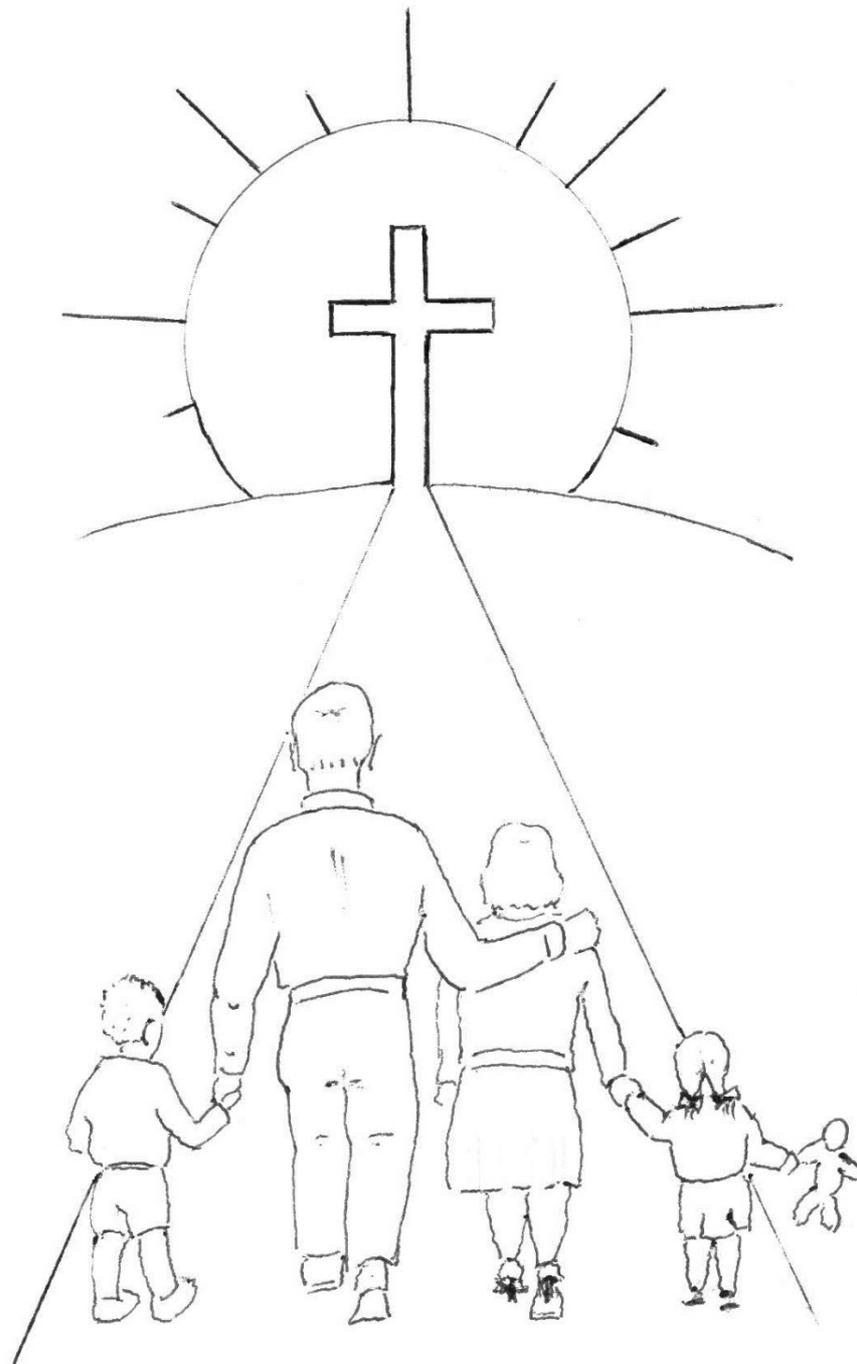


# CONTACT

September 2017



Volume 58 - 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.

<b>Sunday</b>	Every Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of month  2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month  3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of month 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 <b>No evening service</b> Holy Communion as part of Morning Worship Quiet Time with God Evening Communion Go4th Praise Service ( <b>No evening service</b>
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
<b>Sun 3 Sept</b>	10.30am: Morning Worship - Penny Flynn 3pm: Messy Church	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mrs Wendy Roe	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Mike Wilson
<b>Sun 10 Sept</b>	10.30am: Stewards Of God's Resources – Justice -Rev Bruce Waldron 6pm: Quiet Time	10.15am: Holy Communion - Mr Bob Parkin	10.30am: Morning Worship - Dr. Janet Bottoms
Mon 11 Sept t	10am: Craft Group (page 18 )		
Sat 16 Sept	Work Day: 8pm – 1pm (Page 18)		
<b>Sun 17 Sept</b>	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron 6pm: Evening Communion - Rev Bruce Waldron	10.15am: Harvest Festival - Rev Mike Wilson	10.30am: Family Service - TBA
<b>Sun 24 Sept</b>	10.30am: Morning Worship - Rev Bruce Waldron 6.30pm: Go4th Waldron / Purdy	10.15am: Morning Worship - Mr Bryan Ellicott	10.30am: Morning Worship - Mrs Maureen Kendall
Mon 25 Sept	10am: Craft Group (page 18 )		

This diary appears on the website. If you know of anything else you would like on the web diary, email: [contact@sawston.com](mailto:contact@sawston.com)

### Rotas

	Car	Flowers		Car	Flowers
September 3	John Conway 833953		September 17	Gordon Heald 833983	
September 10	John Newton 562873		September 24	Tony Moss 834220	

The closing date for **October Contact** is **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September.**

**David Nunn is the editor , so please email your items  
to [contact@sawston.com](mailto:contact@sawston.com) or [anne.nunn@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.nunn@btinternet.com)**

# Contact

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

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www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk  
www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch

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## From the minister's Desk



Whoops. I just used a small m for minister in the line above. I wonder if our Contact Editor will correct me?

I do often find myself corrected by people who are looking at documents I write and sometimes they have little red pens that they use to put strokes through things they think are not quite right, and the m is not infrequently crossed out and a red "M" inscribed boldly above it. Old schoolteachers are classic at that. But, the sad thing is, for us pedants in URC ministry, the lower case is intentional. Here's why.

If you look through the URC Manual and read the passage on "ministry" you will be confronted by this affront to your primary school English teacher's training in almost every line. Why? Because in the URC there is a conscious effort to forego title, rank and hierarchy in every sense. So you would find that when jobs are being advertised in the URC at management levels, there are two salary scales advertised. There is a salary, which might be quite good, if the post requires a high level of skill and authority, to attract lay people with those skills of course, but if an ordained minister is appointed, then the minister is paid a basic stipend. A moderator, a minister in a management role in London, a 'umble country parson' such as myself, simply receive a stipend.

There is an acknowledgement that people are called to different roles, to different responsibilities, but there is no hierarchy, no pay scale, and we are simply ministers. The term describes the function, not a title. So in The Manual, it is written how some people are "called to the ministry of Word and Sacrament." Did you notice the words that were capitalised? Others are "called to be elders..." and again, exactly the same logic prevails. It is not an office one is given, but a function to which God calls people, and response is about service, not status, so the m, or the e, is small, not large. Whatever the function God gives us, it is the faithfulness of service to Christ that matters, not what the service is. There is no hierarchy in Christian service, only our love and dedication to Jesus.

This means of course, that every person's service to God is a holy ministry, deserving of equal honour. As the apostle Paul said, whatever you do, do it as unto the Lord, (Colossians 3:23) and may God bless you richly in your ministry. By the way, Colossians 3 is really worth a read if you have a few spare moments.

**So next time you see me write "minister" or "elder", please don't correct me. I am already being 'theologically' correct.**

## STEWARDS OF GOD'S RESOURCES- Justice

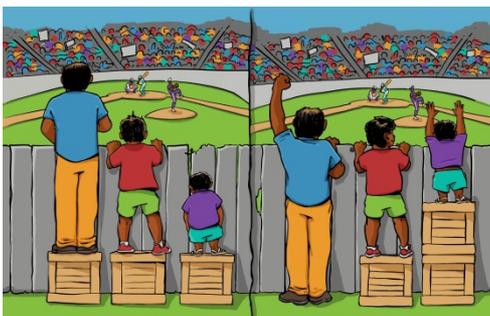
**Stewardship is about the relationship between Christian living and Christian giving.**

*God gives everything to everyone, for God loves everyone equally  
Our response is to share what God has given and treat everyone with respect.*

My father had a life-long fascination with the law. One of his favourite pastimes during his lunch break whilst working in the City of London was to spend it in the public gallery at the Old Bailey. Saturday morning family breakfasts usually included an analysis or debate about the law reports in The Times the preceding week. Then when he retired, Dad studied for a law degree for 'fun'. However, I can also remember him saying, on more than one occasion, that "Justice is what you get in the next life; you have to make-do with the law in this one".

Our social understanding of what justice means is intrinsically tied up with the judicial system under which we live. Justice, in these terms, is about balancing the scales so that wrongs committed are offset by an agreed penalty. In our legal system that usually involves a financial fine and/or loss of liberty through removal from society into a restricted prison environment. Although, as my father frequently observed, the theatre and intellectual argument and nuances of the legal system mean that the decisions of criminal courts are not always those that reflect 'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth'. Outside of the judicial system 'justice' is often understood in terms of revenge. This can be seen in the baying anger of those who sling insults (and worse) at prison vans carrying violent child and sex offenders or the treatment meted out by vigilantes when they feel that the law has failed to do 'justice'.

Justice, from its root etymology, is also about fairness. It is about the fair sharing of resources and fair dealings with people. Fairtrade, a living wage and equal opportunities are just a few examples of how fair treatment is sought on both a local and a global scale. However, what is seen to be fair is often subjective being based on current personal situation and previously developed preconceptions. In the week that I write this the police have defended their decision to use a convicted child rapist as a paid informant to secure the arrest and prosecution of seventeen men in a Newcastle sex abuse gang. The police saw this as a 'fair' means to justify an end. Others vehemently disagreed. What is 'fair' is not always clear cut. Fairness, in simple terms, is often aligned with equality but an equal division of resources is not always the fairest thing to do. Confused? The following illustration will explain this better than a thousand words can:



The theology of stewardship, however, challenges us to share God's justice. God's way, as we know, is not the way of the world. Likewise, God's justice is not the same as the world's understanding of justice. The United Reformed Church in its Statement of Nature, Faith and Order includes the declaration that we must put God's way before the law of the land if necessary. 'We believe that Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state. In things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to the state, but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only Ruler and Head.'

God's justice, in terms of fairness, is based on abundance. God is bountiful in His gifts to us and to respond likewise calls for abundance and generosity beyond equal or expected measure. God's justice, in terms of past wrong, is characterised by grace not punishment or revenge. Every single second that the broken world has impacted negatively on a life is seen, I think, by God as a mitigating circumstance in that moment when we come to meet Him face-to-face. My daughter, Victoria, introduced me to the following story that illustrates this and God's justice well. St Peter is standing at the gates of heaven with his 'tick list' as to who is allowed in that day. When he turns round he says to the angel beside him, 'I don't understand. It's the same every day. There are more people in here than I've let in.' The angel replies, 'I know. It's that Jesus He keeps bringing people in over the wall'.

**Faith Paulding**

## Messages From Castle Camps and Lt Abington



September is here once again. We hope you have enjoyed the summer holidays and if you have been away, we trust you had a relaxing time.

A lot of children will be starting school for the first time, with many changing schools and going to university. We wish you all well as the new term commences.

We had a very interesting United Service at the end of July that was taken by John Luke and Ian Fisher.

The same evening, we had our Summer Songs of Praise. This was led by Bruce Waldron with the theme "The Abundance of God's Grace." We welcomed Richard Hart and the choir of St Mary's Church, Haverhill and we were particularly enchanted by a solo that was sung by their youngest chorister, aged nine. We were pleased to see so many of our friends from Sawston, and Little Abington.

The proceeds of the service went to the Red Cross Appeal for Grenfell Tower and we also gave a separate donation to Dr Arbide from Linton Health Centre in recognition of his swim across the English Channel in August, to raise funds for primary care research through the Cambridge based charity, Melanoma Focus. By the time you read this, Dr Arbide's swim will have been completed and we trust that it went well.

Our Harvest Festival is on 1<sup>st</sup> October and we shall have a Songs of Praise in the evening led by Bruce Waldron with Richard Hart on the organ and St. Mary's choir. We hope to see you all there.

Currently, Rita Cottage is in hospital. We wish her well and send her our love.

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

***Mary and Friends.***

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### Water, Water Everywhere, And Not A Drop To Drink

*- Originally appeared in August 2008*

All utility bills are likely to increase, but when our water bill dropped through the letterbox we were not too apprehensive as we are very careful with water and waste very little. We have had a metered supply for all the 35 yrs we have lived here and metering certainly makes us very conscious of what we use.

Imagine our horror on opening the bill to find that it was almost eight times the normal amount! Shock horror.

The water board or whatever they call themselves now wanted £400 to come out and investigate as any possible leak was our side of the meter and therefore our responsibility.

We immediately switched off the supply and searched .The obvious place was where the main enters the house and so we started digging. Alleluya! Right first time.



One of our sons is a very good amateur plumber and helped us to install a new main as the old one was almost porous and quite rotten. The parts were a fraction of the expected cost of professional help and installation. However for almost a week we had no water at all.

We are a resourceful family and have water butts all over the place and there are two conveniently just outside the back door.

It is hard to imagine how often we reach for the tap in the course of a day, or flush the lavatory or wash our hands.

To clean our teeth or wash ourselves or take a shower became a question of:

- 1) Is it antisocial not to?
- 2) How little water can we get away with?
- 3) Where do we get it from?
- 4) Is it really necessary?

We used water from the butt to wash ourselves and flush the loo. We boiled water to wash up. We carried water jugs upstairs to the bathroom. I quite enjoyed using a jug and bowl set I have had for years, it is so pretty and I`m sure it enjoyed being useful again.

Cooking and drinking had to be clean water. Both our sons harvest rainwater for everything and use ultraviolet sterilisation for drinking and cooking so we filled containers up daily for that. We showered in our children's homes, and it is lovely to shower and wash your hair in rainwater, much nicer than softened water even.

Our minds were really concentrated by having to think about these things we usually take so much for granted.

The madness of pouring gallons of pure drinking water down the lavatory each day really struck home. The waste of rain falling for free and not being used seemed quite ridiculous. The thought that so many people in the world have to carry every drop of water they use made us ashamed.

I only had to go out to the butt, but at least I did not have to balance it on my head and walk for miles carrying contaminated water home to my family. I did not attempt to do the laundry as I knew our supply would soon be reconnected but many have to carry water for that task too.

We began to enjoy being frugal but it is easy to be cheerful when you can see an end to it. A week was long enough I think.

I would therefore like to congratulate the young people who recently raised money to "Turn on the Tap". Water is such a vital thing and we rarely give it a thought. Perhaps once a month we should have a dry day to remind us of how spoilt and fortunate we are.

**Valerie Spencer**

## 3:4 Our World Today: A reflection

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### Water in the wilderness

We pray for those living with the misery of drought,  
in lands where rivers and streams are dry  
and wells are drained and empty.

We pray for engineers and aid workers  
using their skills and resources  
to bring clean, safe water and health to villages.  
God, who gives water in the wilderness,  
give life and hope in a thirsty world.

We pray for those living with the threat of floods.  
We pray for families building fragile shelters from year to year,  
whose homes and livelihoods are at risk from rising waters.  
We pray for communities where water is **polluted**  
bearing death and disease instead of life.  
God, who gives water in the wilderness,  
give life and hope in a perilous world.

When we complain about rain,  
leave the tap running, and buy our water in **plastic bottles**,  
we ask that you will forgive our complacency.  
May we learn to be grateful for your generosity,  
and active in sharing the resources of your **earth more freely**.  
God, who gives water in the wilderness,  
give life and hope in a divided world.

*Jan Berry*



## Prayer Diary for September: Stewards of God's Resources: Justice

- **Week 1** 1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>
  - For many parents it is a worrying time as they have not been able to get the schools they wanted.
  - For many teachers it is a difficult time, and as Katherine Kendall, the new Head Teacher at Bellbird takes up her position, we pray for her and for the staff and students, particularly in this changeover time.
  - Please pray for the Messy Church team who will be working hard on Sunday afternoon with all the that they have been planning over the last few weeks. Do pray for them please.
  - Time for Tots will be resuming and we remember that team of people in our prayers , and pray for them on Thursday as all the mums and dads come along with all the children and hear the story of Jesus and the children. We pray for children who suffer from abuse, neglect, or the brutality of poverty.
  - Tuesday, Fabric Committee meet. Thursday, the elders meet. Please pause to pray for both groups of people, and particularly for the elders as Chris Sales takes up again his responsibilities as serving elder, to which position he was inducted in August.
  - On Tuesday morning, the Synod's Mission Council will be meeting. Please pray for these people who give of their time and energy for the sake of service to Christ in the councils of the church.
- **Week 2** 10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>
  - Quiet Time is a lovely reflective service. Please pray for the person leading it and the people attending this worship service.
  - On Monday night, the members of the church meet to seek together God's will and direction for the church. Please pray for Bruce as he chairs the meeting, and for each person who comes, that they will be responsible to God in all they say and do.
  - On Tuesday night, Brigades will be meeting for the first time this academic year. Marius Mada will be starting as leader of the Anchors group. David will be beginning as BB Captain. Tonight there will be a joint devotions to start the year. Please take a moment to stop and pray for Brigades tonight.
  - On Saturday night, St. Mary's church will be running their Big Issues programme. We pray for our sister church in all that they do. We give thanks for brothers and sisters of different Christian traditions who share our love for Christ and our desire to serve Him.
  - In this month of Stewardship – focussing on Justice, we pray for people who are denied justice because of wars that others are fighting, because of fear that bars them from any place to call home, because of economic exploitation that delivers cheap resources to the wealthy and denies minimum living standards to the disempowered and poor.
- **Week 3** 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - This Sunday, Little Abington URC are celebrating their Harvest Festival with Mike Wilson leading the service. Castle Camps URC are having a family service. We hold both of these churches in our prayers as they seek to faithfully serve Christ.
  - On Monday night our Brigades Captains team are meeting with Faith to pray and think through the ministry that Brigades offers on behalf of Christ. Please keep David and Lucy and Sue and Faith in your prayers.
  - This week, Castle Camps church meeting will be held on Tuesday afternoon. Please pray for this church and their office holders as they consider their mission and calling.
  - On Saturday morning in London, Green Advocates (apostles) will be meeting from the URC's 13 synods. Please pray for these people. In the 20/20 Vision, it states that the environment is the world's single most pressing issue. So often it has such low profile one could imagine that it was of only passing interest. And yet every creature on the planet is affected.
  - We pray for the awareness to be able to only purchase goods that support fair-trading, and to avoid buying goods that support sweatshops and exploitative work practices, condemning people to lives of poverty and labour misery.

- **Week 4 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - This Sunday evening, Mike Purdy and Bruce Waldron will be using their musical skills for Christ, leading a time of prayer and praise and worship as people gather to sing their praises to God. Please pray for Mike and Bruce, for Marius who does the projecting, for John who does the sound and Peter who helps to lead the singing.
  - At the end of this week, our representatives from Sawston Free Church will be meeting with representatives of Papworth Trust. Please pray for the people at this meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - On Saturday morning God has blessed us with the skills of Jane Bower, who is coming to help us learn how to increase our effectiveness at using our voices in worship. We give thanks to God for Jane and pray for the people who will be there, giving time and energy because they wish to improve their ability to serve Christ using the spoken word in worship.
  - As this month of focus on Justice comes to a close, we pray that God will have touched our hearts and minds with an awareness of how we can work with God for His just purposes.

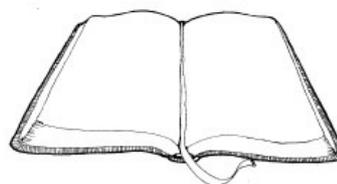
## **The Spoken Word in Worship with Jane Bower**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 10-12.30 at Sawston Free Church**

In any service we do for Christ, we give him nothing but our best. This morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> September is a wonderful opportunity to make more effective our service to Christ in using the spoken word in worship.

So if you are an elder, a reader, or someone who leads worship in some other capacity, this is a wonderful opportunity.

Jane Bower is a URC Elder, vocal coach and actress.  
Jane will help us to read aloud to the best of our ability  
in this relaxed, enjoyable morning, so building our confidence.



Please let Rev Bruce Waldron know if you plan to come.  
Tel 01223 836786 Email: [revbruce@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:revbruce@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk)

## Christian Aid in Cambridgeshire

My name is Pam Richardson and I am the new Legacies Regional Coordinator for Christian Aid in Cambridgeshire. I have taught in secondary schools for the last twenty-five years, but now I am looking forward to working with groups and churches throughout Cambridgeshire and beyond to further the work of Christian Aid.



Christian Aid's belief is that every single human being is created in the image of God and so deserves infinite respect and care, and a life of dignity and worth. We also believe that the continued existence of poverty and inequality in such a plentiful world is a scandal that must be ended.

*(Nejebbar and her husband Noor, who fled Afghanistan and are being supported by Christian Aid's partners in a refugee camp in Greece)*

We work for and with people of all faiths and none to ensure that people who are living in poverty and marginalised people have the security, livelihoods, food, power and rights they need to live life to the full. We bring urgent support to those in crisis and we also invest in long term programmes of change, helping communities to become more resilient, to have better access to services like healthcare, and to flourish economically. We also campaign for justice relentlessly to ensure a more equal sharing of power in the world.



My job is two-fold:

one, to encourage and support those who already support Christian Aid in Cambridgeshire and to encourage others to do so and,  
two, to encourage supporters to consider continuing their giving beyond their life by leaving a legacy, enabling the work they believed in to continue as the culmination of a lifetime of generous planned giving.

Please contact me to talk about the work of Christian Aid in ending poverty.

*Plant stall at St Neots*



## Thank You..

Alan and Betty would like to thank everyone for their love, prayers and the help that they have received over the last months. It is so much appreciated.  
We have had offers of help, taxis' to hospital and help in the garden, plus calls etc etc. If we wrote everything down then Contact would be pages long. The whole Church family is amazing and we love you all.

*Alan and Betty Cleveland*

## News of Erin and Steve Pleasance

As most of you will know we were really fortunate and finished our holiday this year by staying with Erin and Steve in Vancouver. They are still the warm and friendly, truly Christian couple that we remembered, making us so welcome in their home. Naturally they live a busy life with three small children, fitting the different schedules into their own working lives. Somehow they also managed to fit in showing us so much of their interesting city and surroundings. We had such fun getting to know their delightful little family, Kaitlin 6, Abbie 4 and Daniel just 2. We will treasure our memories of them all for a long time.

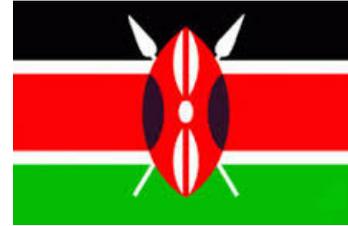
They enjoyed reading the various messages we took from everyone and they hope to visit Sawston again sometime. **Thank you so much Erin and Steve.** We know you will be looking at this on line!

*Rosemary and Martin Harriss*



## Maasai News Update

It's the middle of the school year in the Maasai community of Olepolos. The latest newsletter has stories about small changes that make big differences, Kenyan runners, Scouts, teaching parents through songs and much more.



Simple changes can sometimes make big improvements. The school has always had a 'feeding programme' where the Maasai children are given morning porridge (watery boiled maize meal) and a vegetarian lunch – meat is expensive. The new head teacher noticed that most of the children have no breakfast before coming to school so moved the morning porridge to the start of the school day. Result – a big improvement in the children's concentration and behaviour, at no extra cost!

We now have around 180 sponsors educating the 209 children at the school. We all think about maths and science when education is mentioned but there are spin off benefits. Diana Siamanta from the eldest class writes about some of the benefits of education:

*“Long time there was no education in Maasai community. Further on now education has reached our land. This education has brought many changes to our community. Long time ago Maasai used to circumcise girls but when education came we refused because of the knowledge we are gaining from our teachers. FGM has brought many effects to girls life. Education has also stopped early marriages which they used to marry small girls to old men.”*

The school has owned laptop computers for some time but slowly they are being incorporated into lessons and lesson plans. Teacher Edgar is taking on the difficult task of moving the ICT project forwards; getting the IT illiterate teachers to now do all their planning on the computers and integrate computers into their lessons. This has saved a lot of money because previously, all the teachers' resources had to be purchased from the Kenyan Education department.

Anyone who follows athletics will know that Kenya produces some world class runners. We are thrilled to discover we have an excellent runner in school. Everlyne Naisula, aged 12 is now the county champion at 500m. Running at county level brings its own challenges – transport and costs. The family cannot help financially so the school has to pay for all the costs of taking her to the championships. We have shoes for Everlyne but many of the children she runs against run bare foot.



Not every child is an expert runner so the school is keen to have other activities at sports day. Does anyone have any older style sports equipment they can donate – sack races, egg and spoon, three legged races etc. It needs to be small because of suit case space.

Janet and Derek recently visited the school and orphanage, bringing with them a £20 donation from a local church. The children in the children's home / orphanage all had a new top, shorts and flipflops. £20 can go a long way in the local Kenyan shops. A few comments from Loise Metian, one of the girls in the children's home:

*“At school we eat enough food than at home  
At school the sleeping place is very good than the skins of animals at home.  
At home I was wearing dirty clothes but at school I wear clean clothes.”*

All the school children are encouraged to develop non-educational skills so we are pleased to see most of the children enrolling in scouts. First aid was taught to the children and they had a 3 day camp (in tents) at school.

To widen the skills of the children, a number of school clubs have been started. The music club has the added benefit of educating the wider community through song and dance. Most of the parents in the area are illiterate so the music club perform their songs in the community to teach the parents about the effect of drugs, HIV and the effects of FGM. They recently performed in front of the Deputy President of Kenya.

The walking and hiking club gives the children an interest in their wider area as well as non classroom learning and bonding.

The art club teaches art – something missing from the Kenyan curriculum so not covered in normal Kenyan lessons. Donors have sent most of the art materials.

The local weather has continued to be a challenge. The rainfall over the past 2 years is well below average and there is very little vegetation for the animals. Most Maasai do not have any paid jobs; they scratch a living from raising goats and cows. There are no cows left in the area due to the lack of grass and most goats are just about surviving by eating leaves. Many are dying. The drought is country wide and the cost of basic foods is rapidly increasing. You cannot sell an emaciated animal so money in the area is very tight. There is unlikely to be any rain before November so things will just become worse over the next few months.



We mentioned in the November 2016 newsletter that the school borehole, installed in 2013 had pumped over 4M litres of water, enough to fill 12 large swimming pools. A few weeks ago it suffered its first major breakdown. We thought the pump, 150m (500 feet) down inside the borehole had broken, but on removing it we found a broken metal adaptor. A simple fix and the solar pump is now working again. The lack of rain is making all our boreholes struggle to pump enough water. Demand increases and the water table in the surrounding area has reduced. Water from this borehole has been slowly reducing, year on year. In this dry area of Kenya, a 150m deep borehole is just not deep enough!



The project to repair the many broken hand pumps in Kenya continues. We are now getting closer to 300 repaired pumps. With each pump serving say 200 people, that is another 50-60,000 people with clean water.

**As always, a massive thank you to all the donors and helpers as without you, these projects would not be happening.**

## Ages and Ages

Sharn and I are passing another milestone in early October. On the 7th it will be 45 years since we stood up in a little Baptist Church in Coolaroo, a northern suburb of Melbourne, and promised to love, honour and cherish each other until death do us part.

Along the journey we've had two children, four grandchildren, circumnavigated the planet numerous times, had the most amazing experiences of communities on both sides of the world, and grown extraordinarily in our faith and understanding as the years have rolled by.

I often look back on what I thought and did when I was young, with a mix of horror and amazement. To think that I thought that!!! To think that I believed that!!! I often wish I could do those days again, but with the knowledge I have now, the wisdom I've gained along the way, the things I've jettisoned along the way. But only the years, and the experiences, and the wrestling with faith, with understanding, and yes, with yourself, can bring those shifts that are the blossoms of aging.

I think that God gives us this gift of life, with all of its challenges, because it is only in the process that we become. We can't do it any other way. I know a woman who won't let her child cry. Every yelp is met with pick-ups and cuddles and attention. The child is going to struggle because the struggle that is life, that is essential for development, isn't being allowed.

I know another couple who are having the same problem we had with our daughter when she was little. She would not go to sleep. We tried everything we know how. I wish I'd known then what this wise young mum knows. She lets the child yell, a bit, then goes in and reassures, then lets him yell a bit longer, then goes in and reassures. The child knows she is always there, but also knows that she doesn't just fix it for him.

He has to learn to deal with this part of life, but mum and dad are still there, but he must learn to deal with it, and the autonomy that is being learned is the start of that journey to being all he can be. I'm sure that living is about that, and God our creator gives us this experience, with all of its joys and struggles, as a precious gift, and even when we are in the dark, God is still there. Does this remind you of Psalm 23. It's worth reading, again.

**Bruce**

It is said that one of the objections to Christianity in our post-modern age is that Christianity is driven by guilt. Guilt suggests rules. We live in an age, it is said, where personal freedom is the litmus test of everything. The post-modern attitude says: 'I have a right to be me, and to do what I want to do. Maybe sometimes it goes wrong, and maybe I regret that. But that is my judgement of myself.' Guilt comes when other people try to impose their values on my life. In the new world, my friends, that is just not on. Moral freedom is everything these days.

Sadly, I was born before the post-modern age, and equally sadly, I am a child of the Christian religion. The ideas of sin, of wandering from the path, and of grieving the heart of God are carved deeply on my soul. They feel as if they come from inside, but only because they first came in from outside. I've learnt the gospel stories, and I've tried to tune my heart to the heart of God, and so on. My usual difficulty is knowing whether to feel guilty or not.

For instance .....

I ordered a new mobile phone. A lovely (utterly baffling) shiny thing arrived, and it occurred to me that it needed protection from my dropping it on the pavement. I ordered on ebay a black, natty-looking little 'leather' case, specially made for my model, complete with handy lanyard - £4.50p. It arrived from Hong Kong surprisingly quickly. Problem - it didn't fit my model of phone. All the holes were in the wrong places. It took me about an hour to work out how to complain to ebay, but complain I did. Hong Kong offered me a 50% discount. I said 'No.' They said 'Oh well, have a complete refund. We don't want the wallet returned, thank you.'

Meantime, I had found another phone case on ebay, this time without a wallet, but with a plastic case-surround and a guaranteed unbreakable armour-plated glass front - £3.75p. It arrived from somewhere in China, but sadly, the glass front was about half an inch narrower than the phone. This time complaining was a far quicker business. They offered me a 50% discount. I refused. They said 'Oh well, have a complete refund. We don't want the case returned, thank you.'

So now I had two, free, unusable phone cases. BUT, by carefully carving new holes in the wallet, and gluing the plastic case-surround into it, I have manufactured a really excellent phone case. It has cost me absolutely nothing. Have I, I wonder, innocently stumbled upon a legal method of obtaining small items at no cost?

QUESTION (only Christians need answer): ***Should I feel guilty?***

My answer is a stout 'No!', but strangely, every time I pick up my phone, I do - just a little.

## A Service Of Thanksgiving For Pets And Their Families.

Our secretary told us this morning at worship, that it is easier to just call it a Pet's Service. She may have a point. I think I have a pet, but I get his food, clean his paws, brush his coat, pick up his poo, make sure he has bedding and water; just who is on the top of this pile? But they are a blessing to us, aren't they, and we hope we are a blessing to them too.

One thing is for certain, in our relationship with animals, God is involved. They are blessed by our love or cursed by our lack of it. They move us to compassion and they comfort us when we are in trouble. There is something immensely numinous about our love shared with pets. Genesis has animals and people being created on the same day, male and female, after their kind, and then people are given responsibility for them.



In the Garden of Eden, animals are created by God because it isn't good for man to be alone, and God brings them all to the person to name them, as companions. That implies a very God-focussed relationship between us and animals.

So, what happens at a "Pet Service", to use the secretary's short-hand.

At this one, after a hymn, we named our pets, and how they are a blessing to us. We talked about our gratitude to God for our animals, and thanked God for the blessing to us that they are. We sang another hymn and then we told stories about how pets bless us and others, and then we had another prayer, where we prayed not only thanking God for all the fun things we'd just been remembering but those people who care for the lost and abandoned and frightened and lonely animals.

And we remembered in our prayer those people who in their caring roles have to let animals go back to God. We named our animals before God, and some people who our thinking about animals had called to our mind.

Then we blessed each other, and our animals are, of course, included in the blessing.

*Bruce*

## Hymns and Hymn Writers - Charles Wesley : 1707 – 1788

*An Article from Contact June 1965*

Charles Wesley, brother of the famous John Wesley the founder of Methodism, has been called undisputedly the greatest of English hymn writers. He is reckoned to have composed more than 7,000 hymns altogether!

Some of his most famous hymns are:

Hark the Herald Angels Sing  
Love Divine, all loves excelling  
Jesus, Lover of my Soul  
O for a thousand tongues to sing  
Christ the Lord is risen today  
Soldiers of Christ arise  
Rejoice, the Lord is King  
Ye servants of God your master proclaim  
O Thou who camest from above

In fact, there is a long list of almost every conceivable theme which has been used by Wesley in the vast number of hymns he wrote!

He went to the Westminster School, a tough experience for a young boy in those days, but he displayed a courage which was to stand him in good stead in later life when he and his brother, John, often had to face hostile mobs.

Afterwards, Charles went to Christ Church College, Oxford, where he and his brother became members of the 'Holy Club' of which George Whitefield, the famous preacher, was a member. Its activities were regulated by "such a concise system and methodical arrangement" that the members were called "Methodists" in fun, and of course this name later became the title of the connexion founded by John and Charles Wesley.

The two brothers went to America on an unsuccessful mission between 1733 and 1737. On their return to England they became friendly with a Moravian missionary, and both were converted in 1738. Then they joined George Whitefield and the great religious crusade known as the "Evangelical Revival" began. It has been said that John was the calm general that directed operations. Charles was the brilliant cavalry leader who plunged into the thick of the fray.

Charles' hymns were the hymns of the Evangelical Revival and he often led the singing himself, having a fine singing voice. There are stories of the miners of Kingswood, near Bristol, with tears streaming down their faces blackened from the pits, listening to the preaching of Whitefield and singing the hymn of Wesley.

Charles Wesley's hymns were written "for the moment" and that is why they are full of the present tense, and of imperatives and commands. They are the hymns of a movement that in all probability saved England from a revolution in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, according to the judgement of a reputable historian.

Charles Wesley died in Marylebone, London in 1788 at the age of 81 and was buried in the churchyard of St. Marylebone. He declared himself to be still a loyal member of the Anglican Church – "I have lived and I die in the Communion of the Church of England, and I will be buried in the yard of my parish church".

He was probably the most prolific hymn writer who ever lived.

**Rev. J M Forster**

## Canaan Summer Update and Goodbye



It is with the whole spectrum of emotions that I am writing you my final newsletter. The time has come for me (Fiona) to say goodbye!! And I am happy to say that I am leaving with a host of great memories after what has got to be one of our most fun packed terms yet.

Due to the success of some taster workshops we ran last term, we decided to explore our creativity some more with a visual arts project and choir which culminated in our first Summer Showcase. We had a display of artwork exploring the theme "Dream of Life", which had been made individually and collaboratively and included painting, collage, and 3D story boxes. Over the course of the project, the girls really enjoyed the freedom and connection they experienced from working on pieces as a group, experiencing new art materials and having space to think and talk through their hopes and fears about the future in a safe and supportive space.

And after only a handful of rehearsals our Cranbrook choir took the stage and performed a programme of songs from musical hits and pop song medleys to a powerful civil rights freedom song. They navigated some tricky harmonies like pro's and we had several great soloists. This project was another great means through which the girls could explore and express a whole variety of emotions and to discover the beauty, joy and power of what can be produced when a group of individuals join their voices together.

We were really grateful to the crowd of supporters, from parents and school staff to friends young and old, who came and provided us with a brilliant audience and celebrated the girls' achievements with us. We hope this was the first Showcase of many!!

And so I leave you in Tessa and Annie's capable hands. It has been a total privilege and joy to serve and journey with all the amazing young people I have encountered during my time at Canaan Project. If I have had half the impact on them that they've had on me then I am satisfied. And as I look back I am also incredibly grateful to the countless colleagues, volunteers, partners, trustees, funders and friends I've had the pleasure and privilege of working with and whose passion for young people has been a constant inspiration. Any success of mine is also theirs.

Thank you all again for your interest, encouragement and support during my time here and I wish the project, its team and wonderful girls all the very best as they journey onwards together.

***Fiona Harriss***

***I should like to thank Fiona for finding the time to keep us updated about the news and activities of the Canaan Project.***

***I am sure that Fiona will soon find herself immersed in another project and maybe we will hear about it in the future.***

***David***

## Statement in support of Fairtrade mark following launch of Sainsbury's Fairly Traded range

30 June 2017

The Revd John Proctor, general secretary of the United Reformed Church, has made the following statement regarding the news that the Fairtrade Foundation is unable to accredit Sainsbury's new Fairly Traded range of tea products with its official mark.



'Over the past two decades, the United Reformed Church has been proud to support the work and aims of The Fairtrade Foundation, which seeks to improve the wages and working conditions for farmers and workers in developing countries.

'The Fairtrade Foundation's vision of a world in which all producers can enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods, fulfil their potential, and decide on their future, is one that the United Reformed Church believes in. Since 1993, we have been committed to promoting the sale of goods that are accredited with the Fairtrade mark.

'It is therefore deeply worrying that, in the past year, Cadbury's Chocolate and Sainsbury's Supermarkets have taken steps to alter the nature of their partnerships with The Fairtrade Foundation. We are particularly concerned that Sainsbury's has chosen to withdraw many of its products from the Foundation's accreditation scheme in favour of a new, in-house Fairly Traded scheme, which will not be monitored by The Fairtrade Foundation. We are concerned that other retailers and brands might follow suit, and we urge them not to do so.

'The Fairtrade mark is an important independent indicator that products meet the high economic and social standards necessary to guarantee farmers and workers a fair deal. Fairtrade reputation and success over the past two decades have empowered producer groups to negotiate terms for farmers and whole communities. Farmers have expressed their concern that Sainsbury's withdrawal from the Fairtrade scheme will "bring about disempowerment."

'We continue to support the work of the Fairtrade Foundation. It is vital that the Foundation is not forced into a position by retailers where it feels it must dilute or compromise its high standards. We encourage our members to favour and buy products which carry the Fairtrade mark, and to write to Sainsbury's expressing their concern at the change.'

What you can do:

Continue to buy Fairtrade products which bear the Fairtrade mark, and encourage your friends to do the same.

Write to Sainsbury's Chief Executive, Mike Coupe, expressing your concerns. You can find more information and guidance on how to compose and send a letter on the [Joint Public Issues Team website](#).

You may also wish to raise concerns with your local Sainsbury's supermarket.

# Sawston Free Church

## Craft Group

We meet in the back hall of the Church on alternate Monday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. Everyone is very welcome, bring your own project of knitting, sewing or crochet or you can just drop in for a coffee and a chat.  
Dates for September: 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.



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

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## Wednesday Fellowship

There are no Wednesday Fellowship meetings for the month of September. We resume on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October with our harvest service at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.  
Please contact **Janet Parr** for more information: 832840

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## Church Workday September 16<sup>th</sup> - 8am till 1pm

Please note that this month's workday is a week later than usual, come along and help keep our premises looking good.  
There are various tasks to suit all talents and capabilities from painting to gardening, with 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)**

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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.

We meet on Thursday mornings between 10.30 and 12noon during term time. The next meeting is on the 7<sup>th</sup> September.

For more information

Please contact Rosemary. Email: [timefortots@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:timefortots@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk)

Another baby and toddler group you could go along to is Refresh - 2.pm-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](mailto:rebecca.r.herrick@gmail.com)

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## Fund Raising Activities

At the next Sawston Winter Fair, we are hoping to have a table selling lots of different crafts.

We need anything crafty - jams, chutney, home made items etc.

This craft stall will be in addition to the stall with the free mulled wine and mince pies.

The proceeds will go to Church Funds since they are in great need of a boost.

Please contact Pauline Purdy if you are able to help or have any suggestions, Many thanks,

**Pauline.**



## CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT

### Events for September 2017

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

September			
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30pm	<b>CIRCUIT SERVICE</b> to mark the long service of Morna Hooker-Stacey (60 years) and Derek Nicholls (50 years) as local preachers. The Rev. Stephen Burgess former superintendent, will preach. Stephen will be welcomed as a supernumerary in the Circuit.	Wesley Methodist Church
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	7 pm	A Harvest evening of Indian food and a presentation with Joy & Geoff Levine.	Castle St Methodist
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Royston Fringe: Phoenix Chorus. The famous international acappella chorus for an evening of entertainment from the worlds of classical, pop and show music. Tickets £10 Contact Brian 01763 241066 or Howard Peacock 01763 209089	Royston Methodist Church
Fri 22nd	7.30pm	Royston Fringe: Peter Paul Rubens sketching his masterpieces. An illustrated talk by Henrietta Ward, Assistant Keeper, Paintings, Drawings and Prints, The Fitzwilliam Museum. Tickets £5 including refreshments. Contact Sue 01763 243815 walter962@btinternet.com	Royston Methodist Church
Sat 23rd	11am	Royston Fringe: Change by GSTARS – a showcase of innovative choreography and drama created by GSTAR students looking inside themselves to address the changes that occur throughout the process of growing up. Tickets £5 contact Clare on 07717311167 g-stars@hotmail.co.uk	Royston Methodist Church
Sat 23rd	2.30pm	Royston Fringe: Divergent Drama : Scenes from Arabian Nights A dazzling tale incorporating some of the most loved stories told in innovative and imaginative ways. Free entrance but booking recommended if you want to be seated. Refreshments available Contact Sue 01763 243815 walter962@btinternet.com	Royston Methodist Church
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	3pm	Royston Fringe: Afternoon Tea with Felici, the professional group of singers and musicians from Herts and Beds. They will present a selection of light music – perfect for a Sunday afternoon. Tickets £5 from Sue 01763 243815 walter962@btinternet.com	Royston Methodist Church
Sat 23rd & Sun 24th	10am-5pm 11am-5pm	Royston Fringe: Art Exhibition – free entry Open to all-comers. See royston-methodist.org.uk for entry forms and more details.	Royston Methodist Church
OCTOBER			
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-4pm	Reimagine Conference – <a href="http://reimaginemethodism.wordpress.com">reimaginemethodism.wordpress.com</a>	St Ives MC
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm for 7.45pm	Science Meets Faith: Creation not Creationism. What does the bible have to say to Science? With Dr Mark Harris, Edinburgh University. All welcome	Wesley MC

## Church Directory

<b>Minister</b>		<b>Tel</b>
Rev. Bruce Waldron	The Manse, 3 High Street, Sawston Email: revbruce@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk	836786 07814 920187
<b>Secretaries:</b>		
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
<b>Elders: Sawston</b>		
Mary Simuyandi	28 New Road, Sawston	837433
Anne Nunn	10 London Road, Sawston	832913
Susan Nunn	55 Granta Road, Sawston	561956
Faith Paulding	Charlbury, 26 Moorfield Road, Duxford	574325
Mike Purdy	42 Granta Road, Sawston	830903
Sue Sisk	63 Babraham Road, Sawston	833508
Sue Lelliott	26 Park Road, Sawston	520383
<b>Joint Treasurers:</b>		
Lynne Hays	Baggot Hall, Station Road, Harston	871800
Terry Penny	April Lodge, 81 Brewery Road, Pampisford	833635
<b>Contact Editors</b>		
David & Anne Nunn	10 London Road, Sawston Email: anne.nunn@btinternet.com	832913
<b>Church Website:</b>		
<b>Facebook page:</b>		
	<a href="http://www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/">www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/</a>	
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or contact Min Ong: [minhuey.ong @papworthtrust.org.uk](mailto:minhuey.ong@papworthtrust.org.uk)

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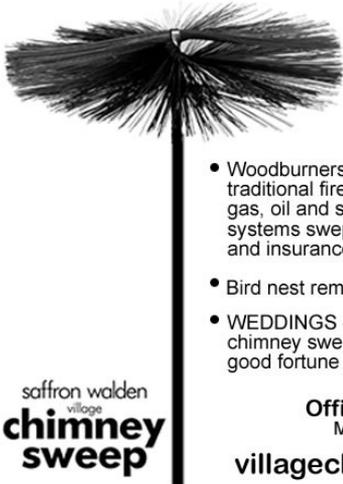
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