



Volume 64 - Issue 5 Sawston Free Church

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:

07 May	03.00pm Worship – Joyce Goodall (no 10.30am service due to Fun Run)
14 May	10.30am Morning Worship and Communion – Rev Phil Nevard
21 May	10.30am Christian Aid Service – Rev Phil Nevard
28 May	10.30am Go4th

The closing date for **June** Contact is **Friday 19th May**

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Contact

The monthly magazine of Sawston Free Church United Reformed Methodist

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Dear Friends,

Like Christmas, Easter isn't just one day but a whole season. It begins with Easter day and ends with the Ascension. Then comes Pentecost and the coming of the Spirit marks a new chapter. As the season of Easter unfolds, the consequences of that glorious day emerge. We see it most starkly in the disciples who are transformed from those cowering behind a locked door into those who stride out into the marketplace and proclaim Christ to all who will listen.



On that first day they discovered a stone rolled away and in those following days they find that stones are being rolled away in their own lives. Because of Easter Day, the things that used to be barriers or blocks to our believing or living as disciples have shifted and moved.

Thomas had a boulder of doubt, or rather, needing to see for himself – it is rolled away;

Peter had a boulder of guilt, he had denied Jesus three times - it is rolled away;

All the disciples had a boulder of fear, maybe they were next - it is rolled away;

The disciples on the road to Emmaus had a boulder of grief, they couldn't see Jesus past it – it is rolled away;

Because He is Risen, boulders move, darkness is vanquished, highways appear in the desert, springs well up in parched lands, storms are calmed and walls come tumbling down. He Is Risen!

What about you? Why not ask God to shift a boulder for you?

Maybe you are a regular at Sawston Free Church. What boulder is stopping you from getting MORE involved?

Maybe you used to be a regular but have drifted off, life has intervened, your weekly habits and patterns have changed. What boulder is stopping you from returning?

Maybe you've never been part of church, this magazine is a passing interest, you don't even know why you are reading it. What boulder is stopping you from coming in to find out some more?

Our Easter God is a boulder-shifting God. Why not ask God to roll one away for you? What's the worst that could happen!

Christ Is Risen! ALLELUIAH!

Every blessing,

Rev'd Phil Nevard

Phil



War and Peace

(Please note that the views expressed in this article are those of the author, Michael Wilson, and not in any way representative of the views of Sawston Free Church.)

The preamble to the UN Charter (1945):

We the peoples of the united nations determined: (i) to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and (ii) to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and (iii) to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and (iv) to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

President Xi seeks a 'New World Order.' President Putin, who agrees with him, chooses to call his adventure in Ukraine a 'special military operation' rather than a war. Remarkably, there is a link with strong Christian connotations between these two observations.

Just War Theory was born at the end of the 4th Christian century under the pen of St Augustine of Hippo. Carthage-based Donatist Christians were challenging the spiritual and civil authority of the newly-Christian Roman Empire. The Roman general Boniface, ordered to use soldiers against civilians, was troubled. Much blood was spilled by both sides. Augustine's letters, reassuring Boniface that Christians could justly wage war, are foundational documents. The core principles of his 'Just War Theory', revisited by Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century and by Martin Luther and John Calvin in the 16th, and then secularised during the Enlightenment, are to this day taught to every soldier by every Western military, and are enshrined in the United Nations charter. They are that to be 'just', war must (i) be a last resort, (ii) be waged by a legitimate authority, (iii) for a just cause (which always includes self-defence), (iv) with reasonable chance of success (v) to achieve peace, (vi) using only proportionate force and (vii) with civilians adequately protected. These considerations wracked the British military command during the Northern Ireland Troubles. 'Are we getting this right?' they asked.

'Conflict Theorists' question all of this. Is a partisan/paramilitary a civilian or a soldier? Is what they do civilian or military activity? Is hacking military computers warfare? Etc etc. They claim, I think plausibly, that *all* human life is conflict. Each person, family, or nation 'fights' socially, economically, politically (and physically) for their share of the cake. 'War' is just the escalation of squabbling. Two examples: At what point did the NI 'Troubles' turn from civil unrest to war? At what point did the armed insurrection in the Donbas become war?

These theorists claim that 'Just War Theory' seeks to control by inventing a fictitious boundary between ordinary civil conflict and warfare. For decades, Russia has been using all means available to recover control of its former sphere of influence. To arbitrarily designate an increase in military activity as 'war' is merely to justify the West's intervention in what isn't the West's business. Ukraine has no 'right' to self-defence! (Another plausible remark, surely?) The West, they say, believes it has an absolute (originally, God-given) right to determine the path of the entire world. But it hasn't.

I think it is clear that part of what President Xi means by his 'New World Order,' is that every nation (especially China) has the right to compete *on terms of its own choosing*, rather than the terms of the UN settlement.

At the heart of Augustine's reasoning was his conviction that God's will is for peace. Just-War Theory was about how Christian authorities could achieve it. Everyone agrees that the theory is imperfect. The search for peace, Western/Christian style, has not been 100% successful. Neither has the quest for fairness in international dealing. Nevertheless, in terms of violence, poverty, hunger, disease and life-expectancy, it could be argued that life under the maligned UN constitutes the best ever 75 years of human existence. Of course, it could be even better were UN mechanisms much improved. But would it be even better under President Xi's 'New World Order' of unrestrained international competition on all fronts, including military?

Try as I might (and acknowledging all the failures of our past) I just cannot see it. But I wouldn't, would I? After all, I am a Christian of the Western school.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 14th - 21st MAY

A donation envelope is included with this Contact. If you wish to give, please either put it in the collection plate on the table at the back of the church, or deliver it to Pam and Tony at 11 High Street. Alternatively, you can give online to the Sawston Group collection at: <u>https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/sawston-ca</u>



Also, there will be a bucket collection outside the Co-op on Saturday 20 May 9.00 - 12.00. If you would like to volunteer for a half-hour shift, there is a rota on the book shelves at the back of the church."

Pam



Congratulations.

Sawston Free Church has achieved an Eco Church Bronze award.

Well done! A congratulations email with a website badge and a certificate for you to print out and display in your church will be emailed to the team member who submitted your survey shortly. Please do share this email with your wider Eco Church team. Well done!

Every blessing

The Eco Church team

Palm Sunday Messy Church.

We had a wonderful gathering on Palm Sunday afternoon and eventually welcomed 23 children to the session. After hearing and watching the story, the families recreated the Palm Sunday procession in Lego which was left in church for the Easter services.





We also made a Cross from paper plates and wool which was a great success. Thank you to everyone who helped , made a great picnic tea and supported us.

Our Easter Week Services Were Very Special.

On *Maundy Thursday* we heard the story of Holy Week from John's and Mark's gospel and a monologue from Judas Iscariot. We celebrated Holy Communion and left quietly after the service to remember the events which were unfolding.

On *Good Friday* morning about 40 of us assembled from all the four churches at Sawston Free Church and we set off on the Walk of Witness through the village with readings and singing along the way. We gave out Easter eggs to passers by and to those in the shops and businesses along the way. We arrived at Our Lady of Lourdes to be greeted by hot cross buns, tea and coffee which gave us time to sit and chat with fellow Christians in the village.

On the evening of Good Friday we met for a reflective service and it was very moving and again we left in silence after worship to meditate on the words and music we had heard.

Easter Sunday morning we met for a Dawn fire pit service and we shared Holy Communion on the lawn in front of the church round the fire. The birds were singing joyously as we gave thanks for the Risen Lord. Afterwards we shared a fish finger breakfast to remember when Jesus was on the beach cooking fish for his disciples.

Later in the morning we met to celebrate Easter Sunday, Holy Communion and the *Blossoming of the Cross*. It was a joyous service and the cross looked magnificent in front of the church for everyone to see. Hallelujah! Christ is risen.

Thank you Phil and all the team for the amazing Easter we have experienced.

Mary.



With Thanks to John Conway for all the photos

The Big One

Last Saturday the 22nd of April, me, my partner, and four-year-old son, joined 60,000 others in Parliament Square to show our government leaders that we care about our future. We're in a climate emergency. As the IPCC international panel for climate change have warned "we're heading for civil collapse".

Getting to London from Bristol where we live takes time, money, and effort. Standing in the street for hours with a four-year-old in tow is challenging. It's not how we want to spend our weekend. But it's a small price to pay compared to the future that lies ahead of us all.

When I finally came to terms with the enormity of what a 1.5 degree temperature rise means (which, in fact, is likely at best to be 1.8 or higher now) I experienced deep sadness, fear, and anger. By 2040, 10 million or more will be displaced due to rising seas, 2 million square kilometre of permafrost will be lost, 50% of the global population will experience severe drought and ice free arctic summers will become the norm. The facts are terrifying. But, although these emotions stay with me every day, standing in solidarity with 60,000 others who feel the same is powerful. It feels good, as you're reminded of the power we have as individuals, as families, as communities.

The Extinction Rebellion "Big one" started on the Friday uniting Picket Lines outside 15 government buildings. Teachers, doctors, children, grandparents were there standing up for their right to have a liveable future. On Saturday, we were marching for biodiversity. People's creative efforts were outstanding; from Fly Agaric Mushrooms to a family of jellyfish. It was a celebration of the richness of our lands and oceans but also a terrifying mourning of the potential loss to come.

The samba band was the protest's heartbeat and it was whilst dancing to its rhythm that I imagined sitting down with my grand kids one day showing them photos of us all back in Parliament Square and saying **"look kids, we cared and we acted."**

We switched to a green energy supplier, we divested to a bank that invest in renewable not fossil fuels, we signed petitions, we sang, we planted trees, we ate less meat and dairy, we chose not to fly, we did a lot. We sacrificed a lot. When will it be enough for our government to act too? We've been talking and protesting for years now. The IPCC report has been written. We know what we need to do. My son has been on four big marches already. We want our government to do more. Much more. And we want our weekends back.

Lisa Nunn (daughter to Anne and David

Further detail on the extinction rebellion website The Big One and the IPCC report.



Risen Life

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee,

Isaiah 60-1

The call comes on this My Day for all who Love Me, to arise from Earth-bands, from sin, and sloth and depression, distrust, fear, all that hinders the Risen Life. To arise to Beauty, to Holiness, to joy, to peace, to work inspired by Love and Joy, to rise from death to life.

Remember that death was the last enemy I destroyed. So with death My Victory was complete. You have nothing then to fear. Sin, too, is conquered and forgiven, as you live and move and work with Me. All that depresses you, all that you fear, are powerless to harm you. They are but phantoms. The real forces I conquered in the wilderness, the Garden of Gethsemane, on the Cross, in the Tomb.

Let nothing hinder you Risen Life. "Risen with Christ" said my servant Paul. Seek to know more and more of that Risen Life. That is the Life of Conquest. Of that Risen Life was it truly said: "I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." Fear and despair and tears come as you stand by the empty Tomb. "They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him." Rise from your fears and go out into the sunlight to meet Me, your Risen Lord.

Ideally this reading should have gone into the April contact, but it's not too late for us to remember that Christ died for us. Enjoy the spring and all it brings. **Kate Leach**

Flowers For May

It is my joy to arrange flowers for Sawston Free church. Please contact any member of the flower team if you would like flowers arranged especially for a loved one on a specific date. Monies can always be given to the team.



Thank you Rosemary Livings (Rosemary Harriss, Dawn Haughton)

Flowers For May 07th May Maggie Jones 14th May Margaret Badcock 21st May Pam Moss 28th May In Memory of Dad Quiz Evening with Ploughman's Supper

Friday 19th May 7.30pm

at Sawston Free Church

High Street, Sawston

Teams of 6



Tickets in advance: **£8** from Mary tel: 01223 837433 or Pam tel: 01223 834220

Fund Raiser

This Christian Aid Week will help farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for their children. Every £10 raised will pay for a 2kg bag of seeds to plant pigeon peas – a hardy, drought-resistant crop.





Christmas Is Coming!



I know, what am I thinking, it's not even the official start of Christmas, that isn't until September! But unfortunately there is something that needs to be thought about way before even September. Those of you who were at the January Church meeting may remember I spoke about the "Christmas Star", and then the couple of follow ups in the next two weekly news sheets.

No? Well let me give you a little background.

I'm sure most of you will remember for a good number of years, the illuminated "Christmas Star", based on a Cross pattern, that appeared on the outside of the west window at the beginning of December each year, that's the large stained-glass window that looks out over the High Street. This was designed and built by our now sadly missed friend Alan Cleveland. It served us well for a good few years, but latterly it became in need of some major restoration work, and the health and safety implications of actually getting it up and down were becoming a serious concern, in no small part due to the ages of those involved in the task!

So, in 2018 it was decided to replace the external star with something safer, and easier to maintain, and a fixed LED lighting scheme was installed on the inside of the west window, the idea being to show the window to it's best, the illumination slowly increasing leading up to Christmas week, then fading down again during January, just as the original external star did.

Whilst it has to be admitted the aesthetic side of the replacement star did not quite live up to initial expectations, or the effect the original star had, at least there was a Christmas light. Feel free to discuss the merits of this either way!

Move forward to 2022, and unfortunately despite the light testing OK in November in preparation for the December switch on, when it was turned on, there were several technical problems which could not be easily rectified, and so the system was reluctantly shut down for this year.

Now, going back to my short presentation at the January Church meeting, I asked a few questions

- Did anyone notice the star was missing this year?
- Should we just not have anything there?
- Did people want another replacement?
- If so, did you want a like for like replacement?
- Or maybe something different?
- Maybe something safer mounted outside again?

I had some initial thoughts on how we could proceed, but felt that it was not my place to make an executive decision on a matter like this myself, so I asked for some feedback on my questions, and any ideas others might have, three people did respond, and they made some really helpful comments and suggestions.

I did pursue these, and after a lot of research, and trials, realised that there were no commercially made "Stars" available that fitted our requirements that I could find, and a 'scratch built' star had several technical difficulties, and the safety issues, both mechanical and electrical made me uneasy, and the costs would be considerable.

Recently, while at another meeting where this came up, Phil mentioned that at another Church, he had made an outdoor nativity tableau, and that he had the plans for this, he did warn that it was quite a sizable project, but my interest started to grow again!

Once we, and by that I mean Linda & I, had sight of the cut out plans, we could see what he meant! There would be a LOT of work, and materials, again this equated to considerable time, woodworking skills, and cost.

So, at this point I feel I need to ask my initial questions again, and if the answer is 'Yes' we do want something on show at our Church at Christmas, from my work so far, I have realised I can't do this myself, so help will be needed, with what we want, then design, costings, and construction.

Starting now means we have time to consider everything carefully, and we have time to make it happen.

So I will wait to hear from anyone interested, if there are enough responses it will happen, if not, it won't!

Over to you.

Adrian Moxon (adrianmoxon@gmail.com / 01223 835327)

SFC - Church Workday – May 13th - 8am till noon

Please come and help keep our premises looking good. There are various tasks to suit all talents and capabilities from painting to gardening, and a chance for a chat over cake and coffee.

Please let me know if you can come it really helps me to plan the work.Thank YouGordon (833983)



Your S.H.A.P.E. For Service

Over the last two months we have offered ideas to help you reflect on S-Spiritual Gifts, H-Heart's desire and A-Abilities. This month it is the "P" of our SHAPE – Personality! This short questionnaire helps us to identify what energises us and how we prefer to operate.

Instructions:

Go through each section (1-6) in turn and for each:

- i) Read all four statements a), b), c) and d)
- ii) Opposite each of them, on the right hand side, put a circle round the number which most accurately describes you, if:
 - I = This statement is <u>not</u> true of me
 - 2 = This statement is occasionally true of me
 - 3 = This statement is true half the time of me
 - 4 = This statement is usually true of me
 - 5 = This statement is definitely true of me

NB. The statements are totally "independent" of each other - so the number you choose for statement I a), shouldn't affect which number you choose for statement I b) etc.

There are no "right" or "wrong" answers, so be honest! Answer quickly and spontaneously.

Statements:

Ι.	 I get excited about a) making something practical b) making a new friend c) advancing a cause d) discovering some new information 	 	2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3	4 4 4 4	5 5 5 5
2.	 I think I'm best at serving people by a) doing things for them b) being with them c) giving them advice, ideas and hope d) providing them with useful facts and information 	 	2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3	4 4 4 4	5 5 5 5
3.	 When I'm asked to do a task, my main concern is a) getting together all the equipment I need b) ensuring that other people are happy about it c) making sure I know the best way of doing it d) making sure I've got all the information I need 	 	2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3	4 4 4 4	5 5 5 5
4.	 When I invite new acquaintances to a meal at my house, I worry about whether a) the cooking will be successful b) the guests will get on well together c) the conversation will be interesting d) they are vegetarian or have allergies, and haven't told me 	 	2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3	4 4 4	5 5 5 5

5. When I'm tired (emotionally and mentally) I find it refreshes me to... 5 a) do something hands-on Т 2 3 4 5 2 3 b) go out to a meal with friends Т 4 2 3 5 c) day-dream, surf the web or read L 4 2 3 4 5 d) sort out arrangements for my next holiday L 6. When I read or watch TV, I would choose something like... a) a DIY manual or a nature programme 5 L 2 3 4 b) a biography, the gossip columns or an interview with a famous 2 3 4 5 L person c) a novel, poetry, a discussion or a debate 5 Т 2 3 4 2 3 5 d) The Guinness Book of records, a detective story, a documentary Т 4 or a quiz programme

Work out how you are energised:

Add up all the numbers you've circled for the six "a)" statements and write the total in the box marked "THINGS". Then do the same with the other statements, putting the total for "b)" into the PEOPLE box, "c)" into IDEAS and "d)" into INFORMATION:

Total of the a) statements	THINGS
Total of the b) statements	PEOPLE
Total of the c) statements	IDEAS
Total of the d) statements	INFORMATION

This shows whether in general, you prefer to work with things, people, ideas or information. (God's Kingdom needs all of them!)

• The box with the highest number shows your main preference, which energises you most.

What does this mean for the future?

When you are seeking how to serve God, one of the "signposts" should be to look for activities which will enable you to work with your stronger preferences. Note that these are not necessarily the things that you are best at in terms of skills (yet!), but you will do them in a more enthusiastic, motivated, committed and creative way. If you have two that are fairly equally strong, seek to combine them.

For example, if you are strongly energised by:

- Ideas and People: join a planning group;
- Things and People: join with other people in a practical task;
- Information and People: work with other people on researching or using facts and figures;
- Information and Things: find out information and apply it to doing a hands-on task on your own.





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contact@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk

We're back to normal Every Sunday at 10.30am but with a difference!

You can now join us in church, or from the comfort of your home using Zoom!

Email secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk for more details

online

