

# CONTACT

## August 2018



Volume 59 - Issue 8  
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.

<b>Sunday</b>	Every Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of month  2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month  3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of month 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 <b>No evening service</b> Holy Communion as part of Morning Worship Quiet Time with God Evening Communion Go4th Praise Service ( <b>No evening service</b>
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
<b>Wed 1 Aug</b>	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 16)		
<b>Sun 5 Aug</b>	10.30am: Morning Worship - David Lloyd	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Jim Taylor and Mrs Lyn Taylor	10.30am: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron
<b>Sun 12 Aug</b>	10.30am: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Mark Hayes	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mrs Penny Flynn
Wed 15 Aug	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 16)		
<b>Sun 19 Aug</b>	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron	2.30pm: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Family Service - Rev Charles Martin
<b>Sun 26 Aug</b>	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Dr Mike Wilson	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Penny Flynn	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mrs Wendy Roe
Wed 29 Aug	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 16)		

This diary appears on the website. If you know of anything else you would like on the web diary, email: [contact@sawston.com](mailto:contact@sawston.com)

### Rotas

	Car	Flowers		Car	Flowers
Aug 5	Tony Moss 834220		Aug 19	Tim Sparrow 473937	Malcolm Mackintosh
Aug 12	John Conway 833953		Aug 26	TBA	Margaret Wilson

The closing date for **September** Contact is **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August**.

**David Nunn is the editor, so please email your items  
to [contact@sawston.com](mailto:contact@sawston.com) or [anne.nunn@btinternet.com](mailto: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

The Faith in Life House Group meets every second Wednesday and over the last couple of months we've been listening to three talks on Youtube given by Rowan Williams, titled, Saints in the City. These were first delivered at the recent Minister's Conference that I attended at Launde Abbey in May. The last of these talks was about Madeleine Delbr el, who gave her life to mission with people on the streets.



She writes: *"It is the real presence of Christ in the poor man, and when this is really believed and the poor man is known as a person, it can transform the encounter with him from a purely "social problem" into something essentially and authentically Christian"*

*"The poor must not be someone who is tolerated and put up with, but someone who is waited for and expected."*

One of the quotes from her writings is this.

*"From a sand dune, dressed in white, the [traditional] missionary overlooks an expanse of lands filled with unbaptised peoples. From the top of a long subway staircase, dressed in an ordinary suit or raincoat, we [ordinary people] overlook, on each step, during this busy rush-hour time, an expanse of heads, of bustling heads, waiting for the door to open. Caps, berets, hats, and hair of every colour. Hundreds of heads - hundreds of souls. And there we stand, above. And above us, and everywhere, is God"*

God is everywhere—and how many souls even take notice? ...

Lord, Lord... My eyes, my hands, my mouth are yours.

This sad lady in front of me: here is my mouth for you to smile at her.

This child so pale he's almost grey: here are my eyes for you to gaze at him.

This man so tired, so weary: here is my body so that you may give him my seat, here is my voice so that you may say softly to him, "Please sit down."

This smug young man, so dull, so hard: here is my heart, that you may love him, more strongly than he has ever been loved before."

For Delbr el, evangelizing did not mean giving someone faith, which she believed only God could do, but telling "people, who don't know, who Christ is, what he said, and what he did—so that they do know it...in order that they may know what we believe and what we are sure of."

Faith in Life meets bi weekly on Wednesday nights and is intended as a place where we can discuss issues of Christian living and thinking in an open and enquiring way. If you would like to come to these, call me on 07814 920187

## Why is it always the women who meet to discuss their faith?

I'm wondering why it is that whenever we have Lent Studies or House Groups or study groups in Sawston Free Church, it seems to be almost always the women who meet. FISH, Faith in Life, Lent Studies; these are nearly all made up of women. I wonder why? Have we created a culture in our church where men do the physical stuff, the Work Days, the Projecting, the Sound System, but somehow don't think they need to explore their faith more deeply, or is it something about Sawston, that women do the reflecting, not men?

But at Camps, that's not the case. It's about 50/50 at Castle Camps. So what goes on at Sawston Free Church that puts discussion about faith and life into a box that isn't opened?

I'd be interested in people's responses. Letters to the Editor perhaps?

I've often wondered if a new part of Contact could be Letters to the Editor, a social or faith commentary column where issues might be raised, things talked about, noteworthy things noted. If I was writing a letter to the Editor tonight I'd write this.

Dear Ed,

Just a note to say how absolutely awesome was the voluntary work that went into bringing the Café up to scratch so that Footprints could open up on the 16<sup>th</sup>. I couldn't believe the number of people from this community who gave up days and weeks, renovating, constructing, patching, sanding, wiring, painting, cleaning, clearing out, signing, meeting, to make the Café happen.

It has shown just how much this Café and its work is valued by us all, and how no bureaucratic decision is going to rob Sawston of its Café.

Thanks Angie for the brilliant idea of calling it Footprints. A great, great, great idea.

Bruce

Another letter I'd like to write, if we had a letters to the Editor Column, would run:

Dear Ed,

I can't say enough how great the staff at the Brigades Camp at Duxford were. That atmosphere throughout the camp was about as good as it gets, and that has to go down to the credit of the Captains and Staff. It was such fun, so good for everyone, and so great to have Little Thetford Brigades with us as well. Huge thanks to everyone, and to our fantastic children too.

I cannot believe the response to the invitation to parents/carers to come to the final Sunday lunch, or how our outstanding food team managed to feed them all. You are all amazing and have done brilliantly.

Bruce

And if we did have this column, I'd probably also want to write:

Dear Ed

Thank you so much to everyone who gets behind the CAMCrag Convoys and the Foodbanks that are in all our churches. You give the church a good name.

**Bruce**

## Message From Castle Camps



Harvest time is now upon us and it will be interesting to see the yield from the crops, bearing in mind the very hot and dry summer weather.

The village held the Annual Summer Fete at the end of June. It was very well attended with perfect weather and enjoyed by both young and old. The organisers are to be congratulated on such a successful village event.

The United Service in July was held at the chapel and it was nice to welcome members from the Church of England parishes. The same Sunday, we held our Summer Songs of Praise service and this was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

Looking ahead, our first morning service in September will celebrate Merchant Navy Day and will be taken by the Rev. Norman Setchell. Over the summer, Norman has taken a couple of our services and as well as welcoming his wife, Barbara, we have also had the pleasure of the company of Charlie, their King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, who has behaved immaculately.

We send you our best wishes for the summer and God's blessing to you all.

### ***Val and Friends.***

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#### **From The Minister:**

I absolutely loved the Summer Fete. The children, dancing with the batons were amazing. I loved the coconut shy because I scored two coconuts, and the wood turning was brilliant. Most of all I loved the atmosphere on a hot windy day, and the whole village turning out to support all the fundraising. I will look forward to seeing the new zip-wire on the playground. Would you call it a flying fox in Castle Camps, because that's the name I know it by?

I'm looking forward to the joint service and as always I will utterly enjoy the Songs of Praise, both coming up on the 29<sup>th</sup> July.

We had a very interesting service at the Chapel at the beginning of July, where Mary Simuyandi from our sister church in Sawston came and shared with us some of her experiences on a Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group trip to Calais. A detailed article by Mary follows.

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#### **Sawston Free Church – Update From The Elders Meeting**

***by Maggie Jones***

The Elders meet on the first Thursday of each month. As before, below is a summary of what we discussed at our meeting in July (with the exclusion of confidential matters and matters already brought to the subsequent Church Meeting)...

ORCHARD HOUSE - Bruce advised that he had found out that Emma Mills, who was involved with the activities and care for the residents of Orchard House, would be leaving in the near future. She had provided some important advice regarding making the church buildings suitable for people with Alzheimer's. Bruce would try to arrange for her to visit.

DATE OF ELDERS' SERVICE - This service will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018. All Elders will take part.

FIRE EVACUATION (SUNDAY MORNINGS) - Following the recent Fire Evacuation practice morning, a number of problems arose which require attention. There were concerns regarding the number of people required to assist with evacuation at the exits. Relying on the Vestry and Duty Elders on their own was not an option. There needed to be at least one extra person at each exit to lead people out. Plans to assist people in wheelchairs needed further attention. The Fire Evacuation procedure will be amended.

## Calais on Camcrag Convoy June 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>

By Mary Simuyandi



About three years ago Bruce talked to us about the refugee crisis in Calais. We had volunteers from the Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group who came to Sawston Free Church and talked to us about the situation in the Jungle camp in Calais. From then on as churches we have been kindly supporting Camcrag with different donations.

Last year was not a great one for me. But I was so supported through it by the love and care of family and friends. They all were amazing. They showed me what love and giving is really about. Whilst I received this love I felt so overwhelmed by it and realised it came through Jesus who showed us how to give and care.

This year I have been thinking about it all and how to give back for all I received then. I have been following what has been going on in Calais for a while and so when I was invited to join a convoy last month, I decided to go and volunteer and see what is going on over there, and give time and energy to the situation there. My daughter Rosie asked if she could come with me which was so good. It was quite an experience.

We gave a lift to a mum and her 17 year old daughter from Cambridge who had both been before and we set off Friday afternoon and travelled to Calais on Le Shuttle. That was fun driving the car on the train at Folkestone and going through the tunnel. We arrived on the other side after 30 minutes and found the Youth Hostel which overlooked the sea. We had a lovely walk on the beach and supper in town to relax and prepare ourselves for the two busy days ahead.

Saturday morning at 8am we met up with the other Camcrag volunteers over breakfast. There were 16 of us altogether. Most had been before but there were some new ones like us. We were a very cheerful bunch from all walks of life and all ages. We set off in convoy to the warehouse on the outskirts of Calais where all the donations are stored.



The situation of the warehouse is supposedly secret and we could not take photos of the outside. But I know the refugees know where it is, as do the police.

My first impression of the warehouse was chaos!! There are 8 charities working from the warehouse, some French and some British. We were assigned different jobs, some to help cook the 1000 meals which are distributed every day, some to pick up rubbish, some to sort the donations of clothes, some to fix tents, some to sew up sleeping bags which the police have slashed.

The police are told to target the refugees to try to move them on by slashing their tents and sleeping bags which destroys what personal space they have. Some of the police are finding this difficult and won't take part. Others need counselling as they have small families too. We also received training so that if we went out on a distribution, we knew what we should or should not

do. This included how to talk to the migrants and what to do if teargassed or arrested by the police! There are 4 or 5 distribution centres around Calais where food, water and clothes etc are taken out and given to the people. Police also know where these are.



Rosie and I helped sort out clothes and did the field training and, on the Sunday Rosie helped make up tents and I sewed!!

We left Calais at about 5pm on the Sunday and returned home exhausted and feeling we had given so little.

There are approximately 800 refugees still in and around Calais and 400 in Dunkirk. Of these there are about 200 unaccompanied minors. Dunkirk has families, Calais mostly has young men from Eritrea and Afghanistan but other nationalities too. There are many more sleeping rough in other coastal areas including Caen, and Le Havre. The approximate total is 2000 in Northern France.

Most of the minors have families in UK. These are provisionally eligible for transfer to the UK. But the system is very, very slow. There are no established camps now since the big camp called the Jungle was removed two years ago. In Paris there are approximately 2300 refugees camping out round the city. These people have no access to washing facilities and drinking water. Tented camps along the river are unsafe and two people drowned in the river this last month.

Last month a two year old girl was shot and killed in Belgium. She was with her family who are Kurdish-Iraqi. She was travelling in a van with 26 others. Police pursued the van and reportedly opened fire to make the driver stop and the bullet went inside the van and killed her. They were a family camping out in Dunkirk.

I felt a great sense of sadness when we started on the Saturday. Entering in to the warehouse gave both of us a sinking feeling in our stomachs. What we were doing was so little for the people who have travelled so far with such hope and have got stuck as they are not being helped or welcomed. Most will not talk about their crossing the Mediterranean Sea as it was so traumatic. They talk about their journey to North Africa and then when they reach the other side of the sea. But after a time working there and talking to other volunteers, along with that sadness was a sense of gratefulness for all the charities and volunteers who are there and supporting those who are homeless. It was an odd balance in a way. As Paul said in Acts 20 v 35 "in the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is more blessed to give than to receive" Giving is easier than to receive, but it is still so little.

Here in our churches we are so generous. We have given so much in the past and are still giving. The stewardship campaign has increased our giving and support for Sawston church. In Sawston we have donated to Toilet Twinning, Christian Aid, and many Christmas charities. Whenever there is a natural disaster like the Tsunami, we donate. We give to Jimmy's and John Huntingdon's food bank.

We are giving time and energy currently to renovate our cafe. We have given money for our new chairs and we give our time to all the church activities. We have so much to be thankful for in our lives and by giving back, we are giving thanks to God for all he gives to us.

***Please remember in your prayers all the work and aid that is going on with the refugees and migrants of this world and if there is any small thing you can give for Camcrag, let me know.***

Tents (these can be old, broken, without poles etc), sleeping bags, men's clothing is top of the list at the moment. Time for Tots is hoping to donate women's hygiene items which are made in to packs and taken to Dunkirk for distribution. Any items which arrive and are not used in Northern France are being sent on to camps in Greece and Syria.

James wrote that faith on its own is not enough. We have to show our faith by loving others and being more proactive in helping those who do not receive love and help on however small a scale it can be.

This world is in such a mess, with so many countries in turmoil and lives hung on a thread. Without God's love through the knowledge of Jesus Christ filling every corner we will be asked to continue to give what we can, when we can. We have to remember that Jesus gave his life for us and that was the ultimate sacrifice and gift.

Khaled Hussein the author wrote....

***Refugees are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and grandparents with the same hopes and ambitions as us, except that a twist of fate has bound their lives to a global refugee crisis on an unprecedented scale. Together in solidarity with refugees we must demand that world leaders take collective responsibility for making fair, lasting solutions to this crisis. Together we must ensure humanity and compassion triumph over fear and intolerance.***

A prayer..

Loving God, who teaches us to welcome the stranger,  
We pray for all refugees and migrants,  
Those who have been displaced through famine,  
Those who have been displaced through climate change  
Those who have been displaced through war and oppression  
Enable us to help where and when we can.

May we show compassion so that all refugees and migrants maybe welcomed and treasured guests  
In Jesus's name we pray. Amen

## Christian Aid Week

This year we raised £1,406.05 from our fundraising and collections:

- Envelopes in church (SFC) - £204.36, (St Mary's) - £358
- Tea Dance - £356.22
- Car Boot Sales - £303.01
- Collection outside Budgens - £184.46



Christian Aid will be able to claim £117.94 in Gift Aid, giving a total for the work of Christian Aid of £1,523.99.

***Thank you to everyone involved in any way.***

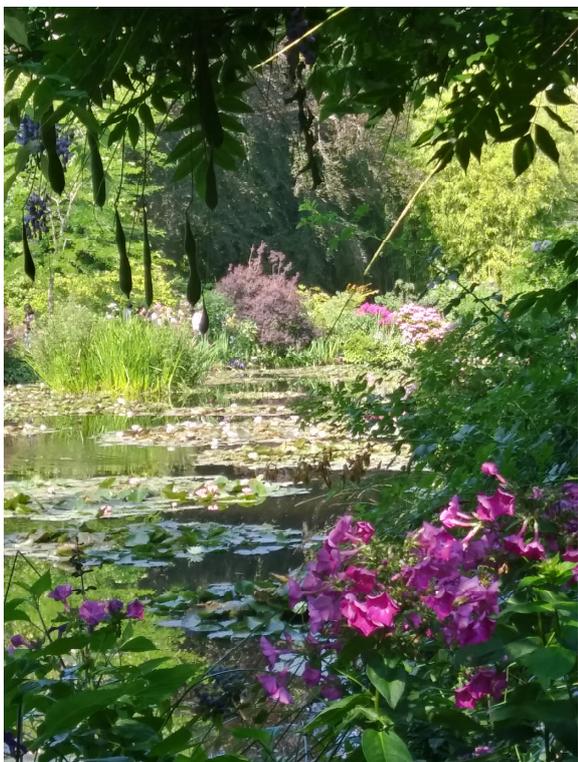
*Pam, Tony and Mary*

## French Trip

Recently, my sister and I set off for a long weekend over 'La Manche' to La France!

On arriving in Calais we were saddened to see the high barbed wire fences built by the English & French to keep a check on the illegal immigrants. Yes, it has to be done but it opened our eyes to a worrying world.

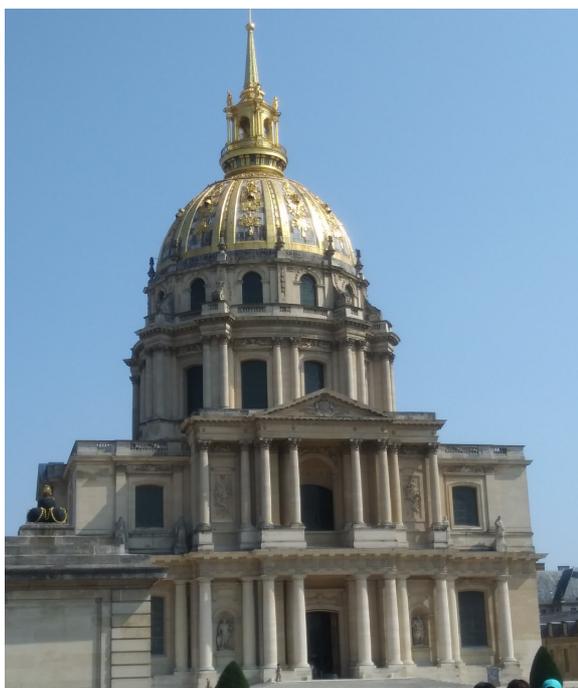
The remainder of the day was coach travel so, after leaving Kent at 7.30 a.m. and arriving at St Quentin around twelve hours' later, we were ready to check into the hotel and enjoy a meal.



The highlight of the weekend was a morning visit to Monet's Garden in Giverny. Such a joy! We had time to wander down to the village church. There we saw a memorial to the British crew of a Lancaster Bomber brought down to the South of the village in 1944. A moving tribute.

The afternoon took us to Rouen where we were dropped outside a large church which was closed. Our courier was under the impression that this was the cathedral but we soon sorted ourselves out and were in awe of the real thing! We visited the memorial garden to Joan of Arc where a huge cross has been placed in memory of where she was burnt at the stake in 1431. There is also a very modern church which has been built in her memory. The bell tower is also very impressive

(Jill & I travelled to Rouen with the school back in 1964 so it was a little like going down memory lane for us).



The next day we travelled to Paris and the coach driver took us on a tour of the city and its surrounds. We had an opportunity to take pictures of the gold-gilt domed Les Invalides Church where Napoleon is buried.

Then a lift whisked us up 56 flights to the top of the Montparnasse Tower where there were wonderful views of the city. We then visited L'Orangerie where there were original Monet murals on display. There was also a variety of paintings on display in the basement by various artists, Jill & I both agreeing our preference for Renoir.

Our aim was to see more city sights but with the high temperatures and after walking alongside the Seine we stopped to enjoy a welcome drink outside L'Ouvre but did not have the time to go in!

We then enjoyed a meal and an evening cruise down the Seine.

Maybe I will see more on another visit one day!

**Anne Nunn**



## Prayer Diary for August

“At the Last Judgment I will not be asked whether I satisfactorily practised asceticism, nor how many bows I have made before the divine altar. I will be asked whether I fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick, and the prisoner in his jail. That is all I will be asked. “ (*Maria Skobtsova: the first subject of Saints in the City: the Rowan Williams series discussed at Faith in Life: May - July Sawston Free Church*)

### Week 1:

- As we enter into this week, we give thanks for the Shared Service at Castle Camps on 29<sup>th</sup> July, shared between the Chapel and the Church. For 500 years, these Christian communities were separated by human pride and arrogance. In this generation, the barriers are being broken down. In the evening at Castle Camps URC, we will be sharing in the ever popular Castle Camps Songs of Praise with Richard Hart on the organ.
- This week, more than 40 children are having a wonderful time at the Seaside Spectacular Holiday Club run by Christians Together in Sawston at the Bellbird School. We pray for God’s blessing on this staff, the students, the organisers, Faith and Nicola, and we give thanks to God for the Bellbird School and their facilities being made available for this venture.
- We pray for Christians who are working for unity and peace. We pray for Christians who break down barriers or refuse to accept the barriers others erect. We pray for Christians who insist on the dignity and divine image in all people of every colour, race, nationality or religion.
- Pray for Romsey Mill preschool staff as they enrol children for September. Pray for the Romsey Mill mission as they seek to become a training provider for Youth Workers. We thank God for the providers of funds that are allowing some much needed renovations in the charity’s buildings over the August holidays.

### Week 2:

- During August, Mary Simuyandi will be sharing with Lt. Abington Church her experiences on the convoy to Calais with CAMCrag. We pray for the Lt. Abington Congregation who have taken huge steps in the last couple of years in joining with Anglican Christians in shared Eucharist and other worship in both church and chapel.
- We pray for them too in their continued commitment to worship, to provision for the Food Bank and for their wonderful support of the CAMCrag Convoys.
- As we move into the beginning of this academic year, we give thanks that Castle Camps URC have been given a person willing to take on the responsibility of Treasurer after their current Treasurer has stood down after many years of exceptional and faithful service. We give thanks for Eric’s work and thank God for Maureen’s willingness to take up the reins.
- In the very near future, the Castle Camps URC will be the site of a Defibrillator, the Council supplying the equipment, the Chapel supplying the site, wiring and power. We pray it never has to be used and thank God that if it is ever needed, the church is able to offer this place as a potential place of healing and life-saving.

### Week 3:

Around the world we hear of terrible sorrow and suffering, mostly caused by human stupidity, greed and arrogance. These were forgotten, as last month we prayed for the boys in the Thai caves.

We pray for these places in Week 3, 4 and 5

#### 1. Democratic Republic of Congo

DRC has slipped out of the headlines, even though the same number of people are in need as in Syria. Violence, disease and malnutrition are part of daily life in large areas of the country. By the end of 2017, a total of 4.5 million Congolese were internally displaced, and around 700,000 had fled to neighbouring countries. Its conflicts are fuelled by ethnic rivalries, the struggle over natural resources and lack of government control.

*Mwama Mukenguo, 40, fled from Kiuya village in Tanganyika province, where her husband was killed. 'We have nothing,' she says. 'I gave birth to my baby in May and he's severely malnourished. I have eight kids – six are here with me now and two are with relatives. We need food and we need clothes'*

#### 2. South Sudan

As civil war here enters its fifth year, the humanitarian crisis is worsening, with more than half the country's population of 12.9 million people relying on aid to survive. Violence has forced one in three people to leave their homes, creating refugee crises in Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia. Those who remain face a deadly famine following poor harvests. Nyejal is the family's only breadwinner as her husband is blind. 'I really hope the cultivation will go better this time,' she says. 'Last year we nearly lost everything due to the bad weather'

*Mary Nyariakalok, a mother of six, says: 'There is no food and I don't know how to manage.' She lives in Unity state, and is picking through white maize that has been spilled. 'All these grains I'm now collecting, after I clean them and cook them, will give food to my family for one day at least.' Women and children have been hit hardest by famine with half of all children under five acutely malnourished. Meanwhile nearly 2 million women and girls are at risk of gender-based violence*

#### 3. Central African Republic

The conflict in CAR has moved down the list only because of the drastic deterioration of the crises in neighbouring DRC and South Sudan. Clashes continue between the mostly Christian anti-Balaka militia and the Seleka, a predominantly Muslim coalition of rebels. The number of internally displaced people rose by 70% last year to 689,000. Despite the conflict's escalation, it continues to receive little media attention and humanitarian needs are chronically neglected. It was one of the least-funded major crises in 2017

*Soulemane Amadou has been displaced to Gara Amou, where he is living with a host family – more than 2,000 people from Peuhl community have been given a safe haven here. Melanie, her husband and three children have been welcoming the new arrivals. Amadou says: 'What I ask for is peace in this country. For now, my wife and children are still in Batangafo. It's difficult to get them here'*

## Week 4:

### 4. Burundi

Since 2015 more than 400,000 people have fled Burundi because of political unrest and humanitarian crises, with the number increasing by more than 20% last year. Most have sought refuge in Tanzania, living in overcrowded camps such as Nyarugusu refugee camp *Children aged three to 17 make up 46% of the refugee population in Tanzania. Education opportunities within the camps are extremely limited, with every classroom accommodating up to 300 pupils. The Tanzanian authorities do not accept temporary structures and most children are learning in huge groups outdoors, with only trees for shelter*

### 5. Ethiopia

More than a million Ethiopians fled their homes last year because of conflict and drought. Mounting insecurity around the border areas of Oromia and the Somali regions after September forced out 700,000 people. Just 46% of Ethiopia's \$1.4bn (£1bn) international aid appeal was funded by the end of 2017. Many Ethiopians can expect another year of hardship and hunger, yet the crisis remains largely off the international radar.

### 6. Palestine

There are more than 5.3 million Palestinians defined by the international community as refugees. Many live in neighbouring Jordan and Lebanon, and more than one million reside in Gaza. There, more than 10 years of blockade have led to horrendous living conditions for the whole population, with 84% of people in dire need of humanitarian aid. Children in Gaza experience unusually high rates of traumatic nightmares.

*Omaia Ziara, 13, does her homework by candlelight. There are often power outages of up to 16 hours a day at her house in eastern Gaza. The situation in Gaza attracted international attention in recent months, when people living in the enclave organised six weeks of protests demanding that Palestinian refugees and their descendants be allowed to return to what is now Israel. More than a hundred Palestinians were killed in the protests and thousands were wounded*

### 7. Myanmar

Conflict escalated in Myanmar's Rakhine state in August 2017, resulting in more than 700,000 people fleeing to Bangladesh. Most of those displaced are Rohingya, a Muslim minority, escaping reported violence, persecution and human rights violations. More than a million Rohingya refugees are now living in Bangladesh, where aid workers are overwhelmed.

*Displaced people staying in camps around Cox's Bazar fear they will be forcibly returned to their villages without guarantees of safety. Myanmar's authorities have not yet given permission for aid bodies to operate in Rakhine. Journalists face heavy restrictions when trying to access affected areas. The armed conflict has escalated in recent months, with clashes in Kachin and northern Shan states*

## Week 5:

### 8. Yemen

Three years of war in Yemen have eaten away at the safety nets available to millions of people. Both major parties of the conflict have caused civilian deaths and suffering, and obstructed the delivery of humanitarian aid. More than two million people are displaced from their homes.

*Among the victims is baby Radwa. Her father, Abdullah, says: 'I was advised to take [Radwa] to hospital as she was suffering from malnutrition ... You see your child dying in front of you – why don't they let us live our lives? We want them to stop the blockade and the airstrikes, so we can live normally'*

### 9. Venezuela

About 1.6 million Venezuelans left their country in 2017, and many of these are in need of international protection, according to the UN's refugee agency. In Colombia, people from Venezuela arriving in conflict areas provides armed groups with a steady flow of potential victims and recruits. Although Latin America as a whole has experienced multiple population movements, the current mass exodus is thought to be the region's worst-ever migration crisis.

### 10. Nigeria

The conflict between Nigeria's armed forces and Boko Haram fighters has continued to drive people from their homes in the north of the country. Nigeria has intensified its military operations and Boko Haram is retaliating by stepping up attacks on soft targets such as refugees and internally displaced people. Up to 1.7 million Nigerians have been affected. Public services have collapsed and nearly half a million homes and many schools, health posts and water facilities have been destroyed.

*Hamsatu, 30, fled two Boko Haram attacks on her village, Krenoa. She says: 'I am afraid to go back because of what I have seen and experienced. We still fear Boko Haram. They came in their cars. They came with weapons.' Some 8.5 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in Nigeria last year, and nearly half a million children were suffering from severe acute malnutrition.*

**Reflection:** *Matthew 14: 14 When Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' 16 Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' 17 They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' 18 And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

**PRAYER:**

*Lord, let our compassion, like yours, be overwhelmed, not by the need, but by your love and compassion. Amen*

'US actor Scarlett Johansson has dropped out of a role in which she was going to play a transgender man following a backlash from the LGBT community.' So says the headline. [1]

'Indigenous activists in Canada have forced the cancellation of an art show in Toronto that drew direct inspiration from indigenous art,' begins the webpage report. [2]

'Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery' says that 19<sup>th</sup> century tag.

The art exhibition was closed under the banner of 'cultural appropriation' which is a twenty first century sin. It is tempting to dismiss it as nonsense? Is it not simply how the world works? To 'appropriate' something is for it to become your property. How it becomes your property is another matter. You might legitimately make it, find it, or buy it. If you steal it, it isn't truly yours. When 'cultural appropriation' is a condemnation, it is usually 'appropriation' in the ironic sense of stealing.

The Black and White Minstrel Show ran on BBC television for twenty years. In 1978, still a hit show, it was dropped. It was judged to belittle the descendants of the slave trade. 'Cultural appropriation', as a pejorative, may also mean the mockery or belittling of those less fortunate. But it is a fine line, surely?

Take Mozart. He heard with delight the music of the Janissary bands that roved Europe. His *Rondo Alla Turca*, the joyous last movement of his piano sonata No. 11 in A, is the result. Surely, this was acceptable? According to legend, Mozart, aged fourteen, also heard with delight the choir of the Sistine Chapel singing Allegri's famous *Miserere*. The chapel had preserved a sort of copyright on the piece, and it had never been published. Young Mozart went home, wrote it down from memory, and gave it to the world. Was *that* theft? The Chapel resents it to this day.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the West discovered Japan, and Art Nouveau was born. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, folk song encountered gospel singing, and Jazz was born. Fifty years later, Gospel encountered Country and Western, and Rock was born. (As Rod Argent, a classically-trained church musician, sings, 'God gave you Rock and Roll'.) More recently, Fusion, the art of melding the traditions of different cultures into new modern forms, has become a highly lucrative worldwide music phenomenon. Keen cooks will also recognise the term. No-one seems to talk of theft or belittling.

Shakespeare's Othello has been played by Ralph Richardson (1937); John Gielgud (1961); Laurence Olivier (1964); Anthony Hopkins (1981), and Orson Welles (1952). Today it is difficult to cast a white actor for fear that the portrayal of this gloriously flawed Moor by a white actor might seem to mock the black community. However, last year, at the Liverpool Everyman, Othello was played by a woman - Golda Rosheuvel. She is non-white, and her Othello is homosexual. Maybe it was weird, but no-one seems to have felt mocked or belittled. Nothing seems to have been stolen.

So much of this is about what you think *might* be going on. When I first heard Ella Fitzgerald's 'Miss Otis Regrets' it seemed to me to be about a white lynch mob killing a black woman for her liaison with a white man. As such, it moved me profoundly. In fact, it is nothing of the sort. Cole Porter wrote it as a send up of the American women-who-lunch class. It is on a par with Tom Lehrer's 'Rickety, Tickety Tin.' Could Ella be accused of cultural appropriation for singing it the way she does, turning a white joke into a black tragedy? Or is this 'appropriation' in its best sense?

The legitimate complaint about the Canadian art gallery is, I think, that it is possible for a fashionable white artist to adopt the styles of indigenous art and make money and a name out of it whereas the people whose culture it is cannot. That she can, and they cannot, reinforces a marginalisation that they feel all too acutely already. The artist's distress at what she thought was homage but they received as mockery adds piquancy to the situation.

Can one theologise about all this? I think one can. Theft is always unacceptable in Christian ethics. On the positive side, sharing (John 6:9), holding things in common (Acts 2:44), and regarding a gift given to one to be a gift given to all (Eph 4:12) are fundamental to the dynamic of Christian spirituality. Christians have special concern for the poor, the excluded and the underdog. They recognise the need to turn the tables, for the last to be placed first and the first last (Matt 20:16).

I conclude (provisionally, anyway) that there is nothing wrong with cultural appropriation *per se*. Like money, it is simply how the world goes round. It goes wrong when culture (or anything else for that matter) is used to make the rich and powerful richer and more powerful, with the result that the poor and the excluded become even poorer and even more excluded. It is even worse when mockery is added to the mix (Luke 16:19?). Were the poor able to acquire and exploit the assets of the rich as easily as the rich are able to acquire and exploit the assets of the poor, it would all look very different. But then the rich would no longer be rich and the poor would no longer be poor. Jesus would be happy. The problem is, would I?

[1] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-44829766>

[2] <http://www.newsweek.com/cultural-appropriation-outcry-succeeds-cancelling-gallery-show-white-painter-594924>

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## Leprosy Mission

We've recently taken two large boxes of stamps to the Leprosy Mission offices in Peterborough, and have just received the following letter:

*"It is a great pleasure to be able to bring the good news that in the last year you have helped to raise an amazing £55,600 towards helping people affected by leprosy, by sending your stamps. Over the past 35 years we have raised over £1.5 million, and I want to thank you for this. Please pass on my thanks to everyone who has been involved in any way - those who have given stamps and those who have helped prepare them.*

*It is hard to believe that a bunch of used stamps can help transform the life of a person affected by leprosy. But the fact is, it can. It takes seconds to rescue a used stamp from an envelope destined for the recycling bin but, by doing so, healthcare and opportunities can be provided to people in desperate need.*

*Thank you so much for your support  
Sandra Holden, Stamps Co-ordinator, Leprosy Mission"*

**So please, keep on saving your stamps, trimming them to no more than 5mm, and putting them in the box in the back hall.**

Thanks,

**Pam**



## 1<sup>st</sup> Sawston Boys' and Girls' Brigade Camp Summer Camp - 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018



Well after a lot of planning, the camp seemed to pass in a flash! What an enjoyable weekend was had by all.

This year we decided to stay local and held our camp at the Whittlesford and Duxford Scout hut. We invited a group from Little Thetford to join us for the weekend and they seemed to fit in very well! The weather was so warm and pleasant and a trip to the local river to sail the homemade crafted paper boats didn't raise any objection.

A number of different activities were organised – caving and boulder scramble in the scout hut itself! rope climbing, climbing walls, constructing an A-frame and obstacle course, water Olympics, camp fire, silly camp fire songs and dampers, and plenty of food and drink. We didn't go without our worship slots either; the theme this year was 'seeds'. The young people were given a pot and some seeds to plant, nurture and grow, and Bruce told the parable of the sower and encouraged the young people to actively take part in that. I talked about the blueprint that God has planted in each of us and produced a seed/ 'finished article' quiz, but no-one managed to get 100%



We (or at least the majority of the group) visited the old church of St John's in Duxford on Sunday morning, whilst Mary and I prepared the picnic lunch for the parents and siblings as well as the campers. What started off catering for 45 but ended up with over 60 wanting to be fed – we know how Jesus felt now trying to feed the crowd with the 5 loaves and 2 fishes – but we managed it 😊. It is amazing what you can do if you have to, perhaps it wasn't the most conventional picnic – but we are 1<sup>st</sup> Sawston Brigades with such amazing talents producing something out of thin air!

A special thanks to David, Lucy, Steve, Marius, Kathy, Sophie, Matthew, Mary, Mel, Dean, Jane (Lt Thetford) and Bruce for giving up their weekend to make this such a special and 'relaxed' camp. An amazing number of photos were taken.

If you feel that you would like to volunteer to help on a Tuesday evening or at the next camp, please get in touch.

And **you can** cook about 40 jacket potatoes in a conventional oven in an hour! 😊

**Sue Nunn**  
**Chief cook and bottle washer**

## Summer Roundup!



***Happy July everybody!***

Somehow we have already found ourselves in the Summer term - and somehow almost at the end of it! With 2 weeks left until the schools breakout for summer, we just wanted to give you an update on Canaan Project life and share with you some of our celebrations.

This academic year, we have:

- Worked with 370 young women across 5 lunch clubs, 2 after school clubs, 1 small group project and several mentoring relationships.

- Been on residential outings where the young women had a go at outdoor activities and made new friends. One of the girls who came along told us "I loved the giant swing and got to be with my friends... some of the others who are usually annoying are actually quite nice!"

- Worked in collaboration with London Youth to run two projects, an Arts Project where the young women expressed themselves through visual arts, and made jewellery, dabbled in photography and put on an incredible exhibition at the end of the project. The other project is called Well Creative - a mental health and wellbeing group who are currently meeting on Mondays, exploring what a healthy mind, body and emotions are through art.

- Had the joy of welcoming 12 volunteers and 6 young volunteers into the Canaan family this year - thank you again for all of your hard work, time and dedication you give to us!

- Became GDPR compliant - thank you for putting up with all of Annie's emails!



And as for the team:

Tessa gave birth to a healthy baby girl called Juniper, and both mum and baby are doing well!

Jess and Tess have done an incredible job heading up the work in both of the schools this year, and have built some affirming relationships with the young women and staff, as well as planning and devoting so much of themselves to the project.

Annie is officially a JNC qualified youth worker, and is on her way to completing her MA - just the dissertation to go!

As the Summer term comes to a close, we are gearing up for our upcoming summer trips to Southend-on-Sea and around London, as well as a short cooking project and an exclusive film screening of a short film made by one of our groups, Girls Club Forum - we'll be sure to keep you posted!

Until then, thank you for your ongoing support of Canaan Project.

***Annie, Tess and Jess***



# Sawston Free Church



## Craft Group

NO meetings in August. Next meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

## Wednesday Fellowship

We meet alternate Wednesdays from 2 – 3.30 pm in Sawston Free Church.

**The program for August:**  
 1 August - members afternoon - "From the button box".  
 15 August - members afternoon - Quiz  
 29 August - members afternoon - Beetle Drive

New members always welcomed. No joining fee. Pay £2 per fortnightly session. Enjoy a talk, cup of tea and a biscuit. Please contact **Janet Parr** for more information: 832840



## Time For Tots at Sawston Free Church

No sessions during August, term time only.

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**No Cambridge Methodist Circuit Diary available for August – ‘A very quiet month’ - Miriam**

## Church Directory

<b>Minister</b>		<b>Tel</b>
Rev. Bruce Waldron	The Manse, 3 High Street, Sawston Email: revbruce@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk	836786 07814 920187
<b>Secretaries:</b>		
Maggie Jones - Sawston	21 Hillside, Sawston	565637
Lynne Riecansky – Lt. Abington	7 Meadow Walk, Great Abington	893295
Val Spencer – Castle Camps	20 South Road, Abington	892214
<b>Elders: Sawston</b>		
Mary Simuyandi	28 New Road, Sawston	837433
Anne Nunn	10 London Road, Sawston	832913
Mike Purdy	42 Granta Road, Sawston	830903
Sue Sisk	63 Babraham Road, Sawston	833508
Sue Lelliott	26 Park Road, Sawston	520383
Chris Sales	2 Edinburgh Avenue, Sawston	473829
<b>Joint Treasurers:</b>		
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Terry Penny	April Lodge, 81 Brewery Road, Pampisford	833635
<b>Contact Editors</b>		
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<b>Church Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/">www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/</a>	
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