

C O N T A C T

January 2021



Volume 62 - Issue 1
Sawston Free Church – Castle Camps URC

Churches Services and Dates for Your Diary

Future Services- SFC - (all via zoom)

Castle Camps detail will be in their local newsletter

03 January 1030 Rev Paul Whittle
 10 Januaryr 1030 *Holy Communion* Rev Paul Whittle
 17 January 1030 *Rev Mike Wilson – Covenant Service*
 24 January 1030 Go4th
 31 January 1030 Rev Deborah McVey

The closing date for **February** Contact is Friday **22nd January**

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 to contact@sawston.com or anne.nunn@btinternet.com**

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

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From Deborah McVey, our new Interim Moderator

Dear friends,

A New Year dawns! 2020 with its many ups and downs has been endured, and we are here on the cusp of a new era. It still feels tough as we enter Tier 4 but we pray we will prevail with God as our helper. *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" Psalm 46.1* There are many in our communities who are living through the grief of loss, and our hearts go out for the complexity of the losses of the past year, not only through the death of loved ones but the loss of physical presence and of closer contact, those hugs which help in a mutual way to overcome difficulty. This Christmas season will go into history as one of the most strange.

The main task of an Interim Moderator is to support and discern with you all (the whole group of churches), the way forward in the choice of a new minister. It's always hard when a beloved minister moves on to pastures new, with Bruce into retirement at a distance, and for Paul, our Synod Moderator, into the wonderful wilds of Scotland where he has been called to serve. We will need to meet on Zoom and by word of mouth communicate as well as we can in this process. All our prayers can combine in the way we move forward together as a faith community of all ages.

I have managed two retirements, in 2015 from half-time ministry at St Luke's LEP in Cambridge which was a partnership with the CofE and URC. Blending traditions is a rich way forward and your new minister will be one who treasures the wider church, with the wells of differing traditions to draw upon. Then in 2018 I retired from half-time hospital chaplaincy as most of you know. It's been strange during this era of covid not to be there at the heart of it all, the chaplaincy is always in my prayers, I keep in touch and know they long for volunteers to return when possible. One way I am continuing ministry is as a volunteer with the chaplaincy at Arthur Rank Hospice, and I am sure, like previous ministers, your new minister will be one who has a heart for those in sorrow and bereavement who still reach out to the church and faith for solace and companionship. Our communities are places where many no longer are in a Sunday worshipping relationship with others, but still have deep roots of faith in God and the need for reconnection.

Let's hope and pray this New Year that in all we do we can enfold our communities in the love of God, giving and receiving the blessings of faith in the God we know in Jesus Christ. He is the One who has helped us through all this, the One who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Each one of us is so beloved of God, and that love will never let us go.

A Happy New Year to each and every one of you, with blessings a-plenty.

Deborah

From the Elders

We would like to wish all our readers a very happy blessed New Year. We do not know what 2021 will bring for all of us or indeed for this world, but we pray for the hope of Christ's birth to renew our joy and love and spread it throughout the nations. The Christmas services we held went well and we want to thank all those who took part, managed the technology, led worship and attended. We look forward to a point in this coming year to reopen our church for worship safely.

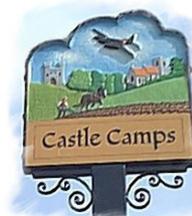
Take care of yourselves.

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Message from Castle Camps

We hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas in these difficult times, when we couldn't meet with families and friends.

Normally, we would have welcomed Castle Camps Primary School for their Advent service and also have our Annual Carol Concert with Hadstock Silver Band to lead our singing; sadly, this was not to be.



However, Mark Hayes has sent us his Thoughts for each Sunday, as well as recording short services, which we have found very helpful and fulfilling.

With the aid of Zoom, families have been able to have visual meetings with their family and friends. The Rev. Hilary Davey, with the aid of her son James and his wife Sara, arranged two Zoom services, which we all enjoyed, when we were able to get together and worship. The second one was a Carol Service with all of the popular carols and five readings. It set us up nicely for Christmas Day and we are extremely grateful to Hilary, Sara and James for organising it.

We sent Christmas greetings to Bruce and Sharn in Australia and were pleased to hear that the situation out there is much improved. They are pleased to be part of a lovely church and Bruce has been asked to look after it until the latter part of May –so much for retirement! The Church is about 10km away, so he rides there twice a week at least and sometimes several more, but he is only half time. Nevertheless they had Carol Singing around the suburbs, like we did in Castle Camps in previous years, and then an evening Carol Service using the porch of the church as a sound shell for the band. Then at 11.30, a Quiet Christmas, reflective and very quiet, before home for a quick sleep and back again to set up for the 9am Christmas morning service. And for the first time since 2001, they were able to host their children and grandchildren for Christmas.

Let us hope that we shall be able to hold services again in the not too distant future. The nights are drawing out, so we shall look forward to Spring.

At this time last year, we lost Mary Norden, who was a lifelong stalwart of the chapel and she is sorely missed.

We send our best wishes for 2021 and God's blessings to you all. Let us hope that things will improve, so that we can all meet up again.

Val and Friends.

Car Park Carol Service

Like many of you, I have been finding it difficult to get much enthusiasm in the build up to Christmas this year. At school, it was weird but lovely to sing carols across Zoom for our end of term service, and I realised I had missed singing Christmas Carols. So last night, my family and I got dressed in our festive jumpers, Santa hats, armed with a flask of warm blackcurrant and freshly cooked pizza to keep warm, and drove into Sawston Village College.

We were greeted by car park attendants with clip boards, wearing green elf hats. They checked us in and directed us to a car park space facing a lorry with the side open, where a Nativity scene had been created with Christmas carols being played on loud speakers. We were given a bag of goodies with carol sheets to sing, sweets (not to be eaten yet!) and various other things we weren't sure what to do with yet.

By 6pm the car park was filling up nicely and we looked around to see some very festive cars, tinsel, hats and flashing lights were in plentiful supply. Tim Chapman started speaking to us all, welcoming us and inviting us to toot our car horns and flash our lights. It definitely lifted our Christmas spirits when we all started singing O come all ye faithful together. The first Christmas story started to unfold with Joseph, a carpenter, who started to saw wood on the "stage" in the lorry and we were invited to use the tea towel and string in our goodie bag to be the first car to dress up as Joseph. (So that's what they were for!).

When the Christmas story mentioned Angel Gabriel delivering the message that Mary was going to have a baby, we thought our eyes were deceiving us, as Angel Gabriel appeared above the lorry in a cherry picker, high up in the sky, waving his wings. Isaac and Abbie were in awe, as were Simon and I to be honest. How ingenious! But wait, there was more!

After singing Hark the Herald Angels Sing (with descant!) and Away in a Manger, Mary and Joseph made their way to Bethlehem, through the cars in the car park in a "donkey" shopping trolley!



More tooting and flashing of headlights was encouraged to help them on their journey before they arrived in the lorry stable. The Bible readings and Tim Chapman's short, inspirational talks related the first Christmas story to now, the pandemic and how we could respond to Jesus, the Christ Child, the Saviour of the World for us all, who takes away our sins. But wait, there was more!

Tim explained that the Wise men or kings who studied the stars may well have arrived at the stable much later at which point there was a revving of a motor, and a king zoomed through the car park on a motorbike to arrive at the stable with more tooting and flashing of lights from the car park audience.

The service finished with Joy to the World and what a joy the service was to Sawston! It was well managed to keep to Covid rules and regulations, but the team that first envisaged the service and all those who were involved truly encapsulated the true message of Christmas, to show and share God's love with others.

Thank you to everyone from Christchurch South Cambs and Sawston Free Church who were involved, it definitely uplifted my family's and my Christmas spirits. There is already talk on Facebook of repeating it next year!

Lucy McGregor

The Car Park Carols – socially distanced Experience!

As the ticket instructions requested, (*we always follow instructions!*) Pauline and I decorated ourselves and the car, inside and out, with lights, tinsel and Santa hats and joined 49 other cars in the Sawston Village College car park at 4.30pm on the 20th December 2020.

It was lovely to be outside, with other people (although we all had to remain in our cars) and join in with the carols and the 'in-car' activities provided in the goodie bag supplied.

Although, from where our car was parked, we couldn't see some of the nativity characters, e.g., the flying Angel Gabriel on the cherry-picker and Mary arriving on the supermarket trolley donkey, the whole experience was very enjoyable. Judging by the many car horn beeps and flashing headlights, it was clear that the rest of the gathering enjoyed it too.

The whole event was very well organised, and everyone involved did a great job and deserve our grateful thanks. It was a lovely sociable church/village event.

Mike and Pauline

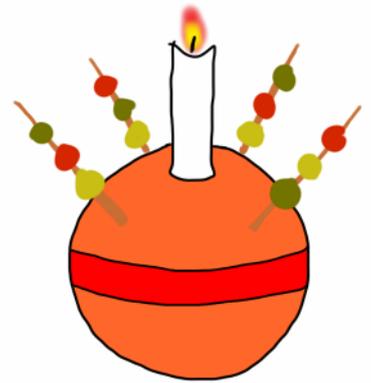


Village Carol Service

Our village carol service was hosted by St Mary's at 6pm on the 20th December. Members of both churches attended the church and others picked up the service on the live stream. Rev. Petra Shakeshaft led the worship of traditional carols and lessons, and Rev. Paul Whittle gave the address. St Mary's choir sang several Christmas songs and readers from both churches read the lessons. Thank you St Mary's for hosting it this year.

Christingle 20th December 2020

This was the start to a lovely day of three contrasting services. The first one was our Christingle service lead by Mary and Matthew with Julie lighting our fourth Advent Candle, the candle for Peace. During the service Abbie gave a beautiful reading from John 11-5 then later Francesca led us clearly with a prayer.



It was lovely to see the service so well supported with a good number of families plus some older folk who have a heart for young people. Those who wanted to take part could ask beforehand for a special pack to be delivered with everything we would need to make the Christingle. It started with a lovely illustrated song about the meaning of it all.

Mary and Matthew explained between them that the orange represented our beautiful world and the red ribbon which we put round, reminded us of the love of Jesus that surrounds everyone of us. Next, we put in four lollipops which would remind us of all the good things God has provided for us in the four corners of the earth and during the four seasons. Finally, we put in the candle which we lit as a reminder of Christ the light of the world.

Besides two well-known carols we sang these two lovely songs 'Shine from the inside out', a song with actions that the children know from Messy church and 'Christ be our light' which is about Christ our light of hope and peace that shines in the darkness. There was a video showing children drawing patterns of hearts and the word 'Jesus' with torches.

Christingle is promoted by The Children's Society who are concerned about helping children and young people living in terrible conditions due to natural disasters or who find themselves in difficult situations. Matthew reminded us that young people showed us through demonstrations last year that they are really concerned about Climate Change and how it is affecting the world that God has given us.

He explained how during lockdown earlier this year our air became cleaner and bird song much clearer and louder. There was less pollution because of fewer cars on the roads and planes in the sky. So it is up to us to help clean up our air and rivers and seas by using less plastics and being very aware of cutting down on waste and on pollution. The Children's Society is very concerned about this as it is and will affect our young peoples' lives. Normally we would give our collections from this service to The Children's Society but we were asked to pass any donations to Maggie or Terry to help them with this important work.

Mary led our sharing time then closed the service with a prayer followed by the rousing 'We are Marching in the Light of God'. Matthew thanked everyone who had helped with the service and gave the final Blessing.

With thanks to Rosemary Harriss

Carry On Nurse

I left school in the 1960's intending to train as a dental nurse in the RAF. As I had a few weeks to spare before I started my training, my cousin Carol and I helped at a Christian holiday venue in Dorset. We had worked there the previous year and had great fun. We worked one week and had a free holiday the next. If you want to know how to boil 72 eggs in one large container then I am the girl that can help you!

Whilst there I realised that I did not want to train as a dental nurse. I duly phoned my mother and after a discussion I suggested that I could train to be an S.R.N. My sister Margaret was already training at St Georges Hospital in London. My mother and I attended an interview with matron. I obtained a place in the next preliminary training school at Pembury Hospital in December. Matron offered me a job as a Nursing Assistant on the Children's Ward until my course started. My heart sank as I did not like babies. I had once taken out my cousin's baby, all went well until the water in her bottle ran out and she roared. I hurtled up someone's drive and explained to a lovely lady who promptly refilled the bottle, the baby was plugged in and I delivered her to her mother. Never again!

Well dear reader, I went on to the Children's Ward and promptly fell in love with them all.

The time came to leave the ward, go home for a couple of days, pack my case and then go off to join my course.

The day of arrival was a Sunday. When I woke up I found that there had been a huge snow fall in the night. All the roads were blocked! I asked my father what we should do. He explained that he would put my case on his bike and that we would walk the six and a half miles from Tonbridge to Pembury Hospital.

We had a fantastic journey. The snow was piled high in great waves and we did not see a soul. My father always had sweets in his pockets so we were fortified for the journey! When we arrived at the porters lodge my father left me and cycled home, not daring to get off his bike. I shall never forget that journey, or the love of my father who was determined that his daughter should not miss out on the first day of her hospital nurse training.

Beryl

More Childhood Memories

My childhood years were spent in the small village of Bartlow (between Linton and Castle Camps). There were only about 7 children in the village and we all attended St Mary's Church Sunday School and we were the choir - dressed in black cassocks and frilly collars.

At each church service one of us was picked to "pump" the organ by means of a manual wooden handle on the side of the organ, with a metal weight attached to a wire which we had to watch as it controlled and showed the pressure of the air we were pumping. I think Mrs Robinson was the organist.

We discovered that if we slowed the pumping motion, the weight would slowly drop and the organ would make a '**S-L-O-W-I-N-G ----- D-O-W-N**' groaning noise and we would get lots of scowls from Mrs Robinson. We then pumped harder for the weight to be at the correct level to maintain the right amount of air for the organ to work properly.

Bartlow was a lovely village to grow up in and that's about as naughty as we were in those days !!

Janet Parr

(Editors Note: Do you have some naughty childhood memories)



1st Sawston Brigades



The last few months have been very trying to keep Brigades going, but we have succeeded! We have gained 2 new children since September and have done various events such as "chats through the window", treasure hunts in the dark, quizzes and Pictionary on Zoom calls.

After Lockdown 2, we managed to get into the church for the younger sections to create angel baubles and jigsaws amongst other Christmassy fun. Sue has used her very exciting new jigsaw to create initial letter jigsaws for all the children and adults.

We continue to share God's love with the youngsters who come either to see us in person, or interactive with us on Zoom.

If anyone would like to know more, or if you think you know of any youngsters who would like to come along and join us, then please be in touch.

Lucy McGregor

1st Sawston Brigades

FISH Housegroup

The FISH housegroup is a supportive group of friends within SFC, particularly during the current Pandemic. As soon as we were able, we met socially in groups of up to six in one another's gardens. Enjoying the beautiful weather and feeling able to share our difficulties, fears, and the challenges of trying to meet up with our families. We also shared our joy of growing plants and vegetables, bringing news of others and enjoying walks around the village. Alongside this we had the occasional zoom session with those who were unable to join us.



In the autumn we were introduced to 'Seasoned by Seasons', a book by Michael Mitton. This book has proved to be a most interesting study of people in the Bible. It contains a rich variety of passages from the Old and New Testaments. During our first few zoom meetings we focused on the Old Testament and through our research and discussions we were able to gain a better understanding.

We had six meetings during the autumn including a study of:

Elijah; (1Kings:18; 19; 2Kings 2) 1 Kings19: 4-13.

Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:1-13. 2 Samuel 4:1-4).

Hagar (Genesis 16; 21.)

Naaman (2Kings 5)

Nicodemus (John 3; 7; 19.)

Two of our members expressed a preference for a small group such as ours, finding it easier for communication. Others said they looked forward to our meetings, albeit via zoom since September. We hope to continue in this way until everyone has been vaccinated and it is considered safe to meet face to face again.

FISH Housegroup

(with thanks to Helen Sharpe)

An American friend of mine, an historian in Louisiana State University, is in the final stages of completing a book about how Jesus was portrayed in Victorian England. She has recruited me to be a critical friend, particularly over matters of theological accuracy, for she is an historian, not a theologian. Accordingly, I have been obliged to revisit books on my shelves that have gathered dust for many years. Victorian theology is *not* my subject! In addition, I have been reading a book that I should have read in my youth that I never got round to.

Essays and Reviews was published in March 1860, four months after Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. It just flew off the shelves – 22,000 copies in its first two years. Even in an age when religious books sold more than any other category, this was exceptional. It is a set of seven essays by scholars charged with presenting the case for the very latest biblical and theological scholarship. This was an era of ground-breaking biblical research, and when the search to discover the historical Jesus (as opposed to the Jesus of doctrinal faith) began. German scholarship led the way, encouraging a totally fresh look at the biblical texts and a programme of archaeological research in the Near East – into Old Testament issues initially, and then turning to the New Testament. Was St Matthew's gospel really the first to be written, as tradition had always said? Did Jesus really work miracles? How much of what we read is really the voice of Jesus? Did creation happen as Genesis says it did, and on the traditional timescale? How do we cope with the obvious discrepancies in the scriptures, that the four gospels do not entirely agree? How do we cope when the bible is quite simply wrong on a point of fact? What today are tired old war-horses were brand new in 1860.

Of the seven essays, it is the last, a one-hundred page monster by William Jowett, that stands out. He made a strangely contradictory plea: first he pleads for the bible to be given to the people; then he takes it away again. He argues for the supremacy of reason and conscience, and for us to have the confidence to read the scriptures 'just like any other book', listening to our common sense and reason, rather than having been told the 'true' or 'official' meaning before we even begin. Let the bible speak! If any bible reader were to memorise a passage, he says, and then write out for himself or herself a paraphrase of what they thought it meant, they would get closer to God's word to them than any amount of reading of commentaries or listening to preachers. Get off their backs! Let them read and think for themselves!

But alongside this, Jowett has another theme: that of scholarly freedom to apply 'modern' methods without interference from church authorities. When he is saying 'Don't tell us that Darwinian science is wrong for *theological* reasons,' he is surely on good ground. We sorted that one out over Galileo's theory about the earth going round the sun. He spends dozens of pages on the complexities of the Greek and Hebrew texts, and argues (again rightly, surely?) that scholars must be free to explore these things without being accused of heresy or blasphemy. But when he says that unless you properly heed the scholars and understand their techniques you are in no position to read the bible, he is surely wrong? Jowett's essay marks the beginning of the professionalisation of the bible, turning it into an incredibly difficult book which only experts are in a position properly to understand. And the result, a century and a half later? Our congregations full of people robbed of their confidence that they are adequately equipped to read their own bible. Of course they are!

I have almost no idea how my incredibly sophisticated car actually works, but I can drive it. I have no idea how the compilers of my copy of Shakespeare's plays arrived at their version of the text, but I can read it. You don't need New Testament Greek to heed the words of Jesus.

I was taught a version of Jowett's theory in college forty years ago, and I remember, almost to the day, when it first dawned on me what damage had been done when we turned bible study into a technical exercise for experts only. Nowadays I wince when someone, with their eye on my clerical collar, asks me in a house group or whatever what a passage means, as if I had greater insight into the mind of God than they. I can discuss the technicalities of the text and bore them silly no doubt, but as to what it *means*, let them do as Jowett advises: get a sound translation.

The NRSV (our church bible), the NIV or even the Authorised Version (but *not* some catchy paraphrase like the *Message* or whatever, which is guaranteed to dictate to you its view on the meaning without you even noticing); read the passage to the point of memorising it; write out prayerfully what it seems to say to you; and nine times out of ten you will find your way. Or even better, do it in a group, and see what everyone else has written. And then pray.

2020 Newsletter from Bethlehem.

(With thanks to Miriam Webb – Cambridge Methodist Circuit)



Greetings from the Holy land. Last year was a very busy year visiting partner organisations, leading and organising along with Revd John Howard the Living Christianity in the Holy land, Queens Theological College Ministers in training and Interfaith groups.

We had six volunteers from the U.K. Methodist church volunteering in various organisations throughout the year. At the beginning of this year as normal, during Christian Unity week we jointly led again the Living Christianity group and had three volunteers. We were delighted to meet Revd Dan Handall who along with his wife Revd Courtney and three children will be the new mission partners joining us at the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem, from the United Methodist Church. Dan and Courtney were due to arrive in August but unfortunately due to Covid 19 have been unable to travel and obtain a visa yet.

March 5th was a surreal day as I watched hundreds of tourist buses queueing up and waiting to leave Bethlehem, and go straight to the airport returning tourists to their home destinations. The three volunteers from the U.K. were able to change their return flight but unable to leave Bethlehem until the day of their flight, and go directly to the airport. Bethlehem went into full lockdown. Lockdown here means, Palestinian security having checkpoints throughout the area, large stones or barrels blocking strategic roads to prevent movement between governances. Also Israeli checkpoints preventing people leaving the West Bank. The Palestinian Authority did a great job reacting quickly and was able to contain the virus in the first month.



A number of groups from abroad did have the virus and some hotel staff. They were isolated until they were given the go ahead to return back home. However over time the numbers of those infected, and deceased have risen. Today we face another decision whether we will be back in full lockdown for another month. Fortunately where I live, there are a couple of shops and pharmacy for all the supplies I need. I also thank God for the surrounding countryside area where I managed to walk every day. This was important for well being and keeping healthy. I enjoyed the beauty of the landscape and hearing birds singing, reminding me in these unprecedented times of being thankful for the small things. However during my walks I unfortunately still see land being taken from Palestinians where main roads are being built by Israel. Crimeson valley which is where the famous Palestinian wine is made, has been closed off by Israeli military to locals who enjoy walking in their neighbourhood. The pandemic has not prevented demolitions of Bedouin and Palestinian homes unfortunately.

Some of the difficulties have been that we have been in many full and partial lockdowns and night curfews. Israel has also been in lockdowns but they haven't always been at the same time! This has meant that during these months we may not be in lockdown in Bethlehem but Israel has been in lockdown and vice versa. I am grateful for the support during 2020 of family, World Relations department, colleagues, friends and local support. In fact I have met many new neighbours during this time when I have been unable to work, but able to walk and meet neighbours as I pass by in the community. We have been unable to visit some partner organisations, Princess Basma in Jerusalem and the Four Homes of Mercy in Bethany for instance are great organisations that serve adults and children with severe disabilities. In between lockdowns they are a group too vulnerable to visit, and like all need protecting from visitors and contracting the virus.

No tourist have been able to enter the land since the outbreak of the virus and the impact has been colossal. Individuals, communities, and businesses are affected greatly in Israel and the West Bank. Bethlehem which welcomes tens of thousands of visitors from around the world yearly has been greatly affected. It relies heavily on tourism and therefore businesses have closed causing huge unemployment. I have seen more people begging on the streets than ever before. Like around the world normal celebrations have been impacted, the Jewish, Muslim and Christian significant feasts have been limited or stopped, including Easter and now Christmas.

The lighting of the Christmas tree in Manger Square and the usual celebrations went ahead but scaled back with only a small amount of dignitaries. As a result this year I was unable to attend, and watched it live-streamed with others around the world. On one of our walks myself and a colleague walked past Shepherds Field a place which commemorates an angel informing the shepherds "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord".



We were amazed it was open in the mornings and enjoyed visiting. You can imagine our surprise when we came to leave that we were locked in! We couldn't find anyone or another exit. We had to shout to someone on the street through the gate who phoned Father Miguel to let us out. It turns out we were the first visitors since March 5th and he didn't expect anyone to be inside. Visiting the Church of Nativity is also surreal, it is normally full of visitors, it is now empty and quiet with only some locals entering and worshipping. I am an ecumenical partner with the Church of Scotland in Jerusalem and Tiberias, we have not returned to Sunday morning worship since the first lockdown and expect it will be spring time before we do. We have Sacred Space Sunday worship by zoom.

One positive outcome has been that the two worshipping communities have been connected in worship at the same time. I'm also connected with the Filipino United Methodist Church in Tel Aviv where I lead services monthly. I have been unable to join them in their service as they worship in a bomb bunker which is small and no ventilation, posing too much of a risk for me to join them. This year I did manage to pick olives at the Tent of Nations Christian family farm, joined with an Israeli group against occupation. The Nasser family were the recipients of the World Methodist Peace award in 2018. Unfortunately there was not a good harvest this year due to the loss of so many olives in high winds. We finished by sharing communion and thanking God for his goodness in the olive grove outdoor chapel. Olive trees unfortunately continue to be uprooted by settlers on Palestinian land.

For the last six months there have been continued nightly demonstrations across the land even during lockdown by Israelis against PM Netanyahu's handling of the pandemic. Praying Together from Jerusalem is a monthly Interfaith event where Muslim, Jews and Christians pray together. I am the Christian leader of the group. In between lockdowns we were able to meet on the roof of Tantur where the Methodist Liaison Office is based between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, by socially distancing. It then became impossible to continue to do so in person, and we have continued by zoom, having speakers from different faiths and attracting viewers and participants from around the world.

Myself and my colleague Samar wish you a peaceful, joyous and safe Christmas from Bethlehem. The people have walked in great darkness, but the darkness cannot put out the light. The Prince of Peace and the Light of the world continues to shine in the birth place of Christ. No pandemic or occupation, can prevent the faithful followers of Christ joining the angels singing God's praise and exclaiming "Glory to God to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests". Please join me in continuing to pray for peace and unity for all who live in the Holy land and for the nations. Wherever our journeys have taken us in this past year and will lead us into the future, we can be assured that best of all God is with us.

Thank you for your prayers, and encouragement. **Merry Christmas Angleena**

The Footprints Café



at

Sawston Free Church

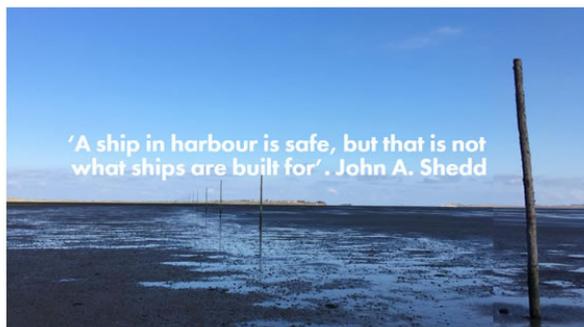
The **Footprints Café** is a community cafe offering a wide range of reasonably priced Snacks and Meals together with Teas & Coffees, Cold drinks, Cakes and Pastries.

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 at the back of Sawston Free Church. Car parking behind the church.

NEW! Children's menu

ALAN CHAMLEY COUNSELLING, SAWSTON



Has 2020 been a tough year for you?

I provide a safe, encouraging, non-judgemental space for you to explore issues, such as social anxiety, stress, low self-worth, depression, rebuilding confidence, in areas of work, relationships, friendships and family issues.

As a visually impaired man, I have become aware that this has further facilitated my non-judgemental attitude towards clients.



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