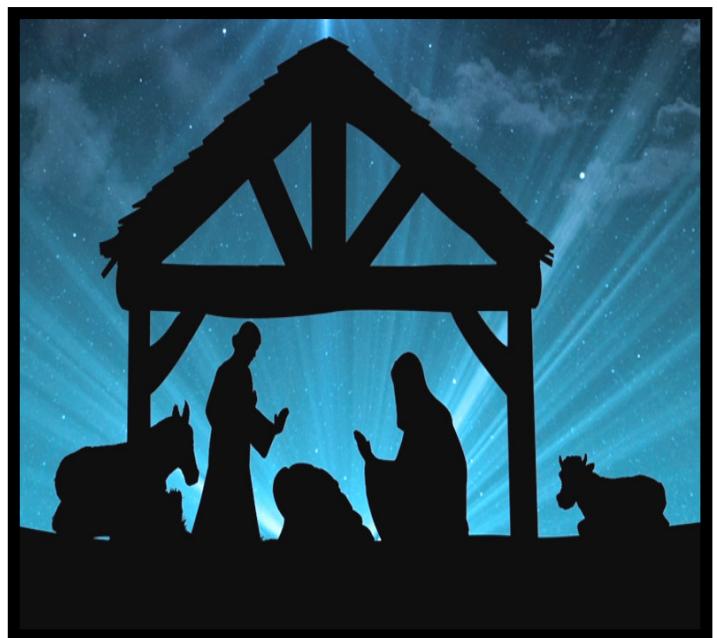


# CONTACT

December 2019



Volume 60 - Issue 12  
Sawston Free Church - Castle Camps URC

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

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 10.30 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	Morning Worship Messy Church Holy Communion Quiet Time with God Morning Worship <b>No evening service</b> Go4th:Worship of Song, Prayer, Praise with the Worship Band <b>No evening service</b> Morning Worship <b>No evening service</b>
Monday	Alternate - see diary	10.00 am	Craft Group
Tuesday	Term time only	6.15 – 9.00pm	Boys' and Girls' Brigades
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 Church secretary.			

### Three Churches Services and Dates for Your Diary

Date	Sawston	Castle Camps
Sun 1 Dec	10.30am: Advent Sunday/Christingle - Rev Deborah McVey 3.00pm: Messy Church	10.30am: Holy Communion - Wendy Roe
Mon 2 Dec	10.00am: Craft Group (page 17 )	
Sun 8 Dec	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Dr Mike Wilson 6.00pm – Quiet Time – Dawn Houghton	10.30am: Songs of Praise - Rev Prof D. Thompson 6.30pm: Carol Concert - Rev Sam White & The Hadstock Silver band.
Sun 15 Dec	10.30am: Holy Communion Rev Paul Whittle	10.30am: Family Service - Mr John Luke
Mon 16 Dec	10.00am: Craft Group (page 17 )	
Sun 22 Dec	10.30am: Go4th & Nativity 6.30pm: Village Carol Service at SFC Rev Paul Whittle & Rev Alan Partridge	10.30am: Morning Worship - Lindy Allen
Tues 24 Dec	5.00pm: Family Service – Rev Paul Whittle 10.30pm: Midnight Carols – Rev Paul Whittle	
Wed 25 Dec	10.00am: Christmas Day Service – Rev Paul Whittle	10.30am: Members' Service
Sat 28 Dec	10.30am: Monthly Prayer Meeting (page 17 )	
Sun 29 Dec	10.30am: Morning Worship – Rev Mary Irish	10.30am – United Service At St Mary's – Shudy Camps

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

### Rotas

	Car	Flowers		Car	Flowers
Dec 1	Gordon Heald 833983	Advent	Dec 15	Jill Legg 01799 218318	Kate Leach
Dec 8	Peter Sharpe 834805	Sylvia Goddard	Dec 22	John Conway 833953	
			Dec 29	Tony Moss 834220	

The closing date for January Contact is Saturday **28<sup>th</sup> December**

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 & Castle Camps URC's  
United Reformed – Methodist**

Whilst in vacancy please refer Church related matters to:  
[secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk)  
[www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch](http://www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch)



## From the Elders



As we write this we are organising Bruce's last services and his farewell "bash". We hope it will be well attended so we can show him and Sharn how much they have meant to us in this community. They will both be missed very much for lots of reasons, but mostly for their care and compassion for those of us who they have looked after in the ten years they have been here in Sawston.

The pull of family is always strong and we understand their wanting to return to their children, grandchildren and friends after a long absence. We wish them both safe journeys and a happy reunion with everyone they love.

At Sawston Free Church we are approaching the Advent season, the waiting for the arrival of Jesus Christ .During this time of present shopping, cake and pudding making and decorating our houses we remember the birth of a tiny baby in a country far away who came to save our world as the Son of God and that is awesome. We hope we can remember this above everything else this Christmas time.

**May you all have a blessed happy Christmas.**

*Amidst the chores and hassle....*

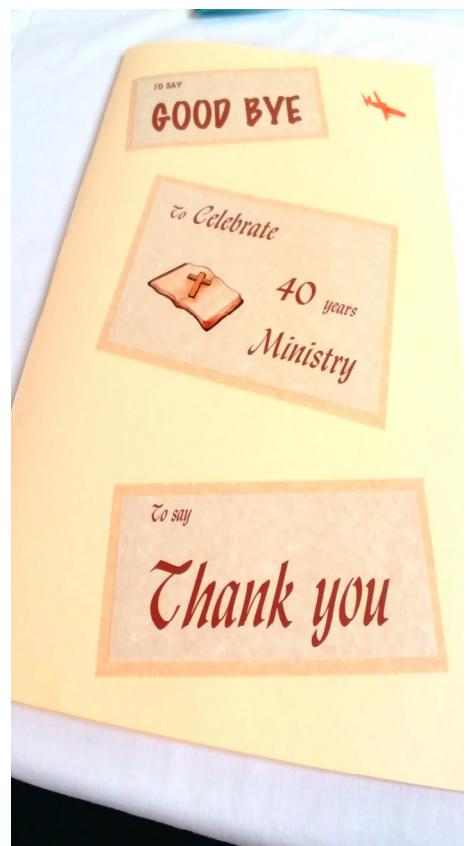
"Lord God, made known in Jesus, and present through your Spirit, this Advent-tide we might look for you by scanning the horizon, or watching for a visitor at the door, or by waiting for a notification to pop up on a screen.

Alternatively, we might notice you already beside us as we labour over a mountain of Christmas cards, and rekindle friendship and reaffirm our love. In stretching our minds and finances to offer suitable gifts, might we remember that our Christmas giving is triggered by your gift of yourself to us?

As we hear again the familiar stories from far away and long ago, may our giving and our loving be refreshed by our knowing once again that you are here for us, then and now and forever. Amen"

*Reverand Ian Fosten, Norwich Area URC*

## Bruce and Sharn's Farewell weekend.



On Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> November our church gave a cream tea for approximately 130 friends, past and present. It was a wonderful afternoon and the church was full to bursting. The food was generously donated and baked by many friends and the catering team did a fantastic job serving so many, efficiently and quickly.

Maggie and Mary hosted the afternoon and John and Marius helped with the sound and technical support! We had Australian music playing including a song called G'Day G'Day!! After an opening prayer we started with family videos sent from Australia saying how all the family were looking forward to seeing Bruce and Sharn back home.

Then two letters were read out, one from the Moderator of the Eastern synod Rev.Paul Whittle, and one from Rev. Nigel Uden, Moderator of the General Assembly, both thanking Bruce for his ministry here in the UK.



Bruce's forty years of ministry were then summarised marking all the places he had ministered in, both in Australia and the UK.

Sharn and Bruce were thanked for all the initiatives they had started and given to our church groups. It was a long list and the photos were rolling showing all that had been going on in the ten plus years they had spent here in Sawston.

They were then presented with gifts from the churches before tea was served!!

After tea the microphone was passed round, so people could add their personal stories and thanks. Bruce read two poems he had written for the church and sang a song of farewell which we joined in.

Rosemary and Lucy presented Bruce with a certificate from the ArtServe Christian Creativity in appreciation of his creative talents enriching the life of the church. The afternoon closed with everyone singing the Travellers' Prayer and Bruce led us in the sharing of the Grace.



Awarded to  
**Bruce Waldron**

In appreciation of  
your creative talents  
enriching the life of  
the church

To celebrate your musical enrichment  
of our worship together

Presented on 17.11.2019  
by Sawston Free Church  
(Methodist/URC)



Sunday 17th, we know Bruce thoroughly enjoyed his final service at Sawston (although we expect there was a little sadness) which was a celebration of Bruce's style of Ministry with Go4th, a blessing, communion and Mike's reading of Brevint's preface (see following page) and finally a wonderful bring and share lunch for everyone.

The Church was full with the numbers being increased by members from Castle Camps, Little Abington and Bungay with everyone wanting to give their thanks to Bruce.

Bruce asked the congregation to treat the service NOT as a farewell to his ministry but as the start of an opportunity for change, John 21:6 *Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.*

He is going into retirement as a grandfather looking forward to making up for all the years he has missed with his family in Australia. His family are certainly planning to use his DIY skills.

Bruce started the blessing for Maya by playing the guitar and singing a 'blessing' he had written for such an occasion. I am sure this was a very special moment for the parents, James and Nikki Nunn.

*Here in this place a child is presented  
Here in this place, a mother's quiet prayer  
Here in this place, a father's prayer answered  
A little one blessed by their love and God's care*

***This child is a gift from your heavenly father  
Your love is a gift to this child from your heart.  
A life you will form is here at your disposal  
Each day a new shaping, each day a new start.***

*Here in this place, we seek out God's blessing  
Here in this place, guidance from above  
Here in this place, we trust to our father  
This little new child, an echo of love.*

***This child is a gift from....***

*Lord teach us to guide this child on life's pathway  
Teach us to teach the right from the wrong  
Teach us to teach the joy of your laughter  
The music of sunshine, the warmth of a song*

***This child is a gift from....***

There was a great deal of love shown to both Bruce and Sharn and we know they will be greatly missed and a very hard act to follow.

## Brevint's Preface

In 1745, when first publishing his brother's *Hymns on the Lord's Supper*, John Wesley put as an explanatory preface his edited version of an essay by Dr Brevint. It has been known ever since as 'Brevint's preface', this extract from it was read as the communion words of approach during Bruce's farewell service. So many people asked about it afterwards that it is reproduced here:

### Chapter IV

#### ***Concerning the Sacrament, as it is a means of grace***

3. I come then to God's Altar, with a full persuasion that these words, This is my Body, promise me more than a figure; that this holy Banquet is not a bare memorial only, but may actually convey as many blessings to me, as it brings curses on the profane receiver. Indeed, in what manner this is done, I know not; it is enough for me to admire. One thing I know (as said the blind man of our Lord,) He laid clay upon mine eyes, and behold I see. He hath blessed, and given me this Bread, and my soul receiveth comfort. I know that clay hath nothing in itself, which could have wrought such a miracle. And I know that this Bread hath nothing in itself, which can impart grace, holiness, and salvation. But I know also, that it is the ordinary way of God to produce His greatest works at the presence, though not by the power, of the most useless instruments. At the very stroke of a rod He divided the sea. At the blowing some trumpets He threw down massive walls. At the washing in Jordan He cured Naaman of a plague that was naturally incurable. And when but a shadow went by, or some oil was dripped, or clothes were touched by those that were sick, presently virtue went out; not of rods, or trumpets, or shadows, or clothes - but of Himself.

4. It was the right hand of the Lord which of old time brought these mighty things to pass, either when the Red Sea opened a way for Israel to march, or when the rock poured out rivers to refresh them. And so now it is Christ himself, with His Body and Blood, once offered to God upon the Cross, and ever since standing before Him as slain, who fills His Church with the perfumes of His Sacrifice, whence faithful communicants return home with the first fruits of salvation. Bread and wine can contribute no more to it than the rod of Moses or the oil of the apostles. But yet since it pleaseth Christ to work thereby, O my God, whosoever Thou shalt bid me go and wash in Jordan, I will go; and will no more doubt of being made clean from my sins, then if I had bathed in Thy Blood. And when thou sayest, Go, take and eat this Bread which I have blessed, I will doubt no more of being fed with the Bread of Life, than if I were eating Thy very Flesh.

## Message From Castle Camps



The end of the year is approaching and we are all having thoughts about Christmas and the New Year ahead.

We had a wonderful service of Remembrance on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November, when all of the children of Castle Camps Primary School came with their teachers and helpers. The service was conducted by Bruce and the Rev. Ian Fisher, but the music and all the readings were organised by the school and there were over 100 children. Their reading skills and sincerity were impressive. On the way back to the school, they paused for a short prayer at the village war memorial and laid crosses, one for every villager lost in the two wars. It was a very moving event and the staff are to be congratulated on the sincerity of the service.

On Sunday, the Remembrance Service was at the chapel and was well attended together with the local ATC. Immediately afterwards there was a brief service at the village war memorial when wreaths were laid. We observed the two minutes silence and it was very moving that at the end of this, the chapel's clock struck eleven. We then proceeded to the RAF memorial, where further wreaths were laid in memory of the numerous airmen lost whilst serving their country.

We have a monthly village lunch in the village hall and Bruce came to ours in November to say his last goodbye. His influence has been much wider than just the URC community and he will be missed by the whole village.

In September, we held our service for Merchant Navy Day and we have now received a Certificate of Commemoration from Seafarers UK thanking us for flying the Red Ensign.

As we write this, we are looking forward to the school returning for their Advent service at the end of November.

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, the morning service will be led by Rev. Dr D. Thompson and later the same day, at 6.30pm, we are having our Carol Concert led by Rev. Sam White with the Hadstock Silver Band. Everyone is welcome.

On Christmas Day, we are holding a Members' service, starting at 10.30am.

As the year is ending, we should like to thank all of the preachers who have taken our services and especially to Bruce for all of his help and support. Also, thank you to all of our friends and helpers, who have always been willing to help us over the year. A special thank you to Keith for playing the organ.

We hope you will be able to join us to celebrate the birth of Christ at our Christmas services.

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

***Val and Friends***

## **Quiet Time Reflections**

At our November church meeting, the decision was made to stop evening services while we are in vacancy. I understood the reasons why but regretted not taking the opportunity to talk about the effect Quiet Time has had on my life, on my understanding of faith and on my journey with God.

I first started attending Quiet Time when I was elected as an elder. I felt it was important to try and support and understand as much of the life of our church as possible if I was going to represent the congregation at elders meetings. Before then I had been a little bit hesitant. My pre-conceptions of what a “quiet” service might be like told me that it was something I wouldn’t be able to participate in. The thought of being alone with my own thoughts was a bit scary.

I was wrong.

Quiet Time has blessed and enriched my life in so many ways and had become a regular part of my worship. I have heard many different members of our church talk about their faith in so many different ways. And each one has been special. Some have made me cry, some have made me laugh, some have challenged me, some have made me re-think my theology and many, if not all, have brought a much needed moment of peace and an opportunity to sit and listen and work out what God is trying to say to me through other people. It was also a time to build valuable relationships with other members of our church.

Quiet Time was my house group.

Leading Quiet Time services helped me develop my faith and understanding of God - and has given me more confidence to talk about these things. From the initial thought of a theme, to reading and re-reading Bible passages, to finding images and songs that I hoped would tie everything together and enhance the time of worship for those present. The writing and re-writing an order of service made me think more deeply about my faith and hopefully helped me listen to God more carefully, rather than focus on my own agenda and what I wanted to say.

I will miss Quiet Time a lot. Maybe it will return one day, maybe it won’t. In the meantime I will search for other ways of expressing my faith. Who knows what directions that will take me in. I pray I will be able to trust that God will be there, guiding me and that I will hear, and listen to, His voice.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in Quiet Time over the years. You have all been part of my spiritual journey. Thank you for your friendship and your encouragement. Thank you for being there through the tough times. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about my faith in a safe space.

*With love,  
Valerie Kerr*



Sawston Free Church  
1 High Street  
Sawston  
Cambridge  
CB22 3BG

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

Dear Friends,

We want to say a huge thank you to Sawston Free Church for the wonderful Harvest donation we received at the beginning of October. All your support really is much appreciated. Please do pass on our many thanks to everyone who kindly contributed to this.

We are now heading towards the end of October and moving into our busiest time. The bounty of Harvest leading into Christmas leaves us gearing up for Autumn and Winter. Nights getting shorter, weather conditions are less favourable, and we still find ourselves supporting many individuals.

Leaves on the ground may look nice but sleeping out isn't quite so amenable. Cambridge is not unique in its homeless problem, but in our opinion the understanding and kindness of people like you is just outstanding.

In short with your donation you allow us to continue, you allow us to invest in individuals who slip through several nets, you quite simply help us to save lives.

Thank you for thinking of Jimmy's.

With all good wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Sara Dunn".

Sara Dunn  
For Jimmy's Cambridge

*... believing in people*

Jimmy's Cambridge, 1 East Road, Cambridge CB1 1BD ■ 01223 576085

## Reciprocity

From the Center For Action And Contemplation

Friday, November 8, 2019

*I've always had a special affection for trees, especially the centenarian cottonwood tree at the Center for Action and Contemplation here in Albuquerque. Science is discovering that trees have much to teach us. In her book Braiding Sweetgrass, Robin Wall Kimmerer—a botanist, professor, and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation—writes about how science is finally validating the wisdom of her Native American elders.*

In the old times, our elders say, the trees talked to each other. They'd stand in their own council and craft a plan. But scientists decided long ago that plants were deaf and mute, locked in isolation without communication. The possibility of conversation was summarily dismissed. Science pretends to be purely rational, completely neutral, a system of knowledge-making in which the observation is independent of the observer. And yet the conclusion was drawn that plants cannot communicate because they lack the mechanisms that *animals* use to speak. . . . But pollen has been carried reliably on the wind for eons, communicated by males to receptive females to make . . . nuts. If the wind can be trusted with that fecund responsibility, why not with messages?

There is now compelling evidence that our elders were right—the trees *are* talking to one another. They communicate via pheromones, hormonelike compounds that are wafted on the breeze, laden with meaning. Scientists have identified specific compounds that one tree will release when it is under the stress of insect attack—gypsy moths gorging on its leaves or bark beetles under its skin. The tree sends out a distress call: “Hey, you guys over there? I’m under attack here. You might want to raise the drawbridge and arm yourselves for what is coming your way.” The downwind trees catch the drift, sensing those few molecules of alarm, the whiff of danger. This gives them time to manufacture defensive chemicals. . . . The individual benefits, and so does the entire grove. Trees appear to be talking about mutual defense. . . . There is so much we cannot yet understand with our limited human capacity. Tree conversations are still far above our heads.

Some studies of mast fruiting have suggested that the mechanism for synchrony comes not through the air, but underground. The trees in a forest are often interconnected by subterranean networks of mycorrhizae, fungal strands that inhabit tree roots. The mycorrhizal symbiosis enables the fungus to forage for mineral nutrients in the soil and deliver them to the tree in exchange for carbohydrates. The mycorrhizae may form fungal bridges between individual trees, so that all the trees in a forest are connected. These fungal networks appear to redistribute the wealth of carbohydrates from tree to tree. A kind of Robin Hood, they take from the rich and give to the poor so that all the trees arrive at the same carbon surplus at the same time. They weave a web of reciprocity, of giving and taking. In this way, the trees all act as one because the fungi have connected them. Through unity, survival. All flourishing is mutual.

*For too long science and faith fell into the “sin of certainty,” each claiming Truth only for themselves and ignoring the beautifully symbiotic relationship that exists between them. Scientists like Robin Wall Kimmerer are an essential part of the Great Turning, dissolving the artificial binaries that have walled them off from one another. May we all have minds and hearts open enough to integrate the wisdom of our spiritual elders.*

## "Christmas" by John Betjeman

The bells of waiting Advent ring,  
The Tortoise stove is lit again  
And lamp-oil light across the night  
Has caught the streaks of winter rain  
In many a stained-glass window sheen  
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge  
And round the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,  
The altar, font and arch and pew,  
So that the villagers can say  
"The church looks nice" on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze  
And Corporation tramcars clang,  
On lighted tenements I gaze  
Where paper decorations hang,  
And bunting in the red Town Hall  
Says "Merry Christmas to you all."

And London shops on Christmas Eve  
Are strung with silver bells and flowers  
As hurrying clerks the City leave  
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,  
And marbled clouds go scudding by  
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,  
And oafish louts remember Mum,  
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.  
And Christmas-morning bells say "Come!"  
Even to shining ones who dwell  
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
A Baby in an ox's stall?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissued fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare -  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

## A message from Friends and Members of the Craft Group

Thank you to everyone who bought hats from our stall over the last few Sundays.

Many thanks also to all the people who knitted the hats. There were lots of knitters, many pairs of hands, the same number of knitting needles and of course yards and yards, ounces and ounces or metres and metres, grams and grams which ever way you measure things, of wool, plus many, many hours of work.

It has been a marathon effort and to date we have raised £280.00 for the use of the Fabric Committee, a small contribution for them to use in keeping our church buildings looking so lovely.

Thank you again to everyone involved.

**Pam and Yvonne**

---

### Christmas Shoebox Appeal      [www.blythswood.org](http://www.blythswood.org)



On Monday 11th November, two lovely volunteers from Blythswood Care came to the church to collect an amazing 168 shoe boxes from the vestry.

Thank you to everyone who supported the appeal. All the empty boxes, the wrapping paper, the bars of soap and tubes of toothpaste, the donations of money, the shopping, the knitting, the time and the prayers have come together to create a wonderful expression of love.

Your support means that not only will people receive a Christmas present this year but they will know that they matter and that other people care about them.



These boxes can be a powerful reminder of what it means to love and be loved.

Please hold Blythswood Care and its volunteers in your prayers as they collect boxes from all over the UK, sort them and then transport them to the people who need them most.

Please pray for the volunteers working all year round in the areas the shoeboxes go to.

And please pray for all the men, women and children receiving a shoebox. May they feel something of God's love and peace surrounding them.

**Valerie Kerr**

## Newsletter November 2019 – Osiligi Maasai



Photo – children outside their hut. It is impossible to go for a walk in the bush without children rushing up to us. Many in the area go to our school so they are used to our white faces. They say to us ‘please go and greet my sponsor’ not realising just how spread out the sponsors are in the UK, USA, Europe & Australia. Greeting someone is very important in Maasai culture.

Sadly, one of the boys, Joseph staying in our orphanage died a few days ago. Initially, he was diagnosed with meningitis but eventually the diagnosis was changed to rabies. Joseph was bitten by a cat in August when he returned to his relatives during the school holidays. After the bite, the family took him to a clinic but they only had enough money to pay for one injection – a full anti-rabies treatment is a course of 4 or 5 injections. When he fell ill, our school took him to hospital and then a further 3 hospitals for his treatment. Sadly he died after 4 days in hospital. The total hospital bill came to £4100 – enough to bankrupt most Kenyan families. Just to put £4100 into perspective, it is about 2 years salary for a junior teacher. The hospital will not release the body until the bill is paid. The community are organising a fundraising to try to collect enough money for his hospital bills and funeral costs.

Because of the high cost of medical care, treatments tend to be a mix of Western medicine and traditional methods. A Maasai new mother is given a large cup of liquid sheep fat, one month after birth, to help her rebuild her strength. This is often mixed with pumpkin seeds or a little salt to help – and I quote from Lemaiyian “to stop her puking it up”.



The girls are getting older and this brings its own challenges. Last year we built a new toilet block for the older girls and this includes a sanitary pad changing area.

We have recently built an incinerator for the used sanitary products. Sanitary pads are expensive. A sponsor recently donated some reusable sanitary towels so we will trial them soon.

Next year (November 2020) is the first year that the school will sit the official end of primary school exams. Up to now, our children have been too young to go to high school. We are expecting some good marks – remarkable when you consider the backgrounds of most of the children. They are unable to do any school work at home due to a lack of light and evening chores. To help the exam class, the entire class will be boarding for their final year (January to October 2020). We have tested boarding for one term and have seen some good improvements in the children’s marks.

Kenya has recently introduced a new curriculum. The old curriculum was based on learning facts; the new curriculum is based on learning skills. We currently have a mixture of both curriculums at school, the older children on the old curriculum and the younger children on the new. It does mean extra work for the teachers and we are having to buy subject books for the older classes that we know will be obsolete in a few years time. Although Kenya has introduced the new curriculum, it has given minimal training to the teachers about how to teach skills.



Scottish head teacher Margaret has spent about 2 months this year in Kenya helping with the transition from old to new. She has also built and equipped the library shown in the photo and has helped the youngest classes adapt to children learning through play.

Dr. Martin Hine, an Ipswich based head teacher, spent a week in Kenya training the teachers on how best to use the school's 54 Chromebook laptops.



The use of computers in Kenyan schools is new so even newly qualified teachers have had little instruction in how best to use computers in lessons. The new curriculum relies heavily on computers. Our computer system is very slow by Western standards but it is vastly superior to other Kenyan schools. To access the internet in this rural location we have had to build a solar powered satellite link.

The school lunch is the highlight of the day for most children due to little food at home. We try to grow as much as we can at school to stretch the budget. Greens are a nutritional part of the diet and grow easily with sufficient water. In the photo, the greens are eaten with ugali – a traditional African staple made from maize flour.



Another day, another pump repaired. Many of these pumps have been broken and abandoned for 10+ years. So far this year, Eric and his team have repaired more than 190 broken pumps. We aim for 200 repairs per year but this year we should easily exceed our target. The average cost of a repair is £250-£300 each, so much cheaper than a new pump and well. The Eagle Foundation kindly funded this year's repair costs.

# As I see it ...

by Mike Wilson

Woke up you Boomers!

To be honest, I am not totally confident that my understanding of what this new expression 'woke' means is correct. But then, very often with new catch words, the point is that they don't have a precise meaning, but indicate an attitude to a broad area of interest. (I remember going to America in the 80s and hearing the expression 'off the wall' for the first time. It had not yet reached the UK. When I asked my American friends what it meant, they were somewhat puzzled. Nevertheless, they all used it with free abandon. It was a bit bewildering for this prosaic Englishman.)

You will see in the article <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-50239261> that the BBC defines 'woke' as '*being alert to racial or social discrimination and injustice, along with being aware of what's going on in the community.*' And you will also see that Barak Obama warns us (and in particular young people active on the social media - which counts me out twice!) that this sort of being alert isn't good enough. You haven't actually *done* anything constructive about anything if all you have managed is an outraged (or even abusive) response in the twitter sphere. All you have done is declare where you stand on one side or other of a bad-tempered divide. Actually doing something involves taking risks, exposing yourself, and making public judgements and commitments in a less than clear cut world.

I was much struck to read and hear of the New Zealand member of parliament, Chlöe Swarbrick. This 25 year old MP was commenting on the Zero Carbon bill, which aims to reduce net carbon emissions in New Zealand to zero by 2050. "*Mr Speaker,*" she said, "*How many world leaders, for how many decades, have seen and known what is coming but have decided that it is more politically expedient to keep it behind closed doors? My generation and the generations after me do not have that luxury.*" <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-50327034>. She brushed aside an off-stage comment from another member with the remark "OK Boomer." I understand her to have meant 'You belong to the post war 1950s population boom. Your viewpoint is rather different from mine. We've all heard yours before. Now listen to mine!'

A twenty five year old more than holding her own in parliament is quite something, is it not? Here is the very opposite of what was concerning Barak Obama. Here is real engagement, that seeks a way forward rather than being content to barrack (excuse the pun) divisively from the safety of the twitter spheric sidelines. The BBC reports that the Zero Carbon Bill was voted into NZ law with historic cross-party support.

In our own church we recently experienced something similar: Diana Paulding presenting to us her experiences on her recent church sponsored visit to Palestine. I found myself thinking 'Oh to be in my mid-twenties again!' But then I remembered that even in my mid-twenties I lacked the courage to be the radical that now, as I approach seventy, I wish that I had then been. Sadly, I'm just another Boomer, ok or otherwise, woken up to some extent I hope, doing what I can I hope, but (thankfully) not active in the twitter sphere.

# The Geese and the Snowstorm

## A Story of Salvation

*This is a good story that shows in parable form how God cared so much for each person that He willfully came to earth to redeem mankind from their sins and lead them to the path of everlasting life.*

There was once a man who did not believe in either the virgin birth of Christ or the spiritual meaning behind it, and was sceptical even about God.

He and his family lived in a farm community. His wife was a devout believer and diligently raised her children in the faith. He sometimes gave her a hard time about her belief and mocked her religious observances.

"It's all nonsense -- why would God lower himself and become a human like us? It's such a ridiculous story," he said.

One snowy day, she and the children left for church while he stayed home. After they had departed, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening.

Then he heard a loud thump, something hitting against the window... And, still another thump. He looked outside but could not see anything. So he ventured outside for a better view. In the field near his house he saw, of all the strangest things, a flock of geese. They were apparently flying to look for a warmer area down south, but they had been caught in the snowstorm.



The storm had become too blinding and violent for the geese to fly or see their way. They were stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter, unable to do more than flutter their wings and fly in aimless circles. He had compassion for them and wanted to help them. He thought to himself, the barn would be a great place for them to stay. It is warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he opened the barn doors for them.

He waited, watching them, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside. Nevertheless, they did not notice the barn or realise what it could mean for them. He moved closer toward them to get their attention, but they just moved away from him out of fear.

He went into the house and came back with some bread, broke it up, and made a bread trail to the barn. They still did not catch on.

Starting to get frustrated, he went over and tried to shoo them toward the barn. They panicked and scattered into every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where there was warmth, safety, and shelter. Feeling totally frustrated, he exclaimed, "Why don't they follow me? Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm? How can I possibly get them into the one place to save them?"

He thought for a moment and realized that they just would not follow a human. He said to himself, "How can I possibly save them? The only way would be for me to become like those geese. If only I could become like one of them. Then I could save them. They would follow me and I would lead them to safety."

At that moment, he stopped and considered what he had said. The words reverberated in his mind: If only I could become like one of them, then I could save them. Then, at last, he understood God's heart towards mankind... and he fell on his knees in the snow.

*Author Unknown*

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.**

**John 3:16-17**



If you live in postcode areas CB1, CB2, CB3, CB4, CB5, **CB22**, CB23 & CB24 and don't want the hassle of getting rid of your tree, we could collect it and recycle it for you on either **9,10 or 11 January 2020**

We need lots of volunteers to help with this scheme!  
Please see our website for ideas of how you can help...

No needles in your car, no petrol costs & no queueing at the tip!

We welcome a donation and in exchange the Charity's voluntary team will collect the trees and take them to be recycled. All you need to do to register is follow the link

[www.charityxmasstreecollection.com/xmas-trees](http://www.charityxmasstreecollection.com/xmas-trees)

Last Christmas we raised £26,000 by collecting 1800 Christmas trees and we would love to surpass that in January 2020!

Don't live in one of the postcode areas? We will have 2 skips on site at the hospice from Thursday 9 to Saturday 11 January where you can dispose of your tree. Simply bring your tree to our hospice in Shelford Bottom, pop it in our skip and make a donation.

## Sawston Free Church

### Craft Group

We meet in the back hall of the Church on alternate Monday mornings 10am & 12noon.  
**Dates for December:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. For more detail contact **Yvonne** 473937 or **Pam** 834220



### Flower Rota 2019

It is always welcoming to see the flowers in church. So please remember to put your name down on the **flower rota** which is at the back of the church. For more information please contact Rosemary Harriss on 832854 or any of the other flower ladies: Rosemary Livings, Linda Moxon, Janet Parr or Vivien Ford (when in Sawston)



### 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](mailto: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!

### Prayer Meeting

Please remember the monthly prayer meetings held at 10.30am on the last Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome to come to pray or just be with us - you would be most welcome. If anyone would like to talk to me about the meeting I would love to hear from you.

Please ring me on 520383 – **Sue Lelliot**



### Christmas Dates / Services

Friday 6 Dec		Sawston Christmas Shopping Evening
Sunday 1 Dec	10.30am	Advent Sunday/Christingle - Rev Deborah McVey
Sunday 1 Dec	3pm	Messy Church
Sunday 8 Dec	10.30am	Morning Worship - Rev Dr Mike Wilson
Sunday 8 Dec	6pm	Quiet Time - Dawn Haughton
Sunday 15 Dec	10.30am	Holy Communion - Rev Paul Whittle
Sunday 22 Dec	10.30am	Go4th & Nativity
Sunday 22 Dec	6.30pm	Village Carol Service @SFC - Rev P Whittle/Rev Alan Partridge
Tuesday 24 Dec	5pm	Family Service - Rev Paul Whittle
Tuesday 24 Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Carols - Rev Paul Whittle
Wednesday 25 Dec	10am	Christmas Day Service - Rev Paul Whittle
Sunday 29 Dec	10.30am	Morning Worship - Rev Mary Irish

# Christmas Activity Afternoon



*at Royston Methodist Church, Queens Road*



Come and join us on  
Sunday 10th December  
for activities at 2.30pm.  
A Christmas Concert

a Children's Christmas Service at 4.00pm,  
and ending with a bring and share tea.

**All ages welcome ... no charge**



## Events for December 2019 Circuit Diary for the **CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT**

### **DECEMBER**

Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.45pm	Fireside with Alan Fawcitt talking about 'The Secrets of English Medieval Church Wall Paintings' Why, where and when were they painted? Who painted them and what did they portray? All welcome to come and find out.	Wesley Methodist Church
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-12pm	JMA Christmas Bazaar and Coffee Morning – cakes, book stall, toys, jigsaws and gifts. Coffee and mince pies come and support schools, churches and orphanages and hospitals in developing countries and projects in Britain.	Royston Methodist Church
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	12-6pm	19 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree Festival with cake and gift stalls and homemade soup, rolls, toasted sandwiches and drinks.	Orwell Methodist Church
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	2.30-6pm	19 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree Festival with Carol singing and mince pies around the fire from 4pm.	Orwell Methodist Church
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm for 7.45pm	Science Meets Faith "Brokenness, compassion and identity in rehabilitation after brain injury" with Dr Andrew Bateman, Reader, School of Health and Social Care, University of Essex All welcome. Light refreshments from 7.15pm talk will start at 7.45pm. Retiring collection.	Wesley Methodist Church
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Eldon Thursday Christmas Special with Royston Roses – carols, seasonal music and refreshments. Come and share your favourite Christmas story or memory. All welcome. No admission charge but a collection for Action For Children will be taken. Contact Tracy 01763 243376	Royston Methodist Church

Advance dates for 2020...Circuit Service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January, and a study evening on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February on the Marriage and Relationships report - more details to follow in the new year diary.

For more details please contact The Circuit Administrator: Mrs Miriam Webb. Circuit Office: Wesley Methodist Church, Christ's Pieces, Cambridge CB1 1LG 01223 352115 [www.cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://www.cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk)  
Email: [office@wesleycam.org.uk](mailto:office@wesleycam.org.uk)

The **Methodist Church**



## Church Directory

<b>Minister</b>		<b>Tel</b>
In vacancy	All church related matters to <a href="mailto:secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk">secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk</a>	
<b>Secretaries:</b>		
Maggie Jones - Sawston	21 Hillside, Sawston	565637
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
Yvonne Sparrow	25 Edinburgh Ave, Sawston	473937
<b>Joint Treasurers:</b>		
Lynne Hays	Baggot Hall, Station Road, Harston	871800
Terry Penny	April Lodge, 81 Brewery Road, Pampisford	833635
<b>Contact Editors</b>		
David & Anne Nunn	10 London Road, Sawston	832913
	Email: <a href="mailto:anne.nunn@btinternet.com">anne.nunn@btinternet.com</a>	
<b>Church Bookings</b>	Maggie Jones, 21 Hillside, Sawston	565637
<b>Church Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/">www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/</a>	
<b>Facebook page:</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch">www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch</a>	



### Are you looking for...

A conference hall that can seat up to 100  
A venue for a special occasion: birthday party,  
anniversary party, a reception after a wedding,  
a place to gather after a funeral, a baptism or blessing  
Cosy rooms for small groups or 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 email: [bookings@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:bookings@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk)  
or contact Maggie Jones – 01223 565637  
Rental costs are between £18 to £25 per hour, including tea and coffee making facilities.

You can advertise here.

You can have a single advert,  
a double advert, or a group of four.

We will prepare the artwork for free!

For details contact the editor

[contact@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:contact@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk)



43 High Street, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3BG

Tel: 01223 832939 Fax: 01223 837310

email: [enquiries@adams-harrison.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@adams-harrison.co.uk)  
website: [www.adams-harrison.co.uk](http://www.adams-harrison.co.uk)

YOUR LOCAL SOLICITOR  
FOR ALL YOUR LEGAL SERVICES  
Offices also in Safron Walden & Haverhill

## PEASGOOD & SKEATES

THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE  
EST 1847

Purpose built funeral homes with private chapels of rest  
Home arrangements available  
Funeral pre-planning - A wide range of memorials

Shire Hill & High St  
**SAFFRON WALDEN**  
(01799) 523314

45 Moorfield Rd  
**DUXFORD**  
(01223) 833463

617 Newmarket Rd  
**CAMBRIDGE**  
(01223) 415255

12-14 Queen St  
**HAVERHILL**  
(01440) 840140

A personal, caring service from a local business day or night  
[www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](http://www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk)

## The Footprints Café



at  
**Sawston Free Church**

**NEW! Children's menu**

The Footprints Café is a community cafe offering a wide range of reasonably priced Snacks and Meals together with Teas & Coffees, Cold drinks, Cakes and Pastries.

We are open Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm. Breakfasts are served until 11.30 am.

The Footprints Café is located where the OWL Café used to be; at the back of Sawston Free Church.

## L.A.Kerridge

### Painting & Decorating

15 years + Experienced Tradesman  
Quality interior & exterior decoration  
Artex ceilings smoothed  
Free Estimates & Quotes

Telephone 01223 832 745  
Mob. 07843 850 484

## Cerberus Security Locksmiths of Sawston



[www.cslocksmiths.com](http://www.cslocksmiths.com)

24 hr lockout service  
Locks supplied and fitted  
Insurance approved - BS3621  
UPVC lock specialists

No call-out fee, OAP discount  
Target 30 minute response

Call us on 01223 902234 or 0800 118 2609

# LINTON VILLAGE MOTORS

01223 830550



- M.O.T Testing
- All makes of vehicles serviced and repaired
- Tyres at competitive prices
- Courtesy car provided
- Polite and friendly staff

Find us in Great Abington  
opposite Granta Park

Mon-Fri: 8.30am - 5.30pm  
Sat: 8.30am - 12.30pm

[www.lintonvillagemotors.co.uk](http://www.lintonvillagemotors.co.uk)



## Cambridge Classics

Wooden Double Glazed Windows,  
Doors & Shutters



FENSA

REPAIR CARE



Transforming your house into a home  
We have moved! New showroom coming soon so watch this space!

105 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 7BS

01223 491910

[www.cambridgeclassics.co.uk](http://www.cambridgeclassics.co.uk)

# pb Price Bailey

## The right advice for your business life

- Accounting
- Audit & Assurance
- Payroll
- Pensions & Employer Services
- Tax Compliance & Consultancy

T: 01223 565035 E:[cambridge@pricebailey.co.uk](mailto:cambridge@pricebailey.co.uk) [pricebailey.co.uk](http://pricebailey.co.uk)

# STEVE the PLUMBER

Steve the Plumber is a friendly, reliable, locally based Plumber that would love to help you out!

All those jobs you thought weren't worth getting someone out for I would love to do for you.

No job is too small (individually priced at great rates)

Call or click:  
**07803 922517**  
[www.stevethelumber.sawston.co.uk](http://www.stevethelumber.sawston.co.uk)

## NK Carpentry & Building Services

All aspects of carpentry

All types of conversions

Garden offices

Renovations

Loft ~ barn

Alterations

Garage

Extensions

Decking

Plastering

Fencing

Annexes



*Nick Karpuk*

07936 407532

[nkcarpentry@googlemail.com](mailto:nkcarpentry@googlemail.com)

## H J PAINTIN LTD FUNERAL DIRECTORS

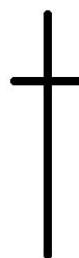
Personal attention assured at all times  
24 Hour Service

8, MORLEY'S PLACE, SAWSTON, CAMBRIDGE  
Tel: 01223 830065

43, HIGH STREET, LINTON, CAMBRIDGE  
Tel: 01223 891226

60, WITHERSFIELD ROAD, HAVERHILL  
Tel: 01440 703218

Private Chapels of Rest : Estimates given  
Golden Charter Pre-Payment Funeral Plans  
Memorials supplied and erected in any area



[www.hjpaintin.co.uk](http://www.hjpaintin.co.uk)