

CONTACT

September 2019



Volume 60 - Issue 9
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	1 st Sunday of month	10.30 am 3.00 pm	Morning Worship Messy Church
	2 nd Sunday of month	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Quiet Time with God
	3 rd Sunday of month	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Morning Worship Reflective Service with Communion
	4 th Sunday of month	10.30 am	Go4th:Worship of Song, Prayer, Praise with the Worship Band No evening service
	5 th Sunday of month	10.30 am	Morning Worship No evening service
Monday	Alternate - see diary	10.00 am	Craft Group
Tuesday	Term time only	6.15 – 9.00pm	Boys’ and Girls’ Brigades
Wednesday	Fortnightly see diary	2.00 pm	Wednesday Fellowship
Thursday	Term time only	10.30 – noon	Time for Tots
Saturday	Last Saturday of month	10.30 am	Monthly Prayer Meeting
For further details of these activities, please contact one of the Elders (see back page). Four housegroups meet regularly. For information contact the Minister or Church Secretaries.			

Three Churches Services and Dates for Your Diary

Date	Sawston	Lt Abington	Castle Camps
Sun 1 Sept	10.30am: Morning Worship - Faith Paulding 3.00pm: Messy Church	10.15am: Morning Worship TBA	10.30am: Merchant Navy Day - Rev Norman Setchell
Sun 8 Sept	10.30am: Junior Church Dedication - David Lloyd/ Elders Officiating 6.00pm: Quiet Time	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mark Kendall	10.30am: Holy Communion - Wendy Roe
Mon 9 Sept	10.00am: Craft Group (page 18)		
Sat 14 Sept	Church Workday: 8am (page 18)		
Sun 15 Sept	10.30am: Morning Worship/Communion - Rev Paul Whittle 6.00pm: Communion	2.30pm: Holy Communion - Rev Paul Whittle	10.30am: Family Service - TBA
Sun 22 Sept	10.30am: Go4th		10.30am: Morning Worship - Wendy Roe
Mon 23 Sept	10.00am: Craft Group (page 18)		
Sat 28 Sept	10.30am: Monthly Prayer Meeting (page 18)		
Sun 29 Sept	10.30am: Morning Worship - Andy Nightingale		10.30am: United Service at URC - Rev Bruce Waldron & Rev Ian Fisher

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
Sept 1	John Conway 833953	Terry & Beryl Penny	Sept 15		
Sept 8 & 22	Tony Moss 834220	8 th – Hazel Fenton	Sept 29	Gordon Heald 833983	Dawn Houghton

The closing date for **October** Contact is Monday **16th September**

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

Editors Note: *Cover - Church Window from The Algarve - with thanks to Helen Sharpe*

Contact

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

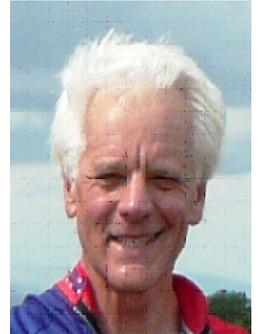
Minister: Rev. Bruce Waldron, the Manse, 3 High Street, Sawston, CB22 3BG
Tel: 01223 836786 or 07814 920187 Email: revbruce@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk
www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk
www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch

From the minister's desk

Back in July, the lectionary reading was Jesus' parable of the wheat and the tares. In the story, Jesus says that the Kingdom of Heaven is like this:

A farmer sows a crop of wheat and someone who hates him comes out in the night and sows weeds amongst it.

When the plants come up, the servants see the weeds and they are all gung-ho for going out and ripping them out. But the householder says "No, leave them there. We'll sort it out at harvest time. You rip out all the weeds and you'll pull out the wheat as well."



I preached, that Sunday, about how easily we assume, and it's quite arrogant, that we can distinguish and pull out the weeds. Jesus' words really struck home to me because as I think back over the years, it's those moments when I've responded in righteous indignation and gone to sort out some "weeds"... those are the moments when I've really hurt someone, and regretted it later.

It's no wonder that Paul writes that the fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. Paul isn't speaking about himself of course. Just like in that extraordinary passage on love in his letter to the Corinthian church, he's talking about the qualities of God. And didn't Jesus show that all the time. Like you read in John's gospel, the Son of God didn't come into the world to condemn the world, but that through Him, the world might be saved. So our passion, if we're like Him, is to save, heal, restore, reconcile, not rip up, if we can possibly avoid it.

Back in March, in my own reflective space, I put this down on paper.

*Our challenge today is to stay the course of love in a world that resists love, fears love, and rejects the cost of love. To do so we must fix our eyes on the future, on forging new relationships of love that include the earth, all peoples, all religions, all planets and all galaxies. We need to reimagine ourselves in love, realizing that on the evolutionary time line, Christianity was born this morning and is just waking up to the newness of life.
(Richard Rohr)*

If this is so, then to take on a challenge, a cause, but to do so in a way that dis-unifies rather than unifies is the wrong direction. Our job is to build bridges of our commonality, not demonize or annihilate the enemy.

In the parable of the Wheat and the Tares, while the servants are dead keen to rip up the tares, the householder knows that to do this is also to rip up the wheat.

Sometimes our self-righteous desire to rip out the weeds is, in fact, a weed in itself.

What will it take for us to realize that we are all unfinished, imperfect creatures who are in the process of being created? That our world is being created? That our church is being created? That Christ is being formed in us?

And then, on the 23rd July, I opened up the URC Daily Devotions and read this reflection on the episode where Daniel and his mates are chucked into a furnace for disobeying the Emperor's edicts that compelled them to do what was against their faith. I was fascinated by this take on "living amongst the weeds", as written by Rev. Angela Rigby, minister of Tonbridge and Seven Oaks URC. She writes:

I'd like to think I'd be like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and stand up to the Empire – as I write this whilst lounging on my 'Swedish branded' sofa, sipping an 'American brand' coffee, having consulted a Biblical commentary bought from an 'American marketplace' on the web, and really looking forward to the next 'superhero universe' movie.

Yes – I'd like to THINK I'd resist the Empire.

The Empire is quite persuasive as it uses rhetoric to play on our fears, our laziness, our busyness, our apathy, our lack of experience, etc. The Empire's rhythm drives us forward to who knows where, but at least we are moving, right? And whether we like it or not, we find ourselves marching to its beat.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to march to that beat. The Empire (forgive me) struck back. A fourth figure appeared in the flames alongside them, playing a different tune.

Jesus is the "Lord of the Dance" as the song goes. His song sounds different. It's a gentler swaying rhythm that whispers life. Sometimes – if you stop moving to the Empire's beat – if you google 'Christ' with your heart, you can hear Christ's song. And when you dance to Christ's rhythms, people notice. Some won't understand. Some however might find themselves also moving to the ancient heavenly beats of God.

Prayer

*Love God, love neighbours,
love each other.*

*Go out, reach out,
love enemies.*

*Free captives and oppressed,
bless persecutors.*

*Open eyes, share the good news
of Jesus the Christ.*

Holy God,

*You created us to walk
and to dance with you.*

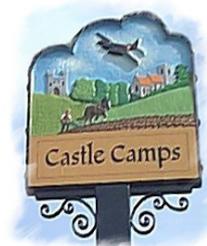
Sometimes our steps get muddled.

God, we are sorry.

*Help us to keep in step with you
and to invite others into Your dance.*

Amen

Greetings to you all at Sawston, from our Congregation.



As a country parish we are affected by the weather and all things meteorological, so August has been exciting. We kicked off with the partial Lunar eclipse. We had an excellent view of it. Earlier the sky was cloudy and did not look promising, but just in time the clouds parted and we were treated to one of nature`s wonders. These happenings are pretty impressive and make one feel so insignificant. They are fascinating and humbling.

The heatwave was pretty exhausting and relentless. Sleeping was a problem and the gardens were desiccated after a few days.

On 28th July we joined Sawston for their morning service, which we all enjoyed. It was a bit different and there were some lovely songs. The musicians and singers were pretty talented.

At the moment, we are struggling with the preaching plan for 2020. It is so surprising how many people commit so much time and effort to coming to places like us. The variety of their different experiences and delivery are refreshing and we are so grateful to them for coming and sharing their message with us.

On the subject of weather, Robert and I swam in the North Sea for the first time in 3 years and we felt marvellous afterwards, A bit like a baptism!

The weekend of 10th to 12th Aug gave us an intimation of the power of Nature. The trees were (as Thomas Hardy said) "Threshing and plying," a wonderful description. After that the rain fell heavily. We were so pleased to have rain at last that we sat with the windows open to hear and smell it.

Some of us went to the Old Independent Church in Haverhill to an Organ concert. The organist was Christian Schoen, originally from Heidelberg, but now studies and works in America. Some of the pieces he played were well known and rousing, others unbelievably delicate. The organ is huge and dominates the building, which in itself is impressive and worth a visit.

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

Val and Friends.

It's Merchant Navy Day on the 3rd September 2019.
The following poem was sent in by Captain John Dodsworth – Castle Camps



I've Read About Soldiers and Sailors

I've read about soldiers and sailors
Of infantry, airmen and tanks,
Of battleships, corvettes and cruisers,
Of Anzacs, Froggies and Yanks;
But there's one other man to remember
Who was present at many affray,
He wears neither medals or ribbons
And derides any show of display.

I'm talking of AB's and fireman,
Of stewards, greasers and cooks,
Who manned the great steamers in convoy,
(You won't read about them in books).
No uniform gay were they dressed in,
Nor marched with colours unfurled,
They steamed out across the wide oceans,
And travelled all over the world.

Their history goes back through the ages,
A record of which to be proud.
And the bones of their forefathers moulder,
With nought but the deep for a shroud.
For armies have swept onto victory
For country, freedom and pride.

In Thousands they sailed from their homeland,
From Liverpool, Hull and the Clyde.
To London and Bristol and Cardiff,
They came back again on the tide.
An old four-point seven their safeguard –
What nice easy prey for the Huns
Who trailed them in bombers and U-boats
And sank them with "tin fish" and guns.

The epic of gallant "Otaki",
That grim forlorn hope "Jervis Bay",
Who fought to the last and were beaten,
But they joined the illustrious array,
Whoses skeletons lie 'neath the waters
Whose deeds are remembered today,
And their glory will shine undiminished,
Long after our flesh turns to clay.

They landed the Anzacs at Suva,
And stranded the old "River Clyde",
Off Dunkirk they gathered the remnants,
(and still they weren't satisfied),
They battled their way through to Malta,
And rescued the troops from Malay.
They brought the Eighth Army munitions,
And took all the prisoners away.

And others signed on in tankers,
And loaded crude oil and octane –
The lifeblood of warships and engines,
Of mechanised transport and plane
These men were engulfed in infernos
In ships that were sunk without trace.

They were classed as non-combatant services,
Civilians who fought without guns –
And many the time they'd have welcomed
A chance of a crack at the Huns.
But somehow in spite of this drawback.
The steamers still sailed and arrived,
And they fed fifty million people
And right to the end they survived.

And now the turmoil has ended
Our enemies vanquished and fled –
We'll pray that living will foster
The spirit of those who are dead.
When the next generation takes over.
This country we now hold in dear,
Will be theirs – may they cherish it's freedom,
And walk down the pathways of peace.

When the Master of Masters holds judgement
And the Devil's dark angels have flown,
When the Clerk of the Heavenly Council
Decrees that the names shall be shown –
They will stand out in glittering letters,
Inscribed with the blood they have shed,
Names of ships and Merchant Seamen who manned them,
The oceans will give up the dead.

Anon.

With Great Sadness from Little Abington

It is with great sadness that we must inform you of the planned, imminent closure of the Little Abington Chapel (mid September).

This has come about for a number of reasons, including small and ageing congregation, steep steps that cannot be changed, 'staff' wishing to retire, and multiple and expensive building problems.

The Nissen hut has already served us well for many years (formally open September 1921) but the problems are becoming insurmountable.



We would like to thank you for your friendship and warm welcome you have given us the times we have shared worship with you – unfortunately we are unable to hold a large final service but hope some of our congregation will be with you in November for Bruce's final service.

Meanwhile we join you in prayer as Bruce and Sharn prepare to leave and you wait for a replacement – almost impossible!

God bless you all

Your friends in Little Abington

Little Abington United Reformed Church

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

The Church Meeting of Little Abington United Reformed Church, meeting on August 18th 2019, giving thanks to God for the worship and witness of the church in this village since 1888 and paying tribute to the ministers, deacons, elders and members who have contributed so much to its life and vitality throughout its one hundred and thirty one years of history, resolves that:

- (a) The church be dissolved from 15th September 2019
- (b) That the church's building be sold and the proceeds of sale passed to Sawston Free Church.

Nonconformity.

In 1675, six people were presented for not coming to church at Great Abington, and there were six dissenters there in 1676, but none at Little Abington. A Quaker member of the Amy family was imprisoned in 1678 for refusing to pay tithe on wild pigeons. In 1728 Great Abington was said to have five dissenting families, and Little Abington six dissenters; in 1783 Little Abington alone had a dissenting family. Although a house there was registered for dissenting worship in 1798, the parish still included only two dissenting families, both of long standing, in 1825 at Great Abington, the only recorded dissenter was one labourer. In 1826, however, two men registered their houses for such worship, as did a preacher from Linton in 1833. Neither parish had any permanent non-conformist congregation until after the 1870s, when the Congregationalists from Sawston began mission work at Little Abington, having a preaching station there from c. 1888. The vicar believed their main audience to be drawn from immigrant labourers. Although the meeting-house had 60 sittings in 1899 there were only seven full members in 1905 and 10 in 1916. Numbers varied thereafter between five and eight.

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

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

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

It was in 1995 when Little Abington became linked with Sawston Free Church under the ministry of the Rev. Peter Ball.

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

It is with great sadness that it has been recognised this church no longer has the resources to continue to sustain its property and activity. At the meeting where the decision was taken to close this church, representatives of the Parish Church attended and extended both their sympathy and a very warm and heartfelt invitation to join with the Parish Church.

The final act of worship will be a Communion Service, held on Sunday 15th September at 2.30pm and the speaker will be the Rev. Paul Whittle, Moderator of the Eastern Synod. Because of the



limited number of seats available (32), people wishing to attend are urged to contact the minister or the Secretary to ensure that the small chapel is not overwhelmed by number.

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

Rev. Bruce Waldron, Daphne Hannah, Emma Jones, Eileen Redman, Beryl and John Dodsworth, David Rose, Vic Riecanaky, Gladys Cooke, Erick Perrot, Lynne Riecanaky. (Sunday 18th August 2019)

CamCrag News Update

Tentastic Tentfest

The tents we salvage from this summer's festivals will need checking and cleaning before they can be sent on to Calais, but all work and no play makes checking tents a bit boring.

So we thought it would be more fun and very appropriate to have our own mini festival of tent pitching, checking, cleaning and fixing.

Join us on Saturday 14 September from 9am to 5pm. Music and refreshments will be provided.

The event will be held just outside Cambridge - more details and a sign-up form to follow on Facebook and the website in the coming weeks.



Awesome offers to wash salvaged sleeping bags

If we didn't know already what amazing volunteers we have, responses to the call to help wash festival sleeping bags has been truly fantastic. Within hours of posting the request for help we had enough offers to cover them all, including a particularly generous one from Livia Bennett and the parishioners of St Mary's, Great Eversden. Everything is awesome when you are part of a team! We may need to do it all again after Boomtown Festival, depending on how much salvage there is - more info in August via Facebook and the website.

An anonymous CamCrag volunteer submitted this poem following their experience in Calais.

Finding Hope

The morning brightens, the people awake,
Another day, unaware of their fate.
The first to live and then to survive,
The day awaits with nowhere to hide.
The work begins at the crack of dawn,
Like ants in a hill, but without the brawn.
We work together for the common good,
Be it clothes or sewing or sorting or food.

A community constructed in a common bind,
Working together for the love of mankind.
Not judging nor fearing but willing to take
The crowds of humanity that appear in their wake.

Who are we to despair and hate?
When our fellow brother is forced to vacate.
The comforting part of that sweet envelope
Must protect us from all and lead us to hope.

A Quote from Matthew Fox

The crises we find ourselves in as a species require that as a species we shake up all our institutions—including our religious ones—and reinvent them.

Change is necessary for our survival, and we often turn to the mystics at critical times like this. Carl Jung wrote: “Only the mystics bring creativity into religion.” [1]

Jesus was a mystic shaking up his religion and the Roman empire; Buddha was a mystic who shook up the prevailing Hinduism of his day; Gandhi was a mystic shaking up Hinduism and challenging the British Empire; and Martin Luther King, Jr. shook up his country’s tradition and America’s segregationist society.

The mystics walk their talk and talk (often in memorable poetic phraseology) their walk.

Matthew Fox, Christian Mystics: 365 Readings and Meditations (New World Library: 2011), 2-3

Looking back, we can see how Christian faith has shifted its understandings, its emphases, and its focuses in response to crises in the world it was engaging with.

In the early church the focus was on the Christ who crosses barriers, because the followers of the Levitical rules wanted to insist that the new followers of Jesus take on their rules and exclusions.

In the 6th Century, mystics took to the desert to be free of all the power trappings that had accumulated around the church’s structures. In the 16th Century, in response to political power being merged with spirituality, Luther rediscovered individual faith and personal relationship with God, free of the gatekeeper church powers, and the puritans rediscovered autonomy from the political/religious power of the King; Christ alone is Lord and master. It’s even written into the URC’s “Statement of the nature, faith and order of the URC.”

The United Reformed Church declares that the Lord Jesus Christ, the only ruler and head of the Church, has therein appointed a government distinct from civil government and in things spiritual not subordinate thereto, and that civil authorities, being always subject to the rule of God, ought to respect the rights of conscience and of religious belief and serve God’s will of justice and peace for all humankind.

In the 20th Century, in response to the formality and cultural mundaneness of the church, an emphasis on the personal work of the Holy Spirit drew Christians back into an awareness that God was alive and well.

What does the church need to discover, from its great depth and breadth, in this age where God’s creation is being marred and ravaged by human greed and violence? Every species is suffering because of humanity and creation is the artistry, the self-expression of God. People are trashing God’s beautiful self-disclosure and gift.

Over the centuries and the nations, the church's understanding of what "Salvation" means, has also changed dramatically, as has the understanding of how "salvation" is accomplished. The early church seems to have been awestruck that God should step into our humanity. It focussed very strongly on God becoming man and entering into our suffering and death and resurrection, and by this offering to us, in our humanity, a sacredness that is ours if we choose to follow, to be "in" Christ. Salvation was seen as an invitation to union with God by which union of all people was made possible. It was a parody of the Pax Romana that bound all people together under the coercion of Roman rule, but this was a rule of "faith, hope and love, and the greatest was love." Incorporation was "in Christ", not the Emperor: the real Son of God, not the self-proclaimed one.

In the middle ages, using the models of medieval law, salvation was described as absolution from guilt. An offence was not just against another person, but against the king, and someone had to pay the penalty, if not the perpetrator, then a surrogate, probably a member of the perpetrator's family; a practice now illegal under modern law. Salvation was seen as absolution from that penalty because Jesus paid it for us, and the medieval theologians used that model that everyone of that time understood. Just as the Kings edicts had to be obeyed, even by the king, so God's edicts had to be obeyed, even by God; someone had to pay. Hell was like a dungeon, but fiery, and fire was a common means of punishment in those days.

So out of the breadth of our massive Christian heritage, what do we need to discover today, to understand salvation, to understand faith, hope and love? Where in the Scriptures do we find models that will help us comprehend what new truth might break forth from the Word of God for today?

Perhaps part of it might be to realise that when Jesus is asked about the Kingdom of God and when it's coming, he responded by telling stories about sheep, sparrows, women baking bread, people who have unexpected guests arriving, bridesmaids attending weddings and businessmen who get greedy: matters that are confronting us daily in our ordinary living. Maybe we need a re-emphasis on meeting God in the daily round, and treating it and everyone, everything in it as sacred, because "God becoming flesh" makes it clear that God regards matter as sacred, and God indwells what we see as material.

Perhaps we need to go back to Genesis and hear again the creator whose voice is the divine artist bringing creation into being, God's self-expression, demonstrated in the words "**Let us make people in our image**", and awareness of how humanities desire for self-gratification ruins that artistry, that expression of God. And perhaps it might be in seeing Christ's cry of dereliction from the cross and realising that the pain of creation is felt by God, and that your pain is a part of that.

When you can honour and receive your own moment of sadness or fullness as a gracious participation in the eternal sadness or fullness of God, you are beginning to recognize yourself as a participating member of this one universal Body. You are moving from I to We. (Richard Rohr; The Universal God (Kindle): SPCK 2019, p.42)

As I see it ...

by Mike Wilson

As I sit writing version after version of this piece, no matter how hard I try not to, I find myself writing about Hong Kong. It is not surprising. Many horrible things have happened in our world since I became conscious of my life and condition - around 1953 perhaps? - but none of it has impinged physically upon Margaret and me as does the Hong Kong crisis.

Hong Kong is the last in a long series of territories over which the Union Jack once flew and which have subsequently struggled - for example, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Nigeria, Ghana, Aden, Ireland - just a few of a much longer list.

Maybe the British should never have gone into Hong Kong. Certainly the British (in common with many Western powers) should never have waged war and economic ruin upon China in the nineteenth century. Yet Britain and her allies have played a large part, good as well as ill, in what China is today. China forgets that for all that Britain did against her in the nineteenth century, it was Britain and America that waged war on her behalf to expel Japan in 1945. One Major Stanfield, China-born son of a Methodist missionary and now himself a minister in his late nineties, received and signed the Japanese surrender in (the then) Peking on behalf of His Majesty. All of that is forgotten now. The hospitals, schools and colleges founded by the missionaries are forgotten. All that is remembered is the rape and ruin of China during the opium wars, and that the missionaries came in the wake of the soldiers (which is at best a half truth).

There was only a quasi-legality to the permanent ceding of Hong Kong Island to the British in 1842. The equally dubious ninety-nine year 'lease' of the surrounding New Territories expired on 30 June 1997. That year, Chris Patten, the last, departing governor-general signed with the Chinese the current agreement whereby Hong Kong would enjoy a self-governing quasi-independence from mainland China for fifty years, during which there would be 'One Nation, Two Systems'. After that, come what may, Hong Kong would be fully integrated into the Republic of China. The task was to spend the intervening fifty years preparing for that day.

When Patten signed the deal, some believed that by 2047 China would acknowledge that it had much to gain from continuing a 'One Nation, Two Systems' arrangement, and life in Hong Kong would continue much as it always had. Certainly, in 1997, the idea that by 2047 the then rapidly liberalising and outward-turning China would have evolved into the kind of state that would contemplate such a thing was not implausible. Given today's China, much more powerful in economics and weaponry, expansionist, repressive of free speech and personal freedoms, determined to force minority groups (however large, like the Oujias and the Tibetans) into conformity by wholesale coercion, and utterly contemptuous of world opinion, the idea appears laughable.

The Christian population of Hong Kong is about a million, one tenth of the whole. They are divided over the current crisis. True, Christians are conspicuous among the leadership of the current protests, a point not un-noticed in Beijing. Equally true, the leadership of the main denominations are seriously alarmed by the shift from peaceful protest under the law to militant stand-offs with riot police. They deplore a previously impressively united society descending into militant partisanship. They deplore the abandonment by both sides of rule by law under the existing constitution. They deplore the despair and hopelessness of so many of Hong Kong's young that drives them to violent protest. They are advocates of peace, freedom and truth in the name of Christ.

What were the Christian leaders to say in 150 AD as Christians began in huge numbers to defy the Roman authorities and actively seek public martyrdom as enemies of the state? How could they preach against such heroic folly while, at the same time, not appear to acquiesce to and appease a brutal and unjust Imperial regime? Whether they got it right or wrong, the fact remains that early in the 4th century Christianity became the default religion of the Empire, something that must have appeared impossible two hundred years earlier.

The fact is that today there are more Christians in China than members of the communist party, something seemingly impossible in 1951 when the last of the Christian missionaries were expelled by the communist regime.

Today's Christian leaders in Hong Kong (some of whom Margaret and I know), being *Christian* leaders, have to speak for *all* Hong Kongers, not just the activists. They have to speak for and to the legislators, and the police and the judges. (Margaret and I have met one or two of them. Some of them are in the Christian congregations. They are not rogues.) They have to speak not just for and to one million Christians, but for and to ten million Hong Kongers. They have to speak for and to the 30+ million Christians in China. They even have to speak for and to the Chinese leadership in Beijing. This is because they are *Christian* leaders, not just leaders of Christians. And they have to speak in the face of two almost absolute certainties. Firstly, whatever happens in the next few months, there is no way the fragmented, quarrelsome and enfeebled West is going seriously to confront China over a mere ten million former British colonials who live within China, albeit under a second system. Secondly, there is nothing on earth that can stop the ending of 'One Nation, Two Systems' in a mere thirty two years from now.

The more I think about those men and women, and the role they are called to play, the more I pray for them.

Church statement from the Secretary of the Methodist Church in Hong Kong 'Co-signed by 54 Hong Kong church leaders and scholars'

Brothers and sisters in Christ. Peace be with you all.

Today Hong Kong is at a time of crisis. Clashes in society are escalating by the day. In June we experienced two massive protest rallies. In July, on the HKSAR Establishment Day, apart from the protest rally, there was the storming of the Legislative Council building. By the second half of July, we also have the 721 Yuen Long and 728 Western District incidents. During these multiple demonstration clashes, demonstrators charged forward and the police reacted with tougher and tougher measures. Amid all these protests and clashes, the government other than repeating its views and condemnations against the violence, has not really addressed the demands of the people, nor taken any measures to calm down the situation. At the time of writing, Hong Kong is facing the "three strikes" and rallies in all districts intended to force the government to respond to the demands. Hong Kong is like a box full of explosives ready to explode.

We are a group of ministers and scholars from various denominations whose hearts are tied with Hong Kong. We concur with the plain and reasonable demands that are widely supported by the people in Hong Kong. We also hope that these demands will soon get addressed, so that the people in Hong Kong could live in freedom, equality and without fear, and thus can live and work in peace and contentment, and also live out the true word of the Lord. But when the city we live in is bound by fear, lawlessness, brutality, and clashes, how can we turn a blind eye? When we see the young people in a sea of guns and bullets, getting arrested, prosecuted, and their future ruined our hearts ache. Therefore, to the people in Hong Kong, we would like to voice what is in our hearts: Enough! It's time to stop. Blood has already been shed, and we don't want to see any fatality. We hope that both sides in the clashes will calm down and try to find a way out.

We affirm that:

1. Our demands are part of our freedom of speech and should not be taken away. But we plead that when we are expressing our demands, we must exercise restraint, and be persuasive. We do not agree to any brutality that would cause any physical harm.
2. The law enforcement body should abide with their professional code of conduct, with no abuse of power and force, and put the protection of the citizens as its top priority.
3. Whatever their political stands are, any action should be taken with the support and maintenance of the rule of law in mind. The rule of law should be our greatest common devisor.
4. The doer must undo what he has done. The government must take courage to undertake effective measures to resolve this political crisis. If the government continues inactive, not only will there be no end to the clashes, but also it may result in unwarranted sacrifice of life.

(Cont..)

5. We need the truth. Only when the truth is revealed will the clashes lose momentum and eventually be resolved. What we see now is the "yellow " and the "blue", both with their own arguments and different stands. If the truth is laid out in full view, it will be the best way to resolve the dispute and promote reconciliation.

At a time of divergent opinions, we firmly believe that the truth is essential in resolving clashes. We therefore call on the government to take effective measures to put an end to clashes to prevent large scale bloodshed, before Hong Kong is doomed eternally. We believe that a credible committee of inquiry is feasible and an effective way to lead Hong Kong back to the right path. The people in Hong Kong have a right know what has happened, what has gone wrong from the beginning of the "fugitive law" amendment until now. How can it be avoided? The committee can make suggestions for the government to formulate, even legislate, policies to avoid occurrence of similar clashes in the future.

As members of the church, we call on all believers in Hong Kong not to label others because we are all parts of the one body in Christ. Believers with different opinions should worship our same one God under one roof with one heart. What Jesus has created is not a split but one whole body, a group of people who coordinate and support each other. If we stick to our own opinion, and do not seek the righteousness of the kingdom in heaven and unity under the Cross, how can we pray for this city? How can we manifest Christ? Colossians 3:12-15 should be our motto:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (NIV)

May the grace of the Lord, in this time of chaos, be with this city. And may the good of the Holy Trinity, in the love of the believers for each other, bring light to those who have fallen into the darkness. Amen.

August 5, 2019

A gentle reminder about Christmas shoe boxes for Blythswood Care

At the time of writing we don't know when this year's appeal will be launched but could you all please bear in mind that we have been knitting hats suitable for the boxes and these will be available for you to buy fairly soon.

We hope we shall receive your support for the appeal which is always greatly appreciated, thank you.

Friends and members of the Craft Group

Yvonne Sparrow

Please remember the Outside Communion and guided walk:

Sawston Free Church

Picnic, Guided Walk & Communion Service



**2-5 pm, Saturday, 14th September
Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve
Nr Cavendish, CO10 7GA**

Contact Rev Bruce Waldron or Valerie Kerr for more details

Castle Street's Harvest Weekend

Castle Street are celebrating their Harvest Festival on the morning of Sunday 8th September, at which their guest preacher will be Matthew Forsyth from All We Can, the Methodist Church's "relief and development fund" (formerly MRDF).

On the Saturday evening (7th September) we shall be holding another of our popular family barn dances. It's starting at 6pm so as not to be too late for those with children, and there will be a supper with jacket potatoes and fillings (and probably dessert). Tickets will be available from Castle Street stewards, or you can book your place on the Eventbrite website by visiting <https://bit.ly/2OKwYae> (this can also be accessed via the church's Facebook page). Tickets and booking are free of charge (we need to know numbers), but donations are requested on the night – the minimum suggested is £8 per adult or £4 per child: this is a fundraising event as much as a social, and the proceeds will be split between All We Can and the Cherry Homes Trust.

Please contact Chris Rayson for more details cjr43@cantab.net

With best wishes,

Miriam Webb
Circuit Administrator

Inspirational Stories

At certain times in life we may feel insignificant and useless. Surrounded by people with greater talent than ours, we are tempted in our weak moments just to settle back and let somebody else do the work. We reason that what we have to offer won't make much difference anyway. We forget the truth suggested by our Lord's use of five loaves and two small fish to feed a multitude (John 6:1-14).

Each of us has something important to offer in His service.

The Piccolo Player

Sir Michael Costa was conducting a rehearsal in which the orchestra was joined by a great chorus. About halfway through the session, with trumpets blaring, drums rolling, and violins singing their rich melody, the piccolo player muttered to himself, "What good am I doing? I might just as well not be playing. Nobody can hear me anyway." So he kept the instrument to his mouth, but he made no sound. Within moments, the conductor cried, "Stop! Stop! Where's the piccolo?" It was missed by the ear of the most important person of all.

It's much the same way with the use of our abilities for the Lord. Whether our talent is great or small, the performance isn't complete until we do our best with what we have.

-Richard De Haan

The Master needs what you have to offer
No matter if you think it's small
His work on earth is done through His children
So give Him your best, give your all. –Hess

You Have A Part To Play

Each one of God's children
Has a special part to play,
Whether it be great or small,
We are needed every day

If your part seems very small,
Don't feel you're insignificant
Don't feel that you can't offer much
And you wouldn't make a difference

Though you're tempted to give up
And let another take your place,
Remember, God gave you your gifts
And you cannot be replaced

And these gifts that God has given,
He longs for you to share
You're just as important as anyone,
So don't be in despair

The only one who matters most
Is watching for your part,
With much anticipation
And excitement in His heart

So do not disappoint Him
By not taking your cue,
Though you think it unimportant,
This part is made for you

Don't let God walk away
With a disappointed heart
Because you felt so unworthy
Of your very special part

The parts that we've been given
Isn't based on size at all,
But rather on the abilities
And the gifting of the Lord

For each part is important
To make the whole thing work,
So do your part with enthusiasm
And know that you have worth.

© By M.S.Lowndes

Just for fun

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together during church services. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough.

'You're not supposed to talk out loud in church.'

'Why? Who's going to stop me?' Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, 'See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers.'

Sawston Free Church

Craft Group

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

Dates for September: 9th & 23rd. For more detail please contact **Yvonne** 473937 or **Pam** 834220



Flower Rota 2019

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

For more information please contact Rosemary Harriss on 832854

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



Time For Tots at Sawston Free Church

Showing and Sharing God's love

Time for Tots is a church run group for babies and preschool children and their carers. During our weekly session there is time to play, make things, chat, have a drink and snack, have a bible story and sing some songs.

For more information please contact **Rosemary**.

Email: timefortots@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk



Another baby and toddler group you could go along to is Refresh – 2pm-4pm every Monday (except bank holidays) in St Mary's Church. This is a 'drop in' session with refreshments and CAKE!

For more information please contact **Becca**. Email: rebecca.r.herrick@gmail.com

Church Workday – September 14th - 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)



Prayer Meeting

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

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

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

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



Important Dates

Saturday 28 September – Jacob's Ordination & Induction at Crossway URC

Sunday 10 November/Remembrance Sunday – Elders Service

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

Sunday 17 November 10.30am – Bruce's last service – 3 churches

Events for September 2019

Circuit Diary for the CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT



SEPTEMBER			
Sun 1 st	4pm	Welcome service for Revd Catherine Dixon to the Ely and Newmarket Circuit	Ely Methodist Church
Tue 10 th	6.30-9pm	Creating Safer Space Foundation Training All welcome. Free training. Please book in so materials can be prepared for you office@wesleycam.org.uk or 01223 352115	Chesterton Methodist Church
Sat 14 th	See C3 website for details	Seminar for Women in Leadership run by Dr Joanna Williamson, from Methodist Central Hall and Founder of One Rock International https://thec3.churchsuite.co.uk/events/dbsatiwq	C3, Cambridge
Sat 21 st	7.30pm	The Cambridge Clarinet Choir. Tickets £10 from Sue 01763 243815 email walter962@btinternet.com An enthusiastic group of musicians playing various size clarinets to produce an eclectic mix of popular, folk, swing and classical music.	Royston Methodist Church
Tues 26 th	7.30pm	The Life and Times of Simon Gogerly: Grammy award winning music mixer, producer and senior lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University. Tickets £5 from Sue 01763 243815 email walter962@btinternet.com	Royston Methodist Church
Sat 28 th	2.30pm	A Kaleidoscope of Life with Judy Wynn, the flower guild chairman of Ely Cathedral. Tickets £5 from Sue 01763 243815 email walter962@btinternet.com www.ticketsource.co.uk/rmc1	Royston Methodist Church
Sat 28 th	6.15pm for 7pm	Induction of Revd Bill Miller- all welcome but please RSVP by 14 th Sept to administrator@cambournechurch.org.uk 01954 710644	Cambourne Church
Sun 29 th	2.30pm	Friendly Folk with Jancis Harvey, Michael King and David Hayzen Tickets £5 from Sue 01763 243815 email walter962@btinternet.com www.ticketsource.co.uk/rmc1	Royston Methodist Church

ALSO....*Science Meets Faith* restarts on 14th October 2019 at Wesley Methodist Church And save the date for Winter Warmers Concert 4pm 3.11.19 and the 19th Christmas Tree festival 7 & 8th December both at Orwell Methodist Church

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


The 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
Mike Purdy	42 Granta Road, Sawston	830903
Sue Sisk	63 Babraham Road, Sawston	833508
Sue Lelliott	26 Park Road, Sawston	520383
Yvonne Sparrow	25 Edinburgh Ave, Sawston	473937
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	Maggie Jones, 21 Hillside, Sawston	565637
Church Website:	www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/	
Facebook page:	www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch	

Are you looking for...



A conference hall that can seat up to 100
 A venue for a special occasion: birthday party,
 anniversary party, a reception after a wedding,
 a place to gather after a funeral, a baptism or blessing
 Cosy rooms for small groups or counselling
 Rooms or places where people can meet & talk
 A quiet space for spiritual reflection & prayer

Look no further!



We cater for everyone and for a wide variety of events!
 For more information email: bookings@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk
 or contact Maggie Jones – 01223 565637
 Rental costs are between £18 to £25 per hour, including tea and
 coffee making facilities.

The Footprints Café



at
Sawston Free Church

NEW! children's menu

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

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

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

L.A. Kerridge

Painting & Decorating

15 years + Experienced Tradesman
Quality interior & exterior decoration
Artex ceilings smoothed
Free Estimates & Quotes

Telephone 01223 832 745
Mob. 07843 850 484

Sharn Waldron

M. Arts Psychoanalytic Studies; UKCP (FIP).

Psychotherapist in private practice in Sawston.

Appointments available at £60 per session
for individuals, couples and families

Telephone 01223 839867
Email sharn.waldron@gmail.com

Cerberus Security Locksmiths of Sawston



24 hr lockout service
Locks supplied and fitted
Insurance approved - BS3621
UPVC lock specialists

**No call-out fee, OAP discount
Target 30 minute response**

www.cslocksmiths.com

Call us on **01223 902234** or **0800 118 2609**

LINTON VILLAGE MOTORS

01223 830550



- M.O.T Testing
- All makes of vehicles serviced and repaired
- Tyres at competitive prices
- Courtesy car provided
- Polite and friendly staff

Find us in Great Abington
opposite Granta Park

Mon-Fri: 8.30am - 5.30pm
Sat: 8.30am - 12.30pm

www.lintonvillagemotors.co.uk

PEASGOOD & SKEATES

THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE
EST 1847

Purpose built funeral homes with private chapels of rest
Home arrangements available
Funeral pre-planning - A wide range of memorials

Shire Hill & High St
SAFFRON WALDEN
(01799) 523314

45 Moorfield Rd
DUXFORD
(01223) 833463

617 Newmarket Rd
CAMBRIDGE
(01223) 415255

12-14 Queen St
HAVERHILL
(01440) 840140

A personal, caring service from a local business day or night
www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk



43 High Street, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3BG
Tel: 01223 832939 Fax: 01223 837310

email: enquiries@adams-harrison.co.uk
website: www.adams-harrison.co.uk

**YOUR LOCAL SOLICITOR
FOR ALL YOUR LEGAL SERVICES**
Offices also in Saffron Walden & Haverhill

pb Price Bailey

**The right advice
for your business life**

- Accounting
- Audit & Assurance
- Payroll
- Pensions & Employer Services
- Tax Compliance & Consultancy

T: 01223 565035 E: cambridge@pricebailey.co.uk pricebailey.co.uk

NK Carpentry & Building Services

All aspects of carpentry

All types of conversions

Garden offices

Loft ~ barn

Garage

Decking

Fencing



Renovations

Alterations

Extensions

Plastering

Annexes

Nick Karpuk

07936 407532

nkcarpentry@googlemail.com

STEVE
the **PLUMBER**

Steve the Plumber is a friendly, reliably, locally based Plumber that would love to help you out!

All those jobs you thought weren't worth getting someone out for I would love to do for you.

No job is too small (individually priced at great rates)

Call or click:

07803 922517

www.stevetheplumbersawston.co.uk

H J PAINTIN LTD FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Personal attention assured at all times
24 Hour Service

8, MORLEY'S PLACE, SAWSTON, CAMBRIDGE
Tel: 01223 830065

43, HIGH STREET, LINTON, CAMBRIDGE
Tel: 01223 891226

60, WITHERSFIELD ROAD, HAVERHILL
Tel: 01440 703218

Private Chapels of Rest : Estimates given
Golden Charter Pre-Payment Funeral Plans
Memorials supplied and erected in any area



www.hjpaintin.co.uk

You can advertise here.

**You can have a single advert,
a double advert, or a group of four.**

We will prepare the artwork for free!

For details contact the editor

contact@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk