

DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

75p

February 2022



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FROM THE EDITOR

Happy New Year! This is my first editorial so I hope I have kept the mistakes to the minimum and that I can live up to the high standards of my predecessor, Steve. Over the six years that he edited the magazine he managed to keep a flow of interesting articles from a wide range of contributors and I can only hope that readers and local businesses and groups continue to submit items of interest to keep this magazine exciting.

I've come to this role with a 'rusty' knowledge of the skills needed on a computer to put a magazine together. My previous life was in primary education, and readers may remember me as a teacher at Debenham Primary School. Prior to that, I worked at Thorndon for Steve and before taking time off with young children I worked for eight years at Framlingham Primary School and in Telford, Shropshire for two years. My roots are in the north west of England.

I will have lived in Debenham for twenty years in May; my husband Neil was born and raised in the village; and my daughters attended the primary and high schools. Emily now lives and works in Manchester and Issy is studying English at university . We have a rescue cat named Leta .

After a Winter of rising COVID cases and associated restrictions it is good to have things to look forward and the Deb Fest committee are hard at it once more and have some exciting news about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee for us to look forward to, see p.27 for some important information!

It is always sad to hear of the loss of members of our community and this magazine pays tribute to two well-known Debenham residents: Ian Mantel on p.28 and Joan Wilkins on p.30. Our best wishes and condolences go to their families.

As I've been walking around the village recently after the winter hibernation, I have spotted some changes and hope to highlight some of these in the magazine. The first 'observation' is on p.33.

Jan

DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

Editor: Jan Rutherford, 17 Chancery Lane Debenham, IP14 6RN
Tel 01728 860377

Please send copy to: debenhammagazine@btinternet.com

Business Advertising: please contact:
Richard Blackwell, 2 Clover Court, Debenham, IP14 6SG
Tel. 01728 861815 or email:richard.blackwell99@outlook.com

Distribution & Subscription Coordinator: Joy Walton Tel.01728 860007

The Editor reserves the right to shorten or modify items without notice.
The inclusion of an advertisement in this publication does not constitute an endorsement of a product or service by either the Editor or the Debenham Parochial Church Council.

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(Tuesday 8th February for Business Advertising)

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Do you want to save money on the cost of your heating oil, without the hassle of comparing prices? AF Affinity run a syndicate buying scheme for Community Action Suffolk which gets prices as good as or better than comparison websites. Currently Debenham has about 20 members and Local Coordinator Tony Hutt will order oil for you or you can order online or by phone, minimum 500 litres. Payment is normally by Direct Debit, but card payment by phone is possible or a monthly prepayment plan.

To join the scheme contact me (details below) or fill in the form online at www.af-affinity.co.uk/cas. There is no annual charge.

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Scheme Co-ordinator for Debenham: Tony Hutt

19 Priory Lane, Debenham, IP14 6QD. Telephone: (01728) 860173

Email: tony@tonyhutt.co.uk

Debenham's Blossom Appeal

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed in any way to make our Jumble Sale at St Mary's such a fabulous success. We have banked just over £2500 - a staggering amount - thank you one and all.

Watch this space for the 2022 Jumble Sale date.

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Debenham Parish Magazine - Changes & Subscriptions

As you'll know by now, we have a new editor for 2022. My contact details are on page 3, so from now on please send all items for publication to me.

However we still need a business advertising co-ordinator. Richard

Blackwell has kindly stepped in temporarily, but we need someone permanently. Please contact Richard if you want to know more - see P3. Debi Sage has kindly offered to do any advert design work needed, which will be a big help in supporting a new co-ordinator.

Remember the magazine will now be 11 issues a year. Reasons for this were in the November issue. So for 2022, subscriptions for the remainder of this year are £7.50 (8.25 annually). If you would like to become a new subscriber and have your magazine delivered to your door then please contact Joy Walton, 01728 860304 and you can be added to the list.

Deadlines for magazine contributions for the year are:

February 15th	July 19th
March 15th	August 23rd
April 19th	September 20th
May 17th	October 18th
June 21st	November 22nd (for Dec/Jan)

Please note advertising deadlines are a week earlier.

Together is back!



This free church benefice magazine is back in print after a Covid induced absence of nearly 2 years.

It comes out quarterly and is distributed to all benefice churches and is also available in Websters.

Editor is Tony Hutt 01728 860173 or email tony@tonyhutt.co.uk.



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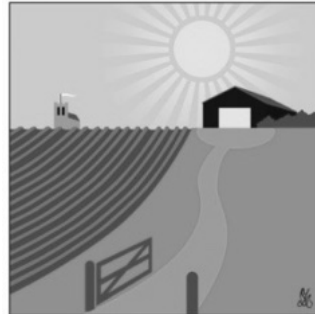
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Debenham Shed

Our low-maintenance, accessible, composting toilet (similar to the photo) is arriving in January and will be installed this month, thanks to further funding from the National Lottery Awards for All (and other grants already received). This also provided contributions for internet provision, security and other improvements.



If you are shopping at Stowmarket Tesco from January to March please ask for a blue token to vote for Debenham Shed in the Community Grants stand on the way out! We are bidding for funds for heating and ventilation.

We continue to meet on Friday afternoons from 2-5pm. Just turn up (no dogs please) if you'd like to join in or have a look. We will soon start some training sessions, e.g. routers and chop saws; if you are interested, let us know first.



See www.eadt.co.uk/news/east-together-debenham-shed-open-day-8191418 for an excellent article and video about our official re-opening on 20 July.

The Debenham Shed is at 2 Fields, Low Road (IP14 6BJ). Affiliated to UK Men's Sheds Association. Debenham Shed Officers: Les Wright 07793 470694, Bernard Rose 07538 974119, Tony Hutt 07906 614328. To receive occasional news by email contact us at debenhamshed@gmail.com.

Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DebenhamShed.



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The logo for Suffolk Libraries, featuring the words "Suffolk Libraries" in white, sans-serif font on a black rectangular background.

Please continue wear a face covering in the library, to protect customers and staff. Thank you.

Covid lateral flow test kits continue to be available in the library during opening hours. In December they were in considerable demand when the Pharmacy had run out and postal supplies were not always obtainable.

But the Library is not just for Covid test kits—come and borrow some books too! If you don't have a library card, apply online, or bring some evidence of address (e.g. driving licence or utility bill) to the library and our charming staff will be pleased to issue one.

Library online: For free audiobooks, ebooks, films, newspapers/magazines and other online services, use your library card at www.suffolklibraries.co.uk. There are also podcasts and videos available on the YouTube channel (SuffolkLibraries).

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School Corner, Debenham IP14 6PL (next to the Primary School).

Opening hours:

Tuesday:	0930 am – 1300 pm	Wednesday :	1500 – 1930 pm
Saturday:	0900 am – 1300 pm	Sunday:	1200 – 1600 pm

Tel: 01728 861940 www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/debenham-library

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TO MIMIC THE MOON

Flakes of all sizes swirled for more than two days.
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Then came the hoar frost. To seal the whole depth.
Hard as a new floor, recently swept.
As daytime receded. Drawing its veil.
The whole glorious covering like a magical fairytale.
No sun had been seen. Nor the moon showed its face.
Just still grey cloud covering the space.
Strange, how what would be darkness. Bore no resemblance that night.
As the thick frozen snow gave off its own light.
No moon for reflection, just a perfect glow.
Showed silhouetted trees, bowed by the snow.
No creature was moving. No sound could be heard.
When suddenly, gently a ringing Church bell.
Tolled , just briefly. Then stopped, maybe too soon.
As the light from the snow mimicked the moon.



John Garrard



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Our 10th Anniversary booklet, which originally went on sale in 2014, is available again. It is full of photos, information and how the woodland and lake was created. If you would like a copy of this full colour 26 page booklet then ask at Websters. A donation for the local charity box kept in Websters would be appreciated.



I keep seeing on the news that my bills could be going up soon. It's making me really worried, especially as I spent more on Christmas than I should have done. How can I get my spending habits back on track in 2022?



A lot of people will be asking themselves this question right now. The good news is there are lots of things you can do to be more in control of your money and better prepared for the future.

Firstly, find out exactly what money you have coming in and going out each month. Be realistic about what you need for essentials like food and travel. Then you can set yourself a budget that you can stick to - take a look at the budgeting tool on the National Citizens Advice website to help you do this. This can be found at citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting.

If any of your bills do go up in the coming year, you can go back to our budgeting tool anytime to create a new plan and stay in control. The website also has tips on how to reduce your regular living costs which you may be helpful if you find you have more money going out than coming in at any point.

If you've been using credit cards, your overdraft or store cards for your spending, it's understandable if these debts are causing you worry. It's important to prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax. Not paying these has the most serious consequences. If you need further support on this, our advisors can explain which bills you need to prioritise and the support available for paying these and other bills. We can also make sure you're getting all the income you're entitled to, such as benefits or government grants.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this or any other issue, including debt, employment, benefits and family law. You can contact them on 01449 676060 or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. For more information and our opening hours go to midsuffolkcab.org.uk.



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The Debenham WI
The ladies of
Debenham WI
wish you all
a very happy
and healthy 2022

The Debenham WI goes ZOOM!

Although we were unable to meet face to face in January, due to the resurgence of COVID - this time in the guise of Omicrom, we took to Zoom instead. We discussed the five WI '2022 shortlisted Resolutions' and how we might support whichever is eventually adopted by the members. This year's shortlisted resolutions are:

1. Fit for Purpose - Fit for Girls
2. Appropriate Sentencing of Non-Violent Women Offenders
3. Equality in Law for the Menopause
4. Women and Girls with ASD and ADHD Under-Identified, Under-Diagnosed and Under-Supported
5. Tackling Digital Exclusion

Every member now has the opportunity to cast their individual vote on the resolution they would like to see adopted for the coming year.

The 2021 resolution, adopted by the WI, was 'A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer'. It formed the basis of a national WI campaign. Whichever resolution is adopted this year, you can be sure that the WI will work tirelessly to promote it.

Our Deepest Sympathy



It is with deepest sorrow and regret that we say a fond farewell to our good friend Joyce Dennison, who lost her fight with cancer earlier this month.

Joyce had been a very active member of The Debenham WI for many years. And she will be missed. May she rest in peace. Her memory will live forever in our hearts.

We send our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

By Ann Ensell

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Forge Community Church in February

We are back meeting in Debenham Sports and Leisure Centre at 10.30am every Sunday.

Something Happened

Four stories of when hope was lost but God was near. If there is a God then where is He when bad stuff happens? Good question. Hard answer. Important implication. We are all at risk of one day 'something' happening that flips the world on its head. In this series, join us as we hear from four people where something happened, hope felt lost, but God was near.

WEEK 1 – Barriers

WEEK 2 – Breaking Point

WEEK 3 – Mind Games

WEEK 4 – Let's Go

Online at www.live.forgechurch.com @10.30am or on catch up (forgechurch.com/media/on-demand/) Also available on YouTube (Forge Church) and Face-book (@forgechurchuk)



We also run a full kids & youth programme each Sunday at 10.30am.

Tots Street (0-3's), Little Village (pre school), Uptown Kids (yr1-5), Transit (Yr6-8)

Motion (Yr 9-13) meet at Stonham Baptist Church from 6-8pm every Sunday evening

NB: Kids' Material is on Facebook or YouTube following the adult service (11.20am)

We are delighted to be hosting the theatre production of a new play by Searchlight Theatre Company called 'Return to the Hiding Place.'

Venue: Debenham Community Centre

Date: 7pm on Saturday 5th Feb 2022

Ticket Price: £10 Tickets available: forgechurch.com/hidingplace

Return to the Hiding Place follows the story of a Dutch watchmaker, Corrie Ten Boom, whose family hid Jews during WW2 in occupied Holland. Her remarkable true story has sold millions of copies worldwide as a best selling book. Now live on stage, this brand new production looks afresh at this amazing true story, from both the viewpoint of Corrie and from the German officer who ordered her arrest and eventual capture. They meet in a prison interrogation room. Who, though, is the real prisoner? David Robinson and Judy Moore premiered the show in September and look forward to taking it out on the road in 2022.



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It has been a busy term so far at Sir Robert Hitcham CEVA Primary School and Nursery! We continue to work hard and demonstrate our Rainbow Pledges in all that we do!

We started the term with a special 'Tree Day'. To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we have been planting trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project to encourage the growth of native tree species. We used the Dr Seuss book 'The Lorax' as inspiration to think about how we can look after the environment, which is one of our Rainbow Pledges. The children had fun planting trees, producing leaf prints, learning about the importance of trees to our climate and debating the use of wood as a renewable fuel.

Later this term we are looking forward to celebrating World Book Week, when we will be enjoying a mini project based on the Oliver Jeffers books. We will also try and guess each other's favourite books by bringing in props and describing the story.

We are also looking forward to Sports Relief, Internet Safety Day, Holi Day and our Easter celebrations.



News from our Classes

Gipping Class have been learning about primary colours in Art. They have been using an artistic rag and they have been colour mixing. In Maths the children have been learning the number bonds to ten and twenty. They have been demonstrating these using a range of concrete resources. In English and Science, they have been using adjectives to describe how an animal looks and feels and verbs to describe how the animal moves.

Orwell Class have started off the term with the story 'Where the Wild Things Are' as inspiration for their writing and to kick-start their Science topic of Habitats and Living Things. In PSHE they have begun to look at the similarities and differences of families from around the world and the homes they live in.

Blyth Class have been finding out about volcanoes. They will be using atlases and globes to locate volcanoes around the world and find out how volcanoes are formed. In Art, the children are looking at collage and have started the term by creating collages based on the work by the artist Victor Vasarely.



Lark Class are learning about Living Things and their Habitats in Science. They will learn how to classify living things using a classification key. They will be learning about food chains with producers, consumers, predators and prey and then investigate how the environment can change and what dangers this poses to living things.

Deben Class have been carrying out experiments on irreversible changes. The pupils inflated balloons using the CO₂ produced in a reaction between bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. Then they produced a natural plastic called 'Casein' by mixing together warm milk and vinegar.



Waveney Class are learning all about climate change by studying Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future campaign. The children have been inspired to write their own speeches on topics they are passionate about.

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At a young age, Kirsty was sexually abused. She tried to get on with her life but never properly talked about what happened. There were times she couldn't see a way out but she kept going, knowing that tomorrow could be better. After meeting one of our project workers, Kirsty found the strength to work through it all. She now dreams of becoming a criminal prosecutor and is optimistic about the future.

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Update from the organisers of Deb Fest II

We've got some AMAZING NEWS!

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded £7,750 from The National Lottery Community Fund to help us organize Deb Fest II - Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration to be held on

Saturday 11 June between noon and 10pm.

Put the date in your diary as you will not want to miss this event!

We are also thrilled to announce that Aspall, Debenham Garage and Earl Soham Brewery have agreed to be sponsors.



Deb Fest II will be a free entry, inclusive community event which provides a fun day for the whole family with a wide range of entertainment and performances from local musicians and singers, rides and activities for children, a market zone and food zone and much, much more to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

For enquiries about the event please contact us via our Facebook page debfest2022 or email Debenhamfest@outlook.com

For more information on funding from The National Lottery Community Fund please visit www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding. #NationalLottery



Photo = L-R - Zoe Hughes, Sarah Ainge, Caroline Driver and Michelle Dix

You've got a friend – memories of Ian “Manny” Mantel (21/5/1957 - 05/10/21) by Brian Mantel (thanks to Joy Walton, Tony Mowles, Julie Stokes, Kevin Snell, and James Dixon)



Manny, and Julie Stokes, moved to Debenham in 1994, playing an active part in many aspects of village life, including with the Deben Players, where Manny helped with set construction. Passing away in Bulgaria on 5th Oct. 2021, he left many there and here mourning the loss of a great friend. Friendship and helpfulness are recurring themes in the comments from those who knew him, including Joy Walton, and Tony Mowles, who said “He had a wide circle of friends and would help anyone. We enjoyed his company, his love of life, and ‘beer, food and music’ to quote Manny on what was important.” Manny will be most widely remembered for his contribution to the local music scene.

Manny started playing guitar at about 12, learning Neil Young, Leonard Cohen, and James Taylor songs by ear. Taylor’s work remained in his repertoire, as he honed his craft in folk clubs around Manchester. Manny’s first Suffolk band, Hogg’s Kiss, comprised his partner Julie Stokes (they married in 1999) Pam and James Vinten, vocalist Ian Wray, and sound engineer Rod Tallowin. Tony, who later joined on bass, recalls the fun of practices in Pam and James’ music room, and gigs, including the Debenham and Woolpit street fairs, and a millennium event at Debenham Leisure Centre. In the summer of 2000, Ian was replaced by the legendary Lacey Street vocalist Penny Parks, (Rod’s partner) and the band became 56 Cadillac, branching out into, blues, pop, and rock’n’roll. In 2002. Manny’s great friend and neighbour James Vinten sadly passed away at 43, and Steve Thurlow stepped in on drums.

56 Cadillac is pictured here, playing live. Far left, Manny, Steve on drums, Tony on bass, with Penny singing, Julie on vocals and percussion, and Pam (now Vinten Phipps), singing and playing violin.

In June 2003 Julie and Manny organised a 24-hour charity Drumathon in memory of James, which started with James’ 12-year-old son Charlie playing his father's drum kit. The opening act at Manny’s first “Music by the Lake” festival in Needham Market (Aug. 2003) was Soul’d Out,





which included James' sons Ben and Charlie. Dr Feelgood headlined, and US based Clive Gregson played. Manny and his friends organised several other music events, including a 24-hour charity Music Marathon in May 2004, featuring a host of local talent including David Baalham, Moscow Rd, Debs Warren, Screwworm, Surrenda Monkies (with Ben Vinten) and Manny's new band the aXidentals, with Cherrie Cray on vocals. A second "Music by the Lake" festival followed in June 2004, featuring many local acts, and headlined by consummate professional Christine Collister, who,

unfazed by a mighty wind and the collapse of a lighting tower, finished her set in a beer tent. A second Drumathon in 2005 raised over £2,000 for charity. The Big Barn Blues Festival at Lodge Farm in July 2006 featured Buster James, and the Wurzels. It would have been better supported if it had not coincided with the World Cup Final, but Manny was never interested in football.

Manny started the Stand & Deliver open mic night at the Highwayman, on the A140, now hosted at the Leisure Centre by Kevin Snell (left, with Manny and Tony) one of those Manny encouraged over the years. Others included James and Will Dixon, Sam Thurlow, and Fern Teather. With studio owner David Booth, Manny organised 24 Live at the Cottage gigs. Dave commented "Manny had the organisational brains and never-ending enthusiasm." From 2013 to 2016, international touring artists like Lynne Hanson (Canada) The Black Feathers, Tinderbox, Paul Liddell, and local talent including Abi Moore, and Roisin O'Hagan graced the intimate Dove Cottage venue. The second gig featured Kal Lavelle who has a songwriting credit on Ed Sheeran's recent hit "Shivers." Stephen Hodd was so pleased with Dave's recording of his gig he released it as a live album. Manny continued to work with bands including Consoul (with Gina Silburn, Tony Mowles, and Steve Thurlow) Applecat, Detour, and Black Cat Bones. In 2006, 56 Cadillac, Detour, and Applecat played at a charity music festival in Norma, Italy.

Professional musician James Dixon, one of the many who benefitted from Manny's support, wrote "He wrapped his arms around me when I was still pretty green and gave me the respect to invite me on stage with him in a few different outfits including our blues/folk duo BLOKE and rock covers band Applecat. He took the time to engineer and mix a solo acoustic demo for me when I was 16, showing me tips, tricks, and licks, helping me choose strings, picks, gig bags, amps, and pedals. Perhaps most importantly, he introduced me to the beauty of the Fender Telecaster. It is testament to his trust in me and love for music that I've been invited to join Seasick Steve on his European tour this summer. Without everything Manny did for me, I simply wouldn't be who I am today."

In 2017, for reasons we will now never fully understand, Manny left Debenham, emigrating to Bulgaria, where he made a new life, with two dogs, a cat, many guitars, and a host of new friends, who demonstrated his ability to connect with people through their love and support on his death. For 50 years he sang "*Winter, spring, summer or fall, All you have to do is call, And I'll be there, You've got a friend.*" He meant it.



Debenham Living Advent Calendar 2021

The fourth year of the Advent windows in Debenham was once again a huge success. Thanks to Ann and Louise for organising it and Ann for the photos. A massive 'Thank You' also to all those who took part for their hard work and creativity.



The featured window displays are from 107 Gardeners Road, 72 High Street and River Green Café.

Joan Wilkins – November 21st 1928 – November 28th 2021.

Joan recently passed away aged 93 years. She was the dearly loved wife of the late Haverland (Hav - who only died himself last September), beloved mother to Hav and Godfrey and sister to Dorothy, who was named after her mother. Joan also had four grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Joan was a real Debenham girl who lived here all her life and truly loved the village and its people. Her father, Eddie was Debenham born and was a bricklayer. He was involved with many village buildings. Joan once said, "When I walk through the village I feel like I'm part of the bricks and mortar!"

Although Joan never ventured too far from home, she wished she could have travelled more and a particular trip, never fulfilled, was to see the northern lights. Joan was educated at Sir Robert Hitcham's School starting there in 1933 and she loved English best of all. She left school aged 15 in 1943. Joan was very disappointed that she was not successful in gaining a scholarship to Eye Grammar School as she had ambitions of being a teacher.



©EADT

On leaving school her practical hobby of sewing and embroidery helped her in being offered an apprenticeship at G. M Ellis, a tailor on the High Street (now a house, Trinity Hall). Her apprenticeship ended in 1949. She didn't work there for too much longer as Mr Ellis wound down towards retirement. Joan learnt many new skills which meant she was able to make clothes, especially for her boys when they were young. She also made clothes for herself and always dressed immaculately, taking a pride in her appearance.

In 1948 Joan met the love of her life Hav. After a dance at Foresters Hall, Hav asked if he could walk her home and that was the start of a long and beautiful relationship which lasted just over 70 years before Hav's sad passing. They married in Debenham church on October 28th 1950, both aged 21. They were strong in faith and regular church goers all their lives, Joan being a member of the church choir too for a time. They soon had a family, first Hav and then Godfrey and she was duly proud of them both. She didn't work when the boys were young, apart from some seasonal fruit picking.

In 1964 Joan started as a kitchen assistant in the newly opened Debenham Modern School followed by applying as a school helper at Sir Robert Hitcham's school in 1971. To obtain this job she needed two 'O levels' and passed two English exams after attending evening class at the Modern School. When successful, she described herself as "overjoyed - it was a dream come true!" Joan was in her element and thrilled when asked to use her skills to teach needlework regularly to classes of girls. Seven years in that post were followed later by five years as a 'playground attendant' until retirement aged 65.

Joan loved reading and a yearning for showing off her love of the written word was fulfilled when asked to write articles for the Debenham Parish Magazine. For over 3 years she wrote about her life and the village through the ages. She was really keen to have the articles turned into a book and so a 48 page illustrated book was published late 2016 and reprinted three times. An amazing 500 copies were sold locally and it was also publicised in the East Anglian Daily Times. This thrilled Joan and she was so pleased that profits of about £1,400 went mainly to Cancer Research UK as well as the church. Joan's encyclopaedic memory and attention to detail shine through in her writing. Her book is a significant addition to the history of Debenham and her legacy to the village she loved. Joan lived a good life and was a kind, popular and lovely lady who many will miss greatly.



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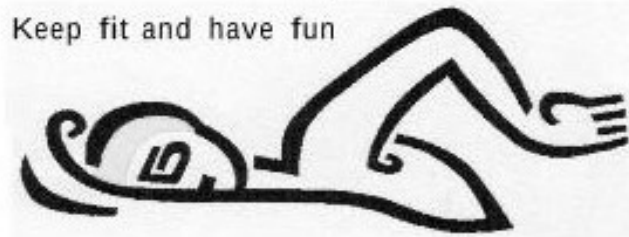
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Hello everyone,

A New Year Begins

Last August, I really hoped that once we had begun to re-open our Carers Club and Info Café, our Fit Club and Transport service, and one of our Lunch Clubs it would be a steady if relatively slow road to getting back to the level of participation and support that we enjoyed prior to the first lockdown. And so it was, with numbers slowly increasing again, we were able to celebrate at the beginning of December with an early Christmas tea with festive goodies and a carol singalong led by our amazing “Music Man”, Stephen Mckie. Not quite such an event as in the past but, nonetheless, a lovely occasion.

Sadly, and shortly within a week or so, the impact of Omicron led to a rapidly rising level of infections although the numbers of hospitalisations remained low. However, it seems that the peak has been passed and case numbers are rapidly falling back. Therefore, as our numbers are not so great at the moment, and everyone is fully vaccinated and being careful, we will continue to meet whilst keeping a very close eye on the situation.

Meanwhile, requests for transport to medically related appointments have substantially increased as GPs, hospital departments, and all the other health professionals are seeking to get back to some form of normality. Inevitably, the high levels of staff absence due to the virus have led to frequent cancellations and re-bookings at short notice. I wish to say a special thank you to our volunteer drivers who have been so understanding and supportive. The service is available to anyone living in and around Debenham who has difficulty in arranging transport to and from an appointment. All you need to do is phone 01728 862003. Please try to give us 7 days notice - we understand that this might not always be possible. We will then organise a volunteer driver who will contact you to arrange a pick-up time and, on the day, take you, make sure you get to the right place/ clinic, wait for you, and return you home. The cost of 40p per mile, which we will subsequently invoice you for, is just to cover the drivers’ expenses at the standard rate.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for all the generosity and support that the Project has received from our community (and beyond) over this last difficult year. It has certainly been worrying at times but throughout I have never had any concern that the Project would not survive and recover. Your support has ensured that we will be around for years to come.

With all my best wishes,

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The success of the vaccine rollout has helped keep the Omicron variant at bay, and I am hopeful that we can begin looking forward to a happier and more prosperous 2022. However, the winter months are likely to be challenging for many, as once again, the UK is facing an energy price squeeze with home heating and energy bills set to rise.

There are two main reasons why the UK energy market is in crisis - both can be pinned on previous policy failures, but neither is directly related to the UK's push for renewables. The energy price spike is due to the UK's reliance on imported gas, not its reliance on renewables.

Gas accounts for about two fifths of UK energy consumption and, as the dominant source of home heating, effectively sets energy prices. Markets set the gas price and as Britain imports almost all of its gas, those markets are determined by global supply and demand. Additionally, UK nuclear capacity has dwindled, and coal is, for good reason, a dirty word. Britain's base load, in other words, the energy on which we can always rely, has become increasingly dependent on just-in-time supplies of liquid natural gas, imported into our homes via inter-connectors with the continent. This is not a strategy for long term energy security, and it needs to change.

Energy security is expensive, but I am pleased that the Government is finally getting on with the job of passing new laws to allow vital investment into new UK based carbon-neutral forms of electricity. This may result in a short term rise in bills but will pay dividends in the long run - investing now will improve our energy security and make us less vulnerable to energy price rises and volatility in the future.

The other policy failure results from the way in which the energy price cap is implemented. Many smaller energy suppliers are going out of business as they are forced to absorb price rises and cannot change prices for a six-month period. This reduces competition in the energy market and in the longer term, further increases prices for consumers. At the very least the Ofgem cap should be set every three months and I shall be doing all I can to make the case in Parliament for this important change in how the energy price cap operates.

As household bills rise again, the wrong decision would be to scrap environmental levies which only accounted for 23% of energy bills in August, compared with 34% for the wholesale electricity costs. It is the jump in these wholesale energy prices since August that has been the problem and not the green levies which provide an investment in keeping energy prices lower for consumers in the future.

Ultimately, changes in both how we produce as well as how we use energy are needed to meet the government's net zero targets and, just as importantly, to keep household energy prices down in the long term.



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DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL SUMMARY - January 2022

Council updates: Unfortunately, we are unable to bring you a full report, as the Parish Council was unable to hold its meeting this month due to not being quorate (ie a minimum of five councillors in attendance). We currently have four vacancies and desperately need new members.



Understandably, the pandemic has shifted people's priorities, and some of us have had to make radical changes in life in order to adapt to a fast-changing world. However, without the support of our parishioners, it is difficult to deliver the many projects identified in our Neighbourhood Plan, or to meet the growing needs of our village.

We have been working on traffic and parking improvements, play area refurbishments, green initiatives, open spaces, planning, and much more. We are responsible for a number of local amenities and services, like the public conveniences, the allotments, the cemetery, the St Mary's Church grounds, the play areas, the Recreation Ground and car park, the Village greens, the notice board, the telephone kiosk, the emptying of dog and waste bins, the grass cutting on all the open spaces, the clearing of rubbish on our streets, most of the street lights, the URC ground, and all the notice boards, to name but a few.

We also do all the administration of all these areas, and we prepare our own accounts and budgets, answer Freedom of Information requests, apply for external funding and fund local organizations, comment on planning applications, maintain a social media page and a website, attend meetings and events representing the parish, and are the conduit for a myriad of inquiries, which are not always Parish Council related but still come to us for assistance.

We have approximately 2289 residents, so that leaves our Council with an average of 286 residents' representation per Councillor and 82 per Clerk hour a week. Hopefully, this illustrates just how wide-ranging our duties and responsibilities are and how limited in resources we are becoming. Hence why we need your help! Even if all you can do at present is attend our monthly meetings, we would love to hear from you. Please do have an informal chat with our Clerk or any of our Councillors if you would like to know more or to apply.

Cont...

Allotments: There are currently a number of allotment plots that are not being maintained in accordance with our Allotments Rules. The Parish Council has been pragmatic in the way it has dealt with the various reasons given for this and has been extremely generous in the time it has allowed some tenants to bring their plots up to an acceptable standard. The Parish Council believes that it has given some tenants more than sufficient time, even under the umbrella of covid reasons.

The current position is untenable, not only for those allotmenters on a “waiting list” keen to get a plot, but also for the remaining considerate and hard-working tenants.

Notice is hereby given that all plots which have remained unmanaged for the last six month period will be re-let with immediate effect. Some of these plots have been untouched for quite some time, which simply is not acceptable.

We are in the process of organizing a “Skip and metal clearance” day at the allotments, and further information will be provided closer to the date.

Please also note that the allotment site is private land, for plot holders only, and that it is not for public access.

*Mrs Dina Bedwell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Tel. no: 01473 787861 (please leave a voicemail if unavailable)
E-mail: Parish.Clerk@debenhamparishcouncil.org
Office hours: Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays 9.30 am to 3.30 pm*

**Your
Parish Council
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Who are the current Parish Councillors?

Steve Palframan - Chair
97 Gardeners Road, Debenham, IP14 6RZ 01728 860831
cldr.stevepalframan@debenhamparishcouncil.org

Richard Blackwell - Vice Chair
2 Clover Court, Debenham, IP14 6SG
01728 861815
cldr.richardblackwell@debenhamparishcouncil.org

Steven Phipps
Old Cobblers House, 10 Aspoll Road, Debenham, IP14 6QA
01728 861028 07801 572593
cldr.stevenhipps@debenhamparishcouncil.org

Mike Hammond
40 Gracechurch Street
860213
cldr.mikehammond@debenhamparishcouncil.org

Frankie Winrow-Giffen
01728 861085
The New House, Little London Hill, Debenham, IP14 6PN
cldr.frankiewinrow-giffen@debenhamparishcouncil.org

Lynne Cockerton
23 High Street, Debenham, IP14 6QL
01728 860140
cldr.lynnecockerton@debenhamparishcouncil.org

Gina Helm
12 Bloomfield Way, Debenham, IP14 6SJ
01728 860822
cldr.ginahelm@debenhamparishcouncil.org

Suz Dobson
Finches, High Street, Debenham
cldr.suzdobson@debenhamparishcouncil.org

David Seccombe
South View, Kenton Road, Debenham, IP14 6LA
01728 860485
cldr.davidseccombe@debenhamparishcouncil.org



United Reformed Church Reflection

Jeremiah 1: 4-10



⁴The LORD said to me, ⁵"I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations."

⁶I answered, "Sovereign LORD, I don't know how to speak; I am too young."

⁷But the LORD said to me, "Do not say that you are too young, but go to the people I send you to, and tell them everything I command you to say. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I will be with you to protect you. I, the LORD, have spoken!"

⁹Then the LORD stretched out his hand, touched my lips, and said to me, "Listen, I am giving you the words you must speak. ¹⁰Today I give you authority over nations and kingdoms to uproot and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

All through my Ministry, and even before, People have said that the church is dying and it will not survive another 20 years! I was hearing that as a teenager nearly 40 years ago. Of all the Churches, The United Reformed Church is often seen not to have a lot of life left in it. I am glad to say that people are wrong to say this, because this year The United Reformed Church is Celebrating 50 years since it was formed, but the history of the Churches that formed it goes back to the reformation, and also 1662 when many ministers was ejected from the Anglican Church for refusing to use the 1662 prayer book.

The United Reformed Church was formally merged in 1972, when the Presbyterian Church of England, and the Congregational Church in England and Wales united to become the church. One Member of Parliament at that time described this merger as: "one of the most historic measures in the history of the Christian churches in this country." The Church expanded when The Churches of Christ joined in 1981, followed by Scottish Congregationalists in 2000.

One driving force behind the union of the Church was to form one united Christian Church, even though this has not happened we still work very closely with Churches of other traditions, and have joint Churches with Methodists, Baptists, Anglican, Moravian and many other traditions use our buildings.

Throughout this year United Reformed Churches throughout the country are hoping to hold events to mark this anniversary, and in Stowmarket and villages we hope to mark it at the Stowmarket Anniversary service in March.

The year Culminates with the United Reformed Church's 50th Anniversary Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving. On the afternoon of Saturday 1 October 2022, at Methodist Central Hall , Westminster, London, where the Uniting Assembly of the United Reformed Church took place in October 1972, a chance to give thanks and to celebrate the five decades of the United Reformed Church.

Happy Birthday to the United Reformed Church and here's to the next 50 years.

Yours

Robert

URC Services

Sunday February 6th	Mr John Knights (communion service)	10:45am
Sunday February 13th	Rev. Norman Tharby 1st study in a series of 4	10:45am
Sunday February 20th.	Rev. Robert Sheard	10:45am
Sunday February 27th.	Mr Andrew Fairweather	10:45am

Friends and Neighbours

Thursday 3rd at 2:00pm Mrs Audrey Heart speaking

Cakes and Choruses sing along Sunday 27th all welcome

Coffee Mornings

Every Tuesday 10am - 11:30am. All Welcome.

URC Points of Contact

Minister	Rev Robert Sheard	01449 678173
Secretary	Mr Laurence Kelway	01728 860473
Treasurer	Mrs Janet Smith	01728 860857
Ladies' Secretary	Jean Rodwell	01728 861065

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1 st Sunday of the month	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	family@church
2 nd Sunday of the month	8.00am	Kenton	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Framsden	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	Helmingham	Communion /MP
3 rd Sunday of the month		Pettaugh	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Winston	Evening Prayer
	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Winston	Morning Prayer
4 th Sunday of the month	11.00am	Framsden	Holy Communion
		Kenton	Morning Prayer
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
5 th Sunday of the month	11.00am	Winston	Holy Communion
		Pettaugh	Morning Prayer
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion



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February Reflection from Rev Susan Bates



The sun was low, but bright and strong as I walked along the beach. The air was cold and very still. The sea seemed to take deep breaths; sighing as each wave sank back through the pebbles. The sky was a beautiful baby blue, pale and vulnerable. It reflected into the calm sea, a deep luminous blue. I breathed with the waves and was still. The joy that is silence enveloped me.

There is a great story in the Bible about the prophet Elijah. Elijah decides to confront the false prophets of the idol Baal. He proposes a test on the top of Mount Carmel. They were both to prepare sacrifices (this was the Old Testament) and each would call on their God and see who answers. The God who sends fire to cook the sacrifices, is the God who exists. The Baal prophets prepare their sacrifice, call on their God and nothing happens. They work themselves into a frenzy, shouting and yelling. Nothing. Elijah does his bit, says a prayer and fire descends. QED. End of story... well, not quite.

The powers that be are not at all happy with Elijah and order his arrest. He runs. He hides. Eventually he finds himself on Mount Horeb (also known as Mount Sinai) where the Israelites had had their big revelation from God all those years ago. God tells Elijah to stand on the mountain, 'for the Lord is about to pass by'. Suddenly there is a great and powerful wind that tears the mountain apart and shatters the rock. But God is not in the wind. Then there is an earthquake. But God is not in the earthquake. Then there is fire, but God is not in the fire. After all this noise and destruction comes 'a still, small voice'. God is there... in that voice.

What is 'a still, small voice'? It is a sound you can only hear when there is silence and when you are listening.

The lovely Jonathan Sacks, once Chief Rabbi, says, 'I suspect what God was saying to Elijah is this. Your trial was based in error. The prophets of Baal believe that God is power. You showed them that I am a great power. Perhaps so, but that is not what I am'¹. For God does not impose Godself on us, his image; humanity. Quite the opposite. God gives us space to be what we want to be, to grow if we choose. But God does not leave us alone in that freedom and space. God is always here. But to find God, we must listen and we must seek.

God is in the breath of the ocean and the blue of the sky... God is in the silence... the silent music of our lives, but there are times when all we hear is noise. The challenge is to tune out of the noise and to hear the silent music.

R.S. Thomas said,

But the silence in the mind
is when we live best, within
listening distance of the silence we call God...²

¹ Jonathan Sacks, *Celebrating Life: Finding Happiness in Unexpected Places*.

² R.S. Thomas, 'AD', in *Collected Later Poems 1988-2000*



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MINISTRY TEAM

Rector Revd Susan Bates revsusanbates@icloud.com 01728 860222
(Please avoid Fridays if possible)

Curate Revd Tracey James traceyjamescurate@gmail.com 01728 861656

Readers Veda Berriman r.berriman111@btinternet.com 01728 861363
Mark Trevitt mail@wheelertrevitt.co.uk 01473 890568

CHURCHWARDENS

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Robert Styles 07790 278540

Aspall Andrew Ward 01728 860343

Framsden Christine Schofield christine@cpwpost.com 01728 684076

Kenton Vic Woodgate vicwoodgate@winterbrook.co.uk 01728861118

Pettaugh Sheila Janson s.janson@btinternet.com 01473 890883
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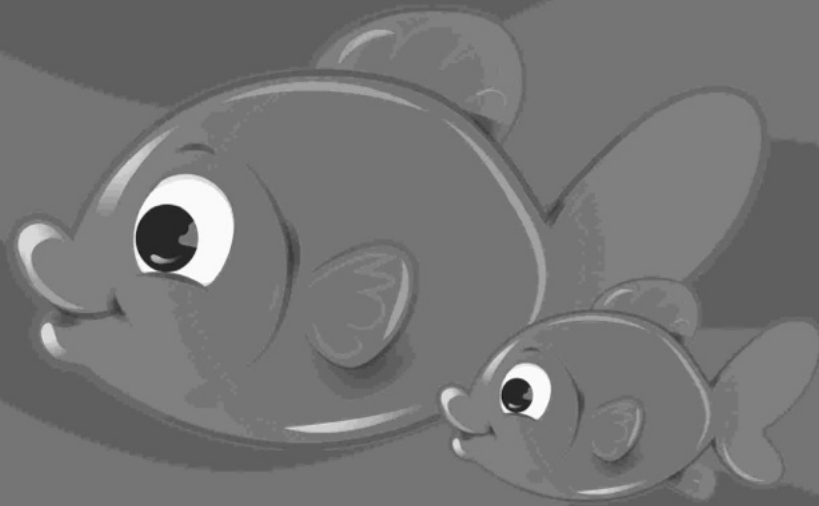
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