

# **NEWSLINK**

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER, 2024

## **CANTON UNITING CHURCH**



**Canton Uniting Church Deacons in October 2023**

Alison Walker (Chair)

[Chair@cantonuniting.org.uk](mailto:Chair@cantonuniting.org.uk)

Audrey Takle

[Bookings@cantonuniting.org.uk](mailto:Bookings@cantonuniting.org.uk)

Barbara Morgans (Minutes Secretary)

Eva Elliott

[Garden@cantonuniting.org.uk](mailto:Garden@cantonuniting.org.uk)

Fiona Harding (Secretary)

[Secretary@cantonuniting.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@cantonuniting.org.uk)

Megan Atherton

Richard Edge

Sian Jones

Steve Phillips

Ex officio

Andrew Wilson-Dickson

[Music@cantonuniting.org.uk](mailto:Music@cantonuniting.org.uk)

Kenneth Woods (Treasurer)

[Treasurer@cantonuniting.org.uk](mailto:Treasurer@cantonuniting.org.uk)

Dear Friends,

October 2024

Each month we begin our letter with the same words, "Dear Friends." These words were chosen to remind us that amongst our many different roles, one important role is to be friends within our church community. In John 15.12-14 Jesus says, 'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.'

The command to be 'friends' is more than being nice to other people. It is about loving people as Jesus loved, being willing to put them first and, sometimes, sacrificing our needs for theirs. Though we have all heard stories of infighting in churches, the community of Jesus is a place in which we practice the love he showed and the calling to be Jesus' friends and friends to each other.

When we write 'Dear friends', we are reminded to treasure the life of the church. Anne Lamott writes, 'Close friendships are one of life's miracles - that a few people get to know you deeply, all your messy or shadowy stuff along with the beauty and sweetness, and they still love you. Not only still love you, but love you more and more deeply.' This is what we find in Jesus--the love, acceptance, and depth of compassion no matter how flawed we are. This is the love we practice.

Dr. Martyn Percy, formerly Dean of Christ Church, Oxford said recently that the purpose of the church is to bear witness to the love of God. We may have goals and a focus as a church, but central to all that we do is witnessing to God's love. We can do this in our personal relationships. We can do this as we care for creation. We can do this as we care for our neighbours and find ways to address the injustices in our society. We can do this as we pray for peace for our world. But perhaps the place to start this witnessing is to be friends with each other. All of this witnesses to God's love.

The farmer, theologian and poet, Wendell Berry wrote, 'As I have read the Gospels over the years, the belief has grown in me that Christ did not come to found an organised religion but came instead to found an unorganised one. He seems to have come to carry religion out of the temples into the fields and sheep pastures, onto the roadsides and the banks of the rivers, into the houses of sinners and publicans, into the town and the wilderness, toward the membership of all that is here.' This is bearing witness to the love of God. This is 'loving as I have loved you.'

The Spirit calls us to deepen our friendships. As we do, we expand and broaden our experience of love. We don't always get it right for each other. We make mistakes. We are selfish, but because of God's love for us, we keep at the work of love--together.

There is a story of a child playing happily in the forest until he finds it is beginning to get dark. He starts to feel afraid and cannot find his way to a path out of the forest. Finally, he sees another child and asks if they can help him find the way out. 'No, I'm lost too,' but even as they say that they reach out their hand and take his. Together, perhaps, they find their way out. This is love. This is friendship.

May God bless us with friendships. May God use us to bear witness to God's love.

Peace,

Martha and David





To Gloria, Isla, Isobel and Ore:  
Thank you for all your contributions to our worship  
and community life.

Strange how the number of young people in Junior  
Church suddenly jumped by two, when chocolate  
was mentioned!

Many thanks to Tom for a really interesting  
and  
thought-provoking Harvest Service.



**TO REPENT IS NOT TO LOOK DOWNWARDS AT MY OWN SHORTCOMINGS, BUT UPWARDS  
AT GOD'S LOVE. IT IS NOT TO LOOK BACKWARDS WITH SELF-REPROACH, BUT FOR-  
WARD WITH TRUSTFULNESS. IT IS TO SEE NOT WHAT I HAVE FAILED TO BE, BUT  
WHAT BY THE GRACE OF CHRIST I MIGHT YET BECOME. — St John Climacus**



## **“Old-Timer's Disease”**

The last thing my Dad said to me was "How nice to see you!" He had been standing with a group of other patients punching away at numbers to find the right code to unlock the door to the ward. Then my mother and I, Marieke and my brother Jim took him to the visitor's lounge, where he sat fiddling with his toes as if we weren't there. His initial response to us at the door had emerged almost automatically from a lifetime of graciousness embedded deeply somewhere in whatever brain cells were still functioning.

He died three weeks before we left the States to Cardiff. I will never forget the night my mother rang me in tears to tell me he had been diagnosed as having dementia (later diagnosed as Alzheimer's, which Dad called "Old-Timer's Disease"). He was in his early sixties. We should have guessed. Twenty years earlier we saw his forgetfulness as the absentmindedness of an eccentric. After all, he was already in his 50s when he did his PhD. His being back on a university campus, hanging out in the coffee shops, engaged in endless conversations with fellow students, I have often thought, was one of the happiest, most relaxed and yet most productive time in a life rich with diversity .

One of nine children born to British immigrants who left Sunderland during a long and bitterly fought labour union strike in the shipyards, he was only one among his siblings to go on to study after high school. He was immensely talented. He had the pianist who accompanied the silent movies teach him the piano, and his skill as a cartoonist caught the attention of Disney, who tried to recruit him (he couldn't imagine anything more boring than drawing animations). After graduating from the College of Wooster, a Presbyterian liberal arts college, he went on to study for the ministry, then when the war started he left the church he was serving to become a chaplain for a Marine Corps tank battalion serving in the Pacific. After the war, he became increasingly involved in what eventually became known as the Civil Rights movement, making him increasingly unpopular in the church and leading him to the decision to drop out and do the PhD in the mid 1960s. I held his hand when he was dying, and he stroked my fingers warmly.

My first girlfriend has dementia. Her daughter in Ohio gets in touch with me so that I could talk to Margaret on Facetime. She doesn't remember her husband, but she remembers me. The wife of one of my best school friends, Phil, has dementia. When they visited us a few years ago we noticed she was repeating things already discussed, as we did with my brother John's wife, Grace, who now has dementia. John is trying to look after her at home as long as he can. Phil visits Carol in a nursing home.

Cousin Susan's brother, my cousin Gene, sent me the very helpful guide to relating to people with dementia. It's something that happens to many of us as we start falling apart in our journey back to the soil from which we were formed. My brother Jim rang me last night to talk about some of his worrying health issues. He said he asked his doctor, jokingly, if there was anything he could do to prevent him from getting old. The doctor said, "I could shoot you?" I see it as a very interesting journey in the experience of gradually the gift of my life back to God as the ground of all being. The first and most enduring lesson we need to learn on this journey is how to hold one another's hands.



Is this too political, asks a member of the church family?

**Important dates for diaries! Sunday evening concerts at C.U.C.**

**October 27, 2024 - 6pm**

**Join Leader of the BBC National Orchestra Wales, Lesley Hatfield with pianist Jâms Coleman for a recital of music for violin and piano by Elgar, Beethoven and Clara Schumann.**

**November 10, 2024 - 6pm**

**Renowned oboist Melinda Maxwell performs a solo recital of music for oboe (and aulos!). To include music by Britten and Maxwell.**

**December 1, 2024 - 6pm**

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



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

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

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

### **Sunday, 4th August 2024**

Lectionary readings: 2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a; Psalm 51.1-12; Ephesians 4.1-16; John  
6.24-35

Worship Leader: Revd Tom Arthur

Deacon/Steward: Richard

Readers: Taiwo and Ken

Refreshments: Marieke and Alison

### **Sunday, 6th October 2024**

Lectionary readings: Job 1.1;2.1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1.1-4;2.5-12; Mark 10.2-26

Worship Leader: Katie Munnik

Deacon/Steward: Rob

Readers: The Munnik Family

Refreshments: Fiona

### **Sunday, 13th October 2024**

Lectionary readings: Job 23.1-9,16-17; Psalm 22.1-15; Hebrews 4.12-16; Mark 10.17-31

Worship Leader: Revd Jason Askew, URC Training Officer

Deacon/Steward: Jan

Readers: Sian and Abi

Refreshments: Megan

### **Sunday, 20th October 2024**

Lectionary readings: Job 38.1-7, (34-41); Psalm 104.1-9,24,35c; Hebrews 5.1-10; Mark  
10.35-45

Worship Leader: Revd David Dean or Revd Martha McInnes

Deacon/Steward: Fiona

Readers: Taiwo and Ken

Refreshments: Rob

Communion Prep: Hugh, Barbara and Bence

Serving at Table: Audrey and Eva

### **Sunday, 27th October 2024**

Lectionary readings: Job 42.1–6,10-17; Psalm 34.1-8,(19-22); Hebrews 7.23-28; Mark  
10.46-52

Worship Leader: Revd Dr Tom Arthur

Deacon/Steward: Alan

Readers: Megan and Fiona

Refreshments: Sian and Josh



### **Sunday, 3rd November 2024**

Lectionary readings: Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9.11-14; Mark 12.28-34

Worship Leader: Katie Munnik

Deacon/Steward: Steve

Readers: Jan and Alan

Refreshments: Hugh and Barbara

### **Sunday, 10th November 2024**

Lectionary readings: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9.24-28; Mark 12.38-44

Worship Leader: Revd Tom Arthur

Deacon/Steward: Ken

Readers: Hugh and Nikki

Refreshments: Marieke and Alison

### **Sunday, 17th November 2024**

Lectionary readings: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10.11-14(15-18)19-25;  
Mark 13.1-8

Worship Leader: Rev Martha McInnes or Revd David Dean

Deacon/Steward: Abi

Readers: Eva and Roland

Refreshments: Hiroko

Communion Prep: Marieke

Serving at Table: Fiona and Marieke

### **Sunday, 24th November 2024**

Lectionary readings: Daniel 7.9-10,13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1.4b-8; John 18.33-37

Worship Leader: Rev David Dean or Rev Martha McInnes

Deacon/Steward: Ceri

Readers: Steve and Rebecca

Refreshments: Ann

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

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

Worship Leader: Rev Dr Tom Arthur

Deacon/Steward: Rob

Readers: Lucy and Marieke

Refreshments: The Munnik Family

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

## **CONTACTS**

Ministers: Revd. Martha McInnes - Tel.: 07519 831405  
Revd. David Dean - Tel.: 07772 714388

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

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

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

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

## **USUAL WEEKLY DIARY & MONTHLY EVENTS -**

The Wednesday evening prayers on Zoom have finished.

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**AND FINALLY ...** Please hand in material for the next Newslink to Hugh Morgans by the end of the Morning service on **Sunday, 17th of November, 2024.**

**Christmas Greetings** will be included in the December edition.