



# THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

## Stowmarket

Debenham

Haughley

Mendlesham

Stowupland

## *News of Town and Village*



No. 642

March 2019

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## ***Greetings***

As I pen these words in late January it is a time of great uncertainty in our personal lives and in the life of our country and I cannot predict what we shall face in March. But amidst the anxieties and the problems I hold on to the Christian hope that is ours in Christ Jesus if we look to him as our Saviour and our Lord.

Wednesday 6th March is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the forty days of Lent, a traditional time for self examination and renewed commitment to Jesus Christ. Some express this through abstinence from certain things, while others read a book they believe will spiritually challenge them and yet others join with fellow Christians in a Lent Study Group. At Stowmarket United Reformed Church we plan to run both a morning and evening five session Lent Group, using the ecumenical Lent Course "Daring to see God now" written by Bishop Nick Baines. Members of village churches are welcome to join us, but you may know of other Lent courses being run in your locality. What is important is that we each have a grasp of our Christian beliefs and can share our hope with others. By March I hope gardens and the countryside will be springing to life with flowers and birdsong, so we remember Jesus' journey to the cross of Calvary was followed by his glorious resurrection from the dead. Lent can be an opportunity to meet with Jesus in a new way and experience his resurrection power at a deeper level.

If you are not a regular churchgoer but wish to find out more, all of our churches offer a welcome both at Sunday services and gatherings during the week.

***Revd. Richard Edwards***  
***(Retired U.R.C. minister)***

## ***News of the family***

As I walked home from Church this morning it was a joy to see spring Flowers coming out in people's gardens, and hear the birds singing away.

Joyce Markwell is in Hospital at the moment, and Pat Prince, Sylvia Arbon, and Jean Jordon have had time in Hospital but are now at home.

Janet Hart is continuing to recover at home. Margaret Walker is staying in Hartismere Place to increase her strength for her operation.

We think of Margaret Jackson who should be in hospital in Sheffield undergoing surgery.

### **DEATHS**

Ann Edwards twin sister Liz died on 27<sup>th</sup> of January. Our prayers and love go out to Ann and Richard at this sad time

### **BIRTHDAY**



Best wishes are sent to Mary Clark on her 100th Birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March.

## ***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 Friends and Neighbour Meetings:

Thursday 14th March        2.15pm        Penny Wilks

Thursday 28th March       2.15pm        Beaky Warnock

## ***News from Mendlesham***

There will no afternoon service on 3<sup>rd</sup> March as it is Anniversary Sunday when we look forward to sharing with the congregation at Stowmarket.

Afternoon Fellowship meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 2.30pm and the speakers for March are Mr John Webb on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the Rev'd Richard & Mrs Ann Edwards on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

MURCies Coffee Bar will be open on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 10.00am and the Knit & Natter ladies meet on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm.

Betty Self has not been well and June Kemp is quite poorly at the moment and we remember them in our thoughts and prayers. Now the days are lengthening and the promise of warmer weather, we hope they will soon return to full health.

Margaret Jackson

## ***News from Stowupland***

Our next coffee morning at the Chapel will be on Friday 29th March 10am to 12noon. Come and have a chat, cuppa and a cake everyone welcome.

**A date for your diary, Saturday 13th April, Jumble Sale 2pm at the Village Hall.** If you have any Jumble or Bric-a-Brac, please let any Chapel Member know and arrangements will be made to collect it or alternatively bring it to the Village Hall on the day, after 12noon but before 2pm. Any contributions will be gratefully received. No electrical goods please as the law does not permit us to sell them. Please come and support this event.

**The World Day of Prayer** (Formerly known as the Women's World Day of Prayer)

This year the service has been prepared by women of Slovenia. Our world day of prayer local meeting will be held at Bacton Church on 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2pm. The service will be followed by refreshments.

### **Birthday**

Very many congratulations to Mary Clark, on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019. What a fantastic achievement. We send our love and best wishes on this your special day. Enjoy every minute.

### **Afternoon Fellowship**

We recommence our meetings at the Chapel on Monday 11th March at 2.30pm and our speakers are as follows:

11th March                      Mary Durrant

25th March                      To be arranged

We welcome anyone who would like to join us at our meetings (male or female) Come and enjoy the fellowship also a cuppa.

**“ I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”**

***Joshua 1:9 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)***

## ***Church Anniversary***

Join us on Sunday 3rd March for our Anniversary Service.

After the morning service led by Rev Nigel Uden (Moderator of URC General Assembly) we shall have coffee as usual.

Our programme from then will be something like this –

12.30 – 1.45pm      Bring and Share Lunch\*

2.00pm              Afternoon Session led by Nigel Uden

\*We invite you to bring something to share for lunch if you are staying.

If this is difficult for you, please come anyway – there is always plenty of food.

We suggest those whose surnames begin with

A – G bring a sweet              H – Z bring savoury

Of course, you are free to swap with someone if you wish. Please bring something that will be fairly easy to serve and eat.

Many thanks for your support. We look forward to an exciting and happy anniversary.

Any questions – please see Mary Durrant.

## ***Lent Groups***

From March 11th we are running weekly Lent Groups.

You are invited to join us at one of the venues below:

Mondays at 3 West View (IP14 1SD). 7pm for coffee, start at 7.15pm

Monday 11th March The Good News of God.

Monday 18th March The time is now

Monday 25th March God is present

Monday 1st April Change your mind.

Monday 8th April Live it!

Tuesdays at URC. 10am for Prayer and 10.30am for Lent Group.

Tuesday 11th March The Good News of God.

Tuesday 19th March The time is now

Tuesday 26th March God is present

Tuesday 2nd April Change your mind.

Tuesday 9th April Live it!

## ***Church Meeting***

The next Church Meeting is Monday March 25th at 2.00pm

## ***Stowmarket Afternoon Fellowship***

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month at 4pm.  
March 10th at 20 Kiln Cottages (The Community Room).  
March 24th at Home 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.  
See the list of speakers on the back pages of NTV. All are welcome.

## ***Mens' Breakfast Club***

Another year of men's fellowship, sitting around a table eating a full English and putting the world to rights. Pay by donation, and we all muck in with the washing up. If you haven't tried us then make a date for 2019, the first Saturday of the month – March 2nd.

## ***Benevolent Fund***

The Benevolent Fund for March is for UNICEF  
United Nations international children's emergency fund was setup as a relief organisation for children after WW2.  
Its purpose now is to ensure UNICEF has timely strategically focused information on the performance of political policies and initiatives to produce better results for women and children throughout the world.  
Its helps to get more children vaccinated and educated than any other organisation. Your donations may be placed in the permanent donation box labelled UNICEF in the foyer of the church. Or if you prefer you may place your giving in the plate as you leave after our communion service on the first Sunday of the month.  
Thank you.

### **COMMUNION FLOWERS**

Mar	3	Mrs J Rooks (Church Anniversary)
	10	Mrs H Freeman Mrs R Moore
	17	Mrs R Lewis
	24	Mrs W Rowland
	31	Mrs A Jolly (Mothering Sunday)





## ***Bible Fellowship***



We continue to look at Paul's letters, this time, to Philemon, a short letter that he writes at the same time as Colossians. Philemon was a believer in Colosse.

Tuesday 5th March 10am Prayer 10.30am Philemon

From 11th march for 5 weeks we have weekly Lent Groups (see separate info)  
All are welcome.

Richard Edwards.

## ***Open Prayer Group.***

Our Heavenly Father and beloved Saviour urged us to pray. "Ask and it shall be given!" Paul in his New Testament constantly urged Christians to meet together and pray.

So, with this in mind, we meet on Tuesdays before Bible Fellowship in the church.

We are a small group and would love to grow!! You do not have to stay for Bible Fellowship, we have members who only come for prayer.

There is a great deal we need to pray for. Our World, our country, our town and churches, members who are sick or elderly.

Please join us to pray – you will be made very welcome.

Irene Martin.

## ***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.

Every Monday from 10.30am until 12.30pm in the URC Church Hall.

This is a joint venture between Stowmarket URC and Jam Community Pot.



## ***URC Wednesday Club***

To all Ladies – Join us as we start our 2019 programme with The Revd Canon David Atkins on "It shouldn't happen to a Vicar" on Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 2.30pm, at the United Reformed Church, Stowmarket.

The subscription for all the sessions is £12.00 payable at the March meeting.

We hope to see you there.

## ***World Day Prayer***

World Day of Prayer prepared by Christian women of Slovenia.  
A Stowmarket Churches Together Service will take place at The Roman Catholic Church at 10.30am on Friday 1st March 2019. All are welcome.

## ***Mardi Gras - Fat Tuesday***



In 2019 Pancake Day, once again, falls on a Tuesday! You are most welcome to join the pancake girls from 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 5th March in the Church hall for pancakes and quizzes. Let's help use up those rich ingredients before the start of the Lenten fast.

Fund Raising Group

## ***Murder Mystery Evening***

The United Reformed Church Players invite you to an evening of fun and entertainment on Saturday April 13th commencing at 7pm. You are challenged to guess the person responsible for the death of The Revd. Martin Peacock of the parish of St Ignatius the Unflappable. The play, 'Who killed the vicar' by Chris Martin is preformed in three acts during which as individuals or a team you can use your skills of deduction to work out who does the dastardly deed while enjoying a Fish and Chip supper. You are able to bring your own liquid refreshment and Tea or Coffee will be available all for £12 per person. Please sign the list in the Stowmarket church foyer to reserve your place or Phone 01449 615678, Email willmary3@gmail.com. Payment should be made as soon as possible with cheques made payable to Stowmarket United Reformed Church. Bookings should be made before Monday 8th April. Thank you

## ***Trip to Pirmasens 2019***

Following a meeting of interested parties it was decided that we would fly from Stansted to Germany. There is still the opportunity to join the party leaving on Thursday 6th June and returning on Monday 10th. Whilst in Pirmasens we stay with host families, who speak excellent English. So the only cost is the return Ryanair fare to Baden Baden, from where we are transported by our hosts.



If you would like to know more about this exchange please speak to John Webb (01449 615678) or Clive Herrod

## Stamps

Rita has received a letter from The Leprosy Mission thanking everyone for their gift of stamps. This is an extract:

“Your support provides the cure from leprosy to children, women and men, stopping the disease in its tracks. Your care gives people life-transforming surgery so they can walk again or hold their child’s hand for the first time in many years as their hand is freed from the leprosy-affected ‘clawing’. Your gift provides a homeless disabled person with shelter, safety and warmth. And this is just the beginning. You are giving young people who were thrown out of school (because Mum or Dad had leprosy), the chance to learn a trade; you are giving elderly disabled people the full-time care they need; and you are standing with people disabled by leprosy as together we stand up for their rights.”

Please continue to collect stamps – there is a box in the Foyer.

## Stowmarket U3A

U3A meets on the third Wednesday of each month.

March 20th – “Finger Printing”. David Smith – the history of fingerprinting in crime scene investigation – the recollections of a fingerprinting officer.

2.30pm at The Mix, Ipswich Street.



### CHURCH SIGNS:

- 1) How will you spend eternity -- Smoking or Non-smoking?
- 2) Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives
- 3) It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin.
- 4) Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church.
- 5) If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again.
- 6) Looking at the way some people live,  
they ought to obtain eternal fire insurance soon.
- 7) This is a ch\_\_ch. What is missing?
- 8) Forbidden fruit creates many jams.
- 9) In the dark? Follow the Son.
- 10) Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up.
- 11) If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.
- 12) Avoiding the Son can be hazardous to your health.

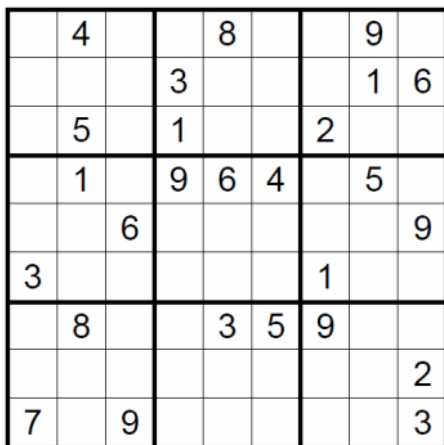
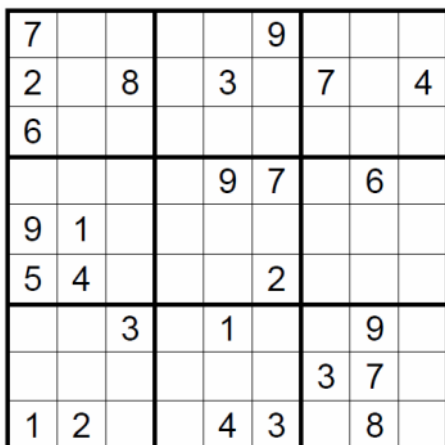
## Puzzle

Bible Wordsearch - The Fig Tree Matthew 21:16-30 © [www.biblewordgames.com](http://www.biblewordgames.com)



FAITH	AMAZED
FRUIT	BAPTISM
JOHN	BELIEVE
LATER	BETHANY
MIND	COURTS
NEVER	ELDERS
PEOPLE	EXCEPT
PRAY	FATHER
ROAD	HEAVEN
SAYING	HUNGRY
SEEING	MORNING
SPENT	ORDAINED
TEMPLE	PRAYER
THINGS	PROPHET
THINK	QUICKLY
TODAY	RECEIVE
TREE	TEACHING
TRUTH	VINEYARD
WORK	WITHER

### Sudoku H.5 - 1 and 2



## Upcoming Events

### **SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING**

At United Reformed Church Stowmarket

Saturday 9th March 2019

10.30am to 12.30pm

Wonderful Cakes, Coffee and Tea

A Warm Welcome Awaits You - All welcome

Proceeds for UNICEF & Church Funds



## 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



### **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

### **WAIT FOR WINGS**



### **A Joyful Toon by Mike Waters**



www.joyfultoons.com © 2017 Michael D. Waters

but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not  
grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. - ISAIAH 40:31 NIV

## **Services March 2019**

### **STOWMARKET**

<i>March 2019</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
Sun 3rd	10.25am	Church Anniversary with Holy Communion.	The Revd Nigel Uden
Thu 7th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer in Fison Hall	The Revd Barbara Bilston
Sun 10th	10.25am	Family Worship	Mr William Glasse
Thu 14th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer in Fison Hall	Mr Michael Martin
Sun 17th	10.25am	Family Worship with the BB and Girls' Association.	Mr John Webb
Thu 21st	9.30am	Pause for Prayer in Fison Hall	The Revd Richard Edwards
Sun 24th	10.25am	Family Worship	The Revd Richard Edwards
Thu 28th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer in Fison Hall	Mr Ray Taylor
Sun 31st	10.25am	Family Worship (Mothering Sunday)	Mr Keith Scarff

### **SOUTH SUFFOLK AREA PARTNERSHIP (Local Events)**

Pastoral Advocate: Vacancy

Sunday 3rd March is Stowmarket's Anniversary Service where our guest preacher is The Revd Nigel Uden, Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly.

### **Coffee Events:**

**Stowmarket** - Coffee Morning every Thursday morning 10am -12 noon. Cakes stall on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 2-4pm.

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

<i>March 2019</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
<b>DEBENHAM</b>			
3rd	10.45am	Family Worship with HC	Mr Nigel Crisp
10th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Keith Scarff
17th	10.45am	Family Worship	Dr Richard Jurd
24th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Graham Catlin
31st	10.45am	Family Worship (Mothering Sunday)	Mr John Knights
	3pm	Choruses and Cake	
<b>HAUGHLEY</b>			
17th	11.00 am	Family Worship	The Revd David Atkins
<b>MENDLESHAM</b>			
3rd	4pm	Anniversary	At Stowmarket
10th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr John Webb
24th	10.45am	Family Worship	The Revd Mary Playford
<b>STOWUPLAND</b>			
3rd	10.30am	Anniversary	At Stowmarket
10th	10.30am	Family Worship	Mr Michael Topple
17th	10.30am	Family Worship	Mr Ron Wade
24th	10.30am	Family Worship	Ms Allison Smith
31st	10.45am	Family Worship (Mothering Sunday)	Mr Jim Spencer



**NTV  
Reminder**

**Copy for April 2019  
To be in by Sunday 24th March 2019  
E-mail to: [ntv.stowmarket@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stowmarketurc@btconnect.com)

Website: [www.stowmarket-urc.org.uk](http://www.stowmarket-urc.org.uk)



and village chapels of:

Debenhams Haughley Mendlesham Stowupland

## Church Officers and Personnel

Minister	Vacancy	
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	