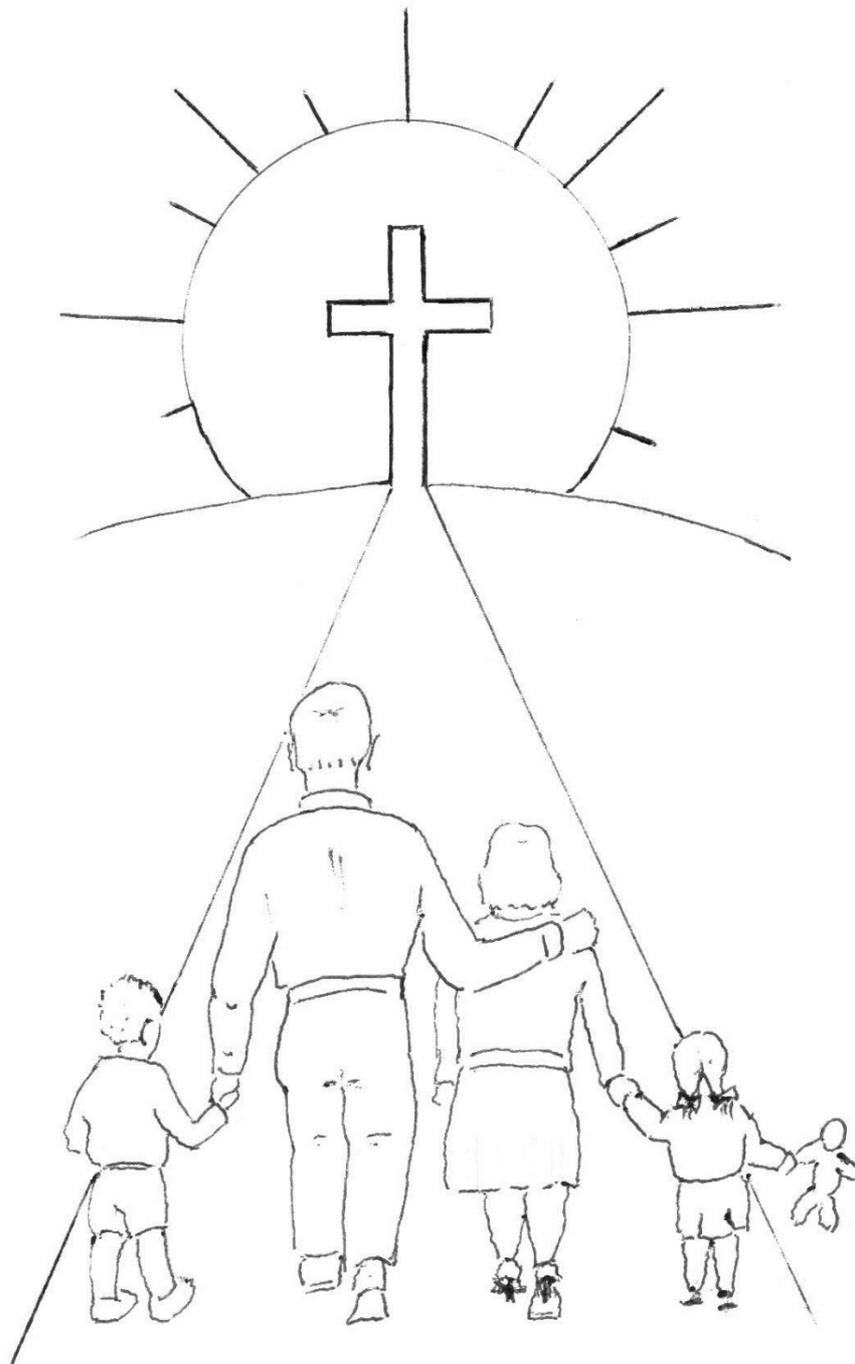


CONTACT

July 2017



Volume 58 - Issue 7
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 2 July	10.30am: Stewards Of God's Resources – Faith Paulding 3.00pm Messy Church	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Sarah Deveraux	10.30am: Holy Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron
Mon 3 July	10am - Craft Group (page 15) No Prayer For Sawston		
Wed 5 July	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 15)		
Sat 8 July	8am – 1pm Work Day (page 10)		
Sun 9 July	10.30am: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm Quiet Time Sue Lelliott	10.15am: Morning Worship - TBA	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mr Mark Hayes
Sun 16 July	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.00pm – Evening Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	2.30pm – Holy Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Family Service - Mrs Penny Flynn
Mon 17 July	10am - Craft Group (page 15)		
Wed 19 July	2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship (page 15)		
Sun 23 July	10.30am:OWL/HoI Club Leaders - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.30pm – Go4th	10.15am: Morning Worship - Dr Janet Bottoms	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mr Bob Parkin
Sun 30 July	10.30am – Holiday Club Rev Bruce Waldron	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Liz Wade	10.00am: United Service at All Saints 6.30pm: Songs of Praise with St Mary's, Haverhill - Rev Bruce Waldron
Mon 31 July	10am - Craft Group (page 15)		

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
July 2	John Conway 833953	Hazel Fenton	July 16	Tony Moss 834220	Janet Parr
July 9	Gordon Heald 833983		July 23	John Newton 562873	Helen Sharpe
			July 30	John Conway 833953	

The closing date for **August Contact** is **Friday 14th July**.

**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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www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch

From the Minister's Desk

It was a normal day, in some ways. I was just a minister of a church, heading down to a sister church to be a part of a shared service. So it was, in a way, normal.



Except that some four hundred and fifty years ago, non-conformists split off from the Anglican Church. In 1662, several thousand ministers were ejected from their ministries because they wouldn't conform to the legal demand that ministers must conduct worship using the prayer book. These ministers did not want to have the state telling them how to lead people in worship. And so, a great rift happened. Communion was only allowed to be taken by those who followed the book, and the others began the non-conformist churches.

Some 450 years later, in this village, a grey haired non-conformist minister walks down to St. Mary's church where both his congregation and the Anglican congregations are gathering, and with his friend, the Anglican minister, co-celebrates communion. In this simple act, the four hundred and fifty year-old divisions of politics and power are wiped away, in an act of shared love of Christ and his way.

We've done this three years in a row now. *Isn't it wonderful to be undoing the folly of hundreds of years in a simple, homely, loving, faithful act, just because we know that by God, together, we are loved and accepted. I wish all such divisions might be taken away by trust and love.*

Are you Up For a Challenge?



Our church has already done a lot of work towards being eco friendly. John Conway, through the Fabric Committee, has replaced most of our lights with energy efficient LED lights. We have gardens that provide life for a lot of critters and even have a hedgehog hibernation spot (Ask Tony Moss about it.) We use fair trade tea and coffee and we host Greener Sawston on our premises. Your Minister has been out with shovel and rake and cutters with Greener Sawston, cleaning up paths and footpaths. *What about we sign up and see what we can do and see where we need to go?*

Would someone like to take up the challenge by logging into <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/> and trying the online survey. Maybe a group of people could work together? Please contact Bruce or David Nunn if you are interested.

**Our Partner Church with the Eastern Synod is the
Presbytery of Zimbabwe of the Uniting
Presbyterian Church of South Africa.**



The following article is provided by Eastern Synods World Church Advocate, Lindsey Brown who spoke to us at a Service on 11th September last year.

The Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church is in partnership with the Presbytery of Zimbabwe (Uniting Presbyterian Church). We believe that "as disciples we are all learners: God can use this relationship to help us learn more about God and God's love."

As part of that partnership three of our churches are twinned with three of theirs. Through the twinings we have developed personal relationships and we use these to share news and prayer requests for each other and our congregations. Some of these requests are very personal, some concern issues within the churches, some address wider social / contextual areas – not all are addressing problems: many are thankful and celebratory!

But inevitably we intercede for one another a great deal also. One example is of one of the Elders at Epping URC falling very suddenly ill, and getting a cancer diagnosis with a very poor prognosis. We let the twin church Mbare UPC know, and a healing service was held by their minister in Harare. This added of course to all the prayers that were being offered by so many for her. When she went for the results of further tests all trace of the cancer had gone. Two years on she continues in rude health... This is one example from many of us sharing God's love with one another.

Psalm 133:

1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

We give thanks and praise:

- for the faithfulness and obedience of the people in the UPC churches
- for their generosity of spirit
- for strong family relationships
- for their patience, forbearance and self-control in the face of daily difficulties

We pray for:

- water – we give thanks for those communities who have clean water - using a borehole and pump - and who share that water with their neighbours; we pray for those at risk from contaminated water supplies
- power – we celebrate the patience and ingenuity of those, particularly in the poorer areas, whose power supplies are erratic
- education – we pray for those families who struggle with fees and costs of sending their children to school, and give thanks for projects such as that at Mbare UPC where the church is providing subsidised education to local families
- health – we pray for strength and comfort for those who suffer ill health and struggle with the costs of medicine for themselves and their families
- relationships – we celebrate the generosity of those who take extended family members into their homes, and grieve when families are separated and broken
- openness – we pray for those who work in their communities for peaceful communication between people

Messages From Castle Camps and Lt Abington



We are looking forward to having a good summer and for those of you who have holidays, we hope you have a lovely and refreshing time.

Twenty nine pupils from year 5 and 6 of Castle Camps Primary School went on a PGL holiday to Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire, a Grade 2 listed hunting lodge. Among the pupils were two junior members of our congregation, twins Kitty and Elizabeth Spencer. They report having had a great time with many activities including raft building, problem solving as a team, climbing, quad biking and a disco. The children were housed in lodges; each holding six pupils and they reported that the food was tasty and nice and hot! Kitty & Elizabeth enjoyed themselves but were quite happy to be home back on the farm to see how the recently born lambs had progressed during their absence.

This month, we are having a United Service on 30th July at All Saints' Church, starting at 10am.

In the evening on the same day at the chapel, we are holding our summer Songs of Praise, led by Rev. Bruce Waldron with the theme "The Abundance of God's Grace." The guest organist will be Richard Hart together with members of the choir from St Mary's, Haverhill. The service starts at 6.30pm and will be followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

We have heard that Doctor Arbide from Linton Health Centre is going to swim the English Channel in August to raise funds for primary care research through the Cambridge based charity, Melanoma Focus. To assist in this, we are donating the collection from our Songs of Praise to this worthwhile cause.

We were sorry to hear that George Barker has been in hospital and we send our best wishes to him.

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

Mary and Friends.

✠ UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,
CASTLE CAMPS ✠



SONGS OF PRAISE
SUNDAY 30th JULY 2017
6.30pm
LED BY REV. BRUCE WALDRON
Theme:
"Abundance of God's Grace"
-o-
With guest organist Richard Hart &
members of St Mary's choir, Haverhill

ALL WELCOME
Followed by Refreshments

✠ ✠

Cooperation



Cooperation is a wonderful concept, but quite a difficult idea to put into practice. Several things recently have made me realise just how hard it can be.

Recently in Sainsbury's car park, Robert and I were endeavouring to open up baby's pushchair. His mother had placed the folded buggy in the boot for us and we drove off happily. Our efforts to open the wretched thing were lengthy and pathetic. We were both liberal with advice to one another and the atmosphere became quite charged as our embarrassment grew. However, we managed it finally and calm returned.

You can imagine how smug we felt when a few days later, we saw another pair of grandparents attempting to collapse a pushchair with similar difficulties. We were relieved that we were not the only ones finding the job difficult.

There are a few danger areas involving cooperation in an otherwise amicable marriage. One is bed making. I get very huffy if it is not executed as I like it to be done, with hospital corners and central creases. Consequently, I often find myself finishing the job alone. You would think that would teach me not to be bossy and rigid; but I never learn!

Another task which brings out our worst side is cooking together. It just does not work for us and we become tetchy and snappy as the preparations progress. We now take it in turns and praise one another's efforts tactfully.

If it is so difficult for two people who are fond of one another to cooperate over small things. what hope is there for countries and governments trying to overcome massive and important differences affecting world affairs?

I wonder if we are about to witness how difficult it is for political parties to work together for the common good. I hope they let a higher power in on their final deliberations for all our sakes.

Val Spencer

(First published in May 2010)

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A Prayer For The Suffering Church



God of all compassion,
Visit your suffering people.
In the time of their troubles,
Let them not be dismayed.
In their oppression,
Let them not be destroyed.
In their anxiety,
Let them not lose hope.
In their alienation and wandering,
Be their identity and home.

O God, the father of all mercies,
Look upon them with Your favour.
Set your seal upon their foreheads.
Let your right hand uphold them,
Your love encourage them,
Your presence engulf them,
Your protection cover them.
In their fragility and brokenness,
Be their strength and treasure.
Let your light shine upon them
And reveal the glory
Of your eternal Son,
In whose Name we pray.

Amen



Birthdays:

July 16th is Victor's birthday. Victor regularly and cheerfully gives us transport and is responsible for our 'technical support' especially with emails.

Goodness

Do you ever feel you are not good enough? Perhaps it is because we feel 'stuck' in a certain situation and cannot seem to move forward.

I found the following statements quite useful. Take a moment to reflect upon each one then repeat the phrase **'Lord, thank you for being with me, and thank you for your goodness'**.

- Where we are right now is a necessary step in moving on ...
- What 'might happen' can only stop us if we let it ...
- Everything is coming together; not immediately, but gradually ...
- The quality of our vision drives the quality of our life ...
- Every day brings a choice: to practise stress, or practise peace ...
- For everything we've lost, we've gained something else ...
- There's always something small we can do ...
- We have made the very best of some tough situations ...
- Failures are really just lessons that need to be learned ...
- Our scars are symbols of our strength ...
- Yesterday's impossibilities may be possible today ...

This, and every day, let's shout and sing the Lord's praises – all because of God's goodness towards us, his beloved children.

'We wish you Gods guidance and support in your life'

God Bless

Lynne Riecansky



HOLIDAY CLUB



**24th-28th July 2017 - 9.30am-3.30pm
at Bellbird Primary School, Sawston**

**Christians
Together in
Sawston**

A fun-packed week of Bible stories, crafts, games, songs and activities (for end of Reception to Year 6).

Through getting to know Peter, Stephen, Cornelius, Paul and Timothy we discover that no-one is *'too anything'* to prevent them from becoming a follower of Jesus. No-one makes **too** many mistakes, no-one is **too** ordinary, no-one is **too** different, no-one is **too** bad and no-one is **too** young.

If you would like more information, a booking form or would like to help in some way please contact me via faith.paulding@ntlworld.com or 01223-574325.

Faith Paulding

Prayer Diary for July



Throughout this month, Sawston Free Church will be focussing on the resource that God has trusted to us, of **PEOPLE**.

Each person we meet, is a blessing God has given to our church. We honour that blessing by listening to each other, by valuing each other, and by being responsible to each other as to Christ.

Each morning, please think about someone in your church and spend the day bringing them before God in prayer, thanking God for their gifts and abilities, and thanking God for your own capacity to be God's blessing to them.

2nd JULY - LAUNCH OF "STEWARDS OF GOD'S RESOURCES: PEOPLE"

Faith will be taking the service on the 2nd July, please keep SFC in your prayers as they pursue the SOGR themes through this year and into 2018.

Romsey Mill have asked for prayer in July for:

- Families supported by the Young Parents Programme, as they head into the summer break, when our normal groups cease and routines change. Please draw close to these families and bring stability and peace for an enjoyable summer break.
- The success of our Summertime Special Appeal. This appeal is to find support for our unfunded' activities and trips run by Romsey Mill throughout the Summer break. Many young people feel most isolated during school holidays; many young or low income families cannot afford even a day trip; and young people with autism can find change during this time confusing. We hope to help make this summertime really special for everyone.
- The 12 young people and staff who will be going on the Sawston Residential Trip to the Lake District 27th - 31st July. Please pray that this would be an inspiring and transformative trip for all concerned. We pray that everyone would stay safe and have the most amazing time.
- Our young musicians as they prepare for this year's Rapademic - a celebration and showcase of Romsey Mill's music programme which will be held at the Junction on 31st August 2017.
- The Children's Centre as we plan a summer programme of activities for local families, that it may be exciting and inspiring to engage families with young children and support them through the long summer break.
- The success of all activities taking place during the summer that will help support the work of Romsey Mill. Fundraising events such as 'Romsey Calling 2017' at the Earl of Beaconsfield on 22nd July.

10th July: Cambridge Methodist Circuit Meeting

15th July: Windermere Conference Centre Closes:

Following long and difficult deliberations, and acknowledging a profound debt of gratitude for its unique, 30-year contribution to the life of the United Reformed Church, the May meeting of Mission Council reached a decision to close the Windermere Centre.

During the lead-up to the vote, members of Mission Council repeatedly affirmed the value and lasting benefits to the Church of the work of the Windermere Centre. At the same time, they acknowledged the Centre's struggle to secure sufficient users to provide long-term financial and practical viability as a resource intended for the whole Church throughout the three nations.

A service of thanksgiving for the Windermere Centre, its dedicated team of staff and all who have supported its work will take place at Carver Uniting Church, Windermere at 3pm on Saturday 15 July. The preacher will be the Revd Tony Burnham and all are welcome.

15th July: John Bradbury is being inducted at 2.30pm today as the minister of Emmanuel Church Cambridge and Duxford and Whittlesford URCs. Please pray for John and his new charge.

18th July: Brigades last night and end of Term Party. We give God thanks for the dedicated people who serve our brigades and pray for them and the children a safe holiday and fresh resolve for the new academic year in September.

23rd July: OWL Service and Commissioning of leaders for the Holiday Club. Please pray for our relationship with OWL Café in what is an uncertain time.

24th – 28th July: CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN SAWSTON - HOLIDAY CLUB. Please put a bit of time in every morning this week, praying for the staff and the children of the Holiday Club “**Polar Explorers**” being held at Bellbird School each day from 10-3.30. This is a massive effort on the part of the team and a great opportunity to share what Christian faith is about with the children.

30th July: CASTLE CAMPS SONGS OF PRAISE “The Abundance of God’s Grace” with Richard Hart on the Organ and the Halesworth Church Choir. Do please pray for Castle Camps as they wrestle with how they can get out into the community with the Gospel. Last year’s Christmas Tree Display was brilliant but so few attended. It was disheartening. Now we are trying to dream up an idea that will touch lots of people, maybe around Harvest. Please pray for the church as they look for God’s guidance and the right way to do their mission with the resources God has given them.

31st July: Anniversary of the commencement of 3rd Ypres. Today the bells of St. Mary’s will ring muffled bells from 11.30-12.30 in memory of the commencement of 3rd Ypres, one of the most tragic and costly campaigns of WW1. We remember soldiers serving overseas in conflict zones, and their families who struggle with the anxiety. We pray that humanity’s warring madness will cease.

STEWARDS OF GOD’S RESOURCES

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

Month 3 (July 2017) - PEOPLE

God gives people to each other, created in God’s image
Our response is become the people God intended us to be.

It will not come as a revelation to anyone that we are called to care and to serve and to be Christ’s hands in the world. It is through caring and serving our fellow humanity that each person is cared for and each one of us has some chance of fulfilling the potential that God intended for us from the moment we came into being. Caring and serving those who we love is relatively easy; caring and serving those that we do not know by remote charitable giving and social campaigning is also relatively easy; caring and serving those that we actively dislike is distinctly harder! It is part of what it means to be human that there are personalities that just do not work together, that we make assumptions about peoples’ motives, judgements about the things that they do and that there are people that, quite simply, we just do not like.

As a parent one knows the trials and tribulations, the challenges and obstacles, that one’s child goes through which helps us understand their behaviour and attitude. I can remember on many occasions saying to each of my daughters’ ‘I love you but I do not like and am disappointed in your behaviour’. One of the insights that knowing God as Father brings is that He likewise knows the trials and tribulations, the challenges and obstacles that each one of His children has gone through so that He understands their behaviours and attitudes. I suspect that He too would say, ‘I love you but I do not like and am disappointed in your behaviour’. As fellow human beings though we do not have those insights into other people that God has and so we are faced with the conundrum of how to care and serve people that we neither like nor understand. It is not surprising that it is the man Jesus who shows us how this can be done.

In John's gospel we hear Jesus' words "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep". The idea of 'laying down' is often taken to relate to the way that the shepherd would put his own life before that of his flock in order to protect them from wild bears or lions. Christ, too, is acclaimed to have given his life for his people, fending off the power of sin and even of death. But if we are to experience the significance of John's words then we should look carefully at them to discover their full meaning. The word 'psyché' translated here as 'life' is actually impossible to translate into any one English word. Psyché means the self, the ego or the soul. It can mean the centre of our earthly life or the centre of our spiritual life. If the shepherd lays down his psyché for the sheep he is offering them this centre of his inner life, in all its varied aspects.

We then come on to the phrase 'lay down'. The Greek word from which this comes is a rather bland one that means to 'put down' and John seems to have used it so that his deeply significant statement 'to put the psyché', which he uses eight times, could be understood in a number of ways. It might mean that the shepherd will put the whole of his mind and heart at the disposal of the sheep. Or it might mean that he is ready to forego his earthly life in order to protect them from attack. Or it might mean, if we look into the heart of Jesus, that He lays aside his ego self for the sake of the sheep and seeks their well-being rather than His own. The phrase means all of these things and the problem is how to translate it. The traditional words "lay down his life" point to a climax in history of physical death, but it may sometimes be closer to the mark to translate it as "lay aside His self".

By putting one's own self, which includes our assumptions and judgements and opinions about others, aside then the love that we have received from God can be freely given to others. We would then fulfil the commandment made by Christ "to love one another" and care and serve so that all might be cared for and their potentials fulfilled.

Faith Paulding

Some news from the Canaan Project

The logo for the Canaan Project, featuring the word "Canaan" in a stylized, rounded font above the word "project" in a smaller, simpler font, all set against a teal background.

After eight amazing years I have decided that it's time for me to move on from the wonderful Canaan Project and I will be leaving this summer. It's been a real privilege to work with hundreds of brilliant young people and some really talented and passionate workers during this time and I feel as strongly as ever about the importance of the work we do.

And so I am delighted to also be able to tell you that we have appointed Tessa Elbourne as the new Project Manager.

Tessa is an experienced youth worker who previously worked for the Canaan Project for three years, taking a key role alongside me in developing our work with young women, before leaving to pioneer some girls' work and spend two years living in Bangladesh. As such she brings a wealth of practical and cultural expertise to our context and we are really excited that she will be leading the project in to the next phase of its journey.

(Picture – Tessa (on the left) and Fiona)



I wanted to thank you all for your interest, encouragement and support, in all its many forms, over the years I've been at Canaan. I'll be sending a final update on our work this term later in the summer and in the mean time look forward to catching up with you in person when I'm next in Sawston.

Fiona Harriss

CWM 40th Anniversary Service, Singapore

“Healing for the Broken Body – Hope for Renewal”

On the 4th June, the Council for World Mission celebrated its 40th Anniversary at a service held in Singapore.

An extract from the Address by Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan: CWM General Secretary (2011-Present)

On Tuesday 16 May, I had the honour and privilege of spending a good part of the day with the Rev. Dr Stephen Tan, a former trustee of Council for World Mission and one who bears witness to the 1975 consultation that was held in Singapore to pave the way for the 1977 birth of this partnership of churches in mission, now celebrating 40 years. Dr Tan reminisced on the journey of struggle and triumph for those who discerned the times; named courageous companions on the journey with him who responded to the call for a shift of tradition in doing mission that was almost always from the global North to the South; and told numerous stories of how they laboured together to cross challenging frontiers in search of a mission paradigm that could embrace the diversity that defines us today.

As we launch this 40th anniversary in worship and celebration, it is fitting that we salute the pioneers and beacons of hope and faith in action whose labour of love paved the way to the birth of CWM 40 years ago. We salute the enduring labour of the London Missionary Society (1795), the Commonwealth Missionary Society (1836) and the (English) Presbyterian Board of Missions (1847), through whom scores of men and women – mere vessels of clay, faithfully surrendered to their convictions – crossed lands and oceans, often carrying their coffins with them, fully committed to live and die for the sake of the gospel.

Today, after forty years, we pause not only to celebrate the journey over which we have come but also to commit ourselves to charting the course of the future. Ten years ago CWM wrestled with the question “Work in progress or mission accomplished?”¹ This was a pertinent question then as CWM was still working through some of the teething pains of growing up, maybe still hesitant to act on decisions, such as relocation, taken in 1977. However, I suggest that the question, at age forty, is neither about work in progress nor mission accomplished. To make those questions the focal point of our reflection and discernment, at this time, is to unwittingly hold on to a legacy that might be best celebrated for its own place in history and left as lessons from which to draw insights.

Today the agenda is different. It is estimated that more than 20 million people are at risk of starvation, drought and food shortage; and in South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen, millions of children are feeling the effects of food shortages. Already almost 1.4 million children under the age of five are severely malnourished ². In contrast, a sobering Oxfam report highlights 8 people laying claim to as much resources as 3.6 billion (or 50%) of the world’s population combined. The question is what system there is that would enable this contrast; and if it is true that food distribution, and not food shortage, is the real issue, why is so little being done to ensure a more equitable and fair distribution of the world’s resources?

A world that is infested by “thieves and robbers” where systems and structures perpetuate greed; where both the economy and the environment, meant to sustain life, are being destroyed, as a consequence, the mission of CWM calls for a different question. Every season is a moment in time, a Kairos, for the Christian community to read the “writing on the wall” (Daniel 5:25) and to discern what the God of life may be saying to us. The question for today, I suggest, is rooted in our vision statement of “fullness of life through Christ for all creation”, a counter culture to the life-denying forces of empire, the hope for life-giving alternatives. So, in this death-dealing context,

marked by excessive greed, dishonesty and a lust for power, what might fullness of life for all creation look like and what is the role of CWM in such pursuit?

The death-dealing systems and structures, designed to serve empire have resulted in poverty of inordinate proportion, conflict and violence of the most heinous nature; and a society on the brink of hopelessness and despair, starved of the good news of Christ of Nazareth and without the spirituality of resistance to imagine an alternative.



The Word rooted in land, culture and life

Etan Pavavalung

(CWM East Asia Region)

Woodprint/ Print Pigment/ Acrylic Paint

The artwork expresses the Salvation of God and the hope of the cross which takes root and germinates in the fertile soil of our lives and our cultural heritage.

My colleagues and I, both at the governance and management levels, who are given this charge for such a time as this, accept this mantle with humility. We are committed to read the signs of the time, discern the mind of God and engage in radical and transformative praxis in faithful obedience to the God of life. Working with 32 members in forty-two countries, and in partnership with the ecumenical fraternity around the world, CWM believes that an alternative social order is necessary and we are committed to join Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, who declared “life in fullness for all creation” (John 10:10) as the mission for which he came and to which he dedicated his life, even unto death.

May this thanksgiving service inspire us to hopeful action as together we pray for God’s intervention in “Healing the broken Body: Hope for Renewal”. Shalom!

1 “Work in progress or mission accomplished?” a special publication for CWM 30th Anniversary by Rev. Dr. Des van der Water, London, June 2007

2 According to the WCC “Fact Sheet”, prepared in support of their call for a Global Day of Prayer to End Famine, 21 May 2017

This year, to raise money for Christian Aid Week, we had a cake stall, and collections outside Budgens and Spar, plus envelopes in SFC and St Mary’s. The total raised was £1,568.



Thank you very much to everyone who helped in any way, and to everyone who gave so generously.

Pam, Mary and Tony

Church Workday – July 8th - 8am till 1pm

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)

“No Roses Around The Door”

A look at Rural Housing over the past 100 years

The lack of good quality homes for the ordinary person is not a new problem. Rural Housing has been a pressing issue for over 150 years. To demonstrate this the annual George Edwards Memorial Lectures for 2017 are entitled “No Roses round the Door” and will focus on past and present housing problems in the countryside. The meeting will be held on Saturday 8th July (2.00 - 4.00 p.m.) at the Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum of Norfolk Life.

Both the lack of housing and the quality of it are not new issues. When he moved to Wells-next-the-Sea Alderman Sam Peel was appalled by what he found and worked to change things. His grand daughter Susan Wild, will talk about his campaign to improve the dire housing conditions which he found in the town. He was a renowned campaigner against social injustices and gave his support to more enlightened policies.

Changes in ownership of houses and in lifestyle have presented new challenges to many rural areas. Graham Hedger will illustrate both the challenges and some possible solutions to the current situation. He is a long time champion of rural housing, a former chair of the Housing Sub Group of the East of England Rural Forum and a former board member of Hastoe Housing Association.

The 2016 George Edwards Memorial Event

Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse Museum,

Saturday 8th July

“No roses around the door”
a look at Rural Housing over the past 100 years

2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

Meeting in the old Workhouse Chapel

Mrs. Susan Wild
will speak about her grandfather, **Alderman Sam Peel**, social reformer
and friend of George Edwards who battled against
poor housing conditions in early 20th Century **Wells-next-the Sea.**

Canon Graham Hedger
a long term champion of rural housing; former chair of
Hastoe Housing Association and of the **Housing Sub Group of the East of
England Rural Forum** will consider **Rural Housing - Then & Now.**

The meeting will be chaired by
Rev. Julian Pursehouse
Chair of the **Methodist East Anglia District**

Entrance fee (after 12.00 noon) £2.50.

(The Poster should read 2017 not 2016)

The lectures are an annual commemoration of Sir George Edwards - the Methodist preacher who founded the National Union of Agricultural Workers (now the rural workers section of Unite). The event is organised by Methodists from the Central Norfolk Circuit and the Unite trade union. The meeting will be chaired by Rev, Julian Pursehouse, chairman of the Methodist East Anglia District.. There will be a Traidcraft stall selling fairly traded items from the developing world.

The museum's normal entrance fee will cover attendance of the meeting and, for those attending the event only, a reduced fee of £2.50 will allow admission to site after 12.00 noon.

For further information contact David Yarham : 01328 878709, david_yarham@tiscali.co.uk or Revd Canon Graham Hedger. 01473 277042, ghedger026@gmail.com

50 Year Memories

*A letter from Gladys Gimson which appeared in
Contact February 1965*

I have just finished reading CONTACT magazine which Mrs. Dorrie Peters sent me, and found them very interesting for they brought back many happy memories of my childhood when I read the different names of friends I remember so well.

I spent some of my happiest days at Sawston Congregational Church. My parents told me that I started Sunday School when I was 2 years old, and my father, William Wakefield used to take me to Sunday school on his shoulder.

My father was a Sunday School teacher for many years and my Uncle Alf was Superintendent. I remember too the late Thomas Barker. I still have my Scripture Exam Certificates, 1st Class, for the years 1906, 07 and 1908. Sunday School concerts were always looked forward to, with action songs and little plays etc. One I remember, was when my friend Lucy Webb took the part of the Prince and I was Sleeping Beauty.

The picnics too, which I see were mentioned in CONTACT, I also remember. They were great days, also the Sunday School Anniversaries on Whit Sunday, The Bazaars on Easter Monday and Harvest Thanksgiving. How lovely the Church looked with the pillars all decorated with greenery and flowers and corn and every window, table and the pulpit filled with fruit and vegetables. Then there were the evening meetings, the Band of Hope, sewing classes, choir practice, Christian endeavour, and the times when we collected for the **L.M.S John Williams ship fund**. (*Editors note - John Williams article by Alan Hardy on the following page*). I thank God for the good example which my parents set us children and which have helped me through life with both its joys and its sorrows.

I was married to Ernest Gimson at Sawston Congregational Church on September 15th 1915. We left England in January 1926 and our eldest son Ernest returned to England in 1937 and joined the R.A.F. When World War II began he was sent over enemy territory and was awarded the **DFM** and bar. In June 1941 he was reported missing over Sicily.

*(The **Distinguished Flying Medal** was instituted on 3 June 1918 and was awarded to non-commissioned-officers and men for an act or acts of valour, courage or devotion to duty performed whilst flying in active operations against the enemy in the same conditions as the DFC for officers. For subsequent acts meriting the DFM, a bar was awarded to be worn on the ribbon of the medal.)*

We left Western Australia in 1944 and six years ago, when my husband retired, we moved to Guildford, New South Wales. Two of our 3 daughters are married and I now have five grandchildren. My husband passed on to higher service on August 2nd 1961 after many happily married years spent in the service of the master.

I have been secretary of our Women's Fellowship for nearly 2 years now and last year joined our Church choir, So with other Church activities as well and my garden etc. I keep fairly busy. I had such a thrill sometime ago when, looking through a magazine called 'Connoisseur', I saw pictures of Sawston Hall, both grounds and the interior.

Now, I hope you will have enjoyed reading my letter, and I send good wishes for 'CONTACT's' success in the future and good wishes to all my friends.

EDITORS NOTE: Are there any family connections with the Gimson's still in Sawston?

John Williams

Whilst up on the balcony of the chapel some while ago, I found a framed painting of a ship the 'John Williams VI.' Being interested in ships, I decided to investigate her, by means of the internet.



I found that John Williams was born in Tottenham in 1796 and he had joined the London Missionary Society in 1816. In 1817, he and his wife, Mary, set sail for Tahiti in the South Pacific. For the next 18 years, he travelled around the southern seas, teaching and preaching the gospel.

He had had two ships built out there to help with his work, but he needed a better ship, so in 1834, he returned to England and through lecturing raised £4,000, enough to have a larger vessel built.

He returned to the Pacific in 1838 and his new ship helped him to teach the Christian message, where no missionary had previously set foot.

In 1839, he visited the island of Erromango, where sadly, he was set upon by the inhabitants, clubbed to death and eaten by the cannibals.

The London Missionary Society had a new ship built at Harwich and it was named 'John Williams' in his honour. Over the years, a number of ships were built bearing his name.

In 1936, collections were made in England by children at Sunday Schools using the halfpenny which, of course, had a picture of the 'Golden Hind' upon it. I am not sure whether the Second World War delayed this, but Castle Camps Congregational Chapel collected for the 'John Williams VI' and she was duly launched and named by Princess Margaret in 1948. (Sawston Congregational Church also raised a collection as mentioned in the Gladys Gimson article)

The picture in our possession was 'Presented to Castle Camps Congregational School by the London Missionary Society for help in providing the Children's Ship John Williams

Alan Hardy (Castle Camps)

What if Pentecost was more about listening than speaking?

The URC's Daily Devotions often come up with gems. This one, published June 7th is an opal.

Acts 2: 1 – 12

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

Reflection

Imagine the scene: roughly one hundred and twenty folk assembled in a room, feeling rather lost, despondent and unsure about what to do without Jesus. Then suddenly they experience an extraordinary storm. A violent wind. Sparks. Flames. And the folk both in this room as well as in the growing crowd outside, break out in wild chatter. Chatter in dozens of languages from across the globe.

The oral transformation within this community has sometimes overshadowed the auditory transformation. Notice how Luke uses the verb "hear" three times in his narrative. Except that the Greek word extends beyond "hearing". A better translation would be 'to listen'. It is important to capture the active, purposeful nature of the verb to listen.

When we acknowledge this shift away from speaking and towards listening, we can recognise that the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is the gift of listening to one another in order to discern the will of God.

The United Reformed Church embodies a 'conciliar' way of working. Conciliarity affirms that the Church listens to the Holy Spirit through the Councils of the Church including Church Meeting, Synods and General Assembly. Conciliarity encourages us to take the time to truly listen to each and every voice that speaks. In so doing, we embody God's affirmation that everyone is a channel through which the Holy Spirit is heard. Everyone is valuable. And conciliarity means, just like the first community at Pentecost, there is an openness to listening to diverse voices.

The theologian Walter Brueggemann argues: 'The capacity to listen in ways which transform depends upon trust in the speaker, readiness to be impacted, and willingness to have newness come into one's life.' (Walter Brueggemann, *Genesis*, pp. 103–104) What 'newness' could come into our churches, if we listen to the voices which are not often heard - including those with a mental illness or disability or in poverty? Indeed, what transformations would we see in our society and our world?

Prayer:
Spirit of the living God,
Open our ears that we may listen
in ways that transform
our churches,
our communities,
our world.
In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

(Today's Writer Dr Nicola Robinson is a member and elder at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh)

Sawston Free Church

Craft Group

We meet in the back hall of the Church on alternate Monday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. Anyone is very welcome to drop in for a coffee and a chat even if they are not working on a craft project.

Dates for July: 3rd, 17th and 31st



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

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Wednesday Fellowship

We meet alternate Wednesdays from 2 – 4 pm in Sawston Free Church.

The meeting always commences with a Bible reading and prayers, followed by any notices.

New members are always very welcome both young and old. Please come along and join us for a cup of tea and friendly chat.

The program for July:

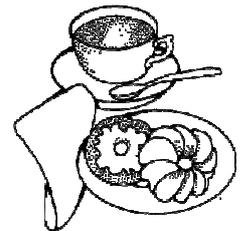
- 5 July - Members trip and tea on the Georgina
- 19 July - Cambridge Street Pastors talk by Mark Strivens

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

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CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT Events for July 2017

www.cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk



For more details contact Miriam Webb Circuit Office 01223 352115

or email: office@wesleycam.org.uk or secretary@cambridemethodistcircuit.org.uk

JULY			
Saturday 1 st	3pm to 5pm	<p>FRIENDS OF WESLEY HOUSE annual Garden Party from 3.00 to 5.00pm. All are welcome to come along and enjoy tea and tours of the new buildings. This is a fund-raising event for which tickets are now on sale, priced £12.50 for members and £15 for non-members. All proceeds will be donated to the Wesley House Bursary Fund.</p> <p>The Garden Party will be followed at 5.15pm by the Annual Service, conducted by the Revd Dr Paul Glass. The preacher will be the new Chair of the Wesley House Trustees, the Revd Dr Stuart Jordan.</p> <p>Contact Mary Rycroft to buy your tickets maryrycroft@btinternet.com</p>	Wesley House, Cambridge
Friday 21 st	5pm to 7pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Haslingfield Methodist & Little Owls present The Annual Strawberry Fayre</p> <p>Fun and games, various stalls. Delicious Buffet, BBQ, Strawberries & Cream. Ice cream and more.</p> <p>Raising money for Parkinson's UK.</p> <p>Voluntary admission fee with a contribution to the Food Bank. The event will be inside the church if wet.</p> <p>Come and join the fun!</p>	Gardens of the Haslingfield Methodist Church

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
Susan Nunn	55 Granta Road, Sawston	561956
Faith Paulding	Charlbury, 26 Moorfield Road, Duxford	574325
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 Website:		
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or contact Min Ong: [minhuey.ong @papworthtrust.org.uk](mailto:minhuey.ong@papworthtrust.org.uk)

Rental costs are between £18 to £25 per hour, including tea and coffee making facilities. Full Café service available Mon-Fri 0900 to 1530 hours.



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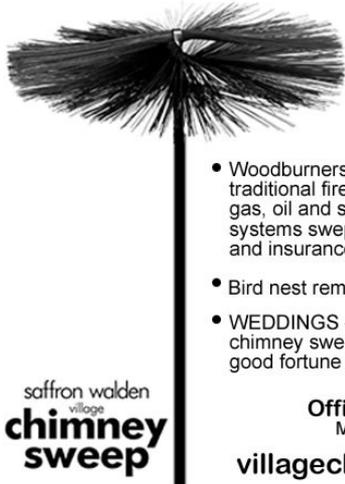
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