



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024

Ministers:
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SERVICES DURING JUNE

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

Sunday 2nd

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

Revd. David Rees

Sunday 9th.

10.30am. Morning Worship

Revd. David Rees

4.00pm Afternoon Worship

Revd. David Rees

SUNDAY 16th

10.30am. Morning Worship

Revd. Jenifer Haggar

Sunday 23rd.

**10.30am. Morning Worship
Your chosen Songs of Praise and
Reflections**

Elders and Worship Group

Sunday 30th.

10.30am. Morning Worship

Nigel Crisp

Cover picture—Caring for God's Creation

You would be forgiven for thinking that this picture was taken by someone on a country stroll. It was in fact photographed from the car park at the rear of our Church.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

We celebrated our 67 Anniversary on 12th May with café style Worship. Pictured above 4 year-old Eleanor Griffiths and Ray Beals aged 92 years, the youngest and oldest members present, were invited to cut the Anniversary cake.



On Sunday 9th June Tim Pennick will attend worship and talk to us about the work of 'Sound On' which is one of the Church Charities for this year. Tim is Chairman of the charity and is blind so will be accompanied by his guide dog. A retiring collection will be taken on both the 9th and 16th June.

Minister's Letter June 2024

FAITH OR CONTROL

'The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' John 3:8



Recently David and I were blessed to take part in the Eastern and Thames North Synods' Spring School. As part of one of the sessions we were asked to consider some of things that might cause us and our church families to be concerned as we look to the future and continue to discern God's will. In typical minister style those present managed to come up with a list of words beginning with the letter C (a habit of a lifetime forged in preparing sermons). One which stood out was "Control" or rather the fear of losing control.

I was reminded of an illustration I once saw of how the Holy Spirit works. We were watching a video as part of a Bible Study group. The presenter sat at a desk, by a window, as he spoke. The desk was neatly arranged with papers stacked and ordered in an elegant manner. As he spoke of the working of the Holy Spirit, he opened the window. The wind whipped in and sent the piles of paper in all directions. As Jesus explained in his conversation with Nicodemus (John 3), the Spirit moves freely as God wills and those who embrace the Spirit will likewise follow wherever we are led.

When we let the Holy Spirit lead and guide us in our lives and mission, things will look very different – our expectations and the familiar, comforting norms that we have established may or indeed will be challenge and rearranged.

Since the pandemic and lock-down period there is a real sense that rather than returning to the old patterns and ways, God has new things, new ways for us to be church in mind. We can be reluctant to embrace such change especially where it seems to undermine the familiar and we want to take control, holding on to what we know rather than letting God rule in our lives and church families – we fear losing control.

Richard Rohr, a Franciscan friar and ecumenical teacher said this, "The opposite of faith is not doubt; the opposite of faith is control." It's a challenging lesson to grasp. The challenge of God's will, the challenge of God's free and transforming Spirit is to let go and let God, wherever that may take us. Let us choose faith over control and learn to live fully under God's sovereign will, allowing the Spirit to work God's purposes in us and through us.

Revd. Adam Earle

CHRISTIAN AID



£419.50 was raised at Castle Hill this Christian Aid Week. Very many thanks to all those who contributed to this total either by donating via the envelopes or by buying a cake after worship.

The Cake Sale raised the magnificent total of £159.50, so special thanks to those who baked all the delicious goodies. The money will help people like Aline in Burundi who was pictured on the posters, to push back against the scandal of poverty and secure a future for themselves and their families. On their behalf, thank you.

Elaine Thomas

PADDY GEERE SUMMER SERVICE

Our Ministers are again leading a Service at Paddy Geere House on Thursday July 11th at 3pm. As before a small group from Castle Hill to boost the singing would be welcome.

If you would like to join this group please speak to Len Green

VISIT TO ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITY WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE at 1800



The staff have laid on extra guides to accommodate up to 18 people. So far, 14 have signed up so if you would like to join this two-hour visit please sign the list in the vestibule as soon as you can.

The tour includes time in the Visitor Centre with some challenging exhibits on our use of energy and on the waste we produce.

I suggest that we meet up at the facility car park at 5.50 pm. If anyone needs a lift, speak to Len Green. Directions on how to get there are displayed in the vestibule.

Health and Safety

Regrettably, the visit is unsuitable for those with limited mobility or anyone who may suffer from vertigo as the tour involves walking for around 1.5 km and climbing open staircases with open grated flooring. **Long trousers and sensible walking shoes must be worn. Shorts, skirts or dresses are not permitted.** Personal protective equipment such as hard hats and safety goggles will be provided. Remember, this is an industrial facility. In the very unlikely event of an evacuation, visitors would be expected to descend 123 stairs. Please let Len know well in advance if you cannot manage this so that he can notify the facility who will then make arrangements to accommodate you safely.

All that being said, this will be a fascinating and most enjoyable visit.

Please speak to Len Green if you have any queries.



We would like to invite all who are interested to join in a short course entitled, “Fruitfulness on the Frontline”.

The focus of the course is to discover and encourage us in the variety of ways in which we may engage in mission in our everyday lives and situations. The course is published by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. (LICC)

The course is over six sessions and makes use of video and conversation in an engaging and accessible manner. We will be offering the course in two ways, evenings via Zoom (online) and afternoons in person.

The dates and times we have planned are as follows:

Online via Castle Hill’s Zoom

@ 19:00

Wednesday 5th June

Wednesday 19th June

Wednesday 3rd July

In person at St John’s URC

Cowper Street, Ipswich

@ 14:00

Thursday 6th June

Thursday 20th June

Thursday 4th July

Anyone is invited to join the sessions and we will make the resources available on request. If you would like to participate please contact Revd Adam Earle on revaje@outlook.com or telephone 01473 411316 (leave a message with contact details if necessary). Alternatively, please sign up using the lists which will be available in Ipswich & East URC Pastorate churches.

RECYCLING SHOPS

We would like to compile a list of local shops that accept goods to recycle. This includes those that accept, clothing, electrical goods and medical blister packs. We understand that the St. Elizabeth Hospice accepts Mobile phones . Details in the next newsletter.

If you come across any shops that are happy to accept recycled goods please notify Len Green

SMALL APPEAL FROM FNKD

The picture shows one of our sponsored boys – Ahurira Allan



Allan has been on our sponsorship programme since he was a young boy in Bucence Primary School. He worked hard and joined secondary school, passed his O levels to a good standard and then progressed on to a certificate course in Agriculture. Allan continued to excel in all areas of his course and passed with mostly 'A's and has been offered a place to study for a National Diploma in Crop Production and Management at the Ankole Western University – this opportunity will complete his education and help him so much for the future.

Allan hasn't had an easy childhood as he first lost his mother and then shortly after his father passed away too. So, Allan was raised by his elderly grandmother but with no income they lived in extreme poverty. FNKD were able to support Allan through his sponsorship – but just at this crucial time Allan's sponsorship stopped abruptly due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Diploma course is partly government aided (50%) for students in Allan's situation. I'm appealing for some help for Allan so he can complete his study and all that he has been working for.

If anyone is able to sponsor Allan for two years or even make a donation to help him please contact me and thank you.

Rachel Harris rachh123@hotmail.co.uk or 07772311133



CHARITIES BARBECUE

- Raffle
- Burgers, Sausages, and much more.
- Ice Cream
- Soft drinks (feel free to bring your own alternative beverages)
- Bring your own garden chair

Good Food and Fellowship in the Fresh air

Please sign the list in the vestibule – Tickets from Liz Combes



**Tickets: £8 Adults
£4 Children
£16 Family**

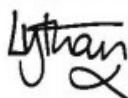
**Saturday July 6th.
5.00pm.
At 33, Cotswold Avenue**

CASTLE HILL URC

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Your gift of £32,500 to the Ministry and Mission Fund in 2023 has helped the United Reformed Church in its work for the Kingdom by paying ministers' stipends, funding training and supporting mission initiatives that seek to find new ways to serve others, worship God and grow disciples. Your financial gifts have made all of this possible.

Thank you ... you, your gifts and your generosity are greatly appreciated.



*Revd Lythan Nevard
Moderator (Eastern Synod)*



Trumpington Gathering



HOLIDAY AT HOME 2024

23rd and 24th July

**Our theme this year is
USA in the 1950s**



Do you know of any senior person who would like to join this year's two-day event?

If so please let Liz Combes or any member of the Outreach Group know and they will provide details.

IN-BETWEEN CLUB

The In Between Club will meet at 2.30pm on Friday 7th June when Rachel Harris will talk to us about her work for F.N.K.D. and provide an update following her recent visit to Uganda. Tickets can be obtained from me, price £5 including refreshments.

Chris Goldsmith

Grab a bargain at the Tabletop Sale

Castle Hill Church

On

Saturday 22nd June

2pm–4pm

Admission Free

Sellers from 1pm.

£5 per Table



To book your
table message or
call Katie on
07787 325 536



Clothes ,Toys Games
Bric a Brac
Cafe

COFFEE CAKE AND CHAT

TUESDAY 4th JUNE

10am – 12pm in the Meeting Room



Combined with the regular Tuesday Warm Space activity



Every Tuesday
10am-12pm





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
11.45 am – 3.15 pm**

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

No need to pre-book

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

Castle Hill URC is a Dementia-friendly Church

THANKYOU FOR SPENDING A PENNY {OR MORE} WHEN YOU SPENT A PENNY

We are aiming to raise funds for toilet projects in Uganda through Friends of North Kigesi Diocese (FNKD). Thankyou to those who have already returned their filled boxes.

If you haven't yet taken one of the 'Spend a Penny' boxes please consider doing so and make a small contribution each time you use the toilet to help those who do not have even basic facilities.

The filled box or monetary equivalent can be returned to Michael Robertson and if required a new box can be issued.



DIARY DATES JUNE 2024

2nd	German Church 4.00pm
4th	Coffee Cake & Chat 10.00am
5th	Fruitfulness on the Front Line by Zoom 7.00pm
6th	Elders' meeting 7.00pm
7th	In-Between Club 2.30pm
9th	Sunday Afternoon Worship 4.00pm
12th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm
19th	Fruitfulness on the Front Line by Zoom 7.00pm
22nd	Tabletop Sale 2.00pm
26th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm
28th	Fish and Chip Friday 11.45am

**OUR STREET PRAYER FOCUS FOR
JUNE IS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF
PALMCROFT ROAD**



Deadline for the COMBINED JULY/AUGUST Newsletter
Submissions to Len Green by **Friday 20 June 2024**
E-mail: editor@castlehillurc.org.uk