

'Crisis in Zimbabwe'

How often have we seen this headline over the past three decades? We had hoped that with the change of leadership, the situation for Zimbabweans might have improved. However, this has proven not to be the case. It seems that the economy has gone beyond repair. There is no health system for ordinary Zimbabweans and hospitals are deserted, with no medication. Doctors have been on strike for the past three months for a living salary and consequently the government is sacking the doctors.

Zimbabwe is without proper water due to a 40-year drought possibly due to global warming and also a lack of electricity. At the same time there is high unemployment especially among the young people who are resorting to drug and alcohol abuse. It seems that a whole generation is going to waste. At present at least 30% of the population are living on food from the world foodbank

Under the guidance of Rev. Mary Sachikonye, the Global Mission's Committee (District World Action Team) has adopted this as a major concern, with a particular desire to support the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. How this can be done remains under discussion to be brought before District Synod at a future date.

In the meantime, your prayers are asked for the people of Zimbabwe, at this very stressful time.

Rev Bernard Arnold

On behalf of the District World Action Team

Our Leadership Team is:

**Rev Alan Taylor, Matt & Liz Coates,
Kate Paterson, Martin Baker & Su Merton**

P Please remember parking is available at Greystones

If you have any items for inclusion in the notices, or prayer requests for future weeks, please call Matt on (01487) 830345 or email: notices@sawtrymethodist.org.uk before **Saturday midday**. An online version of the notice sheet is always available at www.sawtrymethodist.org.uk



Sawtry Methodist Church A Heart for Sawtry

Minister: Reverend Alan Taylor

Tel: 01487 209457

www.sawtrymethodist.org.uk

Notices for Sunday 15th December 2019

We welcome any visitors to our church today and pray you will find encouragement and comfort here. After the service has ended please feel free to join us for tea or coffee in the Sunday School Room. If you have any questions about the service or our church please speak to a member of the Leadership Team.



Today	10:30am	All Age Nativity
Monday	6:00pm	Community carol singing outside the Greystones, followed by seasonal refreshments
Saturday	9:30-11:00am	Coffee Morning
Next Sunday	10:30am	Rev James Bamber
	6:30pm	Candle-lit Carols

Our joint Christmas morning service will take place here at 10.30am, led by Rev Becky Dyball.

Candlelit Carol Service. 6.30pm, Sunday 22nd December. Contributions of mince pies will be gratefully received.

Please remember in your prayers this week:

- Our friends in the **Tempsford** congregation
- **St Benedict's Catholic Community**
- **Beryl Ayres**
- The family and friends of **Pete Scott**
- **Mike Bird (Liz's Dad)**
- The family and friends of **John Gillis**
- The family and friends of **Stephen Short**
- **Judi Finnegan**
- **Jessica Dickinson**
- **"Growing Together with Sawtry"**

If you have any items for prayer, please speak to a member of the leadership team or send them to notices@sawtrymethodist.org.uk

Finance

Offertory: £180.57

Coffee Morning: £15.00

Coffee after Service: £5.40

Thank you for your generosity

Rotas

Next Saturday Coffee – Roz & Angela

Next Sunday Door – Alicia & Roz

Vestry – Alicia

Coffee – Liz & Tess

Growing Together in Faith

Our fortnightly fellowship group is now on a break until January. A date for the first meeting of the year will be announced in due course.

Thankyou to everyone who helped with the community carol service last weekend and the refreshments afterwards. The service was very well attended and a total of £354 was raised towards Barnardo's and the Sawtry Foodbank.

Follow the Star. An evening of exploration and reflection for Advent, taking place at All Saints' church, led by Rev Becky Dyball. Wednesdays 18th December, 7.30pm. All are warmly invited. See the poster in the porch for more details.

Thank you! As the year draws to a close, it is a good time to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who has given up their time over the last year to serve our church and community by (deep breath) helping with coffee mornings, cleaning and mending, joining in with 'pray & do' sessions, serving refreshments, maintaining notice-boards, acting as a welcomer, vestry or communion steward, serving as a Church Council member, enhancing our worship by arranging flowers, providing music or operating the audio-visual system, and in so many other ways. While some of these things 'just happen', others need to be planned more formally and, for these, a new rota will soon be prepared. **If you can help** with any of these activities, please speak to any member of the leadership team today.

Quotes of the Week

"When we were children, we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?"

G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

"Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life."

Corrie Ten Boom (1892-1983)