

# CONTACT

November 2023



Volume 64 - Issue 11  
Sawston Free Church

## Churches Services and Dates for Your Diary

**SFC Services-(also available via zoom) SFC email: [secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk),**

### **Sawston Free Church:**

05 Nov        10.30am : Morning Worship – Ann Barton  
                  3.00pm - 5pm : Messy Church  
12 Nov        10.30am : Remembrance Sunday – Rev Phil Nevard at Sawston War Memorial  
                  10.30am : Morning Worship – David Baslington  
19 Nov        10.30am : Communion – Rev Phil Nevard  
26 Nov        10.30am : Go4th

The closing date for <b>December</b> Contact is <b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>
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**David Nunn is the editor, so please email your items  
to [anne.nunn@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.nunn@btinternet.com)**

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# Contact

The monthly magazine of  
**Sawston Free Church United Reformed Methodist**

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Dear Friends,

At the end of September I caught Covid. I caught it off Lythan. Even though we attempted a strict house-segregation regime, it found a way! Lythan was properly ill with it, I experienced only the mildest of symptoms (exactly the same as the last time we had it.) But that won't prevent me going on about it, I'm a bloke after all!

To me it seemed like the perfect illness, to have something that means people don't want you to turn up for work but not actually feel that ill! For the first couple of days it was great, it meant I had time and space to go out and do the garden. For those couple of days my brain was like fog, and so there was no point trying to work on admin or future worship preparation. I got quite a lot of autumn clearing done. But I soon got bored.

I have found myself becoming a lot more conscious of my age this last year. Maybe it's because I'm now right on the verge of being 60, and 60 seems a lot older-sounding than 50! Maybe it's also because I am starting to notice my age. I have mild arthritis in my fingers, I have a grumbling hip, I'm often conscious of my hearing aids or my poor eyesight. I've started to look at the clock in the evening and wonder if 8:30pm is an acceptable time to go to bed! I sub-consciously make a grunting sound as I sit down or stand up!

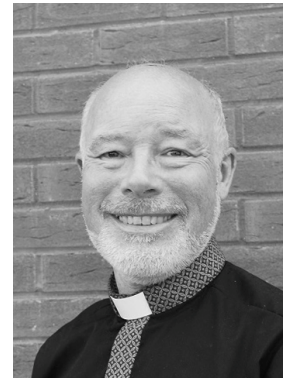
Catching Covid meant that I had to make some fairly hasty rearrangements in my diary – not least, leading worship at Whittlesford Parish Church. Some things could be rearranged, some could be moved to zoom, others simply had to go ahead without me. Retirement is still (as I write) 8 years, 7 months and 6 days away (not that I'm counting!) and I found that the covid week made me think ahead and wonder what that might be like.

I think it's quite a good thing every now and again for a Minister to realise that the world can tick by quite happily without them for a while, that not everything grinds to a screeching halt just because they cannot be there. And that's exactly how it should be. A Minister does not come to run the church for a while before handing it on for another Minister to run. Ministers come to join in with a committed and dedicated family of church members, most of whom have been there before them and most of whom will be there after them.

Psalm 103 famously includes these words: *"For he knows we are but dust and that our days are few and brief, like grass, like flowers, blown by the wind and gone forever."* Understood properly, these are not maudlin, depressing words, but words which set our lives in context, reminding us that nothing permanent can be built on us alone, but on God, the unshakeable rock of our faith and hope. Recognising that our days are "few" should also inspire us to fill them with as much love, goodness, kindness and faithfulness as we can.

Every Blessing,

*Rev'd Phil Nevard*  
Phil



***A message to those who remember me  
(from Peter Ball)***

Dear SFC

I wanted to write as I prepare to retire from my role as a tutor at Westminster College at the end of December. It hardly seems possible, timewise, that it was this same college I left in 1994 to begin my first ministry, after you called me to work alongside Rev Jacqui Knight at Sawston Free Church. Every ministry is special and a gift, but I have always been grateful for the team and congregation I had around me in those early years as I “learnt the ropes” of how to try and serve you to the best of my ability. Jacqui was the perfect mentor and colleague for me in those early days and we remain friends to this day. Anne Pegram as my first Church Secretary deserves a mention as she went the extra mile and had to get used to my sense of humour and personality, something that has been the case in every new role I have entered since for my new colleagues!!!! It appears I go at a pace whilst having new ideas that others can find a bit of a whirlwind. Hence my nickname of “tigger” in all my past three ministries 😊



It would be fair to say there were blessings and challenges in equal measure through fourteen years of ministry in Sawston both personally and at a church level. However, any ministry is all about the relationships that are forged both within the church and with the wider community. I found the acceptance I received from the people of Sawston to be the bedrock of the ministry offered. From time teaching football in schools, leading assemblies, working with local organisations, standing chatting in Mary’s (who I still visit from time to time to say hello and catch up) and the odd hour or two spent in the Greyhound and Kings Head, friendships were forged, and relationships built that helped feed and enrich the life of the church. Our work with Opportunities Without Limits remains one of my highlights of my ministry.

So, thank you for your call and sharing of ministry with me. You helped to shape the person I am today and the ministry I have offered over the years. Working at Westminster for the final part of my paid ministry helping to prepare the next generation of ministers, alongside of wider URC work has brought me full circle in a way I could never have imagined in 1994. The whole journey has been a special one for which I am so grateful.

Catherine, who retires next summer, and I will be retiring to Saxmundham in Suffolk so will not be that far away and look forward to continued friendships and a bit more free time to enjoy family, sport, gardening, walking, volunteering with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and travel alongside of still offering into the life of the church.

God Bless and thank-you.

Love Peter



## GOD CALLING

*I am among you as one that serves*

Yes, remember to serve all. Be ready to prove your Sonship by service. Look on all you meet as guests in your Father's House, to be treated with Love, with all consideration, with gentleness.

As a servant of all think no work beneath you. Be ever ready to do all you can for others. Serve. Serve. Serve.

There is a gladness in service, a Joy in doing My Will for others, in being My expression of all good for them.

Remember that, when you serve others, you are acting for your Master and Lord who washed His disciples' feet. So, in service for others, express your love for me

***Many blessings to you all***

***Kate***

=====

These are the dates that we will be arranging flowers for this month. As you see there is one blank week 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 the flower team as they will be happy to arrange them for you.

5th November	-Dawn Haughton
12th November	- Janet Parr- Remembrance Sunday
19th November	-
26th November	-Maggie Jones



***Many thanks , Rosemary Harriss, Dawn Haughton, Linda Moxon & Rosemary Livings***

## **The Atheist and the Bear**

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods. 'What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!' he said to himself.

As he continued walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes. Turning to look, he saw a 7 foot grizzly charging towards him.

He ran as fast as he could up the path. Looking over his shoulder he saw that the bear was closing in on him. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster.

He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear raising his paw to take a swipe at him.

At that instant the atheist cried out: 'Oh my God!...'

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent.

It was then that a bright light shone upon the man and a voice came out of the sky saying:

'You deny my existence for all of these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?'

The atheist looked directly into the light.

'It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps, could you make the BEAR a Christian?'

'Very well,' said the voice. The light went out, and the sounds of the forest resumed.

And then the bear lowered his paw, bowed his head and spoke: 'Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive and for which I am truly thankful, Amen.'

## ***Harvesting Hope: Tools for a Brighter Future***

### **Tools With a Mission (TWAM):**

TWAM is a remarkable charitable organization that breathes new life into old and unused tools. These tools, once forgotten, are refurbished and sent to communities in need across the globe. The impact of these tools reaches far and wide, helping people become self-sufficient and breaking the chains of poverty. This initiative perfectly embodies the essence of harvest - giving thanks for our abundance and sharing it with those who have less.

### **Harvest and Generosity:**

Harvest Festival is a time for us to reflect on the blessings we've received throughout the year. It's a reminder that our cup overflows, and we have the opportunity to pour some of that abundance into the lives of others. By choosing to collect tools for TWAM as our harvest offering, we have embraced the spirit of generosity that lies at the heart of our faith.

Our faith teaches us that when we give, we are walking in the footsteps of Jesus, who selflessly served and cared for others. In the act of gathering tools for those in need, we are living out this principle. We are also nurturing our own spirituality by putting our faith into action, transforming our gratitude into tangible blessings for others.

### **Celebrating the Harvest of Giving:**

Our church community has come together in a beautiful display of unity and compassion. We've seen tools of all kinds - from hammers and saws to sewing machines – piled up at the front of the church. These tools will soon find new homes where they will empower individuals and communities to build better lives. Our harvest offering isn't just about physical tools; it's a testament to the power of a caring and loving congregation.

As we reflect on this season of harvest, let us do so with hearts full of gratitude for the abundance in our lives. Let us also remember that our faith calls us not just to be grateful recipients but to be generous givers. By collecting tools for TWAM, we have sown the seeds of hope, and we eagerly anticipate the harvest of blessings that will come from our generosity. In the coming weeks, as our tools make their way to those in need, may we be sure in knowing that we have made a real difference in the world. Our faith has been put into action, and the world is a brighter place because of it.

Thank you for your incredible generosity and for making this year's Harvest Festival a truly special and meaningful celebration, particularly to Mica Hardware for so generously acting as a dropping off point in the village and to Mary and Barry who did most of the collecting, storing and delivering!

***Phil***



## November Prayer



In this month of remembrance please pray for the services that will be held and all the charities supporting the injured and bereaved.

Please pray for peace for the countries and people caught up in the terrible wars.

For our own church, please give thanks for all our amazing tech team. Sound; laptop; zoom operators and for keeping the website up to date.

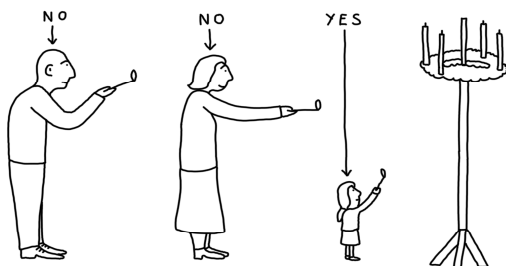
Also please give thanks for our talented musicians.

We are so blessed to have these people enriching the life of the church.

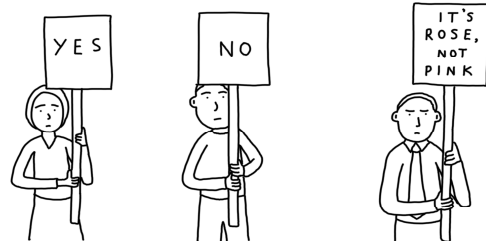
**Anne Pegram**



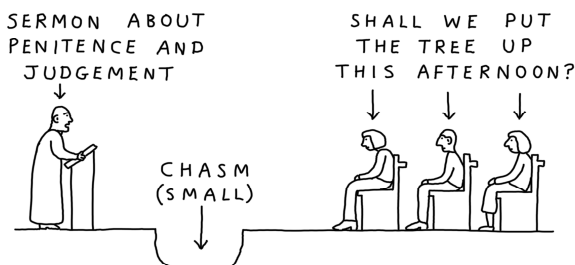
## ADVENT CONTROVERSIES



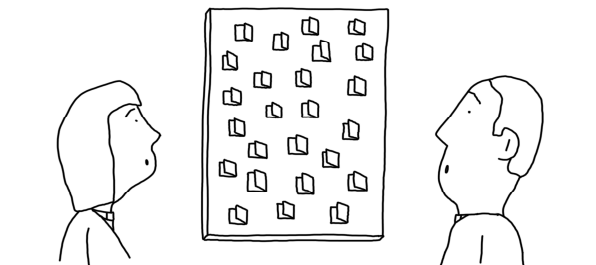
WHO WILL LIGHT THE CANDLES  
ON THE ADVENT WREATH?



SHOULD THE WREATH HAVE  
ONE PINK CANDLE?



WHETHER TO PREACH ON  
CHALLENGING ADVENT THEMES



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# Christmas at Sawston Free Church

Advent Sunday:	Dec 3rd. 10:30am
Christingle Service	Dec 3rd. 3pm
Nativity Service	Dec 10th. 10:30am
Invitational Service	Dec 17th. 10:30am
Village Carols	Dec 20th. 6pm (outside Red Graphic)
Christmas Eve:	
Lego Carol Service	10:30am
Pyjama Service	5pm
Midnight Service	11:30pm (at Parish Church)
Christmas Day Service	10am



## **SAWSTON'S MOST COVETED MEMORIAL – Grade II listed (Dec 1986)**

*“Here standeth a cross covered with tyles” the vewe of ye sayde Lordshippes or Mannors of Pyrates, Dernford, Huntyngdons and the Dale in Sawston taken the tenth daye of May An dni: 1580 by John Paxton.*

### **Extract from a contribution by a Cambridge correspondent “T.N” in the Gentleman’s Magazine 1815**

This summer I fulfilled my long standing promise of spending a day with an old schoolfellow in Sawston, a pleasant little village seven miles south of Cambridge. After enjoying his hospitality we set out for a ramble and suddenly found ourselves in the midst of a group of people near the road leading to the church.

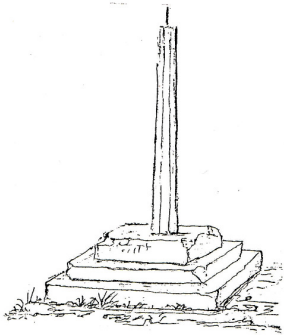
They were holding a conversation on a grass plot; from the centre of which rose a cross, enclosed in a small covered building, like an amphitheatre, that added not a little to the romantic appearance of the village; toward the bottom of the southern slope of the grass-plot, propped with uncommon care, and guarded by a holy zeal from the ravages of time, stood an ancient sycamore tree, and on the eastern side, to the terror of evil-doers, stood the stocks. Alas, these last features have since disappeared.

My friend, taking me aside said the meeting was convened by residents to consider selling the cross. This cross he said is the ornament of the village. It had escaped the rage of the puritans in the civil war because of its antiquity and when it was built is uncertain. It had probably been erected by the Knights Templars. So early as the thirteenth century, public officers sat on this cross to administer justice, and said my friend “we possess it as an inheritance from our forefathers, but at this moment the cupidity and folly of the covetous and ignorant are conspiring to destroy this venerable relic”.

Wishing to preserve a memoranda of the old cross I took a hasty sketch of it, and passing through the village in the following autumn, I found that the inhabitants had sacrilegiously levelled the cross and sold the remnants.



## Extract from 'History of Sawston' part II by T.F.Teversham, 1947



In the summer of 1815 the cross was removed for some reason; in process of these operations the top of the cross was broken off and for the following 70 years only the shaft remained.



In the 1880's another cross was refitted and later on in 1919 there were further alterations, the cross being adapted to form the central feature of the Village War Memorial



The Cross was raised on a new foundation of Cornish Granite.

The iron railings were removed at the same time and replaced by a surround of a more dignified character.

## A Poem by Mathias Barr

In 1865 his first-published volume of poems appeared, and he thereafter issued several short volumes of well-regarded verse. He was compared to Burns and Wordsworth in finding the inspiration of song in the most common objects. The simplest scenes, the homeliest incidents, the most common wild-flowers, were subjects addressed by Barr.

*(First appeared in Contact in 1965, contributed by a member of the Women's Pleasant Hour)*

### The Workman To His Wife

Come Mary, throw your work aside  
And let your troubles be,  
Leave care and toil to smoke awhile  
And spend an hour with me.  
We'll seek the cowslip on the bank,  
The primroses in the lane  
And happy sights and sounds afar  
Shall make us young again.

'Tis long, my love, since you and I  
Have heard the Blackbird sing,  
Or caught by running brooks and woods  
The glory of the spring.  
'Tis long since you and I have trod  
The paths where hawthorns blow.  
Then Mary fling aside your work  
And let your troubles go.

The trees shall bend to welcome us,  
The flowers shall clasp our feet,  
The very bees shall hymn our praise  
In murmurs soft and sweet.  
The winds shall swell with ready voice  
The chorus high and loud  
And we'll forget the world, my wife,  
And all its busy crowd.

A thousand things await us, love,  
Blue skies and balmy air,  
Green fields whose very sight shall make  
The heart forget its care.  
Then never sigh, be glad today,  
Throw sorrow to the wind  
Nor pause till we have left our ills  
A summer's hour behind

## 50 Year Memories

*I should like to repeat an autobiography that was written in November 1964 by Miss Ada Stallan*

I was born in Sawston, also my parents, so I am a real Sawstonian.

I went to school when I was 3 years of age and from the infants school moved up into the girls school, as at that time we did not have mixed classes. Mr Falkner was the headmaster at that time, and one of the highlights of the year was the performance of Shakespeare's plays. These were performed by the boys attending school and I think some were ex-pupils of the school. I particularly remember 'The Merchant of Venice'.



On Sundays we attended morning and afternoon Sunday School and on Monday evenings 'The Band of Hope'. We sang rousing hymns and had someone speak to us. We paid 1/2d a week and had a smashing tea in the winter for 4d, another in the summer and afterwards went to the field at the back for games. We also attended the Christian Endeavour meeting on Saturday evenings, conducted by the minister.

I have always been interested in music and one of the events of the year was the Sunday School anniversary. The late Mr W Barber was our conductor and we had the organ and an orchestra, and with the help of the choir the singing was really good. We always had a cantata in the afternoon and like Mrs Peters I particularly remember "Under the Palms".

I joined the choir at the age of 13 and became organist in 1925, on the death of Mr. A Moss. I did not particularly want the job at the time, but was persuaded to take it on, and have enjoyed doing it ever since.

I have also enjoyed singing and belonged to the Sawston Choral Society for many years.

In 1935 the Society won a banner in the competitions at Cambridge, and 4 members of the society were invited to take part in a Royal Command Concert at the Albert Hall, on the occasion of their Majesties Silver Jubilee. I was one of the lucky ones in the draw and it was an unforgettable experience. There were 1,700 singers from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales and the English group were conducted by Dr. Vaughan Williams. During the evening King George V sent Sir Walford Davies from



the Royal Box to ask if we would sing Parry's 'Jerusalem'. It was wonderful to hear all the voices singing; it really raised the roof.

We still have a good choir, and if anyone who reads this is interested in singing, we are always pleased to welcome new members.

I hope that by my efforts I have been able in some small way to forward the work of the Church in our village of Sawston.

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## **Haslingfield Christmas Market**

We have decided to move our Market forward this year and it will be held on Saturday 18th November. We would like to invite anyone from around the circuit to have a stall - either promoting a charity or selling their crafts. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Christine Kipping.

Email: [grahamkippling@aol.com](mailto:grahamkippling@aol.com) or 01223 870227.

We began holding this outdoor Market in 2020 when we were recovering from our 2nd Covid lockdown. It was a great success that year and it has grown since then and we also have a small number of stalls indoors.

We would be so pleased to welcome you.

Best wishes,

***Miriam***

*Miriam Webb*

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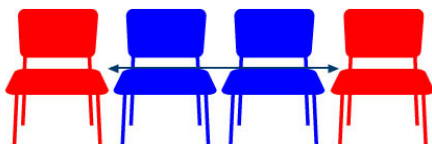
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## The Footprints Café



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**

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