

CONTACT

August 2021



Volume 62 - Issue 8
Sawston Free Church – Castle Camps URC

Churches Services and Dates for Your Diary

Future Services-(all via zoom) SFC email: secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk,
Castle Camps email: sarabdavey@outlook.com

01 August	10.30 Morning Worship - Rev Phil Nevard - Joint service with Castle Camps URC
08 August	10.30 Holy Communion - Rev Phil Nevard
15 August	10.30 Morning Worship - Andy Nightingale
22 August	10.30 - Go4th
29 August	10.30 Morning Worship - Rev Dr. Mike Wilson

The closing date for **September** Contact is Friday **20th August**

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

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Contact

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

Whilst in vacancy please refer Church related matters to:
secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk or sarabdavey@outlook.com (CastleCamps)
www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk, www.castlecampsurc.org
www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch

Dear Friends,

I spent some time with my mother this week. The weather was unusually hot, so we spent a good bit of time simply sitting in the garden. We are both the kind of people who cannot simply sit in the garden without noticing things that need to be done, and before long we are doing them and a big pile of weeds and prunings has appeared which then needs to be disposed of!

In one of the moments we managed to sit and drink coffee, I noticed a patch of flowers that brought back a real childhood memory. I was taken back several decades to my grandad's garden in Wolverhampton, picking dried honesty and extracting the seeds from the translucent flower heads. My mum has been trying to get it established for several years, and she has finally succeeded. She offered me some, and I asked if it grows in the shade. My mum replied, "Oh, honesty grows anywhere."

That's the kind of thing that ministers are trained to notice and seize upon! "Honesty grows anywhere!"

Honesty, living an honest or consistent life - a life that matches our words - that's part of what the Kingdom of God is about. Jesus told a whole stack of parables about how the Kingdom of God grows, and many of them are about unlikely places or people, and tiniest seeds.

So, does honesty grow in the shade? I hope so, for surely there is only ever any point being God's light-bearers unless we are willing to venture into dark places and sow seeds. If we live out the values of the Kingdom of God, then they will grow and flourish and spread wherever we go and in whoever we meet!

***Every Blessing,
Phil***



Reverend Phil Nevard

From the Elders

We are delighted to announce our church is now open for worship. The floors have been repaired and recarpeted and the church looks fantastic. We are so grateful to Gordon and his team for all the hard work which has gone in to this project. Social distancing will still be maintained initially and Zoom services are hoping to continue for those at home.

The induction of our new minister Rev. Phil Nevard will take place at Sawston Free Church URC/Methodist on September 5th at 10.30. He will be inducted to the pastorate of Sawston URC/Methodist, Whittlesford URC and Castle Camps URC .Attendance is by invitation only.

If you wish to join on Zoom please contact the secretary for the link at secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk



Greetings From Castle Camps

An update on our Chapel building works



I've just this morning had a walk through meeting with our builder and the works are in quick progress thanks to the sunny weekend.

While the aesthetics of the front of the chapel is a priority, we desperately miss our ringing bell and our beautiful clock.

The back "School room" of the building is of the utmost importance. The School room has some subsidence which is being remedied, the majority of brickwork is being stabilised and the roof and beams are being completely replaced.

Many folks have asked about the bell tower and when it will make an appearance and I can say that it is currently being made by local craftsmen. The spine of the main roof will also be replaced when the School Room is done and weather permitting.

When the exterior works have finished and/or the weather is not favourable the works inside on the main ceiling are being done. The clockworks are being protected within the church and the exterior of the clockface will also be refurbished.

Although it would be nice to have an expected finish date we cannot ask that of the builders as it would only tempt the weather to challenge it and dash our hopes. Rest assured, work is in the most capable hands and is constantly in progress. If you would like to help I am positive that a prayer for good weather would be much appreciated.

In looking for inspiring content for this months contact I came across a few interesting facts about August:

- The birthstone for August is Peridot, a gorgeous transparent lime/apple green stone.
- According to Websters dictionary the word August means "marked by Majestic dignity or grandeur".
- August 23rd is the day of International Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

So I wrote a prayer for the month using these ideas:

Dear Lord,

When we look at the Peridot stone let us remember the sparkling new growth in bright green that happens when we are open to change, sunshine, and rain.

Help us to find ways of adding dignity and majesty to your work and your name every day.

Let us always remember the mistakes made in the past but not to berate ourselves but to learn from them and make amends where we can. Give us strength to fight for Love, Equality, and Justice, always.

Amen

We send our best wishes to our friends in Sawston

Sara Davey



PLEASE REMEMBER

**Saturday September 11th 2021
2.30 - 5pm at the Mary Challis garden, Sawston.**

Cream Teas!

(In aid of Christian Aid) Adults £8, Children under 10 £3

Tickets available to purchase in advance

from Pam 01223 834220 or Mary 01223 837433.

If weather wet, Footprints Cafe will be the venue!!

See you there!!

Replacement of the Church Floor - Taking steps in Faith

Summary

The 40 year old sanctuary floor had deteriorated badly particularly during the cold damp winter of 2020/21. Soft areas had been noted; however localised repairs were insufficient as the whole floor had been affected. Whilst the buildings were largely out of use due to Covid restrictions it was decided to replace the sanctuary floor. Advice was taken from the Synod Property Consultant and insulation under the floor and increasing air brick sizes were added to the project.

Originally it was thought that work would be confined to the sanctuary. After success in replacing that floor and a survey of the back hall and kitchen floors, the scope of work was increased to include those areas.

The work is now virtually complete as the photos show. It has been completed below budget and in 6 weeks rather than the anticipated 8 weeks allowed.



Underfloor inspection showed the chipboard to have failed although the joists were sound.



Preparing battens at the saw bench



Work in progress



Laying the first carpet tiles

Steps in Faith

It is quite one thing to say "Let's do it" and another to set to and actually do it. I contacted about 20 men who were members of the church or connected with the Church. Of course some of them were unable to help due to work commitments, but 15 of them and two further men volunteered their time and energy to help get the work done. A few brought experience with them. Others learned on the job.

The volunteers were not all able to help on the same days which helped with social distancing (Covid Requirement) but there were always sufficient volunteers to make significant progress every day. We set out intending to work 6 days a week but soon realised that 5 long mornings would be more sustainable. The volunteers ranged in age from 12 to 77 with the majority in the upper age group. We give thanks that everyone stayed safe and well and we had no accidents.

A terrific team spirit developed. All volunteers worked with a common purpose. Some men dropped in for a few hours when their normal employment allowed it. Others developed a routine which suited them. I hope the renewed and developed friendships which have formed will carry on in some future action. Seven further volunteers made the work lighter by providing and serving refreshments.



Come and Worship

When nearing completion of the sanctuary, I asked if volunteers were up for tackling the back hall, as well. There was an overwhelming desire to press on and finish the job.

No one could have asked more. Volunteers put in a total of 780 hours in 6 weeks - a tremendous team effort. The Team can be justifiably proud of their achievement.



The Team (most of them)

Thanks

So on behalf of the Church I would like to thank the Team. As a token gesture of thanks the Church bought breakfast for the team from Footprints Café.

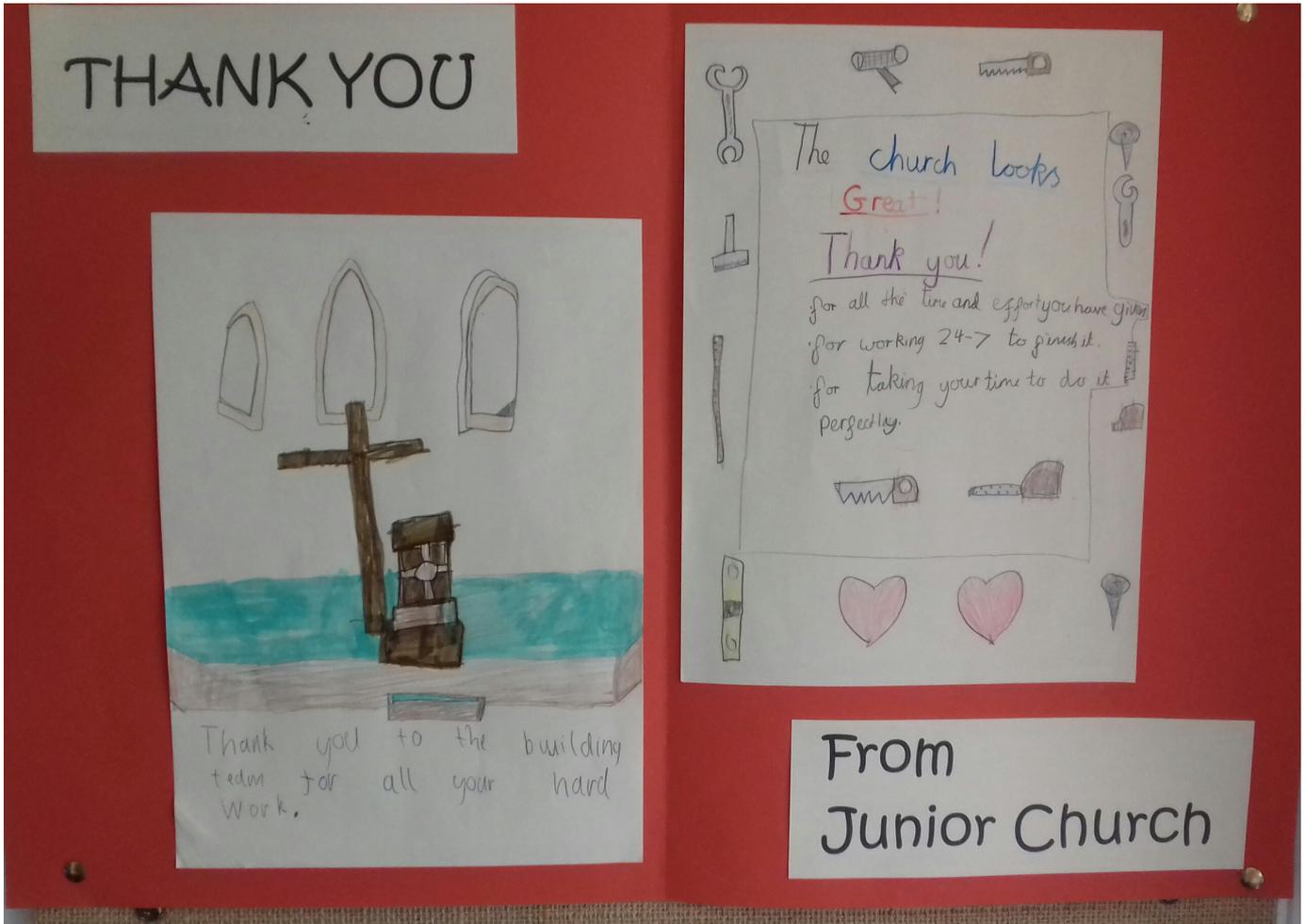


Refreshment providers



Team breakfast from Footprints Café

Thanks to Gordon for the excellent report and Helen for helping with the photos.



Thanks from Abbi and Isaac.



Green, Green is My Sister's House

Don't you dare climb that tree or even try, they said, or you will be sent way to the hospital of the very foolish, if not the other one. And I suppose, considering my age, it was fair advice.

But the tree is a sister to me, she lives alone in a green cottage high in the air and I know what would happen, she'd clap her green hands,

she'd shake her green hair, she'd welcome me. Truly.

I try to be good but sometimes a person just has to break out and act like the wild and springy thing one used to be. It's impossible not to remember *wild* and not want to go back. So

if someday you can't find me you might look into that tree or—of course it's possible—under it.

Mary Oliver,

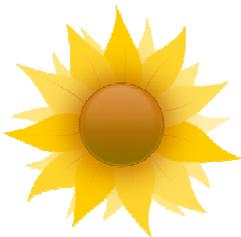
Footprints Cafe

Please remember that the cafe has re-opened and also has the facility for outdoor seating and takeaways. 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.

The Footprints Café



"Don't forget that Footprints Café will also do you great picnic teas"



CAMBRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT

With thanks to 'Inform
-The magazine for the Methodist churches in Orwell and Royston'

Climate Justice: the new paradigm

In the first in a series of blogs on climate justice, the Revd Simon Topping calls for a new way of thinking about climate justice.

The world needs a paradigm shift, a new way of seeing the world – and we know it. One of the great eye-opening revelations of the Covid pandemic is that the old paradigm – greed will save the day – has become something of a joke, even by those who used to stand by this mantra.

The old paradigm was built upon the view that by releasing the acquisitive energy of the individual from the restrictions of taxes and regulations, including regulations that protect the natural environment, all would benefit in the end. If we allow the individual to pursue their own narrow interest the wider interests of all, including the natural world, would be promoted through the magical workings of the market's "invisible hand".

This world view doesn't work in a pandemic - or as a response to the environmental crisis we face. Rather, we have rediscovered that it is only by prioritising the common good (global vaccination in the case of the pandemic) that our individual wellbeing is safeguarded. "Nobody is safe until everyone is safe" was the strapline of a recent letter signed by 60 world leaders which called for a global treaty to prepare effectively for the next pandemic. In pursuit of environmental and climate justice this strapline needs to be expanded to read: "nobody is safe until all living things and the natural world are safe".

As Christians we have rich biblical resources which help us to promote this new (or rediscovered) paradigm. On many occasions Jesus reminds us that the pursuit of our own individual interests alone leads to the diminishment of life. Those who seek to save their own life, like the rich fool who builds bigger barns, will not find the security and abundance they crave, whereas those whose lives are marked by gratitude, generosity and concern for the wellbeing of others, will find life in all its fullness.

The Christian doctrine of the Trinity also offers us a window into this new way of understanding our relationship with others and the world around us. The Trinity is a divine community of diversity and oneness, a community animated by loving mutuality, co-operation, inter-dependence, equality and the pursuit of the good of each part of the whole. It provides us with a vision of how a new world might operate once the old paradigm of self-interest, excessive consumption and aggressive competition has been cast off. And it points to a new way for humanity to relate to the natural world around us, whereby in seeking the wellbeing of God's creation we find wellbeing for ourselves.

The Revd Simon Topping is a presbyter working in the Gloucestershire Circuit

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The Journeys We Take

As we come out of lockdown restrictions during this summer period, many of us might be planning or preparing to go on different journeys. At times we may find ourselves on spiritual journeys too. Some may be visiting family for the first time in over 14 months! One thing is certain, our journeys will be different. I wonder who you might be journeying with.

When I set out on any journey, I am always encouraged by the story in Mark 4: 35 – 41. In the story, Jesus asks the disciples to journey with him across to the other side. While they were on their journey, Jesus fell asleep. A storm swept down on the lake, filling the boat with water and the disciples were in danger. The disciples woke Jesus up. He woke up and reproached the wind and the strong waves; they stopped and there was a calm.

In that moment the disciples sense just what it means to be in the presence of Jesus, the Son of God. They are nervous and afraid, and they feel absolutely not in control of what is to come. Have you ever set out on such a journey which led you to feel unable to control a challenge? What did you do?

I believe that the great illusion of our lives is that we are ever in control. We may arrange certain aspects of journeys, exercise influence over certain situations, but at any moment things may just change. We are not in control. Therefore, as we plan or go out on our journeys this summer, we have the choice between living with the illusion of control or entrusting ourselves to the One who orders the universe.

One of the curious things about our relationship with God is that we want God to be powerful, but we also want that power deployed in ways we can understand, a way that seems safe, and perhaps a way that we can control, or at least doesn't leave us feeling out of control. I have since learnt that to be in a relationship with God is to be out of control, and God is not part of our life in this world, God is life in this world. So, friends, as you set on our different journeys, may we always know that Jesus is with us, and when we confront challenges on these journeys, we too can call upon Him!

Prayer

Dear God, we are so eager to be in control of our lives that we miss the fact that so much of life, so much of what matters, is beyond our control or influence.

Help us to remember that you are always with us! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Rev Charity Nzegwu

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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.



I charge £43 per hour, £22 concessions.

I can currently provide counselling face to face, by telephone or via Zoom. I have daytime and evening availability.

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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