



Notices for Sunday 29th March 2020

Welcome to the new-look SMC news sheet, designed for easier reading on screen and easier printing at home. While we are not meeting together there will obviously be relatively few events to announce but we will include anything that might help to keep us thanking, praying, worshipping and serving God together.

Don't forget to pray for and keep in touch with your church family (by phone, email, Facebook, etc.), thinking especially of any who may be feeling isolated. How about giving someone a call and setting a time for a regular chat? This could be a great opportunity to get into new habits and strengthen relationships with your Christian sisters and brothers. If you have an email address and are not receiving updates from the church, or if you know of anyone who is in need of pastoral care, please e-mail Liz: admin@sawtrymethodist.org.uk



This Week's Bible Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

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 **Warboys** congregation
- **Sawtry All Saints Church**
- **Marjorie** – Helen's aunt, who is slightly improved but still in need of care
- **Kathryn** – Tess' daughter, a district nurse, now back at work after a period of self-isolation
- **Emma & Tom Houston** – both suffering with mild symptoms while at home with two small children
- **Abbie** – a family friend of Martin's

If you have any items for prayer, please call 01487 830345 or send them to notices@sawtrymethodist.org.uk

Finance. There will be no financial updates while we are not meeting together. Please get in touch with Matt (treasurer@sawtrymethodist.org.uk) if you have any questions.

A True Story – A New Cross for Sawtry Methodist Church

Like all good stories, this one involves lots of people and lots of good will. It started with a thought about the old cross, now removed after many years proclaiming the risen Christ on the front of our building and in need of a replacement that would last for many more, through all kinds of weather.

Oak was a perfect solution and I (Martin) knew where to acquire some.

I volunteer for the Local Wildlife Trust and spoke to my manager who was happy to help.

Aidan had a stock of oak beams taken from the Trust's Hayley Wood.

It was seasoned over 4 years, cut from trees around one hundred years old.

The beam needed to be sawn in two. Who would do it?

I approached Hugh at the Sawtry Man Cave and he said he could make the cross, providing I got it sawn to length.

The first timber yard refused on safety grounds – so where next?

The local wildlife group committee knew of my plight and their treasurer, Alison, came to the rescue. Her neighbour works for Jewsons and was pleased to help.

I met Stuart from Jewsons and his timber yard manager did it in no time.

Back to the Man Cave next, where Hugh did a wonderful job.

The cross is now in the church ready to be mounted on the wall – and so the story continues.

Worship Opportunities. There are many ways to worship at home, while still feeling connected to the wider church. At 8.00am on Sunday 29th March, Radio Cambridgeshire are broadcasting a service from Methodist Central Hall which was recorded before the latest restrictions came into force. You can also join with our friends at All Saints Church for their 10:30am service, either online at <https://zoom.us/j/987084188>, or by calling 0208 080 6591 (enter the Meeting ID: 987 084 188, when prompted). See the Circuit newsletter and Worship at Home sheet for more ideas.



Light a Candle. Last Sunday evening we were asked to place a lighted candle in our window as a symbol of hope. This was so successful we are being asked to either repeat it every Sunday at 7.00pm and pray together for a speedy end to the epidemic, for all those who have been affected by it and those working hard to care for others and to find a vaccine.

Sawtry Foodbank. The coming weeks will be a difficult time for many, but especially those families who were already struggling financially and who may be facing a drop in income. Sawtry Foodbank has already seen a massive increase in demand, and this is expected to continue. If you can, please pick up an extra item or two and place them in the basket at the Co-op. Please get in touch with a member of the Leadership Team if you need help passing on your contributions.