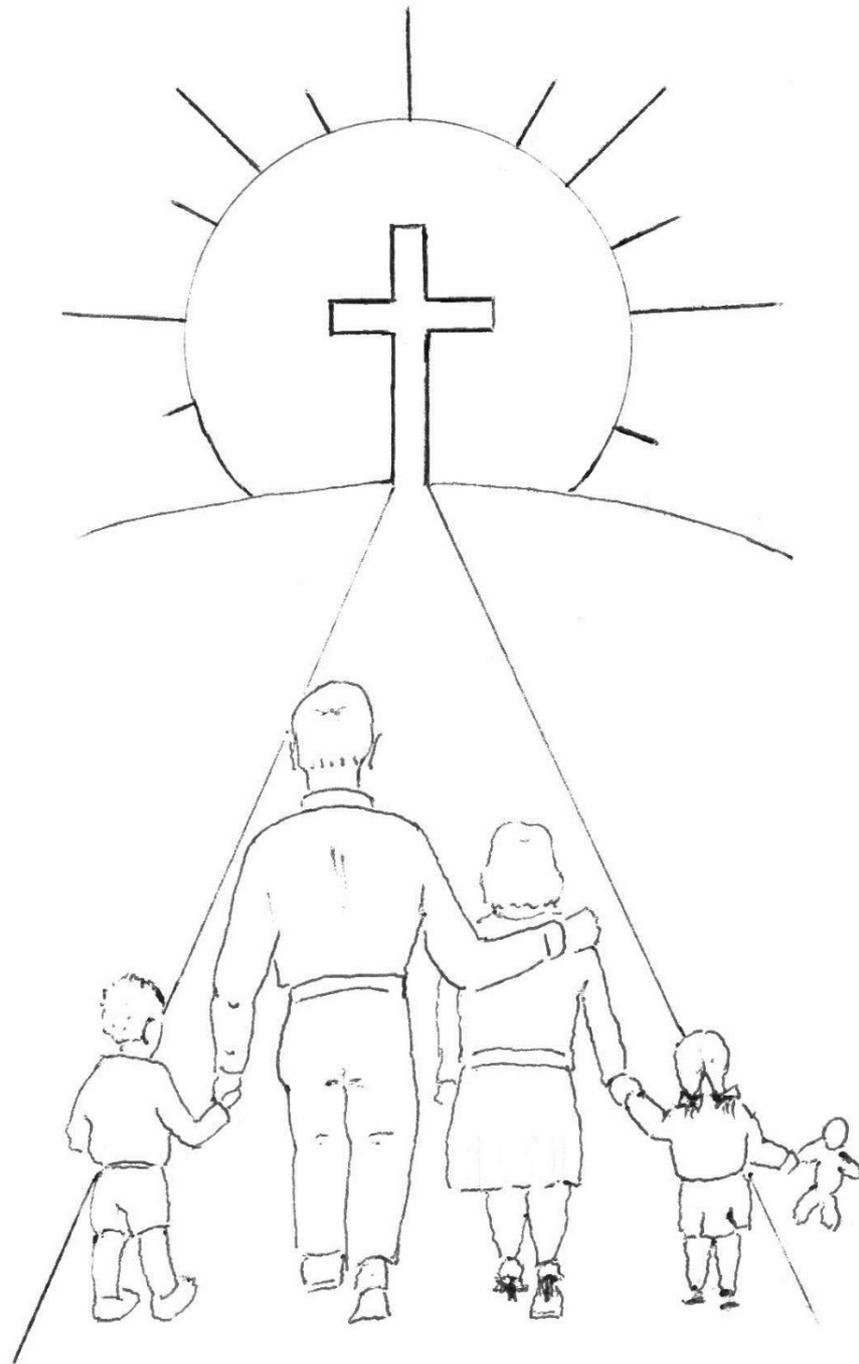


CONTACT

February 2017



Volume 58 – Issue 2
Sawston Free Church – Little Abington URC – Castle Camps URC

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

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

Three Churches Services and Dates for Your Diary

Date	Sawston	Lt Abington	Castle Camps
Wed 1 Feb	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 5)		
Sun 5 Feb	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Wendy Roe	10.30am Holy Communion - Rev Elizabeth Caswell
Mon 6 Feb	2.00pm Prayer for Sawston (page 2)		
Sun 12 Feb	10.30am: Racial Justice Sunday (see page 14) 6.00pm Quiet Time	10.15am: Morning Worship - Rev Elizabeth Caswell	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Dr. Michael Wilson
Mon 13 Feb	10am – Craft Group (page 9)		
Wed 15 Feb	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 5)		
Sun 19 Feb	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron	2.30pm: Holy Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Family Service - Mr John Luke
Sun 26 Feb	10.30am: OWL Celebration – Rev Bruce Waldron	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Bob Parkin	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mr Mark Hayes
Mon 27 Feb	10am – Craft Group (page 9)		

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

Rotas

	Car	Flowers		Car	Flowers
February 5	Gordon Heald 833983		February 19	John Conway 833953	
February 12	Alan Cleveland 834742		February 26	John Newton 562873	

The closing date for **March Contact** is **Friday 10th February**.

**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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www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk
www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch



From the Minister's Desk

Christmas Services

Did you come to the churches' Christmas Events this year? There was a lot of opportunity and variety.

Sawston Free Church had a **Messy Church Christingle**, a **Junior Church Nativity**, and on Christmas Eve, a **6pm family Carols Service** followed at 11.30 by a beautiful meditative **Midnight Carols** service taking us into Christmas Day and our 10am Christmas Carols Service.



At **Castle Camps**, the **Annual Carol Service** one evening with the music provided by the **Hadstock Silver Band** was a joyful celebration of the coming of the Christchild, set amidst the beautiful Christmas Tree Exhibition.



On the Sunday night before Christmas, we shared our **Village Carol Service with St. Mary's** church. Each year it swaps over. And for our late night shopping event we sang **Carols under the village Christmas tree** and gave away hot mulled wine and mince pies.

For three nights, during advent, Christians met at St. Mary's church to regale the village with our **street carol singing** and then came back to St. Mary's to warm up with hot chocolate and mince pies.

One late afternoon, we led the clientele of the **Black Bull in Carols in the Pub.**

Whatever you might want, whoever you are, there was something for you as we celebrated that God came among us to show us the way, and in our dark winter nights, the light shone.

What do you think you might plan to do next Christmas?

Sawston's Christmas Charities this year were:

- The Children's Society from our Christingle Service which raised £153.25.
- Compassionate Care Trust and Toilet Twinning, were are our chosen Christmas Charities and we raised £353.10 for those. The Black Bull Carol service raised £43.74 and the Chapelfield Way Service raised £36, towards that overall total.

=====

Village Hall in Thriplow

Come and hear about Tim Holmes' trek to the **South Pole** last year, following in the footsteps of his wife's grandfather Sir James Wordie who was on the **SHACKLETON 1914-1917 Expedition.**

TALK ON FEB 23RD AT THRIPLLOW VILLAGE HALL: 7pm for 7.30.

Cost £10 adult, £5 child, includes nibbles and a glass of wine.

To reserve tickets phone [01763 209160](tel:01763209160) Angela Rimmer.

Proceeds to St George's Church in Thriplow. This promises to be very interesting.

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Prayer for Sawston Monthly meeting

**Monday 6th February 2.00pm – 3.00pm
in Room 1 at Sawston Free Church .**



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

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

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

For more information please contact:

Dianne Conway tel 01223 833953, dianne.m.conway@btinternet.com

Carolyn Bridges tel 01223 834221, bridges118@gmail.com



Castle Camps

From Our Friends at Castle Camps and Little Abington

February 2017

As we write this, we have not had much wintry weather yet and the Spring flowers are appearing. This seems far too early and we shall no doubt get a late Winter; at least the days are drawing out. It is nice to see all the birds in the garden and they are feeding well before Spring arrives.

Our second Christmas Tree Festival was very successful and the chapel looked lovely. We should like to thank everyone who took part, especially Brenda for all of her hard work. It made a very pleasant and cosy environment for our Carol Service which was very well attended and, as always, we enjoyed the Hadstock Silver Band. We should like to thank the Haylock family for sponsoring the band.

The offerings from the service, amounting to £295, were donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance and the offerings for our Christmas Day service, amounting to £181, were passed to Marie Curie Nurses.

We are looking forward to welcoming Mr John Luke to our Family service on 19th February; it will be his first visit to us.

We have had a sad time in the village recently, with the passing away of Grace Ager, Ann Chapman and Doreen Potter. We send our sympathy to the families. It was a great shock when we heard about Doreen, as she has been a stalwart in the village and a faithful member of our congregation, as were her parents. We shall miss her at chapel on Sunday, particularly her singing.

On Wednesday 1st February and 8th February, Castle Camps Primary School will be visiting the chapel and we shall look forward to showing them around. They visited us last year and were particularly fascinated by the mechanism of our clock, which is very old, but still works perfectly.

We send our best wishes to you all and hope the weather continues without the cold and snowy weather appearing.

God's blessing to you all.

Mary and Friends.

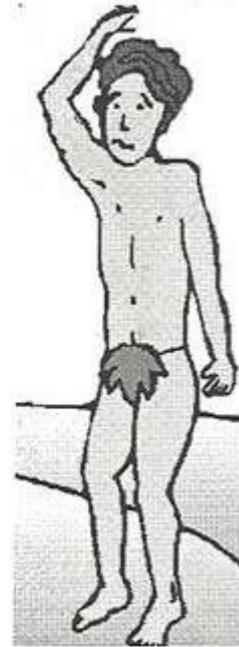


A little boy opened the big old family Bible with fascination, looking at the old pages as he carefully turned them.

Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. Carefully, he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was a leaf from an old tree. It had been pressed between the pages.

"Mum," he called, "look what I've found!"

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's suit!"



Castle Camps

As the year begins we are looking forward to having the children from the primary school come and visit the church. The children are excited, and the people from our church are all excited about it. Someone is rostered to show them around the graveyard, symbols of the generations who have lived and created the village we now worship and live in, and someone else is rostered to show the children the amazing old ancient clock with its intricate web of cogs and weights that chimes the hour through the village, someone else is going to show them what the church is about. It will be great.

I've heard it said that people think of the church like they do the fire brigade, ambulance, police. They are awfully glad to have them there, but they hope they never have to use them.

Where would we be if the church, the community of people following Jesus, wasn't there, if there wasn't a group of people to remember and remind? We wouldn't have that belief that forgiveness and grace are utterly central to becoming really human, that integrity and love are virtues, not weaknesses, and that God is for us, our Father, not some ogre who wants to punish us for making a slip. So much of what we hold dear in our world, has come down to us through that man Jesus, so much that brings us hope. So much that says that might is not right and kindness and justice are essentials, not added extras.

We the church, the community of people trying to follow Jesus way, want to say "Hooray that the kids are coming. Hooray that we have shared services with the Church of England. Hooray that we still hold these "virtues" high and that we do it because God has showed us through Jesus that this is what god is, and that God is for us, still. Hooray that I can go directly to God, just with a prayer, and know I'm precious to God.

Don't just be glad the church is there though, be a part of it. It doesn't exist by magic, but by people who say "Yes, I want these things too."

Bruce



Little Abington

Newsletter : Lynne Riecansky

There will be a **Communion Service** led by Bruce on February 19th at 2.30 pm.

We are pleased that the Friends of St. Mary's Parish Church will be coming to share our Communion with us – we hope that this will be the start of a new relationship. Their Parish is fairly large and they have recently lost their Vicar – of course everyone will also be welcome at any time.

February 5th is the birthday of our friend Eric, he is also the neighbour of our church and shares our cellars – Eric has great local knowledge of the village and our building which is very useful.

We wish Eric a Happy Birthday and God-given joy throughout the year.

Greetings from Lynne.

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Wednesday **F**ellowship 2017

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

The meeting always commences with a Bible reading and prayers, followed by any notices.

New members are always very welcome both young and old. Please come along and join us for a cup of tea and friendly chat.

The program for February:

1 February Mission Aviation Fellowship - A talk by David Rolfe

MAF uses planes to transform the lives of the world's most isolated people in need.



15 February "Fine Cell Work" - A talk by Ruth Pym, a volunteer at Littlehey Prison

Contact Janet Parr for more information: 832840

The Erb's Palsy Group - Valerie Kerr



This year Marc & I are busy training to compete in the Cambridge Half Marathon on Sunday 5th March and The World Run on Sunday 7th May. We hope to raise some much-needed funds for the Erb's Palsy Group as our way of saying thank you to them for all the support they give parents during a very difficult and emotional time - and a special thank you for the support they gave, and are continuing to give, my sister and her partner.

We hadn't heard of Erb's Palsy until May 2015, when our gorgeous little nephew Ben came into our lives.

This is a small part of Ben's story so far, written by his mother, Grace:



"On 21st May 2015, just after 7am, my beautiful baby boy Ben was born weighing in at just under 10 pounds. Ben had a difficult birth, during which his left shoulder got stuck and the 5 nerves in his arm, known as the brachial Plexus, were damaged. His entire arm and hand were completely paralysed. His whole arm just lay limply at his side while his right arm windmilled around.

It was very scary as I had never heard of this condition before and didn't know what to expect. We were told to swaddle his arm against his body for 10 days to allow some healing to the damaged nerves. Then we had a physiotherapist come round weekly to monitor Ben's progress. She

taught me the exercises to do with Ben and made it clear these had to be done 10 times a day as otherwise his arm would stiffen. However it soon became apparent that it wasn't healing well. He could raise his arm a little and wiggle his fingers but he had no elbow flexion at all.



In January 2016 Ben underwent microscopic surgery to remove scar tissue from the nerves. He had a tendon transfer to keep his shoulder joint in place and a muscle release to aid his range of movement. We are very thankful to the wonderful surgical team at Glasgow hospital and are very hopeful that Ben will regain movement of his arm.

We are also incredibly thankful to the Erb's Palsy support group. When I first found this group I was very upset and was trying to come to terms with what had happened. This group has given me strength and hope. I don't know where I would be without the Erb's Palsy Group."



The group offers support and advice in a number of ways. They have a telephone helpline for parents to call and obtain accurate information about treatments available, or for general advice on types of equipment or benefits available to the children as well as a very active online Facebook support page. They are able to put parents in contact with other families in their locality and have recently started to offer free loan of swimming aids for the children.

Every year they host a family Fun day, with entertainment for the children and guest speakers for the parents. A travel fund makes grants available to parents to help with the costs of travelling to and from hospital for surgical treatments.

Their aims are to support families in any way possible and to raise awareness of this little known condition. In addition to this, they hold a Study Day every year for professionals and a successful Awareness Campaign.

The Erb's Palsy Group doesn't have any paid workers so all monies that are donated go directly towards helping the children and their families.

If you would like to sponsor us, please visit www.justgiving.com/Valerie-Kerr

Further information about The Erb's Palsy Group can be found at www.erbspalsygroup.co.uk

"Thank you" Valerie

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Shoebbox Appeal

Thank you to everyone who helped support our Christmas shoebbox appeal. Members and friends of Sawston Free Church filled 145 boxes. These were distributed by Blythswood Care to people in great need and helped to give those people hope and happiness.

Valerie





Prayer Diary For February

What do we pray for?

It seems pretty obvious that God doesn't need informing about things, because God knows. It seems pretty obvious that we don't need to urge God to be kind and care about people, because God already does. And God does not need our prompting to know what to do; that seems obvious. So what is prayer about?

It is communication. It is laying things before God with the awareness that whatever is happening, that we know and care about, God may have a role for us in response, and we have to be ready. It is knowing that God cares, and laying our feelings and understandings before God, placing it in God's hands, much the same as you do with someone you love, a dear friend, those you trust.

And in this, when we do it with a whole bunch of other people, we are opening ourselves as a community of faith to God's prompting, power and wisdom.

Prayer is entering in a relationship of love and trust with God about the things that concern us or delight us, knowing that God is already there, knowing that God wants us to learn to love, to trust, and to put all our concerns before God.

So as you look through these items in our prayer diary, you are laying things before God, with others, and waiting, open to God, for the way things will move, and for our part, together in God's kingdom.

Prayer carries a subtext of openness and commitment to God's will, and perhaps our part in it, even if it is simply to be there, to care, but it may be far more and require far more. Prayer from the heart tumbles us willingly and lovingly into God's will and purpose. And it surrounds people, through the Spirit of God, with the love of God you share for them.

Bruce

PRAYER DIARY

Feb 1st – 5th Feb:

- Wednesday this week and next week, in her role as RE teacher at Castle Camps School, Lucy Kemshell is bringing the children over to the Castle Camps URC. The congregation are excited about it and people are down to show them around parts of the building. I'll be there to tell the children who we are and why we meet there, so it is a chance to share Christian faith with the children.
- On Friday, Green Advocates from our 13 URC Synods (Bruce is Green Advocate for our synod) will be meeting at Church House to share what is happening across the country. Our 20/20 Vision Statement says that "... care for the environment is the single most significant issue facing creation" so please pray for them.
- On Sunday, Sawston will be having their monthly Messy Church from 3-5pm and the topic will be "Light". May the light of Christ shine through everything that is done on Sunday afternoon.

Feb 6th -12th

- Again on Wednesday, the children from Castle Camps School will be visiting the church
- GenR8, Pray for our xcellr8 weekend from 10-12th February 2017 on the theme of the Master Chef.
- Sunday 12th is Racial Justice Sunday. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland define Racism as a **"...System of attitudes, actions and structures at personal, communal and institutional levels which always involves ethnicity and which arises as a distorted expression of positive human needs especially for belonging, identity and free expression of difference."**

"Mercy and truth have met each other; justice and peace have kissed. Truth is sprung out of the earth and justice has looked down from heaven." [Psalm 85: 10-11]

"Where there is no justice, there is no peace." Pope Francis

Feb 13th – 19th

- On Wednesday evening, Brigades leaders will be meeting to plan Mothering Sunday. Please pray for them.
- On Sunday afternoon, Little Abington URC will be having a shared Communion Service with the United Churches of Great and Little Abington. I think this is the first time this has occurred and it will be a wonderful step forward. Our Basis of Union states **"The United Reformed Church sees its formation and growth as a part of what God is doing to make his people one, and as a united church will take, wherever possible and with all speed, further steps towards the unity of all God's people.(Sect 1:8)"**

Feb 20th – 26th

- Saturday morning (25th) is our Monthly Prayer Meeting at Sawston Free Church. But whether you come or not, please put time aside to pray for your church and your village, whichever you live in and worship with. We meet from 10.30am for about an hour, in the church. The elders decided to initiate this monthly prayer meeting about a year and a half ago. If you would like to come along and be a part of it, just turn up.
- Sunday 26th is Sawston Free Church's Annual OWL Service, where SFC celebrates its work with OWL and Papworth Trust. Please remember to pray for people who live with learning disabilities, and those who work with them, to develop to their greatest capacity.

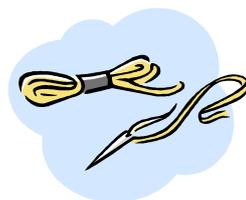
Feb 27th – 28th

- **Tuesday 28th February is Shrove Tuesday.** As we enter into Lent, please pray that as we pass through these weeks of preparation for Easter, our faith will be strengthened, our service will be deepened, and we will draw ever closer to God who sent us His son to draw us to Himself. As we approach the cross, pray for those who have put time aside to study and enrich their faith. May God bless you as you enter into Lent.

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Sawston Free Church - **Craft Group**

We meet in the back hall of the Church on alternate Monday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. Anyone is very welcome to drop in for a coffee and a chat even if they are not working on a craft project. Dates for February: 13th and 27th



For more information please contact Yvonne (01223) 473937 or Pam 834220

50 Year Memories

*I have recently tracked the archive copies of Contact dating back to January 1964 (52 years) thanks to the help of Dianne and Maggie. I plan to read the early records and try to re-issue a few interesting articles or memories. The first issue was apparently in September 1963 (4 months missing!) but I have not managed to track these copies, do you know of a copy?.....**David***

The following relates to Contacts issued in 1964:

Minister: Joseph M Forster

Contact cost 6d and there were 96 copies distributed, although some were spare. This month (February 2017) we printed 110 copies with at least 10 retained on the Church premises for visitors during the month. It looks as though there has been no increase in circulation!

The contents in 1964 took the following format:

- Editorial: Often explaining why Contact was late or asking for more articles. In August '64 a new duplicator was acquired, a brand new Roneo 350. It was felt to be a good investment for the magazine and the Church groups. It cost £96 after a deduction made by Roneo for a cash payment and a church organisation. We required loans from friends which would be repaid over 3 years. This then involved the use of stencils to reproduce the magazine. **(I think we should find this for Maggie!)**
- Minister's Letter
- News from the Church groups: Men's Guild, Women's Pleasant Hour, The Family Church, Youth Club and Table Tennis Club.
- Most months gave a thought on 'Congregationalism'.
- Articles from members including reports on special events
- Classified Advertisements : Ariel arrow 250cc Motorbike 13,000 miles £65, upright iron frame piano £12, Men's bicycle, hub dynamo with working front and rear lights and 3 gears and a pump £8 ono
- There was often an article which provoked a response from the members. One such article was headed: **The Arguments For and Against Gambling.**

I quote the start of the article below:

The following article is designed simply to put forward the arguments for and against gambling, and to comment on them.

For: *If gambling is carried out without breaking either the Ten Commandments or Jesus' teaching, then a Christian is doing no wrong. Gambling often helps charities and organisations to raise funds, doing ultimate good in the process. If one can afford it, gambling is a harmless 'hobby'. There is nothing in the Bible which directly opposes gambling.*

Against: *Gambling is a disease which builds up from small aims into a gigantic obsession for obtaining 'something for nothing'. It is morally degrading and has been known to break up homes and cause endless misery. It often caused jealousy and corruption among its participants.*

This certainly had many responses, notably from Miss M Challis.

- The magazine finished with a diary for the month showing: Flower rota, General dates and notices, Baptisms, Thought for the month and the Weekly Offerings. The offering for April 12th was £6.3.0 and April 19th £9.10.9d (sacrament 9.3d)

50 Year Memories (cont)

I should like to repeat an autobiography that was written in September as follows:

The Editors of Contact thought that readers might be interested in hearing about the lives of some of our older and faithful members. Our first autobiography has been written by Mrs D. Peters and we hope that another member's story will be printed next month.

I was born at Whittlesford and was the eldest of 6 children. Coming to Sawston at the age of 1, I can really say I am a true Sawstonian. We lived at the end house of the old 22 houses in New Road. They were the only houses in the road then, the rest of the road being high hedges and fields.

Going to Sunday School at an early age, I have seen a great many changes of ministers and teachers, Mr A. Churchman being one of the last teachers I remember in my time. The Lecture Hall was filled in those days and we sat together in small groups and after the opening hymn and prayer went to our classes separately. At one time, our class went into church and sat in the choir stalls. Our superintendent was the late Mr T. Barker.

My great friend in those days was Gladys Wakefield, who emigrated to Australia with her family and to whom I have sent some editions of CONTACT which I know she enjoys reading.

The Sunday school parties were a great event beginning with marching down the village street preceded by Sawston Brass Band. I don't know what we should have done with the traffic as it is these days. When we reached the Squire's house we spent an enjoyable day and didn't we enjoy that thin bread and butter! The last item was singing anniversary hymns to the Squire and his lady outside the mansion.

The anniversaries were another big event of the year. The Rev. Wilson was our minister then and he was a good tenor himself. I especially remember one cantata we gave under his teaching and the late Mr W. Barber, who we were rather in awe of. "Under the Palms" was the title and didn't the lads, including my 3 brothers, sing the choruses lustily in those days! The singing was led by an orchestra as well as the organ and we were much impressed by the large harp played by Miss Crampton, who afterwards became Rev. Wilson's wife.

It is a joy to see the Family Church on Sunday mornings. I think our last minister's wife, Mrs Ball, was the instigator of the Primary Department. She got the tiny tots to come to Sunday School and it is many years since I have seen such a loyal band of teachers as there are now.

Some of the children in the Sunday School today, whose mothers I knew before them, affectionately call me 'Aunt Dorrie' and some of them call me the name their mothers used.

I think it was a good to get the older folk and the younger together; they get used to one another and several children I meet in the week say 'I saw you in chapel on Sunday morning'.

I was not asked into the choir until I was 30, as I was living in London for a time. I have now been in the choir for 41 years (I am giving my age away now) and we keep hoping the younger members will join us. I still enjoy the singing of the hymns under our esteemed and faithful organist, Miss Stallan, and listening to the sermons of our present minister, Rev. Forster

Mrs D Peters

'I hope you enjoy this article, if so I will re-issue another autobiography next month' David

If you are related to Mrs Peters I would love to hear from you, do you have a photo?



Twelfth Night Christmas Tree Recycling

I was invited by the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity to help collect people's Christmas trees in and around Cambridge and take them to the Recycling Depot in Mill Road. People gave donations to the charity for the collection. I said I would drive a hired van for the day and asked my ex colleague Karen who stills work for Hospice at Home to join me as navigator! We set off at about 9am after collecting the van (a VW Transporter) with clip board, map, 16 collection points, packed lunch and a flask of tea!! We started in Girton, then drove to Histon and then around Cambridge. I suppose there were about 10 vehicles going out and the same happened the following day.



Over the two days 590 trees were to be collected and this raised £6,000.00 for the Hospice. Last year which was the first year they launched the project, they raised £3,000.00. So everyone who has a live Christmas tree look out this year in December for the adverts and get your trees collected for a very worthwhile charity.

Mary Simuyandi

The New Hospice at Shelford Bottom



SFC held their Christmas Coffee Morning in the Arthur Rank Bistro in December.

The Bistro is delighted that they have made use of this facility in exactly the way they hoped the local community would!

Did you know that the Bistro is open to the public 9.30am – 4.00pm Mon – Fri and 10.30am on Sundays.

Winter Update



Well it's been another busy and brilliant term and there are so many stories I'd like to share with you, but I'll try not to keep you too long!



One highlight for me has been welcoming a number of inspiring women to run various workshops as part of our afterschool programme on the Cranbrook Estate.

Gemma Kauffman, a creative coach from a great project called Dream of Life, helped us explore our understanding of emotions through creative expression.

Sheri Turawa ran a series of sessions with a small group exploring hopes and aspirations and the personal resources we need to pursue them.

We also had a great street dance instructor, Liz, come and help us "cut some shapes" (learn some dance moves!) on the Cranbrook Community Centre floor.

This was the first in a series of sports taster sessions we are running in partnership with London Youth aimed at encouraging girls to have a go at sports that they so often feel too self-conscious to try elsewhere.

It's been wonderful within all of this, to witness different girls let go of their inhibitions and get stuck in, discovering new interests and having light-bulb moments as they realise things about themselves and the world around them.

"I'm not gonna say I can't do things anymore but say I can't do things yet!"

We've gained a couple of awesome new young volunteers, Masuma and Nahida, who are sixth form students at Morpeth School. This is part of our developing young volunteer programme designed to give young women the opportunity to develop their leadership and communication skills and gain valuable work experience, whilst also providing brilliant role models and peer support to our younger girls. Double win!

Another aspect of our work this term has been supporting several young women facing particularly challenging circumstances, through one to ones, referral and advocacy. We are very aware that our work and the staff and volunteers that make it happen, provide safe spaces and relationships for young women who would otherwise likely be struggling alone. We have seen small but significant steps taken by and for these young women and will continue to journey with them in the coming year.

And finally, we love an excuse for a celebration and our much-anticipated Christmas Quiz was a hit again this year with our biggest turn out yet. A good dose of tinsel, tortilla Christmas trees and some serious competitiveness proved the perfect recipe for a festive and fun packed night. A brilliant way to wave 2016 goodbye.

Huge thanks and gratitude go out to all those who have supported us this year, whether financially, through partnering with us or through the many encouraging and inspiring conversations we have along the journey. I can wholeheartedly say that lives genuinely have been impacted for the good and we couldn't have done it without each and every one of your contributions.

Very best wishes from us all, for a peaceful and joyful New Year.

Fiona Harriss

Background to Racial Justice Sunday

The Methodist Church has celebrated Racial Justice Sunday (RJS) since 1989, on the second Sunday in September. Since September 1995 RJS has become an ecumenical event celebrated in Britain and Ireland. RJS moved to the second Sunday in February, with effect from 2017.

This Sunday is an opportunity for all Christians to join together in:

Reflecting on the importance of racial justice

Thanksgiving for human diversity

Prayer for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice

Action that truly makes a difference

Fundraising for national and local racial justice initiatives

Why Celebrate Racial Justice Sunday?

We believe that the universe was created by a loving God who chose to become a human being in Jesus Christ, who has redeemed the world and sent the Holy Spirit to enable us to love one another with God's love.

All human beings are equally children of God and loved by God. Since none is outside the love of God, none should be outside our love either.

We believe that the diversity of the human race was no mistake on God's part. God deliberately created variety within the human family and wants us to take as much delight in that variety as God does.

But racism persists in Britain and Ireland. At its most obvious and brutal, it takes the form of physical attacks, which sometimes end in murder. But it takes many other forms as well, like discrimination within the police force, popular prejudice against Travellers or people seeking asylum, or reluctance to accept people of a different ethnic or cultural group as neighbours.

Even within churches, people can face discrimination and unkindness because they are different from the majority in a particular community.

As long as this continues, we believe that it is important to make time to give thanks for our diversity and to pray for God's help in overcoming our prejudices and the injustices that reflect and reinforce them.

'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.'

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN, 1948



Quiet Day
Saturday 4th March 2017
10am - 4pm

Who are you? A day away in Lent

Suitable for new and experienced retreat persons, this day will focus on our identity as Christians, drawing on the wilderness experience of Christ and the writings of the desert fathers and mothers. There will be times of guided reflection as well as private time and silence. The day will begin with worship and includes a two course lunch (not silent).

Each of the quiet days has a unique theme so if you enjoy one, you can still come on others. Other quiet days you might be interested in are listed on our website. Quiet days are suitable for everyone, whether new or experienced at retreats. With a different theme and lead by different people each time, we hope there is something on offer for you.

Leaders: Mark Argent and Sam White

If you would like to stay overnight and take the whole weekend to enjoy Cambridge then please contact the College for rates.

£25 to include lunch, refreshments, event and resources.

To book, contact us:

Telephone 01223 330632 or
Email admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk

CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT Events for February 2017

www.cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk

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



For more details contact Miriam Webb Circuit Office 01223 352115 or email: office@wesleycam.org.uk or secretary@cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk

FEBRUARY

Tues 7th	2.30pm	Fireside with Jennie & Paul Harris “Nepal revisited” Jennie and Paul talk about their recent visit to Nepal.	Wesley
Thurs 9 th	7.30pm	Big Issues Diabetes today with Martin Davies A stimulating and at times controversial series of evenings to challenge your thinking. All welcome includes coffee, tea and delicious desserts.	Histon
Mon 13 th	7.15 for 7.45pm	Science Meets Faith – Is It ethical to oppose modern plant breeding technologies? With Christobal Uauy of the John Innes Centre, Norwich. All welcome – refreshments from 7.15pm. Free admission – retiring collection.	Wesley

Creating Safer Space Foundation Module refresher training
Monday 20th February 2pm at Orwell Methodist Church
Wednesday 22nd February 7.30pm at Royston Methodist Church
And Saturday 25th February 10am at Castle Street Methodist Church

This mandatory training is for all who have undertaken the Foundation Module and includes points learned from the Past Cases Review. This is brand new refresher training so it is really important that you attend - even if you have done the training in the last year. Please contact Miriam Webb, Circuit Administrator, to book into the most convenient training session for you. Your local Safeguarding Officer, or Richard Elcock, the Circuit Safeguarding Steward are happy to give further advice about any specific questions that you may have. You only need to attend one of these sessions.

[Thank you to everyone who submitted an article this month](#)

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 Rieicansky – Lt. Abington	7 Meadow Walk, Great Abington	893295
Val Spencer – Castle Camps	20 South Road, Abington	892214
Elders: Sawston		
Hazel Felton	11 St Andrew's Close, Stapleford	564851
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Susan Nunn	55 Granta Road, Sawston	561956
Faith Paulding	Charlbury, 26 Moorfield Road, Duxford	574325
Mike Purdy	42 Granta Road, Sawston	830903
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Terry Penny	April Lodge, 81 Brewery Road, Pampisford	833635
Contact Editors		
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Church Website: www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/		
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch		

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 - Rooms or places where people can meet & talk?
 - A quiet space for spiritual reflection & prayer?

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For more information visit: www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/lettings.htm or contact Kelly Elliott: 07532 081221 or kelly.elliott@papworthtrust.org.uk or Min Ong: minhuey.ong@papworthtrust.org.uk

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




Sharn Waldron

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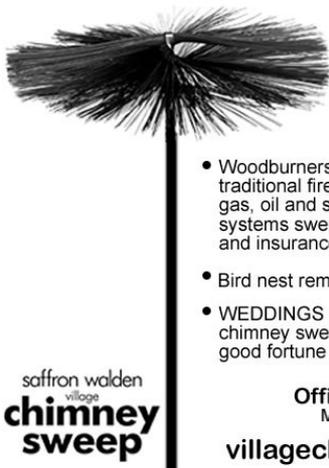
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