

IPSWICH



## **NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024**



**Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2024**

**Ministers:**

**Revd. David Rees**

**E-mail: [revdrees@gmail.com](mailto:revdrees@gmail.com) Tel: 01473 402721**

**Revd. Adam Earle**

**E-mail: [revaje@outlook.com](mailto:revaje@outlook.com) Tel: 01473 411316**

## **SERVICES DURING NOVEMBER**

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

**Sunday 3rd**  
**10.30am. Morning Worship**  
**with Communion.**

*\*Followed by Extraordinary Church Meeting*  
*Revd. David Rees*

**Sunday 10th.**  
**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**  
**10.30am. Morning Worship**  
*Peter Dawson*

**4.00pm Afternoon Worship**  
*Revd. David Rees*

**SUNDAY 17th**  
**10.30am. Café Style Morning Worship**  
*Revd. Adam Earle*

**Sunday 24th**  
**10.30am. Morning Worship**  
*Followed by Church Business Meeting and*  
*Elders Election*  
*Revd. David Rees*

\*The Extraordinary Church Meeting on Sunday 3rd November will contain a single Agenda item to present a Resolution to welcome the joining of Great Meeting Hadleigh URC to the Ipswich and East Pastorate.

# **PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE**

## **AND FOR PEACE IN TROUBLED LANDS**

### **Merciful God,**

We come to you today with hearts filled with both sorrow and hope.  
We remember all who have suffered in times of war and conflict,  
those who have laid down their lives for others,  
and those who bear the scars, seen and unseen, of violence and loss.  
May their sacrifice be honoured, and their memory cherished.

### **God of Peace,**

We lift up to you the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Sudan,  
and all places where fear, conflict, and division have taken root.  
We pray for an end to violence,  
for the laying down of arms,  
and for leaders to seek paths of reconciliation and peace.

Comfort the grieving and strengthen the weary,  
protect the innocent and heal the wounded.  
Help us all to recognise our common humanity  
and to reach out with compassion, understanding, and grace.

Guide us, Lord, to be instruments of peace in this world.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love.  
Where there is injury, let us bring healing.  
And where there is despair, may we bring hope.

May your peace, which surpasses all understanding,  
descend upon these lands and upon our hearts,  
that we may live together in harmony and rebuild what has been broken.

Amen.



## **ALL ARE WELCOME?**

**It is always good to participate in a special time of worship. On Saturday 21st September I was privileged to play the organ, and David Rees to preach, at the Induction of Revd Robert Sheard as minister of Christchurch Needham Market. Our opening hymn was “Let us build a house where love can dwell.” The chorus declares, sung with bold determination, “All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.”**



This is not the first time that the question of welcome has echoed round my head and the subject has been a theme of many a ministers' pastoral letter. We all like to think of our churches as welcoming, but what does it mean to be a truly welcoming community of God's people? "All are welcome!" What are we really saying when we write these words at the foot of a poster advertising some event or time of worship? What does welcome mean?

Zach Lambert is a theologian and the lead pastor and founder of "Restore" a church movement which describes itself in these terms:

- We are a church which locks arms with the community to help bring restoration to people and neighbourhoods in our city and around the world.
- We don't have everything figured out, but we are on a journey of restoration through Jesus who loves people without prejudice or qualification. Restore is a place where you can be yourself, ask questions, and won't be pressured to conform to any stereotype.

That is quite a powerful and demanding "headline" to place at the top of the church's "About Us" page on their website. It gives a very clear sense of what welcome should mean even though it is a work in progress – joining with and embracing all the people around and loving without prejudice or qualification – no pressure to conform to someone else's idea of what a Christian should be like and an acknowledgement that we are not the holders of all the answers but fellow discoverers on a journey of faith.

I was alerted to Zach's ministry when I encountered the following challenge, posted by a friend, on a Facebook page:

There are two kinds of “everyone is welcome” churches:

1. Everyone is welcome to conform to that church’s image of what a Christian looks like.
2. Everyone is welcome to fully embody the unique image God created them to be.

Run away from the first and run toward the second.

As we serve the call of God to make Christ known to all people, we have to learn to embrace all, as they are, to be welcoming to anyone and everyone, without caveat. Of course this is not restricted to the few that cross the threshold of our church buildings; the welcome of love extends to every moment and interaction, to everyone we encounter day by day.

In summarising God’s law in Mark 12: 30&31 We are called to love God with all we are and “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” The word interpreted love here is one we’ve encountered before, “Agapé” – the love with which God loves, welcoming, caring, and deep. This is the love that Christ exposes in its fullness on the cross – unconditional, unreserved and undeserved.

Friends, let us seek to be welcoming as Christ welcomes, both as individuals and as the Church, the community of God’s kingdom.

**Adam**

**OUR STREET PRAYER FOCUS FOR  
NOVEMBER IS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF  
HOMER CLOSE**



# BIBLE STUDY

**Our November Pastorate Zoom Bible Study will take place on MONDAY 4th November at 10.30 in the morning. We are holding our Study on the FIRST MONDAY of the month as the second Monday is Remembrance Day which would include a two-minutes silence at 11o'clock.**

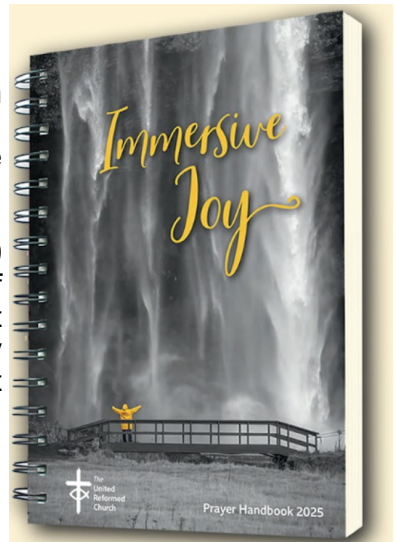
The main passage for study is Mark 12:38-44 and possibly also Ruth 3:1-5 and 4:13-17. These passages will be the basis of our thinking and talking as we share our thoughts with each other and listen to what God has to teach us in it all. We always stimulate each other with new ideas and insights as we share our experience of life, and we welcome all to join us to listen and contribute.

*Elaine Thomas*

## PRAYER HANDBOOK 2025

**'Immersive Joy' is the title of the URC Prayer Handbook for 2025. As in the past few years, the book is divided into two sections. The first section follows the calendar year with a prayer for each Sunday based on one or more of the lectionary readings, and prayers for other special days.**

For the second section people were invited to interpret the idea of being 'immersed in joy' in whatever way resonated with them. The editors hope that, as you read the prayers, you might reconnect with your own sense of joy and be refreshed and strengthened. The cost of the book is £6.49 plus a share of the postage and packing. If you would like a copy, please sign the list at the Church or contact Elaine Thomas by November 17th. Money to be paid on receipt of the book.



## HARVEST

**Thanks to all who contributed to the 'Harvest of Hope' Christian Aid appeal at our Harvest Festival. The money given in the envelopes was £258 plus £133 profit from the lunch**

**making a total of £391.**

In addition, most of the envelopes included gift aid forms so Christian Aid will be able to claim more. The money raised will help many more families like Nyarai's whom we saw depicted on the poster, to survive and thrive in a time of climate chaos as they receive help with climate smart agriculture training.

***Elaine Thomas***

## **BIBLE NOTES 2025**

In December I will be ordering Bible Reading Notes for 2025 from Eden Books on behalf of members of the fellowship. In the past these have included:

- Fresh from The Word, published annually, current cost £11.88
- New Daylight published every four months, current cost £4.79 each
- Upper Room published every four months, current cost £4.99 each
- Day by Day with God published every four months, current cost £4.79 each
- Inspiring Women Every Day, one year devotional, current cost £11.47 each

If anyone would like these or other Bible reading notes for next year please either complete the form in the vestibule of the church or, if you are unable to get to church, ring me on Ipswich 217858 with the details of the notes you would like to order. In either case, to ensure receipt before the new year, I shall be grateful if your orders are placed with me by 8 December. Thank you.

***Shirley Skinner***



# CASTLE HILL SCHOOLS CELEBRATE



The link between our Church and the Castle Hill Schools is demonstrated by David. The large quantity of gifts donated by the children can be seen in the The picture shows only one third of those attending. There were three Service



# CELEBRATE HARVEST AT CHURCH



In this picture as the pupils celebrate Harvest at Services led by Adam and the sanctuary were delivered to FIND. Services!

# **CHRISTMAS HAMPER GIFTS TO FAMILIES IN NORTH KIGEZI DIOCESE, SOUTHWESTERN UGANDA**

**We have just launched our Christmas food hamper appeal for 2024, our 8<sup>th</sup> year. This food distribution programme has been well supported over the past years. Last year, an amazing 120 hampers were delivered to families living in extreme poverty throughout the villages in this mountainous area.**

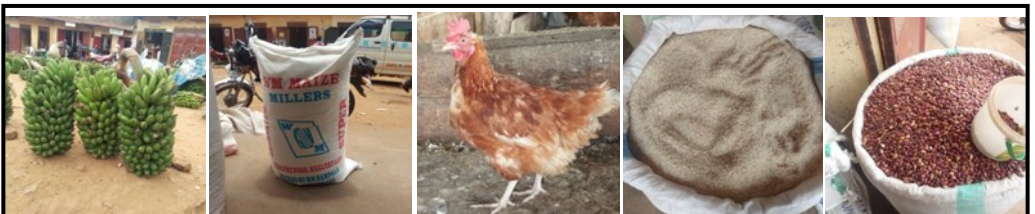
The current situation (Autumn 24) is not good – our fieldworkers are already telling us that they are finding children literally starving – we have just delivered an extra 23 sacks of cereal maize.

At our board meeting, held during my recent visit to Uganda, members from the child development department and probationary service gave feedback about the hamper programme that brought tears to my eyes. It was said 'if only you could be here with us as the hampers are delivered – people were crying with relief'. A great big thankyou was also sent to all of you for reaching out and sending this food at Christmas time.

Thank you so much for donations that have already come in this year. If you would like to donate a hamper, we would really appreciate it. We would like to deliver food to as many of the neediest families as we can throughout the month of December. Our team deliver the food directly into the hands of those who need it most and it really does provide a lifeline to families facing starvation.

We have increased the cost slightly this year due to increases in food and fuel prices – each hamper now costs £42.

Please be in touch if you would like to help and thank you - Rachel Harris  
[rachh123@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachh123@hotmail.co.uk) or call on 07772311133







A Service of Music  
and Readings for

# ADVENT

Castle Hill URC

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**  
at 16:00 followed by Tea





Castle Hill  
CHURCH

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Dryden Road, Ipswich,  
Suffolk IP1 6QF

# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

14:15 – 16:00

Saturday  
30<sup>th</sup> November

Gifts ✨ Toys ✨ Books ✨ Cakes  
Grand Raffle ✨ Café ✨ Santa  
& Much More

**Come and join the fun!**

# **COFFEE CAKE AND CHAT**

## **TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER**

### **10am - 12pm in the Meeting Room**



Combined with the regular Tuesday Welcome Coffee Morning

## **TUESDAY WELCOME**

**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](mailto:maureenhowes@headwaysuffolk.org.uk)  
Phone 01473 712225

## **IN-BETWEEN CLUB—DATE CHANGE**

Please note that the In Between Club will meet in November on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> rather than Friday 1st.

***Chris Goldsmith***

# **DIARY DATES NOVEMBER 2024**

- 3rd** Extraordinary Church Meeting 12.30pm  
German Church 3.00pm.
- 4th** Pastorate Bible Study via Zoom 10.30pm.
- 5th** Coffee Cake & Chat 10.00am
- 7th** Elders' meeting 7.00pm
- 8th** In-between Club 2.30pm
- 10th** Remembrance Sunday  
Afternoon Worship 4.00pm
- 13th** Busy Fingers 2.00pm.
- 17th** Organ Concert 2.30pm.
- 22nd** Fish and Chip Friday 11.45am.
- 23rd** Table Top Sale 2.00pm.
- 27th** Busy Fingers 2.00pm
- 30th** Christmas Fayre 2.15pm.
- 1st December**  
Joint Advent Service with St. John's URC followed by  
afternoon tea. 4.00pm. {see page 12}

**Deadline for the COMBINED December / January Newsletter**  
Submissions to Len Green by **Friday 22 November 2024**  
E-mail: [editor@castlehillurc.org.uk](mailto:editor@castlehillurc.org.uk)