 3 weeks by Martha. This group was formed after a discussion following a service when the theme of the service had related to racism. A group of people decided to meet and discuss the theme further. A Zoom link to this activity is supplied by Martha.

6) A Pastorate coffee morning is held on a Friday morning online at 10 a.m. and is hosted by David and Martha. A Zoom link to this activity is supplied by Martha.

If any of these activities are of interest to you, please let Alison or Fiona know so that we can make sure that your name is added to the relevant distribution list. All the Zoom

meetings can be accessed by telephone and there are different telephone numbers for each event.

The Deacons have started to think about whether and how it will be possible for us to meet in the future, for an outdoor get-together and, further into the future, for services inside the church. We are following the regulations and guidance issued by the Welsh Government and our denominations and it may be a while before we are back in church.

Although our church is important to us, it is not just the buildings but is our members and our fellowship. We want to try and ensure that everyone is able to access the activities going on, particularly the Sunday morning services. All the Zoom meetings can be accessed by a computer, a tablet or by smartphone, and printed copies of services can be sent to you. We look forward to seeing everyone in person when the time is right, but in the meantime, we are building our relationships across the Pastorate and continuing to develop spiritually in the life of our church.

God bless you,

Alison Walker

Anti-Racism

In my contribution to the August/September *Newslink*, I talked about whether we as a church should be giving change a nudge, including change regarding race relations. This short note is to let you know about some exploratory investigations by a group which is led by Martha and which involves people from the churches of our pastorate.

This small group has been looking into what is happening locally that is promoting racial justice awareness. We have started to become acquainted with an organisation called Racial Awareness Wales (RAW), whose initiatives include a *Manifesto for an Anti-racial Wales*. This manifesto is being launched on 30th September, on-line with the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip Jane Hutt MS in attendance.

The pastorate group will continue to take an interest, and hope that some useful material for our churches will become available. Members in the group include Marieke, Ceri and myself from Canton Uniting Church.

Ken Woods

To members and friends of all our 1,400 URC congregations

‘THANK YOU’ for your unique and vital contribution to the life of the United Reformed Church, and for the work of the kingdom which we are able to do together in God’s name

We are living through an extraordinary and challenging time – a very anxious time for everyone; a difficult time for many; and a time of suffering and loss for some. Yet, the main purpose of this letter is to say **‘thank you’** to each of you for all that you have done for the Church in the past; for all that you continue to do even in these difficult times; and for what you will do in the future.

As we are treasurers, you will not be surprised that the focus of this letter is on finance. But we recognise that finance is only a means to the end which is our doing of God’s work together.

‘Thank you’ for your giving to your local church. Financially, this giving is the lifeblood of your own church and of the whole United Reformed Church across England, Scotland and Wales. It is this personal giving that enables your local church treasurer to pay your church’s bills. Typically, the largest of those ‘bills’ is the contribution your local church pays to the URC Ministry and Mission Fund. This Fund meets the central costs of the United Reformed Church. The total budget is around £20 million and is approved each year by Mission Council. Over 80% of this money is spent on ministers and church related community workers – their training, stipends and pensions. But the other 20% also achieves an enormous amount on behalf of us all. General Assembly 2020 was severely constrained because of the Covid-19 lockdown, but the reports written for General Assembly are available on the URC website, and they paint pictures of all the work that has been done in our name over the last two years and much of that work is ongoing.

‘Thank you’ for your giving and the giving of your local church last year. In 2019, over **£19.4 million was given by local churches and synods to the Ministry and Mission Fund.** The total contributions from local churches reduced very slightly but the average giving per member has, once again and remarkably, gone up by more than inflation.

‘Thank you’ for your continued giving this year. We fully understand that circumstances this year are difficult. Most local churches have been unable to meet for over five months. We have not had the usual opportunities to make our offerings for the work of the Church. But most of the costs of the local church and of the denomination have not reduced and some have increased as a consequence of the pandemic. We are also aware that some have lost income or work this year and are therefore in great financial difficulty. But there are others on fixed incomes who are actually better off than they might otherwise have been. **So, please continue to give what you can in whatever way you can – or save it up until you can hand it over.**

Any giving of ours is a response to the amazing generosity and love of God which we see in Jesus. Nevertheless, **it is important for us to say ‘thank you’ to each and all of you.**

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter then please speak to your church treasurer, who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Ian and John

Dear Friends,

September 2020

Martha's first real experience of ministry was working as a hospital chaplain in a large hospital in North Carolina. Part of my rotation was the ITU. Outside the ward was a waiting room, where families gathered day and night, waiting to be allowed inside to see their relative, waiting for news good or bad.

As she sat listening to people, she became aware of how stressful everyone found the experience. They did what they could to find comfort in very painful times, wondering whether their relative would live or die.

At that time the hospital brought in a policy that smokers had to go outside the building to smoke. For the ITU families, that meant down eight stories and a long walk to reach the doors outside. It was a long way from their loved ones.

While neither of us have ever been smokers, we did wonder about the families and this policy. They were living through a very stressful time. Smoking was a comfort, wrongly we know, for them. As a young professional, Martha thought it cruel they had to go so far, leaving their loved one and the possibility of news, to smoke a cigarette. (Now she is grateful for the policy.) As we live in a pandemic, we guess lots of us do things to comfort ourselves. We might do all kinds of things to distract ourselves from the painful times. Most of us are simply trying to find ways to feel comfortable and safe in very uncertain times.

Many of us take comfort in our relationships. We find safety in the people who surround us. We often find that sense of peace and safety in our church relationships. We have conversations. We talk about our week. We listen to each other. It may be much the same week after week, but it helps us. It grounds us. And now we can't do that. We feel adrift and unsure without our routine. When we see each other, it is on a screen or at a distance. If our church is opening, we might see our friends briefly, behind a mask, but it's not the same. If our church isn't opening, we will still see each other from a distance.

We get it. We want to hear those reassuring words that everything will work out. And right now, we just don't know how life will pan out over the next year. We want to plan, but often when we put a plan into place, it has to change.

We may not have energy for connections on Zoom or WhatsApp or Facebook, but we wonder whether it is the gift of friendship that will get us through this time? Are there ways friendship and support can bloom in different ways? Can we meet up for a walk? Can we talk on the doorstep? Can we find creative ways to use the limited energy we have to connect?

People often comment that God surprises us. As people of faith, there is always a nugget of hope. We remember that God is present and in that presence brings comfort and love. Maybe what God is doing now is grounding us in relationships, old and new, that can sustain us and nurture us through this time.

And maybe even in uncertainty, God remains with us. Isn't this the essence of the incarnation relationships and presence in difficulty, pain, and questions?
May you be blessed with surprising and comforting friendships.

In Christ,
Martha and David

Dear Church Member,

I am writing on behalf of the Deacons to let you know what is happening about re-opening the church, and to give you details about some initiatives in the Pastorate. Please also find attached an update and letter from Beverley about our financial situation.

A small group of our Deacons have completed a risk assessment of our buildings for sending to the URC. There are various measures we will need to put in place before the church can re-open: for example, thorough regular cleaning; a one-way system for going in and out; distanced seating for a limited number of people; hand sanitisers and face masks etc. We also need to be aware that many of the people who lead our services are over 70 years old and/or have underlying health conditions. All our volunteers will need to undertake a personal risk assessment to calculate their vulnerability to the risk. At present, we continue to be unable to hire out our buildings to other groups.

At our last Deacons' meeting, we decided not to open in the near future but to keep reviewing the situation at our monthly meetings in line with Welsh Government and URC guidance. In the meantime, we will be sending off the building assessment with the personal risk assessments when done, and making arrangements for when we are ready to meet in the church.

Various initiatives are being planned by Martha and David for Christmas: for example, a DVD or CD of Christmas music for distribution across the Pastorate churches; an Advent booklet for members; an evening service online on the first Sunday evening of December remembering the family and friends we have lost in recent times; and to see whether we can continue our tradition of sending Christmas cards to those being persecuted for their faith.

A Harvest Service is being planned for the online morning service on October 11th. In normal times we would make donations of food and money to Cardiff Foodbank, however they have asked for donations of money to go towards replacing the van they use to pick food donations up from local donation points. If you feel able to make a donation of money to Cardiff Foodbank, be it 50p, £50 or anywhere in between, then there are a number of different options:

- Cheque, cash or BACS directly to the Foodbank (include the name of the church and the words 'New Van' so that they can designate the fund)
- via their Local Giving page <https://localgiving.org/Harvest2020>
- Pop your donation into an envelope with 'Cardiff Foodbank' on the front - so we don't mistake it - and post through the door of Andrew Wilson Dickson, Marieke and Tom Arthur, Alison Walker or Fiona Harding, We will then collect together and donate from the church. (You can choose to add your name or donate anonymously.)

If you need any more information about these activities, or would like to chat about the situations, please contact me or your Buddy Group leader. We are happy to discuss anything with you. I hope that you are safe and well and we are all very much looking forward to the time when we can meet again in person.

With best wishes and many blessings,

Alison Walker
Chair, Canton Uniting Church
On behalf of the Deacons
Tel. 02920 221380 Email: a.m.walker47@gmail.com,

Dear Church Member,

Hope you are all well and life in lockdown has become a little easier.

FINANCE

I wanted to update everyone of the church finances over the first 6 months of the year, I have put together a comparison of the first 6 months of 2020 compared to 2019.

January - July Income and expenditure comparison

	2019	2020	comparison	
Income				
Giving	£16,700	£15,800	-£900	
Gift Aid	£0	£29,000	£29,000	
Hall hire	£4,400	£3,000	-£1,400	
Donations	£8,700	£4,500	-£4,200	
Sundries	£8,400	£3,000	-£5,400	transfers, Archer trust, gift day
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	£38,200	£55,300	£17,100	
Expenditure				
URC	£12,700	£10,300	-£2,400	DEBT of £3000
Admin/ Insurance	£4,900	£3,700	-£1,200	
Energy	£5,900	£7,600	£1,700	
Cleaning	£2,900	£1,600	-£1,300	
Transfer	£5,000	£25,000	£20,000	
Sundries	£4,400	£1,250	-£3,150	Flowers/leaving presents/Website/ SWB membership
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	£35,800	£49,450	£13,650	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	£2,400	£5,850		

£6,364

Opening balance brought forward 1/01/2020

£5,850

£12,214 Bank balance as at 31/07/2020

Income – If you take Gift aid and the bank transfers out and compare the remainder to 2019, income in 2020 has reduced by £6500 (majority of which would be donations). As you would expect in a year when we haven't been able to open our building since March, Giving and hire income has reduced.

Expenditure – If you take out Gift aid and bank transfers to the building account and look at other expenditure there is a reduction in 2020 compared to 2019 by £6350. As previously mentioned, I reduced our URC payments for 3 months which has left us with a debt of £3000.00 which I intend to pay by the end of the year. Our cleaning bill was reduced but this has now been reinstated to prepare for the reopening of the church and there has been a reduction in admin and sundries expenditure. Please note that the energy costs have risen, even though we have not been in the building, it has been the summer months and our monthly standing orders have increased which should see us through the winter months.

Summary – As of 01/01/2020 our bank balance was £6364.00,

Opening balance	£6,364
6 months +/-	£5,850

Bank 31/07/20	£12,214
Debt	(£3,000)
	=====

Balance as at 31/07/2020 £9,214

Cashflow forecast - Our monthly expenditure is on average £3000.00 a month with URC payments back to normal. Our Giving Income is just over £2000.00 a month. We have claimed gift aid for the first 6 months of the year, £2000.00 received in August.

GIVING

Previously money from the buildings account has been transferred into the current account to keep the church in the red, this is something I want to avoid now that I have managed to repay most of what was "spent" from the building account. Considering that we now have firm plans for the redevelopment of the building it is important not to use this account as a safety net.

This year has been a very tough year in more ways than we could possibly know for each of us, however we need to think of the future of our church and the long term financial situation that we want to be in. Membership giving will be the majority of our income this year, if you are in the fortunate position of being able to increase your giving by even a small amount please do think about it. If you have not already done so and would like to set up a monthly standing order for giving, please get in touch with either myself or Alan and we can email or send out a standing order form for your bank (this helps us with monthly cashflow). If you want to continue giving either by cash or cheque that of course is still very much appreciated (please contact either myself or Alan)

Take care,

Beverley (Canton Uniting Church Treasurer)



**ART
IN FOCUS**

**The Good Samaritan (after Delacroix)
Vincent van Gogh, oil on canvas**

Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan is well known. It is easy to picture the vivid scene as the injured traveller is found and helped by a man from a group of people that the traveller might, in other circumstances, have despised. So, what does a great artist like van Gogh bring to our understanding of the parable?

All the elements of the story are here. The road is rough, and winds through a threatening gorge. The open case on the ground signals that the traveller has been robbed. Far off down the track are the priest and the temple official. They have clearly walked past the victim on the narrow path. And, most importantly, front and centre is the Samaritan himself. The injured man

is desperately clinging to him. The Samaritan is straining backwards with his head turned. It is clearly very difficult for the Samaritan to hoist the traveller onto his horse, but he is taking the utmost care.

When he painted this picture, van Gogh was himself in need of care. He was living in Saint-Paul psychiatric asylum, in the south of France, where he had arrived exhausted, ill and out of control. Not long afterwards, he made this image of rescue and care. The true neighbour.

'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?' asks Jesus (Luke 10:36). The expert in the law replies: 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him: 'Go and do likewise.' (Luke 10:37)●

i Art in focus is curated by **Meryl Doney**

PASTORAL NEWS

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Barbara Ball on Sunday 20th September. She was in hospital having had two falls. During that time, she had a pacemaker fitted and was coming on well, with the hope of coming home, but sadly she had two strokes. Our thoughts and prayers are with Doreen and all of Barbara's family at this sad time.

Doreen wishes to send her thanks to all for your concern and prayers during the last couple of months. She will be writing herself for the next edition of the Newslink. If you wish to send a donation in memory of Barbara, it can be sent to MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP (MAF) which was one of the charities she supported for many years.

We have also received the sad news that Nancie Waterfield died this morning (5.10.2020) at UHW. Her son Simon wished her friends at CUC to be informed.

We are very sorry to hear of the illness of Catherine (Cath) Blakemore. She is undergoing hospital treatment at the moment, and we trust you are feeling a little better Cath. Our thoughts are with Catherine, Beverley, Deborah and all the family at this worrying time.

Sylvia Neate is having treatment for ulcers on both ankles.

We are glad to hear that Bronwyn Criddle is recovering well after her recent falls.

Joy Thompson is recovering from a chest infection.

We also think of Rev Tom Arthur who is continuing to cope with his mobility problems.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers, as is all the fellowship at Canton Uniting during this period of lockdown and we hope it will not be too long before we can worship together on a Sunday morning.

We also remember members who have been bereaved recently.

Please note there will be an evening service on SUNDAY DECEMBER 6th at 6.00p.m. led by Rev Martha McInnes to remember all who have been bereaved during the last few months and those who have died.

Audrey Takle

Thank you all very much for all my birthday cards and birthday wishes. They were a great surprise and they made the day even more special. A particular thank you to Fiona, Megan, Alison, Audrey and Marieke who turned up on my doorstep with a gorgeous bunch of flowers and sang 'Happy Birthday' to me.

Thank you once again,

Catherine

Space4U and Home4U are still supporting asylum seekers through this difficult time. With cold and wet winter weather coming, Space4U has made an urgent request for: coats, shoes, and warm clothes for men, women and children. Please have a look if you can share or declutter? Smaller adult sizes are specially needed.

Contact Alison or Marieke. Drop at our houses or we will come and pick up any donations. Thank you!

Prayer Call

October

1st Julie Richards

2nd Janice Richens

3rd Lucy Robinson and Andrew

Wilson-Dickson

4th Uniformed organisations

5th Barbara Smith

6th David and Malou Smith

7th Audrey Takle

8th David and Joy Thompson

9th Alison Walker

10th Nancie Waterfield

11th Those working in nursing and care homes

12th Liz Williams and family

13th Kenneth Woods

14th Rita, Francis, Gloria, Gabriel and Michael

15th Tom and Marieke Arthur

16th Chris and Megan Atherton

17th Geraint Atherton

18th One World Week

19th Gwyn Atherton

20th Lowri and Amelia Baldwin

21st Barbara Ball

22nd Keith Bick

23rd Catherine Blakemore

24th Doreen Cassam

25th The United Nations

26th Debbie Cheshire, Paige and Lola

27th David Cooke

28th Clive Curtis and Constantino Dumangane

29th Fred and Rowena Davies

30th David Dean, Martha McInnes and family

31st Ann Dobbins

November

1st All Saints: The Fellowship of the Church

2nd Marc and Alison Dummer

3rd Gareth Dyer

4th Hiroko, Richard and Emily Edge

5th Toni Edwards

6th Eva Elliott

7th Calum Ellis

8th Remembrance Sunday and World

Peace

9th Alan Farnham

10th Barbara Farnham

11th Ceri and Phil George

12th Linda Gibbs

13th Rachel, Kate, Evan and Emily Gill

14th Bronwyn Gregory

15th Cardiff Food Bank

16th Rob, Fiona, Isobel and Alistair

Harding

17th Jean Hawkins

18th Barbara Jones

19th Sian, Joshua and Harri Jones

20th Elinor Kapp

21st Olaide, Taiwo, Ore, Korede and

Nifemi Kassim

22nd HIV and AIDS

23rd Jenny Keenor

24th Beverley, Christopher, Ioan and

Evelyn Kibble

25th Ann and Tom Lloyd

26th Angie Luther

27th Cindy Lim, Arwyn McCabe and Nye

Buckle

28th Millie McQuade

29th Advent 1: Thy Kingdom Come

30th Audrey Morgan

December

1st Barbara, Hugh and Bence Morgans

2nd Sylvia Neate

3rd Danielle Phillips, Laura, Will, Cian and

Ruby

4th Mandy and Steve Phillips

5th Abigail, Matt, Brooke and Toby Powell

6th Advent 2: The Bible Society

7th Julie Richards

8th Janice Richens

Sunday Lectionary Readings from Roots

4th October, 2020: Isaiah 5.1-7; Psalm 80.7-15; Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 21.33-46

Reaching for the goal: Philippians 3.4b-14

Paul sets out his credentials by citing the marks of his Jewish identity. Remaking his identity 'in Christ' is a big project that he has not yet fully achieved – but it is his ultimate goal.

11th October, 2020: Isaiah 25.1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14

Peace of Mind: Philippians 4.1-9

As Paul signs off his letter, he urges the community to support two women named as co-workers, and to be always rejoicing, praying, pursuing whatever is honourable, pure and praiseworthy, and – he says – the peace of God will be with them.

18th October, 2020

Isaiah 45.1-7; Psalm 96.1-9,(10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22

Imitators and influencers: 1Thessalonians 1.1-10

Paul and his companions gratefully greet those who responded joyfully to their gospel message. The Holy Spirit empowered the proclaiming and receiving of the word, and the faith, hope and love at work in the community are already inspiring others who hear of them.

25th October, 2020

Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18; Psalm 1; Matthew 22.34-46; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8

So deeply do we care: 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8

Paul recalls the confidence in God required to preach in the challenging circumstances facing them in Thessalonica. They focused not on their own needs but on God's good news, and their authority as apostles was expressed not in self-promoting demands but in self-giving tender care.

1st November, 2020

Micah 3.5-12 Psalm 43 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13 Matthew 23.1-12

Beg, encourage,urge: 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13

Paul and his companions had supported themselves in Thessalonica, working blamelessly alongside those with whom they shared the good news. Their deeds were consistent with their words. Now the Thessalonians, like Paul, are leading lives worthy of God, whose Word is at work in them.

8th November, 2020 - Remembrance Sunday

Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16, or Amos 5.18-24, Wisdom of Solomon 6.17-20 or Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 Matthew 25.1-13

FAQ's: 1Thessalonians 4.13-18

The letter responds to the community's concern that some have died before the Lord's return. But those who believe that Jesus died and rose again have nothing to fear. Both those who have died and those who are alive will be with him forever.

15th November, 2020

Zephaniah 1.7,12-18 Psalm 90.1-8,(9-11),12 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 Matthew 25.14-30

Coming, ready or not!: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

'Peace and security' in this dark world can be hard to find. But those who anticipate the day of the Lord, and already live in the light of the risen Christ, have faith, hope, and love as a strong defence against all that seeks to destroy them.

22nd November, 2020

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24 Psalm 95.1-7a Ephesians 1.15-23 Matthew 25.31-46

King of Compassion: Matthew 25.31-46

In a dramatic image, a king separates people into two camps on the basis of how they behaved towards vulnerable people: did they act with compassion towards them, or not?

29th November, 2020 First Sunday in Advent

Waiting in the Dark: Mark 13.24-37

Jesus speaks of coming dark days when people will be close to losing hope. He urges them therefore to stay awake to signs that offer hope of the coming deliverance, which will certainly come, though at an unexpected time.



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.

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USUAL WEEKLY DIARY & MONTHLY EVENTS -

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, 22nd November, 2020.**

Please remember that **Christmas Greetings** will be included in the next edition.

They can be sent directly to me at:
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