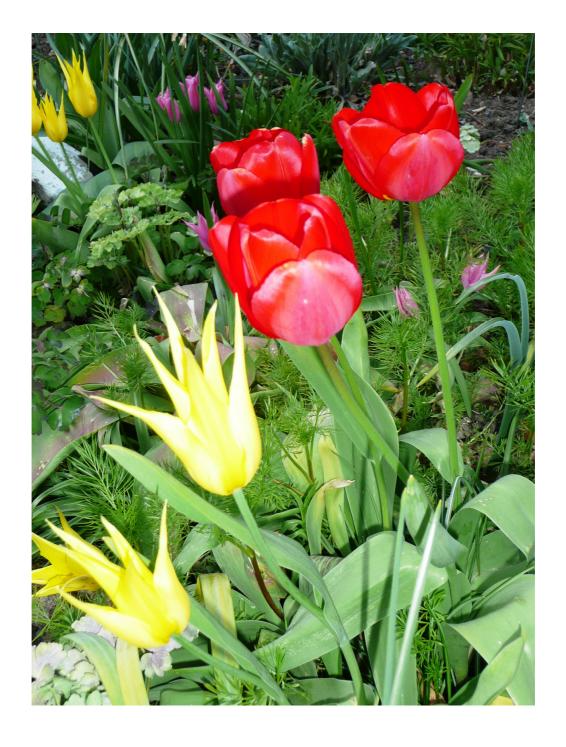
CONTACT

May 2021



Volume 62 - Issue 5 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

02 May	10.30 Induction and Ordination of Elders - Rev Deborah McVey	
09 May	10.30 Morning Worship - Rev Dr Mike Wilson	
16 May	10.30 Morning Worship - David Lloyd	
23 May	10.30 - Go4th	
30 May	10.30 – Morning Worship - Faith Paulding	

The closing date for **June** Contact is Friday **21**st **May**

David Nunn is the editor, so please email your items 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

Whilst in vacancy please refer Church related matters to:

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www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk

www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch

Meditation Upon Welcoming

We are still in the Easter season until we reach Pentecost, the glorious celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. We have so much to give thanks for! The long time of waiting for the pandemic to ease seems to be bearing fruit, which it has not in many countries, and will not here if we crowd and disregard one another's natural caution. Some have seen family in gardens and rejoiced that suddenly the space in time has evaporated and we are much the same as we were before. Of course we long to hug those we love, that's natural, we pray time will bring this gift. I wonder how we view the future? Will we just slip back into the way we were before? This year has changed us, how can we go forward in a more Christ-like way than before. I loved reading the paper produced by the Zoom hosts; they really want worship in the future to pick up on all we have been learning to do, to include those at home, to be 'better' than it was before. That is visionary.

I wonder if the way we welcome one another is worth a reflection or two as we open up our lives to include others again in new ways and become truly inclusive church communities honouring those who are home-bound and those who will be out and about. Can we continue to take care yet show care in even more tangible ways? As we open up the church buildings can we make a commitment to be even more welcoming to the community around us, through spending time meeting in the Cafe and 'chatting' the gospel in every way we are able. Are we ready to welcome those who want to rent the buildings? I nearly wrote 'our' buildings, but they do not belong to 'us' do they? We have been bequeathed them from previous generations of faith-filled people, and whilst we need to take good stewardship of them, we cannot be precious with them, they exist for the sake of those who need to use them, those who are vulnerable in all sorts of ways, who need to learn life skills. So let us welcome in a way that truly conveys the Good News of Jesus and makes a huge difference to all who come through these doors.

I am sure we are longing to welcome Revd. Phil Nevard, the minister we have called to lead the churches here into the next era of church life in Castle Camps, Sawston and Whittlesford. We have witnessed Phil's many gifts over the weekend of meeting, his leading of Sunday worship and responding to our questions. After the unanimous call from the three churches, it was a hard time of waiting until we heard that his wife Lythan had been appointed new Eastern Synod Moderator, which enabled Phil to accept the call. Our welcome of them includes a holding of them both in our prayers as they gradually disengage from the ministries in Devon and move to the Moderator's Shelford Manse at the end of July. Watch this space for the details of Phil's Induction.

It is likely to be the day after Lythan's on the first weekend of September. So, Sunday the 5th. Every welcome we can offer to this family, will enable their time of settling in.

Waiting has moved into welcoming. Just a little longer. When Jesus ascended into heaven his disciples were filled with joy, there must have been a little trepidation when they realised the Good News was entrusted to them alone. And then, the glorious gift of the Holy Spirit, which we pray will be poured out on Phil and Lythan and on us all; so that those around us may see the love with which we welcome and come to praise the God we love so much.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

From the Interim Moderator **Deborah McVey**

The Centre for Theology and Justice invites you to the David Goodbourn Lecture, 11 May, 7:30pm



The lecture 'Untangling the legacies of slavery: Deconstructing Mission Christianity for our contemporary Kerygma.' will be given by Anthony Reddie, Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture.

The Centre for Theology and Justice is delighted to welcome Anthony Reddie to give the annual David Goodbourn Lecture. This lecture, built upon research undertaken for the Council for World Mission's 'Legacies of Slavery' project, will outline the necessity of deconstructing the problematic history of Christian mission and its relationship to slavery and colonialism.

Anthony Reddie is a leading scholar in the practice of Black Theology within grassroots communities. The significance of his writings and research is recognised internationally.

The Centre for Theology and Justice brings together a number of organisations involved in justice issues, including Luther King House, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), Church Action on Poverty, and Christian Aid.

Jessica Waylen

F--1-----

Footprints Cafe

The cafe re-opened on 12 April for outdoor seating and takeaways. The good news is that (hopefully) from 17 May it will be open indoors as well! All the usual choices - breakfasts, lunches, snacks, cakes, drinks - will be available. If you would prefer takeaway, just ring Anj or Katie on 839323 to order.



Greetings from Castle Camps.

We are in Spring and the fields and gardens are looking lovely. There are Cowslips galore and the various blossoms are beautiful - even the Damsons are laden with flower and usually they are very shy to bloom. The oil seed rape is filling our fields with beautiful colour and the lambing season is in full swing.



Easter was a strange time, but we had the Blossoming of the Cross, which looked beautiful. On Good Friday, we had a Zoom service led by Wendy Roe and on Easter Day, we had another Zoom service led by Rev. Hilary Davey. We are very grateful to them.



Also, Mark Hayes has sent us each week, his Thoughts for Sunday, which we have distributed to our congregation, either as a hard copy or on line and he had recorded a service, for which we were most grateful.

Easter Saturday would have been the Annual Tractor Run held in memory of the late Roy Haylock, who was an Elder of the chapel, but this also was cancelled. We keep our fingers crossed for next year!

To see the robins bouncing around, the blossom coming through, and the seedlings on the windowsills getting their true leaves it is a beautiful reminder that everything has a season. Some seem longer than others but they too will move on. Even if all you can grow is weeds, they can be beautiful and useful as well. The hourly bell in our chapel steeple keeps us on the right track and looking to the future with hope.

The Elders and Congregation of Castle Camps URC send you all our best wishes.

Sara & friends



Do you knit? Do you have friends who knit?

The Rosie Hospital has appealed for knitting help. All babies are risk assessed at birth and given a red/amber/green rating with a matching hat according to their individual risk factors for becoming unwell - perhaps developing low blood sugars or an infection.

Comments on the Hospital's Facebook page show how very appreciative parents are of the care and love which goes into making the hats, and how in many families they are treasured long after they are needed.

You need size 4mm (UK size 8) needles, about 20g of DK yarn and a spare evening. I can give you a pattern, further information, and answer your queries. You will be part of a group of friends - and their friends - doing what we can to help. You will be very welcome to join us.

In early April I delivered 75 hats, which were very gratefully accepted, and will be making another delivery in early May.

Rosemary Heald (tel 01223-833983 or email <u>rosemary.heald@tiscali.co.uk</u>)

Who cares?



The preacher, short of inspiring material in September, tells their congregation about their summer holiday. The baffled *As I See It* author turns to his reading material.....

Robin Lane Fox published his book *Pagans and Christians* back in 1986. It is about the period from the start of the 2nd Christian century to the Edict of Milan in 313 A.D. – roughly speaking from the end of the period represented by the texts of the New Testament to when, after the last and worst period of Christian persecution, Emperor Constantine decreed that Christianity be tolerated throughout the Empire.

Reading Lane Fox today, it is clear that scholarship has moved on considerably in the intervening years. So why rake him up now? Because I have only just got round to reading it. It was a land-mark book amongst historians. For all its datedness, there is plenty in it that simply cannot possibly change. For example, things carved in stone cannot change.

The 'pagans' of the late Empire, as had their forefathers, proudly engraved all manner of information on their public buildings, from senate houses to family graves. Every year, more is unearthed, offering fragmentary glimpses into the public life of Roman cities. The quantity is astonishing. It is all catalogued. Lane Fox realised that very little had been made of this vast reservoir of material. The period was 'interesting.' So he undertook the monumental task of assembling a picture in mosaic of a much-neglected part of Roman social history.

Until Lane Fox wrote, no-one had seriously challenged the broad conclusions of Edward Gibbon in his *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (1776). A secular Enlightenment author, Gibbon taught that when the Romans finally worked out that the cause of their empire falling to pieces was all that pagan god-worshipping nonsense, they should have pulled things together by establishing a new, atheistic, secular Empire. But it didn't happen! Instead, along came those Christians, who, taking advantage of the political and spiritual vacuum, captured the minds of ignorant and frightened people with their spiritual nonsense. And by the time everyone woke up to what was happening it was too late. Successive emperors acknowledged that Christianity was their best bet. In fact, so good were the religious leaders in capturing the levers of power that it was only in Gibbon's own day, in 18th century Europe, that Christianity was finally being rejected, and pure, secular government was at last coming into its own.

Since Lane Fox wrote, the decline of Rome has been subject to new scrutiny. Gibbon's scholarship, for all its brilliance, is now seen to have been harnessed to a myth – a sort of 'just-so' story built on no evidence at all to bolster his theory of the triumph of secularism over Christian faith. (Karl Marx achieved something similar.) Lane Fox exposed the myth. But with what should it be replaced?

We have, thanks to Lane Fox and his successors, plenty of evidence about the pagans of the late Empire. ('Pagan' seems to be a Christian word invented at the time to mean 'them, not us.') But of Christianity in the same period we know almost nothing. During times of persecution, people carry dangerous material in their heads (just as the Chinese Christians memorised the New Testament during the Cultural Revolution, and the 'Silent Ones' of Japan did similarly in the 17th and 18th centuries.) No Christian during the Diocletian persecutions was going to engrave his personal history on his late father's tomb! That the New Testament documents *were* written down and that they are in our possession today is astonishing. A miracle, some might say. Of course, the New Testament that we have today is largely what people wrote from memory once it became safe again to write it.

We have only the tiniest scraps from the earlier, pre-persecution era. None the less, we have archaeological evidence of Christianity at Hadrian's wall, in India and maybe even in China within a century of the death of Jesus. We know nothing of how the faith was carried; little about where they worshipped; virtually nothing about the form of their worship; almost nothing about what they taught.

The year 313 A.D. is like the curtains being drawn and light flooding into the room. When I think about what I was taught about earliest church history when I was at college – taught by teachers absolutely sure that what they were teaching was true – I realise that in the years since then we have been steadily disproving much of what I learned.

Socrates taught that to know what you don't know is the most precious knowledge of all. As regards the birth of the Christian church, we have, since Lane Fox, indeed moved on, but only to uncover ever more ignorance.

I think of the man born blind in John's gospel (John 9:25). After his sight was given to him (one can hardly say 'restored') they badgered him to explain. I think his response quite wonderful. 'One thing I know. Once I was blind. Now I can see.'

Exactly. It's the outcome that matters. It would, of course, be a scholarly monstrosity to translate the rest as 'Who cares?'

Christian Aid week



Christian Aid week is from May 10-16th this year. Again, this year, we are unable to hold collections in the village or host a fundraising event.

We will be having a speaker during our worship on Sunday May 9th.

Please donate online during the week. If you are unable to donate on line, please let myself or Pam Moss know and we can collect your cash donation from you, or you can put through our doors.

There is a Quiztian event on line on May 8th at 7pm, please look at the details below. It looks like fun! We can all join in.

Take care and thank you for all your support.

Mary

Join the Quiztian Aid Quiz! The last year has shown us how important it is to come together as a community and have some fun together. That's why Quiztian Aid is back on Saturday 8 May at 7pm and we can't wait to see you there!

The quiz was a smash hit last year raising almost £7000. This year's quiz is hosted by Death in Paradise stars, Tobi and Prisca Bakare with special guest hosts including Rhidian Brook, Kate Bottley, Kris Marshall and Rowan Williams. Sign up now and invite your friends, family or church to join and help us transform lives in Kenya

Just google Christian Aid Quiz for further details.

We look forward to these simple things.....

Hugs

It's wondrous what a hug can do.

A hug can cheer you when you're blue.

A hug can say, "I love you so",

Or "Gee, I hate to see you go."

A hug is "Welcome back again!"
And "Great to see you!" or
"Where've you been?"
A hug can soothe a small child's pain
And bring a rainbow after rain.

The hug! There's just no doubt about it.
We scarcely could survive without it.
A hug delights and warms and charms,
It must be why God gave us arms.

Hugs are great for fathers and mothers, Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers, And chances are some favourite aunts Love them more than potted plants.

Kittens crave them. Puppies love them.

Heads of state are not above them.

A hug can break the language barrier,

And make the dullest day seem merrier.

No need to fret about the store of 'em.

The more you give, the more there are of them.

So stretch those arms without delay

And give someone a hug today.

Children's Easter Activities

In preparation for Easter and Holy week, some of the church members involved in working with our children and young people, arranged some children's activities.

Junior Church leaders made up bumper packs for Palm Sunday comprising of Easter puzzles, games, crafts, and a little Easter story book for each family to share. These were delivered to the children's homes along with some chocolate eggs. For Easter Sunday they also all received an additional activity pack.

The children were encouraged to make an Easter garden and leave in front of the Church.

Lucy organised some Holy Week activities in the Church's front garden, to which children and young people from Junior Church and Boys' and Girls' Brigades were invited. There was a trail for the children to follow with four different stations to stop at, each showing different stages of Holy Week.





- Firstly, an activity all about washing feet
- · Secondly an activity decorating a cup depicting the Last Supper
- Thirdly making a miniature wooden cross out of twigs
- Fourthly a station all about Easter Day reminding children that Easter is a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life. At this station there was a packet of seeds given as a gift to everyone who completed the trail to remind them of this message.

We hope that anyone walking past the Church during this time would stop and take some time to join in too. The stunning and beautiful display of the cross, which was set up by Martin and Rosemary, was visible to all Sawston residents as they walked past, and hopefully encouraged people to come and look at the displays we had set up in the front garden.

Thank you to everyone involved.





Julie Robinson

Lectio Divina

We are invited to join with Downing Place URC and other churches in Cambridge to Rev. Deborah McVey's lectio divina during the month of May. These take place on Zoom hosted by Deborah on Tuesday mornings from 8.30 to 9.30 am.

- May 4 Resurrection theme
- May 11 Ascension theme
- May 18 Pentecost
- May 25 The Trinity

Those of us who joined the Lent ones found them very moving and thought provoking. If you wish to join them, please contact Deborah at Deborahmcv@aol.com



CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT

From the Minister's Desk - Easter Message

There is one thing that keeps me going in my life of faith. That thing is the realisation that at the heart of Christian faith are journeys. God calls her people through time to journey together in changing and sometimes challenging circumstances. So, here we are, still in March, and I am not feeling very hopeful, I am still waiting for the sunshine, the rule changes, the end of lockdown and an opportunity to see each other again face to face!

It is fair to say that any novelty that was to be found in lockdown has long since worn away and we are in the final stages of utter relentless boredom. Easter is all about hope and I really want to find some hopeful words to share with you all. Two days ago, I walked down the road to drop off something for my dear friend, and it was lovely to see children being picked up from school and making the all familiar chattering. They had hopeful looks on their faces as they held hands or tried to talk to the adults in their company. They were definitely hopeful for more, but like all of us, they will have to wait a bit longer for their dreams to come true....that may include the long awaited for holidays abroad.

There is no doubt that the pandemic journey has impacted us differently. The world will never be what it was like preCovid19. A lot has changed forever! Maybe we are not sure how we might respond to this change and how we model change to all around us, as people who have also been changed by God during this time?

The wonderful thing about the Church calendar is that it provides for us when we can't provide for ourselves. Whether at Church or at home, Easter comes and with it the joy of the resurrection and new hope. Hope for a fresh start and a new beginning, hope that God is eternal, and that new life comes to all who ask! I wonder in which tense we are living? Is it the past, is it all about what is happening now? Or are we anxious about the future? We are assured that we can do this new life with Jesus!

However, Easter finds us not quite in the joy of freedom of movement and relaxed rules, but still in the midst of gradual relaxations and slow moves back to new normality. But this is really ok, because it is here in the hardest moments that hope does its best work. Hope is like a small bud trying to break through the soil amidst the gravel and rocks, it can be stamped on, crushed and

diminished, but shine a light for a moment and it springs up anew. When we lift our eyes and look around, we see the flower unexpectedly in a corner.

The last year of lockdown has been heart breaking for many, and yet the reality of loved ones who have died may be felt more keenly as we are out and about noticing the gaps left in our lives. For those suffering with long Covid 19 symptoms, the disease casts a long shadow, blotting out the sun, hiding the hope. But if despair is the pain of knowing that tomorrow will be exactly the same as today, then hope is the relief of believing that maybe tomorrow will be different.

As we emerge slowly from this crisis, we must be people of hope, who dream of a better tomorrow, who cry out for justice, dignity and solidarity and who know that whatever today feels like, God is with us tomorrow, with forgiveness, joy and peace.

It is in times like these, that God comes and transforms us if we are willing, and open.

Rev Charity Tozivepi Nzegwu

Minister, Orwell and Royston Methodist Churches

Methodist Church COP26 campaign, Climate Justice for All

It was good to see many of you at the Global Encounter event on 20 March on Zoom. We heard many inspiring stories on that day including an update from Mollie Pugmire, who is one of the British Methodist Church's representatives to COP26 in October. Mollie has sent this update to share with you all.

I'm excited to share with you that the **Methodist Church COP26 campaign, Climate Justice for All** (CJ4A for short), has launched!

Climate Justice for All is a campaign run by workers in Britain, Uruguay, Italy, Zambia and Fiji and together we have built a campaign designed to encourage every Methodist community around the world to take action for climate justice, in the lead up to COP26.

We'd love for you to be part of spreading the word about the campaign with the East Anglia Global Mission community as well as your church communities.

For our launch, we have released the first in our series of monthly **short films and worship resources**. These resources aim to engage Methodist communities all over the world on the issue of climate justice, by **encouraging communities to listen, call and commit**.

Each month, a short film will share the story of a different Methodist community and their relationship with climate change and/or climate action. The accompanying worship resources offer an opportunity to explore the themes of the film in more depth through materials such as discussion questions, an eco-reflection on a piece of scripture and prayers.

For our first month, our short film focuses on Scotland and COP26 and has contributions from members of Stirling Methodist Church as well as young people from across Britain. The worship resources have been **written exclusively by young people** and we hope that both the resources and the film will be of use to you and your community! Next month, our short film and worship resources will come from our colleague in Fiji which we are also very excited about!

Our resources are hosted on our website: April – Resources – World Methodist Council

Throughout the campaign, there will also be opportunities for communities to commit to change for the climate in their own lives, and to call for political change on a national and international scale. We're also inviting young people around the world to volunteer as advocates for the project.

If you would like to check out our social media, I have listed all of our accounts below:

• Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/climatejustice4all/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CJ4All

• Twitter: https://twitter.com/ClimateJust4All

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg1kqmLvWxwVP3HEiUwqS8Q

Check back to our website and social media's to keep up to date with the ongoing work of the campaign.

Warmest Wishes

Mollie

Mollie Pugmire

British CJ4A Worker | The Methodist Church in Britain

With best wishes

Sarah Friswell

On behalf of the World Church Action Team

The Footprints Café Café Café 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

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



I charge £43 per hour, £22 concessions.

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Please text or leave a voicemail on 07857 007883 or email alan.chamley@virgin.net

Please visit my website: www.alanchamleycounselling.co.uk

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