

CONTACT

March 2017

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Volume 58 - 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.

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 Mar	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 10)		
Sun 5 Mar	10.30am: Morning Worship - Derek Nicholls 3.00pm Messy Church	10.15am: Morning Worship - Faith Paulding	10.30am Holy Communion (In the Schoolroom) - Rev Bruce Waldron
Mon 6 Mar	2.00pm Prayer for Sawston (page 10)		
Sat 11 th Mar	Church Workday (page 14)		
Sun 12 Mar	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm Quiet Time	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Jim Taylor	10.30am: Morning Worship (In the Schoolroom) - Dr. Janet Bottoms
Mon 13 Mar	10am – Craft Group (page 10)		
Wed 15 Mar	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 10)		
Sun 19 Mar	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron	2.30pm: Holy Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Morning Worship (In the Schoolroom) - Mrs Penny Flynn
Sun 26 Mar	10.30am: Mothering Sunday Parade service – Rev Bruce Waldron	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Mark Hayes	10.30am: Mothering Sunday (In the Schoolroom) - Mrs Wendy Roe
Mon 27 Mar	10am – Craft Group (page 10)		
Wed 29 Mar	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 10)		

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
March 5	Tony Moss 834220		March 19	Alan Cleveland 834742	Anne Nunn
March 12	Gordon Heald 833983	Margaret Wilson	March 26	John Newton 562873	Helen Sharpe

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

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

Contact

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

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[From the Minister's Desk](#)

[So What Are You Doing For Lent?](#)

Lent begins this year on the 1st March, Ash Wednesday. In some traditions, it is marked by a Worship Service where people are marked with an Ash Cross on their foreheads. This is a reminder of our mortality, and a reminder that this is a time of penitence, a time of examining ourselves, forty days of soul searching to root out anything that stands between ourselves and living out the Kingdom of God, or if you like, God's rule in our hearts and lives.

There is an ancient tradition of giving up a vice during Lent. For some people this is a symbolic thing, so people don't eat chocolate, for others, something more serious like stopping smoking, or eating more healthy foods, giving up meat, or perhaps stopping some other activity that is just for pleasure, or perhaps something that is harmful to our bodies, or to others. For some people it might be a determined effort to watch for hurtful words to others, or watching for outbursts of anger.

For some people it is a renewed determination to spend a time quietly with God each day. At "Faith In Life" (one of SFC's housegroups) there was discussion around the question of food and faith, and how this might relate to Lent.

So here is a suggestion for Lent:

Did you know that Britons waste around 7.3 million tons of food every year. Food experts behind the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) are calling for everyone to 'unite in the food waste fight'. So here is the challenge for Lent:

- Take note of everything that you "throw out", even if it is because it is old. And for every time you throw out something, contribute something to a foodbank.
- See if you can cut down on waste. Those veggies getting a bit older can be made into lovely soups rather than being discarded.
- Look at what you are buying. Try and only buy food that is fairly traded.
- Try and cut down on food miles. When food comes from thousands of miles away, it costs fossil fuel burned up and pollutants poured into the atmosphere. Buy local food, even if it means not eating strawberries in the middle of winter.
- Over Lent, begin to read and learn more about food justice, and how you can contribute to it.

At the beginning of your Bible (Genesis ch. 1) there is a passage that states **29** “God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. **30** And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. **31** God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.”

We are stewards of God’s resources. The tragedy of our time is that so many people go very hungry while others waste food. Let’s see if we can use our food with a deeper sense of thanksgiving, a deeper sense that our food is God’s gift to us, and a deeper sense of responsibility to God about the way we use food.

LENT STUDIES

The Lent Studies this year are a home-grown series that focus on the Common Lectionary Gospel Readings for Lent. The Studies are based around reflections that centre on the readings. They are intended to be taken gently, reflectively, prayerfully. Each study is divided into 5 sections

1. Opening Reflection
2. The Scripture Reading
3. Reflections on the Scripture
4. A reflection that links us in to a current world situation
5. A Closing Prayer

Every section is provided to stimulate discussion and prayer. They are not meant to be read through, but to be pondered on, by the group. Anyone can take these study guides and form a group anywhere. All you need is some people, and email revbruce@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk for the guides.

Groups are currently running from Monday 6th March each week.

Monday:

8 - 9.30pm: 15 Huddleston Way, Sawston. Contact - Alan Partridge 01223 832248

Tuesday:

2pm : Castle Camps URC: Ph Val Spencer on 01223 892214

8 - 9.30pm: 53 Huddleston Way, Sawston. Contact - Alan Partridge 01223 832248

Wednesday:

2.30pm: 7 Meadow Walk, Abington. Contact - Lynne Riecansky on 01223 893295

7.45pm: Sawston Free Church Contact - Bruce Waldron on 07814 920187

8 - 9.30pm: Chalk Farm, Babraham.

Thursday:

7.45pm: 22 London Road, Sawston, Contact - Kate Leach on 01223 660943

Sunday:

7.30pm: St. Mary’s Church. Contact - Alan Partridge 01223 832248

The Editor welcomes comments and reflections on articles read in Contact

Letters to the Editor

I read in the last Contact about Marc and Valerie doing the Cambridge half-marathon and the World Run for Erbs Palsy, following their experience of seeing their nephew with the affliction. I know from personal experience that it isn't the run itself that takes the most effort, it's battling through the months of training that precede it, the sore bits on the body, the weather, the blisters, toughening the body up for it. Well done for putting concern into positive action and I hope they get lots of support because the treatment of this condition can radically change a person's whole life.

Bruce

**If you would like to sponsor Marc and Valerie
please visit www.justgiving.com/Valerie-Kerr**

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

NEWS from former Church Member

As a previous member of Sawston Free Church, I thought I would answer your request for news from us. I was at Sawston Free Church from 1989 - 2005 when I moved to Hertford to be closer to my family after widowhood and retirement.

I was a member of the Sawston WI, so I know Anne (Nunn) very well. Unfortunately I haven't joined a local WI, I just haven't got round to it. When I moved back to Hertford I joined the U3A in Broxbourne and do several things with them. I play scrabble, boules, walking groups, and line dancing. I also play tennis, and, of course, I am a member of Hertford URC.

We are based close to the middle of the town and we do a lot of things for the local community.

- The main thing is the Foodbank that is run from our Church
- We have members who are Street Pastors
- We are involved with the other churches in the Town in Churches Together.
- We have 2 youth groups called Future Hope and Young Life.

Although we are a very small congregation, we do seem to do a lot.

Our Minister is also the Minister at Broxbourne URC and Cheshunt Free Church. In the summer we have a Holiday Club based at Broxbourne and I am the Secretary responsible for the Steering Committee. Lots of hard work, but lots of laughter. The actual Holiday Club is also great fun. We have about 80 - 90 children ranging from babies to year 8. The main group covers years 2 - 6.

I send my regards and best wishes to everybody who remembers me. I have some lovely memories of my time in Sawston and if any of you are in the Hertford area and would like to pop in for a cup of tea, you will be very welcome. Please contact me before hand because, as you can see from the comments above, I don't spend a lot of time indoors!

*With very best wishes to everybody.
God bless.*

Margaret Beeston.

Editors Note:

I should like to thank Margaret for this update on her news from Hertford. I hope that this will encourage other members who live outside Sawston to also send me an email.

I am sure Margaret would love to hear from anyone who knew her.

Email: margaretbeeston@virginmedia.com



Message From Our Friends at Castle Camps

We are all pleased that Spring is nearly here and it is lovely to see all the Spring flowers, and the fields prepared for the seasons ahead. Hopefully, the cold and windy weather is behind us.

At present, we are holding our services in the school room until the weather becomes warmer.

Mothering Sunday is on the last week in March and we look forward to welcoming Wendy Roe to take our service.

We are arranging a Lent Course this year led by Rev. Bruce Waldron. It will be held in the school room on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm for four weeks, starting on 7th March and finishing on 4th April. Everyone is most welcome.

Dates for your diary:

- Our AGM this year is on Wednesday 29th April at 3pm in the school room.
- Easter Songs of Praise led by Rev. Bruce Waldron – Sunday 16th April.

Although it was a very sad occasion Doreen's funeral went very well and the chapel was full with her friends and family; proof of the love and the high regard for her in the village.

We had two visits from the children of Castle Camps Primary School and they enjoyed their time with us, looking around the chapel at the organ, the pulpit, the clock and the font. Bruce Waldron welcomed them and they really enjoyed singing "Our God is a Great Big God," with his guitar accompaniment, together with all of the actions, particularly stamping their feet on the floor to the rhythm!

We send you our best wishes

God's blessing to you all.

Mary and Friends.

(Photo with kind permission from the head teacher and Alan Hardy)



From Our Friends at Little Abington



NOAH TODAY

[Our thanks to an email from Ted Denyer, Newport]

In the year 2014, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in Somerset and said: “Once again, the earth has become evil and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save 2 of every living thing along with a few good humans.” He gave Noah the blueprints, saying: “You have 9 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights.”

Nine months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard – but no Ark. “Noah!” He roared, “I’m about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?”

“Forgive me, Lord,” begged Noah, “but things have changed. Firstly, I need a Building Permit. I’ve been arguing with the Boat Inspector about the need for a sprinkler system inside it and other Health and Safety Issues need to be resolved. My neighbours claim that I’ve violated the Neighbourhood By-Laws by building the Ark in my back garden and it will exceed the height limitations. We had to go to the Local Planning Committee for a decision, and a whole load of conditions were placed on my permission that are against Your plans. Then the Local Council and the Electric Company demanded a truck load of money for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark’s move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

“Getting the wood was another problem. There’s a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the Greater Spotted Barn Owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls – but they won’t listen! When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA took me to court. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They

argued the accommodation design was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to even think about putting so many animals in such a confined space.

“Then the Environmental Protection Agency ruled that I couldn’t build the Ark until they’d conducted an environmental impact study on Your proposed flood. I am still awaiting their decision after 6 months.

“I’m still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities and disabled persons I’m supposed to hire for my building crew. Immigration are checking the Visa status of most of the people who want to work. The Trades Unions say I can’t use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with ark-building experience, and I can’t find any.

“To make matters worse, the Internal Revenue Service seized all my assets, claiming I’m trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

“So, please forgive me, Lord, but it looks like it would take at least 10 years for me to even get started on building this Ark.”

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, “You mean you’re not going to destroy the world?”

“No,” said the Lord. “Looks like the Government have beaten Me to it.”

May I please have an AMEN.

The Smallest Church in Cambridge?



THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

The tiny, tall-spired St Peter's is tucked away in a quiet corner of Cambridge with ancient trees in the churchyard.

This simple building is a haven of tranquillity from the busy streets around it. It was originally built in the 11th-century, and traces of its Saxon past survive in the form of two lovely carved doorways and the stone font, decorated with four mermen grasping their split tails. Mermen may have an ancient link to St Peter, patron saint of fishermen.

Mermen are mythical male equivalents and counterparts of mermaids – legendary creatures who have the form of a male human from the waist up and are fish-like from the waist down, having scaly fish tails in place of legs. A "merboy" is a young merman.

In contrast to mermaids, mermen were traditionally depicted as unattractive. However, some modern depictions show them as handsome.

The church was rebuilt in Georgian times, and is a simple, elegant gem of a building. There is a charming weathervane outside with the initials AP on it; these are said to be those of Andrew Perne, a 16th-century Dean of Ely.

An unnamed grave stone, dated February 1681 lies in a quiet corner of the churchyard. The grave could have belonged to someone who died in the second wave of plague that devastated the local area around this time. But what's unusual and quite poignant about this grave stone is that it's in the shape of a heart.

With the homely domestic architecture of the neighbouring houses, including Kettle's Yard Museum next door, and the quaint buildings of the Cambridge Folk Museum nearby, this corner of Cambridge has an almost rural feel, in contrast to the grandeur of the city's more famous sights.



With thanks from the St.Peter's website



Prayer Diary For March



work to help young women realise their worth and their potential. Coming from many families where culturally women's roles are seen to exclude any professional potential, The Canaan Trust seeks to open their understanding of their worth to their adoptive country, to God, and to



Week 1: 1st to 4th March.

A couple of weeks ago, I had the pleasure of spending an hour and a half with Fiona Harriss in Tower Hamlets, to see where it is that she works, under the auspices of the Canaan Trust that we have supported with our Christmas Offerings. Here, where the ethnic mix of people from other countries numbers around three quarters of the population, she and her team work to help young women realise their worth and their potential. Coming from many families where culturally women's roles are seen to exclude any professional potential, The Canaan Trust seeks to open their understanding of their worth to their adoptive country, to God, and to themselves.

I asked Fiona if she as a Christian had difficulty earning trust amongst families who were predominantly Muslim and she answered that they tended to trust her more because she had a faith, in preference to someone who had none. At least she would, being Christian, respect the role of faith in people's lives. Can we continue to hold Fiona, and the Canaan Trust in our prayers.

Week 2: 5th to 11th March.

- Please pray for Kate and Neil Bowers as they bring little William for blessing at Castle Camps this morning.
- Entering into Lent, we pray for the people and the groups of our churches and the churches we are sharing with as they engage in the Lent Studies. And so we pray for the churches of Abington, Babraham, Castle Camps and Sawston as we move into this time of soul searching and prayer leading up to Easter.

Monday: **8pm** 15 Huddleston Way, Sawston.

Tuesday: **2pm** Castle Camps URC

Wednesday: **2.30pm** 7 Meadow Walk, Abington
8pm Chalk Farm, Babraham.

Thursday: **7.45pm** 22 London Road, Sawston,

Sunday: **7.30pm** St. Mary's Church .

8pm 53 Huddleston Way, Sawston.

7.45pm Sawston Free Church,

Week 3: 12th – 18th March

- Please pray for Sawston Free Church as they hold their Annual General Meeting on Monday night.
- Please continue to pray for those engaged in the Lent Courses
- Please pray for Brigades leaders planning the Mothering Sunday service at Sawston

Week 4: 19th – 25th March

- This week we hold in our prayers those who are working to try and help our planets very fragile ecology. Greener Sawston are meeting on Friday morning in the back room and on Saturday afternoon Circular Cambridge with the Greener Sawston are running a Repair Café in the hall, to try and encourage people to repair rather than discard. Waste is one of the worst problems facing our world's environment.

Week 5: 26th – 31st March

- On Sunday, the 1st Sawston Brigades will conduct the Mothering Sunday Service at SFC. Please keep all the Brigades staff and the Captains, Lucy and Sue, in your prayers.
- On Wednesday 29th, in the afternoon, Castle Camps URC hold their AGM Please keep them in your prayers.
- This week we particularly hold in our prayers the congregation of Christ Church South Cambs.
- Please pray for Faith Paulding, Nicola Grieves and the team who are even now, putting together the Holiday Club for July 24th -28th

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East Anglia District
Methodist
Women in Britain



MWiB

ICONS
Every picture tells a story

An Interactive Day
led by Revd Nicola Vidamour

Saturday 18th March 2017
Belsey Bridge Conference Centre, Ditchingham
NR35 2DZ

There will be no book stall at this event.
However,
we invite you to come with a small item, maybe in purple or orange, to put on a 'Bring and Buy' stall
proceeds to EACH,
our President's project whose colourway is
Purple and Orange.

Ditchingham is a village and civil parish in the English county of Norfolk. It is located across the River Waveney from Bungay, Suffolk near to The Broads National Park.

Prayer For Sawston

Monday 6th March 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

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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 March:

- 1 March - talk by Mary Simuyandi on her trip to India
- 15 March - talk by Liz Dockerill and Maurice Day - Sawston History Society
- 29 March - members tasting session

Please contact Janet Parr for more information: 832840

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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 March: 13th and 27th



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

LORD Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

AMEN

50 Year Memories

Twenty Years of Service From Our Organ

(This is a copy of an article that appeared in Contact in August 1964)

It is just over 25 years ago (1939) that the organ in our Church was dedicated by the minister, the reverend L.J. Ballard (who is now the minister of the St. Ives Congregational Church).

The previous organ had been acquired from Babraham Church. Apparently, it was a dreadful instrument; so much so that Mr Stallan (father of our present organist Miss A. Stallan) offered to donate a sum of money if two other deacons would do the same. This they did, and so the Organ Fund was started.

Boys were engaged to pump the bellows of the previous organ, and if the wind was used up too quickly, a frantic spasm of pumping caused a few audible squeaks occasionally! Thus the new fund had the blessing of the majority of members.

The choir used to arrange Chrysanthemum Fairs to raise money; in these efforts, the late Mr W. Resbury was foremost in supplying these lovely blooms from his garden for display and sale. The Lecture Hall used to look really beautiful, and was soon emptied of these plants and lovely blooms. These fairs became an annual event for several years and the helpers at these functions were too numerous to mention (as is still the case when the Church is in need). In addition, socials were held and some members of the choir sold home-made sweets to boost the resources of the fund.

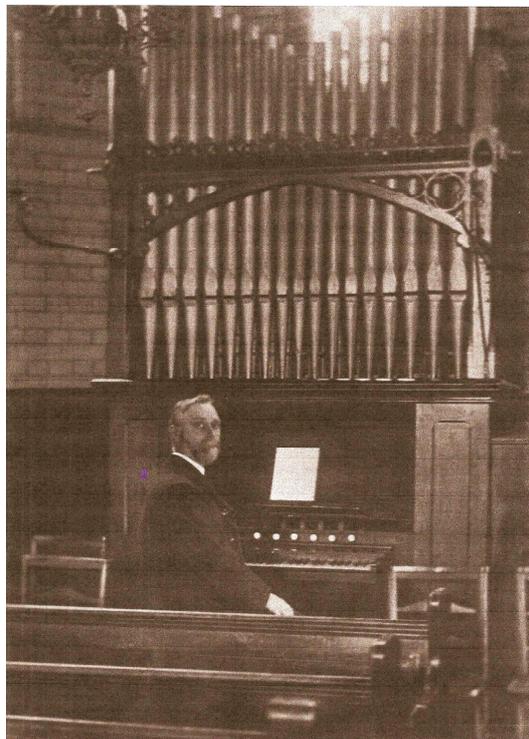
Several specifications were received from organ builders, but the cheapest (and the one that seemed the best value) was from a Mr S. F. Dalladay from Sussex Organ Works, Hastings - his name can still be seen on the organ. He was retiring and wanted to clear his stock by installing them cheaply. He promised to install a new two-manual organ for £312, but with the organ stool and extra blowing equipment, came to nearly £330, a considerable sum in those days. (For those non-musical people, a two-manual organ is one with two keyboards).

An organ builder and his apprentice, who lived with two members of the church whilst they were here, finished installing it in March 1939. At the dedication service, the late Dr. Warmington was the organist. A present life-deacon, Mr F. Gee presented a matching screen (which he made himself).

Eventually, the organ was paid for with donations coming from as far afield as Canada and Australia.

It is fitting at this point to recognise the services of Miss A. Stallon, who has played the present organ since its installation. Nowadays, Mr Julian Haylock is able to help us sometimes. Mr Price must be mentioned as a help in need, as was the late Mr Laurie Barker. We are always grateful for such help.

Information supplied by Miss A. Stallon and Mr B. Walpole



Editors note:

Photo: original organ with Alfred Moss.

There is a plaque next to the current organ which reads:

In loving Memory of Alfred Moss.

Faithfully served with this Church as organist for 40 years and deacon for many years.

He entered into Eternal Rest

Feb 2 1925 aged 62 years

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord

I should like to repeat an autobiography that was written in November 1964 by Miss Ada Stallon

I was born in Sawston, also my parents, so I am a real Sawstonian. I went to school when I was 3 years of age and from the infants school moved up into the girls school, as at that time we did not have mixed classes. Mr Falkner was the headmaster at that time, and one of the highlights of the year was the performance of Shakespeare's plays. These were performed by the boys attending school and I think some were ex-pupils of the school. I particularly remember 'The Merchant of Venice'.

On Sundays we attended morning and afternoon Sunday School and on Monday evenings 'The Band of Hope'. We sang rousing hymns and had someone speak to us. We paid 1/2d a week and had a smashing tea in the winter for 4d, another in the summer and afterwards went to the field at the back for games. We also attended the Christian Endeavour meeting on Saturday evenings, conducted by the minister.



I have always been interested in music and one of the events of the year was the Sunday School anniversary. The late Mr W Barber was our conductor and we had the organ and an orchestra, and with the help of the choir the singing was really good. We always had a cantata in the afternoon and like Mrs Peters I particularly remember "Under the Palms".

I joined the choir at the age of 13 and became organist in 1925, on the death of Mr. A Moss. I did not particularly want the job at the time, but was persuaded to take it on, and have enjoyed doing it ever since.

I have also enjoyed singing and belonged to the Sawston Choral Society for many years. In 1935 the Society won a banner in the competitions at Cambridge, and 4 members of the society were invited to take part in a Royal Command Concert at the Albert Hall, on the occasion of their Majesties Silver Jubilee. I was one of the lucky ones in the draw and it was an unforgettable experience. There were 1,700 singers from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales and the English group were conducted by Dr. Vaughan Williams. During the evening King George V sent Sir Walford Davies from the Royal Box to ask if we would sing Parry's 'Jerusalem'. It was wonderful to hear all the voices singing; it really raised the roof.

We still have a good choir, and if anyone who reads this is interested in singing, we are always pleased to welcome new members.

I hope that by my efforts I have been able in some small way to forward the work of the Church in our village of Sawston.

Wee Wits (from Contact 1964)

A little girl was asked how she liked Sunday School compared with day school.

"It's much better" she said. "There's no exams and at the end you go to Heaven instead of Grammar School".

It was Harvest Festival, and a certain little boy looked around in amazement at the gifts of fruit and vegetables, beautifully arrayed around the Church.

Time came for the offertory to be taken, and as the small boy placed his sixpence in the plate, he turned to the young man taking up the offering and said *"Please, I'd like the plate of tomatoes"*

Church Workday :March 11th - 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)

As I began this piece, the Sunday papers were full of dire warnings about the destabilisation of the world, scandals and leaks about spies and honey-traps, rumours about the dangerous 'downgrading' of Nato, and so on.

But other pages were telling how well it was all going. All very confusing. As regular readers of this spot will know, I spend a lot of my time confused.

Over the Christmas period Margaret and I attended an amateur performance of the Messiah.

- 'How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace... ,' sang the soprano soloist (very badly).
- 'And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together', proclaimed the choir.
- 'O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,' sang the alto (rather well).
- 'But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire,' roared the bass (very good indeed).
- 'For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace' chortled the choir.

Which leaves one wondering: Is Jesus the bringer of peace or a sword (Matthew 10:34)?

My first great theological hero, Austin Farrer, used to teach that New Testament truth is more like proverbial wisdom and folk-lore than like mathematics. You don't just write down the numbers, put 'equals' and then watch the one-and-only correct answer automatically appear on the page.

It is far more like 'Red sky at night, shepherd's delight' - which is fine except when it doesn't work. Or 'l' after 'e' except after 'c', - unless, of course, it is an exception. 'A fool and his money are soon parted,' - except that we all know people who are seemingly both rather foolish and yet surprisingly rich.

The trick, Farrer used to say, is to know which proverb to apply to each circumstance.

The wise shepherd just knows whether tonight's red sky is the sort to make his proverb work or not. Good spellers know whether this word is an exception or not. The discerning (especially the discerning fraudster) just sense whether this particular fool will be readily parted from his or her money or not. But Farrer was not talking here about worldly wisdom and worldly discernment - but holy wisdom and holy discernment.

Holy wisdom is nothing to do with scholarship. The 'holy wise' are those wonderful people who, when we look into their eyes, seem to know us and understand us. They seem to know both the ways of God and our ways, and even better, they seem to know how to bring the two together in a wonderfully loving and encouraging way. And they seem to know what to do, and have the courage to do it. In other words, they are Christ-like.

I've known a few in my time, and I thank God for them.

=====

In February GenR8 set up INSPIRE prayer spaces in St Peter's Church for the pupils of Babraham School. INSPIRE is a flexible resource and brings an experiential dimension to a variety of subject areas and to pastoral aspects of school life. It enables key stage one and two pupils to explore values, faith and spirituality from a broadly Christian perspective in a safe, creative and interactive way. Babraham School has had INSPIRE each term for the last 3 years.

A range of flexible resources and stations transformed St Peter's into an even more beautiful environment for the children to explore. There were 12 stations around the church, each beautifully set up with bright carpet squares, cushions, drapes and lights. Each station had a theme which encouraged pupils to consider their own views, beliefs, emotions and experiences in a safe environment. The children were asked to visit the stations in groups of 3.

They had to read an explanation sheet, spend some time thinking and then respond by doing an activity. Some of the themes they were asked to explore were about their own uniqueness, sharing and caring for friends by sharing bread (as Jesus did) washing a friend's hands, thinking about people who listened to them, people who helped them and those who were their personal heroes. There was an opportunity to ask God for his strength and help and also to let go of hurts caused by others.

Each class came with a sense of anticipation. They moved around the church quietly and respectfully. Their comments and conversations were amazing for such young children. Below are some of their comments:

- This is the best thing in the world!
- I've done all the activities but I want to do them all again!
- The lava lamp made me think that's there's no one like me.
- The fingerprint shows we are all different like girls don't just like pink!
- The jigsaw was amazing as each piece was separate and different but together we made something beautiful.
- The paper heart shows me I'm loved.
- The water hand washing helped me to do something for my friend and we don't often do that.
- The bread one made me think about sharing things with God and other people.
- There are lots of different people who are stars in my life who really help me. I need to stick on more than one star on this heroes sheet!
- These things make me think about God.
- The plasma ball lines are like messages to God.
- The stick flag in the sand made me think about being brave when my dog died.
- The jar is like my head and the tablet is like my bad memories going away as it dissolves.

- I'm so glad you're here today because someone in my family is having an operation today and I've been able to pray for them and I feel calmer now.

It was a truly beautiful, peaceful day for us all. The head teacher says that each time they come to INSPIRE they return to school different children from the ones who left school earlier. Please pray for those youngsters that one day they will come to know more of our wonderful God.

If you would like to know more about the work of GenR8 in schools, take a look at our website www.genr8.org.

There are opportunities to become a prayer partner and receive updates of the work or to make a donation to support what we do.

The GenR8 South assembly team are in 23 local schools in March.

- Wednesday 22 March: 9.10am at Bellbird and 11.10am at William Westley, Whittlesford
- Tuesday 28th March: 11 10am at Icknield
- Wednesday 29th March: 1.30pm at Babraham

The schools are happy for us to bring along visitors. Please contact me if you would like to visit and see what we do. Please pray for the 5 teams that will be out and about visiting 150+ local schools. Pray for good health and safe travel and for the Easter message of a New Start to be received well in schools.

Dianne Conway (GenR8 volunteer)

dianne.m.conway@btinternet.com Tel 01223 833953

Anne and I would like to express our thanks for the love and support that the Church and its members have given us since the passing of her mum. It has been very comforting.



Supporting And Encouraging Older People In Our Communities

On 18th March 2017, PFS will be partnering with Cambridge charity Compassion in a new conference to bring up to date information on issues that affect older people. The aim is to encourage and inspire people who work for the wellbeing of seniors, in the community, in care homes and in churches.

The conference will be held at Queen Edith Chapel, Wulfstan Way, Cambridge, CB1 8QN

Topics covered will be:

- 'The generations working together,' with Roger Hitchings;
- 'Effective ministry to people in the community', with Catriona Foster, Pastor for Older People, St. John's, Harborne; and
- 'Attitudes towards dementia and the elderly', with Louise Morse.

Compassion seeks to stimulate support for older people in the community and in care homes.

The cost is £10 per person. Bring a packed lunch – drinks provided.

To book a place either: Email: conference@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk
 Or Tel: 0300 303 1400
 Or via website: www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk

People who came to the Cambridge conference in 2016 said:

'It has changed my mindset and has given me a very fresh perspective on ageing and older people.'

'Wish I'd heard this sort of helpful encouragement long ago! Will take the ideas and suggestions back to my church'

Toddler Groves Conference

4th March 2017 at Sawston Free Church : 9.30am - 7 hours Price £25.

- The Speakers: Rev. Richard Hardy (The Entheos Trust), Fiona Burt and Sue Greene (SU Affiliate)

An informative and enjoyable day to encourage and equip church based Toddler Group Leaders.

This event focuses on the amazing missional opportunities of your toddler group and how you and your team can help both the adults and their children in their faith journeys.

Toddler Grooves! provides an opportunity for both 'leaders' and 'helpers' to discover the role that they have to play and to be inspired as they serve in this vital ministry. Church Leaders are encouraged to join their Toddler Group Leaders to explore how the group fits into the outreach of the church.

Events are full of practical ideas to enable your Toddler Group to be the most effective part of your church's mission and strategy. In Toddler Grooves! we consider how to help members move towards faith and the church.

- Explore planning and delivering great Parent and Toddler Sessions.
- Craft ideas suitable for Toddlers.
- Consider ways to reach Parents, Toddlers and wider families.
- Digital Big Ted's Adventures story packs.

The Speakers: Rev. Richard Hardy (The Entheos Trust), Fiona Burt and Sue Greene (SU Affiliate)



CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT

Events for March 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@cambridemethodistcircuit.org.uk



MARCH			
Sat 4 th	7.15pm for 7.30pm	Top Team Quiz. Teams of 6 at £6 per person to include a ploughman's supper. Further details and application forms available from David Taylor or Angus Campbell izzett-taylor@ntlworld.com or angusfcampbell@btinternet.com	Wesley
Sat 4 th	7.30pm	An evening of popular classics and songs from the shows by The Edmund Octet led by Gill Garside in the presence of The Mayor Cllr. Sarah Dingley. For tickets at £8 (includes light refreshments) and further information contact Sue on 01763 243815 email: walter962@btinternet.com Proceeds to be shared between Royston Town Mayor's Community Trust Fund and the Royston Methodist Church	Royston
Tues 7 th	2.30pm	Fireside with Ted Garwood – “we don't do that modern stuff”. Ted was a professional toastmaster and will be letting us into some of the secrets of that profession.	Wesley
Thurs 9 th	7.30pm	Big Issues: The Future of Christian-Jewish Relations with Revd Colin Smith. All welcome includes coffee, tea and tempting desserts.	Histon
Sun 12 th	6.30pm	Faith To Live By With Rebekah Blyth	Haslingfield
Mon 13 th	7.15pm for 7.45pm	Science Meets Faith: Conflict or Mutual Enrichment? Reflections on the relation of science and faith with Professor Alister McGrath, Director of Ramsey centre for Science and Religion, University of Oxford.	Wesley

Church Directory

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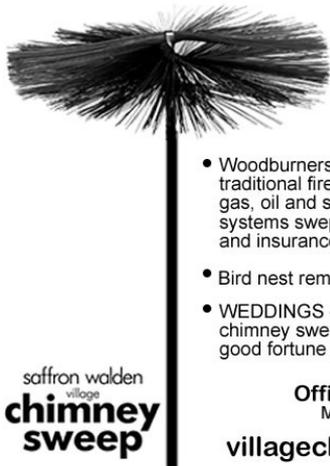
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