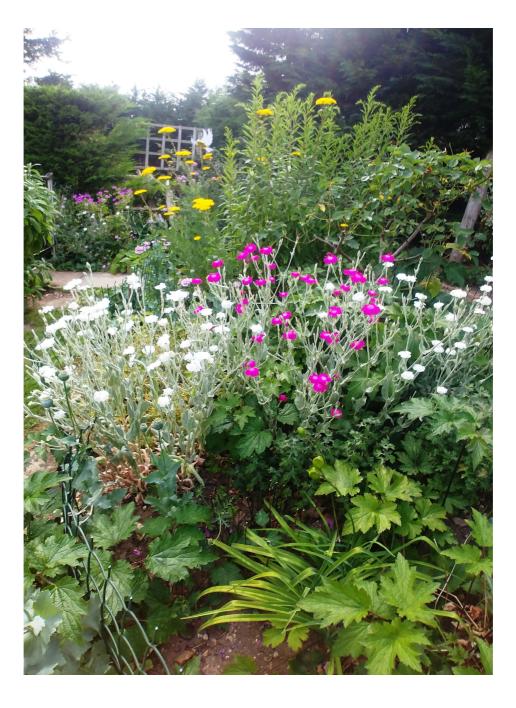
CONTACT

June 2023



Volume 64 - Issue 6 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:

10.30am Morning Worship – Rev Penny Flynn
 03.00pm Messy Church
 11 June
 10.30am Morning Worship and Communion – Rev Phil Nevard
 18 June
 10.30am Invitation Sunday – Rev Phil Nevard – followed by Bring 'n' Share Lunch
 25 June
 10.30am Go4th

The closing date for July Contact is Friday 16th June

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The monthly magazine of Sawston Free Church United Reformed Methodist

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Dear Friends,

Lots of words are thrown around in public discussion without the depth of their meaning being fully explored. One of those words is "culture".

I have had a number of conversations recently with people from other nations which have touched on differences between our national cultures, and each time it has felt much deeper than the mere repeating of national stereotypes. I recently visited a



refugee family and afterwards I reflected on the experience and it felt like a cultural difference. Often when you visit British people, however much we SAY you are welcome and delighted to see you, you know that really you aren't! You know that to linger too long is to "outstay your welcome". Yet visiting this family feels very different – it feels like the culture they have grown up in makes a visit into a real privilege and the opportunity to be a blessing by offering hospitality. Nobody is looking at their watch after ten minutes. Your welcome cannot be outstayed.

Culture is the sum of the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society (like "Afro-Caribbean culture") or the attitudes and behaviour characteristics of a particular social group (like "drug culture".)

Perhaps the simplest and most widely quoted used definition of "culture" is "How we do things around here."

Culture matters. In November 2022, an independent cultural review of the London Fire Brigade raised several concerns about the service. This included the finding that it was "institutionally misogynist and racist". Misogyny and racism are part of the "culture" of the London Fire Brigade. Similarly, the Metropolitan Police. The leaders of those services have told us that they are working hard to change their culture.

Changing culture of an organisation is a long-term undertaking because it isn't about writing statements or aspirations, it's about changing attitudes and behaviours.

In the last year we have been asking questions about our own church culture — what is our church culture? We have talked a lot about becoming a church that has a deep-rooted culture of prayer, invitation and hospitality. We are also taking steps to shaping our church culture around a deep respect for creation and the environment in which we live.

Jesus is often described as a "counter-cultural" figure – he so often swam against the tide of the prevailing culture of his day. The church is also called to be counter-cultural. In a national culture that seems to be increasingly intolerant, materialistic, self-obsessed and isolationist, we are called to swim against the tide.

We ALL contribute to the prevailing culture of our church – so each and every one of us has a role to play in shaping the culture of our church. When it's real, stepping into a place with a different culture is instantly noticeable. May that be the case when people step into the life of Sawston Free Church.

Every Blessing. Rev'd Phil Nevard Phil

Albrand

Christian Aid



In the mid 1940's communities from churches in Britain and Ireland got together to help support refugees displaced by the war. This continued until 1945 when Christian Aid was formed when more than £3m was raised to alleviate the suffering across Europe. Nearly 80 years later it continues to support the disenfranchised and oppressed around the world.

It believes that people of all faiths as well as non-believers are equal. Support and funding are based on need, not creed.

Christian Aid helped set up the Disasters Emergency Fund (DEC) which brings together 15 leading UK charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of crisis across the world.

It has supported racial justice and fighting to tackle inequality around the world. It supported the work of Martin Luther King Jnr in the 1960's, as well as supporting the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa in the 1980's.

In 1992, Christian Aid came together with other charitable organisations to set up the Fair-Trade foundation securing better deals for farmers and workers.

The first ever Christian Aid week was started in 1957, and since then fundraising has increased annually.

(Taken from the Guardian website)

If you want to learn more about Christian Aid, please check out its website.

So far in Sawston we have raised over £300 for our Christian Aid week with a Quiz night on the 19th May which was well attended and much enjoyed by everyone. Collections were made outside the Co-op on the morning of the 20th which brought in £81-64p

Please save the date for our annual Cream Teas in the Challis Gardens on September 9th in the afternoon. *We look forward to seeing you there*!

Mary and the fundraising team.

The Turing Question



(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.)

In October 1950, 'Mind' carried a short article entitled, 'Computing Machinery and Intelligence(1). Alan Turing, the father of the modern computer and the genius behind the wartime Enigma triumph, proposed a simple test whereby one could explore whether, on the balance of probability, responses from a hidden source were from a machine or a person.

He suggested that by the year 2000 machines would be able to fool humans 70% of the time. (It is now said that this was achieved in 2014.) In 2018, a computer successfully made a phone appointment with a hairdresser before 7,000 witnesses. The receptionist was completely unaware that they weren't conversing with a person. Do you watch those strangely-addictive panel shows where the chairperson has a scripted patter for the invited stars to be witty about ('A Question of Sport' downwards – a very long way downwards!)?

Broadly, the more dire the show, the more likely the script is computergenerated. Soon, computers will be able to knock out endless new episodes of 'Murder She Wrote' by re-assembling material from the 264 existing shows.

Already, our GPs routinely make computer-supported diagnoses. Would you mind if, having put down the phone, you discovered that your charming, life-transforming new GP was a computer in Kolkata? Would you mind if, as the victim of identity fraud and in court for non-payment of a massive debt that wasn't yours to pay, your 'jury' turned out to be a computer in Los Angeles? Would you mind if, in hospital, the 'people' deciding whether your probable future quality of life justified keeping you alive was a computer in Geneva, rather than a medical ethics panel?

In 2018, Stephen Schwarzman gave \$350 million to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to fund computer science research. The next year, he gave the largest single gift to Oxford University since the Renaissance, \$215 million, to the *Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence* to fund that most despised topic – moral philosophy. Schwarzman had suddenly realised how threatening A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) is. He believes that the international team assembled by John Tasioulas, the Institute's director, in Oxford, is best equipped to address the issues(2).

Surely our experience to date with Facebook, TikTok, Twitter and Amazon etc., shows us that self-regulation doesn't work? Our lives are not safe in the hands of technology. We need, Schwartzman believes, the very best experts in human living to keep us safe.

Tasioulas believes that too many of our 'choices' are not really ours any more. 'People are not able to be autonomous rational agents shaping their own

future,' as he puts it. He means shopping in the Co-op, buying insurance, applying for a passport, job hunting, visiting the health centre, chatting online.

To a frightening degree, our daily lives are shaped by computers built by incredibly bright young people in California, Kolkata and Beijing, employed by financial and political forces far removed from your or my well-being. We are, already, ruled by algorithms to a surprising degree. John Tasioulas believes our very humanity might, already, be at risk.

The questions, then, are (i) what is precious about being human, and (ii) what kind of world do humans need in order to flourish?

Over the centuries, almost all the answers to these questions have come from religious sources. In the Christian West, in which modern technology was born, the second question in particular has been repeatedly addressed.

Historically, Presbyterianism, Congregationalism and Methodism, the traditions represented by Sawston Free Church, provided three possible answers for their day and for ours. Post-Reformation Catholicism provided a fourth. (Protestants tend to leave the first question to the Catholics, perhaps because systematic thinking is less congenial to the Protestant theological mindset. Encouragingly, the Vatican has appointed an advisor to Tasioulas' team.) What is the life that God has in mind for us, and how is it to be lived? How is it to be lived in a world shaped by all-pervasive, intelligent, pseudo-human algorithms?

Has Christianity, in all its 2000 years, faced a problem as profound, urgent, practical and universal as that facing John Tasioulas and his team?

- (1) https://academic.oup.com/mind/article/LIX/236/433/986238 .
- (2) Sunday Times Magazine 29jan23 pp38-41

Flowers for June

These are the dates that we will be arranging flowers for this month. As you see there are two blank weeks so it's not too late to offer. If you would like to put flowers in church to remember a special date, please talk to Vivien as she will be happy to arrange them for you.

4th June - Julie Robinson

11th June -

18th June - Betty Cleveland

25th June -Many thanks

Rosemary Harriss and Vivien Ford.



THRILL OF PROTECTION

Turn out all thoughts of doubt and of trouble. Never tolerate them for one second. Bar the Windows and doors of your souls against them as you would bar your home against a thief who would steal in to take your treasures.

What greater treasures can you have than Peace and Rest and Joy?

And these are all stolen from you by doubt and fear and despair. Face each day with Love and Laughter. Face the storm with Joy, Peace, Love, my great gifts, Follow me to find all three. I want you to feel the thrill of protection and safety now. Any soul can feel this in a harbour, but real joy and victory come to those alone who sense these when they ride a storm.

Say, 'All is well". Say it not as a vain repetition. Use it as you use a healing balm for a cut or wound, until the poison is drawn out; then, until the sore is healed; then, until the thrill of fresh life floods your being.

ALL IS WELL

Wonderful words to give use strength in testing times. Many blessing to you all.

Kate Leach

Gladness after sorrow, sunshine after rain Harvest after seed-time, comfort after pain Blossom after pruning, victory after strife. As the way of nature, so the way of life.

Whenever I pass the old church door I pop in for a visit So that when at last I'm carried in, The Lord won't ask "Who is it?"

We are collecting

Used Stamps, Old Coins and Foreign Currency to donate to Kidney Care UK.



Collect your used stamps. In fact, collect everyone's used stamps, from work or local business to those from your neighbours, family, and friends. We would love to receive letter and postage stamps, special stamps, and commemorative stamps (these stamps are all known as philatelic stamps). Unfortunately, we are unable to use any pre-printed or pre-paid stamps or labels (such as the large gold labels from the Post Office).

Trim and separate your stamps. Please trim your stamps to have a finger's width (or 1cm) of paper all the way around.

Collect all your old and foreign currency. The more you can collect, the greater the donation – we accept foreign banknotes, foreign coins, and old British decimal coins (the heavy ones!). In fact, you could arrange to collect old and foreign currency from your family and friends, your neighbours and even your colleagues at work. There is no need to sort your notes or coins.

There is a box at the back of the church, on the windowsill above the Magazine Rack.

Thank you in advance,

Pauline



With rough sleeping up by 26% in England, Jimmy's Cambridge opens the doors to 5 brand new bedrooms meaning they can welcome even more people off the streets in 2023.

On Thursday 27th April we were delighted to officially open five brand new rooms at our East Road hostel. Joined by a wonderful group of people including our contractors and builders, corporate and community partners plus Jimmy's staff, volunteers and trustees the ribbon was cut by The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Julie Spence OBE CStJ QPM.

Jimmy's Cambridge looked ahead and, against a backdrop of the cost of living crisis and The Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing confirming rough sleeping is up by over a quarter, are ready to support even more people experiencing homelessness in Cambridge.

The 5 new bedrooms, each with private bathrooms, were opened by The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridge, Julie Spence OBE CStJ QPM and Barry Griffiths who is an ex Jimmy's resident and current staff member celebrating 10 years helping people out of homelessness.

Within the new bedrooms, there is a fully accessible suite allowing access for people with mobility needs. This will now allow Jimmy's to provide emergency shelter, food, clothing, tailored support to 25 individuals at their East Road hostel.

The project has been generously supported by the Cambridge community as well as Curo Construction, Wrenbridge, WSP, Barton Wilmore, CMP, Forsters and Stace.

"Having been fortunate to be offered a bed in 2010, Jimmy's was my salvation. This extra capacity represents more than just 5 rooms. It's more opportunities for people to feel safe and secure, to regroup and then move forward with support. It wasn't and isn't an easy time of life when on the streets, but with these further rooms we are able work toward what success looks like for the individuals who need them. Jimmy's is and always will be more than a bed." – Barry Griffiths

A huge thank you to all of our supporters.

Your Carbon Footprint

A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases produced by an individual, household, organization, or event. Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, which contributes to climate change.



There are a number of ways to measure your carbon footprint. One way is to use an online calculator. These calculators ask you questions about your lifestyle, such as how much you drive, how much energy you use at home, and what kind of food you eat. They then use this information to calculate your carbon footprint.

There are lots of these to choose from – a good choice is the UN Carbon Footprint Calculator: https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/footprintcalc

Don't stress too much about whether it gets it exactly right – the point is to have a benchmark and then each year to measure it in the same way and try to achieve a downward trend.

Another way to measure your carbon footprint is to keep a carbon diary. This involves tracking your daily activities and the emissions associated with them. For example, you might record how many miles you drive, how much electricity you use, and what you eat for dinner.

Now we have mobile phones, the easiest and most engaging way to do this is with a phone app. There are LOTS to choose from. Search for them in Google Play Store or whatever the equivalent is on Apple screens. Good recommendations would be:

"Capture": This app enables you to track things like the type of food you eat as well as the carbon you use getting about. It can predict your mode of transport and calculate accordingly. You can also set a weekly goal to see how you measure up against friends as well as compare your own emissions from week-to-week.

"For Good": Once you've created an account with this app, you'll be encouraged to put in some personal information such as the type of vehicle you drive and whether you have solar panels or who your energy supplier is. You can also enter your gas and electricity readings. You'll be able to see what impact each answer has. The app also asks you what type of diet you have and so gives you a score based on food use as well as travel and energy consumption.

Once you have measured your carbon footprint, you can start to make changes to reduce it. There are many things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint, such as driving less, using less energy, and eating less meat.

Reducing your carbon footprint is a way to care for God's creation and to be a good steward of the Earth's resources. It is also a way to make a difference in the fight against climate change.

Here are some tips for reducing your carbon footprint:

- Drive less. Walk, bike, or take public transport whenever possible.
- Use less energy at home. Turn off lights when you leave a room, unplug appliances when they're not in use, and weather-proof your home.
- Eat less meat. Meat production is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Recycle and compost. Recycling and composting help to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill.
- Support businesses that are committed to sustainability. When you buy products and services, choose businesses that are taking steps to reduce their environmental impact.

By making small changes in your daily life, you can make a big difference in the fight against climate change.

(With thanks to Phil Nevard)

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

Over the last few months we have offered ideas to help you reflect on your SHAPE for ministry, S-Spiritual Gifts, H-Heart's desire, A-Abilities and P-Personality!

This month it is the final letter – E for "Experience".

"Praise be to the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows." (2 Corinthians 1 : 3-5) N.I.V.

God uses our life experiences (the good and the bad ones) to teach us and to grow us into maturity. It is these experiences which enable us to feel compassion, understand other people and minister to them.

What are the life experiences which enrich the ministry you can offer?

(As you think about the three questions below, draw on your whole life. The experiences could be as a child, teenager, young adult etc up to the present. The experiences could be at home, with family and friends, at work, on holiday, in your hobbies and voluntary activities, or at church).

Jot down a few notes on your thoughts. Keep it short, simple and ordinary. Don't spend more than about half an hour on it.

Think about the following questions prayerfully. Ask God to give you discernment and insight on each and take time to listen quietly and expectantly.

Question 1

Think of a time when you have been alongside someone who was going through a difficult situation. Recall some of the main things you did or said which you think might have been helpful.

1a) Your memories of the experience:		

Question 2

Think of one positive spiritual experience you've had in your life. Then write down a few responses to 2a), 2b) and 2c) below

2a) Jot down your memories of it:	2c) How might this experience help you serve God and others in the future?
2b) What did you learn through it? How did it change you?	

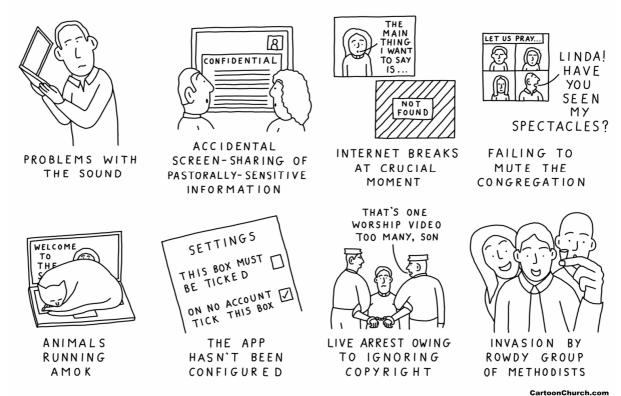
Question 3)

Think of one really bad or painful experience you've had in your life. Then write down a few responses to 3a), 3b) and 3c) below

3a) Jot down your memories of it:	3c) How might this experience help me serve God and others in the future?
3b) What did I learn through it? How did it change me?	

ONLINE SERVICES

THINGS THAT CAN GO TERRIBLY WRONG



Justice, Courtesy and Love:

Looking back with gratitude and looking forward in hope

A Theological Symposium in Memory of Kenneth Cracknell (1935-2022) June 15th 2023, 11.00-15.00

Wesley Centre, Cambridge, England

Kenneth Cracknell was an inter faith pioneer. As the first Inter Faith Secretary for the British Council of Churches (1978-1987) he led the way in fostering good relations between the churches and people of other faiths at a crucial time. After his time at the BCC he went on to teach at Wesley House Cambridge within the Federation of Theological Colleges. His work included a significant contribution to the history of Christian missions in Africa and Asia and numerous publications including 'Towards a New Relationship', 'In Good and Generous Love' and 'Justice, Courtesy and Love' (concerned with missionaries encountering world religions before the Edinburgh 1910 Mission Conference). He was also a master networker of those involved in inter faith relations, a tireless traveller and a leader in theological reflection in this area.

The inter faith work he pioneered continues through the work of many different organisations, churches, and other faith groups. This symposium is an opportunity to reflect upon Kenneth's legacy and to look ahead to the challenges facing inter faith work in the 21st century.

Speakers:

Dr Clare Amos (Former Director of Inter Faith Relations at the WCC)
Revd Dr Wesley Ariarajah (former Deputy General Secretary of the WCC)

Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal (Church of Sanctuary)

Revd Peter Colwell (Deputy General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland)

Dr Shaunka Rishi Das (Director, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies)

Dr Elizabeth Harris (Honorary Senior Research Fellow, The Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion, University of Birmingham)

The Fubility of District (Telligion, Onliversity of Diffilia

Revd Dr Peniel Rajkumar (Theologian and Director for Global Mission, USPG)

From the Minister's Desk - Orwell and Royston

Dear Friends

Over the past few weeks, our worship and individual reflection has probably centred around Easter. We have recalled the death and resurrection of Jesus. Many of the Bible readings associated with the season relate to the lives of people living around him. Those present – at the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, the early dawn at the tomb, and then on various occasions when Jesus revealed himself to disciples. Some found these later occasions easy to believe. For others time was needed for it all to sink in. Still others wanted some kind of proof.

And we continue with some of this theme into the second week of May – with Ascension Day (as Jesus left earth for heaven) on 18 May.

For some of the disciples with Jesus at the time, we understand their difficulty in the separation. Here was someone who had been changing their lives. Someone they had found comforting and comfortable. How would they move on?

Our Church calendar moves us forward – through Ascension Day and Trinity Sunday – as we understand how early groups of disciples recognised God moving them forward to a time of greater understanding.

And then we get to "Ordinary" Sundays. The word "ordinary" comes from the word ordinal which means 'counted'. Each week is known by a number, eg the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The use of the term Ordinary Time in our liturgical calendar distinguishes it from the other seasons—Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter - which focus on particular aspects of Christ's life: his birth, suffering, death and resurrection. Ordinary Time celebrates Jesus' teaching and ministry. It gives us time to reflect on how we live as Christians.

There are 33 "Ordinary" Sundays! It's good to have the "Special" ones – but equally important that we are asked to commit ourselves not only to worshipping together, but also to take our own time to worship and reflect.

Rev Barbara Garwood

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The Footprints 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.

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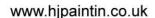
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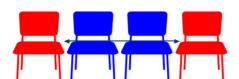
contact@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk

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

in person



online

