

CONTACT

February 2022



Volume 63 - Issue 2
Sawston Free Church – Castle Camps URC

Churches Services and Dates for Your Diary

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

Sawston Free Church:

06 February 10.30 Morning Worship – Rev E Caswell
13 February 10.30 Morning Worship – Rev Phil Nevard
20 February 10.30 Morning Worship – Rev Phil Nevard
27 February 10.30 Go4th with Phil Nevard

The closing date for **March** Contact is Friday **18th February**

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

Minister		Tel
Rev Phil Nevard	12 Hinton Way, Gt Shelford, minister@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk	07814920187
Secretaries:		
Maggie Jones - Sawston	21 Hillside, Sawston	565637
Sara Davey - Castle Camps	Quinney's, High St, Castle Camps	07766101446
Elders: Sawston		
Rosemary Livings	The Gables, 1a Granhams Road, Gt Shelford	845948
Anne Nunn	10 London Road, Sawston	832913
Beryl Penny	April Lodge, 81 Brewery Road, Pampisford	833635
Mike Purdy	42 Granta Road, Sawston	830903
Mary Simuyandi	28 New Road, Sawston	837433
Yvonne Sparrow	25 Edinburgh Ave, Sawston	473937
Joint Treasurers:		
Lynne Hays	Baggot Hall, Station Road, Harston	871800
Terry Penny	April Lodge, 81 Brewery Road, Pampisford	833635
Contact Editors		
David & Anne Nunn	10 London Road, Sawston Email: anne.nunn@btinternet.com	832913
Church Bookings	Maggie Jones, 21 Hillside, Sawston	565637
Church Website:	www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/ www.castlecampsurc.org	
Facebook page:	www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch	

Contact

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

Minister: Reverend Phil Nevard – 12 Hinton Way, Gt Shelford, Cambs CB22 5BE
Tel: 07814 920187 Email: minister@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk
www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk, www.castlecampsurc.org
www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch

Dear Friends,

I suspect it is a little piece of specialist knowledge, but this year has a much longer season of Epiphany than usual! Right up to Shrove Tuesday (March 1st) it is Epiphany! The church's calendar (like elasticated trousers!) has stretch in it to accommodate moveable feasts like Easter. When Easter is early then Epiphany is short and when Easter is later, Epiphany is long. Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday (March 2nd).



So, maybe we should be making the most of an extended Epiphany. The season is named after the word “epiphany” which means (1): a sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something. (2): an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking. Or (3): an illuminating discovery, realisation, or disclosure.” In short, we might describe an “epiphany” as an “aha!” moment.

In the church it is a season where we hear biblical accounts of people having “Aha!” moments about who Jesus is. Epiphany will always include the story of the Magi recognising that Jesus is to be worshipped and the story of Jesus' baptism where there is recognition that he is the chosen one of God. This year it also includes the wedding feast at Cana, Jesus preaching in the Nazareth synagogue, the miraculous catch of fish, the sermon on the mount and the transfiguration. All of these texts shed light on who Jesus is and (essentially the same question) what the Kingdom of God looks and feels like. This in turn tells us something challenging about who we are and what the church should look and feel like.

Maybe Epiphany would be a good time for you to live with these texts for a while. Read them slowly, linger over them, read different translations, let the words seep in, pray with them. **Then ask them these two questions:**

What does that text say about who Jesus is?

If that's who Jesus is, what does that say about who I am and what church should look like?

Here's the full set of Epiphany gospel texts for this year:

-Matthew

2:1-12

-Luke

3:15-17, 21-22, 4:14-30, 5:1-11, 6:17-38, 9:28-43

-John

2:1-11

Then assemble all your answers into a paragraph or two which describe who Jesus is, and the same for who you are and what the church should look like. Put them into contemporary and accessible language.

If you give this some time and reflect on it prayerfully, then this Epiphany could be a really powerful staging post on your journey of faith and a deep and rich preparation for Lent and Easter.



Every blessing,
Phil

Junior Church Nativity Service

Traditionally, our Junior Church annually holds a children's nativity service. Unfortunately in 2020 we were not able to continue meeting together, so this did not happen. Happily, in December last year, we did go ahead with our special service, and we were blessed to have a small group of children and adults take part in retelling the Christmas story.

Fortunately Mary and Joseph had just recovered from Covid in the nick of time, and were able to join in as planned. In addition, all the main characters were there: inn-keeper, shepherd, angel and three kings, supported by the leaders and helpers of the Junior Church. All the children took part in acting the various parts, reading the Bible story, and saying the prayers. They all did so well, and the service was enjoyed by those in church and also others watching on zoom at home. We remembered how these groups of people – Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men - had their lives disrupted but this was all in God's greater plan.

Thinking ahead to the next time we do a nativity service, I wondered if there was anyone reading this who might have some dressing up clothes or costumes at home that would be suitable for our next production. Many of our costumes need updating now, so if you have any clothes, headdresses or props at home that would be suitable for the children taking part in telling the Christmas story, I would be very grateful to hear from you. Anything that would be suitable for our Mary and Joseph, shepherds, angels or kings would be very welcome. Thank you.

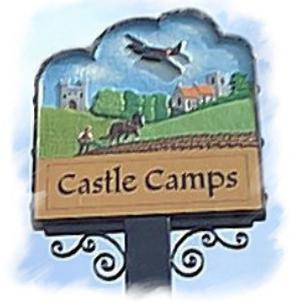
Julie Robinson

julierob@outlook.com



Greetings From Castle Camps

This is a test. Look at each of these things and think not “I’m pretty good at this sometimes...” but “how can I be better at this today?” Don’t be too hard on yourself but think about the people in your life that you Love and resolve to love them better every day.



Love is Patient.

Love is Kind.

Love does not Envy

Love does not Boast

Love is not Proud

Love does not dishonour others

Love is not Self-seeking

Love is not easily angered

Love keeps no record of wrongs

Love does not delight in Evil

Love rejoices with the truth

Love always Protects

Love always Trusts

Love always Hopes

Love always Perseveres

Love never fails.

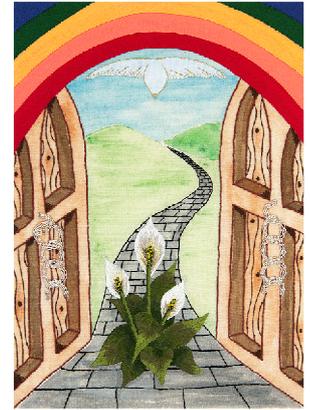
Cor. 13:4-8

Sara Davey



World Day of Prayer

Theme: I know the plans I have for you
ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN
IRELAND



As a single World Day of Prayer organisation, the three voices of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, have come together to present this year's service, recognising our differences but also our common ground.

Currently, the WDP National Committee includes 17 different Christian denominations. We allocate over 40 grants to national and international charities. We support prayer partners in Albania, sending representatives to visit the WDP in Albania on a regular basis.

We continue to review what we do and to adapt to changes in communication and technology.

Our office in Tunbridge Wells co-ordinates the distribution of service materials, including activities for children and youth and our website carries news of all we do.

We also post on Twitter and Facebook and have been delighted with the number of 'hits' we get.

England, Wales and Northern Ireland fall within the group of islands known as the British Isles. Scotland is also part of the United Kingdom but has its own WDP organisation.

We are small, about 80th in the world when countries are ranked according to area (under 165,000 square km or 64,000 square miles for England, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Wales is rural in character, straddled by mountains and bounded by a rugged coastline. Its large coalfields to the South provided a key export from cities such as Newport, Swansea and Cardiff.

Northern Ireland boasts Lough Neagh, one of the largest freshwater lakes in Western Europe, as well as the spectacular Giant's Causeway, a mass of interlocking basalt columns off the Antrim coast, caused by an ancient volcanic eruption.

England has less dramatic landscapes but has a spectacular coastline, especially in the West Country, while the north has lakes, mountains and large areas of moorland and forest. England has the highest level of urban development.

People have shaped our landscape, first through farming. Livestock grazed on hills, causing large areas of natural woodland to disappear. In the late Middle Ages, common land was enclosed by powerful feudal barons. In the 18th and 19th centuries, some parts of the country were depopulated, as industrialisation drew people from the countryside to growing towns and cities

Traditional family life is no longer the norm in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The most common size, at 9,609,000 households, is two people. The second most common household size is one! A recent study found that the average age of a single woman getting married is now 30.8 years, up just over eight years from 1971, when the average was 22.6 years. In 2017, just over half of the population (51.0%) aged 16 years and over in England and Wales was married. Even though, we celebrated the progress women have made in our society, we still struggle to combat violence in our homes, improve the lives of those living in poverty and support those with disabilities, physical, mental and emotional. Life expectancy for women in the UK is 82 years.

The World Day of prayer will be held at Sawston Free Church on March 4th at 7 pm. ALL are very welcome.

Mary

shoeboxappeal.org

SHOE BOX APPEAL

Give a precious gift this Christmas

Thank you for filling shoeboxes

Sawston Free Church

73 boxes

Transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul



Yvonne Sparrow
Sawston Free Church
25 Edinburgh Avenue
Sawston
CAMBRIDGE
CB22 3DW

Blythwood Care
Highland Deephaven
Evanton
Ross-shire
IV16 9XJ
Tel: 01349 830777
email: mairi.ferrier@blythwood.org
website: www.blythwood.org
9th December 2021

Dear friends of Sawston Free Church

Thank you for giving a precious gift this Christmas

This is a small note to say a big thank you for taking part in Blythwood Care's 2021 Shoe Box Appeal. The important part that you've played is greatly appreciated.

Our Shoe Box Appeal started in 1993. That year, 300 gift-wrapped, gift-filled shoeboxes were given to children in Romanian orphanages. Twenty-eight years later, our shoeboxes go to children, to the elderly and to those in between. Our shoeboxes go to people in need across Eastern Europe.

The Shoe Box Appeal continues twenty-eight years after it started because the need certainly continues. The Appeal can only continue thanks to the support of people like you. Your support really matters. Poverty and need that was present before COVID has not been lessened by the pandemic. Needs have been exacerbated, difficulties deepened. Brexit has brought additional complications, but we're grateful to God that already, thanks to the kindness of people like you, many shoebox gifts have already been delivered across Eastern Europe this winter.

Every gift in every shoebox makes a difference. Each gift lets someone in need know that they have been thought about, that they are valued, and that they are loved. That is a priceless gift to give and to receive. That is a precious gift that makes a lasting difference.

As a small thing to say a very big thank you, I'm pleased to enclose a certificate of thanks that you can display.

It's my privilege to be able to thank you on behalf of Blythwood Care, but thank you also on behalf of those you might never meet, but whose lives have been made better thanks to your kindness and care. Your precious gift this Christmas will make a difference that lasts.

Wishing you all the very best for 2021,^(!)

Mairi

Mairi Ferrier
Fundraising Administrator

Scottish charity No. SC048001 – Company limited by guarantee No. SC583493
Registered address; Highland Deephaven, Evanton, Ross-shire IV16 9XJ

Transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul

The Church Sets Out

We are unable to gather precise details of the state of religion in Sawston in the period prior to the year 1810. For several years preachers from neighbouring districts held monthly services in the parish, but their labours did not meet with any distinctive success. A desire for weekly meetings was expressed by a few friends, and these meetings aroused a deeper interest “the spirit of hearing was improved”.

A place of meeting was not as yet within the plan of the preachers, but a few local stalwarts found a barn situated in Common Lane where friends could meet for worship and edification.

This barn, which measured 51ft x 16ft cannot be described exactly as a lordly place, nor the approach to it considered as a stately avenue, but here indeed was the King’s highway, and although a common lane, those who trod its paths were filled with the spirit of faith.

On September 30th, 1810, the barn was formally dedicated to its noble purposes and many souls were gathered into the divine storehouse as a result of the labours of the faithful.

It soon became evident that the building was too small to seat all who desired to attend, many being unable to gain admittance, and after prayerful consideration it was decided to erect a suitable house of prayer.

A piece of ground was given by a friend named Brown, and the red brick building which is now named the Lecture Hall was built.

In addition to the seats on the ground floor, a gallery was placed at one end, at the rear there was a vestry.

The erection of the Lecture Hall was met with “the greatest opposition imaginable”, but the faithful did not tarry; nothing daunted they went on with the good work.

The building work started in 1811 and March 22, 1812, the church was opened and dedicated to its high and great task of making known the crown rights of the Redeemer.

(An extract from ‘A History of Sawston Congregational Church’ by Richard Ball published by Crampton and Sons in 1947)

As I write this, in mid-January, there are Russian forces massing along the border between Russia and Ukraine. Britain has further supplied the Ukrainian army with anti-tank missiles. NATO as a whole is strengthening its defences in the Balkan States. President Putin is saying that he needs guarantees that Ukraine will not join either NATO or the EU. The West, virtually univocally, is saying that Ukraine is an independent state and must be free to do as Ukraine wishes. It is no-one else's business what Ukraine resolves to do. I just pray that by the time you read this, the situation hasn't deteriorated out of all recognition.

I tend to read the BBC website, the Guardian, and the Sunday Times for my news. (The BBC for strict accuracy, the Guardian because I tend to enjoy the Guardian opinion on most things, and the Sunday Times because, although it is factually accurate, I tend to deplore its opinions, which makes it so worth reading.) The three sources seem agreed:

- (i) that Putin at the very least needs to know that Ukraine is under his thumb - that it is within his sphere of influence,
- (ii) that Putin wishes to recreate, as far as he can, a neo-USSR consisting of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine,
- (iii) that Putin would like to add the Baltic States to the list but dare not,
- (iv) that Putin believes that the breakup of the USSR under Gorbachev in 1991 was a disaster in need of reversal,
- (v) that there will never be a better time to achieve his ambitions than now,
- (vi) that Russia, Belarus and Ukraine historically, culturally, spiritually and 'naturally' belong together.

Beyond that, these three news sources differ over the crucial question, 'How far dare Putin go? Dare he invade Ukraine?'

It is hard to find a commentator prepared to acknowledge the deep spiritual issues that pull Putin's heart-strings and the heart-strings of many Russians. That few Russians attend church is not the point. The point is that at heart they are Orthodox. This is a struggle for the soul of Russia.

In brief, the origins of 'Russia' lie in the Kievan Rus', a loose federation of Slavic states which, at its peak in the mid-11th century, embraced Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Its spiritual heart was Kiev. It was part of the Christian Orthodox world, the ruling authority of which was in Constantinople. When Kiev fell to the Mongols, the Metropolitan of Kiev at the time decamped to a safer part of the territory - to Moscow. Constantinople still recognised his authority. He had merely moved home. Nevertheless, this set up a

rivalry between Kiev and Moscow for the heart of Russian Orthodoxy that survives to this day, because it left Moscow appointing a lesser Metropolitan to preside over Kiev, rather than the other way round. And it left the Muskovite Metropolitan presiding over all the Rus', not the one in Kiev. But despite these resentments, it remained the case that for all Russian Orthodox, Kiev was their spiritual birthplace. Kiev was 'theirs'. It still is.

At first, after the breakup of the USSR in 1991, relations in the church remained as usual. But under Putin, Orthodox Christianity has become a powerful emotional/spiritual element in his aggressively nationalistic reconstruction of the Motherland. Putin's Russia is a spiritual entity, as well as a political, economic and military entity. Further, Russia's true boundaries are, for Putin, spiritual boundaries. Thus his annexation of the Crimea in 2014 was, to him, a mere internal political reorganisation of how things had always been, not an invasion of a sovereign state. And Moscow continued to impose its Metropolitan upon Kiev. This was the final straw, and in 2018 the Kiev Church declared the Metropolitan of Kiev to be autonomous, independent of Moscow. Later that year, the Metropolitan of Constantinople, still the supreme authority over the entire Orthodox world-wide family, backed Kiev against Moscow. Moscow promptly excommunicated the Church in Ukraine, as it had Estonia in 1996. Alexandria (2019) and Cyprus (2020) followed. Whereas before, Russia could assume an affinity with the rest of the Orthodox world, it could do so no longer.

I take it for granted that should Putin get his way, an early casualty of his influence over Ukraine will be the enforced reinstatement of a Metropolitan in Kiev subordinate to Moscow. To Putin, and to a great many Russians, that will indicate that the Ukraine is back where it belongs - part of the great family of the Kievan Rus', stretching, as it 'always' has, from the Baltic in the North to the Black Sea in the South.

The problem? Well, we in the West have been shaped, largely, by pre-Reformation Western thought-forms that now find expression in Protestant theology and in secular enlightenment thinking. We rate individual rights, freedom of conscience, and self-determination very highly. We seem to have taught Ukrainians to do the same. So which carries the greater moral weight - Protestant/Western emphasis on the sanctity of individual 'rights' to self-determination and freedom of conscience? Or Orthodox Eastern emphasis on the sanctity of the spiritual authority and integrity of the Church, and the Christian State, not over years or even decades, but over centuries and even over eternity?

Ends

An Introduction

Four Districts in the East Midlands stationing region are currently working together in collaborative ways. These Districts are East Anglia, Lincolnshire, Northampton and Nottingham and Derby. The Beds, Essex and Herts District

(BEH) has agreed to send an observer to future meetings because the 5 Districts already work together on Learning and Development and Safeguarding. Senior District leaders have a good working relationship, and are experienced in working regionally in a number of areas, particularly stationing. We are seeking to increase the collaboration in a number of other areas. Some of these developments will happen gradually and incrementally, other changes may be necessary as the Church takes action regarding the number of Districts and how senior leadership should be exercised. We are writing to you now to update you about this piece of work and seek your prayerful support for it.

The Regional Working Group

A working group comprising District Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Synod Secretaries, District Mission Enablers with others from the Circuits have been meeting regularly for some time. The group includes lay and ordained leaders. There are at least 3 or 4 people from each District. The group has already identified a number of areas where we are stronger in drawing our resources together. A number of work streams have been created, and a number of other meetings called which have encouraged officers across Districts to get to know each other and at least to work consultatively. The Group has met on Zoom and that has allowed regular well attended meetings.

Chair of the Regional Working Group

My name is Steve Acklam and I am based in the Cambridge Circuit. I am a life-long Methodist from the days when Harvest Festivals were characterised by tiered rows of freshly scrubbed Sunday School children and literally heaps of fresh produce. So, I feel very privileged and somewhat humbled to have been appointed as Lay Chair of the Regional Working Group. Just as God did when I prevaricated about helping to lead a Disciple course; and when I hesitated to step up to become Senior Circuit Steward; I am clear that God guided me to this new challenge. I will now be doing my best to add value to the discussions that have already begun in the Eastern Region, and to help steer our combined efforts to beneficial conclusions. In my working life I have been subject to change and instigated change, and am under no illusions as to how carefully the intent to work more closely together and to maximise inter-District cooperation needs to be managed. A genuine cooperative effort will be needed.

What we are already doing

Our first efforts were focussed on how senior leadership is expressed across the region. When the Revd. Loraine Mellor approached the end of her appointment as Chair of the Nottingham & Derby District it was decided that her successor would be a Deputy Chair at 80%, and another Chair within the region would oversee their ministry and service. It was decided that the Chair of the Northampton District would serve as Chair of both of these Districts for 2022-24.

As the number of probationer ministers fell across the region it was decided to create a Shared Districts Probationer's Committee and this is now in place overseeing 4 probationers who are in 3 separate Districts. There is now a Shared probationer Learning Group.

Work is currently underway reflecting on a more regional approach to Safeguarding and how to best resource the areas of finance, property, and employment matters.

Future hopes and needs

Working together in partnership across distinct areas of mission and ministry has real value when we can streamline the number of people involved in some tasks and avoid unnecessary repetition. The shortage of volunteers across every part of the Church reflects the older profile and smaller nature of our Church, so it makes sense to work together in areas where it is helpful to do so. We must also be as prepared as possible for any changes asked of us by Conference. If the Eastern Region, for example became a District with four distinct Mission Areas (East Anglia, Lincolnshire, Northampton, and Nottingham & Derby) all with senior leadership in place, we would hope to be well placed to move forward confidently and without disruption.

The period 2022-24 is a period of transition and change and we hope that our work so far in co-operation and partnership will enable us to respond well to any other changes required of us.

We ask for your prayers

- For all involved in this work – for vision and hope
- For those who are anxious and fearful of change
- That we will all be open to the prompting of the Spirit and find ways of working which bring about the flourishing of God's people and a faithful response to the call of the Kingdom of God.

LINTON VILLAGE MOTORS

01223 830550



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

Find us in Great Abington
opposite Granta Park

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

www.lintonvillagemotors.co.uk

H J PAINTIN LTD FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Personal attention assured at all times
24 Hour Service

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

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

60, WITHERSFIELD ROAD, HAVERHILL
Tel: 01440 703218

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



www.hjpaintin.co.uk

STEVE the PLUMBER

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

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

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

Call or click:

07803 922517

www.stevetheplumbersawston.co.uk

pb Price Bailey The right advice for your business life

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

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

This space could contain your Advertisement!

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

Free design and artwork available.

Cheap rates.

For details contact the editor

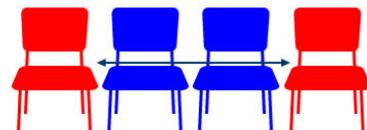
contact@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk

CHURCH

online



in person



We're back! Every Sunday at 10.30am

Email secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk for more details

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 £46 per hour, £24 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

PEASGOOD & SKEATES

THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE
EST 1847

A personal, caring service from a local business, day or night

48a High St
SAWSTON
01223 791065

45 Moorfield Rd
DUXFORD
01223 833463

Offices also at Cambridge, Haverhill
and Saffron Walden

www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk



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

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

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

L.A. Kerridge

Painting & Decorating

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

Telephone 01223 832 745
Mob. 07843 850 484

CERBERUS SECURITY LOCKSMITHS

Sawston UPVC Specialist



Call Us Now 01223 902234
South Camb's No1 Favourite Locksmith

www.cslocksmiths.com
info@cslocksmiths.com



No Call Out Fee
Rapid Response
O.A.P. Discounts
Local Family Run