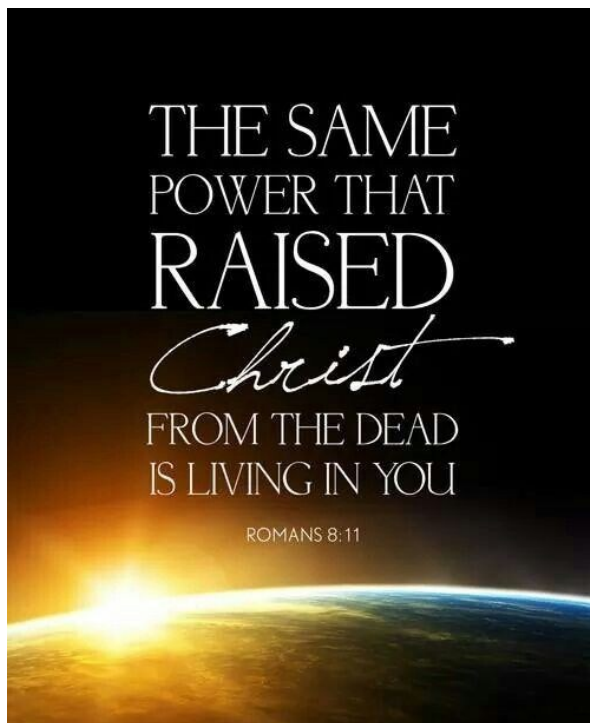




THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Stowmarket

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

News of Town and Village



No. 713	April 2026
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Greetings

As I sit here to write this on yet another gloomy wet day in late February, wondering what to write for there seems little cheer about. My crocuses have been eaten by the muntjac deer, my lawn has been dug up by grey squirrels searching for the acorns they buried but cannot remember exactly where, while the wood pigeons trample or leave their mark on everything.

And doesn't time fly by. It doesn't seem many days ago that we were celebrating Christmas and the gift to us from God of Jesus Christ, his only son. How he came to us a newborn child, born in that stable in Bethlehem.

And now we are in April already and remembering the events of Easter. Reminding ourselves of his death upon the cross. Of how he died in love for us and all mankind, of how he died in love and obedience to his Heavenly Father.

But our sadness at his death is to be short lived for on the third day he rose again, proving that there is no finality in death. God raised his son to eternal glory so that he could be with us throughout our earthly journey. Jesus also ensured we would never lack anything because he gave to all that love and follow him the gift of his Holy Spirit to be a strength, a comfort, a guide and light for our path.

The sun will shine again, the lawn and plants will recover as the warmth of spring will cheer us all, enabling us to go forward, spreading the love of God and sharing the fellowship of his son Jesus Christ with all those we come into contact with.

May God bless you and the love of Jesus Christ be in all your hearts and minds this Easter time.

Keith Scarff

(Stowmarket Elder)

The Revd Robert Sheard's final service in Suffolk will be at Christchurch, Needham Market, on Easter Sunday. He has received a call to churches in the Wessex Synod. We wish him well in his new Ministry.

News of the family

We have had the first day of spring. Glorious sunshine has shown off the daffodils and the abundance of blossom in the hedgerows, has already had an effect on hay fever sufferers! We are all looking forward to longer and warmer days once the clocks change, putting our winter outer garments away and having days out --- if there is no restriction on fuel in the weeks to come.

We are all conscious about prices of everything going up, but it is happening the world over and we are still better off than many. Having recently returned from our travels abroad, I can show you a picture on my phone, taken of a cauliflower in a supermarket priced at the incredible sum of \$27.20. (A Singapore dollar is almost a £1.00!) I won't grumble so much when Tesco put a cauliflower up to £1.20, when it has been £1.19 for a long time!

In my absence I was sorry to learn of those who have been poorly. I can report that Ann Fenner is very much better, taking things slowly and gradually building up her strength. Rita Gibbons is still very poorly, but has a carer living in, who is taking care of her needs, especially her medication. Rodney Boast stayed in hospital for several weeks after his fall and was then transferred to a care home in Ipswich for respite and rehabilitation. Sadly, he was taken ill and returned to Ipswich hospital; tests revealed he had pneumonia. He was given anti-biotics and has been returned to the care home.

We were pleased to see so many in Church for our Anniversary service, including friends from Stowupland and Mendlesham. Sadly, Margaret Jackson was not amongst them as her husband, Darryl, remains unwell and cannot lift Margaret's wheelchair into their car. Pam Robinson took a tumble making her own way to the Anniversary service and had to be taken to hospital. She has returned to Church sporting the healing gash on her forehead.

It was good to see John and Thelma Tester back in Church after a challenging few weeks. John went for a cataract op but they had the wrong lens for his eye, and he has to wait for his eye to heal before the new one can be fitted, which could be between four and ten weeks. Thelma has the task of administering different drops to John's eye every few hours. John will be unable to drive for many weeks.

Sheila Godbold remains quietly at home recovering from a fall that hurt her wrist and waiting for results of tests. Her son-in-law David Fraser is having stomach problems, and her daughter, Julie, recovering from a back operation.

Venessa Herbert has returned home and is coping well with carers, but the amount of care she receives will gradually be dropped. Our Church cleaner was taken to hospital unexpectedly to have a pacemaker fitted but is back at work again. Jenny Ward had a few problems at the beginning of March, but with medication, hopefully these have been overcome. Ray Taylor, at one time our B.B. Chaplain, is undergoing more chemotherapy, but his bloods are not always right for his chemo sessions.

Peter Peirce had a fall at home and was once again admitted to Addenbrookes Hospital for several weeks. He is at home again with carers and his bed downstairs, but his mind is alert and he is getting stronger.


We think and pray for all these people who have been unwell and for those who have not been mentioned and hope they will all improve. We think too of those who are finding life hard-er because of their health or other problems.

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.

Phyllis Risby's funeral took place in Ipswich crematorium on March 23rd. We send sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.

Good News

Janet Sparrow has become a great-grandmother for the fourth time. She has two great-grandsons and to great-granddaughters.

 Congratulations to David and Lois Müller who celebrate their Pearl Wedding Anniversary on April 19th (30 years).

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.

3rd April, Good Friday, a walk of witness starting at St John's Church from 10 am finishing at Christchurch for warm hot x buns and tea and coffee.

An exciting and joyous time of remembering how our saviour, a perfect, sinless man, was crucified and died on the cross, bearing the burden of our sin upon his shoulders. 3 days later he was resurrected, he conquered death with the promise that we too could beat death. This is wonderful news. However, I am not a good or happy Christian.

Matthew 7:21-23 *Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say 'Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons and done many wonders in your name' NO they don't get in.*

Luke 13 23-24 makes every effort to enter through the narrow door, many will try and not be able to. Another NO.

Matthew 7 13-14 Enter through the narrow gate. Small is the road to life, and only a few find it. Another NO.

It seems belief and good deeds and church going is not enough. Who among us love all our neighbours? I bet we don't even love all our Christian family. Who has more than 1 shirt? Who feels jealous? Who witnesses the Lord outside of Church?

I am a fearful Christian. God bless.

News from Debenham

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

Friends & Neighbours first Thursday in the month 2:00pm this month with Veda Berriman.
Cakes & Choruses last Sunday of the month 26th April 3:00pm Please bring your friends and relatives to this lively afternoon of laughter, singing and eating!

News from Mendlesham

Spring has finally arrived and we have been blessed with some beautiful sunny days. The smell of freshly mown grass fills the air and magnolia trees are showing off their splendour.

Four from Mendlesham attended the Church Anniversary service, and one on Zoom! It was good to see Andrew again.

Afternoon Fellowship meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 2.00pm. Speakers for April are Mrs June Moss on the 1st and Mrs Hazel Spalding on 15th.

Members and friends continue to knit hats, especially during the winter months for the Seafarers Centre, giving us a good excuse to visit Felixstowe on a lovely sunny day to deliver 77 hats.

Afternoon Fellowship member, Brenda Crawford has recently had surgery at Addenbrookes. She is now at home, and we pray that she will make a full and speedy recovery. We missed June at morning service and hope she will feel well enough to join us again soon. We think and pray for each member of our small fellowship as we look forward to the lengthening days.

Margaret Jackson

News from Stowupland

I'm sorry to mention it again but what a lovely time of year as we see God's beauty all around us as the spring flowers are peeping through. The sound of lawn mowers as we hopefully prepare our gardens for sitting in, weather permitting. The clocks have also been changed giving us longer days.

On Sunday 1 March we joined with the United Reformed Church at Stowmarket for the anniversary service to mark the opening of the new building, following the rebuild after the bombing in 1941. A bring and share lunch was enjoyed after the service. We now look forward to our Easter celebrations.

Our next Coffee Morning is on **Friday 24 April 10-12noon** There will be a draw at this event. Please come and join us for a cuppa, cake, and good company.

Joyce Gardiner

News from Haughley

Tuesday 31 March: Hot Cross Buns in the Maxwell Charnley room, 12 till 1

Wednesday 1 April: Compline in Haughley Church, 9 o'clock in the evening

Maundy Thursday 2 April at Stowupland Church: 7 o'clock, benefice Agape supper

GOOD FRIDAY: 12 noon: procession with the cross, starting at Haughley church and finishing on the green

Easter Saturday: 10 o'clock: children's Easter Garden and egg hunt in church. 4 o'clock:

Easter Drama "St Peter at Easter", Haughley Church

EASTER SUNDAY: 11 o'clock: Easter Sunday communion service.

Benevolent Fund - April 2026



Parkinson's UK is a charity that drives better care, treatment and quality of life for those people who are affected by this disease. Each donation you give will help fund pioneering research to

find a cure, personalised support, and campaigns for fair benefits, and high-quality health and social care. It will also support local activities for those affected.

You may place your donation in an envelope in the offering on a Sunday marked Parkinson's or remember we have our permanent benevolent fund box in the foyer of the Church for donations at any time. This is emptied regularly.

It occurs to me that those of you who would like to make a donation but are unable to come to have fellowship with us could ask your pastoral elder to collect from you. Just a suggestion. Thank you in anticipation for all that you give.

Pause for Prayer

Easter is such a special and significant time in the Church Calendar and our reflections in April will almost certainly centre on this. These will lead us into prayer, not only for the world and needs around us, but also in prayers of praise and worship and thanks to God for sending His only Son into the world, knowing what lay ahead. The fact that Jesus would die the awful slow and painful and very public death of a criminal on a cross to take on Himself our sin so that we could have eternal life with Him if we accept and believe in Him. Also the fact that He rose from the dead on the third day. No wonder Easter is such a very important and meaningful time!



Do join us if you can to share in these times of reflection and prayer. We meet every Thursday in the Fison Hall at 9.30 am.

Christian Aid Week 2026

Yes, it is that time of year again when we spend a little time thinking of those who live many miles away and who have so much less than we do. Christian Aid has a special week when Christians all over the country try to raise money to enable these people to earn enough to start their own businesses and work to pull themselves out of poverty.



For example, Fridah lives near Nairobi, with her children and grandson - in a corrugated metal shelter with no running water and very limited space.

She has worked with the help of Christian Aid and now has her own urban farm.

She grows vegetables - some to feed her family and some she sells.

Some days she doesn't know how she will buy food to feed her family.

Her faith sustains her through difficult days.

Could you help sustain her and her friends too?

If so, please make a note of Christian Aid Week - May 10th - 16th and look and listen for more details

Our Christian Aid walk will take place on 1st May - look out for that.

Any other ideas for raising money? Please see me.

Money will be collected in the foyer on Sunday, May 10th and 17th.

Thank you

Mary Durrant

Christian Aid Walk 2026

Christian Aid Walk on **Monday, May 4th.**

Jane and Dan invite you to join them at "Crowstone"

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.

All donations will go to Christian Aid.



COMMUNION FLOWERS

Apr 5 Easter Decorations
12 Mrs M Durrant
19 Mrs A Edwards
26 Mrs H Freeman



Church Meeting—Note change.

The next Church Meeting is on **Sunday 26th April following the service (approx. 12.15pm start)** at Stowmarket URC. This will also be on Zoom.

Prayer Chain

At Stowmarket URC we are a family of believers. Families share problems and concerns , joys and sorrows . So we as a Church family can share ours too knowing there will be those who will be ready to listen and support us.

The prayer Chain (01449 745944) is here to support and pray for those that are in need. Do get in touch if you want us to pray for you or those you feel are in need.

Ann Edwards

'Take Time to Pray'

I got up early one morning, and rushed right into the day.
I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled around me and heavier came each task.
 Why doesn't God help me I wondered
 he answered "you didn't ask"
I wanted to see joy and beauty but the day
 toiled on grey and bleak
I wondered why God didn't show me
 He said "but you didn't seek. "
I tried to come into God's presence.
 I used all the keys at the lock
 God gently and lovingly chided
 "my child you didn't knock"
I woke up early this morning and paused before entering the day
 I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.



Warmest Easter wishes to you.
May this season remind you of

Upcoming Events

**"Second Saturday"
Coffee Morning**
Saturday 11th April 2025
10.00 am to 12 noon



*Wonderful
homemade cakes
& savouries*

**Donations for Parkinson's UK
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, 24th April 2026
10.00am - 12.00 noon**

*Coffee/ tea, Cakes
and a Draw*



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

'Playing Cards - A pack/ deck of cards' Poem

Who would have thought that pieces of card,
Would allow us to play many games?
Some games are easy, some are hard.
I'll try to remember some names.



You might own your own pack.
It's a versatile collection.
Many games that you can play
What a wonderful selection.

We're told the origin's China. (9th century)
Then Middle east, just by chance. (13th century)
Cards travelled through many countries.
Arrived to us via France. (15th century)



Play games, all alone, or with others.
Pontoon, a game where you twist.
And then you progress, moving onwards
To all sorts of games based on **Whist**.

Whist has a version called **Bridge**.
Your partner might well be a dummy.
But if you prefer making patterns,
You might like the game known as **Rummy**..



If you are playing many games.
It's good to have an ace.
With many games like **Nap** and **Brag**
You need a **Poker** face.

Many games are similar,
And others quite unique.
If folk are using two part packs.
They're paying French **Bezique**.

We might play cards for the winning.
But something my Grandad would say
"If you're not prepared to come second,
The rule is you must just not play."



The Really Lovely Card Playing Company R.R.G.

Easter Puzzle

Easter Anagram © dltk-bible.com

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our
Easter Anagram



aeeeghmnst _____

deknoy _____

einrs _____

aeily _____

accefiirs _____

eoornst _____

ccfiruy _____

efginorv _____

hnorst _____

aahnos _____



- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| BETRAYAL | JUDAS | SATAN |
| COVENANT | KISS | SCRIPTURE |
| DISCIPLES | LORD'S SUPPER | SILVER |
| FAITHFUL | MOTIVE | SPEAR |
| GARDEN | NIGHT | TEMPLE |
| GOSPEL | PRAY | TRUTH |
| HEART | PROMISE | |

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=V1Z0Y01tOU85b2R6WklKV0FkR3JXZz09>

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

Services - April 2026

STOWMARKET			
<i>April 2026</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
Thu 2nd	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	The Revd Richard Edwards
Fri 3rd	10am	Good Friday	The Revd Norman Tharby
Sun 5th	10.30am	Family Worship Easter Sunday with Holy Communion	The Revd Norman Tharby
Thu 9th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	The Revd Mary Playford
Sun 12th	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd Norman Tharby
Thu 16th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	Mrs Caroline Davies
Sun 19th	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd Norman Tharby
Thu 23rd	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	Mr John Webb
Sun 26th	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd Norman Tharby
Thu 30th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	Mr Keith Scarff

**NTV
Reminder**

Copy for May 2026

To be in by Sunday 19th April 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>April 2026</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
CHRISTCHURCH			
5th	10.30am	Family Worship—Easter Sunday	The Revd Robert Sheard
12th	10.30am	Family Worship	Lindsey Gomez
19th	10.30am	Family Worship	Francis Carr
26th	10.30am	Family Worship	Francis Carr
DEBENHAM			
5th	10.45am	Family Worship with HC. Easter Sunday	Mr Jonathan Sullivan
12th	10.45am	Family Worship	The Revd Mary Playford
19th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Jonny Huggins
26th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Jason Newton
	3pm	Choruses and Cake	
HAUGHLEY			
19th	11.00 am	Family Worship	The Revd David Atkins
MENDLESHAM—Meeting at the Old School Room			
5th	10.45am	Family Worship –Easter Sunday	The Revd Richard Edwards
12th	10.45am	Family Worship	Worship Group
26th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Keith Scarff
STOWUPLAND			
5th	10.30am	Family Worship– Easter Sunday	Mr John Webb
12th	10.30am	Family Worship	Mr Keith Scarff
19th	10.30am	Family Worship	Mr Bruce Thorn
26th	10.30am	Family Worship	Mr John Webb

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

www.urcstowmarketandvillages.com

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



Stowmarket: Office open 10am – 1pm Tue-Fri

Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1AD

Phone : 01449 675045

Email : stowmarketurc@btconnect.com

Website: www.urcstowmarketandvillages.com

Church Officers and Personnel

Minister (Christchurch & Debenham)	Revd Robert Sheard	
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	
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 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