



THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Stowmarket

<i>Christchurch Needham Market</i>	<i>Debenham</i>
<i>Haughley</i>	<i>Mendlesham</i>
	<i>Stowupland</i>

News of Town and Village

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

JOHN 14:27



No. 714

May 2026

<i>Table of contents</i>	
Greetings	3
News of the family	4-5
News from Christchurch Needham Market	5
News from Debenham	5
News from Mendlesham	5-6
News from Stowupland	6
News from Haughley	6-7
Church Meeting	7
Pause for Prayer	7
Prayer Chain	7
Communion Flowers	7
Benevolent Fund - May 2026	8
Christian Aid Week 2026	8
Spring Village Walk & Open House for Christian Aid	8
Upcoming Event	9
Children & Youth Activities	9
Smile ☺ & Joyfultoos	10
'Wise Words—Proverbs' Poem	11
Puzzle	12-13
Zoom	14
Services - May 2026	14-15

Greetings

Greetings friends.

Charles Austin Miles was a prolific American gospel music composer, editor and publisher. He was born on the 7th of January 1868. and died in March 1946. Charles was born in Lakehurst New Jersey and showed an early interest in music, playing for a Church service at the age of 12. He was educated at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at the university of Pennsylvania but in 1892 he abandoned his career as a pharmacist feeling called to serve God through music.

I have fond memories of a song he wrote which I have sung all my life from the Billy Graham song book. It is called " In the garden" Charles wrote this when he was meditating on the gospel of St John chapter 20 where Jesus's tomb was opened and Mary was looking in the garden for Jesus. The words of this song come to me when I am in my garden in the morning, just being in the beauty of the early morning dew. These words touch me greatly and I would love to share them with you this month.

"I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear the son of God discloses. He speaks and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing, and the melody that he gave to me within my heart is ringing. And he talks with me and he walks with me and he tells me I am his own, and the joy we share as we tarry there none other has ever known."

Does Jesus walk with you in your garden of life? Just listen to him he is there. I pray that you hear him.

God bless you.

Jan Webb (Stowmarket Elder)

News of the family

We've had the first flush of spring with its abundance of daffodils, which have been wonderful this year. Now the tulips are in full flower, and the trees are green with new buds opening. Every day I sweep sticky buds off my kitchen floor as they get picked up from the pathways on our shoes and brought into the house. The horse chestnut flowers will be out within a few days, so it will be petals on the floor instead of sticky buds. Gardeners and farmers are already needing rain in this area. If you are a walker, you will have noticed how all the footpaths are solid mud and there are cracks already in the fields amongst the crops. Last year I managed not to have rabbit deterrents to protect my delicate summer bedding plants, but I have already seen the evidence of droppings on our lawn, so they are about again this year. The pigeons have eaten all the grass seed Dan put down in bare patches, so April is not a good time to sow grass seed!

A few Church friends have been in hospital this past month. Janet Sparrow had a fall and spent a couple of nights in hospital as she had broken her ankle. It will be a while before she is able to return to Church but is able to join us on Zoom. Jean Jordan has been in Bury hospital whilst undertaking tests to balance her blood levels, upset by diabetes. She returned to Old School Court but still did not feel well so returned to hospital again. She is home again and taking things gently. Rodney Boast remains in Avocet House in Ipswich and is doing very well there, eating well and joining in with communal activities. He is due for a hospital check-up soon, and, hopefully, returning home soon.. Knowing that his mobility and balance are not good Lesley has a bed ready downstairs for him and he will have a carer when he does return home.

Venessa Herbert is using a stick to move about and has been able to get out in her garden. There are some things she finds difficult to do and needs help for, but she can cook and look after herself. Peter Peirce is able to help Pat prepare meals but must sit down to do it. On a warm day Pat was able to get him in the garden to "perch" and trim the fuchsia plants she had kept in the shed, in readiness for planting out in the garden when it is warmer. Whilst Peter's mobility and balance are not good his mind is still alert, and he enjoys conversation and socialising.



We think and pray for all these people who have been unwell and for Rita Gibbons and Christine Mason who are poorly. We think too of those who are finding life harder because of their health or other problems and for people we have not mentioned. We remember all those living alone or in care homes. We think of those who have been diagnosed with conditions, those waiting for procedures and those waiting for tests or results.

Good News

NTV mentioned in March that Ethan Herwono had been short-listed for a Manga Jiman and Yonkoma award for his cartoon, "A Fresh Start." I am very pleased to report that Ethan won the Youth award for under 14s. He went to the Japan Embassy in London to receive his award. Well done, Ethan!



Congratulations and best wishes to Jinny and Jim Sharp who celebrate their Diamond Wedding on May 12th.

Congratulations and best wishes to Shirley Bonner who celebrates her 90th birthday on May 15th.

We hope you will enjoy wonderful celebrations with your families and friends.

News from Christchurch Needham Market

- Monday - Tiddlers - 9.30am to 11.30am, Accompanied children up to 4 years old
Wednesday - Knit for Peace (3rd Wednesdays) 2.30pm - 4.00pm
Thursday - Christians Together 10.30am - 11.30am Term Time
(contact Barbara Ellis 02449 720154)
Saturday - Coffee Morning (Second Saturday of the month) 10-.00am to 12.00pm
Sunday - 9.25 Children's club.
- Prayer in the church (Third Sunday of the month) 12.00pm
- Bible Study (except the 3rd Sunday of the month) 12.30pm in Room 4.

The Revd Robert Sheard held his final service with us on Easter Sunday and we had a meal afterwards where we presented him with gifts to show him tokens of our affection and we waved him and Heather off to their new position. A fresh start that we know will blossom and grow, with GODS grace.

We found ourselves with a thoughtful Minister, who led our services and meetings with insights from his previous experiences. He had ideas that could stretch our ideas of reaching out in our communities and he built good relationships with other Christians in the town. All in all, we were very happy with his leadership.

And for Christchurch, we wait to see what happens.

News from Debenham

Every Tuesday 10 - 11:30am Drop In Coffee morning.

Don't miss: Tuesday 12th plant and cake sale 10:00-11:30

Friends & Neighbours first Thursday in the month 2:00pm this month with Chrissy Chapman Cakes & Choruses last Sunday of the month 31st May 3:00pm Please bring your friends and relatives to this lively afternoon of laughter, singing and eating!

News from Mendlesham

Spring is here! What a beautiful time of the year it is. Delightful spring flowers adorn our gardens. The meadows which surround us, and roadsides are brimming with new life. Beautiful fresh green leaves are forming on the trees, horse chestnuts are showing off their lovely candles, and the days are getting warmer!

Afternoon Fellowship meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 2.00pm. Speakers for May are the Revd Richard Edwards (or Ann) on the 6th, and the 20th is to be announced. The meeting on the 6th May will be followed by a chapel meeting.

Villagers have been asked to fill in a questionnaire regarding their requirements for a new hall where the various clubs can meet. Disappointingly, this does not include the chapel building. Most of the younger residents who attended a recent meeting voted for a new sports hall with all mod cons. We are grateful that OSR accommodates most of our needs.

We appreciate the sunshine and warmer days as we continue to think and pray for each other as we face life's daily challenges.

Margaret Jackson

News from Stowupland

With the increasing population around Stowupland it would be nice to see some new faces at the chapel.

Our next coffee morning is on **Friday 29th May 2026** 10am to 12noon please join us if you can.

We held our AGM and ordinary meeting on 9th April at Green Farm our thanks to Maureen and Roger Carter for their hospitality. Last Sunday we had 14 in the congregation and Margaret played for us for which we thank her.

Whist and coffee mornings continue to be happy occasions.

Joyce Gardiner

News from Haughley

New..... Wednesday services, in addition to Sunday services!

While Sunday has always been the primary day of Christian worship, many churches treat Wednesday as a special day too, a tradition that goes back to the earliest years of Christianity.

After a 4-year pause, Wednesday services have been re-instated in Haughley, Wetherden and Stowupland; bringing us into line with most of our surrounding local churches.

Here's a message about Wednesday services from Andy: "I encourage folks to attend even if they are located in one of the other parishes."

This is the general pattern, all at 10 o'clock in the morning:

1st Wednesday – Morning Prayer & Praise at Stowupland church/church hall

2nd Wednesday – Morning Prayer & Praise in Haughley Castle Room (in the church)

3rd Wednesday – Morning Prayer & Praise at Wetherden, in the church

4th Wednesday – Morning Prayer & Praise (Holy Communion) at The Vicarage, Haughley and for any 5th Wednesday – Morning Prayer & Praise ('Dwelling in the Word') at the Maxwell Charnley Room (next to Post Office), Haughley.

🌸🌸 Haughley Open Gardens will be in June

Let us know if you're interested in opening your garden on 20th and 21st June ! You can open for 2 days, or for as little as 3 hours if you wish! email for more details.

Church Meeting

The next Church Meeting is on **Monday 18th May at 2pm** at Stowmarket URC. This will also be on Zoom.

Pause for Prayer

Life is so uncertain and unpredictable at the moment so it's good to Pause , reflect and Pray together each week.

Just to have a short time to listen to what God has laid on the heart of whoever is leading and then also to worship God in prayer and song. It's good too to share our concerns about our world and more personal concerns with God knowing He cares so much about every aspect of our lives.

We meet in the Fison Hall at 9.30 am each Thursday for about half an hour.

If ever you are free any Thursday you can be sure of a warm welcome and our fellowship continues as we join together in the Church for coffee afterwards.



Prayer Chain

Throughout the Bible we see that we are urged to care for each other , showing love and empathy and concern. We should be supporting each other in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

Romans 12 v 15 tells us.....

Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep.

On the Prayer Chain we are willing to do just that. To be there for everyone whether they are happy or sad, rejoicing or weeping.

Do ring 01449 745944 if we can pray for you in your time of need.

Ann Edwards

COMMUNION FLOWERS

May	3	Mrs R Gibbons	
	10	Mrs J Gurney	
	17	Mrs M Hewitt	
	24	Mrs A Hodson	Pentecost
	31	Mrs J Jordan	



Benevolent Fund - May 2026



Benevolent Fund - May 2026 is for Christian Aid.

In last months magazine Mary wrote a lovely piece telling the story of Farah who gained great support from Christian aid charities in Nairobi, so I would just remind you that Christian aid week is May 10th to the 16th and your donations would be most welcome on Sunday 10th and 17th of May Please place your donations in an envelope clearly marked Christian aid in the Sunday offering plate or could I remind you of the permanent benevolent fund box in the foyer of the Church? Thank you so much for all your fiscal giving.

Christian Aid Week 2026

May 10th to May 16th.

A shared moment to come together and stand alongside people living in poverty. Envelopes will be available to support the work of Christian Aid.



Spring Village Walk & Open House for Christian Aid

Spring Village Walk on Monday, May 4th

Jane and Dan invite you to join them at "Crowstone" (2nd house past the Co-op garage) The walk will leave at 10.30 a.m. Coffee and light refreshments will be served from 11.00. Please join us for the walk or just come to the house to socialise. Everyone is welcome.

All donations will go to Christian Aid.



Open House on Tuesday, May 12th.

John and Jan Webb warmly welcome you and your friends to their home Kirkstone, 9 Windermere Road for morning coffee or an afternoon cup of tea between 10 am and 12 noon and 2 pm to 4 pm.

You are invited to support the work of Christian Aid by making a donation to this year's appeal.

Please speak to Jan or John if you require transport or for more information



Upcoming Events

**"Second Saturday"
Coffee Morning**
Saturday 9th May 2026
10.00 am to 12 noon



*Wonderful
homemade cakes
& savouries*

**Donations for Christian Aid
and Church Funds**

*Come and See.
All are Welcome to join us!*

A BIG THANK YOU
to all who support us in anyway
The "Second Saturday" Coffee Team.

**Thursday Coffee Morning
at URC Stowmarket**



*Every Thursday morning
from 10am until noon.
All welcome.*

**Stowupland URC Chapel
Coffee Morning**

*Friday, 29th May 2026
10.00am - 12.00 noon
Coffee/ tea, Cakes*



All welcome

Children and Youth Activities



YOUTH & JUNIOR CHURCH
Each Sunday from 10.30am.
Come and join us.



BOYS BRIGADE AND GIRLS ASSOCIATION IN STOWMARKET



**1st Mid Suffolk Boys Brigade
and Girls Association**

We offer activities for children from
age 5 up to 17 and are affiliated to the
Stowmarket United Reformed Church (URC).

We meet on Weds evenings during school
term time at the
Boys Brigade Hall on Combs Lane

6.15 - 7.15 pm Anchors (age 5 - year 3)
6.15 - 7.30 pm Juniors (years 4 - 6)
7.30 - 9.00 pm Company (year 7 up)

bb1stmidsuffolk@yahoo.co.uk

Stowmarket Boys Brigade Band

A traditional marching band with drums,
bugles and cymbals who play at several local
events and parades throughout the year.

Open to all ages and training is available.

Practice Thursdays at 7pm

Boys Brigade Hall, Combs Lane
(next to the Magpie pub)

stowmarketboysbrigadeband@yahoo.com

Smile ☺

Church signs



- 1) Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!
- 2) Try our Sundays. They are better than Ben & Jerry's.
- 3) Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!
- 4) An ad for a Church has a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads, "For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets."
- 5) When the restaurant next to the Church put out a big sign that said, "Open Sundays," the church reciprocated with its own message: "We are open on Sundays, too."
- 6) Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons -- come hear one!
- 7) Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!
- 8) Sign broken. Message inside this Sunday.
- 9) Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.
- 10) If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.

FORGIVE...BE FORGIVEN

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

- LUKE 6:37 NIV

Miracle Prayer

Let us pray for everyone who needs a miracle. Only God can do the impossible. It can make a way when there seems to be no way. Today let us pray that God touches your health, your home, your family, your faith and your finances. Amen

'Wise Words - Proverbs' Poem

An English proverb is a short statement that usually offers life advice, wisdom, or a truth.
What do you think?

*Many hands, they make light work.
Making tasks much slicker.
But too many cooks will spoil the broth.
Cooking will not be quicker.*



*Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
A statement that sounds very kind.
Some will disagree and say,
"Out of sight is out of mind."*



*If you have a real concern,
That's causing you some trouble.
Will a friend's involvement help?
Or make the problem double.*

*Practice makes things perfect.
It's something we were taught.
It does not always seem to work.
Especially playing sport.*



*Money makes the world go round.
And little comes for free.
But what does make the world go round?
I think it's gravity.*

*You're never too old to learn.
Wise words, I hear you say,
But teaching old dogs new tricks!
Is impossible --- no way.*



*Better late than never.
To be on time is fine.
An early bird will catch the worm.
And a stitch in time saves nine.*

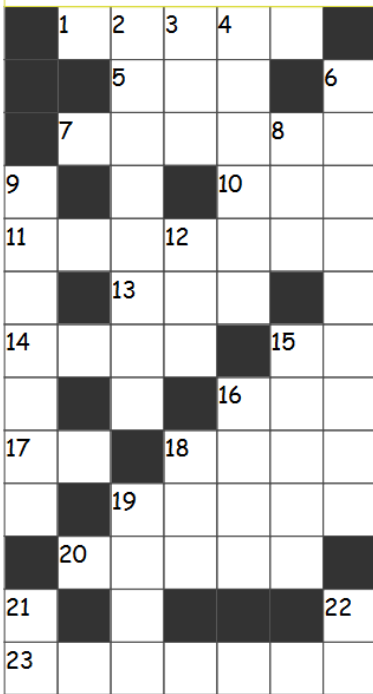
*An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
Long ago that's what people might say.
They were very wise, the folk of the past.
'Cause the fruit is still working today.*



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

Puzzle

Bible Crossword Puzzle #2 © Simply Bible.com by Ron Graham 2013



Across:

1. As a consequence; for this reason.
5. Fight, compete (1Corinthians 9:26).
6. Paraclete, comforter (John 14:16).
10. Wood --- and stubble.(1Corinthians 3:12)
11. "People look at the ----- appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1Samuel 16:7).
13. Abbreviation for Hosea.
14. For the love of money is a ---- of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10).
15. Exists.
16. One.
17. God said to Moses, "I -- WHO I --" (Exodus 3:14).
18. Hittite, ----ite, and Canaanite (Joshua 9:1).
19. Mediator (1Timothy 2:5-6).
20. "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the -----" (Daniel 6:22).
23. Empire.

Down:

2. "Thou ---- --- art to be feared" (2 words Psalm 76:7 KJV).
3. Nothing.
4. Peter (John 1:40-42).
6. "a --- land a -----" (2 words Jeremiah 51:37).
8. For hearing (Revelation 2:11).
9. Entrance.
12. Archaic word for "know" (Philippians 1:22 KJV).
15. Religious pictures.
16. Exclamation meaning "true" (Nehemiah 5:13, 8:6).
18. In times past (Hebrews 1:1)
19. Aspirations.
21. Abbreviation for book of Daniel.
22. Exclamation of derision (Mark 15:29).



BLESSING	HOPE	REPENTANCE
COMMUNION	HUMILITY	REVELATION
DEVOTION	INTERCESSION	SILENCE
FAITH	MEDITATION	SPIRIT
GRATITUDE	PETITION	SUPPLICATION
GUIDANCE	PRAISE	THANKSGIVING
HEALING	PRAYER	WORSHIP

Zoom

The following are the details for Zoom gatherings for church – eg Services & Church Meeting:-

USING A NORMAL PHONE

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

Services - May 2026

STOWMARKET

<i>May 2026</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
Sun 3rd	10.30am	Family Worship with HC.	Mr Keith Scarff
Thu 7th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	Mrs Helen Freeman
Sun 10th	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd Micheal Jones
Thu 14th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	The Revd Norman Tharby
Sun 17th	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd David Atkins
Thu 21st	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	Mr Howard Cracknell
Sun 24th	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd Richard Edwards
Thu 28th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	Mrs Ann Edwards
Sun 31st	10.30am	Family Worship	Mr William Jones

**NTV
Reminder**

Copy for June 2026

To be in by Sunday 24th May 2026

E-mail to: ntv.stowmarket@gmail.com or hardcopy to Anne Scarff.

If you would like to receive copy of NTV by email, please let Anne Scarff know.

<i>May 2026</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
CHRISTCHURCH			
3rd	10.30am	Family Worship	TBA
10th	10.30am	Family Worship	TBA
17th	10.30am	Family Worship	TBA
24th	10.30am	Family Worship	TBA
31st	10.30am	Family Worship	TBA
DEBENHAM			
3rd	10.45am	Family Worship with HC	Mr John Webb
10th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Graham Catling
17th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Jim Spencer
24th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Ray Bullock
31st	10.45am	Family Worship	The Revd David Atkins
	3pm	Cake and Choruses	
HAUGHLEY			
17th	11.00 am	Family Worship	The Revd Norman Tharby
MENDLESHAM—Meeting at the Old School Room			
10th	10.45am	Family Worship	The Revd Mary Playford
24th	10.45am	Family Worship	The Revd Richard Edwards
STOWUPLAND			
3rd	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd Norman Tharby
10th	10.30am	Family Worship	Mrs Nichola Glasse
17th	10.30am	Family Worship	The Worship Group
24th	10.30am	Family Worship	Mr Stephen Horrex
31st	10.30am	Family Worship	Mr Nigel Crisp

If you want to keep up with all the news, have a look at the Church Website

www.urchstowmarketandvillages.com

If you have anything that you wish to put on the Church Website, please see Brian Hewitt.



Stowmarket URC:

Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1AD

Phone : 01449 675045

Email : stowmarketurc@btconnect.com

Website: www.urcstowmarketandvillages.com

Church Officers and Personnel

Minister	Vacant	
Joint Secretary	Mr Brian Hewitt	☎ 07500734113
	7 Clare Close, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 2BH	
	Email: urcstowmarket@btinternet.com	
Joint Secretary and Treasurer	Miss Anne Scarff	☎ 774792
	3 West View, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1SD	
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr David J Fenner	☎ 674440
	29 Thirlmere Drive, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1SE	
Freewill Envelopes	See Anne Scarff	
Editor of NTV	Miss Anne Scarff	☎ 774792
	3 West View, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1SD	

Secretaries of Church and Village Chapel

Christchurch	Mrs L Gomez	☎ 07485516303
	<i>Hall & Meeting room bookings</i>	☎ 07377003526
Debenham	Mr L Kelway	☎ 07583014887
	13 St . Peters Close, Stowmarket IP14 1LF	
Mendlesham	Mrs Margaret Jackson	☎ 766321
	13 Glebe Way, Mendlesham IP14 5TL	
Stowupland	Vacant	
	<i>Please contact Joyce Gardiner</i>	☎ 676149