



DRYDEN ROAD, IPSWICH, IP1 6QF

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



Ministers:

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SERVICES DURING MAY 2025

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

Sunday 4th

**10.30am. Morning Worship
with Communion**

**Joined by our friends from Mussbach
*Revd. David Rees.***

Sunday 11th - Church Anniversary

10.30am. Morning Worship

Revd. Adam Earle

~~**4.00pm Afternoon Worship**~~

~~***Revd. Adam Earle***~~

Sunday 18th

10.30am. Morning Worship

Revd. Jenifer Haggart

Followed by Christian Aid Cake Sale



Sunday 25th

10.30am. Morning Worship

***Hybrid Service led by Church members with recorded sermon
by Revd. Adam Earle***

*Cover picture:
Messy Easter . The Big Box Build.
The Gateway to Jerusalem*

EASTER AT CASTLE HILL

Messy Easter fun {cover and pages 8 and 9}, an uplifting Service at Paddy Geere House, Maundy Thursday Pastorate Reflection, A moving Good Friday Reflective Service and celebrating the Joy of our Risen Christ with Easter Sunday Worship and Communion brought to life the Easter Story at our Church.



Cancelled Sin

Acted in complete silence by Adam, Gillian and Mikey this short Good Friday sketch was both powerful and moving.



Christ is Risen—Hallelujah! Easter Sunday Worship

GOOD NEWS

I have lost count how many times, recently, I have been involved in conversations about the news - with a particular emphasis on the persistence of bad news and the many troubled places and desperate situations around the world. These things are very real and we cannot fail to be moved with compassion and must not ignore them or fail to pray and act in any way we can to bring hope and relief. The trouble is we so easily suffer from compassion fatigue and some folk I know are now avoiding watching the news because it is overwhelming – too much bad news and very little reason for hope. We are called to be hope bringers.



Yet we often look on with a sense of despair, feeling helpless in the face of disaster, war and heartless injustice and we wonder where God is in it all. We may pray our socks off, crying out for those we see and hear suffering such terrible situations. What is God up to? Why don't things seem to change. Easter reminds us that even through the most horrific of situations when darkness has seemingly won, God is at work and God is in control. Even when we cannot perceive God at work, our faith reminds us that God is working. God is sovereign and, even though it may stretch our faith, almost to breaking point, we need to hold on to the fact that God is our only hope. God is the only hope.

When we look at the situation facing the church in the UK today the news doesn't seem very positive either. We may lose heart and feel that there is no future. With aging and dwindling congregations, fewer workers for the harvest, we may wonder just how much longer things can carry on. But God is not finished with us yet – the future may look different, the way we do church and the priorities we have may look different but there is life and future for the church including our little corners of God's vineyard as local congregations in the Ipswich and East Pastorate.

Here's some good news. In the past few days, the Bible Society have published a report entitled "The Quiet Revival" with the lead line, "Church decline in England and Wales has not only stopped, but the Church is growing, as Gen Z leads an exciting turnaround in church attendance." Church attendance has risen by 50 per cent over the last six years, busting the myth of

church decline.

The findings come in a survey commissioned by Bible Society and conducted by YouGov. They show that the most dramatic church growth is among young adults, particularly young men. In 2018, just 4 per cent of 18–24-year-olds said that they attended church at least monthly. Today, the report reveals, this has risen to 16 per cent, with young men increasing from 4 per cent to 21 per cent, and young women from 3 to 12 per cent. I will aim to make the report available to all our churches and will try and get some print copies produced.

Friends, take heart! God is at work, at home and abroad. Behind the scenes perhaps, but God's purposes will prevail and God's promises are sure. Let's hold fast to God, as we read in Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Revd Adam Earle



**THE QUIET
REVIVAL**

www.biblesociety.org.uk



BIBLE STUDY IN MAY

Our monthly Pastorate Bible Study via Zoom will take place on Monday morning May 12th at 10.30 am.

This month we are not choosing the lectionary Bible passage from the Gospels but rather from the book of Acts, chapter 11 verses 1-18. This is a very special story for me telling how Peter felt compelled to share the story of Jesus with non-Jews and therefore eventually with us! I think it is a very relevant story for today and will give us plenty to think about and share together.

All are welcome to participate, to listen or contribute.

Elaine Thomas

THE IN BETWEEN CLUB



At a meeting in 1994, with Brian Morris, Maureen Morris, David (my husband) and myself we talked about setting up the In-between Club. The name came from the fact that were too old for “CHAPS” but too young for “Tuesday Fellowship”.

At a recent meeting we all took our photographs of the many happy times of fellowship. In particular, our wonderful holidays organised by Maureen and Brian. Maureen worked tirelessly with help from Brian. When Maureen had to give up Mick Goldsmith took on some of the work aided by Chris and Barbara. There have been so many people who have helped to keep this group going, too many to mention all by name.

Recently, we have been meeting in the afternoons. We no longer have a cooked meal but just tea and cake. Presently, it looks as though we may continue at least until the end of July. I do hope that can happen.

Many of us have been part of this group from the start and we thank all who have helped to make it so successful all these years,

Sylvia Halls

**NEXT MEETING—FRIDAY MAY 2nd.
See page 15 for details**

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

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

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY -18 YEARS AGO



50th Anniversary Service May 7th 2007

Do you recognise any faces? Sadly some are no longer with us but many pictured here are still worshipping at Castle Hill. Those pictured include four current Serving Elders.

MESSY EASTER ALL-AGE CREATIVE FU



Mikey and Diane create palm trees from fruit



A banner created to illustrate the



PLAN TO ILLUSTRATE THE EASTER STORY



triumphal entry into Jerusalem



Success! The gateway to Jerusalem is almost complete



Time for a tasty burger

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – MAY 11-17

ABOUNDING HOPE

The focus for Christian Aid week this year is Guatemala, a country where extreme weather caused by the climate crisis, is ravaging farms and killing the precious crops. Farms like that of Amelia, a resourceful and determined 24-year-old farmer who lives with her husband and their two children 8-year-old Lazaro and 4-year-old Yakelin.

A river runs through Amelia's farm, but as heatwaves cause it to run low, the crops she depends on wither and die before her eyes. It's a burning injustice, when no more than a mile away, industrial plantations are taking the last of the region's natural resources to feed the world's richest countries. Amelia's hopeful that she can combat extreme weather by changing the way she farms. With the support of specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Congcop, she's planting resilient crops, conserving water and making fertiliser. As a leader of her community Amelia's also sharing her knowledge with other households so that one day no family will worry about their children going without food. This is the unstoppable power of Amelia's hope in action.



Amelia planting resilient crops

For 80 years Christian Aid has mobilised thousands of churches, like ours, to put hope into action and pray and raise money especially in Christian Aid Week. We are no longer able to organise street collections as in years past, but we ask that each member of the congregation joins in by helping to raise money where they can. Collecting envelopes are available from the table at the rear of the Church and you are asked to take a few envelopes and invite your family, friends and neighbours to contribute. Filled envelopes should be brought to the Church on Sunday May 18th, On that Sunday, as you will see in the facing page, you are invited to buy cakes or savouries, from the Cake Stall to eat with your coffee or take home, and make a donation to Christian Aid Week.

Take a prayer booklet so that you can join with Christians all over the country to pray together in Christian Aid Week and learn more about Guatemala through another farmer, Aurelia {Pictured}.

Elaine Thomas



**CAKE SALE IN AID OF CHRISTIAN AID
MAY 18TH AFTER MORNING WORSHIP**



Please get in touch with Vanessa, if you are able to help on the day. or If you are able to make any cake or savoury donations this will be greatly appreciated.

GOOD TURN OUT FOR GOOD FRIDAY WALK

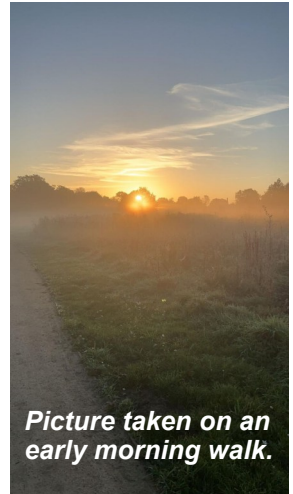
Blue sky, bracing Felixstowe sea air and great fellowship ensured that this year's traditional Good Friday walk lived up to expectation. As the picture shows, there were 36 walkers and one dog, a healthy turnout for a healthy walk.



THE BENEFITS OF WALKING

Walking offers both physical and spiritual benefits for a Christian. Not only does it promote health and wellness—honouring the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit—but it also provides a peaceful time for prayer, reflection, and communion with God.

Many believers find that walking in nature deepens their sense of awe and gratitude for creation, while the quiet rhythm of footsteps can create space to hear God's voice more clearly. Walking can even be an act of worship, a time to meditate on Scripture or simply enjoy the presence of the Lord in the stillness.



Picture taken on an early morning walk.

MUSSBACH VISIT MAY 1-7 2025

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

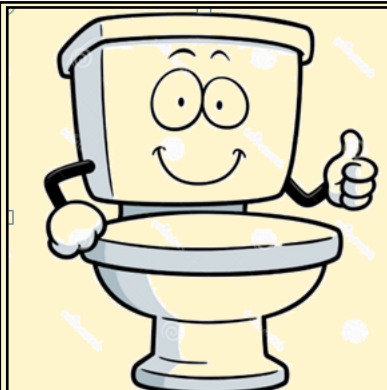


The programme for the visit will be:

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 twinship steering group (Ian/Sandra Bragg, Heather Barnes, Rose Hollingsworth, David Smith or Carl Reeder) if you would like further details.



'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 soon, meanwhile, please put your donation aside each time that you 'spend a penny' [or more] alternatively, 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 the notices in each of our Church toilets

Rachel tells us that there is a real need for modern facilities. Modern toilets help prevent disease transmission, ensure water source purity and protect vulnerable people, especially women and children. It simply isn't safe for these people to have to use open areas due to lack of facilities.

Please hand your donations to Michael Robertson by 29th June. If donating via the card reader please let Michael know so that he can ring-fence the money for the Uganda toilets.



Our aim is from this

...

to this

TUESDAY WELCOME



**EVERY TUESDAY
10am-12noon**

TEA, COFFEE,CHAT

CASTLE HILL CHURCH INDOOR CARBOOT SALE!



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

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

IN-BETWEEN CLUB

FRIDAY MAY 2nd

2.00pm.

VE DAY SPECIAL



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 7122255

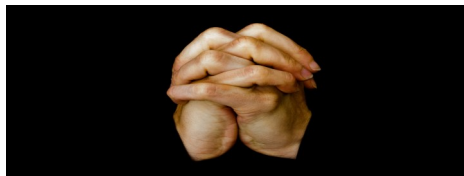
**Cost £10 (includes fish & chips,
tea, coffee biscuits and cake)**

Castle Hill URC is a Dementia-friendly Church

DIARY DATES FOR MAY 2025

1st	Mussbach Friends Arrive Elders' meeting 7.00pm
2nd	In-Between Club 2.00pm
4th	German Church 4.00pm
11th	Church Anniversary Celebration {see page3}
12th	Pastorate Bible Study by Zoom 10.30am.
14th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm.
18th	Christian Aid Cake Sale (see page 11) Organ Concert 2.30pm.
20th	Wool Court 10.30am.
23rd	Fish and Chips Friday 11.45am.
28th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm.
31st	Table Top Sale 2.00pm

**OUR STREET PRAYER FOCUS FOR
MAY IS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF
SHENSTONE DRIVE**



Deadline for the June Newsletter
Submissions to Len Green by **Friday 23rd May please**
E-mail: editor@castlehillurc.org.uk