



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025 JANUARY 2026

Church Web Site: www.castlehillurc.org.uk

Ministers:

Rev. Adam Earle

E-mail: revaje@outlook.com Tel: 01473 411316

Rev. David Rees

E-mail: revdrees@gmail.com Tel: 01473 402721

SERVICES DURING DECEMBER 2025

All Sunday Morning Services
will be live-streamed.

Access is via the Church website [www.castlehillurc.org.uk]

SUNDAY 7th - ADVENT 2

**10.30am. Morning Worship
with Communion**
Michael Tillet

SUNDAY 14th - ADVENT 3

10.05am. Pause for Prayer
An informal short time of prayer, before commencing Worship
10.30am Café Style Morning Worship
Revd. Adam Earle

TUESDAY 16th

6.30pm. Outdoor Carols
Revd. Adam Earle & Revd. David Rees

SUNDAY 21st - ADVENT 4

10.30am. Family Festival Service
Andrea Rumsby, CHAPS,

6.30pm. Carols by Candlelight
Revd. Adam Earle & Revd. David Rees

WEDNESDAY 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE.

4.00pm Family Carols
Revd. Adam Earle & Revd. David Rees

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am Family Christmas Worship
Revd. Adam Earle

SUNDAY 28th - CHRISTMAS 1

10.30am. Morning Worship
Revd. David Rees

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SUNDAY 4th

**10.30am. Morning Worship
with Communion**
Revd. David Rees

SUNDAY 11th

10.30am. Morning Worship
Peter Dawson

SUNDAY 18th

Note; No Morning Worship

3.00pm Combined Christian Unity Service
Revd. Adam Earle

There will be NO morning worship on Sunday 18th January 2026. However, there will be an afternoon Service at 3.00pm, at Castle Hill, when other local churches will also be joining us to mark the week of prayer for *Christian Unity – One Body, One Spirit*.

SUNDAY 25th

10.05am. Pause for Prayer

An informal short time of prayer, before commencing Worship

10.30am. Morning Worship
Revd. Adam Earle

Church Meeting follows Morning Worship

A POLITE REQUEST FROM THE ELDERS

Following the act of Worship, please allow a few moments of quiet reflection and private prayer before moving chairs, positioning tables, and collecting refreshments from the back of the church. Thank you.

CHRIST THE KING – LETTING CHRIST RULE

Christ the King Sunday falls at the end of the church year, the Sunday before Advent begins. It invites us to pause and remember who truly reigns in our lives, our churches, and our world. It is interesting that the Gospel reading in the lectionary for this day, Luke 23:33–43, which presents us not with a triumphant king seated upon a golden throne, but with Jesus nailed to a cross. Here the King of kings reveals the depth of His love, His humility, and the nature of His rule.



In this passage, we see two very different responses to Jesus. One criminal mocks Him: “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” The other recognizes something far deeper. He rebukes the first and turns to Jesus with a simple, faith-filled plea: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And Jesus responds with the promise that echoes through the ages: “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

This moment teaches us that Christ’s kingship is unlike any earthly authority. His power is not forced; His crown is made of thorns, not gold; His throne is a cross, and His victory is won through sacrificial love. He reigns not by dominating, but by redeeming; not by demanding service, but by offering it. This is the King we follow.

If we proclaim Christ as King, what does it mean for us personally and for our life together as churches, part of God’s family?

Firstly, Christ must rule in our hearts. The penitent criminal shows us what this looks like - a humble recognition of who Jesus is and who we are. To let Christ rule is to surrender all the parts of our lives we often want to control: our fears, our habits, our pride, our priorities. It means seeking His will above our own, trusting His wisdom even when it challenges us, and allowing His grace to transform us from within.

Secondly, Christ must rule in our church. A church that recognizes Christ as its King is not driven by personal preferences, factions, or agendas. It is shaped by prayer, grounded in Scripture, and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Such a fellowship seeks unity, practices forgiveness, cares for the vulnerable, and serves with joy. When Christ rules in the church, we become a living testimony to His kingdom - embodying mercy, justice, and love in all we do.

Christ the King Sunday reminds us that we belong to a kingdom that is already breaking into the world, yet still coming in its fullness. Each act of faith, each moment of obedience, each step of discipleship is a way of saying, "Jesus, remember me. Jesus, reign in me."

As we enter the season of Advent and look toward to the coming of Christ, let's renew our commitment to let Him rule our lives and lead His church. Let's follow the King who gave everything for us, and let our lives reflect His glory, His love, and His kingdom.

Revd. Adam Earle

CHURCH CHARITIES 2026

It is time to nominate our Church Charities for 2026. If you have a Charity close to your heart that you wish to be considered, please inform the Church Secretary, Sandra Bragg, by Sunday 14th December.

Please give a little background about the Charity that you have nominated. The nominations will be presented to the Church Business Meeting on Sunday 25th January 2026 and voted on. The two charities receiving the highest votes will be elected to be supported throughout the coming year.

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY 2026

**Please stay after worship and participate in our
Church Business Meeting.**

Included in the agenda items will be the nominations for the 2026 Church Charities, the 2026 Budget and the review of the three-month trial of the Fun, Fish and Film Group. Your views are very much appreciated by the Elders, so come and have your say!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHURCH MEMBERS

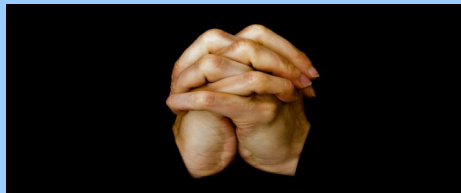


Photo Bev Derrett

Five of our Church Fellowship were welcomed into Membership during Morning Worship on. November 2nd.

Pictured with Revd. Adam Earle are from left , Beth and Mikey Derrett, Diane Smith, Lilly Gooding and Alan Rathbone.

OUR STREET PRAYER FOCUS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY IS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF PADDY GEERE HOUSE



PADDY GEERE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

17th DECEMBER 3.00PM

Adam and David are leading the Pady Geere House Christmas Service on December 17th.

This is always well attended by the tenants and therefore space will be limited but visitors from our Church are always welcome. If you would like to join a small group from Castle Hill Church to boost the singing and chat to the tenants afterwards please let Len Green know.

CHURCH LITTER PICK

As part of our service to the community and our care for the environment, we are planning a church litter pick.

Subject to confirmation with the Council, this will likely take place in the Recreation Ground across Congreve Road. High-visibility jackets, tools, and other equipment will be provided, and we will begin with a short safety briefing.

We hope to hold the litter pick on the morning of **Saturday, 7th February**. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our fellowship to spend an hour or so in the fresh air, followed by a warming drink and some biscuits.

To help us gauge interest, a sign-up sheet will be available in the Vestibule from early January



RETIREMENT OF REVD. CECIL WHITE

Minister at Castle Hill 1996-2008

Some memories and pictures from Church Members.

'For many years Revd. Cecil and the White family took part in the Castle Hill Ipswich / Mussbach Twinship – supporting both the Church Family Group and the Youth Group. Memories were made with many successful and happy exchange visits to Mussbach as well as in Ipswich – enjoying our partnership in fun social events as well as coming together in one spirit, to Worship God.'

One of our Church Family, Jackie Stock says she remembers Cecil cycling all the way from Castle Hill to their home on the outskirts of Ipswich to visit them when both she and her husband Brian were unwell. She has never forgotten his kindness.

Many of our past **Castle Hill Amateur Players** (CHAPs) remember Cecil "treading the boards" in our annual Pantomimes – who knew he could act and dance!

The Church Family at Castle Hill all join in wishing Cecil a well-deserved, long, and happy retirement.

With Blessings and all Good Wishes
The Castle Hill Church Family



Mussbach visit in 2001



***Cecil with some of the Church
Members with the Anniversary Gift
Day Envelopes***



From LHS Richard Mortimer, Klaus Peter Edinger, Cecil White and Arnd celebrate 20 years of Partnership in 2002



*Mussbach
Youth trip 2004*



*Cecil and Sam bid farewell
to Castle Hill in 2008*



Holiday Club 1999



PICTURES FROM CH HALLOWEEN



APS SPECTACULAR PANTOMINE

RED HOUSE

A significant contribution can be
made by children in need



CHRISTIAN AID AT CHRISTMAS – No crib for a bed....when you're fleeing violence

This Christmas, mothers who've fled violence urgently need our support to protect their babies.

Mothers like Chance, a married mother with children who ran a successful shop in the Democratic republic of Congo, who saw her shop looted and her neighbour attacked as a terrifying armed conflict swept through her community. She knew her family had to escape immediately to survive. Clutching her baby Siborge in only his nappy, and rallying her other seven children, Chance fled on foot, while her husband stayed behind. After a gruelling 50-mile trek, with her



caesarean wound opening, Chance found medical assistance and relative safety in Katashola Camp for displaced people. Now in a temporary shelter, she has nothing of value left and fears her husband is dead.

Chance's children are hungry and at grave risk of malnutrition and malaria. 2000 years ago, without a place to stay, Mary and Joseph placed their newborn baby into an animal feeding trough. Fearing for his life from the threat of Herod, they escaped to Egypt. I wonder who helped them along the way? We shall never know but we do know that we can help others today, for in that Camp in the Congo people need food, clothes, saucepans, blankets and mattresses. There will be Retiring Collections at all our Christmas Services from 14th December and Christian Aid's Partner, the Churches of Christ in the Congo will make cash grants to those most in need of support – families like Chance's

The Christmas Card Board will also be hung in the Church where you are invited to add a card to the Board for all your friends at Castle Hill rather than sending individual ones. Please put the card money and postage money you save, in the Christian Aid basket on the table at the back of the Church.

Elaine Thomas



CHILDREN OF BUCENCE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Staff and children at Bucence children's Centre and everyone from FNKD would like to wish you a very Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026.

Thank you for your great support during 2025 – for sponsorships for individual children and donations to help the work of FNKD, especially for generous donations for our hamper programme which will enable us to deliver food to the most needy and vulnerable families leading up to Christmas.

Ugandan Craft Sales will be held in Church at the Tabletop sale on Saturday 6th December and in Church on Sunday 7th December – raising funds for FNKD.

If you would like to help to support a child through sponsorship, either a child living in a village or in Bucence Children's Centre, please be in touch.

Rachel Harris 07772 311133 or rachel@fnkd.org.uk



The final pastorate Link Bible Study for 2025 will take place as follows:

10:00am Thursday 4th December

Theme: Mary the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:46-55)

As usual the meetings will be held online via Zoom.

We won't meet on the first Thursday in January (this is New Years' Day) so will resume on 5th February 2026 when we will begin a new themed series.

Adam

IN-BETWEEN CLUB

**CHRISTMAS PARTY
FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER
2.30pm**

Tickets £5.00 from
Chris Goldsmith.



There will be no In-Between Club Meetings in January and February



A NEW YEAR PRAYER

As this New Year begins, may God do a new thing in your life - opening doors, renewing your hope, and leading you with strength and purpose. May this be a year of blessing and breakthrough. Amen.

Inspired by Isaiah 43:19

CHURCH SECURITY

There have been a few security lapses at Church recently.

When leaving Church please be very vigilant in locking and checking all external doors and switching off lights.

The Buildings team



TUESDAY WELCOME



10:00 to 11:30

Every Tuesday
Tea, Coffee & Chat



First Tuesday of
the month is
"Coffee & Cake"

SPECIAL COFFEE CAKE 'N CHAT TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER

Paul Miles, the Fraud Prevent and Protect Officer from Suffolk Trading Standards will be giving a presentation and talk on Rogue Traders, 'Phone and Computer scams etc. He will be in attendance from 10.00 to 11.30am, so if you have any concerns or questions please do come along.

I am sure it will be an interesting morning where we can all gain some helpful information and, of course, there will be lots of coffee and cake!



FIND's CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025

CAN YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS a little better for a lot of families? These donations will help -

- **Boxes of chocolates and tubs of sweets**
- **Tins of biscuits**
- **Christmas desserts (e.g. puddings and mince pies)**
- **Chutneys and pickles**
- **Stuffing and gravy mixes**
- **Savoury snacks**
- **Vouchers – with the receipt attached please**
- **Toys and gifts for children 0-17 years**
- **Christmas wrapping paper and Sellotape**
- **Gifts and toiletries for adults**

We are very grateful for any donation, large or small. Please remember that any foods displaying an alcohol content cannot be given out. The above list is not exhaustive, bear in mind that whatever YOUR family enjoys at Christmas, our families are likely to enjoy too.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting Families in Need.

Donations can be brought to church as usual or I would be very happy to collect from you if this is more convenient, just ring me on 01473 217858 or 07746 084832.

Shirley Skinner

SMALL BUSINESS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT



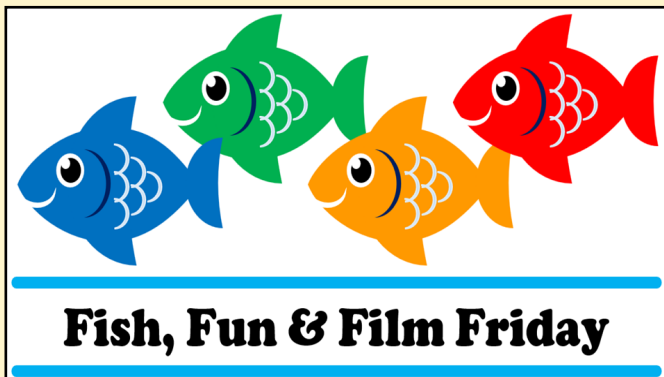
**COME AND SUPPORT
SMALL BUSINESSES
BY SHOPPING SMALL**

**SATURDAY 6TH
DECEMBER 2-4PM**

**CASTLE HILL CHURCH IPSWICH
DRYDEN ROAD IP16QF**

**CONTACT KATIE
07787325536**

**JUST £10 TO SELL!
FREE ENTRY FOR
BUYERS**



Something Old, Something New – for You!

Next Meeting January 23rd

Come and join us for chat, fun and games, fish and chips and a film beginning at 11:30am.

Something Old – Something New: The “Fish and Chip Friday” sessions have come to an end but in their place the folk at Castle Hill URC are offering something new – incorporating the good old fish and chip dinner.

Fish, Fun & Film Friday: The sessions are open to all with no need to pre-book although, for safeguarding and wellbeing we will ask you to complete a registration form so we can support folk in case of an emergency and keep you informed about our activities. We aim to be dementia friendly and inclusive.

What to Expect: Sessions will begin at **11:30** with refreshments and activities to enjoy on arrival. We will then share a fabulous fish and chip lunch followed by tea or coffee, cake and a film. We will announce the film for the following session each month.

The cost for each session will be **£6.50** to include fish and chips and other refreshments, payable on the day.

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER 2025

2nd	Tuesday Coffee, Cake and Chat with talk on Rogue Traders
4th	Elders' Meeting 7.00pm.
5th	In-Between Club 2.00pm
6th	Small Business Fair 2.00- 4.00pm.
7th	German Church 4.00pm
10th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm.
16th	Wool Court 10.30am.
16th	Outdoor Carols 6.00pm

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY 2026

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4th	German Church 4.00pm
14th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm
20th	Wool Court 10.30am.
28th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm.

Deadline for the February Newsletter
Submissions to Len Green by **Friday January 16th please**
E-mail: editor@castlehillurc.org.uk