



Church Web Site: www.castlehillurc.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

A November Prayer

*In the hush of autumn's fading gold,
where mushrooms bloom beneath the cold,
the forest whispers soft and deep —
a promise sown, a dream asleep.
Root us, Lord, in thankful ground,
where quiet grace and peace are found.*

Photo: Katie Rodger

Ministers:

Revd. Adam Earle

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

Revd. David Rees

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

SERVICES DURING NOVEMBER 2025

All Sunday Morning Services
will be live-streamed.

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

Sunday 2nd

**10.30am. Morning Worship
with Communion**

Including Induction of new Church Members
Rev. Adam Earle

SUNDAY 9th

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.30am. Morning Worship
Nigel Crisp

4.00pm Afternoon Reflective Service
Rev. Adam Earle

SUNDAY 16th

10.30am. Morning Worship {Hybrid}
Rev. David Rees and Elders

SUNDAY 23rd

10.05am. Pause for Prayer

An informal short time of prayer, before commencing Worship

10.30am. Morning Worship
Rev. Adam Earle

Followed by Church Business Meeting

SUNDAY 30th - ADVENT 1

10.30am. Remembering Service
Rev. David Rees

**4.00pm. Joint Advent Service
at St. John's URC**

Rev. Adam Earle & Rev. David Rees

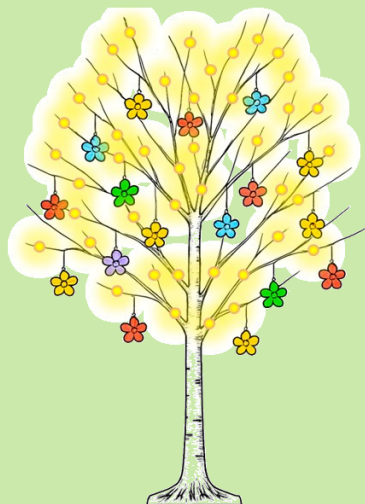
Followed by tea and cakes
All welcome to attend

A REMEMBRANCE PRAYER

Eternal God, we come before You in solemn remembrance of all who have suffered and sacrificed in the wars of our world - past and present. We remember with gratitude those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom and peace, and we pray for all who still bear the wounds of body, mind, or spirit. Comfort the grieving, heal the broken, and guide the leaders of nations toward paths of justice and reconciliation. May the lessons of history move us to cherish peace, to seek understanding among all people, and to build a world where conflict is resolved through compassion rather than violence. Grant us courage to be peacemakers, hope to believe in a better tomorrow, and faith that Your love will one day overcome all war and division. Amen



Tree of Light



**A service of Remembering
and Thanksgiving for
loved ones no longer with
us, including an act of
remembering and
reflection.**

10:30 Sunday 30th

November

Led by

Revd David Rees

MORE THAN JUST A FRIENDLY HELLO

***“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”
Romans 15:7***

Churches are often very good at talking about being “welcoming.” We print it on banners, put it on our websites, and say it from the front. And that’s a good thing! A smile at the door, a warm handshake, someone to show you where the coffee is - all of that matters. First impressions shape how people feel, and hospitality is a deeply biblical virtue.



But welcome is one thing, inclusion goes a step further. Though they are related, they aren’t quite the same thing. *Welcome* is the open door. *Inclusion* is having a real place at the table.

Think of it like hosting a dinner party. A guest who rings the bell is welcomed in: coat taken, drink offered, polite conversation made. But inclusion happens when they feel free to join the chatter around the table, help themselves to seconds, or even wash up at the end. It’s when they stop being “the guest” and start being “part of the family.”

Church can be like that too. We might welcome people in with smiles and tea and the news sheet. But inclusion happens when their voices are genuinely heard, their stories valued, their gifts shared. Inclusion isn’t just “letting people in.” It’s recognising that they belong - not as visitors, but as co-creators of the church community.

Romans 15:7 reminds us to “*welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you.*” And how has Christ welcomed us? Not as guests on probation, but as beloved children of God. Jesus didn’t just let people follow him politely from the edge of the crowd; he sat with them, ate with them, trusted them with ministry, gave them a voice. That’s inclusion.

True inclusion often happens in small, practical ways. It might mean giving someone a role, listening to their ideas, changing our language to make it easier for newcomers, or making sure leadership reflects the breadth of who we are. It’s also about being willing to *change* as a community, not expecting others to simply fit in to how things have always been.

A church can be warm and friendly without being truly inclusive. But a

church that is both welcoming and inclusive reflects something of God's kingdom: a place where there are no outsiders, only fellow children of God, gathered around the same table.

So perhaps the question for us isn't just, "Are we welcoming?" but, "Are we making room for people to belong?"

Blessings,

David

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday 23rd November.

Following Worship at 11.30a.m. there is a Church Business Meeting including the election of Elders for 2026. Although only Church Members are eligible to vote, please do stay and participate in this important Meeting and find out what is happening within our Church.

PLEASE ALLOW A FEW MINUTES FOR POST-SERVICE REFLECTION

Refreshments after each morning Service give us a welcome chance to chat and catch up. We're grateful to the volunteers who prepare and clear away the tables.

However, some people in Church or watching online like a quiet moment of reflection or prayer after the final Blessing. Please wait a couple of minutes before setting up. A good cue is when the screen shows, "*Stream will end shortly*".

The Worship Group

MUSSBACH VISIT 2026

We hope to visit Mussbach next year during the late May bank holiday, travelling out on either Friday May 22, or, if there are flights, Saturday May 23 and returning Thursday May 28 or Friday May 29. If you are interested in taking part in the visit, please let one of the Twinship Steering Group know, by the end of November.

Rose Hollingsworth

TRADING WITH JUSTICE AT ITS HEART

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6 v 8.

The Fair Trade Shop was formed 36 years ago by a group of Traidcraft representatives whose aim was to introduce food, beverages and craft items produced by people who were not exploited but received fair pay for their work and enough to support their communities and provide education. For those who continued, formed a company and opened a shop, this is still our passion and, although there have been many changes since those early days – not least the closure of Traidcraft – we continue to sell a huge range of products on this basis.



Sustainability is very important and many craft items are made from recycled materials; growing tea, coffee and cocoa in this changing climate means that planting of trees and diversification is the only way they can continue to make a living and this can be achieved through the fairtrade premium.

We are stocking up for Christmas; please consider us when buying Christmas cards (supporting the work of Transform Trade, Amnesty International, the Soil Association and Somersham Ward, Ipswich Hospital), Advent Calendars from the Meaningful Chocolate Company and Divine Chocolate and other seasonal goodies. If you would like a talk to hear more about fair trade and the difference it makes, or to hold a stall after your service or at one of your meetings please contact us on our website: www.thefairtradeshopipswich.co.uk or by phoning the shop on 01473 288225. We are open **Monday – Saturday 9.30 - 4.30**. If you are unable to get into the town centre please check out our online shop on the website.

The manager and volunteers would love to welcome you to our shop in Upper Brook Street (next to Caffè Nero) and we invite you to think prayerfully about the impact you make on the world when you shop – to its people and our planet.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all those who contributed to our Christian Aid Harvest Appeal, The total amount raised, including Harvest lunch was £337.



THANK YOU FOR FLOWER DONATIONS

Thank you to the those friends who made donations towards the cost of flowers.

Would you like to contribute towards, the cost of purchasing the flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday or other occasion?

Please speak to **Ann Wilding.**



BIBLE NOTES 2026

In December I will be ordering Bible Reading Notes for 2026 from Eden Books on behalf of members of the fellowship. In the past these have included:

Fresh from The Word, published annually, estimated cost approximately £15.00

New Daylight published every four months, current cost £5.25 each

Upper Room published every four months, current cost £5.25 each

Day by Day with God published every four months, current cost £5.25 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 01473 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 7 December.

Thank you.

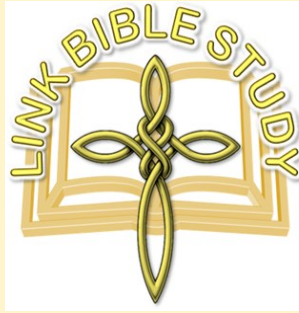
Shirley Skinner

PRAYER HANDBOOK 2026

‘Touching God’ is the title of the URC Prayer Handbook for 2026. As in the past few years, the book is divided into two sections with the first section following the calendar year with prayers for each Sunday based on the lectionary readings. In the second part there are prayers from many and diverse writers and many relate to the theme for the year.

They reflect on times when God comes close to us, and when we, in prayer and in daily life, may come close to God. The editors who this year are Susan Durber and Jonnie Hill, hope that the words will provide words with which to pray.

The cost of the book is £6.99 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 16th. Money to be paid on receipt of the book.



The pastorate Link Bible Studies for the remainder of 2025 will take place as follows:

10:00am Thursday 6th November

Theme: Esther (Esther 2:7-11 & 17)

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

HARVEST LUNCH

Pictured here: - Justifiable applause from the Harvest Lunch diners for Heather and the catering team who prepared an excellent meal following Worship on 5th October.



Photo: Bev Derrett

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the beautiful orchid and card which were given to us in Church as a memento of 65 years of marriage, We were very surprised and touched.

God bless you all.

Jacqui and Brian

Thank you for the flowers, cards and Get Well wishes during and following my recent health blip and stay in hospital. They are all helping me in my recovery.

Heather

Dear Friends,

Ian and I wish to thank you all for the kind messages of congratulations, cards and gift of a beautiful climbing rose, on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. As I write this Ian has been busy in the garden preparing the area, ready to put up the trellis for our new addition to the garden. Thank you!

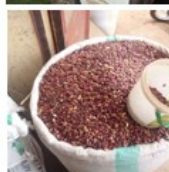
With love, **Sandra and Ian Bragg**

FNKD CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAMME 2025

The charity Friends of North Kigezi Diocese is gearing up for another Christmas Hamper programme where the most needy families in the Rukungiri District of Southwestern Uganda are given a large food parcel which will support them for the whole of December and beyond.



Charity Number 1114602



The hampers cost £42. Please let us know if you would like to donate one to a needy family.

Or why not get together with friends and family to raise some money together for a hamper or two?

They make great "ethical" Christmas presents and consist of a sack of maize meal (posho), a hand of matoke bananas, rice, groundnuts and a chicken.

TO BUY YOUR HAMPERS
PLEASE CONTACT RACHEL
OR KEN ON:
rachel@fnkd.org.uk
bucenceken@gmail.com

For more info go to:
fnkd.org.uk



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

TUESDAY WELCOME



**EVERY TUESDAY
10am - 12noon**

TEA, COFFEE, CHAT

BIG INDOOR CHRISTMAS CARBOOT SALE

JOIN US ON THE LAST
CARBOOT OF THE YEAR
AS WE MAKE IT OUR
BIGGEST SALE OF 2025!

SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2-4PM

Castle Hill Church Dryden Road
Ipswich IP16QF

£5 for sellers

Free entry for buyers

07787325536

WE ARE PLANNING A CHURCH FAMILY LITTER PICK.

As part of our service to the local community and our commitment to the environment we are planning a Saturday morning litter pick.



This would be in the local area. Equipment, including high viz jackets and 'pickers' together with safety instructions would be provided. The picking session would be followed by a warm cuppa and biscuits at the Church. This is an ideal opportunity for families, individuals, or groups to spend an hour or so in the fresh air helping to play our Church's part in preserving God's creation.

Watch this space for further details.

Caring for Creation Group



IN-BETWEEN CLUB
Friday 7th November at 14.30 pm
A talk on

**The Life and Times of
Walter Guinness**

Tickets £5 from Chris Goldsmith



Castle Hill
CHURCH

IPSWICH

Dryden Road, Ipswich,
Suffolk IP1 6QF

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

14:00 – 16:00

Saturday
29th November

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

We would be very grateful for donations of tombola, draw prizes, and for the hamper as well as offers of help on the day.



Something Old, Something New – for You!

Meeting Monthly on the Fourth Friday

**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 are coming 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.

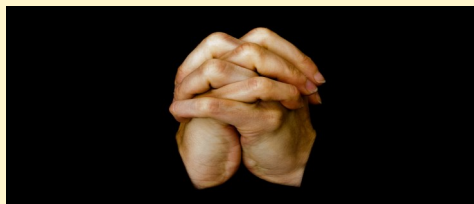
What to Expect: Sessions will begin at **11:30** with refreshments and activities to enjoy on arrival. We will then share a fabulous fish and chip lunch followed by tea or coffee, cake and a film. We will announce the film for the following session each month.

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

DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER 2025

2nd	German Church 4.00pm.
6th	Elders' Meeting 7.00pm.
7th	In-Between Club 2.30pm.
12th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm.
16th	Organ Concert.
18th	Wool Court 10.30am.
22nd	Indoor Christmas Car Boot Sale 2.00-4.00pm.
26th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm.
28th	Fish, Fun & Film Friday 11.30am.
29th	Christmas Fair 2.00pm-4.00pm

**OUR STREET PRAYER FOCUS FOR NOVEMBER IS FOR
THE RESIDENTS OF
PRESTON DRIVE**



Deadline for the combined December and January Newsletter
Submissions to Len Green by **Friday November 21st** please
E-mail: editor@castlehillurc.org.uk