

CONTACT

January 2018



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
Wed 3 Jan	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 15)		
Sun 7 Jan	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Elizabeth Caswell 3pm: Messy Church	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Mark Hayes	10.30am: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron
Mon 8 Jan	10am: Craft Group (page 15)		
Sun 14 Jan	10.30am: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm: Quiet Time Mary Simuyandi & Sue Sisk	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Ben Palmer	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Michael Wilson
Wed 17 Jan	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 15)		
Sun 21 Jan	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	2.30pm: United Communion Service - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Family Service - Mr Bob Parkin
Mon 22 Jan	10am: Craft Group (page 15)		
Sun 28 Jan	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.30pm: Go4th – Bruce and Mike	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Peter Sammons	10.30am: Morning Worship Mr John Luke
Mon 31 Jan	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 15)		

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
January 7	John Conway 833953		January 21	John Newton 562873	
January 14	Gordon Heald 833983		January 28	Tony Moss 834220	

The closing date for **February Contact** is **Monday 15th January**.

**David Nunn is the editor , so please email your items
to contact@sawston.com or anne.nunn@btinternet.com**

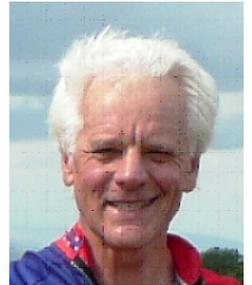
Contact

The monthly magazine of
**Sawston Free Church, Little Abington & Castle Camps URC's
United Reformed – Methodist**

Minister: Rev. Bruce Waldron, the Manse, 3 High Street, Sawston, CB22 3BG
Tel: 01223 836786 or 07814 920187 Email: revbruce@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk
www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk
www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch

From the Minister's Desk

The Covenant Prayer



Each year, at the beginning of the year, we engage with the Covenant Prayer.

It was begun as a response from John Wesley to those who wanted to go deeper into their faith; he wrote the Covenant Service to be a consummation of weeks of dedicated study and prayer for those who wished to come closer to Christ and be more dedicated as His disciples.

The modern version is now a part of Methodist worship, and here it is compared to the older wording.

Would you have the faith or dedication to pray this prayer?

The Covenant Prayer: 1780

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt,
Rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure
and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

The Covenant Prayer: Now

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will,
place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory
and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and
Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven.
Amen.

I often wonder what John Wesley would have thought of our contemporary practice of having this service as part of our annual routine, occurring at the beginning of the year, with no preparation, no heart searching programme of self-examination and study, and everyone is expected to just come along and say the words.

In his arrangement, this prayer was only said by those who had done the preparation, and then only by those who felt they could, and even then, only by those who knew they could only say it by the

grace of God. At the end of weeks of preparation, after a day of prayer, fasting and self-examination, Wesley invited those who would, to come to the service. There was no sense of spiritual super-Christians, only those who felt they wanted to make a complete sacrifice of themselves for God's work.

The introductory words to the prayer drive home the point:

Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us again accept our place within this covenant which God has made with us and with all who are called to be Christ's disciples.

This means that, by the help of the Holy Spirit, we accept God's purpose for us, and the call to love and serve God in all our life and work.

Christ has many services to be done:

some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach;

some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both; in some we may please Christ and please ourselves;

in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.

Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own.

Let us give ourselves to him, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ.

In obedience we hear and accept your commands; in love we seek to do your perfect will; with joy we offer ourselves anew to you.

We are no longer our own but yours.

There was a version of this prayer that Wesley originally wrote, that was even stronger. He saw our relationship with God as being like a marriage covenant, where two people bind themselves to each other for life. His original Covenant Prayer involved taking Christ as "my Head and Husband, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, for all times and conditions, to love, honour and obey thee before all others, and this to the death".

Every time I take the bread and the cup at communion, I am reminded that I am committing myself in a covenant with God who has given everything for me, and calls me to "Walk His Way" or as our new URC call to service puts it; Walking the Way: Living the life of Jesus today.

I strive for this. I know, and you all know, that I don't always make it. But this is what Christian faith is all about. I see many people around me also striving for this and it encourages me on my faith journey. Thank you! I hope by the grace of God I may do the same for you.

I commend the Covenant Service to you, and I ask you to do what Wesley would have asked, spend some time in self examination, then come, and pray the prayer, not because you think you can do it, but because you have faith that God's spirit alive in you, will help you to find the faith to do it; and always, there is grace.

Thanks be to God.

I should like to wish all readers a very Happy New Year and I hope that you have been enjoying the articles in Contact.

Please remember that this is YOUR Church magazine and is also a way of keeping in touch with other Church members. Some of you may have moved away into other areas, we would love to hear from you!

I am always pleased to receive articles about interesting experiences you may have had on holiday, possibly visiting local churches or places of interest. It is proving more difficult to find fresh topics ... I need ideas for 2018.

If each reader could find time to produce a one page article sometime in the year, then I would be able to include one or two of them each month for a year!

Thank you to all the regular contributors, without your support there would not be a monthly Contact.

David

STEWARDS OF GOD'S RESOURCES - Property

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

*"If you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth,
who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?"*

Luke 16:11

*God gives creative abilities and resources to build private and public property.
Our response is to care for property handed on to us in trust
and to put it to creative use in our generation.*

A few years ago I had a conversation with someone at URC Church House in London that started in a very strange way. The person that I was speaking with was very excited because a number of churches in his synod were closing. I was somewhat taken aback by this glee at the demise of the Church and, noting my dubiousness, he quickly said, "No, no, you don't understand; it's not the Church that is closing it's the churches". There had been a number of small chapels that had reached the point where their congregations had dwindled to a few faithful regular attenders who were no longer able to manage their creaky old buildings. The time and effort and financial strain of managing the leaks and cracks and breakdowns had become like a millstone bearing down on them. They still wanted to worship, praise God and learn but were too absorbed by the practical needs of their buildings to be able to focus on their discipleship. So, they took the brave decision to cast off their buildings and re-establish their Church in a different way. They met in private houses and in coffee shops where they, arguably, witnessed to their faith to far more people than they had in many years in their old church building.

Sawston Free Church is blessed with a fine building with extensive and adaptable facilities through which it provides a powerhouse of worship, mission and community service. It is equally blessed by a dedicated, hardworking Fabric Committee who bring their expertise to managing the great resource that we have. There is no doubt that the building of Sawston Free Church is a vehicle that drives its life and mission and serves God's purposes. However, churches whose buildings have broken down to the point that they inhibit the life and mission of fellowships are not serving God's purposes and closure does not always mean failure.

With private property in mind I heard a preacher, some years ago, compare inviting Jesus into one's life to inviting a visitor into one's home. How do we react when there is an unexpected knock at the door? Are we someone who keeps the front room very neat and tidy just in case or do we zoom round pushing things in cupboards, under chairs and generally out of sight. Maybe, if it is someone we know well, we don't even bother and just welcome them in to the full muddle and untidiness of our real life. There will, no doubt, still be limits though; things that just have to remain private and unseen. Inviting Jesus into our lives though is different. It means not just the front room, not just the working kitchen or study. Inviting Jesus into our lives means giving Him free access to the really untidy areas, the mess, the bits we don't even want to go into ourselves; and it's not just about inviting Him in. It's also about being prepared for Him to help us sort it out: throw out the baggage and shackles that weigh us down, mend the broken things and maybe bring in new things – such as spiritual gifts from God which He identifies we are in need of.

Faith Paulding

Message From Castle Camps



At the beginning of December, we welcomed again Castle Camps Primary School for their Advent service. There were over 100 pupils, plus many parents and the chapel was full, requiring us to use the balcony. Bruce welcomed everyone and then the pupils led the service with readings and prayers. It was very moving, a credit to the staff and pupils and a good start to our Christmas celebrations. After the service, we hoped to enjoy squash and biscuits with the pupils, but they had to walk back to school.

The Christmas Tree Festival started over the weekend of 9th and 10th December and we looked forward to seeing the church in its splendour. It is always interesting to see all the different ideas for decorating the chapel.

On 10th December, we were looking forward to welcoming David Lloyd for our morning service for the first time. Sadly, the heavy snow prevented this, but we hope to see him in the future.

On the same day, we should have had our Service of Lessons and Carols with the Hadstock Silver Band. Sadly, this also had to be cancelled because of the weather, particularly as the band would have had to travel some distance in freezing conditions. Hopefully, we can arrange a visit from them in the New Year.

We are thinking about Christine Ager and her family at this time and also the family of Dennis French who is in hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

We hope you all had a happy Christmas and we send our best wishes for 2018 and God's blessing to you all.

Mary and Friends.

Message From Lt Abington



We are praying for our friends at Great and Little Abington churches who are looking forward to the appointment of their new Vicar. In the meantime we are excited about their visit on the 21st January to share communion with us.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish all our friends a New Year full of much inspiration and many little joys and to thank David and Anne for all the work they put into producing Contact each month.

Lynne Riecansky

A New Year Meditation

Give us through the coming year
Quietness of Mind,
Teach us to be patient, and always be kind,
Give us reassurance when everything goes wrong,

So our Faith remains unfaltering,
And our Hope and courage strong,
And show us that in Quietness
We can feel your presence near,
Filling us with Joy and Peace
throughout the coming year.

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The Church Lady

There was a little old lady who was very spiritual who would step out on her porch every day, raise her arms to the sky and yell, "Praise the Lord"

One day, an atheist bought the house next door to her, and he became very irritated with the spiritual lady. So after a month or so of her yelling, "Praise the Lord" from her porch, he would go outside on his porch and yelled back, "There is no Lord."

Yet, the little old lady continued. One cold, wintry day, when the little old lady couldn't get to the store, she went out on her porch, raised her hands up to the sky and said, "Help me Lord, I have no more money, it's cold, and I have no more food."

The next morning, she went outside, and there were bags of food on the porch, enough to last her a week. "Praise the Lord," she yelled.

The Atheist stepped out from the bushes and said, "There is no Lord, ha ha ha, I bought those groceries!"

The little old lady raised her arms to the sky and said, "Praise the Lord, You sent me groceries and you made the Devil pay for them!"

The Big Picture - 13th January 2018

'A day to reflect and grow your vision for work with children and young people'.

An exciting opportunity for anyone in Children's and Youth Ministry to meet together and to reflect on your vision for children's and young people's ministry in your church and community and what God might be calling you to do.

In four sessions we will be reflecting on church, mission, community and You. There will be opportunities to listen, to pray, to discuss and to be creative.

Saturday 13th January 2018 - 9.30am - 4.00pm

Whittlesford United Reformed Church, Duxford Road, Whittlesford, Cambridge, CB22 4ND

A lunch of soup and a roll will be provided but please do bring along a picnic if you would prefer. Tea and coffee will be available throughout the day.

Working in Partnership with: The Church of England, Diocese of Ely, The United Reformed Church, GENR8 Presenting Christianity

For further information please contact or e-mail: Steve Wyatt, GenR8 or Tel: 01223 237874



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The Garden

A Poem from Contact April 1965

The people of old England, a sturdy, steady band
All love the sea and all it means, and also all the land
These gifts have all been with us, right down through-out the years
And brought us many triumphs, and also many tears

Although we love all kinds of ships, we also love the soil
And most of us like gardens, which brings with it the toil
We cherish well our little plot, and tend it well with care
For if we did not tend it, soon all would be so bare

We buy our garden papers, we order all the seeds
And always hope we've bought enough to satisfy our needs
So then at time of planting, we fuss with spade and rake
Till backache says we've had enough for our poor back to take

We argue with our neighbours, of what is best to do
And then one day, one glorious day, we see a shoot poke through
We watch out for the pigeons, the rascals, they will come
Unless I'm very wary, they'll leave me none, not one

One day we have the harvest, we think ours is the best
Until we see our neighbours', then comes our greatest test
To wallow in discomfort, or praise, as one should do
And say I'll try again next year, give in, not me, would you?

L Reed



Prayer Diary for January

“Stewards of God’s Resources: Property”

Each section is offered for use as a daily focus in prayer throughout the week.

Week 1

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will,

Place me with whom you will.

In our society, we often think about owning things. “This is mine.”

In our faith life, we know we are not our own. As St. Paul writes, “You are not your own; you are bought with a price.” The message of God’s love and grace did not come without great cost, such is the extent of God’s love.

With that confidence, it is safe to pray, “Put me to what you will; place me with whom you will.” because we trust the hand of the one who holds us in the palm of His hand. He will not wish us harm, only blessing.

If I am not my own, my property is not my own. I am responsible to God for the way I utilise everything God has put into my hands.

- We pray for those who misuse their property and get caught up in the world of possession envy.
- We pray for those who fail to see their responsibility to all God’s creation.
- We pray for those who suffer because some people see their property as being exclusive to a race, a faith, a nationhood, or who unjustly hoard
- We pray that God will show us how to use the property entrusted to us, for His purposes.

Week 2

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,

Praised for you or criticized for you.

We are not accustomed to the idea of suffering for Christ. We never have to face persecution. We might occasionally strike a bit of prejudice, but real persecution is alien to us in the UK. We will not lose our homes, see our loved ones imprisoned, be thrown into prison for our faith, or tortured to make us recant. Yet these are the experiences of Christians in many countries. Christians are not alone in this of course. Wherever there is a faith minority, the dominant groups tend to persecute. When that happens, it takes a very brave person to stand against the persecution. To not join in is to become the target of the persecutors.

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith:

- Approximately 215 million Christians experience high, very high, or extreme persecution.
- North Korea remains the most dangerous place to be a Christian (for 14 straight years).
- Islamic extremism remains the global dominant driver of persecution, responsible for initiating oppression and conflict in 35 out of the 50 countries on the 2017 list.
- Ethnic nationalism is fast becoming a major driver of persecution. “While this took an anti-establishment form in the West, in Asia it took an anti-minorities form, fuelled by dramatic religious nationalism and government insecurity. It is common—and easy—for tottering governments to gain quick support by scapegoating Christians.”
- The total number of persecution incidents in the top 50 most dangerous countries increased, revealing the persecution of Christians as a rising worldwide trend.
- The most violent: Pakistan, which rose to No. 4 on the list for a level of violence “exceeding even northern Nigeria.”

Week 3

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.

There is great alarm at the rise in desperation of poverty in the UK. This cannot be separated from government policy or from the escalating wealth of those ever further removed from the suffering inequality requires. To respond to this we contribute to foodbanks, and some people took up the suggestion raised in church about reverse Advent Calendars, where each day of Advent, rather than taking something sweet out of a calendar, they put an item of food aside for a food bank.

- We pray that in our time there will be greater justice in this land, driven by compassion and not the will to power.
- We pray that property will be seen as a means of justice rather than accrual of wealth.
- We pray for those who are truly empty, not of their will but because of lack of compassion for their plight.
- We pray that our understanding of God's love will drive us to strive for systems that support justice for the poor.
- We pray that our understanding of God's love will never leave us without compassion and action.

Week 4

And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,

You are mine, and I am yours.

So be it.

We belong to God, through Christ. If we are given to following the way of His Son, we are received by God as his sons and daughters, his kin, his family, and nothing can separate us from that. For the Christian, this is the only true ownership. All else is finite, is temporary, but God is eternal, and we are held in eternal love. It is a beautiful thing to know.

- We pray for those who feel truly alone. For many who would enter our country, there are no family left, no home anywhere, no one to whom they belong.
- May God's compassion, working in us, offer belonging to all whom God entrusts to our care. May what is felt and seen physically, point to a much greater reality from which it emanates.
- We pray for those who feel alone because of bereavement, or family violence. May our church always be a "safe place".
- We pray for those who feel alone because of mental illness. It is one of the most isolating experiences possible. It is very hard for those suffering with mental illness to believe, let alone feel, that they belong to God too.
- May our confidence in our belonging to God, ever guide us to walk his way, knowing we are carried by Him.

Week 5

And the covenant which I have made on earth,

Let it also be made in heaven.

Amen.

One day, over a guitar lesson, Nicholas asked me if we could work on the song "Tears In Heaven". The words go "Would you know my name, if I saw you in heaven? Would it be the same, if I saw you in Heaven?" We are working on it. But the idea has played on my mind. What will the similarities be?

If what is on earth, is as it will be in heaven, then my relationship with God, with others, will bear the hallmarks of now, but I do not know what they are, and St. Paul makes it clear that we wouldn't understand if it was in plain sight. But it will be. That is our faith. Jesus was known after the resurrection, but not as he was before.

- We pray the words of our Lord's direction: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. May it be so.
- We pray that our closeness to God may be as we would like it to be in heaven.
- We pray that together, as church, we may be utterly faithful to God, as in heaven.
- We pray that we might "Walk the way; live the life of Jesus, today.
- Amen

Faith in Life Housegroup

The Faith in Life Housegroup has been running for a while now, hosted by Kate Leach in her lovely home.

We have looked at several topics over the last few months including watching and discussing the film 'Malala', which surprisingly invoked diverse opinions, to thoughts about Martin Luther and his thesis. But most recently we have been looking at the book 'When Bad Things Happen to Good People' by Harold Kushner. This has been an amazing book full of insights and theories about faith.

The housegroup is taking a creative look at our Christian faith, underpinning it with biblical truths. We look at how faith affects us, the events happening around us and how we react to them. We often get side tracked into all sorts of discussions about the world and life in general.

There is room for others to join us in our journey of exploration of faith, it's not all serious study, as we do have quite a laugh at times! But it has all been very exciting.

We meet every other Wednesday, the next meeting is the **10th January at 7.30pm.**

Please come along and join us, you will be very warmly welcomed. If you would like more information about the group please ring me on 520383 or Kate 660943.

Sue Lelliott

I have been reading the first volume of Sarah Coakley's systematic theology, '*On the Trinity*.' Since there is nothing else in my head and I am late with this piece, let me tell you a little about what she says. Why do we always say 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit' in that order? Partly, says Coakley, because that is the formula at the end of St Matthew's gospel (28:19), and we use it every time we baptise someone. And equally, because that is the order in which they are presented in the Nicene Creed. But why? Because, says Coakley, Matthew wanted to be clear that Father is the most important, Son comes second in importance, and Spirit last of all. Similarly, the authors of the Nicene Creed. But, says Coakley, if you read what St Luke says in his book of Acts, or St Paul in Romans 8, you might well think the Spirit to be the driving force of the Christian mission and, in that sense, the most important of all.

Coakley suggests that from very early on, the Church became deeply suspicious of Holy Spirit and what it can get up to. It inspires people to prophecy and ecstatic utterance. It affects women every bit as much as men. It affects all classes of people, even the most ignorant of them. People overwhelmed by the Spirit might well suppose themselves to have been told by God that the people in charge have got it wrong! In short, Holy Spirit is a formula for total chaos. It defies authority and, in particular, it encourages women to raise their voices to challenge the male control. In a society obsessed by order and hierarchy (as Graeco-Roman society was) this was intolerable. At this time, Emperor Constantine was offering the Church a seat at the top table of government in return for the Church being clearly defined and clearly controlled. Bishops were to be given secular authority as well as spiritual authority. Rich pickings which, in our own country, the Church of England in particular still enjoys to some extent. And in return? End the pacifism nonsense, get marriage under control (monogamy in particular), and get a grip on discipline. Label all the independently-minded groupings 'heretical sects' (the word 'heresy' was invented for the purpose) many of which were emphatically 'Spirit led' and then use the power of the State to suppress them if necessary. (Google 'Montanism' for instance.) And put women back in their place. How? By putting Fatherhood at the top spot of the Trinity, emphasising his supreme power and authority, by putting Son next, emphasising his total obedience to his Father, and by putting Holy Spirit last, as the mere vehicle by which the Father and the Son operate, virtually reducing Three to Two. Which is what they did.

The consequence, Coakley claims, is two thousand years of Church as an excessively hierarchically controlled institution, two thousand years of suspicion of truly Spirit-led Christianity, two thousand years of women getting a raw deal, and (to revert to a theme for which I am constantly getting into trouble) two thousand years of Christian paranoia about all things about women and sex.

Do we believe her? Well, this is top-of-the-range systematic theology. I've given you but a few crude headlines. We need to wait at least twenty years before we shall have any idea at all of the extent to which she is judged to have the balance of the argument. Sadly, I shall probably not be around. In the meantime, my immediate sense is that she has got it absolutely right.

Extracts from 'A Stroll Through Sawston'- The Early Years

Farm and Fire

Huntingdon Farm was leased by Squire Huddleston to John Crampton in 1885. At his death in 1910, the lease was extended to his son Stanley until the middle of the 1st War.

Mr Richard Driver took over the farm in 1916, a mixed farm of about 300 acres with a large stock of cattle and a breeding flock of sheep. Milk was delivered to the village more or less direct from cow to jug in horse drawn floats. (far better than being transported by petrol driven vehicles to the local supermarket and then sold in plastic containers).

Mr Barney Childs and Mr Ernie Richardson would hand out the milk from the churn with $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 pint measures to the customer's jugs.

When Richard Driver died in August 1939, his son Harold took over the farm, followed by his nephew John Moulton.

To the village side of the farm entrance, stood the Old Fire Station. One of the earliest Sawston Fire Brigade chiefs was Mr John Stallan, who was sadly executed on the 12th December 1883 for arson.



Local people had suffered no fewer than 23 fires, all within the space of a few months. Many villagers admired the zealous manner in which the chief turned out to deal with these fires. But, as the fires became more numerous, some villagers became suspicious. It turned out that John Stallan had found out that a ball of kindled turf, wrapped in a greased rag, would smoulder for hours before bursting into flames. He confessed to starting 10 fires and had received 6 shillings for turning out for the fires and working the engines.



Firemen in old uniform



Firemen in new uniform

Prior to 1938, Sawston was covered by Cambridge Brigade. South Cambs Rural DC organised fire fighting by means of small quantities of equipment accommodated in the villages. Sawston's equipment consisted of a 50 ft hose, a ladder and water buckets. The Home Office also added some small equipment for war time fire fighting. The National Fire Service came into being at the outbreak of the war. Sawston's existing fire station was built in Mill Lane in 1971.

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Walking the Way - Eastern Synod Resources Roadshows - 2018

Led by: Revd Paul Whittle, Moderator and Nicola Grieves, Children's and Youth Development Officer

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9th January Tuesday | - Whittlesford URC |
| 11th January Thursday | - Christ Church, Chelmsford |
| 23rd January Tuesday | - Ipswich Road, Norwich |
| 30th January Tuesday | - St John's, Ipswich |

All events starting at 7.30pm – 9.00pm

An evening to explore Discipleship resources and learn more about 'Walking the way: Living the life of Jesus today' the umbrella term for the United Reformed Church's focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission.



Time to chat over a cup of coffee, browse resources for all ages from the youngest to the oldest and hear more about 'Walking the Way' .

For more information please contact Nicola Grieves: Tel Synod Office 01223 830770
If you would like to come along on the 9th January, please ask Bruce or Maggie. Many of the elders will be attending so remember to ask your elder.

A Poem by Mathias Barr

In 1865 his first-published volume of poems appeared, and he thereafter issued several short volumes of well-regarded verse. He was compared to Burns and Wordsworth in finding the inspiration of song in the most common objects. The simplest scenes, the homeliest incidents, the most common wild-flowers, were subjects addressed by Barr.

(First appeared in Contact in 1965, contributed by a member of the Women's Pleasant Hour)

The Workman To His Wife

Come Mary, throw your work aside
And let your troubles be,
Leave care and toil to smoke awhile
And spend an hour with me.
We'll seek the cowslip on the bank,
The primroses in the lane
And happy sights and sounds afar
Shall make us young again.

'Tis long, my love, since you and I
Have heard the Blackbird sing,
Or caught by running brooks and woods
The glory of the spring.
'Tis long since you and I have trod
The paths where hawthorns blow.
Then Mary fling aside your work
And let your troubles go.

The trees shall bend to welcome us,
The flowers shall clasp our feet,
The very bees shall hymn our praise
In murmurs soft and sweet.
The winds shall swell with ready voice
The chorus high and loud
And we'll forget the world, my wife,
And all its busy crowd.

A thousand things await us, love,
Blue skies and balmy air,
Green fields whose very sight shall make
The heart forget its care.
Then never sigh, be glad today,
Throw sorrow to the wind
Nor pause till we have left our ills
A summer's hour behind

Ely Cathedral Facts

Ely Cathedral's history began in the Cambridgeshire city of Ely in 673 AD. as a monastery. It became a cathedral in the 12th century. Its full name is 'The Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Ely'. The monastery was founded by Saint Etheldreda, and when she died there was a shrine built in her honour. In the 9th century it was destroyed by Danish invasions. A new monastery was built in 970. It was rebuilt as a cathedral in the 11th century and that building still stands today.



- The only surviving structure of the earlier monastery is 'Ovin's stone', the base of an 8th century cross.
- Saint Etheldreda had married one prince, who died. She then married a second prince, but ended that marriage to become a nun. It's thought that the land she built the first monastery on at Ely was given to her by her second husband.
- The Ely Cathedral is 573 feet long. The nave (the central part of the church where people sit) is 250 feet long. This is the longest nave in Britain.
- Ely Cathedral was built in the shape of a cross. It was constructed of stone and marble.
- The cathedral is also known as the 'Ship of the Fens'. It got this nickname because of its prominent shape as well as the fact that the landscape surrounding the cathedral is flat and watery.
- In February 1322 a part of the building collapsed. When it was redesigned for the rebuilding of the damaged part, it included an octagon shaped tower.
- There are various styles in the cathedral including ancient Romanesque/Norman, early English and Gothic as well as Victorian.
- The shrine to honour Saint Etheldreda was destroyed in 1539. Henry the 8th disbanded several types of religious houses of worship in what was called Dissolution of the Monasteries. The cathedral was refounded in 1541, and had suffered only minor damage.
- Ely Cathedral is the only building in the UK to have been included as one of Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages. It is a favourite site for visitors from all over the world every year.
- The 'Great Restoration' of Ely Cathedral began in 1986. It was completed in 2000 at a cost of 12 million pounds.
- Ely Cathedral continues to have resident choristers, which is not a common practice anymore and only a few cathedrals still do. It is a boys' choir that consists of 22 choristers. They can be heard on Sundays, feast days and at Choral Evensong most evenings.
- Pink Floyd featured Ely Cathedral on the cover of their album 'The Division Bell'.
- It has also been featured in several choral albums by John Rutter. Many of his recordings were completed in the Lady Chapel in Ely Cathedral.
- Marcus Sedgwick wrote a book called Foodland and used the cathedral as part of the setting. He won a best first children's novel for the book award that year.
- Another children's book Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce refers to Ely Cathedral. It was released as a movie in 1999.
- Ely Cathedral is also popular in movies. The movie 'Elizabeth: The Golden Age', and 'The Other Boleyn Girl' were both filmed there.
- It was used during the filming of the movie 'The King's Speech', substituting for Westminster Abbey



Sawston Free Church

Craft Group

We meet in the back hall of the Church on alternate Monday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. Everyone is very welcome, bring your own project of knitting, sewing or crochet or you can just drop in for a coffee and a chat.

Dates for January: 8th and 22nd.

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



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Wednesday Fellowship

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

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

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

The program for January

- 3 January- Members sharing Christmas cards and memories
- 17 January- AGM
- 31 January- "Meet the Members" - members get together

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

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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.

We meet on Thursday mornings between 10.30 and 12noon during term time. For more information

please contact **Rosemary**.

Email: timefortots@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk



Another baby and toddler group you could go along to is Refresh - 2.pm-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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Flower Rota

I should like to thank everyone who has generously donated towards our having flowers in church each Sunday and I am sure that they are enjoyed by everyone.

The new flower rota will be at the back of the church (on the bible bookshelf) for anyone wishing to donate flowers or have flowers arranged on their behalf.



We hope lots of additional names can be added for 2018. Let's make sure that there are flowers every week.

Janet Parr

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CAMBRIDGE METHODIST Diary January 2018 (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
Susan Nunn	55 Granta Road, Sawston	561956
Faith Paulding	Charlbury, 26 Moorfield Road, Duxford	574325
Mike Purdy	42 Granta Road, Sawston	830903
Sue Sisk	63 Babraham Road, Sawston	833508
Sue Lelliott	26 Park Road, Sawston	520383
Chris Sales	2 Edinburgh Avenue, Sawston	473829
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 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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or contact Min Ong: [minhuey.ong @papworthtrust.org.uk](mailto:minhuey.ong@papworthtrust.org.uk)

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



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