



**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
**Stowmarket**

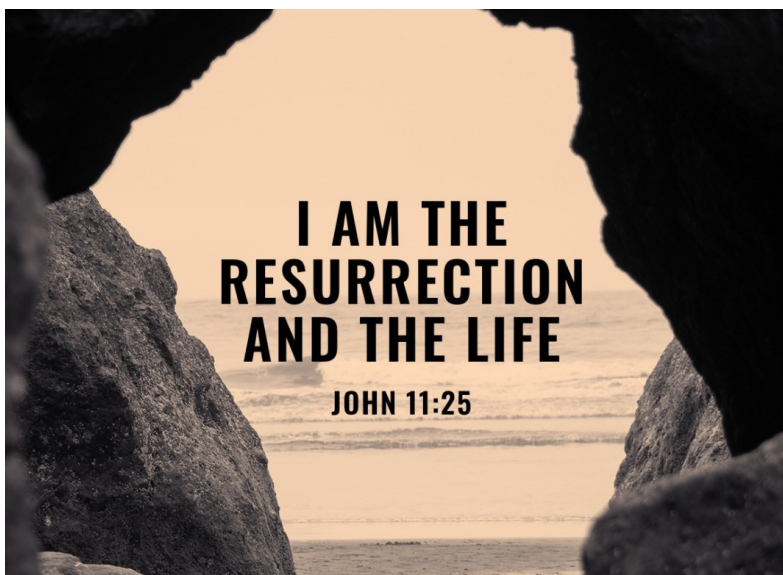
**Debenham**

**Haughley**

**Mendlesham**

**Stowupland**

***News of Town and Village***



**No. 683**

**April 2023**

*Registered Charity Number 1157857*

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## Greetings

### **John 3: 16**

*"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life."*



*The Revd Robert Sheard*

*I am sure you will have heard the question "Which came first the Chicken or the egg?" In the same way we could ask the question "which came first Christmas or Easter?" I can hear you all shouting "Christmas!" Which chronologically is right, but at the same time if we did not have Easter then we would not have Christmas.*

*Because without the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ we would not have the need to celebrate his birth at Christmas. Easter is the more important of these two festivals. Easter is the time when God renewed His covenant with all his people.*

*Through Jesus' Death and Resurrection Jesus took all peoples' sins both past and future, onto Himself, which means we are forgiven even before we have committed a sin as long as we acknowledge and repent.*

*For most people Easter is a time for Easter eggs and Holidays, and it has become commercial, which means they've missed the real reason for Easter, that God did something so amazing, that it changed the world for all time and is still changing the world if we only let it.*

*At Easter new life comes into the world no matter how bad the world gets. Easter reminds us that God is constantly re-creating and we are part of that re-creation, if we only accept that call that Jesus Christ gave from the Cross and become Gods People, accepting the New life He offers.*

**Happy Easter**

*Robert*

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

Despite the spring daffodils putting on a brave display of yellow colour we have been deprived of warm spring days. The news tells us that some areas will be suffering from drought conditions after a very dry winter. In this area, we seem to have more than our fair share of rain these past few weeks. Our ditch was dry all through the winter but now it is full and rising up the bank and into the garden. The grandchildren had a lovely time when it was all frozen over, breaking the ice and wading in the mud, then serving iced drinks from their mud kitchen! The forsythia is coming into flower and the clematis are starting to climb the trellis, but the wet grass is looking very much in need of a good cut. The rabbits are enjoying tender grass shoots so are giving me an insight into the trouble they are going to cause me in the summer!

Dan and I continue to make progress with our medical problems and thank everyone for their care and concern. Other Church people who had falls are also recovering; a poem in this NTV has been dedicated to them! People continue to have falls, however, and we think of them in our prayers. We think too, of Phyllis Risby from Stowupland who has recently returned home from hospital, of Colleen Rose and Linda Reynolds who are both recovering from hip replacement operations. Michael Martin has not been well. Richard and Ann Edwards have been taking care of their daughter after a procedure. Alan Page had his gall bladder removed and Jane is due for a procedure soon. Our organist, Roger Green, has some health issues and his son has been in hospital for several weeks. We send our best wishes to all these people in recovery.



We think and pray for Joan Cobbold, living in Chilton Court, as her son, Neil, died recently.

### **Death**

Jean Colman, a member of Stowupland Chapel, died in hospital on March 18th. She was a loyal member of the Chapel and supported them faithfully in all their endeavours, but was unable to attend services once her health began to fail. We send our prayers and sympathy to her two sons and to her friends at the Chapel.

### **Congratulations**

We send congratulations and best wishes to Christine Mason who will be 90 on April 25th. We hope she will enjoy birthday celebrations with family and friends over the course of several days.



## ***News from Debenham***

Don't forget Coffee Morning every Tuesday 10:00-11:30. Everyone and anyone welcome. If you like coffee, tea and nice biscuits, this is the place for you!

Tuesday 6th April Friends & Neighbours 2:00pm with Mr John Knights.

Tuesday 18th April church AGM 2:00pm

Sunday 30th April Cakes & Choruses 3:00pm, come for a sing and a munch through some lovely home-made cakes.

More things than the above are happening at Debenham URC and by way of an update this is where we are now.....

We gained permission to make some changes to the United Reformed Church in Debenham so that we can make the building more accessible to those not familiar with "Church". Also, the changes to the interior means that we can expand the use of this valuable space for the use of the local community.

To this end the membership have raised over £50,000 to have the whole building re-wired, a fire alarm system installed, new lighting and state of the art heating installed. This bar a few tweaks has now been completed.

The next phase is to have most of the pews removed, leaving some as an example of the original decor and levelling the floor. This will reveal a huge space opening up many possibilities for all sorts of activities.

After this, the plan is to widen the foyer into the church making a social space for more informal gatherings.

After the removal of pews the rest of the work is estimated to cost another £100,000 for which we are having cake sales, and one of our more brave male members, Chris, is doing a sponsored luminescent hair colour which he will sport for a month. So if you see a gentleman, who really ought to know better, sporting bright pink hair around Debenham, you will know it is for a good cause! He has raised over £2500 so far. If you would like to get involved by sponsoring Chris please call Chris on 01449 711824 All sponsorship amounts will be gratefully accepted.

Stop press; some of the pews have been purchased by local families and a local antiques dealer is hopefully taking the rest.

Further updates to come.....

## ***News from Mendlesham***

Three members of our congregation joined in worship at Stowmarket for the Anniversary, followed by two more for lunch. A lovely opportunity to join with a larger congregation and share in the fellowship.

On 2nd of April the afternoon service at 3.00pm will be conducted by the Rev'd Richard Edwards.

Afternoon Fellowship meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 2.30pm and the speakers for April are Mrs Ann Edwards on the 5th and Mr John Webb on the 19th.

MURCies Coffee Bar will be open on Friday 14th April from 10.00am.



The Knit & Natter group meet on Monday 24th April from 2.00pm.

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held for Pam Thorpe on Wednesday 12th April at 2.30pm.

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 clocks have also been changed giving us longer days.

On Sunday 5 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. Also on this day Mary Clark was 104 years old, what an amazing lady. Mary celebrated with her family. On 19th March, Mothering Sunday, we had a very interesting service with Rev Mary Playford. During the service we all received a Polyantha, which was kindly given by a member of our congregation.

A piece of sad news, Jean Coleman passed away on 18 March, after a stay in hospital which culminated in her residing in a nursing home for a few days before her passing, Jean was very proud to be a Church Member. She was a very generous, larger than life character of our congregation and devoted to the Chapel. She will be very sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this sad time.

Our next Coffee morning is on Friday 28 April 10am to 12noon. Everyone welcome.

Joyce Gardiner

## ***News from Haughley***

During each Wednesday in Lent Haughley held a Lent lunch.

On Saturday 11th March 2023 there was the revival of the War Memorial back to its original state from March 1920, with much more besides. It is now wheelchair and disability friendly. In April the Pizza group will meet and Open the Book continues.

## ***Church Meeting***

The next Church Meeting is Monday May 22nd **at 7.30pm** in the Main Hall, note the time. This meeting will **not be on Zoom**. Parking will be very limited so if you are able please avoid using the car park.

### **COMMUNION FLOWERS**

April	2	Mrs R Lewis (Palm Sunday)
	9	Easter Decorations
	16	Mrs H. Freeman
	23	Mrs D Tharby
	30	Mrs A Hodson



## ***Pause For Prayer***

During April we have a new leader joining us on April 13th when Major Kevin Pitt from the Salvation Army will be coming for the first time.

We are so grateful to all who come to lead each week and it's good to have leaders from several different Churches in Stowmarket and area. We appreciate the different ways in which people lead and the opportunity for fellowship together. It's good also to have the chance to find out how things are going in the different Fellowships too. Most of all though it is a time of meeting with God and having time to listen and pray together.

The extension of fellowship over coffee in the hall afterwards is also a time of blessing. Do come and join us in the Church at 9.30 am any Thursday if you are free.

Ann Edwards

## ***Prayer Chain***

We can all turn to God in our time of need and know with a certainty that He is there to help.

*' As for God His way is perfect*

*The Lord's word is flawless*

*He shields all who take refuge in Him*

*For who is God besides the Lord ?*

*And who is the Rock except our God ?*

*It is God who strengthens and keeps my way secure. '*

*Psalms 18 v 30 - 32.*



However it is also good to share our burdens with others who can pray with us and for us. Do phone if ever you want the Prayer Chain to pray for you.

Ann Edwards. 01449 745944.

## ***Benevolent Fund - April***



Benevolent fund for April is **Suffolk Sight**. Suffolk Sight is the sight loss charity for Suffolk.

They say "their purpose is to improve the lives of children and adults of all ages who are affected by sight loss."

They work hard to provide services that are friendly and practical, and to raise awareness of the different aspects of living with sight loss. Their dedicated team is here to offer support and advice on an individual basis offering ideas and support as long as needed.

Please give if you can to this very worthwhile charity in the offertory plate on a Sunday clearly marked, or place your donation in the permanent Benevolent Fund box in the foyer of the church. This is emptied regularly. Thankyou.

## ***U3A***

19th April - "Wildlife in your Garden" – Talk by award winning photographer, Roger Hance. 2.30pm in the URC Main Hall.

## ***Bible Fellowship - Lent Course***



Our final Lent Group on "In the shadow of the Cross" is scheduled for Tuesday 4th April. We shall then take a break and present plans are for a series of Bible Studies in May and June led by Revd. Norman Tharby on 2nd, 16th and 30th May and 13th and 27th June.

Richard Edwards

## ***Monday Community Brew***

Everyone at Monday Community Brew enjoyed their 5th Birthday Party on Monday 27 February. Because of railway track closures April's dates have not yet been finalized. They will be advertised as soon as possible. For more information, please contact Michelle Frost on 07810 456512.

## ***Saturday 29th April - Cake Stall***

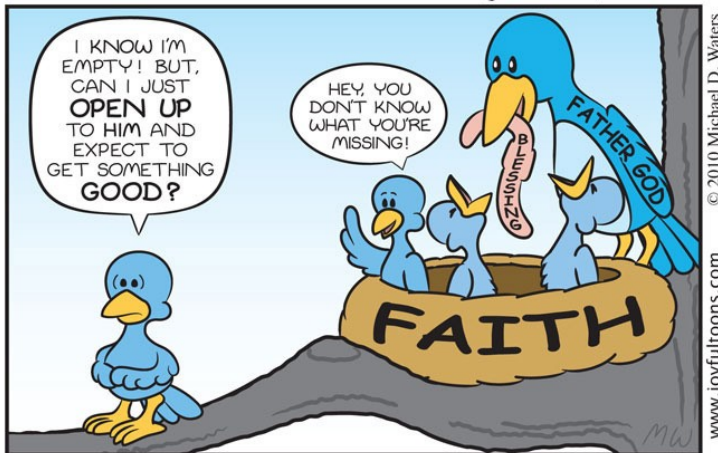
My grandson has just returned from Tanzania on the Thurston Sixth Global Citizenship Programme, where they visited year 3,4 and 5 at a school. These sixth formers are now raising funds for the Futuresense Foundation. ( FutureSense Foundation is a charity registered in the UK (Charity No. 1132101) that supports community development in some of the poorest regions of the world).

I am having a cake stall in the church car park on the 29th April to help them with the fund raising. Please can you consider supporting these youngsters.

Pauline Gosling

### **OPEN WIDE**

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt.  
Open wide your mouth and I will fill it. — PSALM 81:10 NIV



## ***Christian Aid Walk***



Christian Aid Walk on **Monday, May 1st**. Jane and Dan invite you to join them at "Crowstone". The walk will leave at 10.30 am. 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.

## ***The SWEET Truth of Easter***



These candies tell a story~  
the best news you'll ever hear.  
~It's about Jesus dying on the cross  
so that we could be brought near.

So hold them and turn them and you will see...  
the "M" become a "W" an "E" and then a "3"

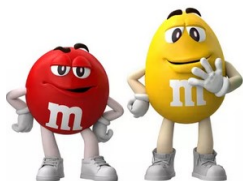
The "E" stands for... Easter....  
God's everlasting love and His eternal plan.  
It reminds us of the cross  
and the way God rescued sinful man

The "3" represent the 3 days Jesus spent in the grave....  
By His death, His children He did save

The "M" reminds us of the mercy the Messiah showed  
as He died in our place.

and the miracle of the resurrection  
so we can see Him face to face.

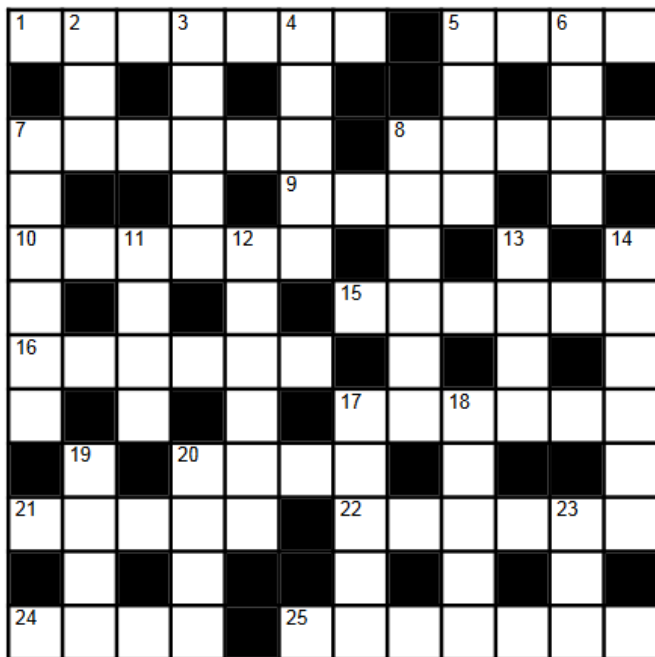
The "W" reminds us... that He alone  
is worthy of our worship and praise  
and calls us to be His witnesses  
around the world for all of our days.



*Poem by Bathany Tapp*

# Puzzle

Bible Crossword - QC20 by Philologus © BiblePuzzles.com



## Across

- 1 Haman's end (7)
- 5 Cereal grain (4)
- 7 Messiah (6)
- 8 Grind (5)
- 9 Priest who returned from Babylon with Zerubbabel (4)
- 10 Roman ruler (6)
- 15 Like a lamb (6)
- 16 Parable feature (6)
- 17 Don't cast them before swine (6)
- 20 Insects (4)
- 21 Number of years Aeneas was bedridden (5)
- 22 Capital of 8 down (6)
- 24 Flavoursome plant (4)
- 25 Mark (7)

## Down

- 2 Tree, mentioned only in Isaiah (3)
- 3 They may be girded (5)
- 4 Purified by Elisha (5)
- 5 Nathanael's home (4)
- 6 Flower of Sharon (4)
- 7 Foul weeds (6)
- 8 Origin of Timothy's father (6)
- 11 Christ's yoke is this (4)
- 12 Sanctify with oil (6)
- 13 Celestial body (4)
- 14 Biblical divisions (6)
- 17 One of David's hymns (5)
- 18 Loathe (5)
- 19 Spouse (4)
- 20 Defeated Benhadad (4)
- 23 Joshua's father (3)



BETRAY  
BLESSED  
BLOOD  
BODY  
BREAD  
BROKEN  
DESIRE  
DIP  
DISCIPLES  
EAT  
EVENING  
FATHER  
FRUIT

GIVEN  
HYMN  
JESUS  
JUDAS  
KINGDOM  
LAST SUPPER  
LORD  
MASTER  
MEMORIAL  
NEW TESTAMENT  
PASSEOVER  
PETER  
POURED

PREPARE  
REMISSION  
SINS  
SON OF MAN  
SOP  
SORROWFUL  
TABLE  
TAKE  
THANKS  
UPPER ROOM  
VINE  
WATERPOT  
WINE

## Poem 'Have You Ever Fallen Over?'



Have you ever fallen over?  
The cause, a garden rake.  
If you were very lucky,  
A bone you did not break.

Remember Humpty Dumpty,  
He fell off a brick wall.  
And like some of our members,  
They all have had a fall.



How did these accidents happen?  
A trip, a slide, you flew!  
Some landed on hard surfaces,  
That left them black and blue.



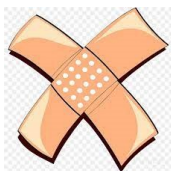
The falling isn't dangerous,  
A rapid time of calm.  
But if you fall and hit the ground,  
The landing can cause harm.

If you fall among others,  
People come to aid.  
But if you fall and are alone,  
It might make you afraid.

It may mean a visit to hospital,  
Or perhaps a local nurse.  
If abroad, away from home,  
It could affect your purse.



They'll fix you up and mend your wounds,  
A programme of repair.



You might get offered therapy,  
You've no need to despair.

If you are one who's fallen,  
I wish you all the best.  
And hope you will recover soon,  
But don't forget to rest.

From the, 'Really lovely poetry company.' R.R.G.

## Upcoming Events



### 'SECOND SATURDAY' COFFEE MORNING at URC Stowmarket

**Saturday 8th April - 10.00am to 12noon**  
Wonderful homemade cakes and savouries.

Donations for Suffolk Sight and Church funds.  
Come and See, All are welcome to join us!



#### **Thursday Coffee Morning**

We are now open for coffee &  
tea at URC Stowmarket  
**every Thursday morning**  
**from 10am until noon.**  
**All welcome.**



#### **Stowupland URC Chapel**

#### **Coffee Morning**

**Friday 28th April 2023**  
**10.00am - 12.00 noon**  
**Coffee/ tea and Cakes.**  
**All welcome.**

## 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**

#### **JUNIOR CHURCH**

Each Sunday from 10.25am.  
Come and join us.



### BOYS BRIGADE AND GIRLS ASSOCIATION IN STOWMARKET



#### **1<sup>st</sup> 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**

## 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 2023

<b>STOWMARKET</b>			
<b>April 2023</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Preacher</b>
Sun 2nd	10.30am	Family Worship with HC.— Palm Sunday	The Worship Group
Thu 6th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer - Maundy Thursday	The Revd Richard Edwards
<b>Fri 7th</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	The Revd Robert Sheard
Sun 9th	10.30am	Easter Sunday with HC	Mr William Glasse
Thu 13th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	Major Kevin Pitt
Sun 16th	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd David Atkins
Thu 20th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	Mr Keith Scarff
Sun 23rd	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd Robert Sheard
Thu 27th	9.30am	Pause for Prayer	The Revd Robert Sheard
Sun 30th	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd John Cook

<i>April 2023</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Services</i>	<i>Preacher</i>
<b>DEBENHAM</b>			
2nd	10.45am	Family Worship with HC— Palm Sunday	The Revd Barbara Challis
9th	10.45am	Easter Sunday	The Revd Robert Sheard
16th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Steve Wincoll
23rd	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Kevin Catto
30th	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Jonny Huggins
	3pm	Choruses and Cake	
<b>HAUGHLEY</b>			
16th	11.00 am	Family Worship	Mr Keith Scarff
<b>MENDLESHAM</b>			
2nd	3pm	Afternoon Worship—Palm Sunday	The Revd Richard Edwards
<b>Fri 7th</b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	Mr William Glasse
9th	10.45am	Easter Sunday	Mr Keith Scarff
23rd	10.45am	Family Worship	Mr Stephen Horrex
<b>STOWUPLAND</b>			
2nd	10.30am	Family Worship—Palm Sunday	Mrs Veda Berriman
9th	10.30am	Easter Sunday with HC	The Revd Mary Playford
16th	10.30am	Family Worship	Mrs Alison Fenning
23rd	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd Norman Tharby
30th	10.30am	Family Worship	The Revd Robert Sheard

**NTV  
Reminder**

**Copy for May 2023**

**To be in by Sunday 23rd April 2023**

**E-mail to: [ntv.stowmarket@gmail.com](mailto:ntv.stowmarket@gmail.com)**

Hard copy to Anne Scarff.

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



## Stowmarket: Office open 10am – 1pm Mon-Fri

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Website: www.urcstowmarketandvillages.com

and village chapels of:

Debenhams Haughley Mendlesham Stowupland

## Church Officers and Personnel

Minister	The Revd Robert Sheard	☎ 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	
Acting Treasurer	Miss Anne Scarff	☎ 774792
	As above	
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 L Kelway	☎ 01728-860473
	37 Gardeners Rd, Debenham, Stowmarket IP14 6QY	
Mendlesham	Mrs Margaret Jackson	☎ 766321
	13 Glebe Way, Mendlesham IP14 5TL	
Stowupland	Vacant	
	<i>Please contact Joyce Gardiner</i>	☎ 676149