

C O N T A C T

October 2019



Volume 60 - Issue 10
Sawston Free Church - Castle Camps URC

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

Sunday	1 st Sunday of month	10.30 am 3.00 pm	Morning Worship Messy Church
	2 nd Sunday of month	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Quiet Time with God
	3 rd Sunday of month	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Morning Worship Reflective Service with Communion
	4 th Sunday of month	10.30 am	Go4th:Worship of Song, Prayer, Praise with the Worship Band No evening service
	5 th Sunday of month	10.30 am	Morning Worship No evening service
Monday	Alternate - see diary	10.00 am	Craft Group
Tuesday	Term time only	6.15 – 9.00pm	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	Castle Camps
Sun 6 Oct	10.30am: Morning Worship- Harvest - David Lloyd 3.00pm: Messy Church	10.30am: Holy Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron
Mon 7 Oct	10.00am: Craft Group (page 18)	
Sun 13 Oct	10.30am: Brigades Enrolment Service - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm: Quiet Time	10.30am: Morning worship - Rev Charles Martin
Sun 20 Oct	10.30am: Morning Worship/Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Family Service - Mrs Penny Flynn
Mon 21 Oct	10.00am: Craft Group (page 18)	
Sat 26 Oct	10.30am: Monthly Prayer Meeting (page 18)	
Sun 27 Oct	10.30am: Go4th 3.00pm – Thanksgiving & Remembrance Service	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev E Caswell

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
Oct 6	Jill Legg 01799 21831	Kate Leach	Oct 20	Gordon Heald 833983	Anne Nunn
Oct 13	Tony Moss 834220	Rosemary Livings	Oct 27	John Conway 833953	Betty Cleveland

The closing date for **November Contact** is Friday **18th October**

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

Contact

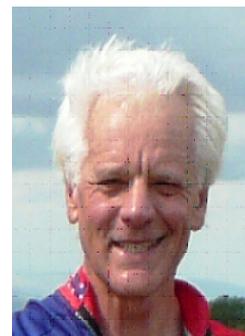
The monthly magazine of
**Sawston Free Church, Little Abington & Castle Camps URC's
United Reformed – Methodist**

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From the minister's desk

As my days as your minister here draw to a close, the pace doesn't seem to slow.

In these couple of weeks since coming back off holiday I've been engaged in some extraordinary events, the massive funeral service for Chunky Churchman, a final service ever at my old church in Bungay as I was invited back for a Waveney Valley Partnership Service at Bungay's Emmanuel Church where I ministered for six and a half years, the very difficult closing service at Little Abington and the unique first ever Communion Service at Foxearth Meadow.



Behind the scenes of all of these are some extraordinary people doing amazing things.

Olly Karpuk is amazing as the caretaker for funerals. The seats are in perfect order, the church looks so safe and welcoming and his handling of the Public Address system is brilliant. He knows just what volume to use for music or voice or microphone, just enough to support families in very difficult moments, struggling with words.

And then there are the elders, who time and again turn up, just to let people know that God cares about them, that our church cares about them, shepherding people to pews, making sure everyone is OK, fixing the little problems that crop up with the funeral directors or families or difficult moments no one expected. And then, when it's over and I'm spending time with families, I come back to find the church cleared, immaculate, ready for the next users.

On Thursday morning, Time for Tots kicked in again, that team, buzzing around preparing, making our church welcome for children and adults, safe, fun, and the story and songs that tell of God's love, and then, the mammoth job of putting away and vacuuming up, ready for the next group. What a team.

Brigade's has begun. leaders rush in after a day at work, just off the road, caring for the children, loving them and the team in the Cafe, offering social lubricants, tea and coffee and a listening ear, a massive team of people, supper waiting at home but first, this, their discipleship.

I don't get to the Craft Group; it's on my day off but I keep hearing about it and how it's thriving. And then Thursday, down at Orchard House, taking that Thursday service for a group of up to thirty people who gather there. I only do it once a month. Every other fortnight, when it's our turn, two of the elders go and take the service for us. St Mary's do it on the alternate weeks.

From time to time I drop into Footprints and always there are our folk there, meeting people, talking, sometimes helping, Pegs is often there in an apron, a fearsome sight, sometimes just enjoying a meal with Anne. As often as not when I go down to the church, one of the Fabric Committee are down there fixing something, wiring something, addressing a problem, while Barry mows the lawn and cleans up the flower beds.

On Saturday, after weeks of planning and praying and coordinating with Valerie, we shared a wonderful few hours at Foxearth Meadow at our picnic, guided walk and outdoor communion. We had oldies, newies, adults, grandies, littlies, in betweeners, mums and dads and spouses. It was the first ever Communion Service at Foxearth and huge thanks to Valerie for dreaming up the concept and doing so much to put it together.

Every week I meet with Maggie for an hour or so to go through the life of the church and make sure we are all organised for what's coming, for elders meetings, for church meetings, for the little glitches that occur, the admin that needs doing in a vibrant thriving church, Maggie - getting the notices done, doing the emailing, taking the bookings, liaising with the wider church, putting up the posters and taking them down, printing stuff for people, keeping minutes, organising a holiday club... and then Sundays. The speakers, the rotas, the Junior Church, the musicians, the helpers, welcomers, creche minders, transporters and refreshment hosts.

Saturday: Work day. A dozen people involved or more, someone (Gordon) organising the tools, the paint, the scaffolding, the team doing the planning that makes the day work, the cakes that nourish the labourers, and of course the contract jobs that need arranging, following up, correcting. Friday night, every Friday night, the Band practise for two hours.

During the day I often hear Rosemary in the church, working over the hymns, how to best play them and planning the music in those moments when no words are being used on a Sunday. That's Sawston, well, a short glimpse. There's heaps more.

And I've also been out to Camps and they've been putting signs all over the village for their songs of praise on the 29th. We had our church meeting last week, the elders meeting the week before, planning how our church can best bless our village, planning a defibrillator, and how to make the village trained and aware for when we put it in, caring for the elderly, coordinating with Maggie's bus to Jacob's ordination service, working out our Harvest Services and how to get all the country produce to Jimmy's Night Shelter.

Quietly in the background, unnoticed, is the Contact Editor and his team of deliverers. Oh, that's right. I'm writing for that now.

It's only been two weeks since I came back off holiday. Wow. And in all of that, we've had our final service at Little Abington. Thank you to all the people from Sawston and Castle Camps who came to be with them, love them, pray with them, as we honoured the work of the chapel, celebrated the union of chapel and church after how many hundreds of years, and acknowledged that God has said to them, "Your task is done. Well done. God bless."

So, what do I want to say. ***"Thank you God for all of these people who accompany me on my Christian discipleship journey, who hurl themselves into your service in so many ways and form my community of faith and faithfulness."***

I'm going to miss you all massively. You are extraordinary and I love you very much.

Love Bruce

Message From Castle Camps



We have enjoyed this summer and it appears to have been a good harvest for the farmers.

At the beginning of September, we had a rather special service to mark Merchant Navy Day when we remember the Merchant Seamen who formed the convoys during the war and who still help us to today. We flew the Red Ensign.

Our service was taken by Norman Setchell, a retired Army Chaplain, who is a good friend to our congregation and the service was very moving, with some of the congregation relating personal stories of their families. We sang some wonderful old hymns including "Will your Anchor hold" and "Eternal father strong to save." The collection amounting to £120 was donated to "The Sailors' Society." After the service we had tea and cake and could find no weevils in the ships' biscuits!

On Sunday 15th September, two members of our congregation went to the final service at Little Abington church, led by Rev. Paul Whittle. They said it was a very moving service. It is sad that they have had to close after so many years, but if there is anything that we at Castle Camps can do to assist them, we should be very happy to help.

Castle Camps Primary School is holding a Remembrance Service at the beginning of November, when they remember the villagers who gave their lives in two world wars. Last year, it was a very moving service, when they laid crosses at the war Memorial.

Best wishes from us all at Castle Camps

Val and Friends

Little Abington URC Closes

The Little Abington United Reformed Church conducted its final act of worship on Sunday 15th September.

The service was attended by its members and visitors from Castle Camps URC and Sawston Free Church, Rev's Chris Kemshell and Alex Jacobs and representatives from the Parish Church who have offered their friendship, sympathy and hospitality to the members of the United Reformed Church.

The final service was a celebration of the Eucharist, presided over by the Rev. Bruce Waldron and the guest preacher was the Moderator, the Rev. Canon Paul Whittle.

Paul's address urged members to remember and celebrate the ministry and service of the Chapel throughout its one hundred and thirty one years, and to remember that God is with us in all the circumstances of life. Sometimes to close is an acknowledgement that the church has come to a time in its service where closing is a faithful response to God. Paul recalled us to the passage in Isaiah where God says to His people, "Do not be afraid, I have called you by name. You are mine." He recalled us to the passage in Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus where he writes "I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."



Rev Paul Whittle preaching at the closing service



The congregation enjoying fellowship after the service



The Rev. Alex Jacobs and the Rev. Bruce Waldron exchanging reminiscences of ministering to Little Abington URC



Eileen Readman & Daphne Hannah



Moderator: The Rev. Paul Whittle. Church Secretary: Lynne Riesansky, Church Treasurer, musician: David Rose. Minister: The Rev. Bruce Waldron

Little Abington United Reformed Church

Little Abington United Reformed Church has closed. It had been increasingly difficult to do all that is physically and financially required to continue as a church and so it was that the following resolution was passed.

The Church Meeting of Little Abington United Reformed Church, meeting on July 21st 2019, giving thanks to God for the worship and witness of the church in this village since 1888 and paying tribute to the ministers, deacons, elders and members who have contributed so much to its life and vitality throughout its one hundred and thirty one years of history, resolves that:

(a) The church be dissolved from 15th September 2019

(b) That the church's building be sold and the proceeds of sale passed to the Synod. (At a subsequent church meeting a month later, the church resolved that they would ask the Synod that any funds held by the church or remaining from the sale of the church after expenses, be passed to the Sawston Free Church.)

The following is a brief history of the church. All footnotes refer to the Cambridgeshire Council URL below.



In 1675, six people were presented for not coming to church at Great Abington, and there were six dissenters there in 1676, but none at Little Abington. A Quaker member of the Amy family was imprisoned in 1678 for refusing to pay tithe on wild pigeons. In 1728 Great Abington was said to have five dissenting families, and Little Abington six dissenters; in 1783 Little Abington alone had a dissenting family. Although a house there was registered for dissenting worship in 1798, the parish still included only two dissenting families, both of long standing, in 1825 at Great Abington, the only recorded dissenter was one labourer.

In 1826, two men registered their houses for such worship, as did a preacher from Linton in 1833. Neither parish had any permanent non-conformist congregation until after the 1870s, when the Congregationalists from Sawston began mission work at Little Abington, having a preaching station there from c. 1888. The vicar believed their main audience to be drawn from immigrant labourers. Although the meeting-house had 60 sittings in 1899 there were only seven full members in 1905 and 10 in 1916. Numbers varied thereafter between five and eight.

(extracted from <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol6/pp3-19>)

In 1920 an ex- WW1 army hut was purchased for use as a worship space and the cottage was sold. This current building officially opened for worship on the 14th April 1921. In the 1930s many non-conformists came from the north-east of England to the Land Settlement and numbers attending services rose dramatically.

Daphne Hannah writes, "When I first came to the church in 1954, Miss May King was its leader. She was a dedicated Christian woman who lived her life for the church and the community. Mrs Mabel Germany was Church Secretary, a post she held for 40 years. Attendance has fluctuated over the years; it has been down to four or five, sometimes up to sixteen or seventeen. In the 1980s we had twenty five children on the Sunday School register."

In 1972 the Congregational churches of England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church combined to form the United Reformed Church. Little Abington, combined with Linton, Haverhill and Castle Camps to form the Haverhill Group of United Reformed Churches under the ministry of the Rev. Bill Clement. In 1996 it was agreed to split the group and in 1997, the Rev. Alex Jacob was appointed Minister for Linton.

Little Abington became linked with Sawston Free Church under the ministry of the Rev. Peter Ball. In 2009 and 2010, under the ministry of the Rev. Bruce Waldron, Lt. Abington URC held joint services with the Parish Church for harvest in the Village Institute, a local craft display, some Songs of Praise Services in the evenings, and hosted for a short time a Play Group working with the Village Rector. For the last seven years the church has continued to have weekly services on Sunday mornings, except that the third Sunday service each month was moved to the afternoon so that the minister could have regular monthly worship with the congregation.

It is with great sadness that it has been recognised this church no longer has the resources to continue to sustain its property and activity. Daphne writes,

“We have been very fortunate to have had many inspiring lay preachers and ministers to lead worship over the years. There was an Ecumenical Christian Student Group in Cambridge who led worship about every six weeks. They gave us practical help also like painting the church ceiling and we got to know them very well. It was good to hear over the years that some of them achieved prominent positions in the church. We are grateful to all the faithful servants who have served us well over the years and to all the people who worshipped here. It is with great sadness that we feel we can no longer effectively run the church. Jesus said “Do not be afraid little flock.” I’m sure we are not. It would be nice to think this church has influenced someone’s life for the good. When we lock the door for the last time, God is not locked inside. Thankfully he is with us always. We can step forward in Faith, Hope and Love.

At the meeting where the decision was taken to close this church, representatives of the Parish Church attended and extended both their sympathy and a very warm and heartfelt invitation to join with the Parish Church.”

The final act of worship was a Communion Service, led by the Rev. Bruce Waldron on Sunday 15th September; the speaker being the Rev. Paul Whittle, Moderator of the Eastern Synod.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the congregation of Little Abington United Reformed Church.



Picnic, Guided Walk & Communion Service

On Saturday 14th September, a group of twenty adults, four children and one dog met up at Foxearth Meadows near Cavendish. We were joined by Mark Prina who manages the nature reserve for A Rocha, Andy who volunteers at the reserve and Jeremy Flack, the Green Advocate for Synod.



As the sun shone, we enjoyed our picnics and time catching up with each other. Mark then introduced himself and told us how his faith and his passion for conservation and wildlife became intertwined and how a series of events led to him applying for the position of reserve manager with A Rocha.

We then had some time to explore Foxearth Meadows. The words I had chosen as my inspiration for the afternoon came from Romans 1 v20:

“Ever since the creation of the world, His eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things He has made.”

And with those words in mind, we were invited to listen, look, touch, smell and taste our way around the reserve becoming more aware of the things God wants to show us through His creation. Creation reminds us that God desires to be seen, to be found and to be known. That we can glimpse God within creation is a beautiful thought.



The afternoon ended with communion, led by Bruce. As we sat in a circle together, quietening our hearts and minds, the birds sang in the background and damselflies passed over our heads. It was a very special time together, feeling that we were worshipping with creation.

Thank you to everyone who came along and especially to Bruce for his amazing support and encouragement as we worked together on the liturgy for communion and the plan for the afternoon. And for hand-making the most wonderful plastic-free windmill.

If anyone would like a copy of the guided walk, please let me know. It can be used in any outdoor location, including your own gardens.

More information about Foxearth Meadows can be found on the A Rocha website:
www.arocha.org.uk/our-activities/practical-conservation/foxearth/

Some quotes from the day:

"All four of us thoroughly enjoyed our journey and stay at Foxearth Meadows. The children loved picking blackberries and exploring the woodland. The materials Valerie had prepared were exciting for the children and thought provoking for Simon and myself.

What a treat searching for owl and bird boxes, dragonflies and other treasures of nature. There was a lovely sense of peace and tranquility (which Abbie and Isaac happily disturbed!) and the outdoor communion service connected at many levels - Isaac particularly enjoyed the feather windmill.

Both children came away buzzing and have asked many questions about Communion since so it was good to involve them. It isn't often children are involved in Communion.
Thank you Valerie and Bruce for your vision." ~ Lucy

"I just wanted to say thank you to you all for a lovely afternoon taking in God's creation.
I loved the imagery of us placing our rocks (sin) at the foot of the cross and being made clean." ~ Zara



Our prayer for the day:

"Open our eyes, Lord, as we walk through this world:
As we feel the wind and sunshine
and see the majesty of creation unfolding before us.
Help us to recognise you in the fading of the summer sun,
the shortening of days and the cooling breeze.
In the changing colours of the leaves, the morning mists
and the autumn chill.
In the harvests and the fruits that fall.
In all these things, may we see the Creator's hand.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen."

Valerie

I heard a lady on a radio phone-in declaring passionately that it was all very simple: this country is ruled by the people, she said. The citizens of the land have voted. Parliament should do as it is told. The courts should not side with Parliament against the people. Accordingly, I find myself thinking about Republicanism, its origins in the French revolution, 'the Terror' and the guillotine.

The French Revolution was an intellectually driven exercise, not spontaneous direct action. As I understand, its theory (reflected in the constitutions of France and the US, the first two among very many) was that the country should be ruled by its citizens publicly proclaiming their wishes (i.e., by the mob). The mob, by its nature, throws up its own leaders. Thus the people petition the government. If the government resists, the mob's leaders become the new government, and when the new government gets out of step with the mob (as it inevitably will in due course), the process starts again. This is a very simple and direct form of democracy. Is it inherently bad? No, of course not. As with every system, it depends totally on how it is applied. My guess is that like every political system it works (i) while everyone understands it and (ii) while everyone trusts and respects it. In particular, it works until those appointed to ensure its smooth running - the courts and the police - lose the confidence of the people. Without that, mayhem.

Today, people are writing about 'the new populism'. Originating in the U.S., it can be heard increasingly, I believe, in British politics and around the world. It originated in its current form in 'Finkel-think', named after the American political strategist Arthur Finkelstein. Hannes Grassegger writes,

'Arthur Finkelstein always said, "You don't go against the Taliban, you go against Osama Bin Laden." So it's about personalisation, picking the perfect enemy and [you] go full on against that person, so that people are actually scared of your opponent. Never talk about your own candidate's policies. They don't matter at all.[1]

Note the last two sentences. I find that absolutely terrifying. This is the politics of fear, the witch-hunt, and the lynch-mob. It is, of course, precisely what Donald Trump did to the four Democratic congresswomen known as 'the squad'. [2] His 'send them home' campaign has made their true home (the United States) a seriously dangerous place for them. My guess is that this strategy works even more effectively in the age of Facebook and Twitter than it did in the age of pamphlets and fly posters. As with all mob violence, the true instigators can claim (with chilling truth) that it was not they who did it. Where did Arthur Finkelstein get his theory from? My guess would be *Mein Kampf* and Hitler's propagandist, Joseph Goebbels.

The Christian Church has a terrible record when facing up to hate politics, finding it very hard to recognise blind hate for what it is. Christians are far too easily frightened into a false rhetoric of sin. The evil witch hunt is subtly re-branded as a campaign *against* evil! A blind eye is turned to individual instances of cruelty and hatred in the interests of the so-called 'greater good' of a falsely peaceful society that is in fact hate-ridden, fear-ridden and violence-ridden.

As I listen to the rhetoric of the New Populism creeping into our politics, I think all Christians have real cause for alarm. This is *not* how we Christians ought to do things.

[1] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-49584157>

[2] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Squad_\(United_States_Congress\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Squad_(United_States_Congress))

Editorial Comment re Page 13 – September Issue: Church Statement

'Mike would like to make it clear that the secretary of the Methodist Church in Hong Kong was not a signatory to the statement put out by Hong Kong church leaders which we quoted in full in the last issue, but only the means by which it came to his hand.'

Catherine Ball on the Rewards and Challenges of Pastoral Care today

Pastoral care is one of the core responsibilities in ministry. It is a vital aspect of church life, developing relationships, building community and opening up opportunities for the application of the good news of God's grace. As a minister, I find pastoral care one of the most challenging aspects of the role, but also one of the most rewarding.

It is true that pastoral care has changed from past generations. No longer does the stereotypical village minister visit each parishioner one by one, having cups of tea and talking about life. Most of us now have at least two churches – some several – in different towns and villages, and so have a lot more travelling to do in order to visit people. Administration takes up more time than in the past and there is more legislation with which ministers and elders must ensure churches comply.

There are some advantages: many churches today are open throughout the week for church groups, user groups, cafes, Fairtrade shops, charity services and foodbanks. This requires management, but it also makes the church a place where people come for friendship and help. A few times a week, I spend mornings in the church and go around the coffee shop chatting to people. This has opened up many opportunities for pastoral care: one gentleman had a heart attack and I visited him in hospital, and he was so grateful he came to some worship services and agreed to be Father Christmas to our tots and carers group.

Many come asking for financial assistance. I meet them and chat through their needs. I give them vouchers for our foodbank and a sandwich and a coffee, and sit and chat with them. Others have emotional or mental issues or addictions, so I chat with them and refer them to groups such as the Dementia Cafe, or to counsellors or GPs. Recently, one of our frequent visitors was a homeless man whose friend died and her family did not want him or his friends to attend the funeral. I held a memorial service in our church for all his friends who wanted to come. Several church people attended as well and supported them. This helped form a positive relationship with several who are homeless in our town...

Catherine Ball is Minister of The Free Church, St Ives, and Fenstanton United Reformed Church, Cambridgeshire

Summary of The Elders Meeting in September

IN VACANCY

We discussed in detail the forthcoming vacancy period when Bruce leaves. The Synod Moderator, Rev Paul Whittle, will be our Interim Moderator whilst in vacancy. He will cover our monthly morning communion services and hopes to chair all church and elders meetings. He plans also to cover the extra services throughout Christmas and Easter. The vacancy period is likely to last several months.

The process to follow when we are looking for a new minister may vary from the 'norm' but Paul will guide us through that carefully. He is based at the Synod office in Whittlesford so very easy to contact. SFC will have to prepare a document called Pastorate Profile as before which basically describes everything about us.

The Elders are viewing this time of vacancy in a very positive way and we are encouraging others to do the same. Good communication is the key. It's an opportunity for us all to work together as a team even more so than before. It's a great opportunity to refresh when a new minister starts. We have some very good preachers lined up in the meantime – all very popular with SFC – so that will be very enriching for us. There is a lot of support for SFC.

We agreed we have to trust that God is working hard for us and we all need to remember this and reinforce it in others.

And we looked in detail about what we do to cover Contact/Sawston Scene, funerals, orchard House, Go4th etc. These plans are still developing.

HOLIDAY CLUB

We reviewed how the Holiday Club went and agreed that it was a success –

- Great ecumenical involvement – lots of volunteers from SFC, OLOL & St Mary's
- We were full, with children from lots of different backgrounds and ages. Feedback from them and their parents has been very positive
- Great venue
- Excellent leadership along with very committed and talented volunteers
- Huge thanks to all!

CLEANERS RESPONSIBILITY

We still require someone to act as the liaison with the cleaners. This is a cause of great concern. No one has come forward to volunteer.

We discussed many other items – some very confidential. A very good Elders meeting!

Maggie

2019 Shoebox Appeal

The official launch of the Blythwood Care Christmas Shoebox Appeal will take place during the Brigades' enrolment service on 13th October.

Everyone is welcome to contribute to this appeal.

We are looking for empty shoe boxes, Christmas wrapping paper and lots of items to fill them! And of course filled, wrapped complete boxes too!

Donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, hats, scarves, gloves, soap and sweets would be most appreciated. Small toys such as cars, dolls and balls are also needed for the children's boxes.

Leaflets with more details are available in the church or on the Blythwood Care website www.shoeboxappeal.org

Thank you for your support.
Valerie Kerr



This religious song was written by Donald O'Keefe and played at the end of each broadcast on Radio Luxembourg at 2am in the 1950's.

At The End Of The Day

At the end of the day just kneel and say
'Thank you, Lord, for my work and play'
I've tried to be good, for I know that I should,
That's a prayer for the end of the day.

So when the new dawn begins to break,
Just lift up your eyes, let your heart awake.
Be ready to meet what the day may send,
And be ready to greet every man as a friend.

Nobody knows what a power you have found,
So do what you can for the others around.
Carry them high when they seem to be low,
As on your way you go.

At the end of the day just kneel and say
'Thank you, Lord, for my work and play'
I've tried to be good, for I know that I should,
That's my prayer for the end of the day.

**CHOOSE
LOVE**



Choose Love is a charity which works with Camcrag to help refugees in Europe.

I have put this newsletter in Contact to please ask for your prayers for all those who are trying to escape terrible conditions in their home countries . They are risking their lives to come to Europe where they have the hope that their lives may change in a safer environment. Also please pray for all those who work with all the charities, and in the countries who are trying to help them when they arrive.

Thank you, Mary



Two weeks ago, groups of the Greek islands declared an emergency. With over-capacity refugee camps and arrivals at levels not seen since the start of the crisis, these islands are at breaking point. Since then, with the help of hundreds of people, we've been working to give refugees in Greece the welcome they need.

How are we responding?

Rescuing people from dangerous seas



We're supporting the only humanitarian rescue boat on Lesvos. Working flat-out, in one day last week they completed three rescue missions. One boat alone contained 27 children, six of them unaccompanied. After a terrifying sea crossing, the reassuring faces of this team are the first thing these new arrivals see.



Ensuring families don't have to sleep rough

We're supporting the provision of blankets, sleeping bags and nappies for new arrivals. And while the EU and Greek state look the other way, our partners' dedicated volunteers have been constructing tents so newly-arrived families aren't left sleeping rough



Providing food for the most vulnerable

We're ensuring more vulnerable people - including babies and pregnant women - get the proper, nutritious food they need. It shouldn't be left up to volunteers to provide something this essential. But while it is, we can't look the other way.

We're responding as best we can - but this emergency isn't over.

With winter on the way, this is just the beginning. Refugees are still arriving on the islands - in numbers not seen since the height of the crisis. The camps cannot cope. Having fled war and persecution, newly-arrived families are being forced to sleep rough.

But while the EU and Greek state look the other way, our community is stepping up to provide desperately-needed food, shelter, nappies, sleeping bags and sea rescue. Our incredible community is doing the job of governments - on a shoestring.

We're so incredibly grateful - everything we do is because of the support from people.

With love and thanks,

Josie & the Help Refugees team

P.S. Help Refugees is hiring. Join our team and choose love full-time!

No rest for the sleeping bag stars

Numbers are yet to be confirmed but almost 1000 salvaged sleeping bags have been washed and mended over the summer by dozens of supporters in and around Cambridge.



The clean sleeping bags will soon be going out to Calais, along with the tents, for distribution to refugees in France, the Balkans and Greece. Thank you to everyone who contributed: church groups, community groups, council workers, students using their college laundry over the summer, and families in the surrounding villages. Thank you also to those who offered to help but have not been needed.

Annual General Meeting

17th October 2019 7.30 to 9.30pm

St Barnabas Church, Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 2BD

All members of CamCrag are invited to our Annual General Meeting, which includes a presentation of the annual report and accounts, and the election of new trustees.

Guest speakers TBA. Refreshments will be served. Doors 7.15pm – please arrive promptly.

Change of Season



As we're heading into the Autumn term, there's been lots of changes at Canaan. With a few more coming on the horizon, we thought it'd be a good time to update everyone!

We recently said goodbye to the wonderful Tess Oyediran. We have loved having Tess with us for the past 2 years and we're going to miss her loads! The girls said an emotional goodbye to her this Thursday, and we all spoilt her rotten. Tess is off to work with the young people from her church and we wish her all the best!

We also said a farewell to Jaheda Youssuf during the summer. Jaheda has been a massive blessing to us since she joined in December, and we've loved learning all things creative from her! We're going to miss having her on team but she's off to bless some more women at her new job and we know she'll be amazing there!

Amongst all the sadness of goodbyes, we're excited to say we've appointed two new workers! They'll be introducing themselves over the next few weeks. One of them is going to be working in Bethnal Green, developing and delivering our work alongside Annie, and the other one is going to be in charge of our next venture - launching Canaan Project on the Isle of Dogs.

We're excited to be collaborating with a secondary school on the Island, and a local community cafe run by London City Mission called Cafe Forever, to deliver more quality youth work to young women in Tower Hamlets. We're really grateful to have been funded by Tower Hamlets Council through the Local Community Fund to start this work - so listen out for more details of how that's shaping up.

Thanks for all your continued support, especially during these times of change - we're excited for what's ahead!

Christian Climate Action



Cambridge Christian Climate Action launch event
Friday 20th September, 8-10pm, Michaelhouse

Although this launch event happened in September, it does give an insight into the action being taken by Christian groups.

We are in the midst of a global climate emergency and an ecological crisis. Despite decades of warnings from scientists, governments worldwide are still not taking the actions needed to limit the damage these crises will cause. The poorest and most vulnerable in society are already suffering from the impact of climate change. It is they who will continue to be hit hardest as the crisis deepens.

Public concern for the environment in the UK is at a record high. Groups like Extinction Rebellion and School Strike 4 Climate are putting the climate crisis on the agenda like never before. For many people, religious belief is a driving factor for their environmental action.

What can Christians do to stop the climate crisis? How should churches respond? What does it mean to love and care for God's creation in the face of the sixth mass extinction event? How can we put faith at the heart of our action against climate and ecological breakdown? Would Jesus be part of Extinction Rebellion?

Christian Climate Action (<https://christianclimateaction.org>) is a community of Christians across the country supporting each other to take meaningful action in the face of imminent and catastrophic anthropogenic climate change. Inspired by Jesus Christ, and social justice movements of the past, we carry out acts of non-violent direct action to urge those in power to make the change needed.

The launch event was to hear from people in Cambridge who are putting their faith at the heart of their action against climate crisis and ecological breakdown. Find out about why Christians are getting involved with organisations like Christian Climate Action and Extinction Rebellion.

“Christians are called by God to show to the world what the divine image looks like – the image of a divine creator who brought the world to birth, called it good, and summoned human beings to reflect this divine care and delight through their own work in the world, animated by the gift of Christ's Spirit. Christian Climate Action seeks to respond to that summons; in the face of impending environmental crisis, we need to encourage one another to grow more fully into the joyful responsibility we are made for.” - Rowan Williams

Christian Climate Action and other faith groups will be hosting a Faith Bridge, with prayer and worship around the clock, in central London this October: <https://christianclimateaction.org/join-us-on-the-faith-bridge-this-october/>

Sawston Free Church

Craft Group

We meet in the back hall of the Church on alternate Monday mornings between 10am & 12noon.

Dates for October: 7th & 21st. For more detail please contact **Yvonne** 473937 or **Pam** 834220



Flower Rota 2019

It is always welcoming to see the flowers in church. So please remember to put your name down on the **flower rota** which is at the back of the church.

For more information please contact Rosemary Harriss on 832854

or any of the other flower ladies: Rosemary Livings, Linda Moxon, Janet Parr or Vivien Ford (when in Sawston)



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.

For more information please contact **Rosemary**.

Email: timefortots@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk



Another baby and toddler group you could go along to is Refresh – 2pm-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

Prayer Meeting

Please remember the monthly prayer meetings held at 10.30am on the last Saturday of each month to spend time with God and others who come to do the same. Often we have a chat first.

Everyone is welcome to come to pray or just be with us - you would be most welcome.

If anyone would like to talk to me about the meeting I would love to hear from you.

Please ring me on 520383 – **Sue Lelliot**



Important Dates

Sunday 10 November/Remembrance Sunday – Elders Service

Saturday 16 November afternoon – Bruce's farewell do – **NEW DATE**

Sunday 17 November 10.30am – Bruce's last service

Miriam Webb – Cambridge Methodist Circuit Administrator writes:

“If you are looking for an inspiring ten minutes to add to your day, grab a cuppa and follow the links below....”

We want to share an inspirational video with friends around the circuit. It’s a project that clients and staff from Headway Cambridgeshire have engaged in over the past couple of years, looking at how World War 1 victims of head injuries were treated. You will see that some of the filming was carried out at CMC as part of their weekly hub sessions on Thursdays and Fridays. The video is just 10 minutes long and explains how the charity have collaborated with local schools, with Heritage Lottery funding.

It’s inspirational and moving!

And lovely to see the way in which CMC facilities are being used. This work is another sign of the commitment which the Cambridge Circuit has given to CMC over the past few years. You can find a link to the video from the Chesterton website (recently renewed by the new church administrator, Klara)

<https://www.chestertonmethodist.org.uk/headwayhub.htm>

Ian

Deacon Ian Murray

=====

GYD (Growing Young Disciples)
6pm Fri 8th Nov to 5pm Sat 9th Nov 2019
Histon



“PRESENTING CHRISTIANITY”

GYD is an opportunity for young people in school years 6-8 to build on their journey as followers of Jesus. GYD will explore what it means to have Godly character, to be fruitful in our every-day lives and understand how God can work through us whilst recognising what more He might want to do.

Do you know of young people in your church or church group who might benefit from Growing Young Disciples?

The day will be run by Steve Whyatt, Sian Thorne (GenR8) and Nicola Grieves children’s and youth development officer (Eastern URC)

Do get in touch with any questions etc.

Steve

Steve Whyatt
GenR8 Director
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The Footprints Café



at
Sawston Free Church

NEW! children's menu

The Footprints Café is a community cafe offering a wide range of reasonably priced Snacks and Meals together with Teas & Coffees, Cold drinks, Cakes and Pastries.

We are open Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm. Breakfasts are served until 11.30 am.

The Footprints Café is located where the OWL Café used to be; at the back of Sawston Free Church.

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