

CONTACT

November 2018



Volume 59 - Issue 11

Sawston Free Church – Little Abington URC – Castle Camps URC

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

Sunday	Every Sunday 1 st Sunday of month 2 nd Sunday of month 3 rd Sunday of month 4 th Sunday of month 5 th Sunday of month	10.30 am 3.00 pm 10.30 am 6.00 pm 6.00 pm 6.30 pm	Morning Worship Messy Church No evening service Holy Communion as part of Morning Worship Quiet Time with God Evening Communion Go4th Praise Service (No evening service
Monday	Alternate - see diary	10.00 am	Craft Group
Tuesday	Term time only	6.15 – 9.00 pm	Boys' and Girls' Brigades
Wednesday	Fortnightly see diary	2.00 pm	Wednesday Fellowship
Thursday	Term time only	10.30 – noon	Time for Tots
Saturday	Last Saturday of month	10.30 am	Monthly Prayer Meeting
For further details of these activities, please contact one of the Elders (see back page). Four housegroups meet regularly. For information contact the Minister or Church Secretaries.			

Three Churches Services and Dates for Your Diary

Date	Sawston	Lt Abington	Castle Camps
Sun 4 Nov	10.30am: Morning Service - Faith Paulding 3.00pm Messy Church	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Mark Hayes	10.30am: Holy Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron
Wed 7 Nov	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 17)		
Sat 10 Nov	8am - Noon - Church Workday (page 17)		
Sun 11 Nov	10.30am: Remembrance Service - Rev Liz Caswell 6.00pm Quiet Time - Lynne Hayes	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Wendy Roe	10.00am: Remembrance Service - at All Saints' Church
Mon 12 Nov	10.00am: Craft Group (page 17)		
Sun 18 Nov	10.30am: Elders Service - Elders 6.30pm Evening Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	2.30pm: Holy Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Family Service - Mr Bob Parkin
Wed 21 Nov	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 17)		
Sun 25 Nov	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.30pm: Go4th Waldron/Purdy	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr George Tadrous	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Norman Setchell
Mon 26 Nov	10.00am: Craft Group (page 17)		

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
Nov 4	John Conway 833953	Malcolm Mackintosh	Nov 18	Gordon Heald 833983	Maggie Jones
Nov 11		Janet Parr	Nov 25	Tony Moss 834220	

The closing date for **December Contact** is Thursday **15th 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



I really liked this reflection from the URC's online daily devotions, so I thought I'd share it with you. It is written by Helen Wilson, a Local Preacher from Northumberland.

READING - St Luke 12: 16-20

Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

REFLECTION

Each morning, I drag myself sleepy-eyed to the end of the garden to let my hens out. Regardless of what sort of day they had yesterday, they rush into the garden ready to start a new day on a breakfast of corn.

If, later, they're still hungry, they work hard at foraging. My six-foot fuchsia has been plucked bare below the height of two feet, the height Miriam can jump to, as has a young apple tree. Every damp patch has been dug into by Glinda in search of worms. Sand, kale, and daddy-long-legs, are all considered great delicacies by Valhalla, while my toes, the fence post, and the window ledge have all been tested, and rejected, as potential food by Baloo. When the sun shines, they alternate between sunbathing and sitting in the shade; when it rains, they sit under the garden table. They begrudge neither, simply responding to their circumstances, unconcerned about the future. Smaller birds often come to share in their bounty. Sparrows take down-feathers to line their nests, and a wide range of garden birds steal their corn. The hens see them but make no effort to prevent this wholesale theft. Why would they?

Enjoying the world as they do, they set an excellent example to us as we rush through life trying to save time to pack in more. We even watch television programmes in which people rush to make the perfect éclair or refurbish community centres.

Regretting focusing too hard on "laying up" money is a very common deathbed regret, so much so that half a dozen people have been accredited with saying "Nobody on their deathbed has ever said "I wish I had spent more time at the office"". We know it was Jesus who said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Turning that around, what you put effort into shows what you treasure, so what have you treasured today that you might regret in the future?

PRAYER

God of yesterday, of today, and of tomorrow,
help us to live in today,
to move on from yesterday
and to leave tomorrow in your hands.
Open our eyes to your treasures
guiding our values
so that we may lay up what is good in your sight
valuing what you value. Amen.

Harvest Reflection

As the leaves fall and litter the pavements with shades of green, yellow, orange, and crimson. As squirrels forage for food and farmers harvest the fields, there is no doubt that autumn is upon us. These past few weeks, churches across the nation have given thanks for this harvest season and have given produce to charities for those in need. Yet, as the leaves fall and the squirrels forage and the farmers harvest, many of us feel busy; busy with work, school and life; busy preparing our gardens for winter and the year to come.

During a busy spell, Martin Luther wrote '*Work, work, from morning until late at night. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall have to spend the first three hours in prayer*'. Three hours... that is 180 minutes or 10800 seconds, in prayer alone! For many of us, the thought of spending three hours in prayer when we have things to do may feel like a waste of time. In fact, for many people prayer is the last thing we think of when we are busy. A last resort, after we have already tried to do everything we can do in our own strength.

This is the way many of us see it and the idea of dedicating our first hours to prayer seems like foolishness, but the Bible reminds us that '*...God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength*' (1 Corinthians 1:25).

This month, rather than seeing prayer as the last thing we can do, it may be helpful to try to think of prayer as the first and most productive thing we can do.

Jacob Bali

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Christmas Charities – Sawston Free Church

Each year Sawston Free Church chooses two charities to benefit from the offerings at the special Christmas services in December.

Last year, SFC decided to choose one Christmas charity towards the beginning of the year and the second in December based on what crises may be happening in the world at that time. However, at the beginning of THIS year, we/I became distracted with other issues that we completely forgot to choose a Christmas charity. So we plan to rectify this at the next church meeting on Monday 12th November, when we will vote on our first Christmas charity.

So two questions for you ...

Is there a charity you would like us to support?
And if so, why do you think SFC should support this charity?

We only need a few sentences. If you get stuck, have a look at the charity's website for inspiration.

Please email me with your chosen charity's details by: SATURDAY 3rd NOVEMBER. That will give me time to circulate the details for people to consider before voting at the church meeting.

Many thanks,

Maggie (maggie.jones90@ntlworld.com)

Sawston Free Church

Update From The Elders Meeting 6th Sept 2018

(Apologies for missing this last month, David)

- We discussed briefly how the café is going – picking up nicely.
- We looked at a series of books presented by Bruce that look at serving, discipleship, prayer etc. – full of excellent ideas and most are great topics for discussion. We agreed these could be a really useful resource to us. Bruce is planning to introduce them to the November Church meeting.
- Jacob Bali, our new student minister, would be starting soon so we checked our arrangement for the bring & share lunch to welcome him and his wife, Esther. Another Bring & Share Lunch is planned for Harvest too. Our friends from Castle Camps & Little Abington have been invited.
- We have a service planned for 18 November that will be led by Elders so lots of planning needed!
- On 20 September at Fulbourn URC, there will be a meeting to discuss future patterns of the URC ministry in this area. This meeting is being led by our moderator, Paul Whittle. Bruce and Maggie to attend this very important meeting.
- We refreshed the members list and will look at our pastoral lists in October.
- We also discussed that perhaps we need to look at a ‘proper’ stand to display the varied magazines and leaflets we receive that are normally placed on the table at the back of church. Maggie & Bruce are looking into this.

Update From The Elders Meeting in early October

- We spent a long time discussing pastoral concerns – this is an extremely important part of being an elder. To maintain confidentiality these are not minuted.

Evaluation of Morning Praise Service

- On the whole a very good feedback. This will be brought to the November Church Meeting for discussion about making this a regular event.

Christmas Services

- St Mary's & SFC will issue joint flyers for both churches' Christmas services.

Fire Evacuation Plan

- We approved the latest revision of the Sunday morning fire evacuation plan. A laminated copy of this, for use by worship leaders and elders, is in the vestry and on the pulpit and lectern.

Messy Church

- There was great concern about the diminishing numbers of helpers for Messy Church. This is becoming a serious issue so there will be a presentation about Messy Church on Sunday 21st October at the morning service and the issue will also be brought to the November Church Meeting.

Maggie Jones



Message 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.

We have had a busy and interesting October. Our Harvest Festival was a very happy occasion. The Chapel looked cosy and inviting and was decorated with lovely things.

The Hadstock Silver Band were really on form. We sang some traditional harvest hymns and some modern ones. At one point, we sang a rather unfamiliar song, accompanied by Bruce and we did it as a round. We were intermittently successful and amid much laughter, we managed it. I did at one point notice a member of the band attempting to stifle his laughter.

A member of our congregation who is a professional singer, sang "It's a Wonderful World". As Sara hails from Tennessee, it made her feel a little homesick, but her sweet voice delighted us.

The produce was for Jimmy's Night Shelter and the collection which amounted to a splendid £200 went to the Children's hospice. Jimmy's were pleased with the donations and it is good to know it will all be used.

We have now met Jacob and Esther and are so pleased they will be helping out for some time. They will have much to share with us.

We had a fascinating visit to the recycling Centre at Waterbeach, organised by Maureen. It was sobering to see how much they have to deal with, but we learned what we can do to help. It is such a massive problem that is damaging our planet and we must all face it and do whatever we can.

We had our Harvest meal together at 'The Crown Inn', Little Walden in the middle of October and there were fifteen of us, including Sharn, Jacob and Esther. As always the restaurant gave us a splendid meal and it was a very happy occasion.

We send good wishes to you all from the Elders and Congregation at Camps.

Val and Friends

The Car

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided, he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed upon it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but sadly you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

To which his father replied, "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?!!!"

Anonymous – Castle Camps

Whittenham Cider

At this time of the year, a lot of people may have a glut of apples. Why not try this recipe for a refreshing apple drink that is extremely good and so easy to make. Windfall apples can be used:

3lbs cooking apples
2lbs Granulated sugar
3 juicy lemons
6 quarts cold water

Firstly, see that the apples are clean and free from maggots.

Cut apples into slices and put through a mincer with peel and core.

Put into a plastic bucket.

Pour on 6 quarts of fresh cold water and leave for a week stirring well night and morning. Cover with a cloth.

At the end of the week strain off the liquor carefully. Mix in the sugar, the grated rind and strained juice of the lemons. Leave for 24hrs then strain and bottle in SCREW TOP BOTTLES.

The cider will be ready to drink in a week but improves after keeping for a few months.

Take care when opening the bottles, unscrew a tiny bit at a time and have a jug handy as it can be very lively!

Refreshing and exciting. Have a go!.

Val Spencer



Drinking From My Saucer

I've never made a fortune
And it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much,
I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way,
I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I haven't got a lot of riches,
And sometimes the going's tough.
But I've got loved ones around me,
And that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings,
And the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong,
My faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke,
and the sun peeped through again.

So God, help me not to gripe about
The tough rows that I've hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage,
When the way grows steep and rough.
I'll not ask for other blessings,
I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy,
to help others bear their loads.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

Author unknown

With thanks to Lynne Riecansky



Prayer Diary for November

"Please take some time out, somewhere each day, to bring the churches' mission and ministry to God"

Please pray for

1. From Tearfund: This year is Tearfund's Jubilee year, giving thanks for five decades on the frontline against poverty. In the last 50 years, we've seen extreme poverty halved. But this year, we've made a new promise: we won't stop until poverty stops. We want to help churches to pursue God's call to justice and work out what it means to be a neighbour to poor and marginalised people.
2. Please pray for the Rev. Paul Whittle, Moderator of the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church
3. Today we remember in our prayer, the Rev. Julian Pursehouse, District Chair of the Methodist Church East Anglia District.
4. Additional volunteers are needed for the Romsey Mill Aspire groups that are run in Cambridge and in Cambourne so RM can provide as many places as possible for young people with autism.
5. The elders of Sawston Free Church are meeting tonight. Please keep them in your prayers.
6. On Sunday afternoon, Messy Church will be running at Sawston Free Church. Please pray for the team as they prepare.
7. Romsey Mill's first ever Gala Dinner, on Saturday 10th November. That the people who attend will have a great evening, learn more about the work of Romsey Mill and be inspired to offer their support in the future.

8. The volunteers who help to run the Romsey Mill Charity Shop and for others to join the team of volunteers as things get more busy closer to Christmas.
9. The planning of the activities at Romsey Mill Centre for this year's Mill Road Winter Fair, which takes place on Saturday 1st December.
10. This evening there is a Remembrance Event at 7.30 in St. Mary's Church, reflecting on the ending of the 1914-18 War. Please pray for those taking part and attending. And pray that we learn, as the old song says, to "study war no more."
11. As we remember the end of this war and the armistice that brought it to a close, we pray for those whose lives today are not being blessed by any armistice.
12. This coming Sunday, Castle Camps will be holding a family service prepared by the members. Please pray for them as they prepare
13. This coming Sunday, Sawston will be holding a service prepared by the elders. Please pray for them as they prepare
14. We pray for all people who feel isolated or discriminated against because of their colour or ethnicity and pray for a realization that the image of God is seen in all people.

15. We pray for all people who feel isolated or discriminated against because of disability and pray for a realization that the image of God is seen in all people.
16. We pray for all people who feel isolated or discriminated against because of gender and pray for a realization that the image of God is seen in all people.
17. We pray for our Craft Group as they meet this morning.
18. Today we pray that humanity may one day move on from its entrenched violence against other people, other species, other parts of our environment.
19. We remember our sister churches in the Presbytery of Zimbabwe. The Eastern Synod of the URC is twinned with this Presbytery and have recently hosted guests from that Presbytery.
20. Please pray for our government as they try to work their way through the tangled web that is the UK's exit from the European Union.
21. Today's focus is families struggling to deal with poverty. Our country's desperately poor are rising in numbers all the time. Some are very ill. Some are hungry. Many are homeless.

22. John Huntingdon is a charity that seeks to stand alongside of the disenfranchised, distressed, dispossessed and desperate in our community. We give thanks for their work in our community.
 23. Please pray today for the Abington churches as they work at great cooperation. Particularly we remember our URC Congregation in Lt. Abington.
 24. Loneliness is a common factor in villages and cities. May our work with Messy Church, Craft Groups, T4T, Good Companions, Brigades, Wednesday Fellowship and house groups reach out with a hand of friendship to those who are lonely.
 25. We give thanks for the unremitting love of God to all of us and to all of creation.
 26. We pray for the families of people who are struggling with dementia. We remember in our prayers people struggling with dementia.
 27. As we move towards Advent, we remember the people of Blythwood Care, taking our Christmas Shoe-boxes to impoverished families in Eastern Europe.
 28. Much planning is now underway for the Christmas Services and Carols. Please pray for those for whom the Christmas season will be a time of sadness and grief. May the love of Christ touch them at this time.
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29. We particularly think of the Children's Society at this time of year and pray for their work.
 30. May God's blessing rest on all we have done this month.

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Is PRAYER Helpful?

You might be one of the people who thinks "What a dopey question! Of course it is!" Or you might be one of the people who thinks, "I'm not sure. I'm really not sure. I'm glad someone raised this question."

Many people don't pray because they don't find it helps a lot. They are Christian, they have faith; they try to be faithful, but prayer just doesn't do much for them.

And these people hardly ever talk about it because they are downright embarrassed about it, and because they suspect that other people will judge them, label them, think they are not really Christian, or "unspiritual".

And sometimes there is a great self-doubt in there too. "What's wrong with me? Why don't I find prayer good? There is something wrong with me! Everyone else finds prayer helpful. Everyone else prays. I'm not really Christian???" So goes the inner dialogue, and so everyone in this space thinks they are on their own.

You are not! And neither are the reasons why prayer is found to be unsatisfying.

I remember as a boy, during some awful drought that had lasted for a couple of years, listening to the heartbroken farmers, watching their stock die of starvation, and praying for rain. And it didn't come. The drought went on. They prayed for rain. More stock died. Some farmers took their own lives, unable to face the heartbreak and inevitable loss of their farms, not thinking that in doing this they were shifting the burden on to those they loved with the added burden of grief. And then, one day, the drought broke, the rain came down, and everyone thanked God for the rain. And my young brain said "Hang on. The ones thanking God are the ones who have survived. The prayer didn't save the dead stock, or the farmers who lost it, left the land, lost their lives, the marriages that broke up. And the drought, would it not have broken anyway? Droughts come and go and they break when they will. Why pray? It was a genuine question that put prayer on trial in my young mind. We might pray for healing and some people get better, but others die.

Prayer that is “function” based is not very satisfying because it is not a good basis for prayer. Do I only talk things over with Sharn when I want her to fix things? What kind of relationship would that create? Would it make a sustainable and healthy marriage? If she only spoke to me when she wanted me to do something for her, what kind of relationship would we have? One in which I would, eventually, require some kind of repayment, a bargain based relationship, or I’d become simply the used person. Or, if it wasn’t solely the basis of the relationship, but every time I did speak to her about a problem it was with the expectation that she would solve it, what kind of relationship would that result in? And what would it do to me? I would become dependent, unable to do things for myself, weakened and diminished.

My relationship with those I love is not based on what they can do for me. It is based on an interaction, affecting each other, encouraging, gaining wisdom and insight in the process of the relationship. And that is the key to the whole discussion.

Prayer is about relationship. Relationships are not about fixes. You hire a mechanic to fix your car. It is not a relationship, it is a transaction. If you stop and talk to the mechanic about her kids, her holidays, it becomes a relationship. Our connection with God is not a transaction, it is a relationship, and that’s what prayer is about. Relationships are built with time, and not the time that is focussed on function but on building bonds.

We call this faith.

One way of looking at it is to think of prayer as moving the conversation from the head to the heart. It is about sharing our deepest levels of being, rather than getting stuck in the tasks, processes, logic, problems and mechanics of life. People speak of different ways of praying. Adoration, supplication, etc. But these are not categories to fulfil. They are part of relationship. Sometimes I look out of my window and I’m lost in the beauty of something. I like to share that feeling with God, and see where it takes me. Sometimes I’m frustrated to the core with something that’s happened. I like to take that to God. Sometimes I become aware of God’s compassion for me. Sometimes I become suddenly aware of God’s compassion for the person I’m frustrated with. Then I move it from the head to the heart, from solving the problem to knowing God’s heart. Then I’m really praying, because prayer is about being in communion with God.

There is so much more to say about prayer, but the one thing it is not, is a Santa Claus wish list; “If I’ve been good or had the right faith or prayed the right way, I’ll get what I’ve asked for.” That’s a small child’s way of seeing things. Prayer is way beyond that. Come to think of it, so are children. Most of the time, they just want a hug, to know they are loved, unconditionally. **That’s called grace.** And as St Paul wrote, **“We are saved by grace, through faith.”**

A Prayer I liked. From John Ellis. Former Moderator of the URC General Assembly

Almighty Father
When I see wrong today,
give me the courage to condemn it.
And when I see the person
who has done wrong,
give me the love to see them
as another human being,
to long for their wellbeing
with a heart like yours,
to ask what I can do
to restore them to the right path.
And if I do wrong today,
please inspire someone
to be merciful to me.
In Jesus’ name Amen.

Bruce

from 10.00am

COFFEE MORNING



CRAFT SALE



from 12 noon

LIGHT LUNCH

soup & a roll - cake or fruit



Saturday 17th November

Sawston Free Church

in aid of church funds

It was agreed at the church meeting that it would be a good idea to have a small craft sale combined with a coffee morning and a simple lunch of soup, bread roll, slice of cake or piece of fruit. All proceeds for church funds.

Several ladies from the craft group have been making things in anticipation of a sale so we hope you will support them by coming to see what they have made.

Offers of help to provide cakes which we can slice up to offer after the soup would be very much appreciated. Also, let me know if you have craft items of any description that you would like to donate.

If you would like to help, donate or have any questions please ring either Pam on 834220 or Yvonne on 473937

Craft Group and Friends



***** NEW Date *****

Thank you for all your support during October

Donations of shoeboxes & items can now be left in the church or Footprints Café until Sunday 18th November

Any questions? Please contact Valerie or one of our Elders

The Parousia

In the New Testament, the *Parousia* is the arrival of the Son of Man, the second coming of Christ, when the Last Days are ushered in - days of utter dread before eons of feasting for the vindicated.

Back in the 60s, the main worry was the possibility that the Last Days might be triggered by nuclear war. That is still a live possibility. Theoretically we could now, as then, destroy humankind several times over and have warheads to spare. It is said that the primary conclusions from the war games conducted by Nato this summer are firstly that Western conventional weapons could at best only hold a Russian advance for a matter of days, and that should President Putin decide to seize an island in the Baltic Sea belonging to a Nato state (off the coast of Estonia, perhaps) in order to test Western resolve (Crimea, 2014?) then the West would only have two possible military responses - sit back and let it happen, or else launch a nuclear strike.

Accordingly, so it is being said, the West (with Britain at the forefront) is working hard on a third response - an economic and administrative one. It is possible that we already have the hacking capacity systematically to cripple Russia's economy and communications the moment anything seriously threatening occurs. Cyber warfare is a present reality. It might even work.

Is it all really worth worrying about? Well, my old history teacher back in the 60s taught us boys that governments in difficulties are often tempted to create a foreign adventure to distract attention from troubles at home. He was talking about 19th century Europe, but the principle applies universally. You may have noticed that Alexei Navalny was released from prison on 14th October. He immediately declared his belief that the Russian regime is in terminal decline both as regards its foreign adventures and its internal stability. It occurs to me that should he be right, this is not necessarily good news. A Russian regime in its death throes could prove an extremely unpredictable and destructive neighbour.

The situation may be new, but the theological challenge it represents is just as it was in the 1960s. Were humankind to destroy itself through nuclear Armageddon, would that mean that God's purposes had been thwarted or achieved? Would the famous lapel badges seen in the White House at the time of the Bay of Pigs - 'Looking Forward to the Rapture' - finally be vindicated?

There is more: Should all these nightmares be safely negotiated, and should (let us pray) a Moscow regime with which the West is willing and able to do business emerge, the world will be left facing another, far more difficult challenge - the possibility that, because of global warming, in a mere fifty years from now the world will at best only be capable of sustaining its current population, not the population it is in line to have by then. There will of necessity be massive migrations north and south from the lands between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, by then uninhabitable. Take a look at a map. Most of Latin America, most of Africa, the whole of India and the entire (what we used to call) East Indies will have been evacuated. Nearly all the inhabitable land will be in Northern Europe, Central Europe, North America and Asia. What world-wide political institutions could manage such a transformation? We cannot even manage Brexit!

The Parousia - the coming of Christ in the Last Days: Forget the cranks in Soho with sandwich boards proclaiming that the End is Nigh. I am beginning to believe that my grandchildren will live to see things which have for two thousand years been relegated to the stuff of nightmares and the rantings of apocalyptic cranks. It is easy to dismiss *them*. But even should we safely de-escalate the final standoff between East and West without nuclear Armageddon, what is coming after that will test our theology - our faith in a God who is universal creator, sustainer, AND LOVER - to breaking point. It seems to me that proclaiming a Christ-like God of universal and personal love, the Sustainer the World, will, under those circumstances, be extraordinarily difficult. On the other hand, such a gospel might, conceivably, make all the difference.

The following statement has recently been issued by the Traidcraft organisation

Traidcraft faces end of 40 years' trading

Ethical consumption is challenged in difficult economic climate

Traidcraft plc, the Fairtrade pioneers whose church-based retailers have transformed shopping in the UK, subject to consultation, could cease trading by the end of 2018 unless a solution can be found in the coming weeks.

The plc, which generates £10m in annual sales was founded by six people in Newcastle in 1979. It's now in formal consultation with staff and other stakeholders following recent poor trading figures. The business has experienced shocks caused by the decision to leave the EU, and along with other retailers, sales have been hit by economic uncertainty and stagnating wages.

Chief Executive Robin Roth said:

"We are the sort of business that pays up front – that's in our nature as an ethical business. So when the pound fell after the Brexit referendum, we took a hit. We also stand by our published prices, so unlike other retailers we stood by our customers, absorbed a lot of the additional cost, and kept price rises to a minimum."

These factors, together with a disappointing online relaunch, contributed to the decision by the Traidcraft board to propose to cease trading at the end of the year unless a solution can be found. Traidcraft plc's charity arm, [Traidcraft Exchange](#), is a separate organisation and will continue its work with producers and in campaigning and lobbying for trade justice in the UK regardless of what happens to Traidcraft plc.

All the plc's 68 staff, based at Traidcraft HQ in Gateshead, are facing redundancy.

Traidcraft's 4,300 Fair Traders, 85% of whom are motivated by faith, account for about half of Traidcraft's revenue. Their sales of tea, coffee, cards and crafts at church fetes and school fairs have even changed the buying decisions of major supermarkets.

"Our wonderful, committed Fair Traders make a daily difference in the life of fledgling enterprises in hard-to-reach parts of the world", says Robin. "Because of their love for the cause, Fairtrade got on the High Street, and a new generation is growing to understand justice as an everyday matter."

Fair Traders, customers, and supporters have been encouraged to continue supporting Traidcraft plc as a good autumn season is a pre-requisite if the company is to have a future model.

Alliances between Fair Traders and Traidcraft's charity arm will continue, by means of fundraising events, donations and campaigning for change, even if trading ceases.

The Chief Executive wants people to get in touch with ideas for a future for Traidcraft plc: lovetraidcraft@traidcraft.co.uk

What can we do? **BUY MORE FROM TRAIDCRAFT...**

Julie Beaton from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Sawston is our local Fair Trader. She has supplied SFC with tea and coffee for a long time. She also stocks our card stall in the foyer. She is planning to get in a large stock of coffee, tea and cards so that she can trade into the New Year.

People can order things from her before the end of the year. She can get foods, Christmas cards, etc. Her phone number is 830625. She hopes to order a few catalogues and leave them in our church for people to look at. There will still be cards in our card stand next year until Julie runs out of cards. We are very grateful to Julie for all her efforts in selling Traidcraft goods.

Please show your support for Traidcraft this autumn. THANK YOU.

Maggie

Another Off the Bucket List

Anne and I had a four day holiday break in Rome at the beginning of October. This was one of the many items on Anne's bucket list – I've no idea how we will fit them all in!

Rome is a very busy City and our first challenge was 'how to cross the busy roads'. The roads are marked with the alternate black and white crossing points but it does not necessarily mean that the traffic will stop. You cross the road quickly with pauses as you cross as the traffic may stop, pass in front or pass behind you.

Our first visit was to St Mary Major (Santa Maria Maggiore) which is one of the 4 major Basilicas' in Rome. A Basilica is an important church building designated by the pope because of its special spiritual, historical, and/or architectural significance. Basilica is the highest permanent designation for a church building, and once a church is named a basilica, it cannot lose its basilica status.

The Colosseum is certainly one of the biggest tourist attractions and considered as one of the greatest works of Roman architecture and engineering.

- It is an oval building measuring 189 meters long and 156 meters wide with a base area of 24,000 m² with a height of more than 48 meters.
- It has over 80 entrances and can accommodate about 50,000 spectators.
- It is thought that over 500,000 people lost their lives and over a million wild animals were killed throughout the duration of the Colosseum.
- There were 36 trap doors in the Arena allowing for elaborate special effects.
- The Ancient Romans would sometimes flood the Colosseum and have miniature ship naval battles inside as a way of entertainment.
- It only took 10 years to build starting in 70 AD and was completed in 80 AD using over 60,000 Jewish slaves.
- The marble façade and some parts of the Colosseum were used for the construction of St Peter's Basilica and later monuments.
- Many natural disasters devastated the structure of the Colosseum, but it was the earthquakes of 847 AD and 1231 AD that caused most of the damage you see today.



- The total amount of marbles used for the construction of the Colosseum was estimated at 100,000 cubic meters.
- The area beneath the Colosseum was called the Hypogeum (meaning underground). The hypogeum consisted of two-level subterranean network of tunnels and 32 animal pens. It had 80 vertical shafts which provided instant access to the arena for animals and scenery.

Another must visit was the Vatican, arguably the most history laden religious city in the world. We had booked for a tour guide which is probably the most sensible way to appreciate the visit. The tour is split between the Vatican museums, The Basilica of St Peter and St Peters Square.

The Vatican Museums were founded by Pope Julius II in the 16th century and contain approx 70,000 works of which some 20,000 are on display.

There are a total of 54 museums, with the last ones being the Sistine Chapel with its ceiling decorated by Michelangelo and the Stanze della Segnatura decorated by Raphael. Our guide told us that the halls and corridors of the museums total 12 km. Needless to say, we only visited a few.

It is said that the Vatican Museums contain the world's largest collection of art with 9 miles of pieces, which could wrap four and half times around the Vatican walls. They are a series of 1400 rooms, chapels, and galleries and they constitute former wings of the Vatican Palace.

I certainly enjoyed the Gallery Of Tapestries, and Gallery of Maps which comprised of 40 maps frescoed on the walls which represent the Italian regions and many of the towns. Apparently a lot of the Italian visitors spend time searching for their home town to see if is mentioned.

You leave the museums with a neck ache after continually marvelling at the ceilings.



St. Peters Basilica is famed to be the biggest Catholic Church in the world.

The Papal Alter was carved from a gigantic block of Greek marble. The altar is surmounted by the majestic bronze "baldacchino" canopy which stands on four pedestals and four gigantic twisted columns, 20 m. high, adorned with sprigs of olive and bay, among which the graceful figures of cherubs appear, Acanthus leaves entwine the base and the capitals.



No trip to Rome is complete without visits to the Trevi Fountain, The Spanish Steps and The Pantheon.

The Trevi Fountain, is known for its stunning fountains, but sadly, on this occasion it was undergoing maintenance and hence no water. The centre piece is the Greek sea God Oceanus accompanied by sea-horses and Tritons who are half man and half mermen.



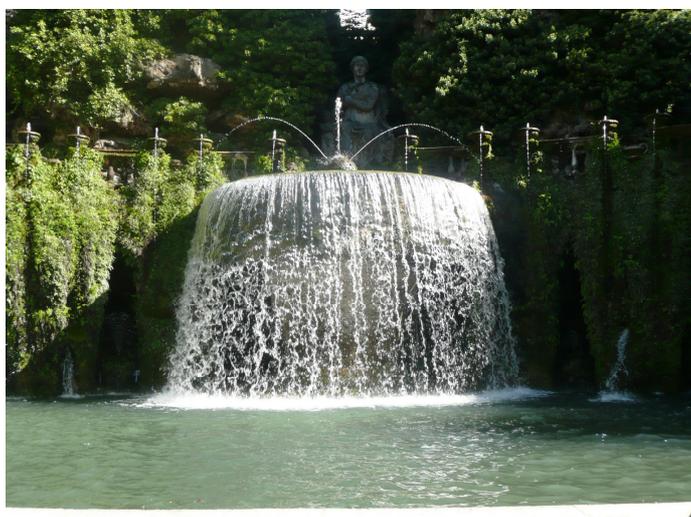
The Roman Pantheon is the most preserved and influential building of ancient Rome. It is a Roman temple dedicated to all the gods of pagan Rome. It was built and dedicated between AD118 and 125.

After the disappointment of not seeing the full splendour of the Trevi Fountain, we decided to visit Tivoli with its Italian gardens at Villa d'Este. The villa is known for its elaborate water features that descend the steep hillside. The d'Este family are linked to the legends of Hercules who has 3 statues in the garden.



The terraces start from the villa and travel down to the fountain of Dragons at the foot of the garden. In the centre of the garden, the alley of 100 fountains cross the terrace connecting the Oval fountain with the fountain of Rome. The Fountain of the Organ was restored in 2003 and is one of the most famous features.

The villa with its fountains and gardens is very impressive and well worth a visit.



David

Short talks On Harvest Themes

Stuck behind a tractor! (by Reverend Sarah Brown)

Hoorah!! It is harvest time again!! There you are, hurtling through the lanes in your car on some mission of huge national importance, muttering venomously at cyclists in helmets shaped like wasps' bottoms, inconsiderate enough to want a bit of your road (and hoping they can't lip-read), rounding a bend and coming up behind the ponderous majesty of a tractor and trailer. On closer inspection over the next ten minutes you conclude that it is actually a convoy of three tractors and two trailers and the glory of the aforementioned ponderous majesty begins to wear a bit thin! Hoorah. It is harvest time again. And I would wager a considerable sum that most of you do not at this point start singing songs of everlasting thanks and praise to our great God for his generous provision, or blessing the farmers for the work they do to put food on our plates!



So here is your challenge for harvest and beyond. I've learned to do it and if I can manage it anyone can. If you get stuck on your travels behind a tractor or a combine or a plough or any other mysteriously shaped implement of the sod, (by which I mean, of course, the soil!) take it as an opportunity for reflection, for thanksgiving and for praise.

Why should you bother? Firstly because praising God for what he gives us should become a matter of habit in all of us and secondly because as a nation we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the farmers who are taken totally for granted by most of us who have become emotionally and practically detached from the source of our food.

We cannot and must not take national food security as a given. Climate change and population growth mean that it is more difficult to produce enough grain for the world's needs. Global markets will sell to the highest bidder regardless of need. Political mismanagement and the power of global enterprise in the inherently local business of food production are putting countless family farms out of business.

So when you get stuck behind that tractor take a deep breath, smile and wave at the farmer and ask for God's blessing on his family and work. Reflect on our corporate relationship to food and the land as the God given source of all our well-being and praise God from whom all blessings flow.

And if I rush in late to take your service on a Sunday morning you will understand why!

Happy harvest to you all.

Sawston Free Church

Craft Group

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

Dates for November: 12th and 26th.

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

=====



Wednesday Fellowship

We meet alternate Wednesdays from 2 – 3.30 pm in Sawston Free Church.

The program for November: 7th November - Galapagos Islands talk / slides with Pam and Tony Moss
21st November - GenR8

New members always welcomed. No joining fee. Pay £2 per fortnightly session. Enjoy a talk, cup of tea and a biscuit. Please contact **Janet Parr** for more information: 832840

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Flower Rota

Please remember the flower rota at the back of the church.

It is always welcoming to see the flowers in the church.

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.

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

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Church Workday – November 10th - 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)



Dates For Your Diary

12 November 7.30pm	- Church Meeting
17 November	- Coffee Morning & Craft Sale
18 November 10.30am	- Elders' Service
25 November 3pm	- GB 125 service
2 December 10.30am	- Advent Sunday
9 December 10.30am	- Christingle Service
9 December 6.30pm	- To Castle Camps URC for the Carol Service & Christmas Tree Display
16 December 10.30am	-Junior Church Celebration service -Castle Camps joining SFC
16 December 6.00pm	- Village Carol Service at St Mary's
18, 19, 20 December 7pm	- Carol singing around the village

Methodist Women in Britain: Cambridge

At the last Methodist Cambridge Circuit Meeting, Lynn Taylor gave the Methodist Women in Britain report:

A Quiet Day has been arranged for 17 November 2018 between 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. It will be held at Mildenhall Methodist Church, which isn't too far for people from our Circuit to attend. Rev Mary Cousins has agreed to be the speaker. Her chosen subject will be 'The Journey' and will consist of two morning sessions and one afternoon one. There will be a talk between sessions. There is no charge – but booking is required. The good folk of Mildenhall will provide drinks but please take a packed lunch.

Spring District Day next year is on 28 March 2019 with coffee from 10 a.m. onwards for an 11 a.m. start. This will be at Dereham Methodist Church. A speaker is to be arranged.

There is a day conference at Belsey Bridge, Bungay on 18th May 2019.

We have been without a vice president for some time and there is an appeal for someone to fill this post. Ruth Arnold of the Ely Circuit currently holds the position of President. Ruth is currently in and has been in and out of Addenbrookes. In the meantime, the past president, Rev Heather Sorrell has been filling in but cannot continue past January/February 2019. A job description for Vice President can be provided. It has been suggested that the position could be shared between two people.

If you are interested in any of these events or think you might be able to help with the Vice President's role, please contact the Circuit Administrator, Miriam Webb at office@cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk or phone Miriam on 01223 352115 Mon, Wed or Fri 8am-3pm

Orwell Methodist Church

Presents

Remembrance and Winter Warmers

A concert of 2 halves - Remembering those
who gave their lives for us and music to
make you feel warm as the nights draw in.

4pm

Sunday 4th November 2018

The concert is suitable for the whole family

Pieces include

Tipperary

Selection from My Fair Lady

Highland Cathedral

Grand Fathers Clock

Take 5

Free Entry - Donations to Orwell Methodist Church





CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT Events for November 2018

For more details contact the Circuit Secretary: Mrs Miriam Webb
 Circuit Office: Wesley Methodist Church, Christ's Pieces, Cambridge CB1 1LG
 Office: 01223 352115 www.cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk
 Email: office@wesleycam.org.uk or office@cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk

November			
Sun 4 th	4pm	Remembrance and Winter Warmers A concert of two halves – remembering those who gave their lives for us, and music to make you feel warm as the nights draw in. The concert is suitable for all the family and admission is free. Pieces include Tipperary, Highland Cathedral, Take 5 and more	Orwell MC
Sun 11 th	6pm	Faith To Live By with Dr Caitriona McCartney talking about 'Faith in the British Sunday Schools during the First World War' There will be a short time of worship, a presentation from the guest speaker, refreshments and discussion. All welcome	Haslingfield MC
Mon 12 th	7.15pm for 7.45pm	Science Meets Faith with Dr Stephen Barclay, senior lecturer, department of Public Health and Primary Care, School of Clinical Medicine, Uni of Cambridge talking on "Issues concerning Palliative and End of Life care" Refreshments from 7.15pm. Free admission – retiring collection. All welcome to these monthly lectures.	Wesley MC
Sat 17 th	10-3pm	Methodist Women In Britain District Quiet Day on the theme of JOURNEYS with Mary Cousins. Bookings essential as numbers are limited by 7.11.18 to Pauline pauline.west8@gmail.com This is no charge for this event, in memory of Lynne White See Lynn Taylor, Circuit MWIB rep for more details An evening with Dave Bilbrough	Mildenhall MC
Sat 17 th	7.30pm	Dave is an international singer/ songwriter drawing on folk roots and world music. In a warm anecdotal style he will share his music and life story in an evening that is fun and uplifting. For tickets at £8 which includes refreshments email sue at walter962@btinternet.com or ticketsource.co.uk/rmc	Royston MC

Church Directory

Minister		Tel
Rev. Bruce Waldron	The Manse, 3 High Street, Sawston Email: revbruce@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk	836786 07814 920187
Secretaries:		
Maggie Jones - Sawston	21 Hillside, Sawston	565637
Lynne Riecansky – Lt. Abington	7 Meadow Walk, Great Abington	893295
Val Spencer – Castle Camps	20 South Road, Abington	892214
Elders: Sawston		
Mary Simuyandi	28 New Road, Sawston	837433
Anne Nunn	10 London Road, Sawston	832913
Mike Purdy	42 Granta Road, Sawston	830903
Sue Sisk	63 Babraham Road, Sawston	833508
Sue Lelliott	26 Park Road, Sawston	520383
Joint Treasurers:		
Lynne Hays	Baggot Hall, Station Road, Harston	871800
Terry Penny	April Lodge, 81 Brewery Road, Pampisford	833635
Contact Editors		
David & Anne Nunn	10 London Road, Sawston Email: anne.nunn@btinternet.com	832913
Church Bookings	Terry & Beryl Penny	07532 081221
Church Website:	www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/	
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 or contact Terry or Beryl Penny – 07532 081221

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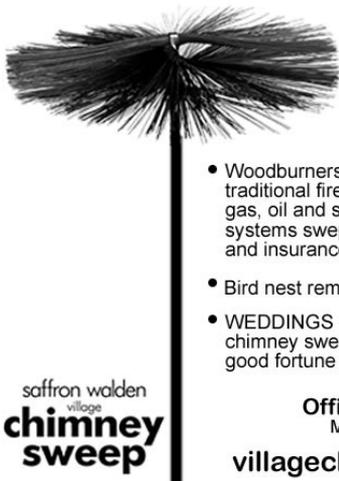
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