DEBENHAM
PARISH MAGAZINE

75p

October 2026



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FROM THE EDITOR

Three years on from Storm Babet, it is easy to think that little has changed and given the driest summer on record the likelihood of a repeat currently seems remote, but for those impacted the worry of a similar event will take a long time to fade, if indeed it does at all. On pages 34-36, is a report transcribed from an article in the EADT on the meeting held at the Leisure Centre, presenting the challenges we face from Climate Change. The article paints a gloomy picture if action isn't taken. Reassuringly, there is action being taken locally, with the formation of UDOG (Upper Deben Owners Group) featured in the last two issues of the magazine. Measures are being taken and although there was little publicity beforehand, this organisation is now growing and efforts are being made not only to alleviate future flooding, but engage the community with the progress being made. Please see page 11 for an update.

The cover this month features a photograph of the Northern Lights, it was taken locally during October, not this October but I used it because it feels autumnal. Neil sent it from his camera roll but then realised it was not his photo. Many thanks to Karen for sharing it.

As we move into Autumn there are a number of events coming up: the Litter Pick on October 24th will prepare the village and surrounding area for a tidy start to Winter; Winston is holding its traditional Early Bird Christmas Market; there are plenty of musical events taking place; the URC have their Gift Day; and The Green Team have plenty to occupy us.

Please note changes to the Ministry Team on page 59!

Wishing everyone a happy and productive October!

Jan

DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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(Tuesday 13th October for Business Advertising)

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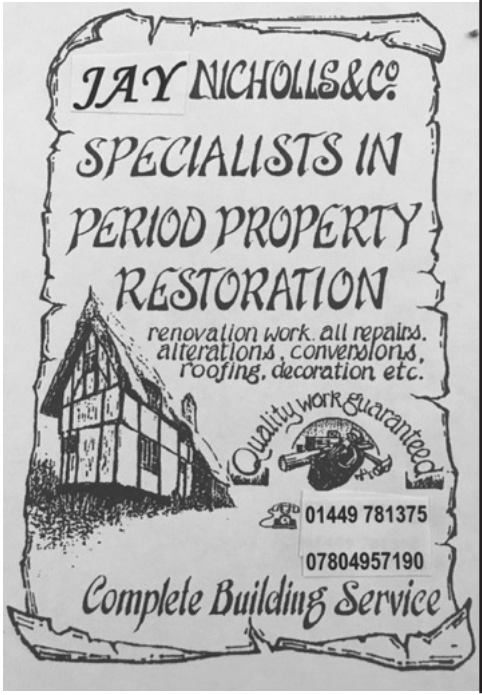


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Week 2: An Enduring Heart – Developing resilience and faith that remains strong through trials, disappointment, and waiting.
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Week 4: A Revitalised Heart – Rediscovering a passion for God

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Thank you to everyone who attended the Quiz night on 19th September. We were able to raise **£1200** towards our Hardship Fund which provides emergency support to households in Mid Suffolk who are experiencing financial distress.

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Debenham Shed





About half of the 50 barn owl boxes we are making are now installed and ready for occupation (at mid-September), and the rest will be up during the autumn/winter. Another community project just started is for Diss Rotary Club: a Christmas display to carry two reindeer and a person for use on a trailer (see the picture of a model).



Meanwhile for our crafters we have bought with funds from a MSDC Locality Budget a heavy duty sewing machine, which copes with soft leather and upholstery fabric and does all sorts of fancy stitches. More ladies would be welcome!





What is Debenham Shed? A place to make things by yourself, with guidance or with others. It could be in metal, cloth, wood or plastic. We have lots of tools and materials. You may want to repair or make new—the limit is your imagination. It is also for social connecting and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter. Debenham shed is open to all adults.

Debenham Shed is at 2 Fields Farm, Low Road (IP14 6BJ). We are open on Monday mornings 9am-12pm and, Fridays 10am-5pm. Chairman: Les Wright 07793 470694 Treasurer: Tony Hutt 07906 614328. Visit our website at www.debenhamshed.org.uk Email info@debenhamshed.org.uk . Debenham Shed

Candle Making Workshop: Saturday 21 November

Another candle making workshop will be held at Debenham Shed from 10am to 2pm on 21st November. Materials will be supplied. We will be making simple candles from solid moulds but your own containers can be filled. Book early to avoid disappointment! The cost is £5 to members or £10 to guests. Email events@debenhamshed.org.uk or phone 07906 614328.



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UDOG NEWS

I counted myself fortunate to be one of four invited to a UDOG coffee morning on 15th September. UDOG committee members Kate and Jayne talked through what UDOG aims to do, how it was formed and financed, and the measures being proposed. In order to meet a wider audience in small groups, the committee aims to engage as many people in the village as possible who have been, and may be, impacted by flooding, including riparian owners who may be perplexed by what the Environment Agency expects of them. Joining the group is free and open to anyone concerned about local flooding. These sessions aim to include people who may be over-looked by larger meetings, by access issues, or perhaps overwhelmed in a larger meeting where you want to be heard but are perhaps reluctant to speak. Kate and Jayne talked through the catchment area of UDOG; the tributaries of the river Deben, and how the river could be better managed to avoid the catastrophic flooding of 2023. Kate talked about the 'foxtrot' method; slow-slow, quick-quick, slow, whereby the water is slowed down before it enters the village through methods like leaky dams, and earthworks that hold the water to release it slowly, then a quick progress of water through the village by managing the river better, before slowing it down again to protect property further downstream. You can see some of these works in progress around the village now – near Crows Hall for example. The group then hands over riparian ownership and community liaison to LDOG (Lower Deben Owners Group) who oversee improvements out to the estuary. Long term solutions were discussed: hedge and tree planting to hold the soil, farming methods that prevent run-off, installing water butts, and beavers (for whom planting of trees is necessary) – a longer-term aim! Smaller meetings like this gave us a chance to discuss concerns such as planning, education, engagement of the young and address such things as the rumours of sluice gates being closed down-river that exacerbated the flooding in Debenham. We were assured that land owners are now even more connected and talking to each other ensuring a coordinated management of the river made possible through membership of the ownership groups.

If you would like to be invited to a coffee morning please email hello@udog.org.uk to let us know and we can arrange a date.

We are also holding a drop in UDOG Information afternoon at Dove cottage in November, so look out on Facebook and for posters advertising this event.

See www.udog.org.uk for more information.


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A True Community is a Sum of its parts

Term has begun very positively at Debenham High School. Our new Year 7s are settling in very well and are quickly becoming part of our wider school community.

Building a community spirit within school is really important to us – we want our students and staff to feel they belong at the high school and they bring a unique contribution to making the school a place they can thrive.

We place a priority on building community through the way we teach; the extracurricular club offer; music lessons as well as music and drama groups in which students can participate; sporting teams and challenges to build excellence but also to encourage engagement; leadership opportunities.

Talented Individuals – Making up our rich and diverse school community

A community is a sum of its parts and within our high school we have so many talented individuals. Their hobbies and interests outside of school enrich our school community; some of them winners, others competitors or contributors but all to be celebrated for their involvement.

To name but a few, in our most recent Aspire magazine we celebrated a Year 10 student who has entered the Royal Economic Society Young Economist of the Year competition writing an essay on "How will AI affect long term economic growth in developing countries?"

Three Year 9s who entered the Young Poet Laureate Programme. One of the poems, "Waterfalls" is included in this article.

Waterfalls
Water flowing through cracks in the ground
like veins through a body;
Explosions created as water crashes down from sky scrapping heights.
Force as strong as earthquakes blowing up the ground
Like bombs in mist thick walls.
The iridescent sun peaks through the mist
making scintillating lakes of water.
Rainbows are made from thin air;
anyone who saw it would have fireworks in their mind,
Amazement playing in their chest like fingers drumming,
And in disbelief, would thin it sorcery,
The incandescent sun creates a picture upon the water of pure elegance itself.



Remaining on a literacy theme, a Year 10 student won the Suffolk Book Mastermind County Championship answering questions on the book "Reckless" by Lauren Roberts.



A Year 11 student who has been elected as the Member of the Youth Parliament for Mid Suffolk, becoming one of almost 400 young representatives from across the United Kingdom.

She will serve a two-year term (2026–2028), representing thousands of young people across Mid Suffolk and ensuring their views are heard by local and national decision-makers.

Cont p.15

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Enjoying Tudor history, we have a Year 10 student who has been involved in Kentwell Hall immersive history experiences. In this case, "Live as a Tudor" in June. She said, ***"I was asked questions about what I was doing and who I was. I was expected to know the family history; details about the clothing I wear as well as portraits on the wall. We had a fabulous time – I attended a handfasting ceremony; I ate Tudor Food that was prepared that weekend in the kitchen…***

I have gained many new skills – I have learnt to do authentic Tudor sewing, including some embroidery; I read Tudor books in their alphabet. Being dyslexic, I found the logic of the Tudor words easier to read. I also used a counting board to practise Maths; the fact numbers were words not digits made this better for me."



Moving from history to farming, a Year 8 student won the Intermediate Young Handlers class at the Suffolk Show, having already won the Champion Young Handler at the South Suffolk Show and the Reserve Young Handler at Hadleigh Show.

We are so proud of all our students; celebrating their success is important to us. Within our collective worship, we share the teaching in Romans 12:15, ***"Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep"***

<u>Being part of the Community – Communities within the Community</u>

<u>Music:</u>

Within our Music department there are plenty of chances to work with other people from within the school and beyond. In the Summer Term, our students played alongside the primary school at Celebration held at Snape Maltings. They played a medley of Abba songs and an arrangement of Locomotion by Jean Downes, our peripatetic wind teacher.

Also a number of students were part of a multi school music tour to Italy. One of our Year 11 students shares, "*The Italy Music trip was a great experience for playing at bigger venues and also doing lots of sightseeing.***

We played at 3 concerts along with Farlingaye High School, where we performed orchestral pieces, choir songs and ensembles. We also visited the Leaning Tower of Pisa, also Sienna, Florence and Montecantini Alto, where we got to enjoy the sights, culture and Italian Food!

It was an incredible experience not just for musical skills, but for being able to freely explore the beautiful scenery independently, and getting to know the students in another Suffolk School."

Cont p.17



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Equestrian Team



Within the Equestrian Team in school we have some individual successes as well as hopes for a team presence at competitions this year. Four students have qualified for the NSEA SJ Championships over the summer so we look forward to hearing more about how these young people get on.

Peer Mentoring Team – Building Community

With a record number of Peer Mentors having been selected in Years 9 and 10, we have our students ready to work with our Year 7s. Through Form Activities; assisting at the Year 7 Drop In and through the 1:1 Match Mentor scheme, we aim to help Year 7s feel comfortable on transition to high school and to feel part of our wider community.



Louise Ramsay



Friends of Debenham Library

Suffolk Community Libraries

If you have never visited the library in Debenham (on the site of the Primary School), why not pay us a visit? You will receive a warm welcome! Or if you've got out of the habit of visiting, why not come back and borrow some books to read by the fireplace (if you still have one) during the lengthening autumn evenings?

Did you know….?

There are 4350 stock items listed for Debenham Library in the catalogue but only 466 available at the library today—that's because many go out to other libraries. However, reservations are free so you can choose from the hundreds of thousands in the catalogue: reserve online or at the library.

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Debenham History Society - Lecture Season 2026/2027

Tuesday 13th October 2026
A Hard and Grievous Battle; the Siege of Haughley Castle and the Battle of Fornham in 1173
Dr Mike Walker's illustrated talk explores the dramatic and little-known events of the Great Revolt of 1173 in Suffolk. Discover the remarkable personalities, fierce battles and political intrigue that shaped this pivotal period, from the siege of Haughley Castle to the Battle of Fornham, a decisive turning point in Henry II's victory. The talk also examines the role of Bury St Edmunds and the enduring influence of St Edmund.

Tuesday 3rd November 2026
Bread and Ale to The Muster at Mellis: The Story of England's Last Tudor Armoury
Kathleen Hallaways traces the history of military service in Mendlesham, beginning with the Anglo-Saxon fyrd, continuing through the legal reforms of the Assize of Arms, then examining the first reference to the parish's own militia in the churchwardens' records, and finally describing how that militia operated and trained until its last recorded mention in 1695.

Tuesday 1st December 2026
The Romans In Suffolk
Chris Turland explores Suffolk's Roman past, the impact the Romans had and the legacy they left behind.

January 2027: NO MEETING

Tuesday 16th February 2027
The Use of Bricks from Roman Times to Today
Tony Minter of the Bulmer Brick and Tile Foundation, tells how the Bulmer Brick and Tile Company have been privileged to work on repair and conservation projects for brick buildings from the Roman period to the modern day. This is a result of their expertise in traditional hand brick crafts, practised in some form on site since the 15th century. This talk will take you through different styles of brickwork that appeared in Britain since the Roman period, as seen from a brick maker's perspective.

Tuesday 2nd March 2027
Privies, Drains and Disinfection
Dr Jonathan Belsey's talk is based on the late 19th century logbooks for the Inspector of Nuisances in West Suffolk. He was essentially the predecessor of the NHS Public Health services and was responsible for visiting houses where cases of infectious disease had been reported, in order to identify where corrective measures needed to be taken. This could be anything from disinfection or drains improvement, right up to demolition of hovels in the worst cases. It gives a lovely insight into the reality of everyday life in rural Suffolk at that time.

Cont p21

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Tuesday 6th April 2027
Constable - the artist who couldn't get arrested
Kim Smith details Constable's surprising lack of success in his lifetime, how he became revered posthumously and his link to a modern celebrity.

Tuesday 11th May 2027
A Neat and Beautiful Theatre - Bury St Edmunds Market Cross Theatre
Adrian Tindall explores the remarkable history of Bury St Edmunds Market Cross, from its medieval origins as a preaching cross and market to the building seen today. After the Great Fire of 1608, it became a market hall and later an early Georgian playhouse, before Robert Adam transformed it in 1774 into the elegant neoclassical theatre praised by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner. The talk also highlights its later roles as a concert room, Town Hall and Art Gallery, with stories of performers and visitors including Marie Tussaud and Franz Liszt.

Tuesday 1st June 2027
Melford Hall and Beatrix Potter
Dave Steward explores the fascinating connection between the Suffolk country house and beloved author Beatrix Potter, whose many visits inspired drawings, stories and lasting memories preserved at the Hall.

Tuesday 6th July 2027
Viking-Age East Anglia
Dr Richard Hoggett tells how from the middle decades of the 9th century until the Norman Conquest, East Anglia was an integral part of the Viking world which spanned the North Sea basin. Drawing on historical sources, archaeological sites, artefacts and place-names, this lecture explores the evidence for the Viking presence in East Anglia, from the initial campaign of the Great Heathen Army and the martyrdom of King Edmund, to the subsequent settlement and integration under the Danelaw, and the second wave of raids on the region's towns which took place in the 11th century.

Location: The United Reformed Church, 21 Chancery Lane Debenham Suffolk IP14 6RN
Commencing : 7.30pm (unless otherwise listed)
Cost: £5 per session (unless otherwise advertised)

TO RECEIVE MONTHLY REMINDERS AND CURRENT INFORMATION OF DEBENHAM HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS PLEASE SIGN UP VIA https:// thedebenhamarchive.uk

JUMBLE SALE!

Huge thanks to everyone who helped in any way to making our 7th Charity Jumble Sale such a success. Final figures are yet to be confirmed but it will be in excess of £4544.50! What a wonderful, happy Community Event in St Marys. Full update in next months magazine.
Bridget and the Team

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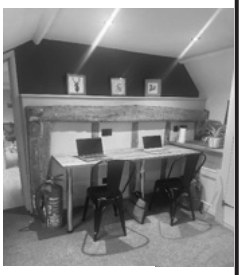


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Rescued.

I was in the slipway. I had waded to my waist.
Fishing for some mackerel. Oh! How we love the taste.
I was concentrating and therefore preoccupied.
So that, as can happen. I misjudged the tide.
The water rose quite quickly. It was soon around my chest.
So retreat was in my mind. I really thought it best.
But, my waders had filled with water and I stood there like a stone.
Looking around me, I realised I was alone.
Panic is a good word for it. It rose and squeezed my throat.
Then suddenly, I was moving. I was afloat.
Looking down, I realised I was riding something fast.
The shock was overwhelming. Which I'm sure will always last.
Yet. I felt no real fear.
Though I dropped my rod and reel.
For a study of my lower half. Revealed me, astride a seal.
I don't expect belief now.
In your place I would be the same.
But, you have to try to understand. We were going like a train.
We had a proper bow wave. A wake that showed our speed.
Then thankfully we turned for land.
I was very glad indeed.
At knee depth this creature left me. So I was once more safe.
Then with a bobbing head it drifted away.
To a less exciting place.
John Garrard.

Local Film Clubs

If you use WhatsApp and would like to be notified of film showings in local film clubs, contact Tony Hutt on 07906 614328. Currently this includes the following: Stonham Aspall, Brandeston, Framlingham, Thornham, Eye, Capel St Mary, Brundish, Stradbroke, Hoxne, Haughley and Palgrave.




DEBENHAM GREEN TEAM BIKE TEAM
BIKE CLINIC
9.00-11.00am
Sat 3rd October
VILLAGE GREEN
FREE
Basic bike safety check and service plus maintenance tips, all for free.
debenhamgreenteam@gmail.com
Sponsored by Cycling UK
CyclingUK
UDOG
Upper Deben Owners Group
Sat 3rd October
9-11am
Outside the Lion
Come and find out how
Natural Flood Management
can help stop Debenham flooding.
See the model storm tank demonstrate how planting trees and hedgerows can help soak up water to slow it down before it reaches people's homes.
Find out how installing a cut price Water Butt on your home can help the flood risk.


DEBENHAM GREEN TEAM
'Monthly Mix Up'
Thursday October 22nd
Dove Cottage 7.30pm
Come and make
Eco-friendly cleaning products
Bring some bottles to put them in.
Costs £2- £3 per product depending on ingredient costs.
To book: debenhamgreenteam@gmail.com
JOIN OUR LITTER PICK
Join Debenham Green Team taking care of our beautiful parish - give wildlife a helping hand and reduce litter pollution of our rivers and drains.
Saturday 24th October 2026
9.30-12 Dove Cottage for safety briefing and equipment.
Refreshments provided
Contact Joy Walton
joyw@btinternet.com
07427 739552
Look forward to seeing you there!
DEBENHAM GREEN TEAM
KEEP BRITAIN TIDY.
litteraction.org.uk



This will be the final performance of Angel Voices, having been performed at Stowmarket and Harwich. Here is what someone said about the performance in Stowmarket:

Angel Voices by Roger Jones... is adapted from his musical as a short concert performance of 15 songs based on The Book of Revelation telling of God's desire to bring all creation into an environment of worship with the Lamb of God upon the throne at the centre. We went along to a performance of this by an ecumenical choir, The Combined Churches' Choir ... It was a very polished, slick performance, by very good singers, most enjoyable and not overlong!!!


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A day to come together & support our church

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2026

11.00am – 2.00pm

ASSORTED STALLS

- BOOKS & JIGSAWS
- TOMBOLA
- BRIC-A-BRAC
- BREW & BISCUIT
- RAFFLE
- CAKES
- & MORE.



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We look forward to seeing you!

Helping biodiversity in Debenham

Garden tasks for October and over winter

Helping Biodiversity

Autumn and winter in the garden

If you are renewing or maintaining your fences, please consider hedgehog holes to improve the movement of hedgehogs between our gardens.

Take care with bonfires over the winter - move all material to ensure there are no hedgehogs hibernating in the pile.

Build a bug hotel.

Create log and or rubble piles to provide winter homes for amphibians such as newts and frogs, and other wildlife.

Don't be too tidy! Leave some scrubby/ long grass areas to provide a habitat for overwintering larvae/eggs of insects, moths and butterflies. Leave seed heads for the birds.

Create a pond if you don't already have one.

If your pond freezes over, break the ice at the shallow end so that wildlife can access a water source.

Put up bird/bat/swift boxes.







Take a look at Suffolk Wildlife Trust's website for lots of hints and tips for wildlife friendly gardening.

https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/gardeningadvice

FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION

Debenham
Parish Church
9.30 am
18th October 2026

THE BENEFICE OF DEBENHAM & HELMINGHAM

A SHORT, INFORMAL COMMUNION SERVICE FOR THE YOUNG AND THE NOT SO YOUNG. ALL WELCOME!

All Souls Day

Service of Remembering

A service to remember our loved ones who are no longer with us

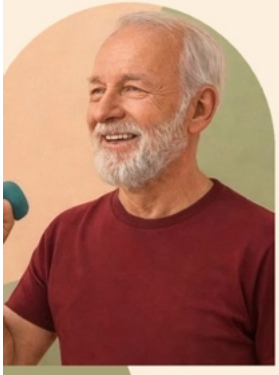
Monday 2nd November, Debenham Church, 7.00 pm

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Active 60 Plus

OVER 60s STRENGTH TRAINING

Debenham - Eye - Framlingham - Stowupland



Eye - 09:30 & 10:30 Mondays
Eye Community Centre

Framlingham - 09:30 & 10:30 Wednesdays
Fram Sports Club

Debenham - 09:30 Thursdays
United Reformed Church

Stowupland - 09:45 Fridays
Stowupland Village Hall



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OPEN DAYS

FOR RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 2027

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2026

9.30AM-10.00AM; 10.00AM-10.30AM;
9.30AM-11.00AM; 11.00AM-11.30AM

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026

9.30AM-10.00AM; 10.00AM-10.30AM;
10.30AM-11.00AM; 11.00AM-11.30AM

We would like to invite parents/carers and children to our Open Mornings. We would love to show you around the school, including our Early Years Unit and our newly improved Forest School area. Please come and see our school in action and how our pupils learn.

If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, you need to apply for a primary school place for September 2027 by 15 January 2027.

Please contact the School Office to book a place at one of our Open Mornings - 01728 860201 or admin@sirroberthitcham.suffolk.sch.uk.

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KENTON HARVEST FESTIVAL



FRIDAY OCT 2nd, 6.30pm

Please bring an offering of tins or packet food to donate to Waveney Foodbank

Service followed by delicious Harvest Supper

THE BENEFICE OF DEBENHAM & HELMINGHAM

You are warmly invited to join us for a social village gathering

Cheese & Wine
Saturday 3rd October
7.00 - 9.00pm



St Catherine's Church, Pettaugh

Suggested donation £10 per person

Please support the care and maintenance of your local church and churchyard

Enjoy an evening with friends old and new

ALL ARE WARMLY INVITED TO THE

HARVEST family@church SERVICE

SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER
ST MARY'S CHURCH, DEBENHAM

We will be collecting tins and packet food for the Waveney Foodbank

FREE COFFEE & BREAKFAST FROM 9.30am,
SERVICE AT 10.00am, CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN

Please do come along, we would love to welcome you to our church community

---



HELMINGHAM HARVEST SERVICE WITH PETS

St Mary's, Helmingham
11am, 11th October

You are warmly invited to our family Harvest Service

We will be collecting tins and packets for Waveney Food Bank

All are welcome -
furry, fluffy, scaly and feathery!

THE BENEFICE OF DEBENHAM & HELMINGHAM


JAMES DIXON
"Melodic, soulful and simply beautiful" - BBC Introducing
THE Community CENTRE
DEBENHAM SPORTS AND LEISURE, GRACECHURCH STREET, IP14 6BL
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Debenham SPORTS & LEISURE

James Dixon is an emerging songwriter self-described as Anglo-Celtic Soul. He fuses the transatlantic folk-blues of the 60s/70s revival with the power and dirt of the grunge and rock he was raised on. American Blues Legend, Seasick Steve called him simply “the best support act I’ve ever had.”

Although now Cornwall based, James was born and raised in Suffolk. He started playing in the Debenham area at open mic nights and was inspired by local guitarist, the late Ian ‘Manny’ Mantel. In fact, he played at Manny’s tribute evening a few years ago in the Community Centre. Please support his 'homecoming'.

“Melodic, soulful and simply beautiful” - BBC Introducing

DEBENHAM & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

October meeting – a visit to

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Wednesday 21 October 2026 at 2pm
£10.00 entry fee
Teas available

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if you require transport or arrange shared transport
Non-members and friends very welcome

Debenham climate film screening draws 150 villagers
Report from the East Anglian Daily Times

Suffolk villagers turned out in force to watch a film setting out the stark realities of climate change.

Around 150 people attended as Chris Packham's 50-minute National Emergency Briefing film was shown at Debenham Community Centre on Friday September 11th. They were urged to write to their MPs and demand faster, stronger action on the climate emergency. Debenham found itself at the sharp end of climate volatility in October 2023 when Storm Babet swept through the village leaving homes flooded and chaos in its wake. A council-commissioned report found more than 70 properties were flooded, while parts of the community were cut off and pupils were forced to remain at school overnight

The film follows a National Emergency Briefing held in London in November 2025. Ten experts in military strategy, health, economics, food security and climate science explained how climate change is affecting UK society. The film interviews them after their speeches, before TV presenter Chris Packham discusses their comments with "non-experts" including Deborah Meaden and Jennifer Saunders. Former politician and local resident Lord Deben, who chaired the UK's independent Climate Change Committee for 11 years, addressed the audience before the screening. Afterwards, Debenham councillor Teresa Davis chaired a panel discussion on issues raised in the film. Lord Deben warned that what happens is "going to be much worse than the easy answers some people have". Climate change must be explained in terms people understand, Lord Deben said, warning that "net zero" can sound like "scientific phrase that no one understands". "This is a really serious issue. We don't know what can happen and everyone thought it would happen much slower than it is," he said. "We know the temperature has never risen as fast in the last 800,000 years as it has in the last 200 years."

Catholic and Anglican churches are among those highlighting the issue, but more people must join them and lobby hard, he said.

"This has got to be a grass roots movement," he said.

Politicians claim climate change is "not an issue raised on the doorstep", he said, although the film cites polls showing most people are concerned about it.

"You have got to get them with their feet to the fire," he said, adding: "How many people here have been to see their MP in the last six months to talk about climate change?"

A few people at the Debenham screening raised their hands but most didn't.

"Frankly everybody else should be ashamed," he said.

He called on villagers to write a note of praise to politicians when they did "get it right".

"In the end politicians will understand they have to act," he said, adding: "You need encouragement because it's lonely."

"If we work together like this we will win because we are right - Mr Trump is wrong."

Panellist Professor Peter Hobson, an emeritus professor of biodiversity conservation at Anglia Ruskin University and a Rendham resident, said the UK had a systemic problem with climate change.

"We are not treating this yet as a major crisis - we need to get that information out there," he said.

Food production, the economy and health are all affected, but they operate in silos, he said, and need a more joined-up approach. He said the Dutch were far more advanced in flood planning than the East of England, despite facing the same issues.

"In the last 10 years I have held the view that the UN general secretary has held that we are walking in the valley of the blind and we are sleep-walking into a crisis.

"It's the only reason we have got so far and yet we have done so little by way of proactive action either to mitigate or to adapt."

Andrew Donnelly of the Upper Deben Owners' Group, which represents around 100 riparian owners, said funding was available for flood alleviation. A spongy landscape that absorbs water would have alleviated the effects of Storm Babet, he pointed out.

"People are angry that they don't see action," he said ahead of the screening.

Farmer Glenn Buckingham said the public needed better information about climate change.

"There's not a single piece of carbon literature being taught," he said. "Carbon literacy needs to be got out there."

Cameron Wheeler of Five Rod Farm near Debenham said he was using organic matter and trying not to disturb the soil on his one-acre vegetable plot.

Panellist Louise Cowling, a senior nurse at Debenham surgery, said they were seeing many more cases of asthma.

One questioner raised the issue of cars idling outside Debenham High School as parents pick up their children. Chris Grover, Suffolk County Council's transport and travel safety manager, said idling was a county-wide problem and he received numerous requests for action. "Legally you are not supposed to let your engine idle and a police officer can stop you," he said. But the rule was difficult to enforce and no offences had been recorded, he added. Some Ipswich schools create temporary "streets" to stop cars idling at the gates, reducing particulates, he said.

One woman complained of "very powerful wealthy people who are controlling the narrative" on climate change and added that she has written several times to her MP.

"It seems quite futile," she said. "Who they are listening to are the lobbying groups."

Another woman said: "The majority of the media are not reporting this."

Another added: "Life gets in the way for most of us."

Tansy Cooper of event organiser Debenham Green Team was delighted by the turnout.

"We put out over 180 chairs and by the time the film started, there only seemed to be a few spaces still vacant. For a village the size of Debenham this is pretty amazing," she said.

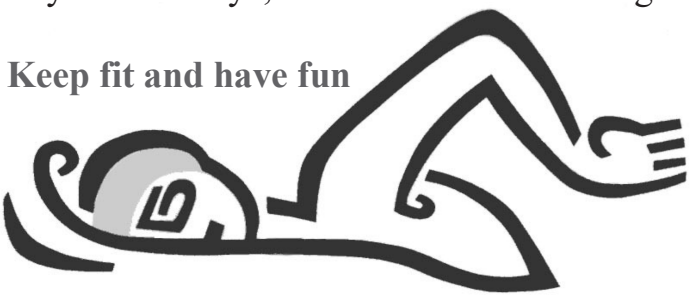
"Despite a media silence and an increasing onslaught of misinformation and disinformation, I think the large turnout and audience questions demonstrate clearly that the public are smarter than given credit for."

"We are fortunate to have an incredible and well-informed community here in Cont p37

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Debenham. We are coming together, building momentum and doing all we can to make sure it is resilient, safe and thriving."
"However, we are part of a much bigger movement of communities working together, sharing information and taking action to turn the tide."
The expert panel also included retired accountant and "armchair economist" Andy Prentice.
They were joined by local "champions" Andy Donnelly, Iwan Lloyd, a local resident and activist and Cameron Wheeler.
Guests also included Mid Suffolk District Council leader Andy Mellen, Suffolk County Council flood investigations manager Ellie Coleby and Mid Suffolk councillor James Patchett, chair of Gipping Rivers Trust
Local MP Patrick Spencer was invited and sent his apologies.
Debenham Green Team said it had also invited Suffolk County Council leader Michael Hadwen. "Disappointingly, we had no response from Mr Hadwen and he did not attend," Ms Cooper said.



Debenham's People's Emergency Briefing night guests and panellists Cllr James Patchett, Andy Donnelly, Andy Mellen, Glenn Buckingham, Louise Cowling, Lord Deben, Professor Peter Hobson, Iwan Lloyd and Cameron Wheeler



Andy Donnelly chair of UDOG answers questions about flooding



Lord Deben addresses the audience at the People's Emergency Briefing in Debenham

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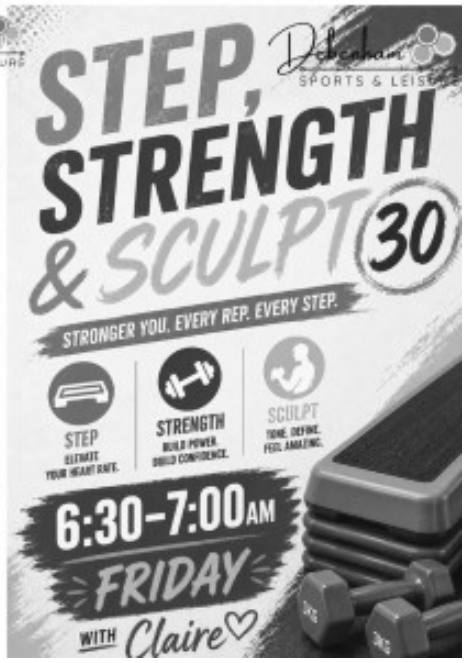
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FIREWORKS FROM 7.30PM
ADULTS - £7
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It was lovely to welcome our new pupils and returning pupils back to school for a new academic year.

Our all-improved Forest School is up and running and Years 5 and 6 are enjoying their weekly Forest School sessions. We have new hammocks, fire pit, ladders, benches and tyres for the children to explore and enjoy.

Our Still Waters Club has resumed, which gives an opportunity for children in Key Stage 2 to connect with God and get creative in ways of doing this. The children also have access to our prayer space during this time to help them reflect.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Year 5 will be hosting our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25 September from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the School Hall. The whole Debenham community is warmly invited to come along and enjoy coffee and cake while raising money for cancer support.

Availability in Nursery – September 2026



We have a few places available in our Nursery for children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023.

The Nursery runs every day during term time from 9.00am to 3.10pm and you can apply for as many, or as few, sessions as suits you and your child. Morning sessions are from 8.45am to 12.00pm and afternoon sessions are from 12.00pm to 3.10pm.

We are very proud of our Nursery, which is led by experienced qualified teachers. The Nursery benefits from a large, well equipped Early Years outdoor area, in addition to the school's playground, extensive field and Forest School area.

We would love to show you around and you can see our school in action and how our pupils learn. Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01728 860201 to arrange a time to visit.

Wraparound Care

Our wraparound care is proving very popular with our children and parents/carers and we are pleased to say that it is going from strength to strength.

Before School Club runs from 7.50am to 8.45am every day during term time for children in Reception to Year 6. The cost is £3.04 per child.

Our after-school provision runs from 3.15pm to 4.30pm, costing £3.55 per child, or 3.15pm to 5.30pm, which costs £7.10 per child.

This term's enrichment activities on offer are Climbing Apparatus Club; Film Club; Magic Club; Cooking Club; and Forest School Club.

Cont p45

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Custodian/Caretaker Vacancy

Would you like to work in the village on a casual contract for a maximum of ten hours a week during term time? We are looking to appoint a Custodian/Caretaker to join our team and the hours are flexible and can be worked between 6.30am and 6.30pm, Monday to Friday. The role includes the following:
Health and Safety weekly/monthly checks;
Daily filling up;
Securing the school building;
Maintaining the safety of the school building and grounds;
Refuse management; and
Minor repair works.
If you would like to find out more details about this vacancy, please contact the School Office on 01728 860201 for an informal chat.

East Anglian Traditional Music Trust

We are sending out this warm welcome to everyone who would like to enjoy an afternoon of music, dance displays, songs and stories which have originated in East Anglia. We also promote recent traditions which are making the East Anglian history of the future.
Entry is free, but donations gratefully received. There is the opportunity to take part in a raffle and for a small payment teas, coffees and homemade cakes are available. If you are hoping to perform please give your name to the MC as you walk in, if not please come along to just sit back and enjoy. The afternoon is very relaxed, chairs are set out in a big circle and performers can perform in their seats if they choose.
We do hope you will be able to join us on 1st November at Coddenham Community Centre, IP6 9PS. Doors open at 13.30 and we kick off with two session tunes at 14.00.

We look forward to seeing you.
Jan Robinson

East Anglian Traditional Music Trust



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Harvest: A Reminder to Think Long Term



As we travel around our towns and villages it is difficult to miss the signs of harvest. From Creeting St Mary to Great Glemham, fields that were green only a few months ago have turned golden, combines are at work, and tractors once again become a familiar sight on our country roads.
Harvest is a wonderful reminder that worthwhile things rarely happen overnight. Long before a crop is gathered, someone has prepared the ground and planted the seed. There are months of work in between, much of it unseen. There is uncertainty too: the weather cannot be controlled and not every seed that is planted will flourish. Yet without that decision to plant in the first place, there can be no harvest later.
I think the same principle applies to our communities.
Many of the things we value today are the result of decisions made years, sometimes generations, ago. Someone planted the trees we now enjoy. Someone established the village hall, sports club or community organisation that brings people together. Previous generations built our churches and schools and created businesses which continue to provide local jobs.
Our responsibility is not simply to enjoy that inheritance, but to ask what we are planting for those who come next.
That means supporting our young people and giving them opportunities to build their futures here in Suffolk. It means looking after our villages and neighbourhoods while allowing them to grow and adapt. It means supporting local businesses and agriculture, caring for our countryside, and making sensible long-term investments in the services and infrastructure our communities will need in the years ahead.
The benefits of those choices may not always be immediately visible.
In a world which increasingly expects instant results, that can be frustrating. But farmers understand better than most that planting a seed today does not produce a crop tomorrow. Some things require patience, persistence and trust in the future.
As harvest is celebrated across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich this autumn, it is an opportunity to be thankful for what previous generations planted for us.
But perhaps it should prompt another question too:
What can we plant today that somebody else will be grateful to harvest tomorrow?

If you need support or want to keep up with my work, you can contact me at Patrick.Spencer.MP@Parliament.uk, by telephone on 01728 726612 or sign up for my e-newsletter at www.patrickspencer.co.uk.



Isaiah 41:10

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

You may have seen the advert on the TV recently with the strap line "Don't be sad that it's over, be glad that it happened". This is adapted from: "Do not cry because they are past!
Smile, because they once were!" (Possibly Ludwig Jacobowski 1901)

How apt for us today at Stowmarket. October 4th is a day in the history of Stowmarket URC when it formally closes. Yes, it is a day to be sad, and we can't get away from that. For many people the fact that we must leave is overwhelming. But the reality is we had very little choice.

Looking back there are so many memories. Many of our lives have been shaped by the friends we have made, the experiences we have had, the leadership we have experienced, the fellowship we have enjoyed and the support we have felt at key moments in our lives. There is also the spiritual help we have had in our journey of faith. So it is also a time to be glad that it happened. So many happy memories.

Now is the time to accept change and focus on the present and the future. Appreciating what we have and what we have had.

Everything in life must come to an end and our time on this planet is limited. We are in a changing world. Instead of being sad and regretful when something comes to an end, we should be grateful that we had the opportunity to experience it in the first place. We must be positive and look to the future. Also, be grateful that we have Stowupland to turn to.

Above all we have faith. God is with us, he will uphold us, strengthen us and help us.

Thank God for all that has happened and all that is to come.

Anne Scarff (Elder at Stowmarket URC)

URC Services

Sunday 4th October	**Mr Mark Newcombe (Communion Service)**	**10:45 am**
Sunday 11th October	**Mr Carl Trowman**	**10:45 am**
Sunday 18th October	**Mr Jim Gorlay**	**10:45 am**
Sunday 25th October	**Mr William Glasse**	**10:45 am**

Annual Gift Day October 10th 11:00—2:00 pm
Enjoy Stalls, Books, Brick-a-Brack. Win a trip out on the Lady Florence, Win a voucher from Palfrey & Co Butchers and a fruit & veg voucher from Ward's. Plus Aspall's famous Cyder.
All this and freshly made soup and apple pie on sale.

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

Friends & Neighbours first Thursday in the month 2:00 pm this month with The Salvation Army Ladies.

Cakes & Choruses last Sunday of the month 25th October 3:00 pm
Please bring your friends and relatives to this lively afternoon of laughter, singing and eating!

URC Points of Contact

Secretary	**Mr Laurence Kelway**	**07583014887**
Treasurer	**Mr David Oldfield**	**01728 768775**
Social Secretary	**Mrs Jean Rodwell**	**01728 861065**

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The food will be taken regularly to Eye for distribution by the Waveney Food Bank



THE DEBENHAM PROJECT

Dementia - Caring for the Carers

A Dementia Friendly Community



A NEW WAY TO CONNECT WITH THE DEBENHAM PROJECT

As part of the exciting changes and continued development of The Debenham Project, we're delighted to introduce our new dedicated phone number for all enquiries.

07541 345853

Whether you'd like to find out more about The Debenham Project, join an activity, ask for advice, or simply have a chat about how we might be able to help, our friendly team is here for you.

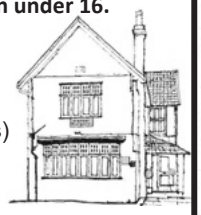
One number, one friendly team and one easy way to connect. We hope this makes it even simpler for everyone in our community to reach us and be part of everything The Debenham Project has to offer.



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District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – Sept 2025
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Community Information:
People, Place and Climate. Some of you may have come to watch the Peoples Emergency Briefing on Friday 11th Sept. I know over 150 people attended as well as lots of members of the Debenham Green Team (our excellent organisers). Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council Officers were in attendance promoting what things are in place to help with facing the effects of the change to our climate. Along with a panel of local experts to aid our discussion of the short 50 minute film, Lord Deben kindly gave a brief introduction after a long journey back from Brazil. Our local leaders were also invited, MP, County Council Leader and District Leader. A big thankyou to everyone involved and who attended. I feel that we didn't get enough time.
If anyone would like an update on where we are on the effects of climate change, or to just talk about the issues facing us, this film is a summary of the expert talks given to MP's on 25th November last year. It is a factual, no nonsense look recommended for over 16yrs. Other showings are going on all over the country and we are hoping to show the film again to a smaller audience over a number of weeks should people want to come.
Planning. The government has published an updated version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) with quite a few changes. The document is now to be regarded as of 'Critical Importance' when planners form decisions. Among the changes, there are 3 new sections for; Energy & Water; Pollution, Public Protection & Security; and Flood and Coastal Change. One notable inclusion is F7 which is against development if it causes flooding and F8 where ditches can no longer be filled in. Worryingly the traditional boundary of a settlement is no longer valid for deciding on an application for all settlements larger than a Hamlet. Neighbourhood Plans must be less than 5yrs old and include a housing allocation to carry any weight in decision making. As of 31st October councillors like myself will no longer be able to 'call in' a development to the planning committee. I have had confirmation that the application for the extension of time for temporary bridge on Low Road is going to the Planning committee on 7th October – all being well. Please do get in touch if you would like to attend and speak, or for me or the parish to speak on your behalf.
Funding. Our Communities Team at Mid Suffolk are organising a Funding Summit again this year and this time it will be held in Debenham on 21st October from 9:30am-2:30pm, so please if you are part of a voluntary organisation do come along to hear and speak to those who know about National and Local grant funding.
Play. You may be aware of the sport improvements going on in Stowmarket. A new running track is now complete as part of this and an open day is planned during October Half Term – do look out for this and make a visit with your family if you can.

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Drop In, Cabinet and Council Dates:
Mid Suffolk in October
Drop in surgeries are planned for Monday 12th Oct from 9:00am-11:00am at The Coffee House on the High Street in Debenham all being well and at the Debenham Leisure Centre from 9am-11:00am on Monday 26th Oct. It is always good to speak to people and help with any issue, you don't have to book just turn up. The next full council meeting is set for 22nd Oct, the next Cabinet meeting is due on 6th Oct. Do let me know if you have a question or concern you want to put to the council or cabinet. My contact details are above, please use them and you can also keep up to date by signing up/linking to our social media, just go to www.midsuffolk.gov.uk. There is lots on there.

The Parish Council summary was not submitted in time for publication. Here is the core of the agenda:

DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Cllr Ian Collins
Telephone: 07895 583798 Email clerk@debenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

All Parish Councillors are summoned to attend a meeting of the Debenham Parish Council meeting on Monday 21st 2026 at 7.00pm at Dove Cottage, High Street, Debenham. Parishioners are also invited to attend.

AGENDA

DPC/26/675 – Action Plan of Outstanding Matters (Resolved)
1. Repair of railings at recreation ground and missing down post on cemetery fence.
2. Installation of streetlight, Gardeners Road. Post installed, no light fitting yet.
3 Overhanging trees Cherry Tree Green (works completed).
DPC/26/676 – Action plan of outstanding matters.
1. Restoration of Village Green (on going) Clerk.
2. Installation of Defibrillator at Dove Cottage (planning & Heritage applications needed).
3. Quotations for tree works as marked urgent on the recent tree survey.
4. Update regarding investigations into the feasibility of the construction of a flood mitigation structure on land adjacent to Hoppit Wood: Council approved.
a. The recommendations contained within the natural flood management workshop.
b. proceeding with investigating the design and costs of the project.
5. Installation of electric hand dryer, programable air freshener, replacement of consumer unit & serviced hygiene bin in the public toilets.
6. Wall at number 43 High Street : update
7. TRO update and arrange a Teams meeting for further action.
8. Faded yellow lines by the primary school update.
9. leaning wall at Gardeners Road update on response from Mid Suffolk.
10- Bollards / Fencing to prevent parking in Priory lane near cemetery.
11- siting of the two new benches.
DPC/26/677 – Planning Matters Council considered responses to planning applications received from Mid Suffolk District Council.

DC /26 / 03352 & DC / 26 / 03353
The Angel Inn 5 High Street Debenham IP146QL
Application : Alteration/rebuild extension, Formulation of window to front elevation & C20 windows to double glazing, new parking and cycle storage & associated landscaping. Internal works as detailed within the design and access & heritage statement.
DPC/26/678 Planning : Council noted the following planning decisions:
DC/26/01586
Householder planning permission.
Erection of two storey extension.
DC/26/03082 Poplar Barn Low road,
Application for non-material amendment relating to DC/23/03887, slight alteration to porch design.
DPC/26/679 – Finance and Administration
Council to approve September payment schedule.
PC Current account £7,141.11
PC Deposit account £322,178.95
Woodland current account £1,243.42
Woodland Deposit account £7,778.51
Trial balance available *
Earmarked reserves available *
Detailed receipts & payments by budget heading available *
***detailed reports next month will be for second quarter end, suggest a finance meeting to review.**
Request for a new Defibrillator cabinet for leisure centre from first responders £500 fitted.
Cllr Collins reported that the new oak Fencing along the high street had been fitted with steel screws and not stainless screws consider replacement.
DPC/26/680 – Committees, Working Groups and Representatives

a. Debenham Neighbourhood Plan Review, What is the next step. Cllr Haddon

b. Allotments – Allotment renewals delivered along with notice of rent increase for Oct 2027. To receive an update on allotment rules. Cllr Collins

c. Eco/Green Projects Think bike signs. Cllr Haddon

d. Recreation Ground – repairs to shelter. Clerk

e. Public Convenience – Tap & pay update. Cllr Collins

f. Cemetery – correspondence from a resident regarding over hanging tree from the cemetery into a property in Laxton Close.

g. Woodland – Dead tree on priory path just by the entrance to the lake.

h. Emergency Planning – to receive an update Cllr Collins

i. Cllr Collins, re appointments to committees & Working groups, suggested new format.

DPC/26/683 - Date of next meeting – 19th October 2026

Benefice Church Services

October 2026

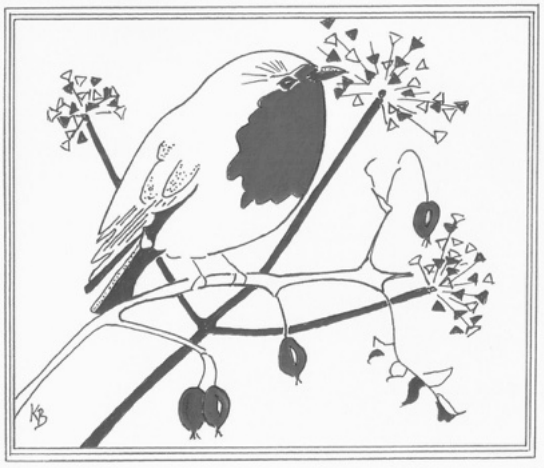
Friday 2nd	**6.30pm**	**Kenton**	**Harvest Festival**
Sunday 4th	**8.00am**	**Aspall**	**Holy Communion**
	9.30am	**Debenham**	**f@c Harvest**
Sunday 11th	**8.00am**	**Kenton**	**Holy Communion**
	9.30am	**Debenham**	**Holy Communion**
		Winston	**Morning Prayer**
	11.00am	**Helmingham**	**Harvest Festival**
		Framsden	**Morning Prayer**
Sunday 18th	**8.00am**	**Aspall**	**Holy Communion**
	9.30am	**Debenham**	**Holy Communion**
		Framsden	**Morning Prayer**
	11.00am	**Pettaugh**	**Holy Communion**
		Kenton	**Morning Prayer**
	6.30pm	**Winston**	**Evening Prayer**
Sunday 25th	**9.30am**	**Debenham**	**Holy Communion**
	11.00am	**Winston**	**Holy Communion**
		Pettaugh	**Morning Prayer**

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October Reflection by Rev'd Susan Taylor

THE BENEFICE OF
DEBENHAM & HELMINGHAM

The capacity to experience awe and wonder is part of what makes us human. We can look beyond the demands of everyday life and reach towards what is divine, mysterious and beyond explanation. For those of us who have faith, the mystery—and even the unknowability—of God can be a source of wonder and an invitation to draw closer.

In the Christian tradition, we seek to know God through studying the Bible, through our experience of life and creation, and, importantly, through prayer. When we are building a relationship with another person, we spend time together. We talk and listen, share our lives, and open our hearts to one another's fears and joys. In this way, we come to know each other and express our love. Prayer is how we enter into that kind of relationship with God - although it can feel more challenging when one of us is, in a sense, invisible!

Even people who would not describe themselves as 'religious' sometimes find themselves drawn to prayer. Many who do not attend church regularly still pray from time to time. Perhaps this reflects a deep human awareness of the divine, even when our religious traditions do not always provide an accessible or adequate way to express it.

And yet, although we may long to connect with God, prayer is not always easy - even for those who are deeply committed to their faith. How do we reach out to an invisible presence? How do we speak to God? And, perhaps most of all, how do we listen? How do we hear what God wants us to know?

These are some of the questions we will explore in a new group beginning this autumn, called 'How to Pray'. The group will include members of St Mary Magdalene's, but it is open to everyone - not just our congregation. If you would like to explore prayer more deeply, we would love you to join us. Just telephone Rev Susan on 01728 860222 or email revsusantaylor@icloud.com for more details… or indeed if you would like us to pray for you or those you care for.

Ministry Team

Tel 01728 860222

Rector Rev'd Susan Taylor revsusantaylor@icloud.com

Chaplain Debenham High School
Associate Priest Debenham & Helmingham Benefice
Rev'd Keith Rengert revdkeith@gmail.com

Reader Veda Berriman veda.berriman@btinternet.com 01728 861363

Churchwardens

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