

C O N T A C T

August 2017



Volume 58 - 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.

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
Wed 2 August	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 11)		
Sun 6 August	10.30am: Stewards Of God's Resources – Rev Bruce Waldron	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr George Tadrous	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Caswell
Sun 13 August	10.30am: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm NO Quiet Time	10.15am: Morning Worship - TBA	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mrs Wendy Roe
Wed 16 August	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 11)		
Sun 20 August	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron NO Evening Service	2.30pm – Gift Day - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Family Service - Rev Charles Martin
Sun 27 August	10.30am: Morning Worship - Faith Paulding NO Evening Service	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Lynn Taylor	10.30am: Morning Worship - TBA
Wed 30 August	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 11)		

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
August 6	Gordon Heald 833983		August 20	John Newton 562873	
August 13	Tony Moss 834220		August 27	Tony Moss 834220	Margaret Wilson

The closing date for **September Contact** is **Friday 11th August.**

**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 Stewards of God's Resources – Creation

I read this. I liked it. I share it with you.

Bruce



Hermeneutically Sealed (Hermeneutics: definition - *The theory or method of interpretation (particularly of the Scriptures)*)

Hermetically sealed is something that is airtight - nothing can get in or out.
Hermeneutically sealed is where someone or a group is locked into one way of interpreting things - their view of Faith, Theology and Scripture is airtight in terms of how they are interpreted.

The Church is **not** called to be hermeneutically sealed if it is to be in tune with the Spirit.

God needs to be able to breathe new ways of seeing things into the Church - lest we become rigidly wrong like the Pharisees or like Peter who had a vision challenging him about his attitude to what was clean and unclean, and liberated him to begin the mission to those outside of the Jewish people. (Refer Acts 10:9-16).

Hermeneutically Sealed

Christ,
Word of God,
Save us from being hermeneutically sealed,
Locked into our own way of seeing.
Break open our minds as you did for the religious in your day,
Who were so fixed in their mindset,
That their religion repressed themselves and others.
Set us free from bondage to culture, tradition and dogma,
So that we might allow these to be resources and tools for faithful discipleship,
But not that which determines our living.
Unlock our hearts from zealous religion,
To be free for passionate faithful living in accordance to your way,
Guided by the Spirit,
And encouraged by each other,
As we face the challenges and complexities of living love into a complicated and mixed-up world.

Liberate us from bias and prejudice,
 So that we might be open to engage and connect with those you lead us to,
 With grace, respect, humility and compassion,
 Knowing the truth of our own brokenness and failings,
 And drawing on them to relate to others,
 Opening a way for them to meet and connect with you.
 May we be and make disciples,
 Not in our way,
 According to our bias,
 But completely open to you and your way,
 Your truth,
 And your life.
 Thus may it ever be.
 Amen

It's something to think and pray about. - Jon Humphries

A Swedish Bible Study Method: (From the Minister's Spring School)

In May, I attended the URC Ministers' Spring School in France.

In this edition of Contact, I want to share with you something from that in-service.

This is a method of Bible Study that anyone could set up with a bunch of friends. It is this simple:

Preparation

- Pray that God will speak to you through his Word
- Read a passage
- Spend 10 – 15 minutes answering these questions by yourself.
- If you are in a group, after this time, discuss what you have come up with.
- Pray that God will seal in each heart what God wants people/you to remember and apply

Process: Draw on your text



?

!



x



Wow! What stands out for you in this passage?

What things don't you understand?

Surprise! What things in the passage surprise you?

What things in the passage do you agree with?

What things in the passage do you find hard, or don't like?

Déjà vu. Have you read something like this before in the Bible?

What about setting up an informal study group, with some friends? Anyone could do this.

Bruce

STEWARDS OF GOD'S RESOURCES - Creation

Stewardship is about the relationship between Christian living and Christian giving.

God gives the world.

Our response is to care for it and use it responsibly.

Fred Pratt Green, the hymn writer, tells us that, 'God in His love for us lent us this planet, gave it a purpose in time and in space, small as a spark from the fire of creation, cradle of life and the home of our race.' There's some very succinct theology tied up in a few lines of prose there. God loves us. This world is not ours; we hold and use it on sacred trust. There is a purpose, a reason, the *logos* for why the world exists. 'In the beginning was the Word (the *logos*) and the Word was with God and the Word was God.' (John 1:1). The planet on which we live is a tiny part of the greater cosmos but it is where life has been nurtured and is a place in which that life can dwell.

After witnessing the Earth from space, NASA astronaut Ron Garan began to describe the planet as a "fragile oasis." He insists that if you came across a vibrant oasis in an inhospitable desert, you wouldn't pollute or misuse it. ***You'd take care of it!*** In a vast universe that, to the best of our knowledge, is mostly a desolate place, unfriendly toward life as we know it, the Earth is truly a vibrant oasis. When you see Earth from space, as "an oasis against the backdrop of Infinity," it becomes abundantly clear how amazingly precious our "pale blue dot," and all the life that dwells upon it, truly is. A fellow astronaut, Nicole Stott, reported feeling a sense of interconnectedness, along with an uplifting sense of wonder the first time that she viewed the Earth from without. She described the experience as evoking a sense of awe; this genuine awe (not that less potent sense that is referred to by the vernacular use of the word) leaves one in a state of sheer reverence, floored by fear or fascination, and often a transcendental mixture of both.

Yet, from within the Earth humankind has behaved very short-sightedly. Despite a bountiful supply of food and resources we have still not managed to distribute them fully and fairly around the world. The hymn continues, 'Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty, life that sustains us in body and mind: plenty for all, if we learned how to share it, riches undreamed of to fathom and find'. Despite half a century of warnings about the long term effect of the overuse of fossil fuels and the dangers of climate change these serious matters continue to receive sceptical and disinterested thinking for the highest echelons of global politics. ***'Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to enjoy it, ours, as His stewards, to farm and defend. From its pollution, misuse and destruction, good Lord, deliver us, world without end!'***

Every single person can make a difference through taking seriously the knowledge that God has entrusted us with caring for the world. We can all be active in recycling, reducing waste and being mindful of our carbon foot print. However, A Rocha UK can challenge us to do much more. A Rocha is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world in response to the biblical mandate to care for the earth, and a demonstration of the Christian hope for God's world. It does this through: practical involvement in nature conservation projects and ecological research and campaigning on biodiversity issues. A Rocha UK's work comes from a fundamental belief. Looking after the world, in all the different forms that takes, is a core part of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. A Rocha's work is based on four theological principles:

1. ***God is the creator of the world***, He loves it and He thinks it is 'very good' (Genesis 1:31). God is involved with His creation, sustaining it and caring for it (e.g. Psalm 65:9–13; Matthew 10:29). If God loves the world, then we should love what He loves and take care of it for His sake.
2. ***God created us to look after the world***. We are created beings, part of the whole community of creation but we have also been given a special task – to look after the rest of what God has made (Genesis 1: 26–28; Gen. 2:15). This is not an optional extra for a few keen environmentalists, but a fundamental part of what it means to be human.
3. It is a sad truth that many of ***the problems our world and its inhabitants face are caused by human activity***. We bear the guilt for the state our world is in (Isaiah 24: 4–6) and we have a responsibility to act.
4. ***God has a purpose for the world***.

So, let's do all that we can, both as individuals and as church community, to play our part in being good stewards of the joy of creation that has been entrusted to us.

Messages From Castle Camps and Lt Abington



Harvest time is now upon us and we are hoping that it will be abundant, bearing in mind the pleasant summer weather.

Early in July, we had a visit from Years 3 and 4 of Castle Camps Primary School, as part of their studies of the various churches. They were intrigued by the small font that we have compared with the parish church.

We normally show them the workings of the chapel clock. This was installed by subscription from villagers in 1857, a year after the chapel was built. It chimes the hour and was of great use to villagers and men working in the fields. We explained this to the children and their comments were, "Didn't the workers have watches or mobile phones!" As it was approaching 2pm, we asked them how many chimes it would make and the answer was 14! *How things have changed.*

The village held its annual fete early in July. It was very well attended and a real village affair. The organisers are to be congratulated on such a successful event and we await next year's with enthusiasm.

We are having the chapel painted outside and we should like to thank Geoff Ager for his efforts.

The United Service in July was to have been at All Saints, but as their minister had to go into hospital, it was transferred to the chapel and we were pleased that John Luke was able to step in at short notice. By the time you are reading this, we trust that the Rev. Ian Fisher will be recovered.

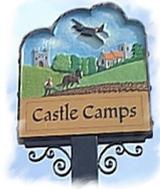
Finally, we should like to wish Dr Arbide well on his swim across the English Channel to raise funds for primary care research through the Cambridge based charity, Melanoma Focus.

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

Mary and Friends.

Young Martin arrived at Sunday School late. His teacher knew that he was usually very punctual, so she asked him if anything was wrong. Martin replied, no; that he had been going fishing, but his Dad told him that he needed to go to church. The teacher was very impressed and asked the lad if his Dad had explained to him why it was more important to go to church than to go fishing? Martin nodded solemnly and said, "Yes he did. Dad said he didn't have enough bait for both of us!"

Contrasts



I am sitting at the computer composing myself to write my “bit” for the magazine. It is so nice to sit down, as I have been very busy preparing for a few days holiday in Norfolk. Unfortunately, the Greengages have ripened and as they are a great favourite with the wasps, if I leave it until we return, there will be very little left. As they are one of Robert’s most favourite fruits, second only to Victoria plums, I feel I must bottle some and make family sized crumbles for the freezer and stew some for breakfast.

I have a window open, but feel as though I may be in danger from the wasps who have taken up residence in the dormer window fairly near the kitchen window. As I have been working, I have the radio on. There was a gripping serial and now I have some lovely music on, after which “Pick of the Week” will be on.

We have invested in a Digital radio and I think it is wonderful! I listen to the radio a lot and it is great that now whenever I move into the vicinity of the set, the programme no longer dissolves into fizzing just at the crucial points and even better, I no longer have festoons of aerial wires and metal coat hangers to adjust constantly depending on the strength of the signal. I feel really modern and cool! I may even one day conquer the video recorder, though I now hear they are becoming obsolete!

I love being on my own and having lots of “thinking time.” I was thinking what a strange year this has been and how it has sped by in a twinkling. The weather has been a see saw of contrasts and the people who have been affected by flooding will be clearing up for a long time yet.

The following fine spell has been a godsend, literally, to farmers and families on holiday. Apparently, according to some newspapers some parents are resorting to alcohol to help them survive the school holidays. I must say I used to find the holidays easier, as the children’s clothes did not have to be clean on every day and a jam sandwich would often suffice to give the children a new lease of life to continue den building or some other important game uninterrupted.

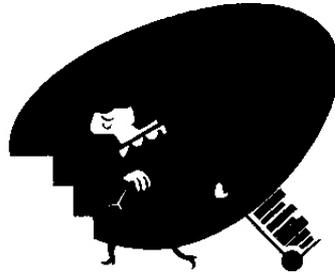
I have just heard the weather forecast for next week. Deteriorating conditions becoming wet and windy until the day we return. We are taking our five year old grandson with us to Norfolk, so perhaps I spoke too soon about hitting the bottle. Trouble is I don’t really drink much, so I may be forced to substitute chocolate for the booze if the going gets tough, but I think we may well have a smashing time.

Val Spencer

(Originally appeared in September 2007)

Everywhere

By Mrs Linda Sanderson



Everywhere you go
I'll be there with you.
Every thought you think
I shall think it too.
Every dream you dream
I want to dream as you do.

So Lord be in my soul
As I need to be with You.
Please walk with me
when I walk alone
and stay close by my side.
Never be too far away
Because You'll always be my Guide.

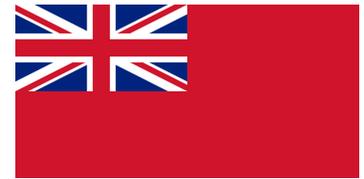


We send to all of our friends good wishes for happy and safe holidays (but please do not forget the lonely ones you know)

Lynne Riecansky



**Sunday 3rd September 2017
Is Merchant Navy Day.**



Please remember all those sailors whose names do not appear on any Cenotaphs or Gravestones without whom none of our armed forces could have fought and who saved this country from starvation.

Look out to sea and say a prayer
For those who rest beneath,
They gave their lives that you may share
A Europe that is free.

No cross marks the place where now they lie
No Flanders Field where poppies grow.
Theirs is the lonely silent deep
Enshrouding them in eternal sleep.

No Unnamed Tomb for all to see
And pause – and wonder who they might be.
The sailors' Valhalla is where they lie
On the ocean bed, watching the ships pass by

Sailing now in safety thru' the waves
Often right over their sea-locked graves.
Sleep in peace gallant Brothers at sea
All those who value freedom
Will not forget thee.

Lord stand beside all those who sail
Our Merchant ships in storm and gale
In peace and war their watch to keep
On every sea, on thy vast deep.

Be with them, Lord by night and day
For Merchant Mariners we pray.

Amen

With thanks to Captain John Dodsworth, Abington URC

This year Seafarers UK is campaigning for the Red Ensign - the UK Merchant Navy's official flag - to be flown on Sunday 3rd September on civic buildings and landmark flagpoles across the UK. Parish, community, town, city, district and borough councils are all invited to take part, along with higher-tier local authorities and governments.

For Prayer In August



- **Driving:** As we enter this month,
 - Please pray for those who are travelling. Summer holidays are a time of heightened accident rates on our roads. People who do little driving often take the car out for holidays. Inexperienced and unpractised drivers are common.
 - If you are driving, pray for patience, a watchful eye, love and compassion for all other road users, and a profound sense of responsibility to keep those around you safe.
 - Drive with the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Faith touches every part of our living.

- **Creation:** In this year of “Stewards of God’s Resources”, August is the month we concentrate on being stewards, for God, of our planet; in this summer time, pray for awareness of ways to care for the planet.
 - Ways to reduce waste
 - Ways to reduce your carbon footprint
 - Ways to reduce the food miles that your eating creates
 - Ways to be sure that what you buy supports justice and doesn’t collaborate with unjust practices.
 - Ways to care for the insects, birds, biodiversity all around you.
 - Ways to ensure that your buying does not co-operate with those who treat animals cruelly
 - As you walk, swim, cycle or watch, give thanks to God for his amazing, diverse creation and recommit yourself as a steward of God’s creation.

- **Community**
 - Young people are particularly going through transitions, to new schools, new classes, new courses, or changing from study to employment.
 - Brigades and Junior Church leaders will be taking a welcome break. Please pray for them, not just for a nice break but for a refreshing of their faith as they have this break. We can only pass on what God has given to us, and recreation is essential in nurturing our faith.
 - If you are on holiday, don’t forget that part of our recreation is taking time to renew our closeness to the Father, our understanding of what Jesus has given us. As the old hymn says “Take Time To Be Holy”
 - Towards the end of the month, many people will be preparing to return to work. For some this is a joy. For some it comes as a lead weight in the heart.
 - Please keep your eyes and ears open to how people around you are, and pray for them.
 - Give thanks to God if your work is a ministry you perform for your world, and for God.
 - Pray for the work you are called to do, that it will bless the people around you.

- **Public Life**
 - In the complex world of Brexit and Budgets, please pray for your local MP and Councillors. They need your prayers.
 - As we enjoy the summer break, we must continue to pray for and care about people whose lives are terrible because of wars and famine. Stop and imagine if it had happened here, now, to you, then in that imagination of compassion, pray for those in desperate situations
 - Continue to remember the people shattered by the Grenfell Towers fire

- **Church**
 - For ministers, moderators, Circuit Superintendents and District Chairmen.
 - Our church secretaries and treasurers who do so much for the church, often unremarked.

Wednesday Fellowship Summer Outing

Following some very mixed weather recently, July 5th dawned hot and sunny. It was the long awaited and planned annual summer outing for Wednesday Fellowship and the Lord had again blessed us with perfect weather. This year was going to be a little different as we were taking to the water, or more specifically, the river Cam!

We travelled by various forms of transport: car, bus and the Dial-A-Ride minibus to Chesterton Road where the Georgina boat was berthed. The smartly uniformed crew greeted us with a warm 'Welcome aboard'!

The afternoon tea was a very British affair. The tables were laid with white cloths and serviettes, and we were treated to scones, strawberry jam and cream; strawberries, blueberries and fairy cakes. Along with a good cup of tea, with seconds, we were served at our tables. Bruce gave thanks for the food and thus began the WF 2017 cream tea!



The two hour trip began with a commentary as we cruised downstream. We passed the college boathouses, verdant commons and on out of town along the tree-lined route, with riverside views and residences along the way.

We turned around at Bait's Bite Lock, near the village of Milton. The Lock was well signposted with warnings of the forthcoming Weir. The notice included a warning to rowers to 'Spin here,' which, in my mind conjured up pirouetting eights and other craft!

We cruised back upstream into Cambridge gliding tranquilly past houseboats young and old and in various states of (dis)repair. Members reported sightings of a heron or two, a duck with a clutch of tiny ducklings and even a couple from church walking along the towpath!

The interior of the boat was wider and loftier than the outside appearance would suggest. Although covered, affording protection from the vagaries of the English weather, the bow and stern were open affording a refreshing flow of air through the cabin. The more able members spent time outside, although the view from the windows was surprisingly good.

The general consensus of opinion seemed to be that it had been very enjoyable and a good time was had by all!

Helen Sharpe

One of the things I like about modern driving is that by and large people keep to speed limits these days. But not always.

There we were, driving home from East Grinstead on the M25 and me thinking 'Oh dear, Saturday evening, and I STILL haven't done Contact.

There were four lanes. The fancy new managed-motorway signs told us that the left hand lane was closed due to 'an obstruction' and that there was a 40 mph speed limit on the other three.

So I moved into the second-from-left lane and set the cruise control to 40 mph. All hell was let loose. Cars came screaming past. In my own lane, headlights flashed and horns hooted. Cars even zoomed past in the left hand, 'closed', lane. Absolutely terrifying. And, of course, extremely hazardous.

But what to do? - keep to the speed limit and have everyone else go mad - endangering yourself, your passenger and everyone else on the road? Or do what everyone else does, ignore the speed limit, and get home safely?

It is a familiar dilemma in a world that has largely abandoned Christian ethics (if it ever embraced them, of course). For example, a surprising number of people seem to think that it is fine to reduce an entire population to starvation, migration and disease in order to win a war.

I'm thinking not so much of the Congo, or ISIS, but Saudi Arabia's war in the Yemen, conducted not by brigands, but by one of the richest and most sophisticated societies on earth, much lauded by Donald Trump. The United Nations can be relied upon to set up refugee camps and bring in food for those Yemenis who manage to escape. (That's the Christian ethics bit, clothing the naked and feeding the hungry.) The camp will, no doubt, be their home for decades and the population will explode because ... well, because it always does in these appalling places.

Twenty years down the line, partly because the devil finds work for idle hands (where does that come from?), the camp will become a breeding ground for teenage terrorists. Others, both hopeless but ambitious, will board rubber rafts. Either they will drown or they will be picked up by the boats of Western charities and taken to Europe where the streets are paved with gold and people don't shoot you simply for being the wrong kind of Muslim. They might end up in the scrub around Calais.

All of which is just awful. So, would it not be much better in the long run (i) to persuade the United Nations not to set up refugee camps and feed people and (ii) to stop picking people up from rubber boats in the Mediterranean? Let's ignore the speed limit like everyone else. Doing good just makes things even worse.

But ... that cannot be right, surely?

Sawston Free Church

Craft Group - There are NO meetings in August
Time For Tots - There are NO sessions in August, resumes on the 7th Sept



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 August:

2 August – Mercy Ships talk by Veronica Weatherhead

16 August – Things I would want to take if castaway on a desert island – members afternoon.

30 August – Scams and Rogue Trader Awareness – community protection talk by Charlotte Homent

Please note that there are No meetings in September. We start up again on 11 October with our harvest service. Everyone welcome.

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

Fund Raising Activities

At the next **Sawston Winter Fair**, we are hoping to have a table selling lots of different crafts. We need anything crafty - jams, chutney, home made items etc.

This craft stall will be in addition to the stall with the free mulled wine and mince pies.

The proceeds will go to Church Funds since they are in great need of a boost.

Please contact Pauline Purdy if you are able to help or have any suggestions.

Many thanks,

Pauline.

50 Year Memories

A Smile (*First appeared in Contact April 1970 – Mrs Clare*)

A smile costs nothing, but gives much
It enriches them who receive, without making poorer those who give
It takes but a moment, yet the memory of it may last for ever
A smile creates happiness in the home
Fosters good will in business and is the sign of friendship
It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged
Sunshine to the sad and is nature's best antidote to trouble
Yet a smile cannot be bought, borrowed or stolen
For it is something of no value to anyone, unless it is given away
Give one of yours; no-one needs a smile as much as he who has none to give.

500 Years On From Martin Luther And The Beginning Of The Reformation

On October 31st, 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg Church, a set of questions and propositions for debate, to set in motion a discussion about the commodification of grace that was infesting the practice and preaching of the church. The idea that grace could be bought infuriated Luther. This was the touch-paper for the start of the Reformation.

Today, we live in a world where everything seems to have a commercial value. I have attended ministers' seminars where the practice of being church was discussed in terms borrowed directly from business executive training, where success was counted in terms of growth rather than faithfulness, and targets were more akin to a company's agenda than to followers of Christ. There are similarities today with the times of Luther. Even in the church, there is a commercialisation of our faith. So what theses would you nail to the church door today?

What is printed below is the result of the reflection of a group of people of the parish of Orange-Carpentras, led by Pastor Caspar Visser't Hooft and accompanied by Professor Denis Dupré, economist, University of Grenoble.

This reflection is part of the approach taken by the United Protestant Church to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. It is the culmination of several years of local and regional engagement on the theme "Bible and economy". (*Translated from the website*) <https://www.eglise-protestante-unie.fr/region-provence-alpes-corse-cote-d-azur-r7/actualite/economiquement-votre-3736>

The House-group "Faith In Action" which meets in Sawston as part of the Sawston Free Church discussed these one Wednesday night in July. We thought this particularly pertinent to Sawston Free Church's year of reflecting on being "STEWARDS OF GOD'S RESOURCES"

Here is the document.

Seven Theses Against An Unjust Economy

In 1517, appalled by the practice of indulgences, Luther reminded people of the fundamental message of the Gospel: for humans to be saved God's sole grace is sufficient. He thus attacked the church of his time for having established a fallacious economic system. In this system humans, however intended for eternal life, still had to expiate their faults in what the church called the purgatory. By doing "good works", while still on earth, they could soften the punishment that awaited them in this purgatory. These "good works" consisted mainly of gifts to the church. The church used these gifts to enrich herself and to consolidate her quasi absolute power.

500 years after, a new fallacious economic system has been established, its priests are the champions of the ideology of an all-powerful market. The principles which founded this system should be questioned in the light of the Gospel. Considering that this system's grip on humans and nature aims at being total, it is necessary to resist this new idol. Accommodating oneself to this system by abating its excesses, through humanitarian aid for instance, doesn't make it less unjust. Humanitarian aid cannot redeem those who have a bad conscience, it shouldn't be considered as an "indulgence". When we receive God's abundant grace there is no place for a bad conscience. Discharged we are now able to follow the path of justice and love that God sets out for us, standing up against everything which alienates, oppresses and makes humans suffer.

- 1) The dominant ideology of our time wants to make us believe that a harmonious society depends upon humans pursuing their own interests. This isn't true. Competition without limits hastens the destruction of the weakest and our natural resources. The Gospel calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves and not to do things by strife (Ph. 2, 3). This exigency concerns all the domains of society: they're all situated under the authority of Jesus-Christ, the economy included.
- 2) The dominant ideology of our time favours a society in which everything is to buy and for sale. We can hereby think of the drugs-trafficking, the human organ trafficking, and even the trafficking of men, women and children are becoming ordinary business. We must refuse the commodification of the living and the grabbing of what is essential for life. The Gospel says that our life has been given to us.
- 3) The dominant ideology of our time wants us to believe that reality is characterized by scarcity which fosters fear – fear of lack. Meanwhile the Gospel calls us to change the perspective and to make a distinction between our justified needs and our limitless desires. Hence, being content with simply satisfying one's needs rather than to sink into the immoderation of our desires makes it possible for us to welcome all which sustains our living as an abundance given by God.
- 4) The dominant ideology of our time pushes men and women to excesses with regard to moneylending and credit. Here one should be reminded of the biblical exhortation which says it is not permitted to deprive the insolvent of what is necessary for their surviving. More so, the gospel proclamation begins with the announcement of a jubilee (Luke 4, 19). The jubilee is a year of total debt forgiveness. The Gospel proclaims that our debt vis à vis God is infinite, and that God has forgiven it totally. The creditor has to accept the risk of not being refunded.
- 5) The dominant ideology of our time wants us to believe that the economy is a game. Speculation is the expression of this. This "casino finance" proposes us to bet on everything, raw material, health, businesses, change, considering humans as counters. In this system money is not at the service of us all, but only at the benefit of some initiated. They take risks in an irresponsible way while the consequences are felt by others. God says: "You shall not steal".
- 6) The dominant ideology of our time favours the financing of immediately profitable activities to the detriment of general interest and the common good. What is most profitable for stock-holders is often that which destroys the earth and neglects the conditions of workers and the whole of humanity. The pursuit of profitability for the sake of profitability is incompatible with the Christian message. The Gospel invites us to worship God and not money. Money should be at the service of all, with respect for creation.
- 7) The dominant ideology of our time wants us to believe that one's value is dependent upon wage labour. This is a falsehood. Wage labour makes it possible to live, but the value of a human being has been given by God whatever may be his or her situation. We are called to witness in favour of a society which permits everybody to have a job which suits his or her capacities, through which he or she can glorify God. This glorification expresses itself by solidarity, work well done, integrity and respect.

Bruce

MHA: One of SFC's Christmas Charities

At our May church meeting, Sawston Free Church made the decision that one of our two church's Christmas Charities would be Methodist Homes for the Aged. The early decision was part of a new approach. We will choose one charity early in the year so we can get to know about it before the time for donations happens, during Advent/Christmas, and we chose one early so that we can respond with another charity at the beginning of December, in case there is a pressing need that we would like to support.

Of course, we will still be supporting the Christmas Shoe boxes for Blythswood Trust, and you could start packing them now. The list will appear in a separate article and you'll get reminders and requests from Brigades along the way, so watch for it. But now, back to MHA.

MHA is a charity providing care, accommodation and support services for more than 17,000 older people throughout Britain. Our mission is to improve the quality of life of older people, inspired by Christian concern.

Founded by members of the Methodist Church back in 1943, today we support:-

- 5,000 older people living in our care homes, many receiving specialist dementia or nursing care
- 2,000 older people living independently in purpose-built apartments, with access to social and leisure facilities and flexible care should they need it
- 10,000 older people living independently in their own homes with the support of our Live at Home schemes across the UK.

We rely on the commitment and dedication of 7,000 staff and 5,500 volunteers who share our values. Together we aim to provide more quality housing, care and support services to meet the needs of more older people across the country.

Our mission is "to improve the quality of life for older people, inspired by Christian concern."

Society has changed beyond all recognition since our charity was formed in 1943 but our work is as relevant today as it was then.

Our Values underpin our entire approach:

- We respect every person as a unique individual
- We treat others, especially the most frail and vulnerable, with the dignity we wish for ourselves
- We are open and fair in all our dealings
- We always seek to improve, to become the best we can be
- We nurture each person's body, mind and spirit to promote a fulfilled life
- Putting Our Values into Practice
- We are open to all older people in need, irrespective of their beliefs. Our homes and schemes are made up of diverse communities and opportunities are made available for individuals to develop and practise their faith as they feel appropriate.

A special feature of our homes and schemes is the emphasis placed on the spiritual well-being of older people. We believe this to be an important element of the service we provide and an integral part of everybody's work. We respect the personal beliefs of each individual, and the choice of older people to participate, or not, in activities and events within the home or scheme.

It is important that all our staff, volunteers and those we serve understand and share our values in order to play their part in building a community which delivers an improved quality of life for older people.

Bruce

He Has No Voice But Ours – The Spoken Word In Worship

Reading in church – whether the Bible or the notices – is an important part of Christian witness. It is our chance to let others hear about God’s word and the work of the church.

Such material deserves to be delivered to the very best of our ability.

Jane Bower is an elder of Emmanuel United Reformed Church, and works with any who are interested in improving their vocal delivery, or who want to give reading aloud a try. Jane is vocal coach to trainee ministers at Westminster College and ordinands at the Eastern Region Ministry Conference. She is a professional actress and associate lecturer in Drama at the Faculty of Education.

This relaxed, enjoyable course is for any who wish to attend – all are welcome. There will be nothing threatening or embarrassing - Jane’s forte is to build confidence, not destroy it!

She uses unusual approaches to get you thinking in new ways. You will work within your comfort zone, and only do what you feel happy doing.

We will explore:

- What is our task as a reader?
- What makes a good reader?
- Jesus’s delivery
- Being God’s mouthpiece – delivering the gospel
- Nerve busters and vocal care

Sawston Free Church will be hosting this workshop on Saturday 30th September from 10am to 12.30pm.

If you are interested in attending, **please let the minister know** so we can arrange seating and refreshments and put the date in your diaries now. There is no charge for this workshop.

Any queries, please ask Rosemary Heald or Bruce Waldron.

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The Synod Are Looking For People To Serve



We are currently looking to appoint to three important volunteer roles within the Synod:

Executive Committee

We are seeking a lay representative to serve on this Committee. It meets four times each year with action required between meetings being dealt with by email.

The Committee has a range of roles including the development of proposals for Synod strategy; managing the process for Synod appointments; oversight of office management and employment matters; and making arrangements for Synod meetings.

Resources Committee

We are seeking a person to serve on this Committee which also meets four times each year.

The Committee is primarily concerned with developing the Synod’s finance and property policies; making grants; and approving property transactions relating to local churches and major alterations to property.

Spirituality Advocate

The role of our Spirituality Advocate centres on the promotion of opportunities within the Synod for the practice and study of prayer in all its forms. The Advocate is a member of the Synod’s Pastoral Committee which also meets four times each year.

We are also seeking someone to fill this role that becomes vacant at the end of 2017:-

Secretary to the Pastoral Committee

The primary responsibility of this role involves preparing agendas for, and taking minutes at, the four Committee meetings each year and the annual meeting of Area Partnership Pastoral Advocates. There is also a limited amount of correspondence between meetings.

Church Directory

Minister		Tel
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Secretaries:		
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
Elders: Sawston		
Mary Simuyandi	28 New Road, Sawston	837433
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
Sue Lelliott	26 Park Road, Sawston	520383
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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:		
Facebook page:		
	www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/	
	www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch	



Are you looking for ...

- A place to meet for a coffee and light meal?
- A conference hall that can seat up to 100?
- A venue for a special occasion: birthday party, anniversary party, a reception after a wedding, funeral, baptism/ blessing?
 - Cosy rooms for small groups: counselling
- Rooms or places where people can meet & talk?
- A quiet space for spiritual reflection & prayer?

Look no further! We cater for everyone and for a wide variety of events!

For more information visit: www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/lettings.htm
or contact Min Ong: [minhuey.ong @papworthtrust.org.uk](mailto: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.



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M. Arts Psychoanalytic Studies; UKCP (FIP).

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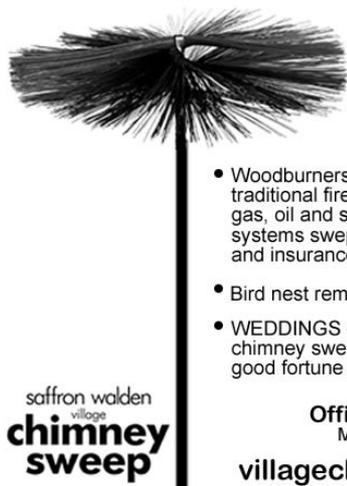
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