

CONTACT

April 2017



Volume 58 - Issue 4
Sawston Free Church – Little Abington URC – Castle Camps URC

Sawston FC Regular Church Activities but please check diary below for full details or contact the relevant group.

Sunday	Every Sunday 1 st Sunday of month 2 nd Sunday of month 3 rd Sunday of month 4 th Sunday of month 5 th Sunday of month	10.30 am 3.00 pm 10.30 am 6.00 pm 6.00 pm 6.30 pm	Morning Worship Messy Church No evening service Holy Communion as part of Morning Worship Quiet Time with God Evening Communion Go4th Praise Service (No evening service
Monday	Alternate - see diary	10.00 am	Craft Group
Tuesday	Term time only	6.15 – 9.00 pm	Boys' and Girls' Brigades
Wednesday	Fortnightly see diary	2.00 pm	Wednesday Fellowship
Thursday	Term time only	10.30 – noon	Time for Tots
Saturday	Last Saturday of month	10.30 am	Monthly Prayer Meeting
For further details of these activities, please contact one of the Elders (see back page). Four housegroups meet regularly. For information contact the Minister or Church Secretaries.			

Three Churches Services and Dates for Your Diary

Date	Sawston	Lt Abington	Castle Camps
Sun 2 Apr	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mike Wilson 3.00pm Messy Church	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Liz Wade	10.30am Morning Service and Blessing - Rev Bruce Waldron
Mon 3 Apr	2.00pm Prayer for Sawston (pg 16)		
Sun 9 Apr	10.30am: Palm Sunday and the Blessing of Jake Tolhurst - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm Quiet Time	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Lynn Taylor	10.30am: Holy Communion led by Mr Bob Parkin Evening Songs of Praise - Rev Bruce Waldron
Mon 10 Apr	10am – Craft Group (page 14)		
Wed 12 Apr	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 16)		
Fri 14 Apr	6.00pm: Good Friday Service at St Mary's - Rev Alan Partridge		
Sun 16 Apr	6.00am: Sunrise Service 10.30am: Blossoming Of The Cross - Rev Bruce Waldron No Evening Service	2.30pm: Holy Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Easter Service - Mr Mark Hayes
Sun 23 Apr	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.30pm Go4th	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Sarah Deveraux	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mr Joshua Thomas
Mon 24 Apr	10am – Craft Group (page 14)		
Wed 26 Apr	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 16)		
Sun 30 Apr	10.30am: Stewards of God's Resources - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm Quiet Time	TBA	10am United Service - St Mary's – Shudy Camps

This diary appears on the website. If you know of anything else you would like on the web diary, email contact@sawston.com.

Rotas

	Car	Flowers		Car	Flowers
April 2 & 14	John Conway 562873	2 nd Mary Simuyandi	April 16 & 23	Gordon Heald 833983	23 rd Hazel Fenton
April 9	Tony Moss 834220	Beryl & Terry Penny	April 30	Alan Cleveland 834742	Janet Parr

The closing date for **May Contact** is **Friday 14th April**.

**David Nunn is the editor , so please email your items
to contact@sawston.com or anne.nunn@btinternet.com**

Contact

The monthly magazine of
Sawston Free Church, Little Abington & Castle Camps URC's
United Reformed – Methodist

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From the Minister's Desk

EASTER

A Celebration of Lent

Like Jesus, our journey to the resurrection goes by way of the cross.

Our movement through Lent is a movement towards a great moment in history, where Jesus, Emmanuel (translated God-With-Us), demonstrated God's victory over sin and death, and the astounding faithfulness of God to us. So Lent is a journey through the places that were travelled to bring that amazing grace to us.

While Lent is a time for self-examination, it is a self-examination lived in exuberant thankfulness, not a time of woebegone mortification. So travel through Lent with joy and thanks. Don't give up chocolate, instead give up your sorrow, give up your doubt, give up your fear that God will not forgive, give up your uncertainty, give up your anger and hurt, give up your distance from God. Jesus has taken them all away.

Our Lent Studies are following the Gospel readings leading up to Easter. Even though they have begun a couple of weeks ago, please feel free to come and join in if you haven't already. See the schedule of studies below. Ask Bruce for study guides.

This year's Good Friday Walk of Witness in Sawston commences at Our Lady of Lourdes at 10.30am. Gather from 10.10am Concludes at St. Mary's Church, followed by refreshments.

This year's Walk Of Witness is created and planned by the Rev. Alan Partridge.

Holy Week: The Crescendo of Faithfulness.

In Holy Week, there are services held **Wednesday and Thursday nights at Sawston Free Church and on Friday night at St Mary's at 7.30pm** where we remember with praise and thanksgiving, the depths of love and grace and faithfulness God has exhibited through His Son.

Wednesday Night at SFC: "And Jesus washed his disciples feet"

It was a symbol of purification and of servanthood. He took the role of servant and washed their feet, symbol of work and travel. In our culture, it is our hands we wash, as a symbol of being cleansed, and so in this service, we wash each other's hands, symbol of our servanthood to each other, symbol of our sharing in God's purifying grace. "You are clean!" Jesus said.

Thursday Night at SFC: “My body broken for you, my blood shed for you”

In memory of this gift of Covenant Meal, in recollection of his great sacrifice, in awareness of the cost of grace, we share in a memorial of the Last Supper. With the disciples, we sit at the table and receive the symbols that have remained with the church for 2000 years.

Good Friday Shared Service at St. Mary’s Sawston. “And they crucified him between two thieves”

A Tenebrae style service, taking us through the events of that Friday when Jesus was taken and crucified. We travel the journey with Jesus’ disciples.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service on Spicer’s Field: 6am

As the sun rises in the east we greet the resurrection morning with joy and celebration (and share hot cross buns and coffee, etc)

Easter Sunday 10.30. Blossoming of the Cross and Communion

Here we celebrate the staggering victory over death, sin, hell and destruction that is Easter Sunday morning. We take that terrible instrument of torture and death and cover it with flowers then proudly put it out on the lawn at the front of the church to proclaim that Christ has risen from the dead. Bring whatever you have from your gardens and help us to celebrate. We also share in Communion, symbol of our unity with the risen and living Lord. Representations of His broken body and spilled blood now also represent His life, alive in us, the new covenant that not even death and burial can touch. Christ is alive. So are we, in Him. Thank you God

Easter Sunday afternoon 2.30pm at Little Abington URC: Celebration of the Resurrection.

Easter Sunday Evening at Castle Camps URC 6.30pm. Songs of Praise and Celebration.

Horizon of Heaven (source unknown)

God

Help us hold our breath a while
as we stand on the horizon of heaven,
that we may see the vision
that lies tucked over the edge.

May we stand close enough to know
our part is but a part
one step of faith for the faith,
one piece of the whole picture.

May we believe beyond ourselves,
and beyond our moment here,
and trust the whole story of faith
from time's beginning to time's end,
and then beyond even that.

May we take the long view;
sense our part in the whole story of salvation;
our moment here, sacred as it is,
is but one moment for the Good News.
But may we make the most of it!

May we fill it
and unfold it,
share it
and celebrate it,

This moment in all moments
lives fully within your great work
towards redemption.

Let us be the redeeming
you are working for,
the transformation
you are moving towards.

May we hold our breath
on this horizon of heaven,
and let the vision of grace
take our breath away.

- **Your Village, Your Voice:** This is the caption we have given to a planned series of encounters at our church; using our church as a means of helping our village come to grips with happenings that are affecting our lives. They are planned to be interactive and informative. The first is a hustings for the Mayoral candidates for the Cambridgeshire elections. For the first time, Cambridgeshire/Peterborough is electing a Mayor, and that means, in effect, another layer of Government. So who are the candidates, and how would their election affect South Cambs and particularly Sawston?
 - **Saturday 1st April. 7.30pm:** We have the main candidates coming to tell you what they intend to do and how they intend to do it, and how this will affect South Cambs, and particularly Sawston. Questions are welcomed.

Forward Notice

- **Sawston Fun Run: 14th May.** So that we can be a part of this major village event, again we are holding our service in the afternoon at 3pm. Our church will be giving away drinks and free cakes to the people passing our doors in the morning. If you'd like to help, please let the Secretary know.

10 February 2017 LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT BY OUR CHURCH LEADERS

In a joint letter to the Home Secretary, the leaders of five Churches have expressed their concern at the Government's announcement that it intends to suspend the programme for the safe re-settlement of unaccompanied minors seeking refuge in the United Kingdom.

In May 2016 Parliament committed itself to an ongoing programme of resettlement for lone children, following Lord Dubs' amendment. While exact figures were not given in final legislation, the number envisaged was considerably more than the limit that has now been imposed. The intention to suspend the programme was made in a written ministerial statement earlier this week.

In a joint statement and a letter to the Home Secretary, leaders of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, Quakers in Britain, the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church have urged the Government to reconsider and adopt a policy that prioritises the wellbeing of children. The statement points out the potentially damaging effect of signalling

to already vulnerable minors that they are unlikely to find safe passage and re-settlement if they make themselves known to relevant authorities. Compelling evidence shows that many such children have simply "disappeared" from the temporary refugee camps. The statement also highlights work already done by churches and community groups to provide welcome and support for refugee children and families, and encourages an approach that actively seeks to engage with such agencies, rather than limiting provision to the capacity of Local Authorities.

Commenting on the statement, Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "We urge UK Government ministers to reconsider and we remain willing to work with the Home Office to find creative ways to deliver on the widespread expectation on the part of the general public to achieve the goal of 3,000 children as soon as possible. As Christians we believe that there is a moral imperative to 'love our neighbour', illustrated in Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, that defines anyone in need as our neighbour regardless of race, nationality, religion, language or culture."

Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, commented: "I have visited some of the temporary camps for myself and have been deeply moved both by the humanity of those who live there, and the vulnerability of unaccompanied children and young people who seek shelter within those communities. Many have already been robbed of much of their childhood and we have a moral responsibility to do all that we can to protect them and provide places of refuge and support."

The Revd Dr Roger Walton, President of the Methodist Conference, commented: "It is not a question of the management of resources, but rather a matter of political will. The way that we treat the most vulnerable is a sign of what we aspire to be as a society."

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain, said: "The ability to ask for sanctuary is a human right, and the willingness to provide it is an act of basic humanity. If the effect of the Government's decision is that a child's safest route to sanctuary in Britain is to risk their life on the back of a truck, then we as a country must do better."

The Revd Kevin Watson, General Assembly Moderator of the United Reformed Church, added: "We lament this decision made by the Government, which must do all that is within its power to recognise and uphold the rights of children fleeing conflict."

STATEMENT

We are dismayed to hear, through the announcement from the Immigration Minister this week, of our Government's intention to suspend its programme of resettling unaccompanied minors in March 2017. We urge the Government to reconsider this decision and to recognise the potential harm that this policy might cause.

Throughout the United Kingdom, our churches have sought to offer welcome and practical support to refugees and asylum seekers of all ages, often working in partnership with other faith and community groups. It is disappointing your consideration of provision is restricted to the perceived capacity of Local Authorities. This approach is devoid of ambition and lacks creativity. We would encourage an approach to refugee re-settlement that actively includes and engages those community groups and agencies, who offer the potential of raising our existing capacity.

There is compelling evidence that many young people have "disappeared" from temporary camps. If this disturbing trend is to be avoided in future, it is vital that they have the confidence to present themselves to the relevant authorities at their earliest opportunity. This will only happen if they know that in so doing, they will be cared for and given safe passage. The current

policy announcement risks sending out a message that will further discourage this, and thus significantly increase the risk of harm to these children.

As the minister rightly asserted, the UK can be proud of its record in welcoming refugee children, which now extends back for over half a century. We believe that this should continue to be the case and would urge the abandonment of any policy that gives any impression to the contrary.

As a nation we have a rigorous approach to safeguarding, reflecting a strong commitment to the wellbeing of children and vulnerable citizens. We do not believe that this commitment should be limited by political borders.

We urge you therefore to adopt a policy that places the wellbeing and safety of children above every other consideration. Not only do we commend this as representing our own Christian values, but it is what we believe the overwhelming majority of UK citizens would believe to be right and just.

Signatories:

Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

Revd Kevin Watson, General Assembly Moderator of the United Reformed Church

Mr Alan Yates, General Assembly Moderator of the United Reformed Church

Revd Dr Roger Walton, President of the Methodist Conference

Ms Rachel Lampard, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Mr Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain

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THE URC PAST CASE REVIEW PROCESS

**A TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE PAST ABUSES, SHOW CHRISTIAN LOVE
AND BUILD A STRONGER, SAFER CHURCH COMMUNITY**

The United Reformed Church has set up a **Past Case Review** and is now inviting anyone with concerns about the behaviour or conduct of anyone affiliated with the URC since its formation in 1972 to raise them formally.

Why is this happening and what does it mean for us?

There is the highest level of public and political concern about past failings in the behaviour of national bodies which have resulted in past abuses being ignored or covered up. A number of high profile cases involved national figures in positions of authority or influence who were found guilty of abusing their power, authority or celebrity status (such as Jimmy Saville and Rolf Harris), in particular involving the abuse of women and young people.

The churches have recognised that they have ignored evidence about past abuses. Some church leaders have been found guilty, including a Scottish Cardinal and a former Anglican Bishop of Lewes. The Pope has said that abuse of children was like "leprosy" infecting the Church, according to the Italian La Repubblica newspaper. Pope Francis has strengthened the Vatican's laws against child abuse and has sought forgiveness from the victims of sexual abuse by priests. Sadly, there have also been a few cases within the URC.

Concern about abuse is now widespread around the world and several countries have established public enquiries. The UK government's *Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse* is investigating a wide range of institutions including local authorities, the police, the armed forces, schools, churches and mosques to consider the extent to which State and non-State institutions have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation; to consider the steps which it is necessary for State and non-State institutions to take in order to protect children from such abuse in future; and to publish a report with recommendations.

All the UK churches are reviewing their own files and past practices concerning all forms of abuse. A consistent finding is that mistreatment is usually associated with abuse of power by people exercising authority. Examining these cases has therefore inevitably led churches to explore the ways in which power is used and abused within the church and, in particular, the concept of spiritual abuse, meaning the use of spiritual authority or The Bible by an ordained or lay church leader to coerce, intimidate or ill-treat people, not only physically but also emotionally and spiritually.

The URC has established a formal process to receive, evaluate and respond to any allegations involving ordained ministers and also lay church leaders. All churches are being asked to draw this to the attention of congregations. A brochure (explaining the process in detail) and a poster are available (www.unc.org.uk/past-case-review). A team of independent people will respond to the allegations and provide support to all involved.

What happens next?

Past and present members of local congregations are now being given the opportunity to raise any concerns about past physical, sexual, emotional and spiritual abuse. If a disclosure is made in a local church context, the person who wishes to disclose will be put in touch with the Past Case Review team. There will be no pressure on people to disclose, but should they want to, there is a clear process in place which has been authorised by General Assembly.

If an issue of concern about past abuse is raised in a particular local congregation, this can provoke strong emotional reactions and upset. If it becomes public, there may be contrary opinions, shock, outrage, denial and deep hurt. We trust that God will guide us and grant us wisdom, sensitivity and open minds as it progresses.

Anybody from our church who wishes to talk over a concern can speak with the Minister, their Elder or Safeguarding lead. You can also contact the Past Case Review team direct, no matter who you are or what your question, by sending an email to pastcase.review@unc.org.uk.

The URC and our own local church aim to be an open, respectful and trusted community, guided by Christian love and respecting the humanity of all involved. We know this does not work perfectly; people do get hurt in churches and serious abuse does happen. This process enables us to hear and respond to deep hurts, which may have been nursed for many years. The process of talking, listening respecting and apologising can be healing and should help us to be stronger communities.

The website is full of information and resources, including a wide range of counselling services: www.unc.org.uk/images/PCR/PCR-docs/Past-Case-Review-Brochure-10-09-2016.pdf.

We pray that as the process works its way through, we will see the love of God at work, that our churches will become safer spaces for worship and fellowship, and that we will be able to care for each other in Christian respect and compassion.



Message From Our Friends at Castle Camps

April has arrived with the lighter nights and we are looking forward to Easter.

The first Sunday will be a family blessing for William, son of Katie and Neil Bowers and our prayers will be with them on this day.

Our Holy Communion service, this month, will be on 9th and will be taken by Bob Parkin.

We have been holding a Lent course for six weeks and this has been well attended.

During March, we welcomed Mr John Luke to take our service and it was much appreciated. We look forward to him joining us again in the future. This month, we welcome another preacher new to us, Joshua Thomas and look forward to his message.

Our Easter Sunday morning service will be taken by Mark Hayes and we shall have a Songs of Praise service in the evening led by Rev. Bruce Waldron, followed by tea/coffee and hot cross buns. Everyone is welcome.

There is a joint service, this month, at St Mary's, Shudy Camps at the earlier time of 10am

We send our best wishes to Christine Ager after her operation and our thoughts are with her and her family

Our thoughts are also with the Mynott family from Haverhill, following the sad passing of Dudley.

We should like to thank Maureen for making the posies that we gave to our mothers on Mothering Sunday.

We are pleased to hear that Miriam Rixon is now out of hospital and convalescing with her daughter near Stansted.

We send our love and best wishes to you all and look forward to seeing you at our services.

Mary and Friends.



Chapel Sunday school, probably early 1900s, "I wish we had this many children today!"

From Our Friends at Little Abington



Our shared Communion Service on the 19th of February, with our friends from St Mary's, was not only historic but it reinforced our joint vision and makes it very important (particularly in a small village) that we share more, both practically and spiritually.

To that end on Tuesday April 4th, between 12 am and 2 pm, we are jointly holding a bread and soup lunch in aid of the African refugees. This will be held at the Abington Village Institute.

There will also be a Bring and Buy stall - so now is the time to start your spring clean. Items for the stall may be brought on the day or taken to 7 Meadow Walk, Great Abington.

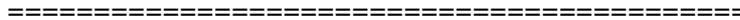
Three of our friends, Emma, Margaret, and John have birthdays this month. We wish them a Happy Day and pray many blessings on them.

Lynne Riecansky



I asked JESUS 'How much do you love me?'

'This much,' he answered; and he stretched out his arms and died.



Please note Tuesday night is now at St Mary's and not Huddleston Way as reported last month

<u>Each week from March</u> <u>6th to April 9th</u>	Lent Studies 2017			<u>Each week from March</u> <u>6th to April 9th</u>
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Sunday
For copies of this Lent Course, ask Rev. Bruce or Rev. Alan	Castle Camps URC High Street, C. C. Ph. Val Spencer 01223 892214 2pm—3.15pm	7 Meadow Walk Abington Ph. Lynne Riecansky 01223 893295 2.30pm—4pm	Sawston Free Church Ph. Bruce Waldron 01223 836786 7.45pm—9pm	22 London Road Sawston Ph. Kate Leach 01223 660943 7.45pm—9pm <small>(This group is starting on 23rd of Feb, but not meeting on some weeks.)</small>
15 Huddleston Way Sawston Ph Alan Partridge 01223 832248 8pm—9.30pm	St. Mary's Church Sawston Ph. Alan Partridge 01223 832248 8pm—9.30pm	Chalk Farm Babraham Ph. Alan Partridge 01223 832248 8pm—9.30pm	St. Mary's Community Hall, Sawston Ph. Alan Partridge 01223 832248 7.30pm—9pm	

I find myself deeply disturbed by the Brexit legislation. As I understand it, what has happened is that the Commons and the Lords have passed a piece of legislation that in effect places the power to take the UK out of the European Union in the hands of the monarch. Technically, it will be done by order in council. In other words, the monarch will sign it having taken the advice of her privy counsellors.

By far the bloodiest war fought in this country (in terms of the proportion of the adult male population who perished) was the Civil War (1642-1651) between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians. The debate was theological. The question was, 'How is God's will for the people to be known?' Was it through the King, who held power by divine right, or was it through Parliament, placed there by the prayerful decision of the people to rule the people? The King, you will recall, lost the war and his head. At the Restoration, we made a new settlement, and ever since then the monarch and his or her counsellors have been subject to the will of Parliament. Over the years, the powers of the monarch have steadily eroded, as have the powers of the House of Lords. Today, we live in a parliamentary democracy in which the democratically elected House of Commons is the primary legislative power, but always subject to the rule of law - the courts. It was a Godly settlement. Commons daily business still begins with prayer.

President Trump would far rather rule by Executive Order than trouble with elected members of Congress and the independent-minded judges. In Turkey, President Erdogan has sacked many of his troublesome judges and is pushing hard for his referendum to give him sweeping executive powers. Vladimir Putin already has such powers. So why, I wonder, have our own elected representatives been so happy to surrender the sovereignty of our Parliament, won over centuries of struggle, and passed a bill allowing one of the most important political decisions of my lifetime to be made by Her Majesty and her counsellors (who will, of course, do just what the prime minister tells them) without any power to intervene, no matter what final proposal is put forward.

I'm not criticising Brexit. I'm questioning the process. The settlement that came out of the Civil War has served us well. Why, I wonder, abandon it now? How is God's will for the people to be known?

Prayer Diary For April



Week 1 - April 1st to 8th

- On 1st April SFC are holding the first in the series “Your Village – Your Voice” This is the “educational and cultural” part of our mission statement where we meet the Cambridgeshire Mayoral Candidates
- Neil and Kate Bowers are bringing their son William to Castle Camps for a Blessing Service on the 2nd April. Please pray for them as they take this step.
- Messy Church is at SFC on the 2nd and we are looking at Temptations to good and evil. Please pray for the Messy Church team.
- This week, please hold the congregation at Castle Camps URC in your prayers
- We pray for the Rev Ian Fisher and his family and the Anglican churches around The Camps
- Please pray for the people doing the Lent Studies

Week 2 - April 9th to 15th

- 9th Laura and Peter bring Jake Tolhurst for a Blessing Service at SFC. Also it is Palm Sunday.
- Quiet Time has been a reflective service, run each week for many years now by members of SFC. Please pray for the ministry of this very special service, and for those who come to it.
- Prayer for those attending Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening services through this Holy Week.
- Pray please for the Walk of Witness in Sawston on Good Friday
- Please pray for the witness of our Easter Services in all three churches on Sunday.
- This week we hold the congregation of Sawston Free church in our prayers
- We also pray for the Rev Alan Partridge and the congregations at St. Mary’s and St. Peters
-

Week 3 - April 16th to 22nd

- May our celebration of the Resurrection be an inspiration in our villages and to those who are in danger of losing heart.
- As Brigades and Time for Tots begin again, we pray for the staff and helpers of both mission outreaches.
- We pray for teachers and assistants at our local schools as they resume work.
- Bruce and Sharn are on annual leave this week. Pray for them to return safe rested and refreshed.
- As Christian Aid week is approaching, pray for the people who are organising the activities
- We remember in our prayers those who are working for missions around the world to alleviate suffering, and for those who are supporting them. Pray for our own awareness and commitment to mission.

Week 4 - April 23rd to 30th

- This week, we hold the congregation of Little Abington URC in our prayers and also the united congregations of Gt and Lt. Abington parish churches.
- Lucy Moore will be speaking on Messy Hospitality on Thursday 26th at Gt. St Andrews in Cambridge. Please pray for the whole Messy Church movement and team and all those who are using this means of reaching out with Christ's love to their communities.
- On Tuesday night, Bruce will be leading combined devotions at Brigades in SFC, a Post-Easter focus. Pray that for all of us, in these weeks following Easter, we do not lose the thrill of the resurrection.
- We remember this week in our prayers, the Methodist Circuit of Cambridge and the Rev. Colin Smith, Superintendent Minister, and all who work with him.
- On Sunday 30th SFC will be launching their "Year of Stewardship" programme. We pray for them as they embark on this endeavour, and for Faith Paulding as she leads this service.

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50 Year Memories

Mr L Reed wrote regular articles and poems for *Contact*. He wrote 'this stay of three and a half years in my home village has been a very happy one, and it was a great pleasure to meet so many of my old school day friends, and make many other new friends. I am indebted to the Congregational Church for bringing into my life such warm friendship'

He moved to Wakefield, Yorkshire in 1965 but continued to send many poems.

I should like to include some of his poems in Contact, and maybe 'A Poetry Slot' would be a good idea for Contact. Please let me know what you feel about this, and please send me 'your favourite short poem' or why not write a poem....David.

I shall start including poems by L Reed, next month. Does anyone know anything about him?

(This is a copy of an article that appeared in Contact in August 1966 – by Dorrie Peters)

The Judge Of All Knows Best

I have often felt that I should like to relate this little incident, which happened when I was a child, and now I have the opportunity to record it in CONTACT.

It happened about 60 years ago, and as the older folk in the village know, the Flower Show was held annually down 'The Squires' and it was a great occasion. A large tent was erected to the right of the drive, and there was much rivalry between the men of the village over their garden produce, and sometimes this almost led to blows.



At the further end, past the Hall, was a field where sports were held and I remember that my brother (he was killed in the first world war) won the high jump for many years running and we were very proud of him. Believe it or not, but I used to run in the girls races and was once the proud winner of a silver topped umbrella.

I think the Show was held on August Bank Holiday Monday and my story begins on the Sunday evening previous. I had entered for the Wild Flower competition and naturally the flowers had to be picked the evening before the Show.

That particular year I was privileged to take my small cousin out in her pram (now Mrs. Eva Fairlie) while her mother went to chapel at 6.00pm. After going to Sunday school in the morning and afternoon I was always pleased to be able to take the baby for a walk, but on this particular Sunday I did not want to do so because I wanted to go and pick my flowers ready for the show. I asked my mother's advice and she told me it was my duty to take the baby out as usual and that I could pick some flowers as I went along.

I started off towards Windmill Road, which you now know as Babraham Road. On the right hand side of the road stood a big windmill, the pride of the village, who saw to the grinding of the corn for the farmers of Sawston and surrounding villages; also I suppose for the housewives who gleaned their own corn. Incidentally, in



later years a strong wind broke the sails of the windmill and as it was past repair it was pulled down. Mrs Allen had her bungalow built on this site. The dwelling house of the miller stood for many more years but it eventually emerged with new bricks into what we now know as 'The White House'.

Past the mill I trudged with baby Eva and I'm afraid she had more scowls than smiles that evening. Some of my school friends passed me and I knew that they were going to Babraham Common, where I also knew some lovely bulrushes were growing by the river. My heart sank as I made my way into the small drift that led to North Farm, with a cornfield one side and a hedgerow on the other, but it was surprising what flowers I was able to find in this cornfield.

When I made my way home I encountered my school friends with smirks on their faces and lovely bulrushes peeping over their shoulders, and my heart sank even lower. I delivered my small charge to her mother, took my flowers home and put them in a jam jar. "I know what I'll do", I said to my mother, "I will get up early in the morning, go down the railroad and gather some wild grasses". This I did, and when I had found a very choice grass called "Maiden Hair Fern" and mixed this with my flowers, there was quite an improvement.

At 10.00am the next morning, we carried our jars down to the Squires, into the tent where we placed them on a table allotted to us, and were given a card to place beside our jar. As I left the tent I gave a swift glance back and saw my friends bulrushes, which I felt sure would gain first prize.

Having gone home for a midday meal, I then donned my best frock – no pretty frocks as seen today, just one for all the week and one for Sundays – and then it was time to go for the opening of the Show, and we all tramped through the iron gates leading from Church Lane. I had not taken many steps inside when a girl friend came running towards me. “Dorrie Nunn” she said “you have won First Prize for your flowers, and you don’t deserve it as my bulrushes look much nicer than your wild flowers!” I remember answering with a lump in my throat “Oh well, the judge must know best”.

In after years, on recalling this incident to mind, I realised it was our heavenly judge who knew best and I feel sure that it was he who had put it into the heart of the earthly judge to award me that prize, because I had fulfilled my duty the previous evening.

So I hope that if any of the older scholars of the Family Church read this little story, you will take a tip from Aunt Dorrie and if you can’t decide upon duty and pleasure, always put duty first because you will be rewarded. Perhaps not as quickly as I was on that Flower Show day, but sometime later you will receive your reward, and as the motto says:

***Do your duty that is best
Leave unto the Lord the rest.***



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- Rooms or places where people can meet & talk?
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or contact Min Ong: minhuey.ong@papworthtrust.org.uk**

Rental costs are between £18 to £25 per hour, including tea and coffee making facilities. Full Café service available Mon-Fri 0900 to 1530 hours.

Group Reports and Meetings



Sawston Free Church Craft Group

We have now been meeting for about 6 years and have 15 members.

Other similar groups may be known as Nit and Natter or similar snappy titles, we are just a craft group, plain and simple. But of course there is a lot of natter as troubles, joys, confidences, tips and words of advice on all manner of things are shared. Our members span various age groups but all just enjoy being with others who like to keep their hands busy.

We always have a cup of tea or coffee mid morning, for which we request a donation of 20p. Hopefully this amount should not deter anyone from coming along and the money is always given back to the church directly as a donation or included in our fundraising money.

Over the years we have made a variety of things which we have offered for sale to raise money for the maintenance of our church buildings and have been very grateful for the support of the church and people from the village. At the end of last year, other groups under the umbrella of the church joined us for the very successful Autumn Fair.

We don't expect members to commit to being at every meeting, and we are always open to welcome anyone who enjoys crafting to drop in and see what we do. Please take this as an open invitation.

We meet in the back hall of the Church on alternate Monday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. Anyone is very welcome to drop in for a coffee and a chat even if they are not working on a craft project.

Dates for April: 10th and 24th

Dates and times of our meetings are always listed in Contact and on the weekly notice sheets but if you would like more information please ring either Yvonne on 473937 or Pam on 834220. We look forward to seeing you soon if you are free on a Monday morning.

Yvonne Sparrow



Time For Tots at Sawston Free Church

Showing and Sharing God's love



Time for Tots is a church run group for babies and preschool children and their carers. During our weekly session there is time to play, make things, chat, have a drink and snack, have a bible story and sing some songs.

We meet on Thursday mornings between 10.30 and 12noon during term time.

For more information

Please contact Rosemary. Email: timefortots@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk

Another baby and toddler group you could go along to is Refresh - 2.pm-4pm every Monday (except bank holidays) in St Mary's Church. This is a 'drop in' session with refreshments and CAKE!

For more information please contact Becca. Email: rebecca.r.herrick@gmail.com

“TODDLER GROOVES” Conference at Sawston Free Church - 4th March 2017

Leaders of Christian Toddler Groups came here from all over East Anglia to take part in this event, led by “The Entheos Trust”, based in Cardiff. We considered how we can enable parents to take a journey into faith, and help children to find God - stimulated and encouraged by Rev Richard Hardy and Fiona Burt, two outstanding speakers.

After lots of chat at lunchtime, we relaxed a little with Sue Greene's enthusiasm for Sensory Play and practical hands-on activities. Richard Hardy's session included thoughts on the different meanings of the English word “love” (eros (romantic), storge (parental), phileo (sibling) and how God's over-arching love “agape” put all our needs and efforts into context. We left with heads buzzing, needing time to process ideas and discussion to see how we can apply our learning to Time for Tots and the wider church.

Thank you to The Entheos Trust, and to our own Fabric Committee and Workday Workers for voluntarily maintaining our buildings so well that several arrivals exclaimed “Wow!” as they came into our buildings for the first time.

Rosemary Heald



Prayer For Sawston

Monday 3rd April: 2.00pm – 3.00pm
in Room 1 at Sawston Free Church

Come and join other Christians who live and work in Sawston on the first Monday of every month to lift the needs of our community to God: those who live here, those who work here, the schools, the shops the businesses and our village life.

If you are unable to come along, please spend time in prayer sometime during the day. Please let us know if you feel there are things we should be praying for. Also please share with us any scriptures that the Lord places on your heart as we pray for God's Kingdom to come in our community.

If you would like to receive our monthly prayer notes by email please contact Dianne
dianne.m.conway@btinternet.com

For more information please contact:

Dianne Conway tel 01223 833953,
Carolyn Bridges tel 01223 834221,

dianne.m.conway@btinternet.com
bridges118@gmail.com

=====

Wednesday Fellowship

We meet alternate Wednesdays from 2 – 4 pm in Sawston Free Church.

The meeting always commences with a Bible reading and prayers, followed by any notices. New members are always very welcome both young and old. Please come along and join us for a cup of tea and friendly chat.

The program for April:

12 April – Easter service led by Bruce
26 April – Nostalgic films with Martin Harriss

Please contact **Janet Parr** for more information: 832840

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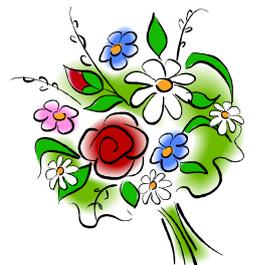
Flower Rota

We really are in need of one or two ladies or gentlemen who would be willing to join the rota to oversee the church flower arrangements.

This involves being available for a month as the person responsible for arranging flowers for someone, if they are unable to arrange flowers themselves.

If we have two more people, to make a total of six, this would mean two months per year on a rota basis. Please have a word with me if you feel able to help us.

Thank you **Janet Parr**



Powerful Lessons

It was during Bruce's address on the 19th February focusing on the responsibility of our own responses and attitudes towards family, friends and all people we encounter day to day that affects how our world works, that reminded me of the story of two young girls who worked at a car hire company.

Both disliked their jobs and found the people they encountered rude and unpleasant to the point that they both handed in their notice to quit. On the last day before they were due to leave they decided to be ultra-nice, smiley and helpful to all the customers they encountered. At the end of the day they discussed how their day had been and both agreed that it was the best day they had ever had. Surprise, surprise, they found that their own attitude and welcome to customers had a huge bearing on how the customers responded to them! They asked their boss if they could stay!

How we greet the first person we encounter in the morning not only affects our day but also theirs, it's the pebble in the pond effect.

Many blessings to you all.

Kate Leach

Your Village : Your Voice

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH MAYORAL HUSTINGS



On May 4th you can vote for the new role of Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. But who is standing, and why?

Come and hear the candidates in their own words. **Questions welcome!**

Sawston Free Church

Saturday April 1st

19:15 doors open, 19:30 start

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All enquiries: revbruce@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk or on 07814920187

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 14th – 21st May



We are preparing for this with a special Christian Aid Service on Sunday 7th May.

We plan to have a Cake Stall outside Budgens on the morning of Saturday 13 May, and to have a Collection outside Budgens and Spar on the morning of Saturday 20 May. As usual, we hope to have a rota of 2 people for each one hour shift between 9.00am and 1.00pm for the collection, and probably the same for the cake stall (which is a new idea this year).

If you would like to volunteer, please see us soon and we will have a rota at the back of the church. Also, if you would like to offer to bake cakes, please let us know.

We hope to have a social event either at the end of the Week or in June - details to follow in the May Contact and on the church notices.

With Thanks

Pam, Tony and Mary

Christian Aid will be supporting the 'South Sudan Crisis Appeal'

Millions desperately need food as famine strikes
Famine has been declared in parts of South Sudan – a country in the grip of a humanitarian catastrophe.

In Unity State, 100,000 people face starvation and people are dying every day. Another 1 million people are on the brink of famine.

This crisis comes after more than three years of conflict, which has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and the displacement of 3 million people. Without homes and safety, nearly 4.9 million people across the country urgently need food and security.

The effects of conflict are far reaching. Harvests have been disrupted, food and fuel prices have risen, and the economy has collapsed. People are severely hungry: they are eating wild foods like water lily roots, and drinking unsafe water to survive.

Conflict and instability, sexual abuse, executions and other human rights abuses, continue amid severe humanitarian needs. The situation is getting worse. We have to act now. Our partners - in particular, the churches - are determinedly calling for an immediate end to the violence, and working to address the root causes of conflict.

How we're helping

Our partners in South Sudan have long been providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to displaced people and the most vulnerable conflict-affected households.

In Panyijiar County, Unity State, our partner UNIDO has been distributing seeds, farming tools and fishing gear to help families get back on their feet.

We have also provided agricultural training, repaired community water points, built latrines and handed out sanitation and hygiene supplies.

But with your help, we could do so much more.

The House of God

Recently, on a visit to Saffron Walden, I called in to St Mary's Parish Church, where I saw this framed prayer hanging on a wall.

Helen Sharpe

PAX VOBISCUM

Friend, you have come to this Church,

Leave it not without a prayer,

No man entering a house ignores him who dwells in it.

This is the House of God and He is here

Pray then to Him who loves you and bids you

Welcome, and awaits your greeting

Give thanks for those who in past ages built this place to His Glory and for those who, dying that we might live, preserved for us our heritage

Praise God for His gifts of beauty in painting, architecture, handicraft and music.

Ask that we who now live may build the spiritual fabric of the nation in Truth, Beauty and Goodness, and that as we draw near to our Father through Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we may draw nearer to one another in perfect brotherhood,

“The Lord preserve thy going out and thy coming in.”

N. Rands. Scribe 1984.

CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT

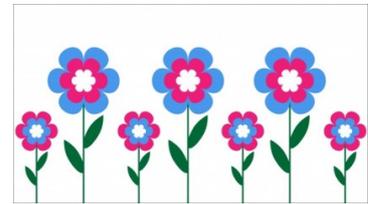
Events for April & May 2017

www.cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk

All welcome to any of these events – please do bring your friends.

For more details contact Miriam Webb Circuit Office 01223 352115 or email:

office@wesleycam.org.uk or secretary@cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk



APRIL			
Mon 10 th	7.15pm-7.45pm	Science Meets Faith: Why did that happen? Science faith and how we explain things? With Professor Ian McFarland, Regius Professor, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge	Wesley
Thursday 13 th		Maundy Thursday services 7pm Haslingfield 7.30pm Royston, 7.30pm Wesley, 8pm Histon	See local details for full information
Friday 14 th		Good Friday services 9.30am Royston, 10am Haslingfield 10am Central Cambridge St Andrew Street Baptist 10.45am Castle Street, 11am Toft, 2pm Toft 4pm Orwell, From 10.30am in Chesterton	See local details for full information
Sun 30 th	6.30pm	Circuit Service to celebrate the reopening of Wesley House The service will be led by Revd Colin Smith with Revd Dr Jane Leach preaching. Coffee and cake after the service provided by the Friends of Wesley House. All welcome!	Wesley

Church Directory

Minister		Tel
Rev. Bruce Waldron	The Manse, 3 High Street, Sawston Email: revbruce@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk	836786 07814 920187
Secretaries:		
Maggie Jones - Sawston	21 Hillside, Sawston	565637
Lynne Riecanisky – Lt. Abington	7 Meadow Walk, Great Abington	893295
Val Spencer – Castle Camps	20 South Road, Abington	892214
Elders: Sawston		
Hazel Felton	11 St Andrew's Close, Stapleford	564851
Anne Nunn	10 London Road, Sawston	832913
Susan Nunn	55 Granta Road, Sawston	561956
Faith Paulding	Charlbury, 26 Moorfield Road, Duxford	574325
Mike Purdy	42 Granta Road, Sawston	830903
Sue Sisk	63 Babraham Road, Sawston	833508
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Lynne Hays	Baggot Hall, Station Road, Harston	871800
Terry Penny	April Lodge, 81 Brewery Road, Pampisford	833635
Contact Editors		
David & Anne Nunn	10 London Road, Sawston Email: anne.nunn@btinternet.com	832913
Church Website:		
	www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/	
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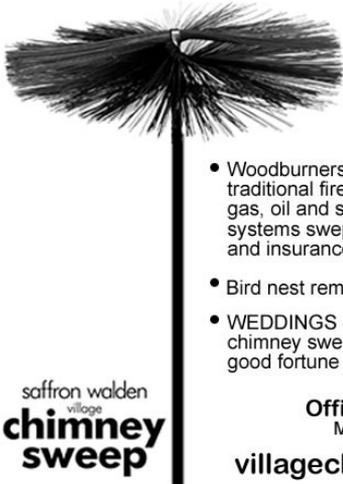
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