

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025



PENTECOST

Ministers:

Revd. Adam Earle

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

Revd. David Rees

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

Church Web Site: www.castlehillurc.org.uk

SERVICES DURING JUNE 2025

All Sunday Morning Services and the afternoon Pentecost Service will be live-streamed.

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

SUNDAY 1st.

**10.30am. Morning Worship
with Communion**

Revd. Michael Tillet

SUNDAY 8th-PENTECOST

NO MORNING WORSHIP AT CASTLE HILL

**3.00pm. Pentecost Songs of Praise
We shall be joined by friends from
Whitton Church**

Revd. Adam Earle

SUNDAY 15th-FATHERS DAY

10.30am. Morning Worship

Led by Worship Group

SUNDAY 22nd

10.30am. Morning Worship

Revd. Robert Sheard

SUNDAY 29th

10.10am Pause for Prayer

10.30am. Morning Worship

Revd. Adam Earle

Church Business Meeting follows Morning Worship



SUNDAY 8TH JUNE IS PENTECOST SUNDAY.

Please note there will NOT be a 10:30am service. - Why? I hear you ask!

We will holding a special Praise Service at Castle Hill at 3.00pm. The fellowship of St Mary's Church Whitton will also be joining us and there will be afternoon tea following the Service. Do come and join us for this happy occasion to celebrate Pentecost.

SUNDAY 29TH JUNE.

10.10am - Pause for Prayer in the Meeting Room – all are welcome to join in this informal short time of prayer before commencing Worship.

10.30am - Morning Worship - Amanda Allen, a representative of *Families Together Suffolk*, which is one of our Church charities for this year, has been invited to attend our Service. She will be giving us more insight into the work the Charity carries out and how we can give our support.

11.30am - Church Business Meeting – following the Service please stay for refreshments and take part in our Church Meeting. The Elder's value your views regarding issues pertaining to our church and it is also an opportunity to gather information regarding the life of our church and any forthcoming events.

Sandra Bragg

Church Secretary

GOD'S PROMISES, OUR FAITHFUL JOURNEY



Dear friends,

As we move through the rhythms of this season, from Easter through to Pentecost, I've been reflecting on my faith journey and on the journey of faith of the people in the churches of the Ipswich and East Pastorate.

Some deep and hopeful words are found in Romans 4:13–25. In this passage, Paul tells the story of Abraham, not as a perfect man, but as a person of deep trust. Paul reminds us that it wasn't Abraham's actions or adherence to rules that secured God's promise — it was his faith. A simple, steadfast belief that God's promise was for him, even when the evidence in front of him seemed to say otherwise.

This big idea — that God's promises are realised through faith — is both timeless and incredibly timely. Especially in a world that often measures worth through productivity, conformity, or power, Paul's message is a liberating one. The promise doesn't depend on our perfection. It doesn't require that we fit a certain mould or tick all the boxes. The promise is grace. And it's for all of us.

What I love about this passage is its

expansive vision. Paul isn't just talking to one group. He's deliberately opening up the story — saying, "Look, Abraham didn't receive the promise through the law, following a whole set of rules, but through faith." That means the promise wasn't just for a specific lineage or those who followed a certain path. It was, and is, for everyone who trusts in the God of love and life.

Faith isn't about having all the answers. It's about accepting and embracing God's promise. . .

In our own context, this has powerful implications. It reminds us that God's promises include those who have been pushed to the margins, excluded from churches, or told they don't belong.

Faith, Paul says, is what unites us — not dogma, not doctrine, and certainly not exclusion. In this light, we read Abraham's story not as a lesson in blind belief, but as a testament to trusting that God is still working, still fulfilling promises of justice, inclusion, and peace.

Faith isn't about having all the answers. It's about accepting and embracing God's promise, even when it's hard to see the way forward. It's about believing that resurrection is possible — in our lives, in our communities, in the broken places of the world. And welcoming that the Holy Spirit does dwell and work in us even when we sometimes question what we see and do.

So, let's be people who live by faith. Not just in belief, but in action. Let's continue to build a church where all are welcomed, where diversity is cherished, and where God's promises come alive through the way we love one another.

With grace and peace,
David

IPSWICH CHRISTIANS SHOW THEIR FAITH PENTECOST ON CORNHILL 2013



Christians from Churches throughout Ipswich included some from Castle Hill

MUSSBACH TWINSHIP

Visit to Ipswich 2025

On Thursday evening 1st May at Stansted Airport we welcomed 14 guests from our partnership church in Mussbach. We were especially pleased to see our guests Angela and Michael as it was over 6 years since we last met.

The following morning we all gathered together in the car park of The Ship in Levington to greet and hug all our friends from Mussbach. After devotions we walked along the boarded walkway amongst the reed beds towards the shore with its beautiful views of the River Orwell. The Suffolk weather had turned on warm sunshine to welcome our guests as we chatted and caught up with all their news. Before we all went together for a delicious lunch at The Ship we were able to pop in and visit the beautiful church of St Peter which stands next door to The Ship. Inside this small charming Suffolk church, with its immaculate graveyard, there were floral displays and an exhibition of paintings to see.



On Saturday morning we all met at Kentwell Hall in Long Melford. Kentwell Hall is a stunning mellow redbrick house with two forward wings of the early 16th century, surrounded by a charming moat, set in parklands with formal and informal gardens. Inside we stepped back in time to experience every day life in Tudor England. We especially enjoyed seeing life in a Tudor kitchen with its open fire in the hearth and Tudor cooks preparing a meal. Outside a Tudor May Day re-enactment was taking place – we danced with the Tudor Players as they played their musical instruments and joined in a

T TO CASTLE HILL



We danced in the afternoon at Kentwell Hall for Tudor May Day celebrations. . .



. . . and we danced in the evening at social event



procession of May Day revellers with banners waving to the front of the house. There we watched and joined in a lively May Day play of St George and the Dragon.

After a very enjoyable day spent in the past we all gathered at the church for a delicious two course meal prepared by Heather, David and their catering team. Our guests also enjoyed catching up with members of our Twinship who are no longer able to travel to Mussbach. Afterwards we enjoyed our social evening together with some comedy sketches and Inken taught us how to line dance - there was lots of fun and laughter !

On Sunday morning we all gathered at the church to celebrate Holy Communion together with our minister David Rees leading our worship. Our Mussbach guests sang a beautiful hymn for us during the English-German service. It is always a joy to worship and share Holy Communion together – as Jesus told his disciples “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18 v20). Our faith in Jesus binds us together in fellowship. The rest of Sunday was free to enjoy Sunday lunch with our guests – several members of the twinship were seen disappearing into that well known hostelry The Butt and Oyster at Pin Mill !

Monday was a free day for host families to enjoy entertaining their guests. We are very lucky living on the Suffolk coast and we have many interesting places to show our guests.

On Tuesday we all met at the Pier in Felixstowe – after devotions we went for a walk along the promenade towards the Fludyers. Our visitors enjoyed a North Sea coast wind as we wandered along – although we are all young at heart, our legs are a little bit slower !

On Wednesday 7th May it was time to say goodbye to our guests – how quickly our time together had flown by ! Our devotions over the previous days have highlighted the importance of working together – that we are stronger when we work in partnership “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work : if one falls down, his friend can help him up” (Ecclesiastes 4 v9-10). We reflected on our twinship of 43 years which began its journey in 1982 and we remembered those of the twinship who are no longer among us. It has been a week of friendship and reminiscences and fellowship, with devotions and shared worship, as well as fun, joy and laughter. We all look forward to meeting again next year in Mussbach as we continue our journey together.

Julie Smith



'Our faith in Jesus binds us together in fellowship'



DRYDEN STITCHERS IN THE MOOD



Dryden Stitchers celebrating VE Day on 8 May with afternoon tea.



GARDEN AND INDOOR 'CAR BOOT' SALE

**HADLEIGH UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH AND ANSELL CENTRE**

SATURDAY 7th JUNE 2-4PM

We are raising funds for our CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2025 for
Blythswood Care.

£5 a table. Book from 1st May with Hilary 01473 822208
Refreshments will be available.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



Thanks to all those who filled and returned Christian Aid Week envelopes and maybe asked others to do the same. The total contributed so far is £350, a great result.

Our support means that more communities like Aurelia's in Guatemala who we learned about during the Week, can be supported. It will help them unlock climate resilient farming methods, build their resilience to extreme weather, and take back control of their harvests.

The climate crisis is ravaging farms of indigenous communities in Guatemala. As plants die, food becomes scarce. But with specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop, Aurelia's leading her community to grow resilient crops, make fertiliser, and conserve water. Together, they're protecting their farms and futures, so one day, no family will worry about their children going without food. Thank you for joining with them and showing Christian love in deed and in truth.

Elaine Thomas



Many thanks to everyone who made and bought cakes and helped us raise £185.30p for Christian Aid.

Vanessa and Elaine

AREA OF OUR CHURCH GROUNDS SEEDED WITH WILDFLOWERS

Wildflowers play a vital role in maintaining the health and balance of ecosystems. One of their key benefits is supporting biodiversity. These native plants provide essential food and habitat for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds—species that are crucial for the pollination of many crops and wild plants. By attracting a wide variety of insects, wildflowers help sustain food webs and promote ecological resilience.



The seeds were planted in May, and as the current photo shows, the area still appears quite bare.

Exceptionally dry weather made frequent watering necessary to encourage germination. Thankfully, shoots are now beginning to appear. Some species may not bloom until next year, but once established, the wildflowers will bring vibrant colours and seasonal beauty to our grounds.

This project not only enhances the area beside the building but also offers a gift to the wider community - creating a space of natural beauty and reflection. More importantly, it stands as a living demonstration of our Church's commitment to caring for God's creation.





A Pentecost Prayer in Praise of God's Creation

*Come, Holy Spirit, breath of God,
You who hovered over the waters at the dawn of Creation,
Breathe anew into our hearts today.*

*Creator God, we praise You for the beauty of the earth—
For sky and sea, mountains and valleys,
For every living creature that fills the world with wonder.*

*As You poured out Your Spirit upon the disciples,
So pour out Your Spirit upon all creation.
Renew the face of the earth, as the psalmist proclaimed.*

*Ignite in us the fire of Your love,
That we may care for this world as sacred,
Guarding its life with reverence and joy.*

*On this holy day of Pentecost,
Unite all peoples and all creatures
In the harmony of Your Spirit.*

Amen.

‘SPEND A PENNY TOILET TWINNING HAVE YOU COLLECTED YOUR ‘POTTY’?

Our ‘Spend a Penny’ campaign in aid of modern toilet facilities administered by FNKD in Uganda ends on 30th June. Please pass your filled boxes to Michael Robertson.

Alternatively, you can contribute via BACS or by using the Church card reader. In either case please tell Michael so that he can allocate the money to the campaign.



Our thanks to Adam for producing the boxes. There is still time to pick up a box and fill it before the end of this month.

THANKS

Thanks to all those who ‘Counted Their Blessings’ in Lent and raised £82.24 for the Church Charities. The Charities which will benefit are ‘Families Together (Suffolk)’ and ‘Friends of North Kigezi Diocese’. The money raised will be split between them.

TUESDAY WELCOME



**EVERY TUESDAY
10am-12noon**

TEA, COFFEE, CHAT

CASTLE HILL CHURCH

INDOOR CARBOOT SALE!



SATURDAY 28TH JUNE

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

IN-BETWEEN CLUB

FRIDAY JUNE 6th.

2.30pm.

**DELICIOUS
NONSENSE**

Tickets £5.00 from Chris Goldsmith



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 712255

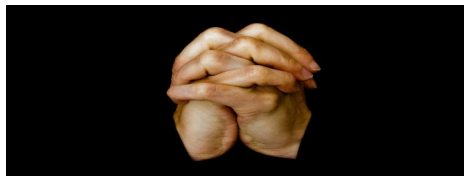
**Cost £10 (includes fish & chips,
tea, coffee biscuits and cake)**

Castle Hill URC is a Dementia-friendly Church

DIARY DATES FOR JUNE 2025

6th	In-Between Club 2.30pm
8th	Pentecost—Note no Morning Worship 3.00pm Joint Songs of Praise
11th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm
17th	Wool Court 10.30am.
20th	Springfield Folies Concert 7.00pm
25th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm.
27th	Fish and Chips Friday 11.45am.
28th	Table Top Sale 2.00pm
29th	Church Business Meeting follows Morning Worship

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



Deadline for the July/August Newsletter
Submissions to Len Green by **Friday 20th June** please
E-mail: editor@castlehillurc.org.uk