



THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Stowmarket

Debenham

Haughley

Mendlesham

Stowupland

News of Town and Village



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Greetings

Mark 16: 6-7

6 *“Don't be alarmed,” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here — he has been raised! Look, here is the place where they put him. 7 Now go and give this message to his disciples, including Peter: ‘He is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ ”*



The Revd Robert Sheard

Dear Friends,

As we approach Easter, we prepare to celebrate the biggest festival in the Christian calendar, we look forward with joy to celebrating that our sins are forgiven. For most people Easter is just a time to eat chocolate, so for those people they don't realise, what Easter is truly about, all the things that are associated with Easter, eggs, flowers, lambs, baby chickens, all are to do with new life. Sadly, the other day I saw food covering for an Easter item which had a dinosaur on it, this is more with selling the item than anything to with Easter.

Easter is very much to do with new life, that was brought about by the death of Jesus, and his resurrection, which means that all of us can start again. The Easter message is about the hope that this brings, that we are all saved.

Last Easter we were unable to celebrate Easter in our Churches because of the Covid 19, hopefully this Easter will be different that we will celebrate Easter with a church service taking place within our churches, even though it will not be totally in the way that we would wish.

As we celebrate Easter perhaps the message of Easter will resonate with us more, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who took on our sins so we can have new life in Him, that from His death gives new life!

We can now see a light at the end of the tunnel with Covid 19, with the roll out of the vaccines, but we all need to continue praying, so that we can soon be out of this international crisis that we find ourselves in. May the Easter story show that there is still Hope, Love and Grace and that things will get better and we will see new life in the world.

However you celebrate Easter have a happy healthy time.

Robert

News of the family

Another month has flown by with each day blending into the next. Now it is welcome to April. Historically April is a memorable month for various events --- the maiden flight of Concorde (1969), the maiden voyage of Titanic (1912), Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space (1961), the football league was set up in 1888, Queen Elizabeth the second was born in 1926. We have April Fool's day, St George's day and St Mark's day in April. What events do we have to look forward to in April 2021? Hopefully, some lovely warm spring weather and some restrictions being lifted so that we can see family and friends face to face outside. This is something we are all looking forward to after months of being in lockdown. Many people have their appointments to have their second Covid jab during April and the Easter Sunday service will be held in Church for those who feel safe to be there. Throughout April we must continue to adhere to restriction rules, to wear masks and keep social distancing, to keep ourselves and others safe.

The eye clinics in the hospitals continue to be operating. Linda Baxter and David Atkins have appointments for cataract operations. John Gardiner continues to improve slowly. Joan Wallace from Stowupland and living at Cedrus House had a chest infection; she too is improving. Jean Jordan had a course of anti-biotics to clear up a water infection. Barbara Robinson had shingles --- last month I reported that she reacted to cream she was using, when in fact it was shingles.

I have no further news of Church members and friends to report. We continue to pray for all those in need of our prayers --- the sick, the bereaved and those facing the problems of unemployment, debt and uncertainty. We continue to show our concern for those in need in our local community by supporting our local food bank.

Death Don Marper died in the West Suffolk hospital on February 17th. Don audited the Church finances many years ago and his wife, Julia, often came from Westhorpe to our morning services. We send our sympathy and prayers to Julia and to their three children and to the wider family.

Connie Farrow from Stowupland Chapel lost her husband early in March. We send our prayers and sympathy to Connie and all her family.

Good News - Jenny Ward is delighted to announce that she has a second great-grandchild.



Ava-Rose Pamela Dobbins was born in Ipswich hospital on February 23rd to Brittani and Nathan. Ava-Rose is a second grandchild for Carl and Jodie, a niece for Auntie Sasha and a sister for Marley Peter who will be one on April 10th. We send all the family our congratulations and very best wishes.

Special Congratulations. We send our congratulations and best wishes to Rodney and Lesley Boast who celebrate their 51st Wedding Anniversary on April 4th, as we did not congratulate them last year when they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary! Lockdown will again prevent them from celebrating in style but we hope you have a good day.

We send our congratulations and best wishes to Lois and David Müller, as they celebrate their Silver wedding Anniversary on April 19th. We hope you have a wonderful day celebrating and reminiscing with some of your family. Enjoy!

News from Debenham

Debenham continues to think of everyone.

Taking into account the guidance from Synod and the fact that many are still waiting for their second vaccination we will be waiting until the 23rd May (Pentecost) before we re-open.

We continue to join with others from the pastorate on Zoom.

May God be with you all.

News from Mendlesham

Sadly, there was no Anniversary service when we could all come together this year but we are all getting used to joining the services, either online or telephone. Leonie gave a very interesting and poignant account of that fateful day in January 1941 when the church was bombed. We, at Mendlesham, have enjoyed meeting with the town church for many years to celebrate the opening of the new building and hope we shall be able to do so again next year.

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since the start of the pandemic. We had hoped to open again for Easter, but it has been decided to wait until everyone has received their second vaccination and, depending on the Government and Synod's recommendation, we shall then reconsider. Meanwhile, those who are able continue to join with the services at Stowmarket, or tune into radio and television services.

We remember especially in our prayers those who await test results, or need to see a doctor in person rather than have a telephone consultation; and those on a waiting list for surgery. We send our love and best wishes to Kathy Warren who celebrates her 80th birthday on 24th April.

Margaret Jackson

News from Stowupland

Another month has passed and the vaccines are being rolled out with speed so hopefully we can look forward, in time, to more 'normal' things to come. We still have to be extremely careful. This has only been able to happen due to the dedication of the NHS staff and volunteers, many thanks to them.

What a lovely time of year as we see God's beauty all around us as the spring flowers are peeping through. Such vibrant colours to brighten up each day. Hopefully, by the time you get this magazine it will have warmed up and enabled even more flowers to bloom.

Those of us who were able joined the Service at Stowmarket on zoom for the Anniversary on 7 March.

Currently services at the Chapel are still suspended as we decided it was the safest thing to do. Unfortunately, there will not be a service at the Chapel on Easter Sunday but there will be one at Stowmarket URC. I think we will be looking towards the end of April, beginning of

May, before we will recommence services when hopefully many of the congregation will have had their second injection.

A piece of very sad news, Derrick Farrow, Connie's husband passed away on 7 March at home. We extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to Connie and her family. A lovely man who will be sadly missed.

Joyce Gardiner

News from Haughley

Haughley Parish Church are worshipping in church and online.

While many things have stopped due to Covid the Haughley choir has discovered the joys of virtual choir singing. And have not looked back since their first attempt. They now have a whole series of virtual choir recordings under their belt.

How do they do it? The way it works is that Janet Sheldrake, the choir leader, records a backing track for the chosen choral piece, and that backing track is emailed to each singer together with the words and music. Singers then record their individual voices singing along with the backing track in the comfort of their own homes. They then email their individual recordings to David Fleetwood who "stitches" them all together using a clever piece of computer software. In the resulting "stitched together" recording it sounds like all the choir are in the same room, singing as one.

David Fleetwood and the Haughley Church Choir are preparing the Easter Story from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday in Video form. The plan is to complete the filming and recording about a week before Easter Sunday, and at that point to upload it to YouTube. It will be "premiered" on Easter Sunday.

At the time of going to print we have no link to the You Tube as the work has not yet been uploaded. But if you go to Haughley's Church Near You Page this will, when it is available, include the link. Haughley, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Haughley's Virtual Easter Story will include:

- Virtual recordings by Haughley choir of well-known Easter Hymns, plus the anthem "God So Loved the World".
- Easter Bible readings read by local key workers (local shop workers and an NHS worker).
- Two small virtual dramas.
- A dramatic reading.
- And hopefully a recording made by Haughley Crawfords School.

Holy Communion



We invite you to join with us for Holy Communion from the comfort of your own home on **Monday 12th April at 7pm.**

Be ready with your bread and wine/fruit juice. This short service will be led by The Revd Robert Sheard and you can join us on Zoom.

Covid Update

At the time of going to print churches are beginning to meet again. From Easter Sunday our aim is to broadcast services from our Stowmarket church. This is subject to conditions regarding Covid still being positive. However, our primary concern is that you should be safe. We therefore suggest that for the majority of people you continue to join us on Zoom from home. For those of you who are not able to join us on Zoom or for those who have a need to be in church we will be open for you and welcome you from 10.15am. Our churches at Stowupland, Mendlesham and Debenham remain closed for the time being.

Church Meeting

The next Church Meeting is scheduled for **Monday 24th May at 2pm**. This is likely to be on Zoom but if we are able to have some people attend in person we will let you know.

Coffee Morning



Join us for a chat at our next coffee mornings on **Saturday 10th April from 10.30am until 12 noon**.

We may not be open for coffee at church but put the kettle on get out the cake and join us on Zoom.

Join at any time between 10.30 and noon and stay for as long as you like.

Prayer Chain

There is a worship song by Graham Kendrick that reminds us that we have Jesus for everything in our lives

***' For the joys and for the sorrows
for the best and worst of times***

***For the tears that flow in secret
in the broken times***

***For the weakness of my body
the burden of each day***

***For the nights of doubt and worry
when sleep has fled away '***

We can pray about all our problems and concerns but it is good sometimes to share things . Jesus says in **Matthew 18 v 19**

' I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in Heaven '

Do phone me on the Prayer Chain on 01449 745944 at any time and we will pray for you.

Ann Edwards.

Pause For Prayer

This is a twenty-five-minute act of worship which takes place every Thursday morning at 9.30am. This is currently on Zoom using the church details.

For April the speakers are:

1st April	Revd. Norman Tharby.
8th April	Anne Scarff.
15th April	Ray Taylor.
22nd April	Revd. Richard Edwards.
29th April	Revd. Michael Eden.



Benevolent Fund - April

Have you heard of The YANA Project?

It stands for You Are Not Alone.

This charity gives confidential support to the farming and rural community. It is the charity we are supporting for April.

If you are able please put a little something by in an envelope and bring to church when we are able to open, which hopefully will be Easter Sunday. We appreciate that giving at the moment is not easy but every little helps. Thank you.



Cake Plates for Christian Aids

Missing homemade cakes? Then why not have a plate of delicious homemade cakes delivered to your own front door?

As fundraising for Christian Aid is going to be a little bit different this year, I am going to prepare twenty-four plates of cakes which Mary Durrant has kindly offered to deliver in the morning of Saturday 8th May.

Each plate will have:-

A Sweet Scone – for you to add your own butter, jam or whatever takes your fancy

A slice of Traditional Victoria Sandwich

A slice of Fruit Cake

A Chocolate Chip Brownie

Plates cost £3.00 per plate with all monies going to Christian Aid.



If you would like a plate of cakes, please call Lois on 01449 616966 anytime during the week from Tuesday 4 May to 7.00pm on Friday 7 May. Unfortunately, deliveries can only be in the local area.

Saturday 8 May is also Zoom Coffee Morning so why not join and have a chat as well.

Lois Muller

Christian Aid Week 2021



Christian Aid Week this year will be from 10th to 16th May. We're still unsure exactly what the situation will be but I'm really hoping that as a church we can raise some money for Christian Aid either during May or June.

Anything you can do will be much appreciated and Christian Aid will be grateful for small gifts as well as larger ones.

I have had a number of conversations with people who are keen to do something and, hopefully more people will join in. Please contact me if you have any ideas & we'll do our best to make them happen.

Here are some ways you might be able to help –

- CA envelopes will be available as usual (plus box to put them in)
- e-envelopes also available (for those who know how to use them!)
- I will collect monies from those organising activities
- monies may be sent straight to CA (more difficult for it to be included in CA Week funds)
- pay monies into SCT's local CA account – it will then be included in the amount sent from Stowmarket; paying in slips from me.

Please give Christian Aid your thoughts and prayers and join in in some way. I would love to hear from you and have a chat about any ideas or questions you may have.

Tel: 01449 672608

email: mar.durrant@outlook.com

The URC also have a fundraising project in conjunction with CA, where money collected goes to pay for vaccines in poorer countries. See me (or Synod Report 3rd March 2021) for details.

The SCT Christian Aid committee have invited our regional representative, Julian Bryant, to give us some input before Christian Aid Week – he tells some very interesting and pertinent stories – and this might be a meeting or on Zoom. All are very welcome to come along.

Thank you in advance for your support. Mary Durrant

NB. My email address was incorrectly printed in the last NTV!

Mary Durrant

Thanks

Angela and Fred Hodson wish to thank all for their good wishes on the occasion of their Diamond wedding anniversary.

Angela and Fred

“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)

Easter Services



This year our Good Friday service will be on Zoom (normal codes) at 10am.

On Easter Sunday we start the day with Holy Communion at 9am, again on Zoom.

This is followed by our Easter Sunday service at 10.30am which will be broadcast from church.

(A picture of the banner gifted to the church by Janet Herrod - Thank you)

Suffolk Churches Ride & Stride 2021



You may remember that this event in 2020 raised, through sponsorship, £400 for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and half of this money was returned to Stowupland Chapel and Stowmarket U.R.C. Jane and Dan thank you again for your generous support. Despite the lockdown restrictions, £157,000 was raised within Suffolk and, with gift aid added, the total came to £175,000. This

money will help to provide grants to aid ancient Churches and Chapels.

This year the event is on **Saturday September 11th**.

Jane and Dan hope to be cycling once again.



Creature Change



Katie the kind caterpillar,
Lived on the land, not the sky.
She was furry and walked on her short legs,
When really, she wanted to fly.

Then one day she was very puzzled,
Her body was crinkly and hard.
There was no spare room to manoeuvre,
'Twas like living in a tiny, small yard.

Eventually Katie reached freedom,
She broke from her chains with a cry.
She was able to spread lovely red wings,
She was a magnificent, bright butterfly.



The Really Lovely Poetry Company. R.R.G.

Church Quiz



The “Robert Cup” played for on Saturday, 20th February, has become the “Helen Cup”. Well done Helen. The next opportunity to win the “Helen Cup” will be on Saturday April 24th at 7.00pm (connect to the Church Zoom site as usual).

The Robert/Helen Cup is similar in many ways to the “Ashes Urn”. The “Ashes Urn” lives in the MCC museum at Lord’s cricket ground in London, no matter who wins it. The Robert/Helen cup lives in the study at Crowstone, Stowupland. The “Ashes” date back to 1882, the “R/H Cup” started in 2021.

Remember the Church Quiz date:

Saturday April 24th at 7.00 pm

Cost: Money in the offertory plate when we return to Church.



Three Popular Easter Items

What did you know about three popular Easter items, a hot cross bun, a chocolate Easter egg, and one of those fluffy Easter chickens.



First the hot cross bun these buns remind us that because God loves us so much he was prepared to live among us in person, and go on loving us even when he was arrested, tortured and killed on a cross. It's in Jesus' life, and in his experience on the cross that we can 'taste and see that God is good'.

The fluffy chicken reminds us that it comes from a hatched egg. To start with the egg looks as dead as a smooth oval stone, but we know better. We know that if the egg is kept warm by the mother hen, that hard shell will start to crack, and into the world will climb at chick. So the egg reminds us that what looked dead and hopeless on Good Friday (when Jesus' dead body was taken down from the cross) was actually full of new life, because on the third day after that Jesus broke out of death to be alive forever!

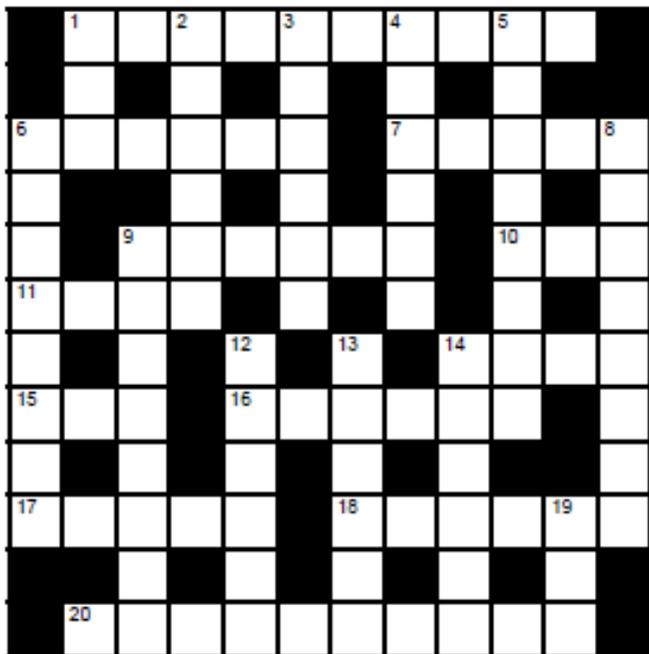


And so to our last object which we all enjoy having on Easter Day, a chocolate Easter egg. They're always bright and colourful, fun and delicious, and that's because Easter Day is party time for Christians! We celebrate the fantastic truth that Jesus Christ is Lord, love has won the victory over evil and death forever!



Puzzle

Bible Crossword - QC6 by Philologus © www.BiblePuzzles.org.uk

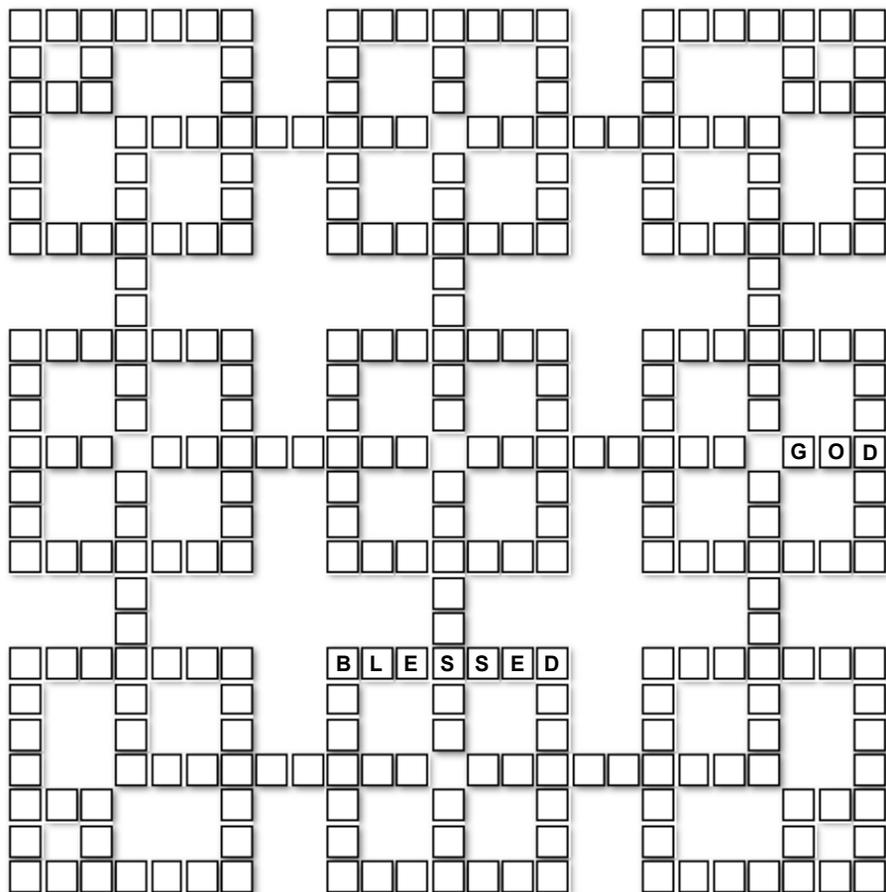


Across

- 1 Shout of praise (10)
- 6 Direction of heaven (6)
- 7 Jericho survivor (5)
- 9 Banquets (6)
- 10 Abraham's nephew (3)
- 11 Wheat feature (4)
- 14 Run (4)
- 15 Frozen water (3)
- 16 One of David's worthies (6)
- 17 Complete confidence (5)
- 18 Place of Paul's stoning (6)
- 20 Cursed (10)

Down

- 1 Joint (3)
- 2 Served with fish (6)
- 3 Firstborn (6)
- 4 Turmoil (6)
- 5 Murderous queen (8)
- 6 Atheist's trait (8)
- 8 Pool by the Sheep Gate (8)
- 9 Ability to choose (8)
- 12 Wealth (6)
- 13 Where Eli died (6)
- 14 Price of redemption (6)
- 19 Ruddy (3)



3 LETTERS

AWE
AXE
EAR
ELI
EVE
FIG
GOD
MAN
OIL
PIG
RAM
WAR

7 LETTERS

AILMENT

ALMONDS
ANGELIC
ARCHERS
BLESSED
BROTHER
CRUCIFY
DAVIDIC
DEBORAH
DEMONIC
DONKEYS
EPHESUS
EPHRATH
FATHERS
HARPIST
JEZEBEL
JUDEANS
LAZARUS
LEPROSY

LOCUSTS
PRAISED
PRAYERS
REBEKAH
REFUTES
REPROOF
SAVIOUR
SERPENT
SEVENTY
SINNERS
SOLDIER
SOLOMON
SPIRITS
STEPHEN
TIMOTHY
WIDOWED
WOUNDED

8 LETTERS

HARVESTS
PROPHECY
SICKNESS
TREASURE

9 LETTERS

APOCRYPHA
BETHLEHEM
BLINDNESS
CAPERNAUM
CARPENTER
MUSICIANS
PRISCILLA
PROPHETIC

Inspirational Story

A Hole in the Fence

In a small village, a little boy lived with his parents. The boy was quick to anger and taunted others with his words. His bad temper made him use words that hurt others. He scolded neighbours, kids, and even his friends due to his anger and everyone started avoiding him. His parents advised him many times to control his anger and develop kindness. Unfortunately, all their attempts failed.

Finally, the boy's father came up with an idea. The father gave him a bag of nails and asked him to hammer one nail into the fence every time he got angry. The little boy found it interesting and accepted the task. Every time he lost his temper, he ran to the fence and hammered a nail. His anger drove him to hammer nails to the fence almost 30 times the first day.

As the days passed, the number of nails hammered on the fence started reducing. The little boy found it difficult to hammer the nails and decided to control his temper. Gradually the number of nails hammered to the fence reduced drastically and the day arrived when no nail was hammered to the fence.

The boy did not lose his temper that whole day and for the next several days he did not lose his temper. So, he didn't need to hammer any nails to the fence.

Now, his father told him to remove the nails each time he controlled his anger.

Several days passed and the boy was able to remove most of the nails from the fence. However, there remained a few nails that could not be pulled out.

The boy told his father about it.

Father appreciated that and asked the boy pointing to a hole "what do you see there?". The boy replied "a hole in the fence".

"Now do you see what your anger does?" asked the father. The boy gave a confused look.

So, the father continued "The nails were your bad temper and they were hammered on people. You can remove the nails but the holes in the fence remain. The fence will never look the same. It has scars all over. Some nails cannot even be pulled out. You can stab a man with a knife and say sorry later, but the wound will remain there forever. Your bad temper and angry words were like that! Words are more painful than physical abuse. Use words for good purposes. Use words to grow relationships. Use words to show love and kindness in your heart".

The boy realized his mistakes and did not repeat them.

Moral of a hole in the fence story

Unkind words cause lasting damage. So let our words be kind and sweet.



Services - April 2021

At the time of going to print we are planning to be back in church at Stowmarket for Easter Sunday for those who have been unable to join us and for those who have a need to be in church. Please consider your safety first before leaving home. Services will continue to be on Zoom. (details elsewhere in this magazine).

On Good Friday (Friday 2nd April) there will be a morning service on zoom at 10am (note the time)

For April the Sunday services at 10.30am will be led by:

Sunday 4th April The Revd Robert Sheard - **Easter Sunday**.

There will be a Holy Communion service on Zoom at 9am.

Sunday 11th April The Revd Richard Edwards

Sunday 18th April The Revd Robert Sheard

Sunday 25th April The Revd Robert Sheard

Don't forget you can join us on the telephone.

Zoom

The following are the details for Zoom gatherings for church – eg Services, coffee mornings, Church Meetings, Communion :-

USING A NORMAL PHONE USING

Dial using one of the following

0 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

0 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Then use the ID - 878 9703 9806 followed by the # button AND then Passcode – 269834 again followed by the # button.

USING A MOBILE: One tap mobile

+442039017895,,87897039806#,,,,,0#,,269834# United Kingdom

OR IF YOU HAVE A COMPUTER use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87897039806?pwd=V1Z0Y01tOU85b2R6WkIKV0FkR3JXZz09>

or use the ID - 878 9703 9806 AND Passcode - 269834

**NTV
Reminder**

Copy for May 2021

To be in by Sunday 19th April 2021

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

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Email: stowmarketurc@btconnect.com

For urgent issues please contact the secretary (see below).

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