

# C O N T A C T

March 2018



# L e n t

Volume 60 - Issue 3

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.

<b>Sunday</b>	Every 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 6.00 pm 6.30 pm	Morning Worship Messy Church <b>No evening service</b> Holy Communion as part of Morning Worship Quiet Time with God Evening Communion Go4th Praise Service ( <b>No evening service</b>
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
<b>Sun 4 March</b>	10.30am: Lent 3 - Faith Paulding 3pm: Messy Church	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Wendy Roe	10.30am: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron
Mon 5 March	10am: Craft Group (page 8)		
Sat 10 March	8am: Church Workday (page 7)		
<b>Sun 11 March</b>	10.30am: Lent 4 & Brigades Parade - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm: Quiet Time Lynne Hays	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Mark Hayes	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mr Bob Parkin
Wed 14 Mar	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 8)		
<b>Sun 18 March</b>	10.30am: Lent 5 & Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	2.30pm: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Family Service - Rev Norman Setchell
Mon 19 Feb	10am: Craft Group (page 8)		
<b>Sun 25 March</b>	10.30am: Palm Sunday - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.30pm: Go4th – Bruce and Mike	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr George Tadrous	10.30am: Morning Worship Mr Mark Hayes
<b>Wed 28 March</b>	7.30pm: Holy Wk Wednesday - Rev Bruce Waldron 2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 8)		
<b>Thurs 29 March</b>	7.30pm: Maundy Thursday - Rev Bruce Waldron		
<b>Fri 30 March</b>	10.30am: Good Friday Walk of Witness – John Minh 7.30pm: Shared Worship SFC - Rev Bruce Waldron		

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
March 4	John Conway 833953	Janet Parr	March 18	John Newton 562873	Helen Sharpe
March 11	Gordon Heald 833983		March 25	Tony Moss 834220	Sylvia Goddard

The closing date for **April** Contact is **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March.**

**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, Little Abington & Castle Camps URC's  
United Reformed – Methodist**

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www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk  
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## From the Minister's Desk



***Who is your closest friend? How do you know they are close to you? What are the indicators?***

There are probably long cups of tea, or coffee, well... some kind of social lubricant. There will be shared things you do together; making, fixing, watching, recreation, thinking about together.

And of course, there will be conversation, lots of conversation, sharing of ideas, fears, hopes, aspirations, dreams, frustrations, triumphs, laughs, tears, even the occasional tiff.

These are the means by which friendships grow, are sustained, develop. Without these, it is not friendship. You know each other well enough to talk about anything, and the level of friendship is often gauged by the barometer of how much you know about what the other person thinks, feels, is going through..... A friendship is two sided.

Prayer is essentially about friendship with God; listening to God, pouring your heart out to God, trying to understand the heart of God and letting God into your heart.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you **friends**, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father." John 15:15.

It takes time to develop a friendship, or to lose it. So how is your friendship with God? Have you spent the time, listening, talking? Do you make time for your friendship with God?

Sometimes people talk about prayer like you would talk about an application for funding for new chairs for a church. "Here's what I want. Can you help?" That's not the kind of image of prayer that Jesus taught.

Sometimes people talk about prayer as though it is a visit to the family doctor. That's not the kind of relationship that Jesus modelled for his disciples.

Sometimes people talk about prayer like it is an attempt at some kind of supernatural magic. God will "fix things" if we pray right. That's not the aim and object of prayer.

Prayer is like a friendship. The more you talk, the more you know each other. The more you know each other the more you are in tune with each other. The more you are in tune with each other the more you become like each other, shared ideas, aspirations, approaches, trust. The more you can hear each other.

The change that comes from this is deep, pervasive, and profound. This is the purpose of prayer, not to change things that are happening around you, or to you, or to get God to change the odds like a divine good-luck charm, or sort someone else out. Prayer is about a long term, deeply personal growing relationship in which the links are ever growing, ever deeper, until you almost "know what your friend is thinking".

These other types of prayer often leave people saying things like "Prayer doesn't work." "God didn't answer my prayer." "I called out to God but God was silent." "I prayed but nothing happened."

These all speak of a sort of mechanism to prayer, and it isn't about mechanism, cause and effect, application and grant, petition to the parliament. It is about openness to God's friendship, expressed in time, in conversation, in that frequent meeting of mind and heart. So, how's the friendship going?

**Bruce**

## Message From Castle Camps



March has arrived and we shall no doubt have some wet and blustery weather. At least the Winter is passing and we are now looking forward to the Spring and the bulbs are now appearing. It is lovely to see the snowdrops.

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March, it is Mothering Sunday and we shall celebrate Mother Church as well as giving posies to our mothers.

We are arranging a Lent Course again this year led by Rev. Bruce Waldron. This will be held in the school room, on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm for five weeks starting on 20<sup>th</sup> February and we are hoping that many local parishioners will join us.

Our next Songs of Praise will be on Palm Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm and will be led by Rev. Bruce Waldron, together with Richard Hart and members of the choir from St. Mary's Church, Haverhill. Coffee and hot cross buns to follow.

On Good Friday, we shall have a meditation leaflet for all who would like it. Contact Alan Hardy for copies.

Easter Day is 1<sup>st</sup> April and our morning service will be led by Rev. Bruce Waldron. The theme is Blossoming of the Cross and there will be an Easter Egg Hunt after the service for the children.

Finally, our last church meeting was well attended and we had a lot of new ideas. Our next meeting is the AGM and it will be held in the school room at 2pm on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

We send our love and best wishes to you all and look forward to seeing you at our services.

### ***Mary and Friends.***

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### **A Prayer for Those who Live Alone**

I live alone dear Lord, stay by my side.  
In all my daily needs, be thou my guide.  
Grant me good health for that indeed I pray.  
To carry on my work from day to day.  
Keep pure my mind, my thoughts, my every deed.  
Let me be kind unselfish in my neighbours needs.  
Spare me from fire, from flood, malicious tongues.  
From thieves, from fear, from evil ones.  
If sickness or an accident befall,  
Then humbly Lord, I pray, be thou my call.  
And when I'm feeling low or in despair.  
Lift up my head and help me in my prayer.  
I live alone dear Lord, yet have no fear  
Because I feel your presence ever near.

***(Author unknown)***

## A letter from an Elderly Church Member.

*This is a letter that Val Spencer found in a Church magazine in West Yorkshire and she originally printed the article in November 2006. .*

*Val found it amusing and it certainly made me laugh. I am sure no one will be offended by it and as Val said "There is something appealingly innocent about it".* David

The other day I went to a Christian bookshop and saw a "Honk if you love Jesus" sticker. I bought it and put it in my car window and I'm so glad that I did – What an uplifting experience followed!

I had stopped at a red light at a busy crossing, and just lost in thought about the Lord and how good He is, and I didn't notice that the lights had changed green. It was a good thing that someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn't honked I'd have never noticed.

I found that lots of people love Jesus. Whilst I was sitting there, a man behind me started honking like crazy, and then he leaned out of the window and screamed "For the love of God, go, go!". What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus. Everyone started honking! I just leaned out of my window and waved and smiled at all the lovely people. I even honked a few times myself to share in the love.



I saw another man waving in a funny way with only two fingers stuck in the air. When I asked my grandson, sitting next to me, what that meant he said it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something. Well. I've never met anyone from Hawaii, so I gave him the good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing, even he was enjoying the religious experience.

A couple of people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started to walk towards me. I bet they wanted to pray with me or ask which church I attended.

This was when I noticed that the lights had changed and so... not wishing to hold anyone up, I gave a cheery smile and waved goodbye to all my new found brothers and sisters and drove off. In my mirror I noticed that I was the only car that got across before the lights changed again. I felt very sad that I had to leave them all behind after all the love we had shared, so I slowed down, leaned out of the window and gave them the Hawaiian good luck sign as I drove away.

## New PA System At Castle Camps

**At Castle Camps**, a new sound system installation was completed at the beginning of February. The entire system is wireless and the sound quality is much improved. The new system works with two hand-held microphones and a lapel microphone and has capacity for a number of other inputs and for playing digitally recorded music. Our thanks for help received from Terry Penny and from Andrew (AJ) of AJ's Disco's Hire and Events in helping Bruce put together and install the system.



## Prayer Diary for March

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

### Week 1 Lent 3

- Please pray for the team of people putting together the Women's World Day of Prayer service being held at Sawston Free Church on Friday afternoon at 2pm. Please pray for Mary who has been coordinating this effort, and for the people who attend. Please pray for the women of Slovenia.

### Week 2 Lent 4

- Our prayers this Sunday will focus on mothers, and on mother church.
- Please pray for the task group who are managing the breakup of the partnership between Sawston Free Church and Papworth Trust, that they will find the least traumatic way possible of managing the cessation of all the services that the OWL Café provides.
- Please pray for the church and elders as they seek to arrange a task group to address the question of future usage of that part of the Sawston Free Church that has run for many years as the OWL Café.
- Please pray for the Lent Study groups meeting
  - Tuesday at Castle Camps
  - Wednesday at Sawston Free Church, London Road, and Babraham
  - Thursday at Pampisford
  - Sunday at St. Mary's Church
- ON Saturday there is a Messy Church Training Day at Chesterton. Please pray for all who are attending.

### Week 3 Lent 5

- Please pray for Angie, the manager of the OWL Café, the staff, students and volunteers who work in the café.
- Please pray for the Sawston Free Church as they go to their Annual General Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March
- Please pray for the people receiving meals from the Café as they contemplate how to address the gap left by the closure of this valuable service.
- Also for the drivers who have been the point of contact for so many people in what is often a lonely week. They will miss this opportunity to bring a bit of light and pleasure to their regular recipients.
- On Saturday, the Eastern Synod will be meeting at St. John's Church, Ipswich.

### Week 4 Lent 6

- We pray for the Craft Group, meeting on Monday morning at Sawston Free Church,
- We pray for the Lt. Abington URC, and for their ecumenical partners as the Anglican Benefice have appointed a new priest, the Revd. Iain McColl who takes up residence in Balsham in April and will lead the search for a "house for duty" priest in The Abingtons
- We pray for the Castle Camps church who on Palm Sunday will be hosting a Songs of Praise with the help of the Anglican Choir from Haverhill Church and Richard Hart on organ. Please hold them all in your prayers.

### Week 5 Holy Week

- As we walk through Holy Week, pray for an understanding as with Christ we move through this last week of his physical life, towards his glory, the Cross.
  - **Monday: Overturning the tables of the Money Changers:** Lord prevent us from allowing the desire for wealth to override our commitment to you.
  - **Tuesday: Conflict stories with the religious leaders:** Lord, give us the courage to speak the truth with love, even though it may cost us dearly

- **Wednesday: The woman with the jar of ointment:** Lord, give us a commitment to and understanding of costly love, no matter how much it is derided by those who do not understand.
- **Thursday: The Last Supper:** Lord, may we who break bread with each other, and you, understand the power of servant love, and honour our covenant with you each time we break bread and take the cup.
- **Friday: The Cross:** Lord, we pause, humbled by such love, humbled by such grace, and touched by such love as can forgive even the soldier, and offer hope, even from the cross
- **Saturday: The Sabbath:** Lord, there are times when we need to wait, to be still, even in the face of hopelessness, and know that you are working your miracles, silently, unseen
- **Sunday: Resurrection: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen, Amen and Amen**

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## **WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – WILL YOU BE PART OF IT THIS YEAR?**



WWDP has come such a long way. What started as separate days of prayer organised by individual denominations in America, as early as 1887, has become a truly international and ecumenical World Day of Prayer.

The original date of the first Friday in Lent was changed to the first **Friday in March**, a date more suited to the Orthodox churches. As more countries joined, Roman Catholic participation grew, especially after the Second Vatican Council in 1962

Today, around 170 countries take part. The service is translated into more than 60 languages and 1000 dialects. Starting in Western Samoa, travelling westwards around the Globe, ending in American Samoa, it takes 36 hours from start to finish.

The WWDP design comprises arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

This year, YOU too can be part of this truly International, Interdenominational, Ecumenical and **Wonderful Day of Praise and Prayer.**

THIS SERVICE IS FOR EVERYBODY, not just women, so MEN, let's have more of you in attendance.

This year the service on FRIDAY 2ND MARCH 2018, entitled ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD!

It has been written by Women from Surinam, Northern part of South America.

Through WWDP women are encouraged to be enriched by the faith experience of other Christians to become aware of the situation of women in other countries, to share their hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, opportunities and needs, and to pray with and for them to turn their prayers into positive action.

We thank God that we have the privilege of sharing in this precious gift of WWDP and we pray that it will continue to bind women together throughout the world in the love of Christ.

***Women's World Day of Prayer will take place at Sawston Free Church on Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service.***

## Program written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname for WDP 2018

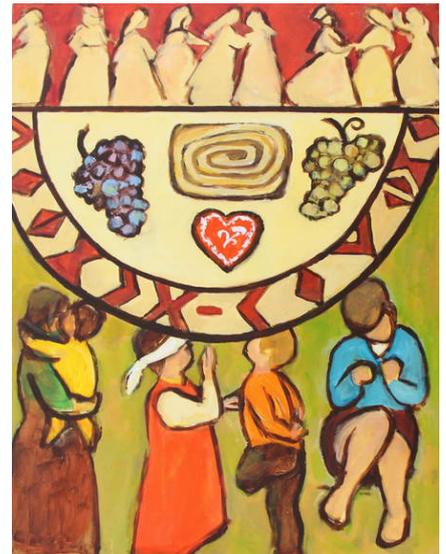
### Genesis 1: 1-31

*A heri grontapu di Gado meki bun doro, dóro!*

As in the beginning, God created from chaos. But everything that was created found its place in creation. All were related to each other – the earth with the light, the waters with the sky, the tree seeds with the living creatures, and the humankind with God. None could exist without the other, and the source of all was God.

There was goodness in that integrated system of relationships. But essential to that was the commitment to care. And we know that we are failing!

Women from Suriname lift up their voices to remind us that we are caretakers of God's creation! They are bringing to our attention the urgent need for caring at a time when more than 180 countries have signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. A commitment to keep the earth cooler depends on public policies implemented by governments, but also on our personal lifestyle.

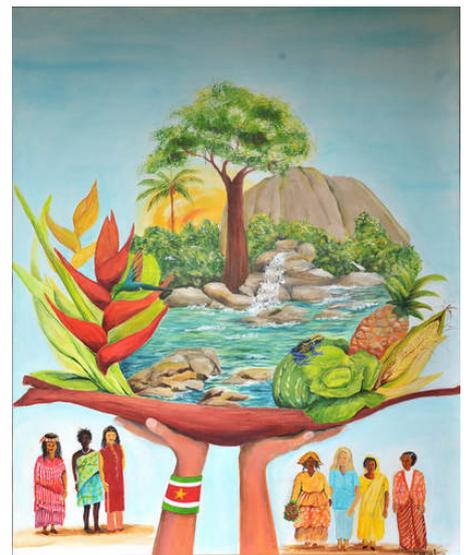


As one of our Guiding Principles affirms “prayer is rooted in listening to God and to one another.” Through the worship service, we listen to the multicultural and multi-ethnic people of Suriname. They take us to their communities and through their concerns. History is before our eyes! The flora and fauna are remarkable! The everyday life is weaved into the prayers.

How good is God's creation? That is the question to meditate and respond to with a personal commitment to care for creation. But it can also be an opportunity for the WDP motto “Informed prayer and prayerful action” to be affirmed in the community. What is it that we, as the WDP movement, can do to keep God's creation good?

This program was written by women in Slovenia, one of the smallest countries in Europe and a pretty young committee in the WDP movement.

At the core of the theme, an invitation – Come; and to enable the response – Everything is ready. Come to praise, thank, and proclaim the kingdom of love.



The invitation is grounded in the parable that Jesus told about a great dinner which was attended by the ones called off the streets, as the ones invited excused themselves. The community formed around the table is not enough to fill the house – there is still room. Who are missing from the table in your community? How would you invite and prepare the feast?

Throughout the worship service, we hear the stories of those who are coming to the table of bread, wine, water, and salt. Their stories reflect the political and economic situation from the time Slovenia was a socialist-communist state to today. Their stories are the voices of the refugee and migrant workers, the mothers, the grandmothers, the wives, and the Roma people. While listening to their stories, we ask for forgiveness for being silent in the face of injustice, and we pray that God open our hearts to compassion and understanding. And we leave with a blessing prayer to mutually support one another on the path of freedom, justice, and peace.

May the welcoming God enable us to set the table and fill the communities with hope, love, and joy!

## The OWL Café is Closing

It was with deep sadness and frustration that we learned, in the middle of February, that Papworth Trust had taken the decision to discontinue the OWL Café. This service to our community was begun by Kevin and Angela Mc Mullen, born out of their own experience of their daughter Fiona's aspirations and frustrations with existing facilities. It was supported by the then minister of Sawston Free Church, the Rev. Peter Ball, and by the congregation out of their deep experience of Bruce Belbin's hopes and dreams and their love for the Belbin family. The loss of the OWL Training Centre and Café is going to leave a great gap.

One gap is going to be for the students. Yes, Papworth Trust may keep OWL going elsewhere, but the café is the place where the students find their identity and interact with the public on a daily basis. Friendships are formed, skills are learned and experiences are gained in dealing with the public and workmates.

Another huge gap will be felt by the people who receive meals daily from the café. Each day about twenty to thirty meals go out to people in our community. It is not just the meal that is the issue, and heaven knows how important that is; it is the contact with other people. As a recipient said to one of our drivers, "You are the only person I see all day."

A further gap is going to be the loss of this very popular social meeting point in the village. Yes, there are other cafes, but this one is designed for people who live with disabilities.

A further loss will be the links between all the individuals and organisations who use the Free Church facilities and then the café, or vice versa, unless we at Sawston Free Church can initiate another model or project, run without Papworth Trust.

About eight years ago, OWL trustees negotiated for Papworth Trust to take over the operational management and responsibility for OWL. That has worked well since 2010, and whatever is happening now, we must acknowledge with thanks the contribution that Papworth Trust have made to the OWL project and to our village.

We at Sawston Free Church are all deeply distressed that Papworth Trust feel they no longer have the resources to sustain the café, and we ask all of our friends to pray for us, to offer us any good suggestions they have and to offer us any resources they think might help as we try to think our way through what it is God is asking of us at this critical moment.

Our sympathy and commiserations with all who have loved and cherished the work of the OWL Café, particularly the staff, students and volunteers.

**Bruce**

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## Church Workday – March 10<sup>th</sup> - 8am till noon

Please come and help keep our premises looking good. There are various tasks to suit all talents and capabilities from painting to gardening, and a chance for a chat over cake and coffee.

**Please let me know if you can come it really helps me to plan the work.**

**Thank You** Gordon (833983)



## Stewardship: The Responsibility Is Ours.

About a year ago, the church meeting decided to embark on a Stewardship Programme.

The presupposition is that we don't actually own anything. God entrusts things to us; life, health, money, food, property, family, intellect, humour, personality, time: these are all held by us as stewards for God, and we are responsible to God with how we manage these things.

Finally we are coming to the end of this, and now, needing to think about the trickiest of all: Money.

We can talk about all the other things and no one gets touchy or upset or wary. We start to talk about money and all sorts of hackles rise, all sorts of emotional barriers clunk into place. Why?

One of the reasons is that we presume it is about the church asking for more money. It is not. The church, like every other voluntary charity, cannot survive without its supporters, in every aspect. Money is one of them. The question is not "How much will you give to your church?" The question is, how can I be faithful to God with the money God has put into my care? So, as with time, body, property, family, relationships, etc, the question that is being asked, the hint that is being given is this:

"Take some time out to think about how you can use this resource in a way that is faithful to trying to live the life of Jesus today."

The church as a whole body has to do the same. Are we as a church putting our money into the right places. Are our priorities really Christ-like?

It is good to be reminded from time to time, that we need to reassess, rethink, look at afresh what we are doing with all that God has given us, and what good we want to achieve with it, and what is the best way to achieve it.

If our Stewardship Programme has encouraged people to review and think carefully about these things, then we've achieved our goal. Whatever happens with our church, with our bodies, our possessions, our relationships, the responsibility is ours, to God. I hope your reflection on all this affirms that you have been doing it well, and I hope it sharpens your focus for tomorrow, to do it even better.

As we move into Lent, it is time to do a spiritual stocktake. As we move to the conclusion of our Stewardship Programme, the two should merge so that our church is well supported and nourished in every way by the members who God has given it, and by the resources it has been bequeathed. And the two should merge so that we do God's will in our village, and do it well.

**Bruce**

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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. **Dates for March:** 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

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 program for March

14 March - Handy Vans (British Legion) talk by Kevin Grantham

28 March - Easter service led by Rev Bruce Waldron

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

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#### Time For Tots at Sawston Free Church

Time for Tots is a church run group for babies and preschool children and their carers. We meet on Thursday mornings between 10.30 and 12noon during term time. For more

information please contact **Rosemary**. Email: [timefortots@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:timefortots@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk)





## Clip 'n' Climb –An evening out with the Brigades



Imagine, if you will, a room about the size and height of the church. Fill it with colour, put structures up the walls with foot-rests and handholds on them, mats on the floor and hang cords from the ceiling. Then fill it with children. This is the experience that is summed up in the term "Clip 'n' Climb".

The building is amongst the industrial units behind the Cambridge Leisure Park, a little way down Clifton Road. The children were all members of 1st Sawston Brigades, or friends they had brought along for the occasion; 33 young people in all, a very encouraging response.

The evening starts with a briefing session - you could hurt yourself after all, but with a bit of care it is wonderful fun. Everyone is strapped up, fitted around your waist and your legs. The straps are clipped onto the cords hanging from the ceiling, and away you go!



There are any number of different climbs to try, some easy, some more challenging. Some are timed - with a big red button to smack when you reach the top. Pretty soon you are 5 meters, 10 meters up. Grip tight, pull with your hands, find a foot hold, stretch and reach; will you reach the top before your muscles give out?

Don't look down. Don't let go!

You reach the top!! (Or your tired fingers slip...)  
Down you come. The cord, through the mechanism at the top, steadies your fall until your feet touch the ground.

Unclip, try the next one, the new clip onto the straps and away you go - and if you fall, don't worry, just give it another go, this time you'll do it!

An hour later, tired and thirsty, we make our way home. Until the next time!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Clip 'n' Climb so successful.



David Lloyd

### Editors Note

***"Looks like the next Elders Nightout has been sorted!!!"***

*“Christian Aid has more than 70 years’ experience of working in partnership to support communities to thrive. We tackle the root causes of poverty so that women, men and children the world over are strengthened against future knocks. And if disasters happen, we get people the help they want straight away”*



### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 13-19 MAY - Advance Notice**

This year we are organising a (previously very popular) TEA DANCE on Saturday 12 May from 2.00-5.00pm at St Mary’s Community Hall in Church Lane. There will be cream teas and plenty of time to sit and chat. There will also be music for ballroom dancing for those who like to dance, and for those who like to sit and watch. Please save this date.

We are planning a CAR BOOT SALE (date to be decided), so we need you to sort through your lofts and cupboards for anything you no longer need or want. (No clothes please). Please give whatever you find to Pam and Tony or to Mary.

We will also be collecting outside Budgens one Saturday morning, and there will be a rota in church for you to sign up for an hour. There will be envelopes in church each Sunday during May.

A speaker from Christian Aid is coming to speak about their work during the morning service on Sunday 18 March.

Further details will be in April Contact. Please contact one of us if you are able to help in any way.

***Thank you***

***Pam, Tony and Mary***

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### **New Member of Sawston Free Church**

It has been a great privilege and joy to welcome some new members into our church at Sawston: the Shaji family with Rosemary Livings back in November, and in this past month, Vivien Ford.

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February, Vivien shared with us something of the journey God has taken her on, and in sharing her faith with us, was warmly welcomed into membership of Sawston Free Church. She delighted us with a song as part of her testimony, telling us how special she feels because of God’s love for her, guiding her on the journey of life.

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*Dear friends*

In 6 weeks I will be plodding around the streets of Cambridge again in my annual attempt to raise some money for a charity close to my heart. This year I am hoping to raise some more much-needed funds for The Erbs Palsy Group.

My gorgeous little nephew Ben suffered an injury at birth which has left him with some paralysis in his left arm. The Erbs Palsy Group have been simply amazing and this is my way of saying thank you to them for all the support and information they have given (and continue to give) my sister.

If you would like to sponsor me, my fundraising page is: [www.justgiving.com/valerie-marc](http://www.justgiving.com/valerie-marc)

*Your support is very much appreciated*

*Thank you x Valerie*



The Rugby Six Nations competition is with us again. In my family, that means cheerful war. I am English. Margaret is Welsh. Our son Paul, born in Glasgow, considers himself Scottish. His wife, Claire, is as Irish as it is possible to be. So, for two months, rivalry holds sway.

The need to belong to a pack, and to run with a pack, goes deep into our ancestral psyche. (See last month's piece about martyrdom, for example.) The Greeks and Romans divided their cities in *demoi* (or *demes*) which were not totally unlike our voting constituencies in many ways. But sporting functions were also organised around *demoi*, athletics and chariot racing in particular. In later, Roman and Byzantine times, there were at best four *demoi* - four city quarters - with associated banners of red, yellow, green and blue. In Byzantium itself, by the time of the Nika riots of AD 532, there were only two left, blue and green. You were one, or you were the other. No opting out.

Exactly how one came to be a green or a blue had by this time become rather obscure. I am an England supporter for the next two months through geography and birth, but how I became a Tottenham Hotspur supporter is far more obscure - even to me. It just happened somewhere along the way. How about changing, and becoming a Manchester City supporter? Oh no. Once cast, the die seems cast for ever. Does this sound like boy-stuff? Ladies beware! You are more susceptible than it might please you to suppose.

Back to Constantinople: Not even royalty were exempt. For whatever reason, the much-hated Emperor Justinian was a blue, and it was this, along with bribery, that saved him. The rioting townspeople were from both blues and greens, but their champion, with whom they wished to replace Justinian, was a green. Justinian exploited this to the full, reminding the blues that he too was a blue, and pointing out that their alleged champion was a green, which could not possibly be right. He handed large sums of money to the leaders of the blues but not, of course, to the greens. Having thus started a riot within a riot, towards the end he sent in his imperial guard to mop up. It is reputed that thirty thousand died. It is hard to credit that so much blood, and the course of history, turned on such trifles as green and blue.

It is tempting to say with one's Christian hat on, 'We Christians are above such nonsense. Time to grow up.' But it occurs to me that that is perhaps too simple. After all, Christianity is about belonging as much as it is about anything. We Christians describe ourselves as God's adopted family (Eph 1:5, Rom 8:23) and we are ever-conscious of the price of our adoption. Paul also writes about how we have changed from being outsiders to insiders (Rom 9: 26). Does that mean that Christianity is just another kind of tribalism, and that internal battles between Catholics and Protestants, or external battles between Christians and Muslims are part of our DNA as we sort out who is 'in' and who is 'out'?

I know that many, both from within Christian circles and from without, would say so. But it seems to me that in Romans 9 Paul is reaching after something far more demanding - that in Christ there can be insiders without anyone else needing to be an outsider. We can *all* be insiders. At which point I find myself remembering the saying of Jesus, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible' (Matt 19:26).

## NEWS RELEASE

### ***A letter to a new friend***

Residents at Orchard House Residential Care Home (a Sanctuary Care home) have been putting pen to paper, writing thoughtful letters sparking new friendships with other Sanctuary Care home residents at Lyons Court Residential Care Home Chelmsford, Essex in honour of 'Send a Card to a Friend Day'.

The new penpal scheme between the homes was developed to put residents in touch with like-minded people, sharing their wonderful stories and forging strong bonds.

Speaking of their letters 93-year-old Orchard House resident Harry Beeton said: "I am happy we are doing this, it's important and we all have great stories to share with each other!"

Fellow resident Irene Walker agreed: "Writing a letter is nice and something different, like we used to do. I like to make new friends, it's exciting."

The two homes plan to soon meet half way, giving the residents the opportunity to meet each other and enjoy a lovely lunch together.

Activities leader at the Sawston home, Emma Mills said: "The penpal scheme has gone down so well with our residents with so many wanting to get involved. "Writing the letters is just one simple thing we can do to show others we are thinking of them."

Send a Card to a Friend Day is marked each year on 7 February with the aim to reduce loneliness and under appreciation with the simple help of a card from a friend.

***I'm sure they'd be happy to receive letters from the community at anytime too.***

Over the next 12 months Sanctuary Care is celebrating its 20th anniversary delivering care to our residents, with a series of events across our 68 care homes and hospital service.

As part of a not-for-profit group, our vision of 'keeping kindness at the heart of our care' underpins the ethos of our entire organisation. Over the coming months we will be celebrating our wonderful teams, who support our residents every single day to live happy and contented lives.

Part of Sanctuary Group, Sanctuary Care is a professional, financially strong organisation with a good reputation and is passionate about the quality of services it provides.

Sanctuary Care was established in 1995 to provide older people with high quality nursing and residential care. Its income is re-invested into the business which allows it to provide residents with excellent standards of care from well managed and maintained homes.

Established in 1969, Sanctuary Group is responsible for the provision of social housing, care and management services across England and Scotland. It owns over 100,000 units of accommodation and employs more than 12,000 people.

The Group operates under a not for profit umbrella, with surpluses reinvested into the provision of affordable housing, the maintenance of existing properties, and the development of new services for customers.

Sanctuary is an exempt charity under the Charities Act 1993 and is regulated by the Regulator for Social Housing.

For more information, please contact Fae Doherty, PR Officer, on 01905 335407 or Kate Yates, Senior PR Officer on 01905 335436.





Sanctuary Care

'Keeping kindness at the heart of our care'



## Orchard House Residential Care Home

invites you to our...

# Care Home Open Day 1920s Royal Cream Tea

Saturday 21 April

10.30am to 12.20pm and 2.30pm to 4pm

Join us for our 1920s inspired celebration in honour of the Queen's 92nd birthday where there will be a live saxophone performance in the morning, with mouth-watering refreshments to enjoy throughout the day. Discover our history corner, created by our residents to reminisce and share tales of their past and the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

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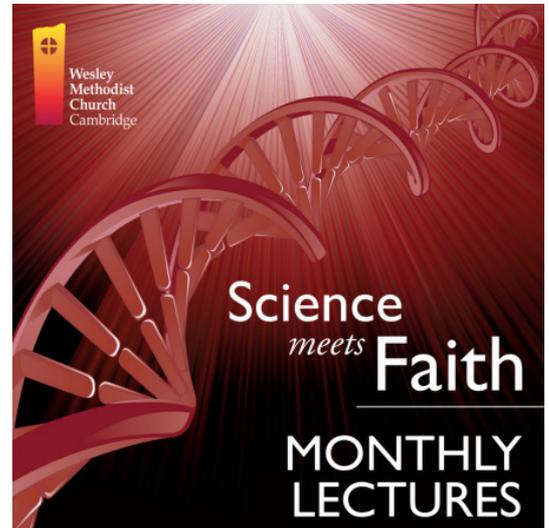
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## Science meets Faith Matter of Fact or Matter of Faith

Prof Tony Bell FRS  
Professor of Physics, University of Oxford

Monday 12 March 2018, at 7.45 p.m.  
Wesley Methodist Church



Tony Bell is a theoretical plasma physicist researching into high energy astrophysics and laser-driven fusion energy. He is best known for his work on the acceleration of high energy particles, known as cosmic rays, arriving at the Earth with energies far exceeding those achieved at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Switzerland. He followed a first degree in Natural Sciences with a PhD in Radio Astronomy, both in Cambridge. He held positions at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and at Imperial College before moving to the University of Oxford. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society. He has been awarded the Hoyle Prize of the Institute of Physics, the Eddington Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, and the Alfvén Prize of the European Physical Society. He has been a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church since 1994. He was a Minister in the Methodist Church from 2003 to 2008, and during this period he spent two years as pastor of three churches in Oxford.

Science is arguably the great achievement of our age. In us, the Universe has come to a knowledge of itself, knowing its own beginning and inner working. Powerful though it is, limits on the reach of science are evident in quantum indeterminacy and classical unpredictability. Also, science points to a reality beyond itself. Many-worlds and multiverse theories stand on the boundary between physics and metaphysics. Material systems act as a vehicle of transcendence through the self-organising capacity of complex systems which include human beings and their society and culture. Reductionist science gives an incomplete account of reality. Some regard God as an explanation paralleling science. But God falls into a different category that extends beyond human rationality. The God of the Bible defies rational expectation by dying on a cross, in Jesus entering life at the point at which he is fatally excluded. Jesus stands with us at the far horizon of all realities, teaching us how to say 'Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth' when this is plainly untrue, and to find wisdom in the cross that, to quote St Paul, is foolishness. Mary Magdalene met the risen Jesus, thinking him to be the gardener, recognising him as he spoke her name and said to her, 'Do not hold on to me.' Faith is to engage with a personal reality beyond science that cannot be grasped; Faith lies on the boundary of perception and recognition.

***This lecture represents the contribution of Wesley Methodist Church to the University of Cambridge Science Festival 2018.***



## CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT Events for March 2018

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

<b>MARCH</b>			
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup>	Coffee - 10.30am Study -10.45am – 12 noon	Lent Group – Seven ‘words’ for Lent Home group sessions with guest speakers at 35 Millington Rd, Cambridge. All welcome to attend any or all of these meetings. #3 ‘Conversion’ With Revd Richard Clutterbuck	Cambridge
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	An Enchanted Evening with musical group, Felici in concert performing a selection of opera, operetta favourites and musical theatre hits. Tickets at £10 (including refreshments) From Sue on 01763 243815 or e.mail:walter962@btinternet.com or <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/royston-methodist-church">www.ticketsource.co.uk/royston-methodist-church</a> Proceeds to be shared between the Methodist Church and the Royston Town Mayor’s Community Trust Fund	Royston Methodist Church
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	5pm Refreshments from 4.15pm	Circuit Service in Celebration of Chesterton Methodist Church. Come visit the newly improved facilities and share worship and communion together. All welcome	Chesterton Methodist Church
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Lent Group – Seven ‘words’ for Lent Home group sessions with guest speakers as above #4 ‘Justification’ With Prof Morna Hooker-Stacey	Cambridge
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm for 7.45pm	Science Meets Faith: With Prof Tony Bell, Professor of Physics, University of Oxford talking on ‘Matter of Fact or matter of faith’ All welcome. Free admission – retiring collection. Light refreshments from 7.15pm.	Wesley Methodist Church
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Lent Group – Seven ‘words’ for Lent Home group sessions with guest speakers as 1 <sup>st</sup> March #5 ‘Redemption’ With Prof Judy Lieu	Cambridge
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Coffee from 10am	Dementia Friends Information Session You are warmly invited to an information session focusing on dementia awareness and how we can encourage churches to be more dementia friendly. This will be led by Chantal Bradley from the Alzheimer’s Society. Please join us for coffee anytime from 10am. The session will start at 10.30 and last approximately 2 hours. Everyone is very welcome.	Royston Methodist Church
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Faith To Live By with Edwin Panford-Quainoo talking about "Medicines, Ethics & Pharmacy Practice" Come and hear Edwin share some of his ethical quandaries as a pharmacist. Short time of worship, a presentation, refreshments & discussion. All welcome	Haslingfield Methodist Church
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Lent Group – Seven ‘words’ for Lent Home group sessions with guest speakers as 1 <sup>st</sup> March #6 “Repentance’ with Revd Carole Irwin	Cambridge
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am - 12 noon	Lent Group – Seven ‘words’ for Lent Home group sessions with guest speakers as 1 <sup>st</sup> March #7 “New Creation’ with Revd Dr Brian Beck	Cambridge

## Church Directory

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Faith Paulding	Charlbury, 26 Moorfield Road, Duxford	574325
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