



THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Stowmarket

Debenham

Haughley

Mendlesham

Stowupland

News of Town and Village



No. 634

June 2018

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Greetings

Pooling Resources!

Michael was a very dear friend for many years, whose company we valued greatly. I first knew the family through his father, who was Moderator to the Congregational Churches in Yorkshire, to whom I turned when first sensing a call to become a minister.



Revd Chris Wood

I then came across Michael a good many years later when I was appointed a minister in the South Leeds Team Ministry. I discovered he was a person of many talents, especially the fact that he was an excellent Chef – in fact he was employed at Armley Jail responsible for feeding the staff each day. But he also put this talent to good use by fund-raising for a choir he was heavily involved in. This involved taking over someone's kitchen and providing a meal for their invited guests, who made a contribution towards the work of the choir that, in the end, gained an international reputation.

To this end, Jayne and myself would be invited round to his home a few weeks before one of these events, and he would 'experiment' with us so that he could test out his menus before taking it 'on the road'. We didn't mind being guinea pigs as his meals were excellent and of an extremely high standard – the only downside was that we had to offer 'constructive criticism' so that he could gauge what modifications might be deemed necessary (but he knew that I was no Mary Berry!!)

After enjoying their gourmet cooking on numerous occasions, we felt it only right that we should extend an invitation to come to our home for a meal. I was on dessert duty, and chose a bread and butter pudding – and expressed amazement at the transformation that had taken place courtesy of the oven. We clearly couldn't achieve anywhere near the standards that Michael had produced, but what we offered was out of a deep sense of love and gratitude for his friendship. Nervously we watched him eat, and somewhat relieved that he graciously complimented us on our efforts.

As well as being an excellent cook, Michael was also blessed with a musical gift, both playing the piano and composing music. For myself I could strum a guitar of sorts, and have been known to play a comb wrapped in paper, but the one thing that I could offer was to sing – and we were able to combine our talents to good effect for the enrichment of ourselves, as well as the many audiences we entertained.

When I was invited by a Churches Together Group in Leeds to lead a session on 'Temptation' for their Lent Study, I wrote a dialogue that began in the Garden of Eden, and concluded with a meditation on the Cross where Jesus said: 'My God, My God,

why have You abandoned Me?!' (Matthew 27: 46), I eagerly turned to Michael and explained that I wanted music to link the various sections and hold it all together – and he didn't disappoint, offering music that complimented the dialogue so that the presentation spoke to people at different levels..

It is a timely reminder as we celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit to the Church, that the Apostle Paul affirms that there are variety of skills and talents, which are distributed in different degrees of ability, but each have been given to achieve a purpose in life and to be a blessing. This is what he wrote to the Church in Corinth:

'There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are varieties of service, but the same Lord. There are varieties of activity, but in all of them and in everyone the same God is active. In each of us the Spirit is seen to be at work for some useful purpose. But all these gifts are the activity of the one and the same Spirit, distributing them to each individual at will. [1 Corinthians 12: 4 – 11 (part) REB]

Elsewhere he insists that these gifts are meant to be given equal status – no one gift is more important than the other – and that they should be shared for the benefit of all. It is only when gifts and talents are pooled that we can begin to achieve much in the service of our Lord.

God Bless.

Chris

(Rev'd Chris Wood – minister of Stowmarket, villages and Debenham URC's)

News of the family

For once the British weather came up trumps and was perfect for the Royal wedding, which was watched all over the world. My relatives are obviously all very patriotic; I've already had pictures from Canada, Singapore and Australia showing how they were dressed in union flags or wedding dresses and "Royal" masks. It was a glorious occasion for those attending and those watching on their television screens.

It has been a quiet month for hearing news of Church friends. It has been good to see friends who have been in hospital back at Church. Pat Prince has returned with the help of a walker and Margaret Walker with Billy's aid. It was great to see a beaming Margaret Jackson at the Church luncheon sitting in her wheelchair and so pleased to be there. She is still waiting to hear about the next operation. Irene Martin is waiting for test results for her pending operation. Graham Smith is just waiting for a date.

There are others waiting for tests and procedures. Phyllis Keeble is back at home being cared for by the family. Peter Platt was pleased to hear he does not need to go to the hospital until the autumn. Jan Webb returned from her holiday looking refreshed with just a splint on her arm and is in good enough order for her to work in the garden. Rita Gibbons awaits a cataract operation. There are others finding it more difficult to get about because of their age.

Please remember in your prayers anyone you know with health problems or who are facing other difficulties. Our prayers and sympathy are sent to Angela and Fred Hodgson whose close relative, Alison, died recently in Northampton.

Good news



Congratulations to Jean Jordan who recently became a great-grandmother when her grandson, Alex and Hannah gave birth to a baby girl, Jocelyn. Everyone in the new family is doing well and are very happy.

Janet Hart enjoyed seeing her great-granddaughter, Olivia, when she came on a visit from America with Samuel and Natalie. The Hart tradition of twins in the family will be carried on in the autumn, when Sam and Natalie expect their new arrivals.

Congratulations

Belated congratulations and best wishes are sent to Robin and Jan Rooks who celebrated their Ruby wedding anniversary with their extended families on May 13th.



Congratulations and best wishes are sent to Helen and David Freeman who celebrate their Golden Wedding on June 15th. Enjoy your family celebrations!

Congratulations and best wishes are sent to Thelma Tester who celebrates her 80th birthday on June 27th. Enjoy your celebrations, Thelma.

News from Debenham

Thursday morning coffee – 10am until 11.15am Open Church.

Join us for tea, coffee and a chat. This will be followed by a short Prayer meeting.

Thursday Afternoon Women's Fellowship Meetings:

Thursday 7th June 2.15pm Mr Chris Wilks

Thursday 21st June 2.15pm Margaret Cook

Sunday 17th June 5.30pm Evening Songs of Praise led by Stowmarket Salvation Army, followed by a buffet.

Sunday 24th June 3pm Choruses and Cake.

On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday there is a service at Coopersfield at 2.30pm.

News from Mendlesham

We are sorry to have report the death of Hazel Rowe on 14th April aged 99 years. Prior to being cared for at the Foxearth Nursing Home Hazel had worshipped with us for many years. Her funeral took place at Mendlesham Chapel on 27th April. We extend sympathy and love to Maureen and Mary and all the family on the loss of Hazel.

Our Murcies coffee bar is on 8th June from 10.00 am to 12 noon.

The speakers at the Afternoon Fellowship meetings in June are Mrs. Mary Durrant on the 6th and Rev. Julia Lall on the 20th.



The Mum's coffee mornings will be on the 11th and 25th from 9.00 am to 11.00 am and the Knit and Natter Group on the same dates from 2.00 pm. To 4.00pm.

News from Stowupland

On 20th May 2018, A Service of Celebration for Stowupland Village Life was held at the Chapel. It went very well with various organisations being represented and the fellowship continued over refreshments when many stayed to chat and mingle.

The next coffee morning at Stowupland Chapel will be on Friday 29th June 10am to 12 noon. Everyone is welcome at this friendly event. Come and have a cuppa cake and a chat.

It is with great sadness we report the death of our lovely friend Lily Etheridge, on 5th May 2018. She had suffered ill health for some time and had been lovingly cared for by her daughter Janet. Our thoughts, sympathy and prayers are extended to Janet and Dave and the wider family and friends.

Stowupland Afternoon Fellowship

By the time you receive this magazine we will have had our last meeting of this session, we recommence our meetings on Monday 8th October 2018.

Mary Clark

Message from Stowmarket Town Mayor 2017-18

Dear friends, Lois and I would like to thank everyone at the URC who supported us during our Mayoral year.

As a result of all the help and support we received I am pleased to report that a total of £7,047 was raised for our 3 charities, 1st & 3rd Stowmarket Scouts, 1st Combs Scouts and Enigma, with each charity receiving a cheque for £2,349.

Dave Muller
Stowmarket Town Mayor 2017-18

COMMUNION FLOWERS

Jun	3	Mrs D Pugh
	10	Mrs L Baxter
	17	Mrs P Brown
	24	Mrs J Herrod



Stowmarket Afternoon Fellowship

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month at 4pm.

June 10th We meet at 20 Kiln Cottages (The Community Room).

June 24th with Home Communion at 12 Uvedale, Needham Market.

Join us for a short time of worship followed by fellowship over a cup of tea.

Pause for Prayer

A twenty-five minute act of worship takes place every Thursday morning at 9.30am. It is held in the Fison Hall. Those leading our worship will be:

7th June	The Revd. Richard Edwards
14th June	Mr Michael Martin
21st June	The Revd. Leslie Ivory
28th June	Derek Ames



Stowmarket U3A

20th June Trekking the World for Charity - £10 per mile with Ken Snow.

Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Fund for June is for TWAM.

Bible Fellowship

We will be continuing with our Tuesday morning studies of "Seven Characteristics of a Church rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus".

Tuesday 5th June "A sense of awe at seeing God at work". Acts 2 verse 43

Tuesday 19th June "Sharing together and generous giving". Acts 2 verse 44 & 45.

Our studies are based on Acts 2 v42-47, but in each study we will look at different New Testament passages that illustrate the theme. We gather at 10am for a time of Open Prayer and at 10.30am we start our Bible Study until around 11.30am. All are welcome.

Richard Edwards.



A Wedding

Sally and Neil extend a warm invitation to all Church folk to join them on the occasion of their wedding on Saturday June 16th at 12 noon. A buffet will follow.

Wednesday Club

Calling all ladies. On the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm a group of ladies meet in the Church Hall (Stowmarket URC). The evening sees us welcome a speaker and enjoy refreshments together.

Wednesday 13th June – Mike Caley on Highland Walks.

The season (9 sessions) costs £12 or just come along for £2.

We are looking for speakers for next year, if you know of anyone or would like to speak please contact Barbara Pearce 01449 612828.

Pirmasens Visit

Three days always fly by when our German friends come to England. This year 14 adults and two Children braved the weather, some arriving by air into Stansted, and others by ferry, arriving in Harwich.

Following their arrival at church for a welcome cup of tea or coffee our guests were able to freshen up, at their hosts, ahead of the evening spent at the home of Hugh and Marion Wilson. Those who attended were treated to the music of an accordion band, who provided a mixture of music which had the feet tapping and folk onto the dance floor. A wonderful buffet and bar-b-q had the taste buds singing when helped by an excellent bar. It was great to see our younger guests enjoying the swimming pool and our mature guests the house and grounds. Thanks Hugh and Marion.

Sunday service, led by Rev. Chris Wood, provided the opportunity of looking back over our 10 year relationship as well as looking forward. The Mayor of Stowmarket counsellor Dave Muller attended, along with the Mayor elect councillor Linda Baxter, to welcome the guests on behalf of the town. They joined the congregation in hearing and singing in two languages with the Mayors consort, Mrs Lois Muller. singing the anthem with the church choir of which she is a regular member.

Sunday afternoon was spent at leisure with small party gatherings taking place in the evening.

Our planned visit to Aldeburgh on Monday for a seaside lunch of fish and chips, was quickly replaced with a visit to Ickworth house, due to the inclement weather.

All too soon, Tuesday saw our visitors return to Stansted and Harwich for their trip home after a short act of worship and goodbyes, until our return visit to Pirmasens next year.

Our thanks to all church friends for your help in making this exchange a success.

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING

At United Reformed Church Stowmarket

Saturday 9th June 2018

10.30am to 12.30pm

Great Cakes, Coffee and Tasty Tea

Come and See at the URC

A warm Welcome Awaits You

Proceeds for Tools With A Mission & Church Funds



"Crowstone"

**Open Garden and Afternoon Tea
on Wednesday, June 27th.**

A walk around the fields will leave at 2.00 pm.
Tea will be served from 3.00 to 5.00 pm.

Jane and Dan hope you will join them for this event
in aid of Church funds. Tea will be served indoors or in the garden,
depending on the weather but we hope there will be something worth
looking at in the garden!



CHRISTIAN AID SUPPER

Mary & Richard Watson

invite you to a Chilli and Ice Supper
at Kelvedon House, Stowupland
on Saturday 23 June, 7pm

DONATIONS TO CHRISTIAN AID

Book now (numbers limited) with us on 674891 or
Mary Durrant on 672608

**SUMMER WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN (AND COMMUNITY) UNITY**
June 17th until June 24th. Events each day.

Saturday 23rd June at 2.30pm - 5pm

**In Hadleigh URC Churchyard, Church & Ansell Centre
Community Unity Caribbean Style**

More information speak to David Atkins (822535)

Church Meeting

Put this date in your diary.... The next Church Meeting will be on **Monday 23rd July at 7pm at Mendlesham**. Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting.

Monday Community Brew

Come along and join us for a cup of coffee/tea and join in with a game or just sit and chat. Once a fortnight on a Monday (June 4th and June 18th) from 10.30am until 12.30pm in the URC Church Hall This is a joint venture between Stowmarket URC and Jam Community Pot. Come and try us.



Notice from Fund Raising Group

This is an advance notice from the fund raising group. Please make a note in your diary of an exciting venture with a choir from Germany on Saturday June 30th at 6pm in the Stowmarket Church.

Thanks

Fred and Angela thank everybody for all the help the church has given us over the last few months.

Angela Hodson

A Special thanks to Ann, Pam, and Jenny and others for the help at the Church meal, I hope everyone enjoyed the meal. Thanks again.

Michael

LIFEGUARD

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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www.joyfultoons.com

He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.

— ACTS 11:14 NIV

ROOTS for June 2018

'Treasure in Clay Jars!'

Readings: Deuteronomy 5: 12 - 15; Psalm 81: 1 - 10;
2 Corinthians 4: 5 - 12; Mark 2: 23 – 3: 6

2 Corinthians 4: 5 - 12

Paul insists that he proclaims not himself, but Jesus Christ, who reveals to us the glory of God. Our role is to help others see Jesus by the way we live.



After establishing the church at Corinth, Paul remained in communication with the Christians there as people travelled to and fro with letters and reports (1 Corinthians 1: 11; 7: 1; 2 Corinthians 1: 23 – 2: 4; 7: 5 - 11). His co-worker, Timothy, returned there (1 Corinthians 4: 17 - 21; 16: 10 - 11), and his troubling report seems to have prompted Paul to make what he describes as 'a painful visit' to the city (2 Corinthians 2: 1 - 11; 7: 12).

Paul did not visit a third time but sent another co-worker, Titus (see 8: 16 - 24; 12: 14 - 18), with a letter that seems to have achieved a positive response, reported by Titus to Paul who writes again rejoicing that his mind has been set at rest (7: 5 - 16).

Paul was caused pain not only by an individual who wronged him (2: 5 - 8) but also by rival church leaders who questioned his apostleship and his relationship with the church (3: 1 - 6; 11: 1 - 6, 20 - 23). Paul quotes them as saying that 'his bodily presence is weak' (10: 10), which might have been a particularly effective criticism in the city that prided itself on sponsoring the Panhellenic Isthmian Games.

Paul wants his readers to be aware that he has indeed been 'utterly, unbearably crushed', under 'the sentence of death', becoming totally reliant on the 'God who raises the dead' (1: 8 - 9). Yes, he has been treated as no more than a slave – but this is integral to his proclaiming Jesus, the Lord who fulfilled God's creative purpose by His obedience to death on a cross.

Clay jars that protect their treasured contents from damp and dispersal can be easily smashed, but that doesn't reduce their importance or invalidate their purpose. So Paul sees his being 'struck down' not as questioning his apostleship but as central to it. It is relying not on self but on God that enables Jesus' Light to shine and His life to be at work.

A Comment and Prayer on this passage from Rev Edmund Banyard

That's us, common clay pots.

If he'd been alive today, Paul might have written 'cheap plastic boxes'.

The wonder is that our God is willing to risk His treasure

In such poor containers.

Make me aware, my God

Of the work You have for me to do

Despite all my weaknesses.

And strengthen my will to do it

To the very best of my ability. Amen.

Puzzle

Sudoku H.3 - 7 and 8

								1
				5			4	
5				9				
8			2	5	7			4
		7			3	2		6
		4						8
2		9	4		8			
1			7					8
6						9		3

2	1		6					8
5	4							1
	3		2				9	4
1		2		5		4		
		8		9		6		
				4				1
			4				3	5
								4
7			9					

Children and Youth Activities



Messy Church

A meeting for school age children with varied activities and games
 Meets in the Main Hall
from 5.00 to 6.45pm
on the 1st & 3rd Monday each month
 Call in and try us.



Little Dippers Parent and Toddlers Group

An informal group for young children under 5, their parents and carers.
 Meets in the Hall.
Thursday at 1.00 to 3.00 pm
With snack time and play session.
 Call in and try us.



Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association 1st Mid Suffolk Company

Anchor Section (age 5 to 8 years) meet Wednesday 6.15 to 7.15pm
 Junior Section (age 8 to 11 years) meet Wednesday 6.15 to 7.30pm
 Company Section (age 11 to 18 years) meet Wednesday 7.00 to 8.45pm
 ALSO....Band practice evening Thursdays at 7pm
 Held in the Boys' Brigade Hall at Combs Ford, next to Solar
 Contact: Mr M Gray

Services June 2018

STOWMARKET			
June 2018	Time	Services	Preacher
Sun 3rd	10.25am	Family Worship with Holy Communion	The Revd. David Atkins
Thu 7th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer in Fison Hall	The Revd. Richard Edwards
Sun 10th	10.25am	Family Worship	The Revd. Chris Wood
	3pm	Civic Service	
Thu 14th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer in Fison Hall	Mr Michael Martin
Sun 17th	10.25am	Family Worship Father's Day	The Revd. Chris Wood
Thu 21st	9.30am	Pause for Prayer in Fison Hall	The Revd. Leslie Ivory
Sun 24th	10.25am	Family Worship	The Revd. Chris Wood
Thu 28th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer in Fison Hall	Mr Derek Ames

SOUTH SUFFOLK AREA PARTNERSHIP (Local Events)

Pastoral Advocate: The Revd. Chris Wood

Coffee Events:

Stowmarket - Coffee Morning every Thursday morning 10am -12 noon. Cakes stall on the 4th Thursday. Also.....Saturday Coffee Morning on the second Saturday of the month.

Debenham - Each Thursday 10am to 11.30am. Coffee Morning plus open church. Tea, Coffee, Chat .

Great Meeting Hadleigh - Coffee Morning every Tuesday morning 10 am – 11.30am

Christchurch Needham Market - Coffee Morning from 10am – 12 noon on second Saturday.

Mendlesham - MURCies Coffee Bar. 10am – 12 noon, second Friday of the month.
Knit & Natter 2nd & 4th Monday 2-4pm.

Stowupland - Coffee Morning- last Friday in the month - 10am-12noon.

<i>June 2018</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
DEBENHAM			
3rd	10.45am	Family Worship with HC	The Revd. Chris Wood
10th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Kevin Moore
17th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Kevin Cato
	5.30pm	Songs of Praise	Stow Salvation Army
24th	10.45am	Family Worship	The Revd. Norman Tharby
	3pm	Choruses and Cake	
HAUGHLEY			
17th	11.00 am	Family Worship	Mr John Webb
MENDLESHAM			
3rd	4pm	Afternoon Worship	Dr Richard Jurd
10th	10.45am	Family Worship	The Revd. Mary Playford
24th	10.45am	Family Worship	The Revd. Richard Edwards
STOWUPLAND			
3rd	10.30am	Family Worship	Mr Stephen Horrex
10th	10.30am	Family Worship	Mr Clive Herrod
17th	10.30am	Family Worship	Mrs Nichola Glasse
24th	10.30am	Family Worship	Mr Keith Scarff



**NTV
Reminder**

Copy for July 2018
To be in by Sunday 17th June 2018
E-mail to: ntv.stowmarket@gmail.com

Hard copy to Anne Scarff.

A number of people are now receiving their copy of NTV by e-mail.

If you would like to take advantage of this please let Anne Scarff know.



Stowmarket

Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1AD

Phone : 01449 675045

Email : stowmarketurc@btconnect.com

Website: www.stowmarket-urc.org.uk

and village chapels of:

Debenhams Haughley Mendlesham Stowupland

Church Officers and Personnel

Minister	The Revd Chris Wood	 678173
Secretary	Miss Anne Scarff	 774792
	3 West View, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1SD	
Assistant Secretary	Mrs. Mary Durrant	 672608
	14 Fairfield Hill, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1NG	
Treasurer	Mrs Ann Waller	 614233
	3 Lucena Court, The Brickfields, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1RN	
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr David J Fenner	 674440
	29 Thirlmere Drive, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1SE	
Freewill Envelopes	See Anne Scarff	
Halls Booking Secretary	Mrs Lois Muller	 675045
	Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1AD	
Editor of NTV	Miss Anne Scarff	 774792
	3 West View, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1SD	

Secretaries of The Village Chapels

Debenham	Mr E V G Read	 01728-860600
	9 Moores Close, Debenham, Stowmarket IP14 6RU	
Mendlesham	Mrs Margaret Jackson	 766321
	13 Glebe Way, Mendlesham IP14 5TL	
Stowupland	Mrs E Mary Clark	
	5 Birch Close, Stowupland, Stowmarket IP14 4DW	