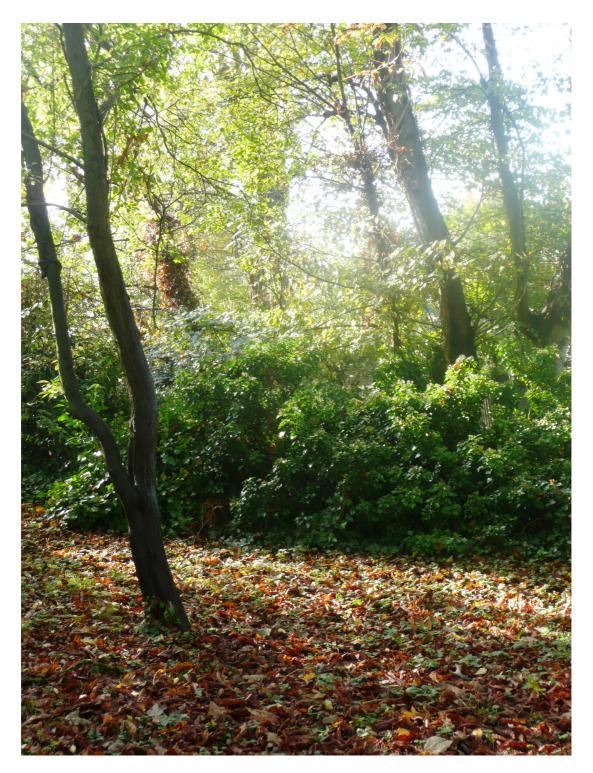
CONTACT November 2021



Volume 62 - Issue 11 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:

 07 November 10.30 Morning Worship - Rev Dr Mike Wilson (Rev Phil Nevard at Castle Camps)
14 November 10.30 Remembrance Sunday & Holy Communion - Rev Deborah McVey (Rev Phil Nevard at the War Memorial)
21 November 10.30 Morning Worship - Penny Flynn

28 November 10.30 Go4th (Rev Phil Nevard at Whittlesford)

The closing date for **December** Contact is Friday 19th November

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

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

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Dear Friends,

As I write, the news is breaking of the horrific violent murder of Sir David Amess, M.P. which, in turn brings back all the memories of the murder of Jo Cox, M.P. who was similarly murdered 5 years ago. Of course, there are six or seven hundred murders in the UK every year, and every single one of those people was loved and is sorely missed and grieved. No one murder is any more tragic than another.



BUT... high profile murders do capture the attention of the nation and give us an

opportunity to pause and think and reflect on the nature of the society we live in. One response will be a review of safety for M.P.s, though we had one of those after Jo Cox's murder and it is human nature to relax our guard as time passes. Politicians and police commissioners have struggled to find a way of responding to the brutal murder of Sarah Everard, and some have found themselves in hot water when offering glib and ill-thought-out opinions.

As a church, thankfully, we are not responsible for developing detailed national policy initiatives about policing or security, but that doesn't mean we have nothing to say. So how DO we respond when these moments of national trauma happen? I wonder if we might have a few not-so-obvious but powerful things to offer.

- 1. Refusing to contribute to the ever more toxic and divisive forces at work in the UK, not allowing ourselves to be divided and separated out by narrow, political agendas;
- 2. Going out of our way to be gracious and kind in the face of hostility and criticism;
- 3. Recognising that behind every set of beliefs or attitudes, however unattractive we find them, is a human being made in the image of God;
- 4. Being for our neighbours and children and the communities around us a positive model of gentleness, being known for the way we love one another.

Paul Field puts it far better in his fantastic song, "Go Peaceful":

Go peaceful In gentleness Through the violence of these days Give freely Show tenderness In all your ways. Through darkness In troubled times Let holiness be your aim Seek wisdom Let faithfulness Burn like a flame.

Every Blessing to you and yours,

Phil

A Note From Phil

Some of you may have had a frustrating time trying to phone me on the Minister's Phone Number. The reason for this is that there is no signal at all from that network in my house - so I can't even access the answer machine. We are fixing this, so please be patient, a couple of weeks and we should be sorted! (meanwhile - email always works!)

The Month of Accompanied Prayer, an ecumenical initiative of the Diocese of Ely Spirituality Group, is in November. Please see Mary Simuyandi if you would like more information. It's strongly recommended!

Christmas Shoebox Appeal at Sawston

The deadline to return the filled shoeboxes is 31 October – you may still have time if you receive this edition of Contact before then.

Hand knitted hats at £3 are available from Yvonne. They are perfect for including in the shoeboxes. Please consider buying one of these hats which have been made and donated by people from this church. All proceeds to church funds for use by the Fabric Committee.

When your shoeboxes are complete, you can bring them to church on Sunday morning – 31st October, or contact **Yvonne 473937**, **Rosemary 845948** or **Dawn 562813** to arrange a drop off, or a collection for the housebound.

Dear David and Anne,

Here is an incident that happened last week in a shoe shop.

We met over shoe boxes, the shop assistant and I. I wanted five, and she remembered one special box from a long time ago. " It had lots of little presents in it and I was so happy," she said. Then she straightened her arms onto the counter between us and smiled at me.

"I'm a Romanian. I came to live here because I knew the people were kind." The next day I began to hunt for Christmas paper to decorate my hoard of shoe boxes. I didn't find any so I sat down to think about my encounter in the shoe shop. What had I learnt?

- 1. Romanian children grow up like any other.
- 2. Good memories can be made from shoe boxes.

Dawn Haughton

Safeguarding training

The latest set of dates for safeguarding training are now available. The courses will be delivered via Zoom with Nicola Grieves(Eastern Synod's Childrens & Youth Development Officer)

The course is split into two sessions so please book for both dates.

This course is for everyone who support children and/or vulnerable adults including Junior Church staff, Brigades leaders & helpers, Elders, Coffee Chat & Baby volunteers, Messy Church volunteers, Sunday morning transport, etc.

Course Dates 8th November and 15th November 2.30pm – 4.00pm 8th November and 15th November 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Register with Nicola - cydo@urceastern.org.uk

Greetings From Castle Camps

November is now here and the darker nights are with us. The trees are changing colour and losing their leaves; but the different colours of the leaves are lovely.



Harvest is complete and it has been a reasonable one considering the poor summer weather. Normally we have a Harvest Festival Songs of Praise which is well attended by the village, but this year, due to the chapel being closed, we were unable to hold it.

The Remembrance Service is being held on 14th November at 10.15am outside the Village Hall, followed by the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial and also the RAF Memorial.

The metal leading work of the Chapel tower has been handcrafted beautifully and the return of the pealing of our beloved bell isn't too far off.

We send our best wishes to our friends in Sawston.

Alan Hardy and Sara Davey

Hard Cases and Bad Laws



The murder of Sarah Everard by PC Wayne Couzens has caused national outrage, and rightly so. There is a clamour for the streets to be made safe. That said, it should be remembered that UK murder rates have been remarkably consistent over the last forty years despite the rise in population, except for a sharp peak around the years 2000-2004.

The legal maxim 'Hard cases make bad law,' was first coined in 1842. It warns that a knee-jerk reaction to the latest shocking case makes for poor legislation. It is not possible effectively to legislate against the next one-off and completely unforeseen outrage by outlawing the ghastly (but different) one that has just happened. It is the general condition of society - what is likely to happen - that needs to be legislatively addressed. Moreover, it is surely the case that a free society is not governed primarily by the imposition of law, but by general social consent to principles of behaviour. As St Paul observed long ago, when there is a law for everything, there is no freedom whatsoever. The law itself becomes our prison. (Rom 7:23)

Caroline Nokes, Conservative MP and chair of the cross-party women and equalities select committee, reports being asked whether women really did feel scared every time they walked home alone at night. 'Yes we do,' was the reply. To Lisa Bachelor, reporting the conversation, this is utterly unacceptable. (1)

I do not argue with that, except that it needs to be remembered that, overall, four times as many men as women are murdered annually in the UK. More specifically, the latest Home Office statistics (2) show that in the year to March 2020, 192 men died on our streets, paths and alleys, and 21 women - nearly 10 times as many men as women. Had Caroline Nokes asked whether most men feel afraid walking home alone at night she would have received the same answer, 'Yes we do!' - and within my memory of seventy years, we always have done. Is the supposition that the deaths of 192 men do not matter so much as the deaths of 21 women, perhaps because the vast majority (93%) of murderers are men? Is men murdering men ok then?

Nicola Sturgeon got somewhere near when she remarked that the heart of the problem wasn't one of protecting women from men, but of doing something about male violence. My belief is that cranking up the legislative punishments will prove no more effective here than cranking up gun ownership does in the USA. The crucial question, I believe, is 'Why is British society so angry, so confrontational, so violent and (until something truly awful happens) so indifferent?'

After the House of Commons was bombed out during the blitz, Winston Churchill, speaking from the chamber of the House of Lords, declared that it had to be rebuilt exactly as it had been before. His argument was that the 'in your face' confrontational nature of the chamber encapsulated something essential to the British way of life, as well as to its legislation. Confrontation, he thought, resulted in the cream rising to the top, and this, he thought, was the key to Britain's (then) primacy in the world.

But under such a system, it isn't the cream that rises to the top. It is the bully. If Churchill was right, bullying lies at the heart of our politics and our society. And though it is true that in matters of physical violence and death the bully is usually male, there are as many female bullies in our society

as male. They just set about it differently. My feeling is that it is the British indifference to (even, perhaps, glad embracing of) bullying that renders us such an angry, resentful, violent and unsafe society. Clearly, bullying works. Once bullying has become entrenched in an institution, it is very difficult to weed it out again, as the current struggles within the Metropolitan police would seem to illustrate. And so, glancing through the headlines, we have bullying in all sports, from primary age children to elite professionals (3). We have bullying in schools and churches (4). We have bullying in the workplace, from the NHS (5) to building sites (6), and, of course, bullying on our streets and in homes. The only thing new about bullying is that the internet and social media make it so much easier. That is bad news for everyone, but for children and teenagers in particular.

What would we say of the traveller on the road to Damascus (Luke 10: 29-37)? That he got what was coming to him? That he needed to man up? That he was unfortunate to be in the wrong place at the wrong time? That he was culpably insufficiently streetwise? And would we say the same of Jesus, who told the tale? It is remarkable how much of Christian theology is about the abuse of power. Sadly, it is equally remarkable how many in our society, Christian and non-Christian alike, appear indifferent to the problem. The result is, I believe, a general social assent to principles of behaviour which no legislative programme could ever hope to address and which no police force could ever hope to enforce. In the past it would have been a task for Christian preachers. Today, it is a task for the teachers, persuaders and influencers of society. In all probability, they will be secular.

- (1) https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/sep/26/when-will-women-feel-safe-on-uk-streets
- (2) https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/ homicideinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020

(3) https://www.lawinsport.com/topics/item/tackling-bullying-in-elite-sport-best-practice-for-sports-organisations

(4) https://archbishopcranmer.com/institutional-bullying-in-the-church-of-england/

(5) https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-57413875

(6) https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4jKDLfVrn251WYfrQ2B2Pqc/construction-industry-i-was-told-to-man-up-or-leave

Church Workday – November 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 You* Gordon (833983)

Coffee chat and Baby offers very new Mums the chance to share experiences, meet new friends and enjoy a relaxing time with their baby in a safe, calm environment.



We work in partnership with the Family Centre.

Our first group told us that they liked our small, intimate setting, sensory toys without the distraction of toddlers or screamers and being able to book for a series of 6 weeks.

Sessions are on WEDNESDAYS from 10 - 11, in series of 5 or 6 weeks

Enquiries welcome and BOOKING through: coffeechatbaby@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk

Story: A Pair to be Used

As the revered Mahatma Gandhi stepped aboard a train one day, one of his shoes slipped off and landed on the track. He was unable to retrieve it as the train was moving.



Gandhi calmly took off his other shoe to the amazement of his companions and threw it back along the track to land close to the first. Asked by a fellow passenger why he did so, Gandhi smiled.

"The poor man who finds the shoe lying on the track will now have a pair he can use."

(from Prayables.com)

Messy Church Families

We're back! We have missed you, and it feels good to be preparing to welcome you through our doors again.



Covid has meant that we have had to change the format of what we used to do to make it as safe as we can for children, parents, carers and volunteers, but we don't intend to reduce the messiness!

Our new format includes the following Covid measures:

- a shorter format
- one big messy activity rather than lots of little ones around tables
- picnic-style tea
- an Eventbrite booking system to limit numbers

We are starting small to see how it goes and will hope to gradually increase numbers into the new year.

Booking is required, tickets are free and registering with Eventbrite is free

- there is a strict limit of places, so book early to avoid disappointment!

Please book through the following link:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/messy-church-sawston-tickets-178834588067

Because of the problems with fan heaters and Covid, it may also be chilly in the building - so wrap up warm!

We can't wait to have you back!

Every Blessing,

Phil, Mary & the Messy Church Team

Rev Charity Nzegwu : Orwell and Royston (Inform - October Edition)

As we journey along this season of harvest, I have no doubt many of us are aware and indeed challenged by the significant impact of the Climate Crisis. We may also be aware that some continue to celebrate harvest, while others experience and lament over non-harvest. This is particularly true of our siblings in the global south who are living on the frontline of the climate crisis and experiencing lifethreatening weather events and living with irreversible obliteration to their geographical and social infrastructure. The Climate Justice For All campaign, which brings together young Methodists from around the world, have highlighted these stories from Fiji, Zambia, Uruguay and Italy. With that in mind, we may want to reflect on the following questions:

*What does harvest look like for those with nothing to harvest?

- * What do they celebrate?
- * Have we thought about non-harvest celebration?

The situation has been compounded by the impact of Covid-19, which have led to difficulties on communities and farmers who need to travel in order to sell their produce. Community development projects have unhelpfully had to work around interruptions and delays. I wonder whether we could also reflect on the following questions:

- *What do you love about our community?
- * Where are the important places to us?
- * What are the challenges our communities are facing especially as a result of COVID-19?

It is encouraging that The Methodist Church acknowledges the climate emergency and we are taking steps to transition towards net-zero carbon emissions. Against this backdrop The Methodist Conference, which sat from the 24th June to the 1st July 2021, agreed to write a letter to the organisers of COP26 ahead of the meeting in November, giving them assurance of our continued prayers and encouragement in their leadership of this important conference. The Methodist Church also recognises that we have considerably been stirred by the leadership of children and young people to take steps regarding transitioning towards net -zero carbon emissions. Their prophetic voices continue to stimulate us to be bold in our decisions, and to reflect on the legacy we leave to future generations by the way we steward our resources. Notably, the Methodist youth assembly, 3Generate, and the youth-led campaign Climate Justice For All, have been instrumental voices in this. We continue to pray that the leaders of COP26 would take the opportunity and engage with our children and young people. The Methodist Church challenges the UK, to recognise the crucial role we are called to play in leading the global movement towards a net-zero economy, and a climate in which both people and planet can thrive. Therefore friends, as we draw near to COP26, may we be bold in taking the required steps towards changes that will enable all of creation to flourish.

A Dog's Plea

Treat me kindly, my beloved master, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I should lick your hand between the blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me do.

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when your footstep falls upon my waiting ear.

When it is cold and wet, please take me inside... for I am now a domesticated animal, no longer used to bitter elements... and I ask no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the hearth.



Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food, that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life, should your life be in danger.

And, beloved friend, when I am old and no longer enjoy good health, hearing and sight, do not make heroic efforts to keep me going. I am not having fun. Please see to it that my life is taken gently. I shall leave this earth knowing with the last breath I draw that my fate was always safest in your hands.

Author Unknown

Sadly, Bonnie passed away peacefully this week. If you would like a dog's cage suitable for a larger dog, please contact us and we would be pleased to pass it on.

David and Anne (01223 832913)

Recipe Corner Traditional Welsh Lamb Cawl

This serves 6 so you could freeze some if you wish or make a smaller quantity.



Ingredients

51b 12oz of Welsh Lamb steaks diced or diced Lambs neck fillets

1 tablespoon of flour mixed with a pinch of salt and pepper.

4 large potatoes cleaned and diced

4 large carrots peeled and diced.

Half a swede peeled and diced.

- 2 parsnips peeled and diced.
- 3 leeks trimmed and sliced.

Seasoning of choice.

Crusty bread (to serve)

Oil

Fresh chopped parsley for garnish.

Caerphilly cheese to serve with the bread.

Method

Dredge meat in the seasoned flour, heat oil in a large stockpot, when hot add the floured lamb and cook for 3-4 minutes. stirring all the time until the lamb has a golden brown crust.

Turn the heat down, add 4 pints of water, then add all the vegetables **apart from the leeks**.

Season to taste, pop the lid on and simmer for 2 hours until tender.

Put the leeks in about 20 minutes before the end of the cooking time.

When ready, serve into soup bowls, sprinkle with parsley, and serve with the cheese and bread on a separate plate.

Beryl

Climate justice: from subduing to tilling and keeping

In the second in a series of blogs, the Revd Simon Topping considers how we might develop a healthy theology of climate justice.

It seems to me that Christian engagement in the struggle for climate justice has been held back by the way in which we have interpreted some key biblical passages – so we have some catching up to do!

The command in Genesis to "have dominion" over all living things and to "subdue" the earth has justified a "power over" relationship with the natural world – it is there for us to exploit, control, use and consume as we wish. Most Christians recognise that when a similar "power over" relationship is imposed upon human beings it leads to social injustice and exploitation, but we have struggled to accept that the same relationship with nature leads to ecological injustice, including climate injustice.

So how do we manage these tricky texts in the first chapter of Genesis if we are to develop a healthy theology of climate justice? Perhaps we can begin by rethinking the word "dominion" in the light of the lordship or dominion of Christ. Jesus turns the idea of dominion on its head – true dominion, true lordship is exercised through loving service of others. So exercising dominion in relation to all living things, as Christ interpreted it, is to enter into a relationship of loving service towards the world around us.

And perhaps we also need to place greater focus on the other account of creation which begins in the second chapter of Genesis. There we learn that God had a specific purpose for humanity when the first human being was placed on earth – according to Genesis 2:15 it was "to till it and keep it". This feels quite different to dominating and subduing.

To till the earth means to maintain the richness of the soil so that it promotes and sustains plant life. To keep the earth is to take responsibility for its wellbeing. The same Hebrew word (shamar) used in 2:15 is used in Genesis 4:9 when Abel asks of God: "am I my brother's keeper?" or, in other words, do I have responsibility for my brother's wellbeing? God's response makes it quite clear that Abel, and all humanity, has a social responsibility towards our fellow human beings. God's placing of humanity on earth "to keep it" makes it clear that we also have an environmental responsibility for the wellbeing of the earth, including the climate.

So if we can reinterpret "dominion" as loving service directed towards the wellbeing of the natural world, modelled on the Lordship of Christ, and if we can understand "subduing" as responsible cultivation, a "tilling and keeping" for the benefit of people and planet, then, as Christians, perhaps we can reimagine our relationship with God's creation and see more clearly a biblical mandate to engage in the struggle for climate justice.

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

A Gift of Solitude

Alone time is precious commodity for most. Families might not realise their irritability and stress could be tied to a lack of solitude. Allowing 24hrs or 2 of rest and undisturbed time can change the way they show up for others.

The gift of free time alone so you can enjoy a delicious empty house can give you an opportunity to do your own thing praying, Bible reading, baking, sorting out old photographs, letter writing or even gardening etc.

Alone time gives you an opportune window for relaxation. A day of freedom to connect with your individual self and help foster feeling of empowerment which is a powerful antidote to helplessness that a lot of us have felt during pandemic. It expands your recently narrow comfort zone by reminding you that you're capable and independent.



Bertha Carte

With thanks to Inform for both of the above articles – The magazine for Orwell and Royston



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