



Castle Hill
CHURCH

DRYDEN ROAD, IPSWICH, IP1 6QF

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

A SUMMER OF FELLOWSHIP

Ministers:

Rev. Adam Earle

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Rev. David Rees

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Church Web Site: www.castlehillurc.org.uk

SERVICES DURING SEPTEMBER 2025

All Sunday Morning Services
will be live-streamed.

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

SUNDAY 7th

**10.30am. Café Style Morning Worship
with Communion**

Including induction of new Church Members
Revd. Adam Earle

SUNDAY 14th

10.30am. Morning Worship
Keith Scarfe

4.00pm Afternoon Reflective Service
Revd. Adam Earle

SUNDAY 21st

10.05am. Pause for Prayer

An informal short time of prayer, before commencing Worship
Revd. Adam Earle

10.30am. Morning Worship
Revd. Adam Earle

Church Fellowship Meeting follows this Service

SUNDAY 28th

10.30am. Morning Worship
Peter Dawson



The Romans Course

Exploring the Gospel, Faith & Mission



An opportunity to dive deeper into scripture.

Explore the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Ten sessions available in person or via Zoom.

Autumn 2025 and early 2026.

For further information see the leaflet.

To sign-up, please use the list available in
your local church or email Revd Adam Earle
on revaje@outlook.com.

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON...

In 1959 the singer, songwriter Pete Seeger wrote the song, “Turn, Turn, Turn”. It became an international hit in 1965 when performed and recorded by “The Byrds”. The words are based on the passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 as found in the King James Bible – words often attributed to King Solomon, renowned of course for his wisdom.



The words are a statement of reality - a reality which is sometimes positive and sometimes negative. They recognise that life is not a bed of roses but neither is it a veil of tears. Each action, emotion, experience takes its place in the big picture. The timing of the good and the bad, the joyful and the sorrowful in each of our life journeys may be very different. The balance of the elements is also different. It is true that for some the scales seem very much tipped in favour of the good things whilst others seem to gain more than their fair share of struggle.

The words are open to interpretation. Seeger presented them as protest song - a plea for peace. The line “a time for peace” receives the addition of “I swear it’s not too late.”

We might look at the words and draw from them a sense of inevitability. Perhaps if all these things are going to happen – if they are all part of the plan, then we might as well just steel ourselves to these things and get on with life, making the best we can of the cards we are dealt. But the Christian faith is not one to give up and abandon ourselves or others to fate.

Fate is not a Christian concept. The idea that life is beyond our control and whatever we do we cannot influence its pattern or path is alien to Christ’s way. Many of the decisions and choices we make in life impact on our experience and the path of our life – we are free to choose. But our Christian faith reminds us that, rather than being abandoned to fate, we have the privilege to lean into the love and mercy of God.

Prayer is a powerful and vital part of our faith journey and our relationship with God. Coming to God in times of sorrow and in times of joy, breaking open our heart’s desire and allowing God to work in us and through us is a gift of grace which God gives us all. God promises to hear and to answer our prayers.

However, there is risk in prayer. In bringing our concerns, our fears and our hopes to God we must do so with the understanding that God's answer may not be the one we want or expect. Faith demands that we pray in faith that God will answer, in the manner that He knows to be right.

We need to come to God with the open faith of a child, trusting that God knows what is best in every situation. We can be assured that whatever we face, God is working through it all for our ultimate good. As Paul reminds us, in his letter to the Romans (8:28):

"We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him, those whom he has called according to his purpose."

God is with us – whatever we face – we are not abandoned to fate – we are held in God's love now, and for ever.

Revd Adam Earle

HARVEST PRAISE AT PADDY GEERE HOUSE

Thursday 25th September at 3.00pm.

Judging by the numbers of residents attending and the volume of singing, the Services held at Paddy Geere House led by Adam and David are really popular .



The next Service will be a Harvest Praise and as before a small group from our Church will be welcomed. This helps to further raise the roof with the singing but also helps to cement the friendship between Paddy Geere and the Church.

If you would like to join the group please let Len Green know.

A LETTER OF GRATITUDE AND HOPE

To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
Grace and peace to you all.**

We are deeply grateful for the faithfulness and generosity you have shown in supporting God's work through your local churches. Your time, talents, and gifts have been a true expression of discipleship and community.

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Amid rising living costs and household pressures, your commitment to God's work has been inspiring. Through the Ministry & Mission Fund, you have helped sustain ministry across England, Scotland, and Wales—supporting ministers' stipends, training, Assembly gatherings, and central services that strengthen our shared witness.

GOD'S PROVISION IN ACTION

In 2024, giving to the M&M Fund reached £16.2 million—slightly under budget, though late contributions in early 2025 would have brought us over target. Synods contributed around £2.0 million of this total, reflecting the strength of our church family. Including other income, our total was £18.5 million. Expenditure of £20.0 million left a £1.5 million deficit, which we aim to address over 4–6 years through cost reductions and strong local-synod partnerships.

LOOKING AHEAD WITH HOPE

We face continuing economic challenges in 2025, but also real confidence. Synods will maintain enhanced support, and we are reducing central costs by 3–5% annually, ensuring good stewardship while sustaining essential ministries.

A CALL TO FAITHFULNESS

Your giving, in the spirit of 2 Corinthians 9:7, has brought joy and strength to the church. We celebrate with congregations meeting full commitments and honour those giving faithfully within their means.

THANK YOU

To every member and congregation who has supported the M&M Fund—thank you. Your generosity sustains ministry, equips leaders, and shares the gospel across our three nations.

May God bless you as you continue to be faithful stewards of His gifts. Together, we share in God's transforming work in our lives and communities.

In Christ's service,
Alan Yates, Treasurer
Vaughan Griffiths, Deputy Treasurer

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give... for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP MEETING **Sunday 21st September, 11.30am, after worship.**

Following any short business items, the main focus of the Meeting will be on Church Mission, including future Partnership work.

Please do stay to hear more and participate in the Meeting. The Elders always value your views.



CASTLE HILL CHURCH AS A MINI WILDLIFE AREA

Above: What was just a plain mowed grass slope is now a developing wildflower area attracting Bees, Butterflies and a variety of minibeasts.

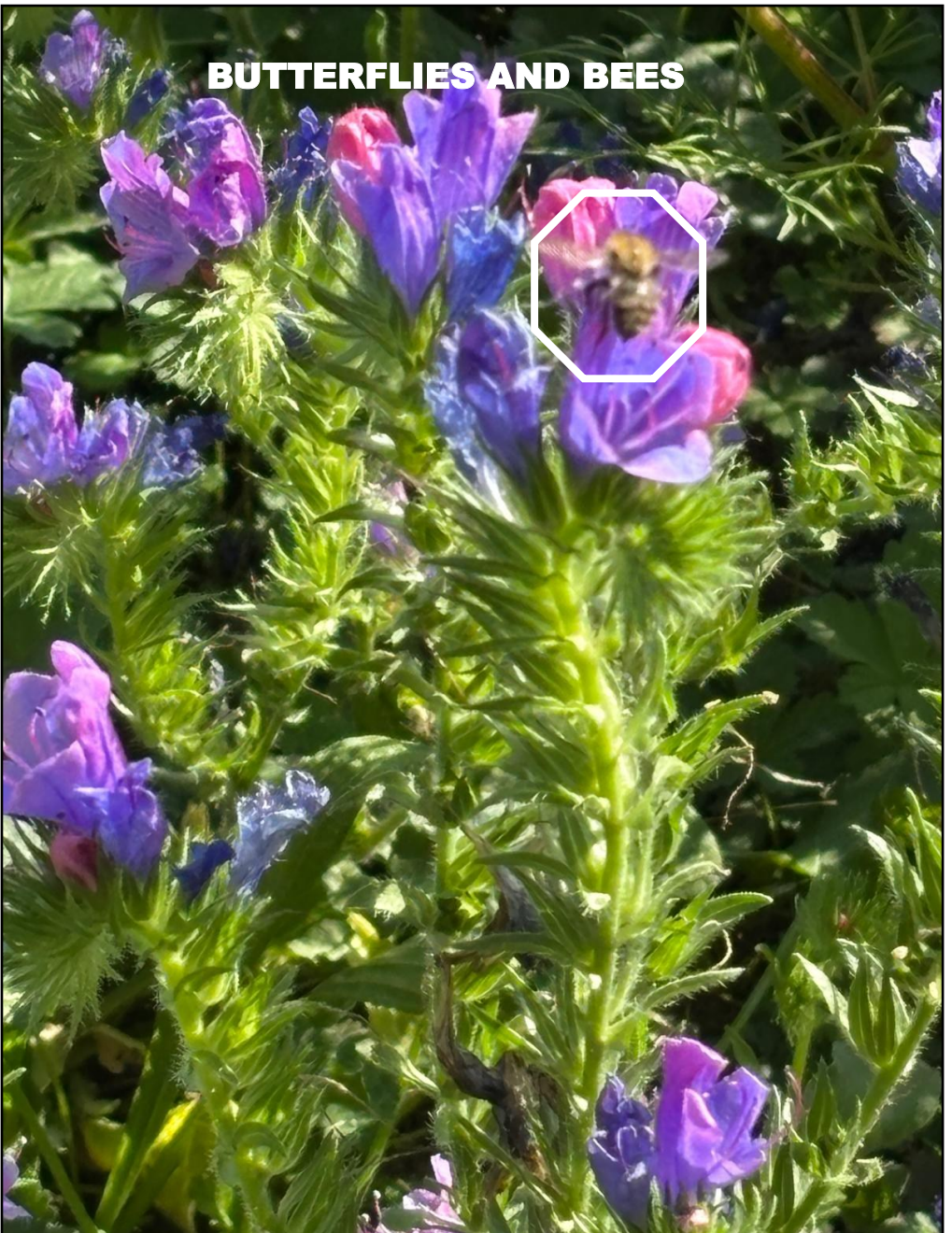
Below: Hidden in a sheltered spot the Hedgehog hotel is ready to welcome its first guests.



Below: A log pile provides numerous advantages for wildlife



BUTTERFLIES AND BEES



When you have a moment on a warm sunny day, pop round to the side of the Church and observe the variety of wildlife attracted to the wildflower plantation. Butterflies are also attracted as seen on the Big Butterfly Count.



Wednesday 30th and
Thursday 31st July



Above: Chair exercises to limber up ahead of the day's activities



Craft work , painting with guidance, flower arranging, sing-along with David, the kangaroo race introduced by Adam, Bingo, dancing to live music by the ever-popular Donny Dave, a quiz. Lunch on Day 1, freshly prepared by Heather and the team, fish and chips on Day 2 and tea and cake to finish each day to music provided by David Smith on the Christy Organ on the first day and chamber music by Lynn and Neil Morley. (pictured on next page). Another Holiday at Home filled with friendship and fun.



REAL PROGRESS AT BUCENCE RACHEL'S LATEST TIME IN UGANDA

Bucence Children's Centre staff and children send their greetings and love to everyone back in the UK. You can see the happiness on their faces.

The children had such a good time during our visit – playing games like toy shop, a new slide to celebrate my birthday, learning football skills and games, painting and craft, new posters on the freshly painted walls, shoes and clothing distribution, toy cars and sweets, shopping for sweatshirts and having a soda in a café for the teenagers. We also bought a music beat box so the children can dance and sing along – they love this so much.



Staff now have indoor toilets and showers (but still need the water heater!), we bought fire extinguishers and delivered fire training as well as first aid training. We held meetings for the Diocese and the Children's Centre with many local representatives – they have identified us as a model village.

So much was packed into the visit which included visiting schools, some very needy families, incredible church services where I had opportunities to talk to the people (sometimes to thousands). In one service with The Bishop and over 3,000 people he called me out 'Canon Rachel, please come here' I went to the front and was asked to pray for the children – there were 500 hundred of them. It was incredible.



I can't talk about everything as there were many highlights but the one that stood out was commissioning our well which was constructed following a specific donation for this. We were able to bring clean water to the village of Bucence for the first time ever. People were overjoyed.

Thank you everyone for your support, donations, encouragement and prayers.

Canon Rachel Harris



A larger congregation than at Castle Hill; 3,000 including 500 children!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest Festival at Castle Hill is being celebrated on October 5th. As we thank God for the blessings and bounty we enjoy, we remember those in countries like Sierra Leone where the climate crisis is destroying harvests and threatening food security.

Our monetary gifts will be sent to Christian Aid to help farmers like Maryama, a widow with four children to support. Living on her own she couldn't afford the tools or extra help to keep up with the hard physical work of farming in a country where now rainfall causes flash floods that wash away crops and start landslides, and the scorching heat which triggers drought that withers plants. But with Christian Aid's support Maryama is overcoming the challenges she faces. She has joined the local Village Savings and Loans Association which has enabled her to secure her farm and learn new agricultural skills to help with climate resilience. She was also able to take out a safe loan to pay for her children's school fees.



Our support this Harvest means farming families like Maryama's could secure their harvests and strengthen their hope in the face of climate shocks. Our church collection could provide the training farmers need to adapt to the changing climate so that they can enjoy a bountiful harvest and provide for their families.

Envelopes for your gifts will be available during September and can be placed in the basket on the table in the Church.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

SUNDAY
5th OCTOBER

FAMILY WORSHIP

10.30 am

followed by

HARVEST LUNCH

at 12.30 pm

ANY PROFITS FROM THE LUNCH
WILL GO TO
CHRISTIAN AID

Please sign the list in the Vestibule

Adults £8.00 Children £4

(see menu in vestibule)

Any queries speak to Heather



As in previous years, Anita and Michael Robertson offered their lovely garden to provide the perfect setting for the Barbecue that raised £210.50p for our Church Charities. Thankyou to all those who provided and prepared the food and of course the two Master Chefs of Mark Ward and Michael Hollingsworth.

CHARITIES BARBECUE



Tasty selection of food



A welcome break for our two chefs



CASTLE HILL AMATEUR PERFORMERS PRESENT...



HAUNTED HOUSE

HALLOWEEN
FUN FOR ALL
THE FAMILY



A SPOOKTACULAR
NEW **PANTOMIME**
BY BARRY CROSSLEY



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

TUESDAY WELCOME



**EVERY TUESDAY
10am-12noon**

TEA, COFFEE, CHAT



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

IN-BETWEEN CLUB

The In Between Club next meets
on Friday 5th September at 2.30.

David Offord will be speaking
about Welfare services for
seamen at the docks.

Tickets from Chris £5 which
includes light refreshments





HELPING YOU AGE WELL THIS WINTER

This Falls Prevention week, come along to find out about
what is on offer to support your health and wellbeing

Thursday 25th
September
10am to 2pm

Activities and services will include:

- > Be Well Bus
- > NHS Health Checks
- > Warm Homes, Healthy People
- > Advice on Winter finances
- > NHS Community Health team
- > Falls prevention advice
- > Wellbeing advice
- > Other local groups and services
- + Take the Flamingo Challenge

Castle Hill Community Centre
76 Highfield Road
Ipswich
IP1 6DG

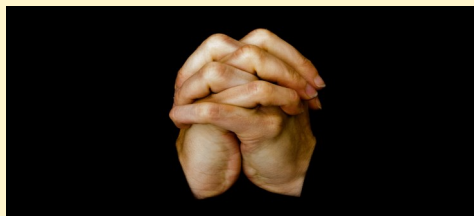




DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

- 4th Elders' Meeting 7.00pm.
- 5th In-Between Club 2.30pm.
- 7th German Church 4.00pm.
- 10th Busy Fingers 2.00pm
- 13th Table Top Sale - Street Sale 10am - 2.00pm.
- 16th Wool Court 10.30am.
- 24th Busy Fingers 2.00pm.
- 26th Fish and Chips Friday 11.45am.

**OUR STREET PRAYER FOCUS FOR
SEPTEMBER IS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF
ELMCROFT ROAD**



Deadline for the October Newsletter

Submissions to Len Green by **Friday September 19th** please
E-mail: editor@castlehillurc.org.uk