

CONTACT

October 2018



Volume 59 - Issue 10
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
Mon 1 Oct	Craft Group (Page 15)		
Sun 7 Oct	10.30am: Brigades Service - Faith Paulding 3.00pm Messy Church	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Maureen Kendall 6.30pm – Harvest Songs of Praise with Hadstock Silver Band- Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Holy Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron
Wed 10 Oct	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 15)		
Sun 14 Oct	10.30am: Harvest Festival - Faith Paulding 6.00pm Quiet Time – David Lloyd	10.45am: Joint Service at Gt St Mary's -Rev Bruce Waldron & Rev Iain McColl	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev E. Caswell
Mon 15 Oct	10.00am: Craft Group (page 15)		
Sun 21 Oct	10.30am: Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.30pm Evening Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	2.30pm: Holy Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.30am: Family Service - Mrs Penny Flynn
Wed 24 Oct	2pm: Wednesday Fellowship (page 15)		
Sun 28 Oct	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.30pm: Go4th Waldron/Purdy	10.15am: Morning Worship - Rev E Caswell	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mr Mark Hayesl
Mon 29 Oct	10.00am: 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
Oct 7	Tony Moss 834220	Kate Leach	Oct 21	Gordon Heald 833983	Anne Nunn
Oct 14	Helen Sharpe 834805	Malcolm Mackintosh	Oct 28	Tony Moss 834220	Rosemary Harris

The closing date for **November Contact** is **Monday 15th October.**

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

Contact

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

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From the Minister's Desk

In a recent emailing from the Uniting Church in Australia, the President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Deidre Palmer, wrote this.

Passionately disagreeing with one another is not unusual in the church. If we are to grow in maturity, as a follower of Jesus in the 21st Century, we will be deeply engaged in reflecting on Scripture and theology with others who may express their Christian discipleship in ways different to ourselves. Many of our Uniting Church members have been respectful and loving in expressing their passionately held convictions in dialogue with other members of the Body of Christ. It saddens me that some language and behaviour have failed to recognise that people who hold a different view, are also seeking to be faithful disciples of Christ.



The church, down through the centuries, has always found itself wrestling with theological differences, some of which seem to be mutually contradictory.

I would like to suggest that the Christian issue at stake in these matters is not who is right or wrong about doctrine, but how we deal with the differences, and that right and wrong are not so much about our dogma as about our behaviour.

It doesn't take brilliance to realise that the church has let itself down terribly, not so much in having wrong theologies, but in utterly failing in the basics of love and grace when competing theologies struggle for ascendancy. The shame of the churches isn't that someone believed in the communion the wrong way but that someone burned another to death for believing it. Any fools can disagree. It takes truly Christian fools to do it in a way that mirrors Christ.

One thing is certain, we are always struggling to deal with mystery: mystery that is, of its very nature, beyond our comprehension. That means we will all be wrong, somewhere, because our understanding is so inferior to God's reality, so when we get a bit proud of our theological stance or our spiritual experience or our intellectual way of putting things together we are in grave danger of putting our image before the image of God, and you can usually tell when that's happening because we start to treat people as though they are not loved children of God. When grace and compassion are replaced by something else, no matter how brilliant our theology, we have lost.

When Jesus said, blessed are the poor in spirit, he was speaking directly to that situation. Blessed are those who know they don't know it all, but strive with the grace of Christ, not the power as the world knows it. That's the test of discipleship.



Message from Castle Camps

We have endured and enjoyed this summer, but now we have the lovely Autumn weather to enjoy.

It has been a great month for gardeners if things survived, for cooks, preservers, freezers and apple pie lovers.

We have been coasting along and getting our second wind, but now BRUCE IS BACK! He has obviously returned from a very happy holiday with his family, reinvigorated.

However whilst he was gone, we had a rather special service to mark Red Ensign Day. We were told about this last year by Captain John Dodsworth, a member of Abington URC congregation and decided to mark the occasion annually ourselves. Red Ensign Day commemorates the Merchant Seamen who formed the convoys during the war and who still help us to today.

We flew the Red Ensign, fondly referred to as the Red Duster and we had a poster explaining it.

Our service was taken by Norman Setchell, a retired Army Chaplain, who is a good friend to our congregation and the service was very moving. We sang some wonderful old hymns including "Will your Anchor hold" and "Eternal father strong to save." Those of us who were war babies went straight back to school and were cross legged in assembly!

After the service we had tea and cake, but perhaps we should have offered ship`s biscuits and weevils!

Many councils, businesses and churches now commemorate the day, as so many families had relatives, friends and loved ones who were aboard the convoys.

If you wish to fly the flag next year the actual day is 3rd September 2019.

We celebrated on the nearest Sunday this year. If your place of worship is not joining in come and join us on Sept 1st 2019.

Best wishes from us all at Castle Camps

Val and the Elders



✠ UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CASTLE CAMPS ✠



**HARVEST FESTIVAL
SONGS OF PRAISE**

SUNDAY 7th OCTOBER 2018
6.30pm

LED BY REV. BRUCE WALDRON

With Hadstock Silver Band

ALL WELCOME

Followed by Refreshments

✠



Harvest at Little Abington United Reformed Church

On the 16th September, Little Abington URC celebrated its Harvest Thanksgiving Service. This was also the first service where we had the pleasure of welcoming our new Student Minister, Jacob Bali and his wife Esther. Rev. Bruce spoke of the beauty and wonder of nature being a reflection of God's beauty and wonder, but only of a glimpse of it, for God is greater than we can even think to imagine, yet cares for us. The God who is with us, who dwells in us, is the same one who created the cosmos. John's gospel speaks of this One as the living Word of God, alive in us.

Donated goods will be given to Jimmy's Night Shelter. Perishables were offered for a donation that will also go to Jimmy's. Thank you to the wonderful people who put together the delightful display that so helped us to focus our thanks and gratitude to God.

Lynne Riecansky





Prayer Diary for October

“Please take some time out, somewhere each day, to bring the churches’ mission and ministry to God”

Please pray for

1. **Messy Harvest:** The Messy Church team will be in full flight, planning for next Sunday Messy Harvest at Sawston Free Church. Please keep them all in your prayers and pray for them on the 7th
2. Bruce and Jacob will be taking a Harvest Assembly for Icknield School at Sawston Free Church this morning.
3. **Romsey Mill:** New members of the Romsey Mill team settling into their roles, within programme teams and support functions; that they will be fulfilled and inspired in their work. The Leadership & Management Team - that they will know God's inspiration and help in the week-to-week work of Romsey Mill.
4. Young people with autism, settling into new schools and colleges, particularly those who are joining or changing groups within Romsey Mill's Aspire programme.
5. Tonight at 7.30 there will be a Shoebox Wrapping Party for the boxes going to Eastern Europe poverty stricken areas via Blythswood Trust. Please pray for the wrappers, the donors, and the charity that enables us to brighten up other people's Christmas
6. For Additional volunteers to provide regular support with the weekly running of our Young Parents Programme groups and courses alongside staff members. A great opportunity to make a positive difference.
7. **Castle Camps URC:** This morning is their Harvest Thanksgiving and tonight is their Harvest Songs of Praise with the Hadstock Silver Band. Please pray for them in their worship and outreach.
8. All those who give their time, expertise and finances to help the work of Romsey Mill. As a charity we rely on this support to be able to work with young people, children and families. Please pray that more people will feel able to help us so that we can continue to respond to the local need.
9. Please pray for Jacob and Esther Bali as they settle into the fellowship of Sawston Free Church, Castle Camps and Little Abington URCs.
10. Please pray for Jacob and Bruce as they establish their structures as Student Minister and Supervisor Minister.
11. Today, Bruce and Jacob will be taking a service at Orchard House. Please pray for them.
12. Please pray for the staff and residents of Orchard House. Many are struggling with dementia and their families often find it very hard to know what to do.
13. The Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church meets today at Witham URC. Please pray for our representatives at the Synod and for the Moderator and Executive of Synod as they guide us through the business of this quarter. Today is also the 75th Anniversary Service for Methodist Homes for the Aged at Derby Cathedral. We give thanks for the excellent work of MHA and their care for the families of elderly people they have responsibility for.
14. Today, Lt. Abington URC will be sharing in a co-celebrated Communion at Gt Abington Church, the first such service with Rev. Bruce Waldron and the Rev. Iain McColl, now in charge of the Hildersham Group of Seven Churches. Today is also Sawston Free Church's Harvest Celebration, led by Faith Paulding.
15. Pause to pray today, for people facing end of life issues. Please pray for anyone you know who is confronting a diagnosis that tells them they have not long to live. Please pray for their families, supported by and supporting them.

16. One of the conditions that are seldom spoken about openly is mental illness. It is often complicated by physical symptoms, and by the shame felt by the ill person and by their families. So often the illness remains hidden so the support a person would have for a physical illness is not accessed or even allowed. Please pray today for people suffering from mental illness and for those who care for them.
17. The Cambridge Area Partnership of the URC is meeting tonight. Please pray for everyone who has been planning this. Also, please pray for the speaker who will be talking about Creation in the Hebrew Scriptures.
18. One of our elders from Castle Camps is deeply involved in the Castle Camps Good Companions Group, and as a result the Rev. Bruce Waldron will be speaking to this group this afternoon.
19. Please pray for Dramawise, the group of willing instructors and the young people who meet in our church at Sawston each Friday night.
20. Today, the Methodist Church is launching a new initiative, Deaf Church Fresh Expressions. It is an attempt to find a way to offer worship and faith to people who have hearing disabilities. Helen Keller said that of the two disabilities she suffered from, deafness and blindness, deafness was the most isolating. We pray for people who struggle with deafness.
21. Do you know people who make every effort possible to reduce waste, to limit their pollution output, to recycle wherever possible. We pray today for all people who take seriously their responsibility to look after God's creation.
22. As we move into Half Term Week, we pray for our teachers and teaching aides, our school staff. We also hold in our prayers anyone who is travelling on holiday over this period when road accidents are at their highest level.
23. Please pray for the 1st Sawston Brigades Company as they meet tonight. Please keep the leaders in your prayers all the time. It is a significant commitment of time and energy to care for our Brigades children.
24. In each of our churches there is a foodbank, where people coming to church can leave gifts that are given to those in need of food. Please pray for the continued generosity, but also for a fairer and more compassionate country where the humiliation of having to go and ask for food is not necessary. Pray for a society where the poor are treated with more dignity.
25. We give thanks for toddlers groups across the country, whose staff are having a gratefully received rest over half term week and are probably using the respite to prepare for next term. Please pray for our own Toddler Group at Sawston, Time for Tots.
26. Today we stop to pray for young parents, for parents learning how to be mums and dads for the first time. We pray particularly for those who are struggling with ill children.
27. Our prayer today is for people getting married. We hold newly-weds in our prayers, the families who celebrate with them, and that their marriages will prove to be the blessing that God intended love should bring.
28. As we switch to Standard Time and move our clocks back, we pray for people who long nostalgically for a past that can never be again, and pray for them the courage and hope to welcome this day, because it is the day the Lord has made, and we are encouraged to rejoice and be glad in it.
29. On alternate Mondays, the Sawston Free Church Craft group meet to make things, to solve the problems of the world, and to build caring relationships so they can support each other and others through their combined efforts. We pray today for the Craft Group.
30. Ministering to men is not a simple matter. Far fewer men than women attend church and even fewer are engaged in faith discussion groups. Please pray that our churches will not neglect their care for men.
31. House groups, for study, for helping others, for prayer, for fellowship, for all sorts of reasons, are often a way of helping people think more deeply about their faith and about how to put it into practice. Please pray for the members of any house groups you know, and ask God the question, should we be thinking about starting up a house group of some kind.

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The BBC reports, 'Fan Bingbing is one of the world's highest paid actors, but media reports in the country [ie China] say that she hasn't been seen in public since 1 July when she visited a children's hospital. (1)' Ominously, an earlier official statement declared her behaviour to be 'not socially responsible'. A second official statement saying she was 'under control' was withdrawn within hours.

Fan Bingbing is by no means the first prominent person to disappear in China. Some, like lawyers Li Baiguang and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, die in hospital having been in custody for some time. (2) Others, like the artist Ai Weiwei re-emerge from custody to become, in his words, 'a high-end refugee.' He had an exhibition in Hong Kong earlier this year. Surprisingly, the curator was unmolested by the authorities. Ai Weiwei did not dare to attend. He has no wish to disappear a second time.

We hear of the Ai Weiweis and Fan Bingbings of this world. We have only the vaguest of impressions of the mass internment going on in Chinese Turkestan, but what we do know makes the treatment of Tibet look trivial. The Chinese authorities flatly deny that anything at all is going on. No-one believes them. It is said that tens - maybe hundreds - of thousands of Uyghur Muslims, (predominantly men and boys) are currently detained in Chinese re-education camps. (3) Some reports say over one million are detained. We only know what the few escapees tell us.

The Chinese are not the only nation to simply 'disappear' people who are an embarrassment to the authorities. Dozens of countries do it. But the Chinese are one of the five permanent members of the United Nations security council, and that, it seems to me, puts their draconian social manipulation in a totally different category.

The Chinese are not the only permanent member of the UN security council to behave in this way. The Russians have a track record of neutralising their dissidents. In modern Russia, the Stalinist show trial survives as a technique for discouraging dissident voices, but it is tricky to get right, for unlike China, Putin's Russia cares deeply about its standing in the West. Hence the strangely ambiguous treatment of Pussy Riot, the feminist dissident punk group. Other dissidents are, quite openly, assassinated. Boris Nemtsov comes to mind. Wikipedia lists an astonishing thirty five politicians in this category. (4) Occasionally a popular figure like Alexei Navalny is imprisoned to keep them out of the way until crucial elections are over. He is still alive.

However, Russia seems to be working on a new way of silencing dissidents which does not involve such public embarrassments. Increasingly, people just conveniently fall ill and die. The Salisbury poisonings are at the centre of an investigation into the possibility that Russia has been quietly eliminating overseas dissidents in this way for some years. As I write this, it would appear that Pyotr Verzilov, a Pussy Riot activist and husband of one of the singers, might well have been attacked in this way in Moscow. (5) If this proves to be true, the question will be asked 'how many others'? The prospect of this so-called modern state behaving like Caligula's Rome is quite terrifying. The question every thinking Russian will ask is 'What need I say before I too just 'die'?'

The broader question is, 'What to do with dissident voices'? It is not *just* a question of free speech. The question the British Labour Party is struggling with is not the right to say things, but whether people who say such things should be tolerated within the Party. The Conservatives have always described themselves as a 'broad church', but how broad can they afford to be? The church also struggles (as do I). What can you not say if you are to remain a member of the church?

It occurs to me that Christian tradition has an intriguing (if not entirely definitive) comment to make. King David made a habit of bumping off everyone who might conceivably threaten his throne. Jesus, occasionally titled 'Son of David', did the opposite. Why did he deliberately allow Judas to stay at the heart of his fellowship and engineer his death, rather than expel him? I imagine there are at least as many answers to that question as there are readers of this piece.

1) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-45034392>

2) <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/02/27/asia/china-lawyer-li-baiguang-xi-jinping-intl/index.html>

3) <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/china-uyghur-muslim-rules-laws-treatment-chinese-human-rights-religion-a8534161.html>

4) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Assassinated_Russian_politicians

5) <https://www.theguardian.com/music/pussy-riot>

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A Date For Your Diaries

- Saturday, 17th November: Craft sale, Coffee Morning and Lunch



It was agreed at the last 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, enjoy a cup of coffee and then stay on for lunch.

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.

Craft covers a wide variety of talents so please do think about the things you make or produce which you could give to add variety to our sale. We could also have a 'bring and buy' table to add variety.

We will keep you updated of what is happening on the weekly notices, but in the mean time please put the date in your diary.

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

A Thought About Prayer From Richard Rohr

Abba Poemen said, "Teach your mouth to say what is in your heart." [1] Many of the desert fathers and mothers, as well as the collected texts of the *Philokalia* in the Eastern Orthodox tradition, have described prayer as bringing your thinking down into your heart. It always seemed like soft piety to me until someone taught me how to do it, and I learned the immense benefits of the prayer of the heart. As a Catholic, I was often puzzled by the - continued return to heart imagery, such as Jesus pointing to his "Sacred Heart" and Mary pointing to her "Immaculate Heart." I often wonder what people actually do with these images. Are they mere sentiment? Are they objects of worship or objects of transformation? You must return their gaze and invitation for a long time to get the transformative message and healing. Such images keep recurring only because they are speaking something important from the unconscious, maybe even something necessary for the soul's emergence. Love lives and thrives in the heart space. It has kept me from wanting to hurt people who have hurt me. It keeps me every day from obsessive, repetitive, or compulsive head games. It can make the difference between being happy and being miserable and negative. Could this be what we are really doing when we say we are praying for someone? Yes, we are holding them in our heart space. Do this in an almost physical sense, and you will see how calmly and quickly it works.

Next time a resentment, negativity, or irritation comes into your mind, and you want to play it out or attach to it, *move that thought or person literally into your heart space*. Dualistic commentaries are lodged in your head; but in your heart, you can surround this negative thought with silence. There it is surrounded with blood, which will often feel warm like coals. In this place, it is almost impossible to comment, judge, create story lines, or remain antagonistic. You are in a place that does not create or feed on contraries but is the natural organ of life, embodiment, and love. Now the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart have been transferred to you. They are pointing for you to join them there. The "sacred heart" is then your heart too.

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The Revd Lucy Berry, performance poet for the United Reformed Church, has been named as the first poet-in-residence for the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT). The unremunerated position began on Monday 3 September and was marked with a poem, specially written by Ms Berry, entitled 'An Empire and a Village'. Ms Berry will write and perform poetry related to the policy areas JPIT work on such as poverty and welfare system in the UK, immigration, political engagement and broader themes around peace and justice.

Bruce



This year is a special year for Girls' Brigade nationally and our company in Sawston is trying to emulate the national celebrations and hope for the future. Here is the national vision:

Right now GB is anticipating a great anniversary. It's our 125th birthday in 2018!
In England & Wales we've set ourselves a mission, to turn up the volume of hope among girls!

We believe that this will help focus us on our continuing, unchanged vision – which we describe as seeing **Lives and communities transformed and enriched as generations seek, serve and follow Jesus Christ.**

To achieve our mission we're working toward four goals:

- Developing local mission (activity e.g. GB groups)
- Equipping church (in mission)
- Being an advocate (for and with girls and women)
- Empowering and disciplining (one another).

These goals are being worked on through:

- The work of existing and new local GB groups
- Work we're doing to be mission consultants to churches and other organisations
- Hearing from girls, standing alongside them and speaking up
- Leadership training (**n:fluence**) the Esther Collective for 18-30s and devotional opportunities for all.

Since 1893 GB has been raising hope for girls and women and, as we continue to join in with the story of all that God is doing through Girls' Brigade, we pray that He will continue to work through us, so that our vision is fulfilled!

#WeAreGB125

So look out for what 1st Sawston will be doing in the remainder of 2018 and beyond!

If you would like more information or would like to know how to join, please be in touch.
Lucyrmcgregor@gmail.com

Lucy McGregor

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DVD's

I have a number of interesting DVD's which I would like to share with you. Please contact me on 660943.

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| Sisters of War | Based on a true story of an army nurse and a catholic nun in Papua New Guinea during the second world war when the Japanese invaded. Well worth watching. |
| Courageous Heart | Another true story of a young catholic social worker in Warsaw during the war. An amazing story of how she saved countless children from the Ghetto. |
| Alone in Berlin | Another true story of a German couple in Berlin; a remarkable story of courage. Emma Thompson and Brendan Gleeson. |
| Mary Magdalene | A recently released film about Mary and her journey with Jesus to Jerusalem |
| Peter :The Redemption | With John Rhys-Davies, Stephen Baldwin, Bobbie Phillips, Steve Byers, Brittany Bristow. Set in 64 AD Peter is arrested and thrown into prison and depicts his journey of faith and a fight for the right to believe in a radical new faith called 'Christianity'. |
| The Young Messiah | With Adam Greaves-Neal and Sean Bean. A fictional look at a year in the life of Jesus as a boy. Very Hollywood but let me know what you think. |
| Risen | Joseph Fiennes stars as Clavius, a Roman soldier, given the task of finding out what has happened to Jesus after the crucifixion. |

Kate Leach

Hi Everybody!

We hope you're enjoying what's left of the summer, whether you've been away, working or making the most of the heatwave!

Here at Canaan Project, we've had a busy summer of sessions, some trips and lots of exciting planning and dreaming for the next year. I just wanted to share some of our highlights...

Southend-on-Sea, July 2018

During the first week of the summer holidays – and in the middle of the heatwave – we took a group of young women to venture to Annie's homeland, Sunny Southend! We loaded up the minibus and headed straight to the beach, enjoying a paddle in the Estuary, ensuring there was some classic seaside cuisine of salty chips, games and conversation to keep us busy. The girls had a great time relaxing, but the hotter it got, the more difficult it became to stay comfortable. Back in the minibus we went – we managed to find some shade in the very green Priory Park, where we played Frisbee and card games before heading back to Tower Hamlets.



Junk Yard Golf, July 2018

Next stop – mini golf! Jess booked us in for a round of Junk Yard Golf in Brick Lane, and we had a cracking time! The girls enjoyed the crazy setup of the course, and the different shapes and obstacles on each of the holes. Thankfully, it was a little cooler than it was outside, but still just as fun.



Cooking Club, August 2018

Canaan Project is famous among the young women for our weekly cooking slot at our after school Girls Club. In the past, we have been able to run 10-week cooking clubs where we teach the girls basic cooking skills, and have a small talk each week about healthy eating, covering a different topic. We decided that this summer it was time to resurrect Cooking Club, but in a slightly different and smaller context. We ran 2 cooking workshop sessions, where the girls had to put as many different vegetables as they could into a stir-fry – and then guess how much sugar was in their favourite drinks and sweets by weighing it out! To reward all of their hard work, we went to Nando's at the end of the week to celebrate.



“Am I Beautiful?” Film Screening, August 2018

One of our groups, Girls Club Forum, acts as a school council-style group who contribute to the wider work of the Project – they help us choose activities, plan trips and make sure we’re providing the best service we can for the young women of Tower Hamlets. This year, Girls Club Forum took part in the City Leaders programme run by London Youth, which is a programme designed to equip young leaders and build their confidence. As part of the programme, Girls Club Forum decided to make a film to benefit the young people of their area, called “Am I Beautiful?”. The film discussed issues of identity and self through interviews. We worked with another organisation, The Feast, on the project – their youth worker Dumaeza was a delight to interview and offered some real insight into the way faith and race play a part of our identity. The film was screened at Rich Mix Cinema, Bethnal Green, and it’s fair to say the staff team were beaming with pride as the girls took to the stage to introduce their film. Well done, ladies!



It’s been busy, but it’s been a lot of fun... now for a quick sit down before September starts!

- Annie, Tess and Jess

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GOD WILL PROVIDE

A young woman brought her fiancé home to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother told her father to find out about the young man.

The father invited the fiancé to his study for a talk.

'So what are your plans?' the father asked the young man.

'I am a biblical scholar,' he replied.

'A Biblical scholar. Hmmm,' the father said. 'Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in?'

'I will study,' the young man replied, 'and God will provide for us.'

'And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?' asked the father.

'I will concentrate on my studies,' the young man replied, 'God will provide for us.'

'And children?' asked the father. 'How will you support children?'

'Don't worry, sir, God will provide,' replied the fiancé.

The conversation proceeded like this, and each time the father questioned, the young idealist insisted that God would provide.

Later, the mother asked, 'How did it go, Honey?'

The father answered, 'He has no job and no plans, and he thinks I'm God!'

Shoe Box Appeal 2018

Last year, with your help, we were able to send 150 shoe boxes full of gifts to children, men and women who are living in some of the poorest parts of Eastern Europe.

Your gifts have an impact that is both practical and personal. Something as simple as a bar of soap or a tube of toothpaste can help restore a person's dignity. A woolly hat can help make a cold winter feel a little warmer. And sweets and toys can bring a smile to most faces.



These shoeboxes are a powerful reminder of what it means to love and be loved.

There are several ways you can help support our appeal again this year:

Donate empty shoe boxes and Christmas wrapping paper.

- On Friday 5th October at 8pm, we will be wrapping empty shoeboxes so they are ready for filling. If you would like to come and help, we will meet in the back hall at 8pm. Refreshments will be available. It would be helpful if you could bring your own scissors and sellotape but some will be available so don't worry if you can't.

Donate individual items

- We are very happy to accept donations of individual items. Members of our Brigades will help sort them and make sure they are placed with other suitable items in a shoebox.
- Any donations of money will be used to buy extra items or to help with transportation costs.

Fill your own shoe box.

- Leaflets are available from the church with details of how to do this or visit www.shooboxappeal.org
- ***Please bring your boxes to the church by Sunday, 28th October.***

Thank you so much for your help. Your support means that not only will people receive a Christmas present this year but they will know that they matter and that other people care about them.

Valerie Kerr

**Creation in Hebrew Scriptures
At The Free Church, (United Reformed) St Ives
Wednesday 17th October 2018 - 7.15 for 7.45 pm**

**Speaker: Professor Lea Tarragin-Zeller
Woolf Institute**

**Cambridge Area Partnership
Pastoral Advocates; David Lloyd, Revd Deborah McVey,
Revd Dr Catherine Ball
M&M Advocate: Alison Jiggins**



The Chapels Society – September Chapels of The Month

Roger N Holden, a keen photographer and Chapels Society member, shares his thoughts about some of the charming and very varied chapels to be found in the Shetland Islands.

From a chapels point of view, the most surprising thing about Shetland, the most northerly group of islands in Scotland and hence the United Kingdom, is the large number of Methodist chapels. Methodism has always been weak in Presbyterian dominated Scotland, no doubt being seen as an English import. Counting numbers on the Methodist Church web-site, there are currently some 50 Methodist Churches in Scotland of which no fewer than 13 are on Shetland. That is 26% of churches on islands which contain a mere 0.05% of the population of Scotland. This includes churches on Fair Isle and at Haroldswick on Unst which claims to be not just the most northerly Methodist church but the most northerly church in the United Kingdom. John Wesley never visited Shetland and the first Methodists to come to the islands were Samuel Dunn and John Raby in October 1822. But growth of the Methodists in Shetland is principally attributed to the missionary work of Adam Clarke later in the 1820s. The Methodist Church in Lerwick, built in 1872, is named the Adam Clarke Memorial Church in his honour ([photo 1](#)). The chapel at Walls is of such size and prominence to be mistaken for the parish church ([photo 2](#)) although others are simpler buildings like that at Vidlin ([photo 3](#)) which stands hard by the water's edge. In the past there were more active churches than there are now and a number of chapels survive in residential or commercial use such as those at Skelberry on South Mainland ([photo 4](#)) and Burravoe on Yell ([photo 5](#)). All the churches on Shetland were originally Wesleyan, none of the other Methodist Connexions got this far.

Why Wesleyan Methodism took such a hold on Shetland while it made no impact on the rest of the Highlands and Islands, is a matter of speculation. Culturally Shetland, and also Orkney, is very different from the Western Isles. Their associations are more Nordic, they never have been Gaelic speaking and their traditional language was a form of Old Norse. This may be one reason why the strict Presbyterianism of the Western Isles never took root here but it may also be a reflection of the fact that the established church found great difficulties in serving this remote and scattered group of Islands as other evangelists before the Methodists had found that their message took root here.

James Haldane had visited Shetland in 1799 and when George Reid was sent in 1806 to preach to "its poor inhabitants" he already found a number of people who had separated from the Established Church. A church was accordingly formed in Lerwick on Congregational principles while Reid travelled throughout the islands preaching. Resulting from this Congregational churches were established in a number of places, including the remote island of Foula. The Congregational church in Lerwick still meets in its chapel originally built in 1820, enlarged and rebuilt in 1840 and 1893 ([photo 6](#)). As far as is known the only other currently active Congregational church on Shetland is that at Reawick.

Sinclair Thompson formed a branch of the Lerwick church at Spigge, in South Mainland but subsequently he became convinced of Baptist principles and was baptised, it is not clear by whom, in Spiggie Loch in August 1815 resulting in the formation of Dunrossness Baptist Church. The current rather curious building used by the church was designed by the pastor of the church, William Fotheringham ([photo 7](#)). The initials ST over the doorway clearly refer to Sinclair Thompson, the dates 1816 and 1912 being the dates respectively of the founding of the church and the construction of the present building ([photo 8](#)). The Baptist Church building of 1894 in Lerwick, which stands opposite the Congregational Chapel, has now been converted for residential use ([photo 9](#)). This is not because the congregation has disbanded but because they moved to a large new building in 2013 at Quoys Road, amongst a housing development with a very Scandinavian feel in the suburbs of Lerwick. The building of Burra Baptist Church dates from 1904 and stands on East Burra just above the bridge linking to West Burra ([photo 10](#)); the church also meets in Hamnavoe on West Burra.

The Plymouth Brethren came to Shetland later, in the 1860s. Ebenezer Gospel Hall in Lerwick is almost impossible to photograph, standing as it does in Navy Lane, one of the narrow lanes leading up from the water-front. More accessible for photography is the Hall in Lang Closs, Scalloway ([photo 11](#)). The final word, however, must go to the Gospel Hall in Sound, a suburb of Lerwick, which prominently proclaims that it is the "Sound Gospel Hall" ([photo 12](#)). Well, indeed one would not wish to attend an unsound Gospel Hall!



Photos: top left to bottom right

1. Adam Clarke Memorial Methodist Church, Lerwick
2. Walls Methodist Church
3. Vidlin Methodist Church
4. Skelberry Methodist Chapel
5. Burravoe Methodist Chapel, Yell
6. Lerwick Congregational Church
7. Dunrossness Baptist Church
8. Dunrossness Baptist Chapel
9. Lerwick Baptist Chapel
10. Burra Baptist Church
11. Gospel Hall, Lang Cross, Scalloway
12. Sound Gospel Hall

(With thanks to the Chapels Society website)

Sawston Free Church

Craft Group

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

Dates for October: 1st, 15th and 29th.

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

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Wednesday Fellowship

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

The program for October: 10th October - members and non-members. Harvest festival service

- donations of dried/tinned goods/money gratefully received, which will then be donated to a local charity.

24th October - members musical requests - with Terry Penny

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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or contact Terry or Beryl Penny – 07532 081221

Rental costs are between £18 to £25 per hour, including tea and coffee making facilities.

CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT Events for October 2018



For more details contact the Circuit Secretary: Mrs Miriam Webb
 Email: office@wesleycam.org.uk or secretary@cambridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk

Sun 7th	Midday – 2.00pm	Sausage Sizzle. All welcome.	Castle St MC
Mon 8th	7.30pm – 10pm	Science Meets Faith. Presentation & Discussion Climate Change: A Scientific Update – Emily Shuckburgh OBE 7.15pm for pizza and refreshments.	Wesley MC
Sun 21st	6pm – 7.30pm	Faith To Live By – Rev. Stuart Bell Why didn't the Great War undermine Britain's faith in God?	Haslingfield MC
Mon 22nd	7.45pm – 9.45pm	Wesley Church Centenary Lecture: UK Aid – All We Can? Guest speaker: Matthew Rycroft CBE Refreshments from 7.15pm	Wesley MC

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Val Spencer – Castle Camps	20 South Road, Abington	892214
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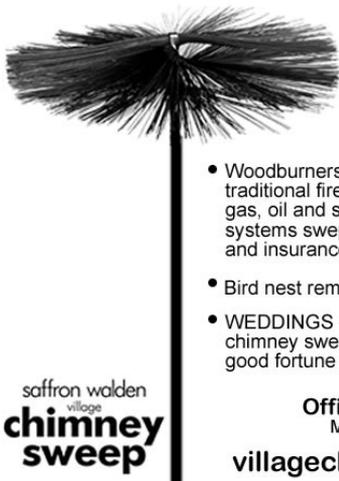
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