

CONTACT

July 2024



Volume 65 - Issue 7
Sawston Free Church

Churches Services and Dates for Your Diary

**SFC Services-(also available via zoom) SFC email: secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk,
Sawston Free Church:**

07 July	10.30am : Morning Worship – Penny Flynn 3.00-5pm: Messy Church
14 July	10.30am : Morning Worship and Holy Communion – Rev Phil Nevard
21 July	10.30am : Morning Worship – Rev Phil Nevard
28 July	10.30am : Go4th

The closing date for **August** Contact is **Friday 19th July**

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

Minister		Tel
Rev Phil Nevard	12 Hinton Way, Gt Shelford, minister@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk	07814920187
Secretary:		
Mary Simuyandi	28 New Road, Sawston secretary@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk	837433
Elders: Sawston		
Jenny Karpuk	5 Prince William Way, Sawston	564121
Rosemary Livings	The Gables, 1a Granhams Road, Gt Shelford	845948
Anne Pegram	2 Brookfield close, Sawston	832597
Beryl Penny	April Lodge, 81 Brewery Road, Pampisford	833635
Mary Simuyandi	28 New Road, Sawston	837433
Joint Treasurers:		
Lynne Hays	Baggot Hall, Station Road, Harston	871800
Terry Penny	April Lodge, 81 Brewery Road, Pampisford	833635
Contact Editors		
David & Anne Nunn	10 London Road, Sawston Email: anne.nunn@btinternet.com	832913
Church Bookings	Tony Winstler, 6 Hurry's Close, Sawston winstler355@btinternet.com	837946
Church Website:	www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk/	
Facebook page:	www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch	

Contact

The monthly magazine of
Sawston Free Church United Reformed Methodist

Minister: Reverend Phil Nevard – 12 Hinton Way, Gt Shelford, Cambs CB22 5BE

Tel: 07814 920187 Email: minister@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk

www.sawstonfreechurch.org.uk,

www.facebook.com/SawstonFreeChurch

Dear Friends,

By the time this edition of Contact is published and lands on your doormat, we may or may not have a new Government. Either way it will be very much changed, if only because so many MPs have stood down this year. Through all the campaigning many of us have felt the weight of our civic duty to vote. General Elections invite us to reflect on the intersection of our responsibilities as citizens of the United Kingdom and our deeper allegiance to the Kingdom of God. It's a tension that can be challenging to navigate, yet it is also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the values that Jesus taught.



Our democratic process allows us to influence the direction of our nation. Voting is a privilege that gives voice to our hopes and concerns for society. It is an expression of our desire for justice, compassion, and the common good. As Christians, we are called to engage with the world around us, to be salt and light, and to work towards a society that reflects the love and justice of God.

However, we must also remember that our ultimate citizenship is in the Kingdom of God. This kingdom operates on principles that often stand in stark contrast to worldly politics. While political systems are temporary and imperfect, the Kingdom of God is eternal and embodies perfect justice, peace, and love. Jesus reminds us that His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36), and thus our ultimate loyalty must always lie with Him.

As we reflect on the new political landscape, let us do so with prayerful consideration. Let us align ourselves with politicians and policies that reflect as closely as possible the values of the Kingdom—upholding the dignity of every person, caring for the vulnerable, and striving for peace and reconciliation. At the same time, let us not place our ultimate hope in political outcomes, but in the transformative power of God's love and the coming of His kingdom in its fullness.

In these times, may we be guided by the Holy Spirit to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8), remembering that our true hope is found not in the ballot box, but in the resurrection life we share in Christ.



Every Blessing,

Rev'd Phil Nevard

Phil

July Prayers



Please pray for the Church Meeting on 10th July.

Please also pray for the Holiday Club, for the setting up on 29th July and the club taking place from 30th July to 2nd August. For the leaders and children.

God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church,

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,

Joy to our worship,

And power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers.

In spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Anne Pegram

The Seven R's Of Respecting God's Creation

(From a leaflet by Green Christian)

Rejoice

Let's take delight in Creation – God's free gift to us.

Tip: Say a prayer of thanks before each meal.

Tip: Enjoy your own local patch of nature.

Refuse

Refuse to believe what the adverts say. You are no less a person because you don't have this gadget or haven't been to that exotic place.

Tip: Always wait at least 24 hours before buying something you have seen in an advert.

Tip: Have regular off-line days to avoid the adverts and images on social media.

Reduce

By reducing our impact on the planet could we also reduce our levels of stress and anxiety? We can buy less, travel less, and put less pressure on ourselves to have that perfect home and ever-active life.

Tip: Have one day a week on which you buy nothing.

Tip: It's ok to say you can't do something because you need a quiet day with the family.

Reuse

Replace the convenience of single use and disposable items with the love of something which can be reused for months or years.

Tip: Bring your own mug and teaspoon if you need a take-away coffee.

Tip: Use charity shops and give-away groups like Freecycle.

Repair

Let's look after our stuff and keep hold of the old skills of sewing and repairing. Find out if there are workshops near you where you can get your electronic items fixed, and donate old furniture to charities which teach people refurbishing skills.

Tip: Invest in a sewing kit and a good tube of super-glue.

Rent, Borrow and Share

Ownership can be overrated. Tools in particular are often bought and used only once or twice a year. Borrowing and sharing can be a great way of bonding with neighbours, and there are organisations which will rent clothes, tools and rarely used items such as camping equipment.

Tip: Before buying anything you won't use every day, ask your friends and neighbours, with a promise to lend them something in return.

Tip: Book lovers – remember your local library.

Recycle

Recycling comes last on the list because it should be a last resort. Recycling does reduce the rate in which we use natural resources but it still uses a lot of energy for transporting and processing the items.

Tip: Complete the loop by buying products made from recycled materials.

The grand total raised for Christian Aid was £945.86 . A Huge thanks to everyone for this wonderful amount.

Mary.



MIND THE GAP: Can We Build Bridges Across The Political Divide?

By SIENNA SEXTON (*Sienna is the JPIT Labour Parliamentary Intern 2023/24. She has a background in campaigning and student activism. She is passionate about justice, peacebuilding and international relations. Written shortly before the General Election was announced.*)

At the Joint Public Issues Team, we orient our work around six hopes for society, one of which is that politics will be characterised by listening, kindness and truthfulness. Politics has always been a mucky business.

However, the 24-hour media cycle, the ability to carry the news around in our pockets and commentate on the issues in real time means that now, more than ever, we can't escape it. Reading the news, watching the theatrical uproar of Prime Ministers Questions, seeing politicians endlessly finger pointing, and watching people shout past each other on social media, this hope can seem like a naïve and completely unrealistic dream.

Since the Brexit referendum, latent political and social fractures in the UK have been uncovered in a new light. In the years since the referendum, political debate seems to have become more divisive. It often appears that politicians fan the flames of division for their own political gain. These divisions are further exacerbated by the fact that, despite globalisation and the internet, we exist in ever-narrowing echo chambers. More and more, we spend time with people who think and act like us in the online and the real world. While it is a well-worn truism, we do live in polarised times.

With an election coming up sometime in the months ahead, my fear is that the election campaign will stoke the worst instincts of politics and society.

That we will see parties and candidates playing off division and fear to win the election. I believe that the challenges the UK and wider world are facing, from growing inequality, to the climate crisis and international conflicts, are too big and too important for us to give in to fear, paralysis, apathy and blame games. We need robust and searching public debate of the issues and we need creative political solutions.

If this all sounds pie in the sky to you, let me just say that I completely understand. My instinct is to hunker down, disengage, make some tea and turn on a TV show. It can be easy to feel powerless as we can't control what the Government, opposition parties, political pundits and candidates are saying. However, we are responsible for the quality of political debate we engage in, and the conversations we have in our communities, families, friendship groups, workplaces and churches.

Tips to engaging in productive, genuine political conversations:

Assume the best intentions in others

When exploring ideas or challenging issues, people may use phrases that you find difficult or problematic. If this happens, try to give them the benefit of the doubt. The best of intentions may be hidden behind clumsy words.

Be prepared to listen

Too often we listen only to respond or to correct. Try to listen actively to understand, engaging fully with what is being shared. If you are contributing more than listening try to pause and give others the opportunity to share; if you are listening more than you share try to contribute to the conversation.

Try to understand rather than convince

Too often we listen only to respond or to correct. Try to listen actively to understand, engaging fully with what is being shared. If you are contributing more than listening try to pause and give others the opportunity to share; if you are listening more than you share try to contribute to the conversation.

Look for common ground

Our ability to convince ourselves is much greater than our ability to convince others. Rather than trying to change the opinion of others use this as an opportunity to fully understand their thoughts and feelings. If everybody does this, it is likely that a great deal more will be exchanged as a result.

Comment on ideas, not people

We are biologically programmed to respond to people attacking our views in the same way that we would respond to being attacked by a lion! If something inspires you or if there is something that jars it may be appropriate to highlight it. It is important however to do so in terms of the ideas that were shared and not the people who shared them. It also may sometimes be wise to re-direct and often is helpful to give people time to explain themselves more fully.

Stay curious

Resist the urge to pigeonhole others by asking questions and respecting the complexity of the issues and the depth and experiences of the individuals that are sharing with you.

Have a conversation over a meal

Evidence suggests that people are more likely to be open to changing their opinions about something if the discussion takes place over a meal.

While it may not be easy, or come naturally, following these principles should enable us to have productive and meaningful political conversations in the lead up to the election. These conversations have the power to shift the tone and experience of the election in our communities.

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.” — John Wesley

GOD CALLING

Dear Name

Jesus”. Say My name often. It was in My Name Peter bade the lame man to walk. “In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth arise and walk.”

“Jesus”. The very sounding of My Name, in Love and tenderness, drives away all evil. It is the word before which all the hosts of evil flee.

“Jesus” My Name is the call for a lifeline to rescue you from temptation.

“Jesus”. The Name banishes loneliness-dispels gloom.

“Jesus”. Summons help to conquer your faults.

I will set you on high because you have known My Name

Yes! My Name - “Jesus”.

Use it more.

Use it tenderly.

Use it prayerfully.

Use it powerfully.

Many blessings

Kate Leach

SPARKS & STORIES HOLIDAY CLUB

Tuesday 30th July to Friday 2nd August 10am – 12.30pm

Tying in with our theme for the year, **Story Story Story** - imagine we are gathering round the campfire, wrapped in our cosy camp blankets and armed with steaming mugs of hot chocolate and marshmallows on sticks to toast in the flames, as we listen to and share stories of Jesus together. What stories did Jesus tell and what stories were told about him? How does his story mingle with our stories?

As usual, we will enjoy lots of games, fun food, craft activities, stories, songs & FUN!!

Please come along – for end Reception through to Year 6. Only £5 per child.

Registration forms can be found on the **HolidayClubCTS** & **SawstonFreeChurch** Facebook pages. Please get the completed forms & fees to Maggie Jones by mid July.

We Are Looking For Volunteers To Help Out At Holiday Club.

- We need volunteers to help set up on Monday 29th July and then help put things away afterwards on Friday 2nd August early afternoon.
- We also need volunteers to help throughout the week with various other tasks – security, and making refreshments.
- And we need volunteers to help with the children.

This is a really special Holiday Club. The resources, crafts, games, stories etc have already been designed by Nicola Grieves(United Reformed Church Eastern Synod Children's and Youth Development Officer) and her colleagues. Nicola provides most of the resources needed and has a meeting with the volunteers every day before Holiday Club starts, to guide them on the morning's varied activities. Nicola is so talented and skilled when working with children, and of course very professional. Everyone loves her! She is great fun, smiles a lot, has a deep faith and knows the bible well. There's no need to worry about preparing beforehand – it's all done for you.

And we also ask for volunteers to pray for Holiday Club.

Volunteers gain a lot from Holiday Club – it's such a very rewarding experience getting to know the children and working with them. You may come away exhausted – but it's a nice exhausted and you will treasure the experience.

More information on the theme can be found at [https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/c people/children-youth-work/holiday-club-materials/hildren-young-](https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/c%20people/children-youth-work/holiday-club-materials/hildren-young-) - select **Sparks and Stories**.

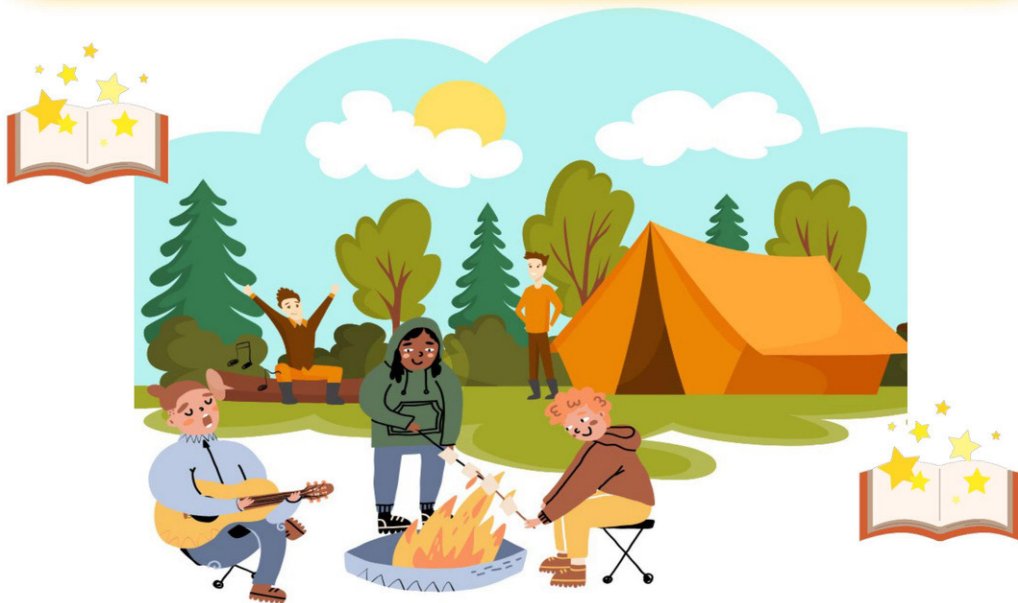
We need volunteers in order to make Holiday Club happen. We really cannot do it without you. If you would like to know more, please ask Mary or Matthew.

Please let me know if you are interested in helping by 10 July.

Many thanks,

Maggie

Sparks and Stories Holiday Club



Come and join us as we hear the stories that Jesus told.
With fun, games, crafts, singing & refreshments.

Tuesday 30th July to Friday 2nd August

10am - 12.30pm

at Sawston Free Church

For a registration form please contact
holidayclubcts@gmail.com, 07917 122913
or visit us at [f](#)HolidayClubCTS

Just £5 for the whole week!

**Christians
Together in
Sawston**

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.)

A few weeks ago, whilst preaching at Sawston Free Church, I found myself musing on how extraordinary it is that until the 19th century Christians in Britain displayed very little interest in the gospel stories about the life of Jesus of Nazareth beyond the story of his passion and death.

I could have added in brackets (but I didn't) that the exceptions are his birth, his baptism, his transfiguration and the Sermon on the Mount. The reason is that Christian interest in Jesus was centred in his being the vehicle of our salvation – the one who 'opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers' as we sometimes say as we recite the *Te Deum* [1] at communion services.

It was, therefore, Jesus' sacramental significance that was concentrated upon, together with the necessary moral teaching to lead the 'good life' and attain heaven. Beyond that, theologically speaking, the credal assertion that Jesus was, undoubtedly, a human being was all that was necessary. The rest could be left to the teaching and the sacraments of the Church.

Visitors to the Wilson home in recent weeks have been reinforcing these reflections in the Wilsonic brain. There are four local evidences of mediaeval village Christianity in our local parish churches that we delight to show them: they are the Sheelanagig at St Mary's and St Andrew's, Whittlesford, the shrine to St Thomas a Becket at St Edmund's Hauxton, and the Doom paintings at St Mary's Great Shelford and St Mary Magdalen's Ickleton. The pillars in Ickleton may well be from the Saxon church that once stood there. (They may even be Roman, salvaged and recycled by the Saxons.)

That we should have such ancient glories enriching our locality is surely wonderful? They constantly remind me of two very important elements of our faith: We stand at the end of a very long line of faithful witnesses (that is, of martyrs, for that is what the word 'martyr' means) and that the faith of our ancestors was expressed (and indeed understood) in ways that we would find very strange indeed, if not virtually incomprehensible.

One thing that we have largely lost, it seems to me, is awe. To walk into St Mary's Great Shelford and to look up is to gasp in wonder. The brilliance, the vividness, the strangeness, the imminence of danger, the possibility of triumph or disaster – all

these things overwhelm as you step out of your day-to-day life in an English village and into a foretaste of heaven.

For there, before our eyes, surrounding us, *overwhelming* us, is what life is ultimately all about – the dire choice between being saved and being lost. There on the left are the saved, joyously and unashamedly being ushered naked and restored into the heavenly citadel.

And there, on the right, are the damned, equally naked, equally stripped of all worldly glory, being captured in chains and cast into eternal damnation.

Angels blow trumpets. Smoke billows. And in the centre, Christ in glory, the Lamb wounded from the foundation of the earth, his mother to his right hand and John the Baptist to his left, presiding over this cosmic fulfilment of all things. We live in this life primarily to stand before our Judge. And yet, despite the awesomeness of it, there is, in that wonderful painting, wit, humour, and immense compassion. It is no accident that, traditionally, the priest's stall is right beneath the jaws of hell.

In Mediaeval terms, the Shelford Doom is 'late'. (The Reformers covered it up as a shameful blasphemy within a century of its creation.) It is the Cosmic Christ, Alpha and the Omega, the Crucified and Risen Lamb of God, who presides over this glittering and awesome occasion. I can find no sign of the carpenter from Nazareth.

In contrast, the Doom in Ickleton is one of the oldest surviving in the country. Happily, it has one (to my eyes, very significant) detail. In most Dooms, the figure of Mary stands proud yet humble as she watches her son judging the world. Not so in Ickleton! Here, she is visibly distraught at the anguish of the scene. Her hands fly up in dismay. As ever more are brought before the judgement seat, she bares her breasts as she beseeches her son on their- on *our* - behalf.

Here, then, is a rare and precious reference to Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth. The allusion is to Luke 11:27, and the woman who called to Jesus from the crowd, 'Blessed are the paps that gave thee suck!' Mary is pleading with her son, saying, 'Remember, you too are a man, born of woman. I fed you at my breast. All these are of your – of *our* - kind!'

This deeply moving motif disappeared from British Doom painting long before the Reformers sloshed whitewash over them or worse. With it went the essential humaneness of the one who sits in judgement. I find it very hard to comprehend how it took until the 19th century for that deficiency to be fully addressed.

[1] We praise you O God. We acknowledge you to be the Lord ...

***** PLEASE NOTE THIS WORKDAY *****

SFC - Church MEGA Paint Party and Workday

– Saturday 13th July - 8am till 1pm



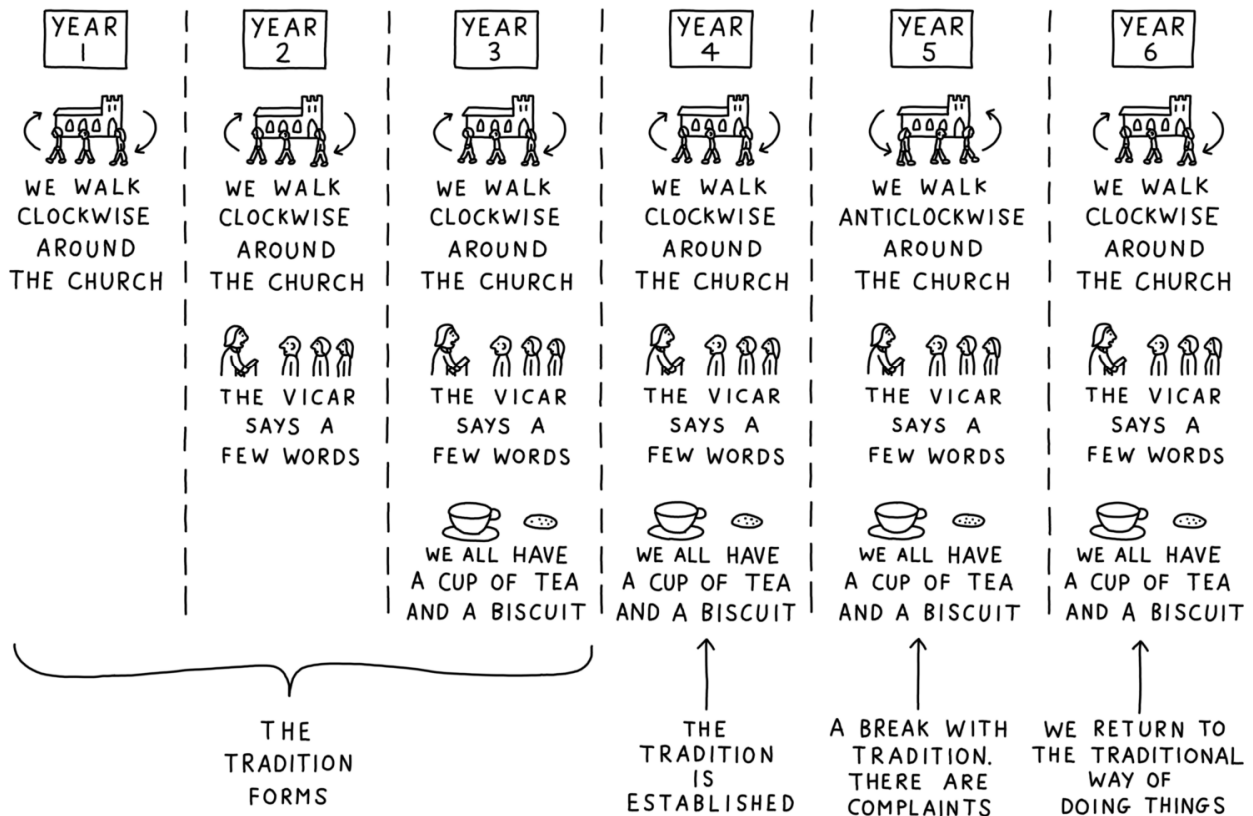
Please come and help keep our premises looking good.
Everyone who can paint is welcome. Brushes and paint supplied
– plus refreshments if we are lucky.

**Please let me know if you can come
it really helps me to plan the work.**

Thank You Gordon (833983)

TRADITION

HOW IT DEVELOPS



CartoonChurch.com

STEVE the PLUMBER

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

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

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

Call or click:
07803 922517
www.stevetheplumbersawston.co.uk

pb Price Bailey

The right advice
for your business life

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

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

H J PAINTIN LTD FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Personal attention assured at all times
24 Hour Service



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

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

60, WITHERSFIELD ROAD, HAVERHILL
Tel: 01440 703218

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



www.hjpaintin.co.uk

***This space could contain
your Advertisement!***

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

Free design and artwork available.

Cheap rates.

For details contact the editor

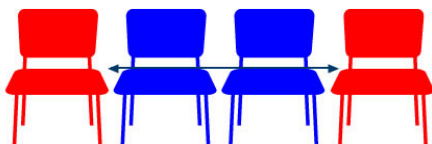
contact@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk

**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



PEASGOOD & SKEATES

THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE
EST 1847

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

48a High St 45 Moorfield Rd
SAWSTON **DUXFORD**
01223 791065 01223 833463

Offices also at Cambridge, Haverhill
and Saffron Walden

www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk



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

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

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

L.A. Kerridge

Painting & Decorating

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

Telephone 01223 832 745
Mob. 07843 850 484

CERBERUS SECURITY

UPVC LOCK SPECIALIST

Call us now
01223 902234

www.cslocksmiths.com
info@cslocksmiths.com



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

LINTON VILLAGE MOTORS

01223 830550



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

Find us in Great Abington
opposite Granta Park

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

www.lintonvillagemotors.co.uk