

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



HARVEST

Ministers:

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SERVICES DURING OCTOBER 2025

All Sunday Morning Services
will be live-streamed.

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

SUNDAY 5th

10.05am. Pause for Prayer

An informal short time of prayer, before commencing Worship

Revd. Adam Earle

10.30am. Morning Worship Caring for Creation Service with Harvest Communion

Revd. Adam Earle

SUNDAY 12th

10.30am. Morning Worship

Peter Dawson

4.00pm Afternoon Reflective Service

Revd. David Rees

SUNDAY 19th

10.30am. Morning Praise Service

Revd. Adam Earle and Elders

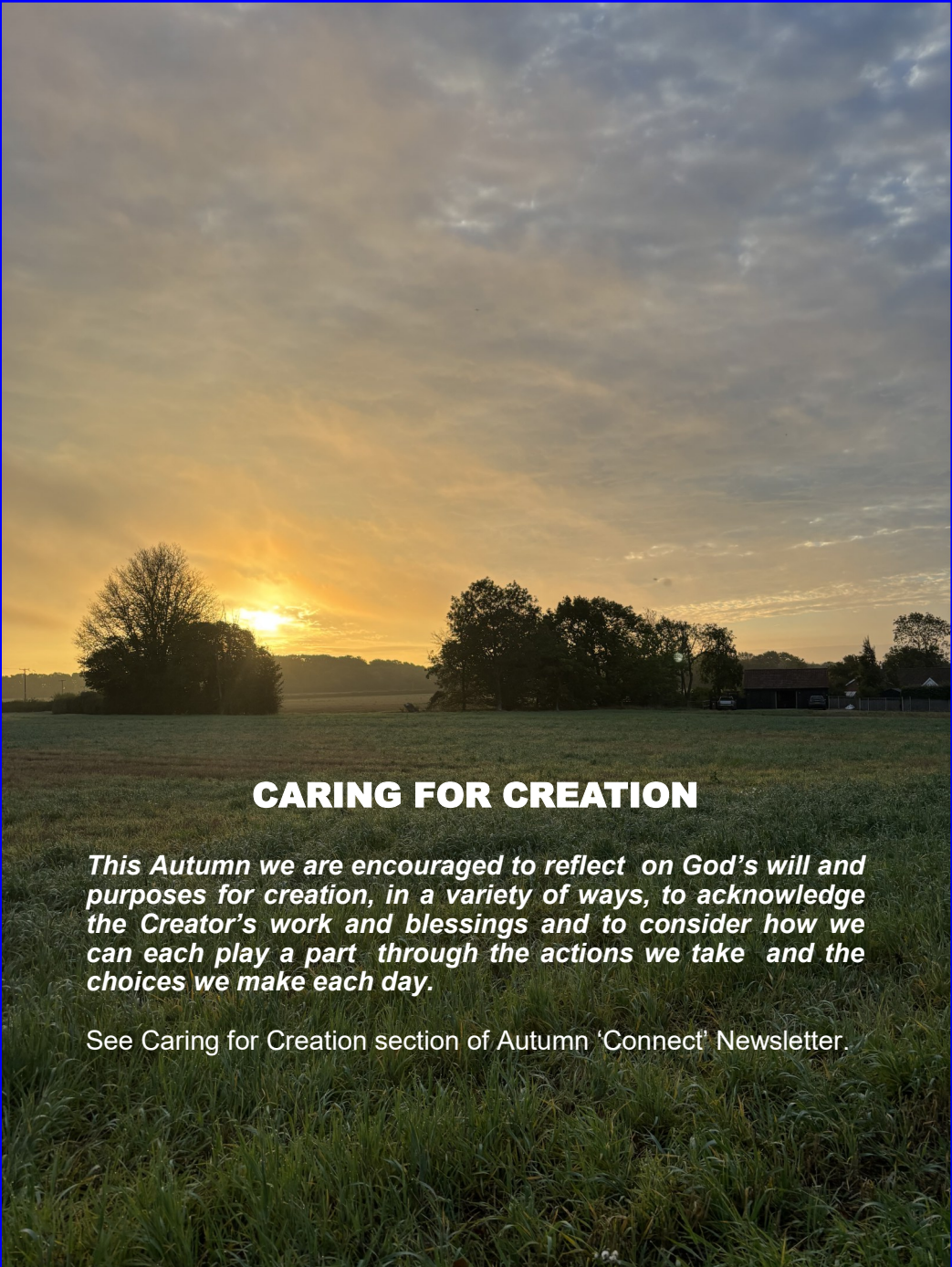
SUNDAY 26th

10.30am. Morning Worship

Revd. Martin Camroux

Cover photo; 'Harvest' AI generated.

Facing page photo; 'Autumn Sunrise' photographed in Henley.

A landscape photograph showing a sunset over a field. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow across the sky, which is filled with soft, grey clouds. In the foreground, there is a field of tall green grass. In the middle ground, there are several trees and a barn or farm building on the right side.

CARING FOR CREATION

This Autumn we are encouraged to reflect on God's will and purposes for creation, in a variety of ways, to acknowledge the Creator's work and blessings and to consider how we can each play a part through the actions we take and the choices we make each day.

See Caring for Creation section of Autumn 'Connect' Newsletter.

HARVEST: A SEASON OF SHARING

“

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare... you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 19:9–10 (NRSV)



As the season of harvest has arrived, we are reminded not only of nature's abundance but of the sacred call to share it. The ancient words of Leviticus, written for a farming people long ago, continue to speak robustly into our lives today - especially for those of us seeking to follow Jesus in the context of a justice-oriented faith.

These verses are more than agricultural advice. They are a bold statement about equity, compassion, and community responsibility. God's instruction is clear: *Leave room for others*. Don't consume everything for yourself. Don't harvest right to the edge. Leave space so that those who are vulnerable, those who are strangers, those who have less, may also be fed.

In our modern world, where food normally comes from supermarkets and harvest looks different than it did in ancient Israel, the principle remains the same. How do we “leave the edges of our fields” today? Perhaps it means making space in our budget to support food banks, sharing our table with someone who is lonely, or advocating for policies that address food insecurity and economic inequality. Maybe it means simply pausing to notice who is in need and responding with love.

In another church, every Sunday one lady made a habit of hospitality. No matter how many chairs were around the table, there was always room for one more. If someone new turned up at church, a neighbour dropped by, or a student was far from home, they were invited to join the meal. The food stretched - sometimes miraculously - and no one left hungry. That table, filled with laughter and welcome, was her way of leaving the edges of the field for others.

At its heart, the harvest is not just a time to gather; it is a time to give. To recognise that what we have is not ours alone, but a gift meant to be shared.

In our church community, we live into this calling when we support the local food bank, host community meals or coffee mornings, and give generously to mission and the needy. We live into it when we listen, when we include, and when we open our doors wide.

This Harvest season, not just on Harvest Sunday, let us celebrate the goodness of creation not with closed fists, but with open hands. Let us be people who leave the edges - who make room - so that everyone might taste the blessings of God's table.

Blessings,
David

HARVEST

We celebrate our Harvest Festival at Castle Hill on October 5th. Let us be thankful that despite climate change and a hot, dry summer we still have a harvest to celebrate.

As we celebrate and enjoy plentiful and varied food in our shops and on our plates, we remember those in many parts of the world whose harvests are failing, and they and their children go hungry to bed. We also remember those in our local community who rely on foodbanks to stay fed.

Tins and packets of donated food, collected in the buckets in the Vestibule, will be taken to Find (Families in Need). Monetary gifts will be sent to Christian Aid to be used in countries like Sierra Leone where the climate crisis is destroying harvests and threatening food security. Envelopes for your gifts are available and can be placed in the basket on the table in the Church.

Let us share our hope and our harvest with people living in poverty while we give thanks for all we enjoy.

Elaine Thomas



A Monthly Online Gathering to Explore and Discuss the Bible

¹⁶Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live. ¹⁷The Scriptures train God's servants to do all kinds of good deeds.

2 Timothy 3:16-17(CEV)

The Bible stands at the heart of the Christian Faith. Scripture is central in our worship and life together in the church. We are encouraged to read and explore God's Word regularly and to engage in understanding and relating its message to our day to day lives and service.

This is a re-fresh and re-launch of the monthly online Bible Studies which have been running for several years. It's an opportunity for folk, across the Pastorate, to meet up and join in exploration and discussion of God's precious Word in the Bible.

The sessions will be on linked themes but "stand alone" so if you cannot attend every time, you won't miss out. We begin with a "series" of three focused on women in scripture: October – Dorcas, November – Esther, December – Mary (Mother of Jesus).

Sessions will begin at 10:00am and will last for about 40 minutes. As well as joining on Zoom via computer or smart phone it is also possible to join using a standard landline telephone.

Our first meeting will be at **10:00am on Thursday 9th October 2025**. We will use the Castle Hill Zoom Account .

Future dates and arrangements will be publicised via church notices, websites, newsletters and the Connect Magazine. We look forward to welcoming you. Please do "bring" your Bible.

If you would like to be added to an email contact list to receive notification about meetings and themes, please contact Revd. Adam Earle on revaje@outlook.com and he will include you in the updates.



FNKD UGANDA

I would like to begin by thanking everyone so much for your continuous support to help us to reach out to God's Children in North Kigezi Diocese. It is really quite incredible to have been called to serve in such a faraway place and we really are making a difference and having an impact on the daily life and existence of the people there.

Thank you for contributions to the toilet project – we are doing well and with one big donation made and some smaller donations from the loose change boxes we are creeping towards our target of £5,556. We have so far raised £2,240.28. The immediate need is for a six-stance latrine block in the village of Maaya. Please keep saving that loose change as it mounts up, every penny makes a difference.

I would also like to thank you for saving your empty ink cartridges and for buying the homemade cards – all proceeds for these go directly into Bucence Children's Centre.



I would also like to say a massive thank you to the Car Boot Sale team. You have made our 28 children at Bucence Children's Centre overjoyed as now they have their own music box. They love to dance and sing along to the songs and let off all their pent-up energy and stresses – thank you!

Summer days are coming to an end and we are now into Autumn with

Christmas which is just around the corner. For the past few years, we have been running a food distribution programme by the way of a hamper of local Ugandan food – rice, sack of posho (maize flour), ground nuts, a large stalk of matoke and a nice plump chicken. This food is delivered by lorry by our staff during the month of December to very needy and struggling families in the villages where we (FNKD) work. Many people from Castle Hill URC have supported this programme. Last year you helped us to buy and deliver food to over 114 families. If you would like to help us again this year, we would be so glad – the price remains the same at £42 per hamper. Thank you so much

Thank you for your support (Mwebare Munonga)
Canon Rachel Harris

FLOWER DONATIONS WELCOME

Each week we are greeted with a fresh display of flowers on our communion table as pictured here.

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?

If you can help towards the cost of the flowers please speak to Ann Wilding.



**IN-BETWEEN CLUB
FRIDAY OCTOBER 3rd
2.30pm.
GARDENS OF JAPAN
Followed by short AGM.
Tickets £5 from Chris Goldsmith**

CASTLE HILL AMATEUR PERFORMERS PRESENT...



HAUNTED HOUSE

**HALLOWEEN
FUN FOR ALL
THE FAMILY**



**A SPOOKTACULAR
NEW PANTOMIME
BY BARRY CROSSLEY**



CAN YOU HELP ON SHOW WEEK?

Any support from Church members would be hugely appreciated . If you feel that you can help please contact Katie Rodger.



Castle Hill Church
Dryden Road
Ipswich
IP1 6QF

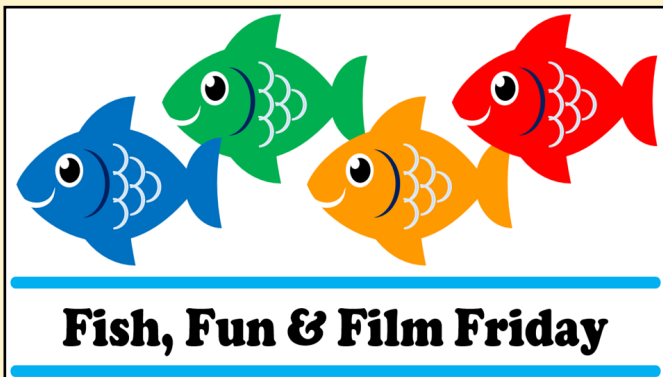
In aid of



**BBC
Children
in Need**

Thursday 30 October
Friday 31 October
Saturday 1st November

or email castlehillamateurperformers@gmail.com



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.

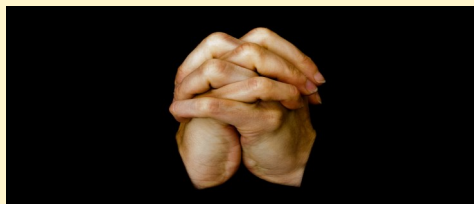
What to Expect: Sessions will begin at **11:30** with refreshments and activities to enjoy on arrival. We will then share a fabulous fish and chip lunch followed by tea or coffee, cake and a film. We will announce the film for the following session each month.

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

DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER 2025

2nd	Elders' Meeting 7.00pm.
3rd	In-Between Club 2.30pm.
5th	German Church 4.00pm.
8th	Busy Fingers 2.00pm
9th	Link Bible Study by Zoom 10.00am. (see page 6)
18th	Table Top Sale - 2.00pm.– 4.00pm
19th	Organ Concert
21st	Wool Court 10.30am.
22nd	Busy Fingers 2.00pm.
24th	Fish, Fun 'n Film Friday 11.30am. {see page 11}

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



Deadline for the November Newsletter
Submissions to Len Green by **Friday October 18th please**
E-mail: editor@castlehillurc.org.uk