

CONTACT

January 2019



Volume 60 - Issue 1
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 6 Jan	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mr Jacob Bali 3.00pm Messy Church	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr John Luke	10.30am: Holy Communion - Jacob Bali
Mon 7 Jan	10.00am: Craft Group (page 15)		
Wed 9 Jan	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 15)		
Sun 13 Jan	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mr Jacob Bali 6.00pm: Quiet Time - Sue Nunn	10.15am: Morning Worship - Rev Elizabeth Caswell	10.30am: Morning Worship - Wendy Roe
Sun 20 Jan	10.30am: Morning Worship & Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm: Evening Communion - Mr Jacob Bali and Rev Bruce Waldron	2.30pm: Holy Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Family Service - Bob Parkin
Mon 21 Jan	10.00am: Craft Group (page 15)		
Wed 23 Jan	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 15)		
Sun 27 Jan	10.30am: Go4th - Rev Bruce Waldron & Mr Jacob Bali	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr George Tadrous	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Norman Setchell

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
Jan 6	Gordon Heald 833983		Jan 20	John Conway 833953	
Jan 13	Jill Legg 01799 218318		Jan 27	Gordon Heald 833983	

The closing date for **February Contact** is Friday **18th January**.

**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



Churches need to be thinking now about what they would like to do for Lent Studies. I would like to encourage all the churches to look at the Holy Habits book on Fellowship. Jacob and I will be putting a study design together if you would like to use it.

Fellowship is a lot more than just being good friends and having a nice community of people. St Paul talks about the church as the body of Christ. In his letter to the Christians in Rome, he says *“we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”* (Rom 12:5)

In his letter to the church at Corinth, he writes *“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?”* (1 Cor 10:16)

In Ephesians he says *“the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”* (Eph 3:6) He writes that *we are all given gifts¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”*

The New Testament idea about fellowship is that it has a particular purpose, and each person is an integral part of that purpose, to create a body of people, a community of people, who make incarnate, or, if you like, show in a human form, what God is like. So your part in the church is not just to do rosters and jobs and attend church. It is to make the church a place that reflects God back to your village.

If that sounds like hard work, and a little daunting, do please relax a bit with it and look at it another way, that is not so scary. Every morning, most of you at some stage will walk into your bathroom and look in a mirror. What you see looking back at you will be a mirror image of you, looking at the mirror, and you get an idea of what you look like.

It is a demonstrable and scientifically proven fact that no matter how often, or how long you gaze into that mirror, it will not wear out from the effort and it will continue to reflect your image back to you, with no effort on the part of the mirror. The mirror doesn't have to do anything other than be itself, to do the job it is made to do.

It does need a wipe over from time to time, but the mirrors never seem to get grumpy about being cleaned over, in fact most mirrors usually seem quite cheerful about it and come up even brighter and sparkle more because of it. The clean-up helps them do what they are made for.

Fellowship is a lot like this. We are made for this, to reflect Christ, to be the image of Christ for our world. We don't have to do anything other than be what we have been created to be, what comes naturally to us as creations of the Father, and when it is done well it is a pleasure to do it. Even the clean-ups that we go through are actually quite helpful because it's easy to pick up a little grime along the way that makes us feel quite dull and unproductive to what we know we are meant to be.

Fellowship is all about us being the body of Christ, the image of God to our places, in very human form. I hope the idea grabs you. Lent is meant to be a time when we wrestle with deep truths. St Paul said that we should work out our salvation in fear and trembling. I think he knew that it was a very important business because if we get it wrong there is such a huge amount of blessing that gets missed out on. So the idea of Lent Studies is much about a desire to search out and explore our faith, and the possibilities it offers, because we want to serve God faithfully.

When Fellowship is seen as mere social pleasure, we are really missing the point.

So: Lent Studies: Topic: Fellowship. Something to plan to be a part of in February.

New Year New You...

As 2018 fades into distant memory and we settle in to the New Year, many of us have resolved to make a few changes in our lives. It may be to kick a bad habit or to start doing something afresh. Whatever we may choose to do, we have a similar motivation in mind... to make a new start, to make a change. Heraclitus of Ephesus coined the famous quote '*the one thing that is constant is change*'.

Indeed, groups like Slimming World get many new members around this time of year, of bright eyed and bushy tailed people seeking to make healthier life choices. Despite having different end goals, one thing is certain, everybody who walks into a Slimming World group expects to be changed.

The Bible tells us of many people who had to make a new start. Abram became Abraham, Sarai became Sarah, Jacob became Israel, Simon became Peter and Saul became Paul. All of these people were called by God to make a new start in life, to let go of what was holding them back and to take hold of God.

Yet, change is not always easy or simple and we need to ask ourselves what is it that we are holding on to that we should let go of? Are we hesitant to start something because of fear?

The Bible gives us this word of encouragement, that 'if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!' (1 Corinthians 5:12). Likewise, God Himself said 'See, I am making all things new' (Revelation 21:5).

This year (2019), we are being invited to start afresh and step out in faith. Not dismissing the memories but allowing the memories to push us forward in Christ. This year may we be willing to let go and let God.

Jacob Bali



Message From Castle Camps

We hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas with families and friends. We have been pretty fully employed up the hill in Castle Camps.

At the beginning of December, we welcomed again Castle Camps Primary School for their Advent service. It was lovely to see the chapel full of rosy cheeks and excitement. Bruce and Rev. Ian Fisher officiated. But the school had organised it all themselves with readings and wonderful singing. The Advent Candle was lit and it kick started Christmas for us.

Brenda had decorated the chapel and it looked very cheery and seasonal. The main tree was a lovely real one, kindly donated by the Norden family and it was decorated very generously and prettily. Thank you, Brenda.

Our Annual Carol Concert was held on the 9th and as usual we welcomed Hadstock Silver Band to lead our singing. (Last year, this had to be cancelled due to snow!). The display of little Christmas trees was delightful, interspersed with flickering candles and lights. It gave a very cosy and festive feel to the chapel. Well done Maureen (and she makes heavenly pastry, too!). Outside, we had a man sized tree made by Tony covered with coloured lights, so no one could miss us

Some of the children were employed on the door, meeting and greeting for the concert and some of the others took the collection. After the service, all of the children provided waiter/waitress service for the refreshments and helped clear up and move furniture. The usual suspects were washing up and doing everything else. They are our backbone and we could not do without them. We should like to thank Stephen Haylock for sponsoring the Band on our behalf.

We have been Carol singing around the village, together with All Saints' Church and distributing candles and a Christmas prayer, but we did not expect donations.

We had some very good news about Cayden, the grandson of one of our friends. He is 10 years old and is blind. He has a brain tumour, but since his last scan in June, he has held his own and not deteriorated. Please think about him and his family

The collection at our Carol Concert raised £283, which we have donated to Arthur Rank Hospice and we should like to thank everyone for their generosity.

We send our best wishes for 2019 and God's blessing to you all.

Val and Friends.

The Three Churches

Sawston Free Church would like to give a big thank you to all those who put together the lovely Christmas decorations for the Christmas celebrations. It was so poignant to have the manger scene that Alan Cleveland created, put up by Brian Pegram, and of course, thanks to whoever put up the Christmas Tree. It looked lovely. Alan used to do that job every Christmas.

A special thank you to our Junior Church staff and particularly to Julie, who along with Jacob Bali, ran the Nativity Service on the 23rd December. I've been told by everyone how wonderful it was.

Castle Camps give thanks for the wonderful work in putting together the Christmas Tree Display, and a special thank you to the Hadstock Silver Band for their fantastic music. It was lovely to be able to donate some money for the East Anglia Children's Hospice.

Little Abington URC was host to the Combined Congregations of Great and Little Abington St. Mary's on the morning of the 23rd. The Carol Service led by Rev. Bruce Waldron and Dr Alistair Collen was a lovely celebration of Christmas.

Some of the wonderful displays at the churches:



More of the wonderful displays:



Tribute to Alan Cleveland

Alan has contributed some wonderful things to our church. Every Christmas late night shopping, he and Betty would carry the hot mulled wine down to the Free Church stall at late night shopping and hand it out with a smile and sing carols with us. The star that hung over the church front window at Christmas was devised by him and put up with Brian Pegram each year. The Manger Scene we have each year was an Alan creation, and so was the puppet theatre which has sometimes been the bridge of the Enterprise for a Holiday Club and at another time a TV Studio. He devised the incredible tree that is painted to look like it is 3 dimensional for our first holiday club just after I arrived.

I thought it was appropriate to share in this magazine, the tribute that was paid to Alan on the day we said farewell to him and released him to God's care.

The Tribute as we heard it on 22nd November.

Alan's Story, Pt 1

This story I'm going to be reading to you over the next few minutes, is the story of Alan's life, pretty much precisely as he told it to his daughter, his son and his wife. Sally wrote it out and now it's my privilege to read it to you. So I give you Alan Cleveland, much of it in his very own words.

Alan told me "The story begins with my Mother Ada, so there's no surprises there then!"

Ada, became a widow when her husband died in 1927. Those were the days of the depression, and she was left destitute with five young children ranging in age from 1 to 15. Although her husband had not been the best husband and father in the world, his death compelled Ada to enter the workhouse, and that resulted in her being separated from her children; they were placed in an orphanage.

Ada was determined to be reunited with them; she pounded the streets of Deptford and Rotherhithe to find work and accommodation and eventually she found a job in a café in the Surrey Dock area of London (It's now an upmarket suburb known as Surrey Quays). And here she prepared food for the dockers and the sailors, but she had the bonus of a living space upstairs in what had previously been a billiard room and here the children were able to move in with her; the family was reunited.

It was around this time that Bill Cleveland was made a widower with the death of his wife leaving him with six sons aged from 7 to 18 years. Bill, with the children, had to move out of his home because it had been owned by his wife's aunt and she decided she needed it for someone else.

Bill was recommended to try the said Café in Rotherhithe. He went in to view it and he asked Ada, "Where are you moving to then, love?" to which Ada replied "I wasn't aware I was moving anywhere" ----Bill: "Oh we can't have this, you with girls and me with boys, we'll see what we can do with a few partitions, there's plenty of room." A problem was solved, a romance blossomed, a wedding happened and then two more children arrived: Jessie in April 1929 and then Alan in April 1932.

In 1933 the family, now numbering fifteen, moved into a new block of flats and the slums they had been living in were demolished. A new life beckoned but tragically it was not to last. Bill was putting on his boots one morning that same year and a stomach ulcer burst. They were unable to save his life. Alan was just one year old. His mum always said those had been the five happiest years of her life.

Ada now had 13 children to bring up. She got a job as a cook with the fire brigade and Alan had a happy childhood, despite the difficulties, and he remembered being tossed about by his brothers like a ball. He remembered trying, unsuccessfully, to catch pigeons on the streets of London – pigeon makes a tasty dinner! Ada took in lodgers to get extra cash. One lodger, Uncle Tom, became a father figure to the young Alan.

However, in 1939, Britain declared war on Germany. The older boys had all joined the forces; the two eldest girls were evacuated to Cornwall and only Ada and the 3 youngest children were still in the flat. Then the Blitz started, with Germany bombing the docks.

Rotherhithe was a key target and the dock, being made of timber, caught fire when it was hit, and it burnt for days. That fire gave the German pilots a visible target. It wasn't safe any more to remain in the East End and so it was that an old dustbin lorry arrived at 5am one morning and the driver told Ada that they had to get her out of there because if the bridges serving the docks were hit, the family would perish.

They put all their clothes in large bed sheets and tied them at the corners – they didn't have any suitcases. Even as they were driving away, the Lorry was attacked by a Messerschmitt which fortunately missed its target on two attempts.

They arrived at a shelter near London Bridge, but they were turned away because it was full. That turned out to be a blessing. It was hit by a bomb shortly after and all the occupants perished. The family were driven to another shelter in the cellar of a large building with mattresses laid out around the walls on which were huddles of mothers and their children. It was here that Alan learnt to make his first paper aeroplane.

One morning when they got up and were told to go above ground; they were confronted by a row of red London double-decker buses. Alan, Jessie, and Eunice were ushered on to the first one: their Mum had to stay behind as her role in the fire service was considered a key job. They had no idea where they were going. Alan was 8 years old. The bus eventually arrived at Merrow near Guildford in Surrey and the children were placed with a woman who really did not want three scruffy youngsters from the East End: they had to vacate the house every morning and they spent the day walking the streets. Fortunately, it was a mild September.

Short of food, Alan was always climbing trees, scrumping for apples. Eunice, only 13 herself, became a little mother to her two younger siblings. She wanted to obey mum's orders, that the three were not to be separated. A woman took pity on them and brought them to her house and gave them an orange each – this was nectar to them and then she made enquiries to the authorities and they eventually got proper lodgings in a house just outside Guildford.

It was a few months later when Eunice (who was now old enough to work) with Jessie, returned to London, leaving Alan alone and he was moved to 109 Painters Close with a Mrs Furlonger who became like a mother to him. She wanted to adopt him and Alan loved her. It was a time of stability and he went to the Bellfield School until he was 11 and then moved to Northmeads School.

Alan missed his mum, and when she asked him if he wanted to come home as the Blitz had finished, he had no hesitation. He returned home 3 years after he had left, only to experience a London being targeted by doodlebugs and rockets.

Back at school in London he was bullied – after 3 years in the suburbs he was no longer an East End boy - and he had to fight his corner. He was a member of the scouts until the church hall it was held in was destroyed by a doodlebug. He loved the scouts; he made good friends and he had his first experience of camping as well as playing bugle in the band.

Leaving school at 14, he went to Art School but despite having some talent, he could not afford the paper, the brushes and the paints and so, at 16, left and got a job, colouring Black and White photographs.

We leave Alan there, colouring his photographs, and now we're going to sit and listen to a very appropriate song, as we watch a parade of photographs that the family have assembled, memories of Alan and what he and Betty have created and treasured, and when this is concluded we'll pick up the story, where this young lad becomes a man.

We paused to watch a series of pictures of Alan through the ages, accompanied by the music, "Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner"

Alan's Story, Pt 2

National Service was compulsory and despite having a very fragmented education, Alan successfully passed exams to join the RAF at 18. He was stationed at Waterbeach in Cambridgeshire, working as an instrument fitter on the early Meteor Jets. One evening he was out for a pint at The Bell in Waterbeach, and he met Betty, who was to become the love of his life. She was out with her friends; there were all members of the Royal Observer Corps on a training course.

Betty was a country girl. She lived at Wickhambrook in the heart of Suffolk. The house she came from had no electricity or running water and it had an outside toilet. This was a real shock to the lad from London: however poor his family had been they had always had these mod cons. Alan and Betty did their courting in the Abbey Gardens in Bury St Edmunds. And when he stayed over, because it was too far for a day trip, Betty's brother Geoff had to give up his bed to Alan.

Late one winter morning, the bus took a detour to avoid the snow. A fellow passenger advised Alan to stay on the bus and he would show him how to get to Betty's house. It turned out this meant trudging across a large snowy field and Alan and his guide created some considerable excitement for the family who looking from their front window wondered what silly idiot was walking across the fields in such terrible weather!

Betty also had a culture shock when she first visited Alan's family in London. She was a good Christian conservative young lass, and within 5 minutes of arriving, this naïve country girl was whisked off down to the pub and given a glass of whiskey by Ada. That was interesting.

Alan was demobbed in 1953 and he and Betty were married in 1954. Only two weeks before the wedding, Alan found a place for them to live at Blackheath; he'd trudged the streets for 6 months looking for suitable accommodation. [There were no mobile phones or internet in 1954! It all had to be done on foot.]

A bit later one of Betty's work colleagues recommended a flat on the Woolwich Road, which although it had no electricity or running water, cost only 12s a week so the newlyweds roughed it until the instrument company Alan was working for moved to Redhill. Alan and Betty decided to move closer to Suffolk as Betty's dad was very unwell and it was then that Alan started work for Marshall's airport and a new chapter began.

They bought their first house at 64 Stanley Road, Cambridge [it's a shame they didn't keep it as being in a prime location in the expanding city of Cambridge, it is now worth a lot of money!]. But that is where both their children, Sally and Peter, were born.

In time, Alan moved from Marshall's to work for the Christmas Tree Factory at Whittlesford with his next-door neighbour and mentor, Reg Luckhurst and Reg's daughter Gail to this day is still a treasured friend. Alan's job was designing and making Outdoor Christmas lighting and this was to be the focus of most of his working life.

When Sally was 4 and Peter was 1, they moved to Sawston. To make ends meet, Betty would make fishing nets and Christmas decorations on a sewing machine in their kitchen. For the children, one advantage of their dad working in the Christmas business was free crackers and decorations. For Alan, the appeal of Christmas did wane somewhat because his Christmas' started in February every year!

Alan and Betty immersed themselves in the village life. They were active members of the school PTA, they were involved here in the Sawston United Reformed (now Free) Church, the babysitting circle, the WI, and of course, the Sawston Light Opera Group (where Alan sang, and Betty did stage make-up). When I did an Elvis night a few years ago, Alan and Betty made me over and no one recognised me. It was a very professional job. They forged many friendships through these activities, and many of them have lasted to this day; friends who have provided tremendous support during Alan's illness.

Alan became known as Mr Fix It to his friends and children. He was a talented at DIY – and he trained his son and son-in-law well.

Money was short and so the family had many happy camping holidays in locations across England and Wales: the trailer loaded with camping gear was affectionately known as Timmy. Given the English weather, some holidays were very wet; there was one trip to North Wales where the torrential rain culminated in a river running through the tent, and a very uncomfortable night, sleeping in the car in a layby.

As well as SLOG, Sawston Light Opera Group, Alan was also member of the Woodfordians and the Shelford Opera Group. He's seen his grandson Matt follow him on to the stage in Amateur Productions and choirs and Alan and Betty travelled to High Wycombe many times to watch Matt in his various productions.

Retirement gave them the opportunity to travel at a more leisurely pace in their campervan. One memorable family holiday found them in Brittany where the campervan developed an oil leak, creating some excitement for Matt at least. Alan also put his art skills to good use on "scenery" for themed birthday parties for Matt and for Church activities. He turned a large piece of plywood into the most amazing 3dimensionally painted tree, and the puppet theatre has become the Starship Enterprise and a BBC studio. For the family, long weekends away with Betty and Alan and Pete and Sarah and Sally and David and Matt were very special.

Retirement also allowed Alan to spend some quality time with Matt; he enjoyed being a Grandad. Christmases were family affairs and Christmas 2017 was even more special because it was one he hadn't expected to see. Family get-togethers were always great fun.

Alan was very proud when his grandson Matt, got a place at Cambridge University to read Medicine, saying, "my old mum would never have believed that a great grandson of hers would ever reach such great heights".

We closed this part of the service listening to a recording of Alan and Betty's grandson Matthew, singing, "Till There Was You"

"Betty and family would like to thank everyone for their love and support during Alan's illness, the committal and thanksgiving services and subsequently. We greatly appreciate the ongoing kindness shown by this loving church family. With love Betty and family."

Christmas Statement

Signed by European church leaders – issued jointly by the Churches' Commission for Migrants and the Conference of European Churches:

In the spirit of Christmas, we ask you to work and pray for a welcoming and inclusive community in Europe.

As Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, they wait in hope and anticipation, remembering Isaiah's prophecy: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light". (Isaiah 9.2)

We call on the nations and the people of Europe, on the political leaders and on our Churches: Don't allow us to become indifferent to the suffering of others.

Let us rather cherish the dignity of those who need our help and recognise that welcoming the stranger is part of our Christian and European heritage.

May we be courageous and confident in the Son of God, the Light of the World, whose birth we celebrate.

Christ will show us the way for a future life together.

Today's world continues to experience the darkness of persecution, conflict and war. According to the UN almost 70 million people have been forced to flee their homes in search of sanctuary and livelihood. More than half of them are children.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees states: "No one becomes a refugee by choice; but the rest of us can have a choice about how we help." As Christians we are guided by biblical teaching and our following of Christ. In this season of preparation for Christmas we are reminded of our responsibility, along with God's promise of light and life for this world.

Jesus became human: Christmas is the celebration of Jesus incarnate. For Christians the Incarnation is an expression of God's unlimited love for humanity, the babe born in a manger was to be good news of joy for all people (Luke 2.10). Just as every person is created in the image of God (Genesis 1.27), so Jesus becoming human affirms the dignity of all people. No individual or group of people are 'problems' to be dealt with but they are deserving of dignity as people loved by God. We all share a common humanity devoid of distinction between strangers and inhabitants.

Jesus the refugee: He took refuge in Egypt as a child when Mary and Joseph fled Herod's threat to kill him. Jesus also experienced life under Roman occupation so knew measures that deprived people of their freedom and trampled upon their dignity. Jesus is born homeless and experiences tyranny and suffering. He identifies with the refugee and the oppressed and calls on us to similarly identify compassionately with the vulnerable.

Jesus the stranger: Jesus tells us that our response to the stranger is a response to Jesus himself (Matthew 25.40). When recognising Christ in the stranger's guise we begin to encounter the divine in the other. Not only do we then move from a situation of 'us' and 'them' to a new relationship of 'we', there is blessing in the encounter and we become human together.

With deep concern we observe current developments in Europe's response to new arrivals of people. Based on the biblical message and theological reflection and mindful of the statements made almost 20 years ago at the European Summit in Tampere 1999, we state that:

- It is unacceptable that policies of "managing migration" lead to situations where the massive loss of human life on the way to Europe has become normal and exploitation and violence an everyday reality. We need meaningful safe passages (e.g. resettlement, humanitarian visa, realistic labour migration policies) and search and rescue on the way to Europe.
- We reaffirm the notions of the Tampere summit, in particular the "absolute respect of the right to seek asylum" and "the full and inclusive application of the Geneva Convention" as guiding principles of asylum policy today. This would include effective access to a procedure for asylum seeking persons irrespective of how and through where they came to Europe.
- Protection in the region of origin and improvement of conditions in countries of origin remain important, so that people are not forced to move. However, as long as reasons for migration exist, Europe should accept its obligation to welcome and protect - as one of the richest and

most developed regions of the globe; instead of coercing third countries into stopping migration into Europe.

- Solidarity should be the guiding aspect when governing migration and particularly refugee reception. Solidarity means that the stronger shoulders accept more responsibility than the weaker ones, but also that everyone contributes what they can.
- We renounce the notion that a welcome to newly arrived is at the detriment of those presently living in Europe. Policies should address the specific needs of new arrivals in Europe and encourage their potential to contribute, while at the same time honouring the traditions and needs of inhabitants alike.
- Discussions on migration and refugees should be characterised by dignity, respect, and where possible compassion. Spreading of inaccurate, unverifiable and divisive messages only makes the challenge of living together more difficult.
- Conflicts will inevitably arise where people of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds are living together, particularly under rapidly changing circumstances. Living together in diversity can be both enriching and challenging. We ask for a spirit of tolerance and goodwill and a commitment to constructive engagement.

We commit to more fervently articulating and working towards our vision of an inclusive and participatory society – for newly arrived and all inhabitants.

As I see it ...

by Mike Wilson

Good Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Back in October of last year, some of us from Sawston Free Church went to Wesley Church, Cambridge to hear Matthew Rycroft CBE, the Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Development, talking about poverty and world development. Before this, Matthew was our ambassador at the UN. (His parents are members of the Wesley Church, which is how the evening came about.) I thought that in this particular season of New Year in which good news is singularly difficult to come across, it might be good to précis just some of all that Matthew had to say that evening and add a comment or two of my own. He said that the primary task of his department and all its partners (of which the most important is the UN itself) was to end 'extreme poverty' throughout the world, that is, to ensure that no-one lives on less than the equivalent of £1.50p a day [1] Over the last twenty years, the proportion of the world's population in extreme poverty has halved. That must, surely, be good news?

One consequence of living in extreme poverty is shortened life expectancy. One measure of global success is that world average life expectancy at birth is now 80 years. In 1950, the year I was born, it was 45. Whilst that is, of course, a rough indicator of all manner of improvements contributing to health and long life, it does represent a considerable contribution to the alarming rise in world population, which in 1950 was roughly 1½ billion, and is now roughly 7½ billion. That we manage to feed virtually all of these mouths is surely astonishing, given that in 1950, when there were so many fewer mouths, millions died of famine every year? That we do not feed them all is not due to shortage of food, but limitations in transportation and communication. Here in Britain, regional famine was commonplace until the simultaneous introductions of the railways and the telegraph, which made it possible for the first time to know what was going on and to shift food from where it was plentiful to where it was needed. This year more than half the world's population will have internet and nearly half will have smart-phones, which is extremely encouraging. Moving information is much easier than moving food.

Matthew was quite sure that world population will peak at 11 billion some time between 2060 and 2090, and that feeding 11 billion will be possible. (He recognised that climate change was a major additional challenge, particularly to Africa, but was strict about not straying into that subject. I suppose there is a limit to what one can cover in ninety minutes.) In every region where poverty has been eliminated, there has been a consequent drop in the birth-rate from 6 offspring per female to 2½. Africa, he said, was the biggest cause for concern, for there the population will double in the next 30 years. We have virtually eliminated famine, even in Africa, but not extreme poverty.

As for what was the most effective cure for extreme poverty, Matthew was absolutely certain that the answer was economic development, and in particular, private enterprise (as opposed to state-owned enterprise), and it is to the development of privately owned businesses that his department devotes considerable attention. When Siemens invested £130m in poverty-stricken Hull a few years ago they not only created 1000 jobs directly, but also gave work to over 400 companies, from taxi-drivers to engineers and estate agents [2]. It works just the same, all over the world, on smaller and larger scales. Matthew talked of how China's economic transformation has transformed the entire region, with China's neighbours being drawn into the expansion. In Africa, sadly, there is no equivalent candidate to be that economic powerhouse dragging its neighbours in its wake. South Africa and Rhodesia/Zimbabwe used to be possible candidates, but not now.

Questioners asked anxiously of Matthew's estimation of the efforts of charities as opposed to governments. His reply was that the work of charities is essential. After all, much of what they do is done through their being used as agencies by the UN and departments like his.

As to why, if so much *can* be done and so much *has* been done, we are still so far from solving world poverty, Matthew summed it up in one word - conflict (meaning inter-state war, and all manner of other, often internal, insurrections). The correlation between conflict and poverty is beyond question. But even here, Matthew had much good news. Despite appearances, the number of conflicts is decreasing, and the number of deaths per conflict is decreasing. The biggest problem is that whereas wars used to tend to be relatively short and relatively easily ended, now they tend to be far more intractable than used to be the case. This being so, the prevention of conflict breaking out in the first place must be a major priority. And what qualities do most to prevent conflict breaking out? - justice, good government and prosperity.

I am left musing that three major powers currently question the value of the UN: the USA, Russia and China. They question whether what the UN (and departments like Matthew's) does represents their own short-term best interests. Matthew, a former UN ambassador, would argue that it does. I am also left remembering Don Cupitt's remarks at a book launch in Cambridge not long ago that though in some ways it seems as though the influence of Christianity has dimmed over recent centuries, nothing is more unique to the Christian tradition, or more influential in our own time, than the Christian passion for world peace, justice and human flourishing represented in Matthew's lecture.

[1] This was his definition. There are others, all roughly the same. No doubt every figure quoted here could be quibbled over, but my theme is the general drift, not the specific details.

[2] Hull is one of the most deprived areas of Britain, with extensive poverty, if not 'extreme-poverty' defined here.

Season's Greetings



On behalf of us all at Arthur Rank Hospice, we would like to say a huge thank you for all of your support during 2018.

It has been a busy year and we are delighted to benefit from your continued kindness, be it the time you spare to volunteer, the donations that you so generously make, the events that you have taken part in or simply by sharing news of our services and work with those you know.

You are fabulous and we would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas and send our best wishes for the New Year.

*500 volunteers support our staff across every area of the organisation,
you may even be one!
Without them, it wouldn't be possible for us to do what we do...
a very special THANK YOU!*

Edited highlights from the December Elders Meeting

The Elders discussed how the Footprints café is doing. It was noted that the support group is meeting regularly with Malcolm. Some funding is being investigated for improvements to acoustics of the cafe.

It was decided the church wheelchair needs to be kept prominently in the church for ease of access.

Acknowledged the excellent feedback received after the Elders service in November. We also discussed progressing to a regular morning praise/Go4th service in the new year - more details at the January church meeting.

Consent forms were handed out for new entries to be added to the church directory.

And we are coming to that time of the year when we again look at Elders nominations.

I should like to wish all readers a very Happy New Year and hope that you have been enjoying the articles. A special thank you to all the regular contributors, without your support there would not be a monthly Contact. Once again I appeal for new articles.

David

Hello everyone!



Canaan Project is feeling very festive at the moment with not one, but two Christmas parties this week, not to mention a large amount of Christmas crafting at our lunch clubs! It's been a busy and full term here and as we wind down ready to enjoy the festive period we thought it'd be good to update you all on what we've been up to!



Christmas bauble making



Ice skating trip

This term we said good-bye to one of our young women's workers, Jess. Jess has been with us for just over a year and has done an amazing job at launching all of our work on a second site. Jess is moving on to start a new job a bit nearer to home, we'll miss her a lot but wish her all the best! The one positive of losing Jess is that we were able to recruit Tess Oyediran permanently. Tess has been with Canaan Project since January as maternity cover and has done an amazing job already. We're looking forward to all the creativity she's going to bring to her new role!

At the beginning of November we welcomed back Tessa from maternity leave, and the project manager role will now be shared between her and Annie! We're still getting our heads around having a Tessa and a Tess in the office.

We're also pleased to announce we have a new member of staff joining the team, Jaheda. Jaheda has loads of experience working with vulnerable young women and we're excited to have her expertise on board.

As well as continuing with our usual busy programme, we've somehow found capacity to launch two new groups!

At our second site we have begun a new lunch club for older girls and have seen a good number of young women attending regularly. It's been really exciting to build on the success of last year's work in this new school and to see young women continuing to engage, as well as new girls joining the project.

As we opened up our after school drop in club to young women from both sites we decided to take the step of splitting this after school provision into two weekly sessions, divided by age. We now have a group that meets on a Monday for young women in year 7-9 and another group on a Thursday for girls in year 9 and above. Some of the highlights from these groups has been seeing girls making new friends from different schools, being able to hold really insightful discussions around topics such as online safety and of course our Christmas party extravaganzas.

We're also pleased to announce that after a large amount of work we can now say we hold a Silver Quality Mark from London Youth. Good job team!

As we head into 2019 we're looking forward to launching some new projects with the girls. We'll update you all on how these have gone in our next update!

We're also on the brink of launching our new website. We'll let you know when it's up and running and we hope you find it helpful for keeping even better up to date with all things Canaan.

It's been a super busy term and we want to say ***thank you to all of you for your continued support. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!!***

Sawston Repair Café - Saturday 2nd February from 2 – 5pm.

If you are a fixer or a newcomer, you might like to help out.

Repair Cafés are a Circular Cambridge idea (sponsored by Anglia Ruskin University).

Local people who are good at fixing things get together in a public venue, and people who have things that need repairing bring them along. It's a way of recycling and challenging our "throwaway" culture. If items last twice as long, then we have half the waste.

When I was there last time our church held this, I fixed a folding wooden table with a broken leg and strut, a self guided vacuum cleaner, and someone else in the Repair Café showed me how to fix my computer.

We had about ten repairers, some sewing up torn clothes, some stitching up failed embroidery, some fixing technology items, one chap with a bike stand and a heap of bike tools, someone with an electrical toolkit, one person sharpening saws and knives and shovels. Any skill that fixes things is useful.

A meeting to set it up at the Back Hall of Sawston Free Church on the 7th January at 8pm. If you want more details, give me a call or email the local villages eco group, "2G3S"

Bruce

Sawston Free Church

Craft Group

We meet in the back hall of the Church on alternate Monday mornings between 10am & 12noon.

Dates for January: 7th & 21st. For more detail please contact **Yvonne** 473937 or **Pam** 834220



Wednesday Fellowship

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

The program for January:

9th January - Members afternoon – Favourite Holiday Places

23rd January - AGM

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

Flower Rota

Please remember the **2019 flower rota** at the back of the church. It is always welcoming to see the flowers in the church. Please contact **Janet Parr** for more information: 832840



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.



For more information please contact **Rosemary**. Email: timefortots@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk

Another baby and toddler group you could go along to is Refresh – 2pm-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

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CAMBRIDGE METHODIST Diary January 2019 (no detail available at time of print)

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 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
Mike Purdy	42 Granta Road, Sawston	830903
Sue Sisk	63 Babraham Road, Sawston	833508
Sue Lelliott	26 Park Road, Sawston	520383
Joint Treasurers:		
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 Bookings	Maggie Jones, 21 Hillside, Sawston	565637
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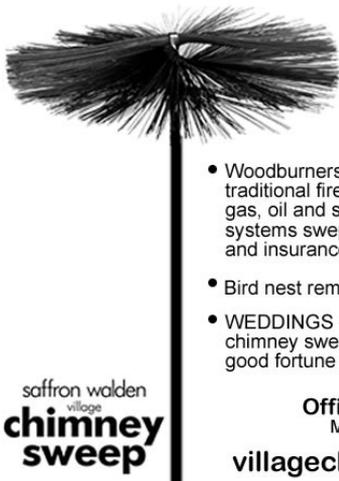
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