

IPSWICH



DRYDEN ROAD, IPSWICH, IP1 6QF

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



Ministers:

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SERVICES DURING APRIL 2025

All Sunday Morning Services will be live-streamed.
Access is via the Church website [www.castlehillurc.org.uk]

Sunday 6th

10.30am. Morning Worship with Communion

Revd. Lythan Nevard-Moderator, Eastern Synod.

**6.30pm. Lent Afternoon Pastorate Worship
At St. John's URC**

Revd. David Rees & Revd. Adam Earle

Sunday 13th - Palm Sunday

10.10 –10.25am. Pause for Prayer

10.30am. Café Style Morning Worship

Revd. Adam Earle

Thursday 17th - Maundy Thursday

7.00pm. Communion Service

Revd. Adam Earle

Friday 18th - Good Friday

10.30am. Service of Reflection

Revd. Adam Earle

Service followed by refreshments and Hot Cross Buns

Sunday 20th - Easter Sunday

10.30am. Morning Worship with Communion

Revd. David Rees

Sunday 27th - Low Sunday

10.30am. Morning Worship Eco-Service

Revd. Adam Earle

GOOD FRIDAY WALK



This year we will be walking at Felixstowe

Meet at 2:15pm at the Manor Terrace Car Park
Felixstowe IP11 2EL for prompt 2:30pm start
(parking charges apply)

We will be walking to the Sea You Cafe where you can get
a drink if you wish or there are other outlets nearby and
then walk back at your leisure.

For more details contact Mark Ward

CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday 24th April at 7.00pm at the Church.

The Meeting will address any important church business and go
through the 2024 Church Annual Report.

PSALMS FOR ALL SEASONS

Like many folk of faith, I love a Psalm. The Psalms seem to address such a wide variety of human experience. They range from exuberant joy and praise, to the depths of despair and suffering. We find praise, anger and seemingly unanswered questions. Sometimes we may be shocked by what we read, such as in the oft omitted concluding verses of Psalm 137 (take a look) when the writer's anger spills out in thoughts of revenge and vindication.

The shortest, Psalm 117, with just two verses, is a marvel of a concise expression of the heart. The longest, Psalm 119, with one hundred and seventy-six verses, works meticulously through the themes of the Law in exploring Gods ways. It is broken into 22 sections, each of similar length and each beginning with a letter of the Hebrew Alphabet, in order. Imagine having to learn that one off by heart!

I wonder just how well we know the psalms. We certainly have favourites that we could possibly recite from memory (or at least the metrical hymn version). But there are some which are more demanding, even troubling. Often these stem from the most troubled and trying of times and include questioning, despair and crying out to God.

Here, in the heart of Lent, a time of waiting, preparation and longing, as we look ahead to the events of Holy Week and Easter, we have time to stop and reflect. Looking at the world around, the growing troubles and sense of hopelessness we can certainly join in the words of the psalmists, whether from our own experience or through empathy with others, for example:

“Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!” (Psalm 130:1)

“My soul is in deep anguish. How long, Lord, how long?” (Psalm 6:3)

“Why, Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?” (Psalm 10:1)

Why not take an opportunity to dig deeper into the Psalms and explore some of the less “cheerful” ones, in the light of the world today and then pray, pray with all your heart for the world, the nation, the community and the church. Offer up the cries of despair, ask the difficult questions, seek God's in it all. Then, as with so many of these Psalms, conclude with praise. Praise acknowledges the wonder and faithfulness of God and, even though from our perspective we may not understand, we can trust that God is continuing to work his purposes out and therefore we have hope and do not need to fear.

Revd Adam Earle

BIBLE STUDY

Our monthly Pastorate Bible Study will take place on Monday morning April 14th at 10.30am via Zoom. This will be at the beginning of Holy Week so at the last meeting we agreed that rather than pick one particular Bible passage relating to the Easter story we would talk about particular events chosen by the participants on the day.

These could be passages that for you have particular significance, that puzzle, that disturb or that in any way would provoke comment or discussion. Do join in so that we can share as many points of view as possible. Your contribution will be appreciated and valued.

Elaine Thomas

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week 2025 is from 11-17 May.

Devotional leaflets and envelopes for personal contributions will be available from the beginning of May. We also plan to sell small cakes to have with your tea and coffee on Sunday May 18th. Further information and details in the May Newsletter.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY 11th MAY

It was agreed at Church Meeting, in March, that in memory of our dear friend Mick Goldsmith, this year's Anniversary Gift Day would go to supporting the **Ipswich Hospital Butterfly Appeal**. This charity provides personal support to people in hospital during their final hours, and all-important support to their loved ones.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP ON 11th MAY

Please bring your own packed lunch and we will provide cream scones and as much tea and coffee as you can drink.

MUSSBACH VISIT MAY 1-7 2025

We are looking forward to welcoming 14 friends arriving from Mussbach on Thursday May 1st.



Kentwell Hall

The provisional programme for the visit will be:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Friday 2 May | Walk and lunch in Levington (max 30) |
| Saturday 3 May | Visit to Kentwell Hall for Tudor May Day celebration, followed by evening meal and social evening at Church |
| Sunday 4 May | Morning service at Church, including Communion, followed by tea and coffee |
| Monday 5 May | Free day |
| Tuesday 6 May | Seaside walk in Felixstowe |
| Wednesday 7 May | Guests return home (apart from 4 who need to leave earlier) |

There will be sign up sheets for those wishing to join in any of the above nearer the time.

Please speak to any of the township steering group { Ian/Sandra Bragg, Heather Barnes, Rose Hollinsworth, David Smith or Carl Reeder) if you would like further details.

EASTERN SYNOD MEETING REPORT

9th MARCH 2025

Revd. John Cook, a retired Minister and member at Felixstowe URC produced a report on the recent Synod Meeting. Below is a summary but if you would like to read the full report contact Len Green.

The meeting opened with worship led by the Plume Avenue minister, focusing on "Be a Blessing" (Psalm 95, Gen 12:1-4). New members were welcomed, apologies received, minutes approved, and mission partnerships noted.

The key theme was **Evangelism**. A video on "Leading Your Church into Growth" (LYCIG) introduced a seven-step mission strategy, with grants available for training. Faith stories were shared under the **PIP model** (Prayer, Intention, Practice), and the LYCIG prayer was recited.

A reminder was given about the **Time for God** gap-year programme, offering churches a volunteer worker with some expenses covered. Felixstowe's Faithfulness on the Frontline course was promoted. **Faith in Action awards** were presented to churches engaged in community work.

Post-lunch, updates included **youth and children's work** training (Holy Communion, Lay Preaching, and Safer Sacred Space on 22nd March). The **Child Friendly Church award** was mentioned, with eligibility based on readiness to support young people.

Reports included **Synod Appointments, Finance, Trustees, and Staff Changes**. The Synod Treasurer role remains vacant. **Mission Partnerships** were emphasised, with ministers now called to partnerships rather than individual churches. A resolution was approved for Love's Farm, Cambridge, to become a URC congregation.

The **Mission & Discipleship Report** noted **Big Days Out** were unsuccessful, suggesting **Little Days Out** instead. Grants remain available. The **Resources Report** confirmed stable finances, approving £125,000 for the **URC Legacy of Slavery fund**.

The meeting closed with worship led by the Moderator.



The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) is a partnership between the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. The purpose of JPIT is to help the Churches to work together for peace and justice through listening, learning, praying, speaking and acting on public policy issues. The following prayer for peace was published by the team on the 3 year Anniversary of the Russian Invasion.

UKRAINE 3 YEARS ON - A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God

Three years after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine we pray for the people of Ukraine who have suffered so terribly.

We bring before you each person affected, for you know their suffering better than ourselves. We pray for those on the frontlines, for families torn apart, for the widows and for the orphans. We pray for those displaced from their homes, whether living in Ukraine or exiled in other countries.

We are thankful for the strength that your faithful followers have found in you, their witness to hope in the face of such adversity, and for the Ukrainian churches that have served their communities sacrificially with love.

Grant your grace to us. Help us, sinful human beings that we are, so that we learn to forgive one another and love, recalling Christ's love for us.

We relentlessly pray for peace in the hope that you have placed before us. We pray for the efforts of leaders who seek to negotiate a just and lasting peace. May all in Ukraine and Russia be encouraged to hope for a better future.

In your precious name, we pray.

Amen

(This prayer is inspired by prayers written by three Pastors/Elders of churches in Ukraine).

CARE AND SHARE: A SPECIAL TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

'Care and Share' is proving to be a highly popular after-Worship event. What makes it truly special is that it is produced mostly by our young people, who take great joy in preparing and serving delicious homemade treats.

This is no ordinary spread of shop-bought cakes and biscuits. Instead, our young cooks, under supervision, create a variety of fresh, homemade snacks right in our own kitchen. From **hot, homemade pizzas** to other tasty delights, every bite is made with care and shared with love.

As the pictures below show, the young people take great satisfaction in serving the congregation, embracing the spirit of giving and community.



RACHEL RETURNING TO UGANDA OVER EASTER



It was such a pleasure to lead the church service on Sunday 16th March and talk to you all about what it means to me to be called to Reach out to God's Children in Uganda.

Thank you for your comments to me following the service – I felt so encouraged and supported as what I do is not easy. Thank you so much too, for your generous donations in the retiring collection to help with the running costs of Bucence Children's Centre – a total of £ 671.20 was donated.

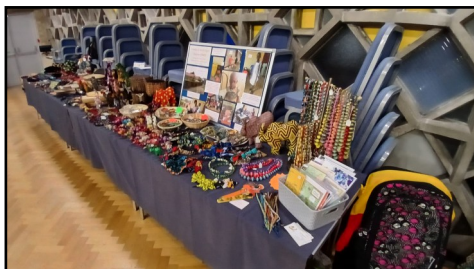
I will be travelling to Uganda on Thursday 3rd April and returning on 23rd April and of course, as Mike asked at the end of the service, I will greet everyone there. I will be leading a very busy programme and value your prayers and support while I am there. I love to receive a message so if you would like to say hello my email is rachh123@hotmail.co.uk

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE

CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT RAISES FUNDS FOR FNKD

Organised by Fiona and Mark Ward, the Quiz Night held on 22nd March raised £480.50p for the FNKD children in Uganda. This included money from the sale of Uganda Crafts and the raffle.

As the pictures below show, it was also a great evening of fellowship and fun





Saturday 12th April

12:30 – 14:30

**Creative Fun
for Everyone**



MESSY EASTER

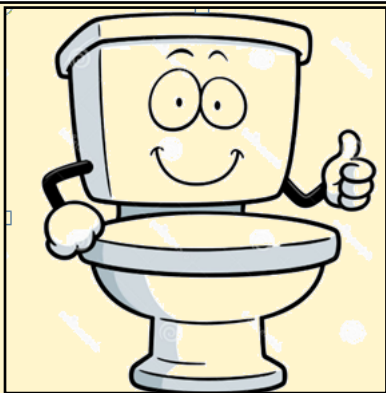
This year we are doing something different. Instead of a Holiday Club we are holding a Holy Week themed Messy Easter with creative crafts and opportunities to share in the message of Easter. There is no charge but voluntary donations are welcome.

The choice of activities will include:

- Big Box Build – The Gateway to Jerusalem.
- Fruit Palm Tree – The Triumphal Entry
- Hosanna Banner – The People Greet Jesus
- Broken Biscuits – Judas and Betrayal
- Tear Drop Prayers – What it means to us
- Disciple Dip – The Disciples Abandon Jesus

Our time together will also include a celebration, with a thought for the day, a song (or two) and prayers. We'll conclude with a tasty meal of burgers, followed by ice-cream. Please let us know of any dietary needs or allergies on the sign-up form.

People of **all ages** are welcome. Children should be accompanied by an adult family member or nominated carer. If you would like your child to participate "unaccompanied" please contact Revd Adam Earle, by phone 01473 411316 or by email revaje@outlook.com, as soon as possible as we will require additional consent and information. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate unaccompanied children without prior arrangement as we need to ensure availability of supervising adults as required.



'SPEND A PENNY' IS RETURNING

Following the success of our previous campaign we shall be running a new 'Toilet Twinning' campaign during May and June.

As before we shall have our mini 'spend a penny' boxes available for you to take home, or you can make a contribution using the Church card reader or by BACS.

We are currently twinning with toilets in Uganda where the need for hygienic and safe facilities is still very great, Look out for notices in each of our Church toilets after Easter.



Our aim is from this ↑ ...

to this ↑

EASTER SERVICE AT PADDY GEERE HOUSE WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL AT 3.00pm

Adam and David will again be leading a short period of Worship for the tenants of Paddy Geere House. If you would like to join a small group from Castle Hill to help boost singing and to chat to the residents afterwards, please let Len Green know.

TUESDAY WELCOME



**EVERY TUESDAY
10am-12noon**

TEA, COFFEE,CHAT

CASTLE HILL CHURCH

INDOOR CARBOOT SALE!

Join us in 2025:

**SATURDAY 26TH APRIL
SATURDAY 31ST MAY
SATURDAY 28TH JUNE**

**Contact Katie 07787325536
£5 per table
Free entry for buyers
2-4pm**

WOOL COURT

**Every third Tuesday
of the month.
10.30am -12.30pm**

Come and join us for coffee, knitting and chat. Also to buy wool for your knitting needs at very reasonable prices.



FISH AND CHIPS FRIDAY

**FOR THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA
AND THEIR CARERS**

**Organised by Headway
A time filled with activities and entertainment**

Every fourth Friday of the month

No need to pre-book

For more information contact:
maureenhowes@headwaysuffolk.org.uk
Phone 01473 7122255

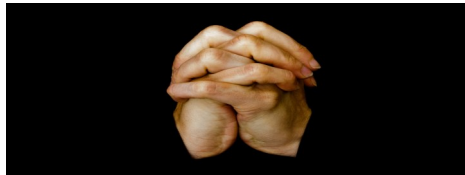
**Cost £10 (includes fish & chips,
tea, coffee biscuits and cake)**

Castle Hill URC is a Dementia-friendly Church

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL 2025

- 2nd. Lent Studies 7.00pm. at Castle Hill
2.00pm. at St. John's
- 3rd Elders' meeting 7.00pm
- 6th Morning Worship led by Revd. Lythan Nevard
Moderator of Eastern Synod 10.30am
German Church 4.00pm
- 9th Lent Studies 7.00pm. at Castle Hill
2.00pm. at St. John's
- 12th Messy Easter {see page 8} 12.30pm
- 14th Pastorate Bible Study by Zoom 10.30am.
- 17th German Church 3.30pm
Maundy Thursday Communion 7.00pm
- 18th Good Friday Reflection 10.30am
- 24th. Church Annual General Meeting 7.00pm.
- 25th Fish and Chips Friday 11.45am.
- 26th Table Top Sale 2.00pm

**OUR STREET PRAYER FOCUS FOR
APRIL IS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF
ROSECROFT ROAD**



Deadline for the May Newsletter
Submissions to Len Green by **Friday 18th April** please
E-mail: editor@castlehillurc.org.uk