

CONTACT

November 2017

Remembrance Day

11 NOVEMBER

In Flanders Fields

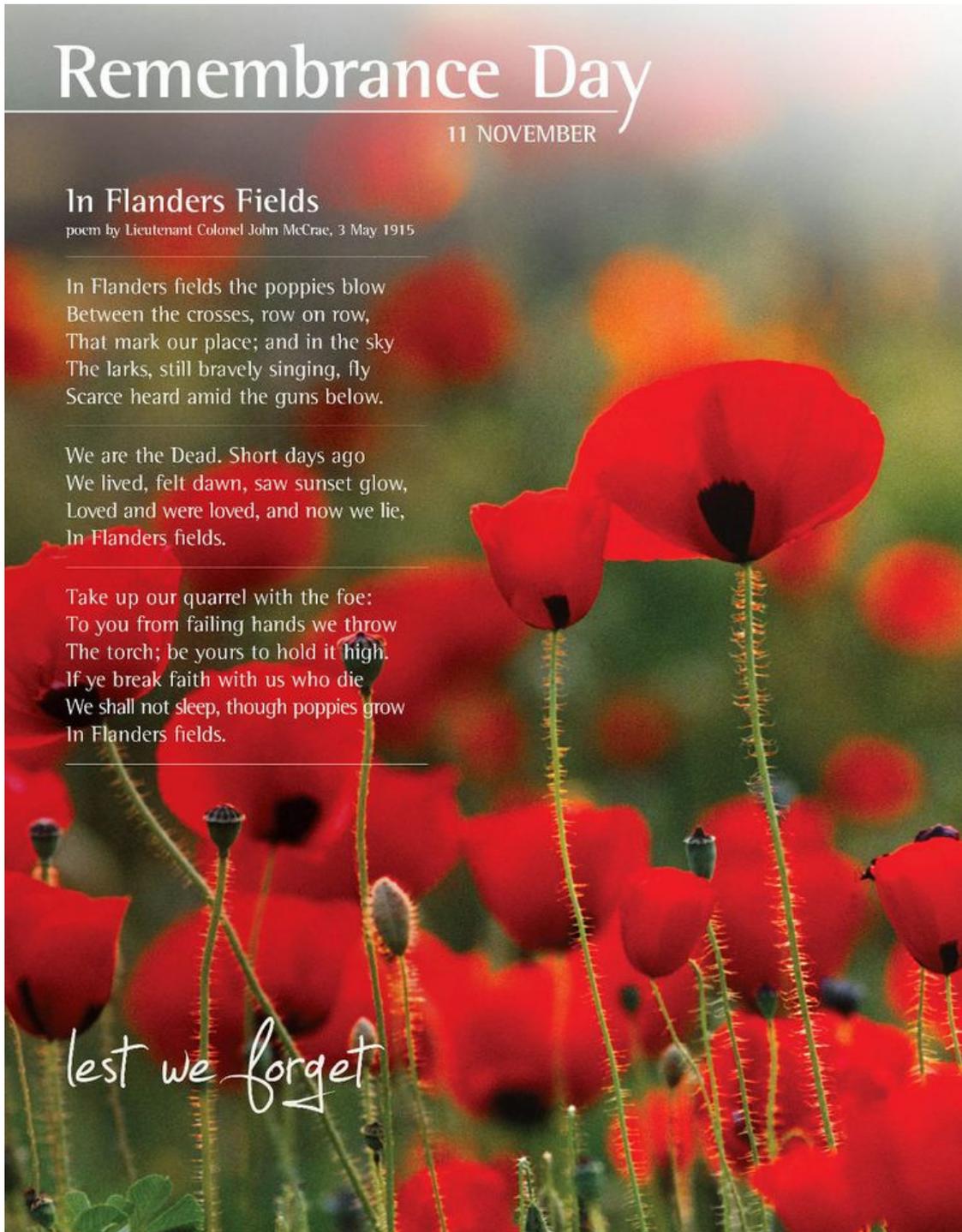
poem by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, 3 May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

lest we forget



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
Sun 5 Nov	10.30am: SOGR – Time - Faith Paulding 3pm: Messy Church	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Peter Sammons	10.30am: Communion – Rev Bruce Waldron
Mon 6 Nov	10am: Craft Group (page 15)		
Wed 8 Nov	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 15)		
Sat 11 Nov	8 – Noon : Church Workday (page 15)		
Sun 12 Nov	10.30am: Remembrance Service - Derek Nicholls 6pm: Quiet Time – Sue Lelliott	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Maureen Kendall	10.30am: Remembrance Service - Rev E. Caswell
Sun 19 Nov	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron	2.30pm: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mr Bob Parkin
Mon 20 Nov	10am: Craft Group (page 15)		
Wed 22 Nov	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 15)		
Sun 26 Nov	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.30pm: Go4th - Waldron / Purdy	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Chris Salter	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mrs Wendy Roe

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
November 5	Tony Moss 834220	Joan Moore	November 19	John Newton 562873	Maggie Jones
November 12	John Conway 833953	Janet Parr	November 26	Gordon Heald 833983	

The closing date for **December** Contact is **Friday 10th November.**

**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

On 22nd September, I wrote this into my Rev. Bruce Waldron Facebook Page:



Constance Coltman: The first woman ordained by a mainstream UK church: 100 years ago.

On Sunday afternoon I went to the American International Church in Tottenham Court Road, London because 17th September 2017 was the hundredth anniversary of the first ordination of a woman by a mainstream church in this country and I very much wanted to attend the service, commemorating this event in which our church were pioneers.

Constance Coltman was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Monday the 17th September 1917 at the King's Weigh House Congregational Church in London. She was married to her husband Claud the day after and the two of them dedicated themselves to working in a mission in the East End of London to a very poor community.

Throughout her long ministry, Constance always retained her edge as a pacifist and feminist with a passionate care for the poorest and most disadvantaged of her church members. She and Claud lived out their lives doing what Jesus called his followers to do.

I was inspired by the story of this woman, and I can probably not imagine the abuse and insults she would have received for following her sense that God had called her to be a Minister in a time when the society was inherently and systemically sexist. Nor can I understand how courageous the denomination had to be in those days to ordain a woman. Women didn't even get the vote until 1928. They were counted as less than men. It was thought they didn't have the intelligence or the stability that men had. The denomination would have been castigated for their actions, and called all the hate-filled names that people use when prejudice is challenged.

How odd that a woman could be Queen, but women were not allowed to vote, not allowed to be Ministers in churches.

Constance Coltman was a brave and courageous woman who stood with her church against the prejudice that imagined women were in some sense lesser people than men, simply because of their gender.

On this Centenary occasion, I wanted to be present, to honour the courage, determination and faith of this woman who 100 years ago, with her church behind her, asserted the full humanity of women.

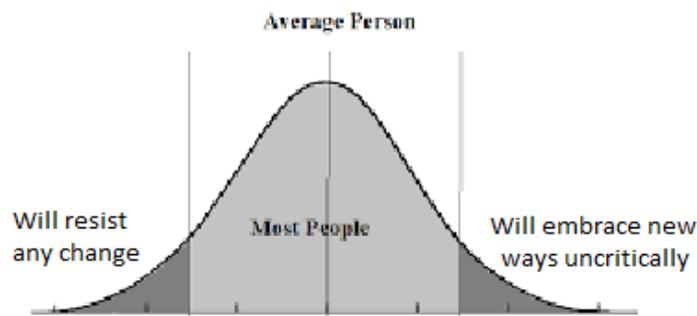
I've got the T. Shirt, and I'm wearing it to church next Sunday. It has a quote from Constance on the back:

"The only right that no branch of the church has ever denied to women has been the right of confessing the faith by martyrdom".

Stewards of God's Resources: Time

Some sociologists use a model they call "The Bell Curve". It works on the basis of a diagram that looks like a bell. Those at the bottom represent the minorities who are at the hard edges, and are just about immovable. Those on the rest of the diagram represent people who are able, with good evidence and argument, to shift, with varying degrees of difficulty and willingness.

When used to describe the way people deal with changes, the Bell Curve looks like this:

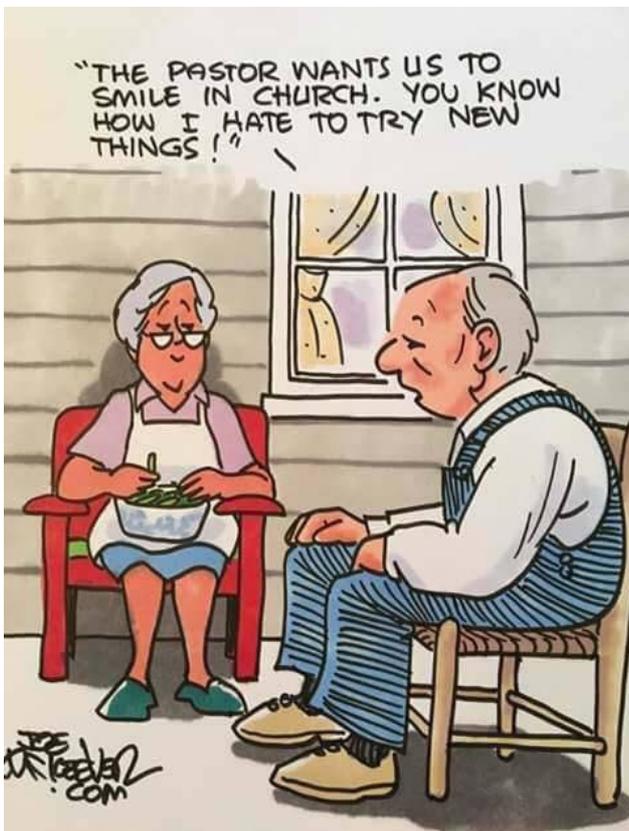


The people at the bottom on the left, about 10%, will be pretty intransigent against any change. So even if something is way out of date, no longer relevant to what it was designed for, they'll stick to it. They will be almost immovable.

The people at the bottom on the right, about 10%, are always looking for something new and different and if an idea comes along, they'll grab it with both hands, sometimes too uncritically.

The rest of the diagram represents the huge bulk of people, who with varying degrees of resistance and willingness, will deal with change as something to be assessed and accepted or rejected.

Where do you think you fit in with this analysis (The Bell Curve)? Where would you put the dot that represents you?



The question also raises the question of how we use time? What sort of stewards of time are we? Do you use time as an anchor or as an adventure?

We need the stability of the anchor; without that, how do we assess our position, how do we have a sense of who we are? But without the thrill of adventure, the anchor can mire us in irrelevancies that were applicable to another era.

Being self-aware about how we react to the prospect of change can help us be better stewards of the time God has given us. Is it time to hold fast, or time to surge ahead? And how much does God's voice get heard through the impediment of our natural predisposition?

Undoubtedly, in our church there are people who are right across the bell curve. That isn't bad, it is human, but also as humans, God has given us intelligence, and free will, and self-awareness. So we thank God for both sides, and the middle, and by God's grace, together, we can know when to turn and when to hold course.

Bruce

STEWARDS OF GOD'S RESOURCES -Time

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

“Use the present opportunity to the full.” Ephesians 5:16

God gives us a life span – long or short.

Our response is to use the present opportunity to the full.

The concept of time as a gift from God and what the appropriate response to that gift should be is an area that one is unlikely to explore unless it is through the framework of stewardship. That, for me, is one of the strengths of the stewardship model; it focuses our thinking and reflections on matters that are vitally important to the nurturing and growth of disciples of Jesus Christ but that are not necessarily prompted by the carefully selected lectionary readings that we explore on a weekly basis in worship.

Time is a hard one! At its simplest level we can look at how we use our time: our priorities, our time efficiency, our time effectiveness. However, it is easy to get drawn into a type of corporate-speak time management analysis that might be helpful in some ways but does little to expand an understanding of the theological significance of time. Our physical world, with its physical laws, doesn't help us much either. On the whole we are limited by the inherent understanding that time is linear. That time starts somewhere, carries on in the present (albeit with the present continually slipping into the past) as we head into the future which leads, ultimately, to an end. Admittedly, great physicists like Stephen Hawkins are questioning whether time is truly linear and space and time dramas such as Dr Who introduce us to the concept of the 'wibbly wobbly' nature of time. Yet the Bible begins with the words 'In the beginning ... when God created the universe.' John echoes this in his gospel 'In the beginning ... was the Word'. The early Hebrew priestly writers and Jesus' first disciples encourage us to think in the linear.

When I was growing up in Sunday School the notion that mankind is governed by a set of timely laws put in place by God in the process of creation that God Himself is then somehow 'outside of' never really made sense to me. It created a picture of humanity and the world as a sort of toy for God to play with. As I grew older and got to know God better this idea of God looking into our existence from a place outside of time and space increasingly unsettled me. It was the great mind of CS Lewis that helped quell my unease. In 'Mere Christianity' (Collins, Glasgow, 1952) Lewis writes, 'If you picture Time as a straight line along which we have to travel, then you must picture God as the whole page on which the line is drawn. We come to the parts of the line one by one: we have to leave A behind before we get to B, and cannot reach C until we leave B behind. God, from above or outside or all around, contains the whole line, and sees it all.' Time, the world and humanity all rest within God so that all of creation is perpetually present from God's perspective. If God is perpetually present then God is within every second of time and every second of time exists within God (allowing one's mind to be a bit *wibbly wobbly* here helps)!

Theological understandings are, however, much more than a thinking exercise. They must inform the way that we live our lives and the way that we act and behave in order that 'thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven'. I worked for a number of years as a Senior Staff Nurse in the Accident and Emergency Department of one of the large London teaching hospitals. That experience brought home to me the power of a second. In the single second of the impact of a car, the shooting of a gun or a fireball exploding lives change unequivocally. The past year, with its repeated terrorist attacks, has reinforced what a difference a second can make to human life. However, the power of the second is not only experienced in the negative. One second can change lives for the better too. It was the Revd Deborah McVey who introduced me to the idea of 'the sacrament of the moment'. Every moment is a gift from God in which we have the opportunity to be Christ-like and reflect God's love into the world. That moment could make all the difference. It's a sort of spiritual chaos theory. Chaos theory, developed by the mathematician Edward Lorenz, includes the idea that small changes can become magnified. The popular example of this is the 'butterfly effect' – a butterfly in the Amazon rainforest flaps its wing and the result is a violent storm over the Congo. The idea is not confined to meteorology – changes that we bring about through what we do in one second can also be magnified across time and space and change lives. It is our responsibility to strive to ensure that any change that results changes lives for the better and is for God's purposes.

Faith Paulding

Messages From Castle Camps



November is now here and the darker nights are with us. The trees are changing colour and losing their leaves; but the different colours of the leaves are lovely.

On 1st October, we celebrated our Harvest Festival. In the morning, our service was led by Rev. Paul Whittle and in the evening, the Songs of Praise service was taken by Rev. Bruce Waldron along with the choir of St. Mary's, Haverhill led by Richard Hart. Thank you to them for making it so successful. The offertory and the proceeds from the sale of produce was £266, which was given to Milton Children's Hospice. The tins and packets of food were taken to the Haverhill Food Bank. We thank everyone for their help.

In earlier Notes, we mentioned that Doctor Arbide was to swim the English Channel. In late August he started his solo swim, but after 14 hours had to give up because of foul tides. On 23rd September, he was one of a team of five who took part in a relay and they successfully made it across. We congratulate him on his achievement and raising £5,000 for Melanoma Focus.

Recently, we all enjoyed a very good lunch and fellowship at "The Crown" in Little Walden and were joined by Bruce & Sharn Waldron who were celebrating their 45th Wedding Anniversary.

On 10th November, Castle Camps Primary School is coming to the church for a Remembrance Service at 10.45 am.

On 12th November at 10am, the village Remembrance Sunday Service will be held at the chapel and the Air Cadets will be with us. At 11am we shall be at the War Memorial, with a further service at the RAF Memorial. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Village Hall.

We are having an Advent Service on Friday 1st December, at 2.15pm when Castle Camps Primary School children will be with us. Last year, it was a lovely service, so we are looking forward to it again.

Thank you Gerrie for providing us with Samaritan Purse boxes and they need to be completed by 16th November.

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

Mary and Friends



THE CASTLE CAMPS WAR MEMORIAL

They too were part of this village,
Claiming the earth as their own,
Singing in church at the harvest
Bringing the apples and corn.
They knew each bend in the river,
Walked every meadow and hill,
Then off to 'The Fox' or 'The Cock,'
To celebrate life with a will.

They were the pick of the crop
And war was a task to be done,
They hurried in vigour and hope,
But now all that is left is a stone.

We stand in the cold of November
Hearing the names of the dead,
And quietly ponder our feelings
That cannot be easily said.
But children run safe in the meadow
Under benevolent skies
And we will remember the Fallen
With gratitude filling our eyes.

Adapted from a poem "Ashdon War Memorial" by Mary Warren-Smith

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER!!

Saturday night used to be the night when most young people went to a dance or the Cinema. Not Friday nights because most people worked Saturday mornings or even all day, but Saturday was special. In the wilds of Yorkshire there were dances most weeks either Youth club, Church socials, Young Farmers or just a Village "Do"

These dances were a wonderful opportunity to meet other young people under the watchful eyes of the grown ups.

Girls would be at one side of the room sipping a Babycham which had to last all evening, wearing our full skirts with lots and lots of underskirts. The aim was to look as though you were unaware that there were any boys present.

The boys were posed nonchalantly on the other side of the room with a half pint of beer, eyeing up the "Talent". The smell of Brylcreem was overpowering.

Usually there was very little dancing with a partner of the opposite sex until very nearly the last waltz when every man in the room suddenly got to his feet.

The agonies of these events as well as the delights must have been common to most people of my age and I can still remember the mortification of my father meeting me at 11.45pm prompt when everybody went home after standing still for "the Queen".

These days these opportunities for young people to meet and get to know one another hardly exist and the pub seems to be the only venue.

When STRICTLY COME DANCING started to catch my imagination over the last 2 series, Saturday nights once again became a time of delight. I loved watching pretty mediocre dancers work their socks off to improve beyond all recognition. I loved the dresses (How do they keep them on?). I danced every Waltz, Cha Cha Cha, Tango and Foxtrot with them in my imagination. I loved John Sergeant for being a teddy bear and the beautiful young men and women swept me off my feet and I was a girl again.

I am delighted to learn that this programme has re-popularised ballroom dancing as a hobby. For older people it is wonderful exercise (more dignified than the gym), for young people it is a skill to learn and practise and refine.

I do wish there were more village sort of dances or dance classes that our young people could join. The opportunity to meet the opposite sex and actually get to know them, laugh with them and even legitimately put your arm round one whilst learning to dance seems like a lovely idea to me.

KEEEEEEEEEEP DANCING

Valerie Spencer

(For anyone interested, there are weekly Ballroom dance classes in Linton...contact me if you require details.....David)

Messages From Lt Abington



November's 'birthday girl' (29th) is Beryl (Rose). Beryl is a talented organist whose inspiring playing enhances our worship. Beryl, we send you our love and prayers for renewed health and strength.

Lynne Riecansky

Joke box

It was a Jewish boy's special day - his bar-mitzvah - but sadly a silver spoon went missing. Even more unfortunately, the rabbi was caught on video putting the silver spoon in his pocket, but the family decided not to do anything about it.

Some years later the Jewish boy was getting married, and it was the same rabbi who was taking the service. The Jewish boy said to the rabbi, 'Rabbi you know we saw you putting that silver spoon in your pocket at the bar-mitzvah.'

'Ah', said the rabbi. 'Did you never find it? That's odd - I put it in your prayer shawl!'

'This is an extract from the book How to Pray by John Pritchard which I heartily recommend'

Lynne Riecansky

Editors Note:

According to Jewish law, when Jewish boys become 13 years old, they become accountable for their actions and become a bar mitzvah. A girl becomes a bat mitzvah at the age of 12 according to Orthodox and Conservative Jews, and at the age of 13 according to Reform Jews.

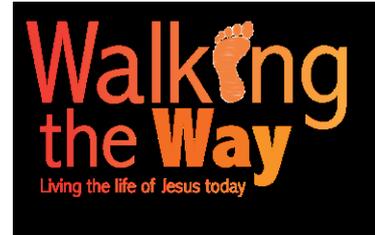
Prior to reaching bar mitzvah age, the child's parents hold the responsibility for the child's actions. After this age, the boys and girls bear their own responsibility for Jewish ritual law, tradition, and ethics, and are able to participate in all areas of Jewish community life.

Traditionally, the father of the bar mitzvah gives thanks to God that he is no longer punished for the child's sins. In addition to being considered accountable for their actions from a religious perspective, b'nai mitzvah may be counted towards a prayer quorum and may lead prayer and other religious services in the family and the community.



Prayer Diary for November

The United Reformed Church is embarking on a time of thinking and praying around the theme "Walking the Way: Living the life of Jesus today."



Week 9: From The South Western Synod

Wednesday 1st Fragile relationships

John 11:35 'Jesus wept.'

Feeling fragile, whether physically, emotionally or spiritually is a vulnerable place to be. We can't be bothered to speak, or explain for fear of crying or emotionally crumbling. Yet every day we meet people who carry their fragility behind a smile. Walking the road of discipleship means that we carry for a short while our fellow sojourners' fragility. It is a privilege, not a burden. • How can we help them feel loved? • Are we willing to share their burden and carry their load? • Have you ever sat silently and wept with someone, because they have felt too exhausted to speak? Sometimes the gift we give another person is the gift of silence and presence. Use the tree template, and focus on the third branch, and add more leaves and bring before God people who are feeling frail and vulnerable.

Thursday 2nd New Relationships

Ruth 1:15-16 So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said, 'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.'

To enable new relationships to flourish you need to invest in time. We live in a pressured environment, where demands are upon us daily, plus we live in a 'fast' world. However new relationships need to be nurtured. • Do you invest time in friendships? • When was the last time you met a new friend? • What do you think the other person sees in you, that friendship could flourish between you? Use the tree template, focus on the fourth branch, and add more leaves and acknowledge the new friendships that God places before you on your journey through discipleship and what we can learn from them.

Friday 3rd Transient Relationships

Acts 18:1-4 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. Every Sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

As we walk the way of Jesus, we will have many different travellers as companions. Some linger longer than others, some may stay for a short while, yet they leave a mark, an imprint which will never leave us. • Can you recall a person whom you travelled with for short time, yet they left a legacy with you? • Can you recall a memory, a laugh or a conversation with them? • How did you feel when you both parted? Use the tree template, focus on the fifth branch, and add more leaves and acknowledge the people who have come and gone from your life, but their imprint has never left you.

Saturday 4th Past Relationships

Deuteronomy 34:4-5 The Lord said to him, 'This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over here.'

When we have arrived at our destination, we are tempted to look back at the journey we have made; to see the twists and turns, the mountains and valleys. Looking back can be painful,

especially this year as we remember those men, women, children and animals who lost lives in the Great War. • Is looking back at your past relationships helpful or painful? • What have you learnt from your past mistakes or challenges? • Does it make your future seem brighter knowing what has happened to you and past relationships? Use the tree template, focus on the sixth branch, and add more leaves and acknowledge the people who have contributed to shaping you as disciple, and those who have encouraged you to walk the way of Christ.

Sunday 5th Relationship with God

Luke 10:27 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.'

As we have considered different relationship this week, we come before God knowing that this is the most important relationship we shall ever encounter. To Love God totally is a commitment, involving our bodies, our minds and our emotions. God delights in us, delights in our diversity and so let us delight in the relationship we have with our Maker. Let our song be loud and true and join in harmony with others as we walk the way of Christ. • How do you recognise God's presence in your life? • What do you need to do to develop your relationship, sustain it and enable it to flourish? Use the tree template, focus on the seventh branch, and add more leaves and acknowledge the God in whose image we are made.

Week 10: From The Thames North Synod

Monday 6th What does it mean to you to be a child of God's love?

Tuesday 7th Where do you see God's presence in our conflicted world?

How do you work for peace and harmony – in your own family; place of work; church; community?

Wednesday 8th Spend some time with God today counting your blessings and allowing your heart to overflow with gratitude and praise.

Thursday 9th Reflect on the enormity of Gods gifts of faith and grace.

What do these gifts mean for you? How have you seen these gifts impact your community with tolerance and unconditional love?

Friday 10th Ask God to show you the reality of lives of those Jesus came to save in your community today. Their lives are often chaotic, and it is difficult to accept them as they are. What has been your best experience of God's gloriously messy kingdom communities? What marked it out as authentic and real?

Saturday 11th Take time to pray for your community and what God is doing there; for the people involved and for the part God has for you. Ask God for the grace and humility to reflect his glory.

Week 11: From The Southern Synod: A carer's prayer

Monday 13th to Sunday 19th

A prayer for carers and reflections for homemakers and retired people, and those working with them. They say I am a carer, Lord They say I am a carer, Lord, help me to understand why this title – it sounds alien to me. Have I not always cared – as daughter, sister, wife, partner, mother and friend? But then this feels different somehow – looking after the one I love so much seems to bring out the best and the worst in me. I recall the advice and guidance I gave so many times in my working life, yet find it so difficult to apply it to my situation. 'Be kind to yourself – look for the positive.' So, into your hands I commit my spirit. Amen.

You loved, and were a carer You loved, and were a carer, Lord, throughout your life. You made sure your own mother would be cared for when you knew you were going to die. Caring for the woman who touched your cloak, the parents of a dying child. Still caring deeply and praying for your friends

when they deserted you. Even for those who shared those dying moments with you – you cared. So, I come to you knowing you are a loving and caring Saviour who walked the talk. So, into your hands I commit my spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the carer throughout the day

In the morning In the morning when I stir, longing to linger in that dreamlike time between sleeping and waking, knowing I must rise and put the kettle on, remembering the years my loved-one was up with the lark, feeding the garden birds and starting the day for me and the family. May I learn to feel joyful for all those years of fulfilling family life. My loved one greets me with a smile as I give him his first cup of tea of the day – yet I do not feel like smiling with him, and I feel guilty. So, at the beginning of this day, into your hands I commit our lives anew. Amen.

In the middle of the day

In the middle of the day with chores only partly done, remind me that I need not always feel driven to be a Martha. Please grant me the grace to take time to be like Mary and sit at your feet a while, to talk with you and to listen for your words of encouragement. So, at the middle of this day, into your hands I commit our lives anew. Amen.

At the end of the day

At the end of the day when I try to be still and spend time with my loved one – when we laugh together at some silly thing, a misunderstanding, that has happened during the day and I have overreacted and been filled with anxiety for the future, endow us with your loving and calming peace to face the time we have left together to be joyful in one another. Teach me to treasure these days. At the end of the day when the house is silent and my loved-one sleeping, the tears may come – thinking of what has been lost, grieving for a life now over: still searching and striving for a way forward in such changed circumstances. I think of the hymn In Heavenly Love Abiding no change my heart shall fear. How often I have sung those words with little understanding. Grant me faithfulness Lord, to trust and to depend on your graciousness whether wakeful or sleeping. When day breaks and once more I pray for strength to face whatever comes, remind me I am not alone for I know in my heart there is nothing that will happen today that you and I cannot tackle together. I think on these words and they comfort me: 'But he said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in your weakness.' (2 Corinthians 12:9) So, at the end of this day, into your hands I commit our lives anew. Amen.

Week 12: From The Synod of Wales (Condensed)

Prayers for those working in and with the financial and IT sectors

Monday 20th Scripture Focus Romans 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law.

Activity Today it would be good to set aside a £5 note – this £5 note will stay with you for reflection throughout this week of prayers. If you can, why not go to your local bank and take out £5 from your bank account – perhaps as you meet those who work in your local bank you could let them know that you have prayed for them today.

Tuesday 21st Today we pray for the economic landscape of today's world.

Scripture Focus Exodus 22:25 If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not be like a moneylender; charge him no interest.

Activity Take the £5 note you set aside yesterday – look at the text on the note – find the words that begin: ‘I promise to pay the bearer ...’. Remember the prayers you have just offered and reflect on this promise and those who work to ensure it is honoured.

Wednesday 22nd Today we pray for those who help us, our churches and businesses to manage and present our own financial affairs.

Scripture Focus Hebrews 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have.

Activity Take your £5 note in your hand – as you hold it think of how this money came to be in your possession – whether through salary, benefit or gift – try to think back through the links of the chain of individuals, companies, government and banks that have had this £5 in their possession before you – reflect on each and add to the prayers already offered.

Thursday 23rd Today we pray for wider accounting practice, and particularly the tax system.

Scripture Focus Proverbs 19:17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done.

Activity Take your £5 note. How much of this £5 note would you be content to give to the government for use within our society? How do you decide? What over-arching theological themes or teaching has influenced your answer?

Friday 24th Today we focus our prayers on the IT industry and technological advances.

Scripture Focus 1 Peter 2:4-5 As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Activity Take your £5 note, presumably a ‘new-style’ one. Consider all the technology held in your hands – the polymer material that is longer lasting and more environmentally friendly than the paper version previously; the see-through window displaying the Queen’s face; the borders that change colour as the note is rotated; the foil Elizabeth Tower which is gold on one side and silver on the other; the five pound hologram; the 3-D crown; and (you can’t see this under ordinary light) the UV number five.

Saturday 25th Today we focus our prayers on living within our technological world.

Scripture Focus Revelation 3:5 He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

Activity Hold the £5 in your hand. Who might have a record of you having this money? Pray for safe and responsible information storage.

Sunday 26th Today we reflect further that everything we have comes from God and the call He gives us to be good stewards of all that he has given.

Scripture Focus Matthew 6:24 No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Activity Take your £5 in your hands – give thanks to God for what he has given you. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in showing how this £5 note can now be used for the Kingdom’s work – you may take it church with you today and offer it as part of or in addition to your weekly tithe – you might use it to support a charity who you believe is working to bring God’s Kingdom – you might keep it on you and when you see someone in need use it to buy what may be needed (e.g. a coffee for someone who is homeless), you could leave it on display in your house to remind you of the themes in this week’s prayers and to remind yourself that all you have is from God.

Week 13: From The Northern Synod

From Monday 27th

A prayer for those working in and with government, the law and civic authorities -

Christ who walks the way behind us beside us and ahead of us.

We pray for those living with the injustices of our society, for those who claim the right of the voiceless to speak and those who whisper good news where there seems to be no hope. May they know the powerful grasp of your scarred hands.

We pray for those elected to serve in government, for those who are lobbied by conflicting interests, for those who are asked to weigh up the cost of the decisions they make. May they know your helpful Spirit of wisdom alongside them.

We pray for ourselves and our communities, for those who envisage change in ways we can not relate to, for our vocal neighbours and our silent neighbours. May we know the creative impulse to harmonise and heal.

Christ who walks the way behind us, beside us, and ahead of us. help us not to expect others to travel on our behalf, but to seek the paths we should tread to play our part in the journeys of our times.

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Poppies for Remembrance



Poppies for many years have been a sign of remembrance of those who have died in war and most of us wear a poppy sold by the British Legion. The money raised goes to give help and support to those who have been injured by war.

In the first instance I believe this was for the victims of the First World War in 1914-1918 but now in 2017 we remember other wars in which our service men have given their lives.

A few of us have been working together to make a banner which will be fixed to the pulpit for the period of remembrance.

We have sometimes had a vase of poppies at our morning service when the two minutes silence is observed but this year we will have a poppy banner for the congregation to focus on.

Near the banner will be a basket into which anyone can place the name of a relative or friend who has lost their life in war and who they wish to remember on this occasion. There will also be a wooden frame containing three poppies. A red one in remembrance of all the men and women who have died, a purple one for the animals who have been used in war and the third a white peace poppy.

In these troubled times we do need to pray for peace.

Yvonne Sparrow

Reminiscences

An article by Ivy W. Howe, first appeared in Contact July 1967

One Sunday morning recently I was sitting in a particular seat in Church, when I found my thoughts wandering back over the years (a good many years now) when I was about 9 years of age. I think it was because I saw the children in front of me, and naturally some of the tiny ones were wriggling about, and I was comparing my Sunday School with theirs.



It is just the opposite now to what we used to do. Nowadays they come into Church first, and then go to their class, whereas we had to go to the classes first at 9.30am, then, after that was over, we had to go into Church for another long service, or so it seemed to us youngsters, till about 12.00 midday.

Well, naturally, we couldn't be good all that time, so we used to try and find something to do while the rest of the congregation were listening to the sermon. This particular morning that I'm thinking of, I believe we had been making bunny rabbits with our hankies and making them slip out of our hands, which of course produced a giggle or two. There was a very stern lady sitting in the very seat that I was using the other Sunday, and I suppose we had got on her nerves so much that she just couldn't stand it any longer.

Her name was Mrs Andrews and she used to live along the Baulks in some cottages that have now been pulled down. At first, she just leaned over and thumped us in the back, but as that didn't keep us quiet, she got up and walked down the aisle, across the back and then up to where we were sitting, and with a mighty push she somehow wedged herself in between my cousin and I, her face very red. That was the end of our little games for a good many Sundays, as she made it her business to have us in her seat every week.

I don't know what time we got home but there wasn't much time to spare, as we had to be back again sharp at 2.30pm for afternoon Sunday School. Poor Mrs Andrews! I suppose she meant well, and it did keep us quiet for a time, but how ashamed we were and when we came home from day school, I know I for one used to run fast by her house in case we saw her.

There must be scores of you that can remember incidents like this.

At Emmanuel, it was normal in this time for each member to have their own seat in church, and the 1904 Year Book lists all current members with the year of joining, seat number and home address, so anyone missing a service could be identified and friendly enquiries made into the cause. The first few pews at Sawston were similarly numbered, and it would appear that they followed the Emmanuel pattern of governance.

As I see it ...

by Mike Wilson

Tolstoy and all that

When I was born, my brother was two and a half and my sister eight. Colin worshipped his big sister, and Margaret thought Colin quite wonderful. My arrival was an unnecessary and unwelcome development. They made little secret of it. Margaret, being 'big', was in a position largely to ignore me. For Colin it was more difficult. From an early age he had three toys that occupied most of his time, his trainset (actually, it was a shared trainset, but you would never have known), his Meccano, and his Dinky cars. These he would organise in appropriately realistic and interesting arrangements, and these I would seize upon for purposes of my own, much to Colin's fury. Thus it is that some of my earliest memories are of lying face down on the lino, roaring my head off and kicking with frustration, while Colin, sitting on the small of my back, quietly got on with what he was doing. My brother and I have only become true friends in the last ten years. It is important, I believe, to celebrate the gift of what we now have rather than to mourn or resent the wasted years.

One of my oldest friends is an elder brother. He takes a very different view of these things. He thinks that it is the elder brother's right - even duty - to maintain his status as top dog by whatever means necessary. When it is suggested that this might not be good news for the little brother, his reply is that this is simply how it is, and if the little brother is wise, he regards it as character building. If he cannot cope - too bad.

An academic at King's College, London has just produced a book in which he argues that wars are in some important respects vehicles for good. They are our way of changing the way the world is ordered. A decisive campaign, a rapid evacuation by the defeated and a short struggle while they carve out a role for themselves as refugees in their new home over the border, and it is all over. The local economy soon recovers. A new peace and prosperity is established. He argues that the peace-keeping efforts of the United Nations are counter-productive. Rather than preventing wars, they actually perpetuate a situation of continuous low-level warfare that can drag on for decades. Whole regions are plunged into long-term economic stagnation and human misery. The presence of 'peace-keepers', he argues, actively prevents peace, because peace cannot occur until the pieces on the chess board have been re-arranged. And re-arrangement is precisely what the peace-keepers are there to prevent.

My parents had no idea what to do about Colin and me, but they took the general view that it must be my fault because, left to himself, Colin would have been perfectly happy, which is quite true. They were poor peace-keepers. They didn't seem to grasp that with my arrival, reality had changed, and that when reality changes, everyone involved has to change, like it or not. It took Colin and me half a century to come to terms with that, and learn how to share our lives happily.

Reality changes. The gospel of peace and reconciliation, it seems to me, is not about mere acceptance of the changing situation and refraining from warring against it. Gospel peace demands truly radical change on both sides. This cannot be done without generosity on both sides. Both sides need to offer real and costly gifts out of their own bounty to the other, gifts that the other needs gladly to receive. (The 'gladly' is the toughest bit.) And both sides need to recognise, and welcome - even celebrate - that for everyone involved life will never be the same again. In comparison, war might seem a much simpler and better solution.

Life After The 'Jungle' Camp Clearance in Calais

The Revd David Downing, of Maidenhead and Marlow United Reformed Church, joined a delegation of faith leaders to Calais to see the plight of unaccompanied refugee children at first hand. Following the closure of the notorious 'Jungle' refugee camp, many young vulnerable refugees remain living in the area. He reflects on what the delegation saw there.

'It started as a discussion, after a group of leaders from Christian, Jewish and Islamic communities in Maidenhead wrote to the government in support of the 'Dubs Amendment' to the Immigration Act. The amendment was sponsored by the Labour Peer Lord Dubs, who was once himself a child refugee. He was rescued from the Nazis and brought safely to the UK by Kindertransport thanks to the work of Nicholas Winton, who became known as the 'British Schindler'.

'The Dubs Amendment created a scheme requiring UK councils to identify spare capacity for housing unaccompanied child refugees. However, by February 2017, the scheme had been abandoned.

'A number of us decided to participate in a fact-finding day trip being organised by <http://www.citizensuk.org/>>Citizens UK.

Leaders from URC, Anglican, Catholic, and Jewish places of worship made the trip to see whether we could get faith communities involved in helping minors who have a right to be here in the UK, or who particularly need sanctuary.

'The day began with a briefing from Citizens UK's safe passage team who filled us in on some of the history of refugees in Calais and about the current situation. We met with Lord Dubs and Barbara Winton – daughter of Sir Nicholas Winton – who would be travelling with us to Calais.

The team took us to the main warehouse where food was prepared, clothes were received and sorted, tents were collected, and where various teams of volunteers work hard to organise the collection and distribution of items. It is worth saying what an amazing job is being done. We see what the media show us, but behind the scenes there are people working so hard and with such love that is rarely shown by the cameras.

'Warehouse workers told us that, while the police in Calais cannot evict refugees who have nowhere to go, they do evict their possessions. Often at 4am, they said, refugees are woken and their sleeping bags and blankets are removed and destroyed. For this reason, we were told, tents may have a life expectancy of only a few days before being destroyed by the authorities. Not surprisingly, such disturbances can leave hundreds of people deprived of sleep; frustration breaks out and incidents inevitably happen.

'We struggled to face the reality that, while this situation continues, children are growing up without security, shelter or proper sleep and amid the threat of violence. We pray for our children to have "sweet dreams"; how can such things be imagined for the refugee children of Calais?

'After a visit to the site of the former Jungle, which is now being reclaimed by nature, some of us went to meet young refugees who could be found lingering on street corners in Calais. Their appreciation for the very limited supply of food and drink we shared was clear to see.

'Our task now, as a multi-faith group from Maidenhead, is to consider what concrete action we can take.

Should we go back and offer a few days of volunteering? Can we meet with our MP (who happens to be our Prime Minister as well!) and press harder for safe passage to be offered to all those children who have a legal right to be reunited with family? Can we find a way to protect these children on our doorstep so they can once again experience sweet dreams at night?

'There are children crying out in Calais. Dare we listen?'

Source :URC Org.Uk Media website

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 November: 6th and 20th.

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 November

8 November - Emotional Support talk by Claire Wallace

22 November - slide show of members from the Georgina outing 2017

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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Church Workday – November 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)



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Fund Raising Activities

At the next Sawston Winter Fair, we are hoping to have a table selling lots of different crafts.

We need anything crafty - jams, chutney, home made items etc.

This craft stall will be in addition to the stall with the free mulled wine and mince pies.

The proceeds will go to Church Funds since they are in great need of a boost.

Please contact Pauline Purdy if you are able to help or have any suggestions, Many thanks,

Pauline

CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT November 2017

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 Cambridge CB1 1LG Office: 01223 352115 Email: office@wesleycam.org.uk or
secretary@cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk www.cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk



NOVEMBER			
Sun 5	6.30pm	Faith To Live By with Rev Dr Stuart Jordan. "What have the theologians ever done for us?" All welcome includes a short time of worship, a talk, refreshments & discussion.	Haslingfield
Thurs 9	7.30pm	Big Issues: With Helen Bryant. All welcome. Tea, coffee and desserts in the interval.	Histon
Mon 13	7.15pm for 7.45pm	Science Meets Faith: "Is my free-will an illusion? What faith and science have to say". With Dr Harvey McMahon FRS, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, University of Cambridge. All welcome. Free admission, retiring collection.	Wesley MC
Thurs 23	7.30pm	Big Issues: Arts and Faith and our new sculpture with Jayne Ruffel Ward. All welcome. Tea, coffee and desserts in the interval.	Histon
Sat 25	7.30pm	An evening with Paul Field – Christian folk singer and songwriter. Tickets £8 includes light refreshments. Contact Sue 01763 243815 walter962@btinternet.com for more details. Proceeds shared between Action For Children and Royston Methodist Church.	Royston
Thurs 30	6.30pm – 9pm	Creating Safer Space Foundation Training. To book your place contact Miriam at the Circuit office.	Chesterton

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