



Tacket Street, Ipswich, IP4 1AU



COMMENT  
NOVEMBER 2024

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## THE MINISTER WRITES ...



Dear All,

In 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, we read of Paul commending himself to the church in Corinth in part of his letter which contains various appeals to his readers. Paul began defending his ministry and his apostolic identity at 2:14 and he ends his defence in this section of his letter. Paul appeals to the Corinthians to accept his ministry, drawing on his rhetorical skills to do so. He sets out the challenges he has faced in his ministry and the resources he has used to overcome them. He offers a list of hardships which indicates his courage and absolute commitment to the ministry God has entrusted to him. He offers a list of gifts which overlaps with the fruits of the Spirit recorded in Galatians 5:22-23. And like King David, Paul uses *'the weapons of righteousness'* to achieve victory. (Please take a quick look at the passage if you have time).

Paul uses the evidence of his faithfulness in ministry to demonstrate that he really is called by God to this work. Negatives turn to positives and his ministry flourishes. Despite all the setbacks encountered over the years, including the mistrust of the Corinthians, he declares his confidence in the God who called him and has not let him down.

What is missing here is quite surprising! What is glaringly missing is a list of the kinds of things that we might actually rate as achievements! For example, 'I went to such-and-such a city and planted a church that now has x number of worshippers and has sent out its own mission partners.' Or 'I spoke in 10 different theological debates with synagogue scholars.' We can be sure that Paul would have no shortage of such anecdotes, if he chose to tell them, but his view of what validates his ministry is very different from these CV bullet points.

Some of the emphasis he gives to his own vulnerability can be understood as an antidote to the attitudes of the 'super apostles' (e.g. 2 Corinthians 10.12; 11.1-6), but he is also putting a real stress on his consistency of character in the face of trouble. Here is what is most important: what matters to him, and I'm sure we would all say the same, what really matters to us, is not a string of achievements but a consistently open and truthful heart, and an authentic, compassionate life as a Jesus follower. Being open is about us being willing to share our experiences, as we are able, both the highs and lows, with others. In our friendships, we seek to let others see who we truly are. As we share our struggles and vulnerabilities, we build trust and create deeper connections with one another. Authentic living is where we seek to align our actions with our beliefs. We aim to avoid being double-minded or hypocritical. We strive for consistency in how we live out our faith. Authenticity is also about us being true, embracing who God has made us to be, just as Paul did in his ministry. As we are aware, compassion involves caring deeply for others and being willing to put their needs before our own, even if it is costly. Like Paul, we show compassion by being patient, kind, and willing to help others grow in their faith. Compassion also calls for empathy, understanding others' struggles, and offering grace and encouragement. May we find much wisdom and inspiration in Paul's thoughts and example here as we seek to walk forward together in the way of Jesus.

With much love,

Neil

## NOMINATIONS FOR THE DIACONATE

	Proposed by	And proposed by	Seconded by	And Seconded by
Nicky Bridgland	Jane Lane	Jenny Jones	Nellie Powlett	Margaret Fish
Joy Byford	Jane Lane	Rob King	Kate Helleur	David Robertson
John Durnford	Rob King	David Robertson	June Thornton	Jane Lane
Ann Fox	Jane Lane	Rob King	Wylie White	June Thornton
Mike Smith	June Thornton	John Durnford	Adrian Barrows	Rob King

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## CHRISTMAS GIVING

Christ Church is planning to support Home Start in Suffolk again this year at Christmas. The congregation will be invited to give a monetary donation in order for Home Start to purchase vouchers for the families they support.

The vouchers allow them to support families throughout the year, not just for one day. Although the financial situation has stabilised, they are seeing families with no food due to changes in benefits, loss of work for people not on contracts and expected high energy costs again this year. The number of families they would class as in need and vulnerable is increasing rapidly with housing being a major issue in Ipswich.

In addition to monetary donations, the children and youth organisations only connected to Christ Church have been invited to donate games, puzzles, construction and art and craft toys, as well as anything for babies and toys for under ones. Please note that these gifts must be wrapped and labelled to know what is inside. These gifts will be presented at our Gift Service on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

For any queries relating to wrapped gifts, please contact Netty Waters.

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### PRAYER CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

*3<sup>rd</sup> November* - We pray for all those living in areas of conflict especially those displaced by war. We ask that a way may be found for a negotiated peace and that aid will be made available to supply their basic needs. In Gaza, vaccination against Polio has been postponed due to the dire situation. We pray that a way may be found to bring protection to those at risk.

*10<sup>th</sup> November* - We remember all who serve our country today and pray for all those who have given of their lives and for their families. We think of those living with the trauma of conflict and pray that they may find peace.

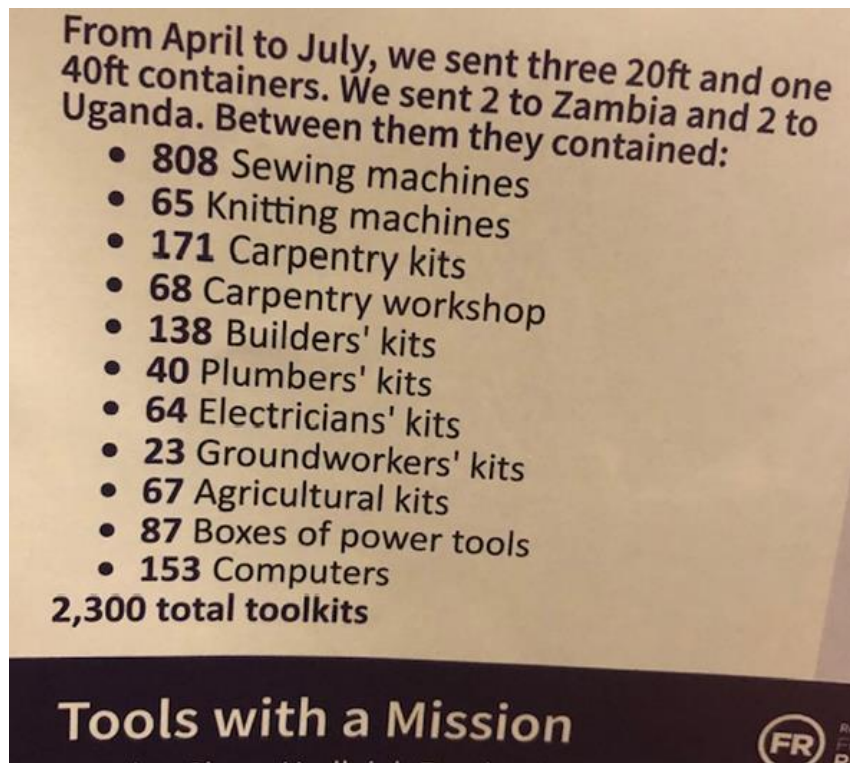
*17<sup>th</sup> November* - We pray for the wonderful world in which we live. God has provided everything we need, enough for all. Sadly we take more than we need and do not care for the environment as we should. May we care for our environment, encouraging nature and using our resources wisely.

*24<sup>th</sup> November* - As we come together as a fellowship for the Christmas fayre, may we give generously to support the work of TWAM and Christ Church.

## TWAM

The boxes at back of the Church are needing tools and items, also foreign coins, which we collect on behalf of TWAM. Our efforts over last year and previous years have been welcomed and we want to continue with this. From the list of items we have contributed to most of the categories. Please bring items to Church and place in the boxes or I can collect if that would be helpful.

Ron



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## MUSIC AND FILM AT CHRIST CHURCH

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm, Aaron Hawthorne, the “American Young Theatre Organist Competition Winner” will be accompanying the 1922 Silent Movie Nosferatu.

Tickets are £10 and will be available on the door.

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# TACKET STREET BB OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

We would appreciate your support in our annual fundraising event for Christ Church and TWAM funds on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024. We would welcome offers of items for sale, especially cakes (on the day) and fancy goods (which I could collect if easier). This is a social opportunity when former members of 1st Ipswich come together with church members and the general public over coffee and refreshments.

*Ron Baker*

**Tacket Street Boys' Brigade Old Boys Association**

The Boys' Brigade 1<sup>st</sup> Ipswich Company  
1903-2018

# Christmas Fayre

with morning coffee and refreshments

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Christ Church Hall**

**Tacket Street, Ipswich**

**10.30am – 1.00pm**

Fundraising for  
**TWAM**  
Tools with a Mission

Christ Church

**Stalls** Include vegetables, cakes, books/CDs, fancy goods, provisions and treasure hunt competition (hamper)

All Welcome

**Hope to see you there!**

**Thursday**  
**Forum**  
 at Christ Church  
 Tacket Street (next to Cox Lane car park)

**Thursday Lunchtimes**  
 Refreshments at low cost 12 noon - 1.00 pm  
 A short talk 1.10 - 1.50 pm  
*You are welcome to either or both*



October's sessions got the year off to a good start, with most people coming back after the long summer break.

On the first week we discovered from Simon Papworth, of Freeport East, exciting plans for the regeneration and development of the area round Felixstowe, stretching as far as Stowmarket, through Ipswich and reaching Harwich and the Tendring peninsula, bringing jobs and investment. We also discovered that the huge development as you enter Stowmarket, G14 (Gateway 14) is part of this, being warehouses, enterprises and research hubs to improve the eastern ports' efficiency and reduce their environmental impact.

The next week we also stretched our brains to appreciate the devastating long-term effects of war, exemplified in the conflict in the Balkans, Kosovo in particular. Thanks to David and Mari Thompson.

After that we sat back and enjoyed Canal Art, well-illustrated by Chris Turland, and Mary's Meals was the focus the following week, with the speaker being our friend Nicholas Jardine, whom we know as occasional organist.

Half term brings Jason Alexander, who will just have led a community litter-pick in west Ipswich, complete with a Halloween theme. I'm sure he'll enthuse us all, young and old alike, to take pride in our surroundings.

November is just as varied, although there is an underlying theme of pride in our locality. The Suez recycling plant at Great Blakenham is the first subject, given by Jenny Steytler, their community liaison officer. We then have a talk from a representative of 'Love.Ipswich', a group of residents who are passionate about Ipswich, and try to counteract the negative press.

Mick Lowe is the specialist fire prevention practitioner who will give handy hints on keeping safe at home.

Then, already we have Advent and Christmas upon us. We anticipate this by a few days to hear from Rev Catherine Forsdike, Chaplain to the Mothers' Union, and to Inspiring Suffolk.

Fliers will be out very soon. Please take one and pass others on to anyone you know, who has an hour or two spare on Thursdays. See you there.

## NEWS FROM 'TOGETHER FOR IPSWICH' (TFI)

The TFI Steering Committee gathering on 17<sup>th</sup> September had a significant focus on provision for those without homes. Over the coming weeks there will be a gap analysis of the provisions from churches and agencies compared to what is perceived to be needed. Please pray for full visibility of current provision and where God wants the church to be filling the gaps.

The Ipswich wide 24/7 prayer space in Holy Trinity Church Hall being used for Prayer Gathering has been up and running since mid-February and you can very simply book a slot to use it as you wish to pray for Ipswich/your neighbourhood/your networks etc.

Do keep in prayer for our current elected MPs – Jack Abbott and Patrick Spencer, as they work hard on behalf of this area.

Night Light café proposal (within the TFI Health Sphere) to provide church based evening drop-ins across Ipswich for those with mental health challenges. Volunteers will provide a listening ear and signpost to assistance as appropriate. There is still ongoing work to secure funding for this initiative which is very similar to a successful Lincoln pioneer project. Please keep seeking God for His way forward.

There is now a Wellbeing group for Ukrainians in Ipswich based at Bridge Church. Give thanks for the summer Suffolk tours which catered for 90 guests who are new to the town and area.

There is a regular online monthly prayer focus for the Ipswich area. Each Tuesday morning there is a prayer time from 7.30am to 8.30am usually held in All Saints Church, Chevallier Street which is open for anyone who wants to intercede for Ipswich.

Congratulations to Archdeacon Rhiannon King (former Vice Chair of TFI) who is about to be the new Bishop of Southampton but will leave a significant hole in the TFI team!

There are several open events happening in the Autumn and here are some I have been made aware of – please pass on within your networks so as many as possible know about them and can pray about them:

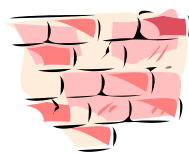
- Taste Café at 462, Woodbridge Road is run by a number of churches and offers a monthly gathering for those experiencing memory loss. 'Monday Memories' ...our aim at Monday Memories is to offer a welcoming place, particularly for those experiencing some memory loss, with afternoons of shared memories, activities and stories. We meet the second Monday in every month. Remaining dates in 2024: 11<sup>th</sup> November - Choc crispies; 9<sup>th</sup> December - Carols. Opening times for activities listed above are from 2pm -4pm.
- Kick Academy – delivering football coaching for children and young people with a Gospel message and their aim is to transform young lives through sport. This started on 9<sup>th</sup> September and being run by Lindbergh Road Community Church. It is open to all who are age 11+, free to attend and will use brand new 4G, floodlit pitches.

*Jonathan Barnes, Secretary*

<https://www.togetherforipswich.uk/>

## OVER THE GARDEN WALL

... from our neighbours at St Pancras



Dear Friends,

These last few weeks have had sadnesses, with deaths of several long term members of our community and hospitalisation of others. In times like this, we need the prayer and support of friends. It is a wonderful example of ecumenism and Christian love to know for sure that our friends at Christ Church also support us at these times.

Last week was Mission Sunday, when Catholic parishes all over the world pray for the work of Missions, and have a collection for them. My sister, Sheila, is an Anglican and I sent her some statistics of Catholic work worldwide in the missions, e.g. 5405 hospitals and 14,205 clinics. She was amazed! Then on Premier Christian Radio she heard a programme about the Anglican Church Army. Our great aunt Alice worked for it, and an Anglican priest friend of mine, Captain Wilson, is now working as a priest in Uganda but has worked with them in Lebanon. Last night, the Mission group of Sheila's church met to discuss which charities to support in the next few months. She rang me, excited, to say they have included the Church Army. Your churches will also have groups working in the missions. Sheila and I talked of how, as girls, we loved the two day missionary conferences we were taken to each Easter. It seemed very exciting! Life is hard for many in our country, and we rightly continue to support projects like FIND, but conditions in some parts of the world are terrible, and anything we are able to do to help is important. As Scripture says, in the translation I learned long ago, "Inasmuch as you do it for the least of these my brethren, you do it for Me."

Looking forward, St Pancras already has the programme planned for the days approaching Christmas. The candlelight Carol Service is really special. Most of us probably go with friends to a Christmas lunch at some time in December. I've already booked to go with two friends to The Key, and we are delighted that the meal is followed by singing of Christmas Carols. I'm sure it will be very special.

Meanwhile, there are many important issues coming up in our government that need our prayers, not to mention the ongoing conflicts in many parts of the world. We need to pray and act in accordance with our consciences, knowing always that "God knows what He is about." What a comfort that is!

Your Catholic friend,

**Jean**

## DIARY DATES

Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Safeguarding training
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Deacons' meeting (7.30pm)
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	AGM and Church Meeting (12.30pm)
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Prayer lunch (midday)

### Emmaus Groups

Mondays at 10.30am in the Lounge

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 7.30pm

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 10.30am in the Lounge

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## SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER AND EARLY DECEMBER

*All Services will be led by our Minister, Revd Neil Coulson unless otherwise stated.*

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

10.45am Family Worship with Holy Communion

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

10.45 am Remembrance Sunday Family Worship

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

10.45 am Family Worship

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

10.45 am Family Worship followed by the Church AGM and November meeting

*Please bring a packed lunch to eat before the meeting which will start no later than 12.30pm.*

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

10.45 am Advent Sunday Family Worship with Holy Communion

*Jenny and Mike from Ipswich Amnesty will be with us and there will be a card signing opportunity after the service*

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

10.45 am Church Parade and Gift Service