

New Church

As our government was changing the status of its coronavirus strategy from contain to delay, my daily Bible readings took me into the Old Testament to the book of the prophet Zechariah. I wasn't inspired by the reading and was ready to move on but my eyes were drawn to the words, *'This is the word of the Lord: not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD of hosts.'* (Zech. 4:6). As I meditated, the light dawned. Our buildings are closed for a time, but our worship continues and is by our spirit. Jesus said, *'the hour is now coming, and is now here, when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'* (John 4:23). We are in just such a time. In these dark days we have an opportunity to rediscover church afresh as a people isolated yet together as a community worshipping in spirit and truth.

Recently, we visited a seriously ill friend in Ipswich and decided to make a day of it. Before our visit we went on to Felixstowe to have fish and chips by the seaside. On a grey, cold day as we walked along the front we were met by a strange sight. In the misty distance, what appeared to be a large warehouse was slowly moving whilst the rest of the landscape was as still as it should be. It took just a few moments to realise that it was a huge container ship leaving the port. Once it was out of the estuary, we could see the tugboats that looked so tiny against this enormous vessel. What influence these small boats could have on this giant. It spoke to me of the important little acts of kindness we do to help each other make life a little more tolerable. They can make a huge difference.

I pray you will be inspired by Charles Wesley's words: *Give me the faith which can remove and sink the mountain to a plain; give me the childlike praying love, which longs to build thy house again.*

I would love to hear from you in these days of social distancing. Feel free to give me a call, even if it's only for a chat. If I'm not near the phone do leave a message so I can call you back. (01487 209457)

Blessings.

Alan.



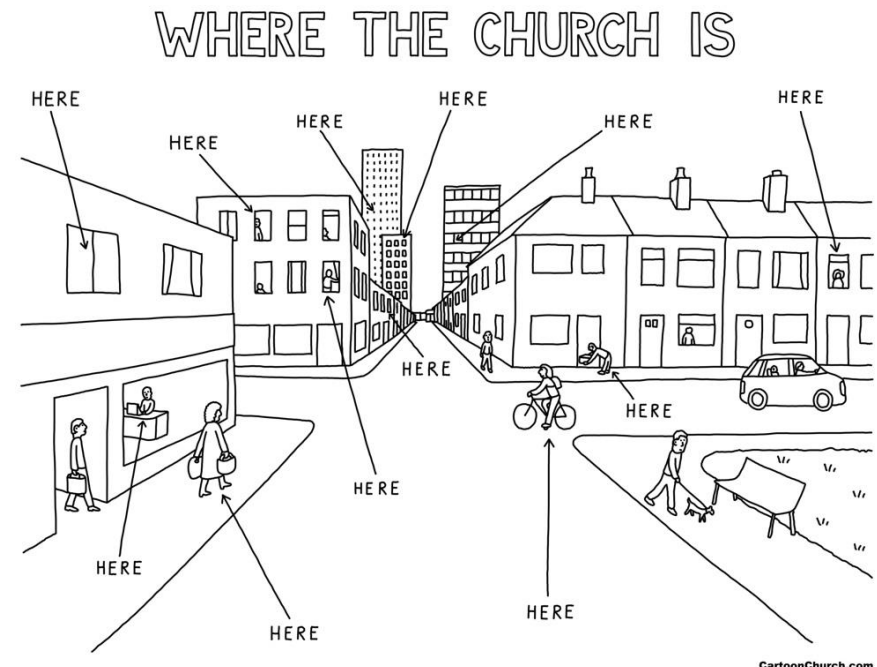
Sawtry Methodist Church A Heart for Sawtry

Minister: Reverend Alan Taylor

Tel: 01487 209457

www.sawtrymethodist.org.uk

Notices for Sunday 22nd March 2020 Happy Mothering Sunday!



This Week's Bible Readings

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7,7-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matt 1:18-25

Please use these readings in your personal devotions this week. If you have any thoughts or insights you would like to share with others via this news sheet, please send them to notices@sawtrymethodist.org.uk

Please remember in your prayers this week:

- All those in our communities who are suffering as a result of the current crisis
- Local and national leaders and those on the front line of our health and social services
- Our friends in the **St Ives** congregation
- **Sawtry Foodbank**
- **Abbie** – a family friend of Martin
- **John & Shirley Sharp**
- The friends and family of **Stan Langshaw**
- **John & Jean Garner**
- **"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: £119.18 (plus £130.00 Bank Transfers)

Coffee Morning: £16.25 Coffee after Service: £1.80

Thank you for your generosity

Our Leadership Team is:

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

leadership@sawtrymethodist.org.uk

Keeping in Touch. While we are unable to meet together for worship and fellowship, it is vitally important that we all keep in touch and make sure that we are looking after one another. Please try to stay in regular contact with friends and neighbours, particularly those who may be feeling isolated at this time. We are currently trying to get in touch with everyone by phone or email, so if you have not yet been contacted, or if you are aware of any members of our church family who may have been missed, please let us know.

Sawtry Foodbank. The coming weeks will be a difficult time for many, but especially those families who were only just managing financially and who may be facing a drop in income. Sawtry Foodbank has already seen a significant increase in demand, and this is expected to continue. If you are able to do so, please pick up an extra item or two and place them in the basket at the Co-op. For the moment, the collection points at the church and at CARESCO are not accessible, but please get in touch if you need help finding somewhere to deposit your contributions.

From the Treasurer. Even though we will be unable to meet together the next few weeks, there are still costs associated with maintaining the life and ministry of our church. Many members of our congregation already give by regular bank transfers and via the envelope scheme, and we are so grateful for this commitment to the life and ministry of our church. If you normally give in the form of cash on Sunday mornings, please prayerfully consider whether you would be able to set aside a sum each week. For those who make use of gift envelopes, we will make sure that you have your new supply of envelopes by the end of this month and we would be grateful if you could continue to make use of these, setting them aside until we are next able to meet together. If you would like to know more about ways to give, please get in touch with Matt on 01487 830345 or treasurer@sawtrymethodist.org.uk

Quote of the Week

"Our world today so desperately hungers for hope, yet uncounted people have almost given up. There is despair and hopelessness on every hand. Let us be faithful in proclaiming the hope that is in Jesus."

Billy Graham (1918-2018)