

# NEWSLETTER

## JULY & AUGUST 2025

### **Pastoral Letter – Inter-Related**

One of the most beautiful—and sometimes most challenging— aspects of church life is that we don't all look the same, think the same, or live the same way. Yet week after week, here we are, worshipping together, serving the community together, and learning to love one another. The Church, at its best, is a community of difference—inter-related, not because we are the same, but because we are committed to one another.

Adam and I recently attended the Eastern Synod minister's Spring School. The theme, as you can see from the heading of this newsletter article, was Inter-Related: A Community of Difference. We were both encouraged, challenged and reminded of our interrelatedness and need for each other on our discipleship journey.

Paul uses the image of the body in 1 Corinthians 12 to describe the Church: many parts, one body. Each part is necessary, and no part can say to another, "I don't need you." That image still speaks powerfully today. It reminds us that our diversity—of age, background, politics, theology, and life experience—is not a weakness, but a strength.

I remember one Sunday after worship, a retired engineer with

jacket and tie and a student, with dirty jeans and a T-shirt with dubious suggestions, sat in the hall sharing tea and talking about their lives. They had little in common on paper, but they found common ground in laughter and stories of resilience. That's what church can do—it creates the space where lives that wouldn't normally meet are held together by grace.

It's not always easy, of course. We may disagree, sometimes profoundly. We might not quite understand each other at first. We might come from different generations or backgrounds or hold different views on what worship should sound like, or how we express our faith in the world. Even our problems can appear miles apart. But these differences, if held with love and humility, can help us grow. Being inter-related doesn't mean we have to all blend into one uniform way of being. It means we choose to listen, choose to honour each other's stories, and choose to stay at the table even when it's uncomfortable, because we believe that in our diversity, God's fullness is revealed. Friends, we are all working towards this ideal - where difference is not feared, but welcomed; where all are seen as part of the body; and where the Spirit knits us together, not in sameness, but in shared purpose and love.

So next time you're in a church activity, take a moment to speak to someone you don't know well. Ask their story. Share a bit of yours. You might just discover how inter-related we already are, as we all are God's children.

With grace and peace, David.

### **Pastoral Matters – From Christine**

As I write it feels as if summer has arrived, bright and warm The roses are in bloom. The hard work starting to pay off from the vegetable garden: early potatoes, lettuce and broad beans. All are flavours and colours to lift the spirit as well as aid the digestion.

God works wonders in so many ways. The miracle of planted seeds to be watered and cherished into vegetables and flowers. I suggest we need to be cherished with the warm words of God, prayed for, and encourage each other's faith. He listens when we struggle for the right words to pray. Maybe we need to consider sharing more of the strength he bestowed upon us as he responds.

We hear of people who are ill, frail, or less able, but never of those who have recovered and can celebrate their renewed health. Yes, our congregation is smaller as health and holidays keep us away, perhaps a perennial problem.

Wherever you are please pray for good health and the strength to live and be alongside everyone, no matter life's circumstances, just as they will be an aid to you in need.

Please keep in your prayers, Valda J, Anne G, Marjorie S, Rosalie C, Ros L, Jackie and Robin M.

With every blessing. Christine.

### **Worship Leaders**

**July** 6 Rev. Adam Earle (H.C. at Trinity)

13 Rev. David Keeble Phil Speirs

20 Ann Cook Pamela Hewitt

27 David Stone Paul Davis

**August** 3 Rev. David Rees

10 Rev. David Keeble Phil Speirs

17 United at Trinity

24 Allison Smith Paul Davis

### **Diary for July / August 2025**

#### **July**

2<sup>nd</sup> 14.00 Elders' Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> 10:30 Reflections – all

welcome to this time of more informal worship

21<sup>st</sup> 14.00 Trefoil Guild cream tea in Large Hall. £8.00 per head.

22<sup>nd</sup> 10:30 Reflections

23<sup>rd</sup> 14:30 Climate justice group meeting at Christine's to discuss community and global justice. The group are working through 'A Rocha' questionnaires to ascertain actions needed to achieve a Silver Award.

### **URC General Assembly**

Unusually, URC General Assembly will convene twice in 2025. The first of these meetings will be at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire between 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July. Please pray for all delegates, (which this year includes Rev David Rees) as they consider important matters concerning the denomination.

**Garden Cafe at Kirton Methodist Church** will be open between 10am and 1pm each Tuesdays from 24<sup>th</sup> June – 26<sup>th</sup> August. Music every week from 11am.

## **Message from the Church Secretary**

Please be aware that I have been called for Jury service from July 14th. As always, the best way to contact me will be via email. Email addresses are in church directory or as per the new church website. If you need to speak to me in person, please phone during the evenings or speak to me on a Sunday. Thank you for your consideration.

## **Harvest Service - 28<sup>th</sup> September led by Rev'd David Rees**

This year all donations will be going to Manna Pop Up Shop, which operates out of Christ Church, Felixstowe.

They would especially appreciate: Boxes of cereals, Cartons of fruit juice, Tea and Coffee, Tins of meatballs or similar protein meals Toiletries e.g. toothpaste, tooth-brushes, shampoo, shower gel, deodorants, Washing powder or liquid

They currently have large stocks of tinned vegetables, soups or baked beans, so don't need any more just now.

Please ensure that all food products have long dates.

Any cash donations will be used to buy fresh fruit and vegetables.

Thank you in advance for any support that you can give to this cause.

## **Monthly Charity Collections.**

TWAM thanks you for the £50 collected during April.

TWAM send hundreds of sewing machines abroad, each with an accompanying haberdashery kit, (pins, cotton, scissors, tape measures etc). They are currently appealing for items for these kits. If you can donate any of the required items, this would be really appreciated. All donations to Brian please.

May's Christian Aid Collection at church added £152 to their annual appeal, whilst the coffee morning held at Trinity raised £538.79 A huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to this effort. Charity collections for

**July:** Prison Fellowship, whose mission is to share Christ's love with inmates and their families through a variety of programmes and initiatives.

**August:** Hope Trust, who support those over fifty. They run a full programme of regular events both in Maidstone Rd and at Old Felixstowe Community Centre.

**PS** Please note the Special Church Meeting called for Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup> following morning worship, regarding the discernment process centred on the future of the church.

## **From the Editor:**

*All items for the Sept / Oct edition to be with John C by **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August.***