

NEWSLINK

APRIL - MAY 2025

CANTON UNITING CHURCH

Reflect biblically. Act boldly.
Connect with nature in a new way.

Welcome to Wild Christian.



**Sing with the
robins this Spring!**

It's a mixed time of year with cold days still ahead of us yet signs of spring all around. Daffodils and crocuses are starting to emerge and the evenings are gradually getting lighter. There's such a tangible connection with the season and the great hope given to us through the Easter story and the resurrection of Christ.

Hope is what sees us through when times are tough. It speaks of renewal, forgiveness and patience. As the poet Alice Freeman Palmer observes in her poem:

'On a Gloomy Easter'

“...My heart sings with the robins in the rain,
For I remember it is Easter morn,
And life and love and peace are all new born,
And joy has triumphed over loss and pain.

Sing on, brave robins, sing on in the rain!
You know behind the clouds the sun must shine,
You know that death means only life divine
And all our losses turn to heavenly gain...”

(2013)

Canton Uniting Church Deacons in October 2023

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

Dear Friends,

April, 2025

Do you know Gladys? She was a long term member of her local church, but she changed her membership one year after Easter. She arrived at her church ready to hear the message of resurrection. Instead, she reported that the nice young minister talked about spring, bunnies, and new life without any reference to Jesus. This, it seems, was the last straw for Gladys. She decided to move her membership to another church.

Gladys came to church expecting to hear a certain message at Easter. What do you come to church to hear at Easter?

The secular message is something about eggs and chocolate. It is certainly okay to have both at Easter, especially if you have given up chocolate for Lent! Gladys is correct though that there is more to the message than these images. Even 'new life' in spring with lovely new lambs is not the essence of the message.

The signs of spring in our gardens are always hopeful. The lovely yellow flowers brighten the grey spring mornings, but our hope does not rest in the cycles of nature. Our hope rests in God's work through Jesus.

Watching Jesus journey to Jerusalem may be difficult. We know what is to come--betrayal, arrest, mockery, violence, abandonment, death. If we have experienced any of this, we know how difficult and emotionally painful these experiences are. Jesus experienced all of them. Yet he did not turn from the way of love set before him. He kept moving toward his death.

It was not just Jesus experiencing the pain of death. Imagine the trauma and bewilderment, the grief and paralysis the disciples must have felt following his death. What hope did they have?

But God did something unheard of and brought Jesus to life--a tragic and traumatic event became a life-giving new way. Perhaps this is what Gladys wanted to hear. Maybe she had a terrible year, losing her husband. Maybe she was made redundant and had trouble feeding her kids or paying her mortgage. Maybe her beloved brother was imprisoned. Maybe . . . well, you can imagine some other tragic event. Or perhaps seeing the political landscape shifting, she was afraid that her work at the food bank, providing mental health support, or protesting at climate crisis events was in vain. She needed a glimpse of the hope in the resurrection even more that year than on previous Easters. She didn't hear it.

Perhaps she needed to hear that God is present in our tragic and traumatic events. While God doesn't stop any of them from happening, through Christ our pain is known and can be healed. God is in the midst of our lives. God does not abandon us to our own crosses. The resurrection is a powerful reminder that love overcomes the sin and brokenness of the world.

Maybe she needed a reminder that her work was important, even if she couldn't see the 'results.' The message of the resurrection was a reminder that God was working through her. Resurrection hope could give her the drive to continue her work in the name of Christ. We don't know what message you need to hear this Easter. Maybe it is simply this: 'This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed. . . God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his

Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.' John 3.16,17 The Message

We hope the love expressed in Easter is a glimmer of hope for you.

Yours, Martha and David

Canton Uniting Games Afternoon

On Sunday, the 16th of March, many of the church family enjoyed a bring and share lunch, followed by an afternoon playing various and varied games.

The food was extremely tasty, and the games were a lot of fun!

Thanks to those who organised the get together.



Marieke and Ken playing 'Mastermind'.

Alison getting very excited over finally throwing a 6 in 'Frustration'.

Bence ran out the winner, in what was a keenly contested game!



Canton Uniting Church Services Rotas, April 2025 - May 2025

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

Sunday 6th April 2025

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 43.16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8

Worship Leader: Revd Dr Tom Arthur

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Sian and Josh

Deacon on notices: Fiona

Readers: Ceri and Roland

Refreshments: Fiona and Rob

Sunday 13th April 2025 (Palm Sunday)

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 118.1-2,19-29; Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 19.28-40; Luke 22.14-23.56

Worship Leader: Revd Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Eva

Deacon on Notices: Megan

Readers: Alison and Sian

Refreshments: Abi

Sunday 20th April 2025 (Easter Sunday)

Lectionary Readings: Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15.19-26; John 20.1-18; Luke 24.1-12

Worship Leaders: Revd Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Rob

Deacon on Notices: Eva

Readers: Eva and Abi

Preparation of communion: Alison

Serving at table: Audrey and Megan

Refreshments: Marieke and Alison

Sunday 27th April 2025

Lectionary Readings: Acts 5.27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31

Worship Leader: The Young People

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Jan

Deacon on notices: Ceri

Readers: The Young People

Refreshments: Sian and Josh

Sunday 4th May 2025

Lectionary Readings: Acts 9.1-6,(7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5.11-14; John 21.1-19

Worship Leader: TBA

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Alan

Deacon on Notices: Steve

Readers: Ken and Alan

Refreshments: Hugh and Bence

Sunday 11th May 2025

Lectionary Readings: Acts 9.36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7.9-17; John 10.22-30

Worship Leader: Rev Tom Arthur

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Steve

Deacon on notices: Sian

Readers: Jan and Hugh

Refreshments: Megan

Sunday 18th May 2025

Lectionary Readings: Acts 11.1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21.1-6; John 13.31-35

Worship Leader: Revd Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Ken

Deacon on notices: Fiona

Readers: Sian and Megan

Communion preparation: Marieke

Serving at Communion Table: Ceri and Fiona

Refreshments: Hiroko

Sunday 25th May 2025

Lectionary Readings: Acts 16.9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21.10,21.22-22.5; John 5.1-9

Worship Leader: Revd Martha McInnes or Rev David Dean

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Abi

Deacon on notices: Megan

Readers: Fiona and Rebecca

Refreshments: Ann

Sunday 1st June 2025

Lectionary Readings: Acts 16.16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21; John 17.20-26

Worship Leader: TBA

Welcome Deacon/Steward: Ceri

Deacon on notices: Eva

Readers: Ceri and Roland

Refreshments: The Munnik family



David and Joy Thomson enjoying a conversation with an old friend, John Morgans.

Thanks to Marieke for the lovely photo.

CANTON UNITING CHURCH was established in 1995 when New Trinity United Reformed Church joined with Llandaff Road Baptist Church and in 2013 joined with Grand Avenue United Reformed Church Ely which in 2005 had united with Saintwell URC. We are committed to ecumenism through our links with Cytûn, the Covenanted Churches and Churches Together in Canton. Our previous minister was the Chair of the Committee of the Covenanted Baptists which, with the Church in Wales, the Presbyterian, Methodist and United Reformed Churches seeks to bring about the goal of uniting together.

CONTACTS

Ministers: Revd. Martha McInnes - Tel.: 07519 831405
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Treasurer: Kenneth Woods Email: Treasurer@Cantonuniting.org.uk

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

Website: www.cantonuniting.org.uk

USUAL WEEKLY DIARY & MONTHLY EVENTS -

The Wednesday evening prayers on Zoom have finished.

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, 18th of May, 2025.**

Email address: hughmorgans@hotmail.com

