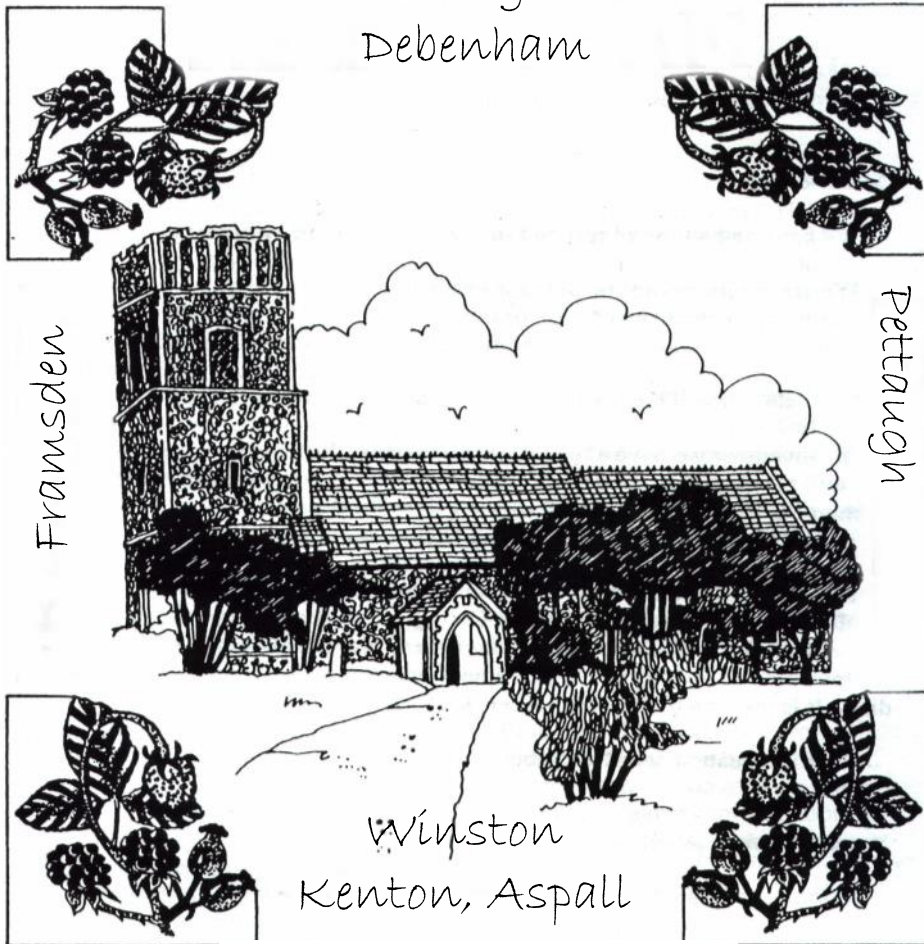


TOGETHER

Autumn 2025

September to November
Distributed free within the Benefice

Helmingham
Debenham



THE BENEFICE OF
DEBENHAM & HELMINGHAM

Reflection by Rev'd Keith Rengert

At the time of writing the schools have just broken up for the long summer break. Predictably the long hot sunny days have given way to wet unsettled weather with the pessimists amongst us forecasting a return to sunny warm days when the schools return in September.

By the time this is read the schools will be returning, Rev' Susan will be back from her sabbatical and the autumn will be around the corner.

I like this time of year, there is something reassuring about the normality of September. There will be the annual round of new school photographs on social media as students of all ages return to/start/move on in their educational journeys.

It is a time of change which can be unnerving whilst at the same time eagerly anticipated.

Change is always with us as we all know so well. As to whether we welcome it or resist it all depends upon what the change is together with our perception as to whether a change is perceived to be positive or negative and of course, how it will/will not affect 'me'.

The only certainty about change is that it will and does come. The real issue that change represents to us is our ability to honestly and fairly evaluate it in order to see as to whether it is beneficial to our society as a whole or not. Having said that we need to be able to accept and even embrace change, we also need to be able to discern when to resist it.

For Christians' the challenge can be even more challenging as we are exhorted to praise God in all circumstances as the hymn writer George Thomas Smart writing in the 18th Century phrases it;

‘Through all the changing scenes of life,
In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still
My heart and tongue employ’.

Ministry News

Rev Helen Rengert has now been appointed vicar of St John the Baptist Church in Felixstowe. Her service of installation will be on **Tuesday 2nd September** at 7:30pm. Keith and Helen plan to move to Felixstowe but Keith will continue as Chaplain at Debenham High School and Associate Priest for the Benefice.

ASPALL

Barry and Dale Chevallier Guild kindly hosted the Aspall Strawberry Tea in their lovely walled garden on the 29th June. Grateful thanks go to all the very many people who supported this event and helped with baking, washing dishes, erecting gazebos, selling tickets and organising the plant stall. The Green Dragons Morris Dancers and musicians provided the wonderful entertainment. The sum of £1,613 was raised for Church funds.

Aspall Church will hold a traditional **Harvest Festival** on **Sunday 28th September** at 3pm. Everyone is welcome. The service is followed by cups of tea and cake.

Debenham and Helmingham Benefice Church Services September 2025

Sunday 7th September	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	family@church
Sunday 14th September	8.00am	Kenton	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Winston	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	Helmingham	Morning Prayer
Sunday 21th September		Framsden	Holy Communion
	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Framsden	Harvest Festival
	11.00am	Pettaugh	Holy Communion
Sunday 28thd September		Kenton	Morning Prayer
	2.30pm	Winston	Pet Service
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Winston	Harvest Festival
	Pettaugh	Harvest Festival	
	3pm	Aspall	Harvest Festival

PETTAUGH

Last year we had the very wet spring and by complete contrast this year spring has proved very hot and dry. The crops haven't grown as tall as we would normally see. Farmers have been rushing to get the harvest before the recent rainy days set in. The rain has been most welcome after the exceptionally warm temperatures.

We were saddened to learn that Angela Dorothy Marigold Underhill had passed away on the 5th June 2025 at the grand age of 99 years. She was the widow of Cdr John Underhill OBE RN and they had lived for many years at the Rectory in Pettaugh before moving to Woodbridge. Cdr Underhill died in 2009 at the age of 82. Angela enjoyed gardening, needlework and was a very talented water colour artist. Angela had been involved in helping to produce some of the beautiful cross stitch kneelers in St Catherine Church. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this sad time.

The churchyard has looked very neat this Summer with additional volunteers helping to make it look so well kempt. Although the meadow behind the church hasn't been mowed regularly as previously, the wild flowers took over and it has been looking beautiful. It will be cut and raked later in the year to help spread the wild flower seed. We know that many walkers enjoy walking through the meadow.

Dates for the diary:-

13th September - Annual Ride & Stride for Suffolk Historic Churches. Contact Ruth Crane 01473890526 for details and sponsorship forms.

28th September - Harvest Service at St Catherine. Family Service at 11.00am.

Saturday 4th October - Cheese and Wine at St Catherine 7pm - 9pm.

9th November - Service of Remembrance 9.30am at St Catherine,

WINSTON

What can I say about this year's Winston Fete? So many people have said it was our best yet and we were blessed with lovely weather which was a bonus. We have so many Thank You to everyone who came and supported us on the day, to everyone who helped with preparation, site clearance, bunting, marquee, posters, notice boards, cake makers, etc; Dave and Heather for our BBQ, music from Kevin and Friends (from *Stand and Deliver on the Road*) and to Phil for bringing the old tractor which belonged to the late Bill James. Thank you to everyone who willingly purchased draw tickets, mainly from Sandra, by word of mouth, telephone sales, text, etc. A lot of the money raised comes from pre-Fete draw ticket sales. (Thank you Bob for checking and folding them all.) A very big Thank You for all the donations of draw prizes, mainly by local businesses, which were given so willingly and generously. The money raised for the Church and Schoolroom was just over £2,900. *Thank you all once again* (and apologies if I missed anyone).

The Benefice Service at Winston on Sunday 29th June was well attended and many people stayed after the service for light refreshments in the schoolroom. Many thanks to Rev Keith and his wife Helen for taking the Service, the Debenham Bellringers and the Benefice Choir.

We were blessed with lovely weather (again) for the Black Barn Singers Concert, *A Journey Through Africa* in the church on Friday 11th July. As well as the singers we were treated to brilliant solos by Malachy King. Thanks also to Julie for playing the electric organ. The money raised to E.A.C.H. and a £50 donation to Winston Church.

The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust's **Ride and Stride** takes place on **Saturday 13th September**, 9am-5pm. You are sponsored for each place of worship you visit, or given a donation, and half the money goes to SHCT and half to your nominated place of worship. For more details and sponsorship form, please contact Kate on 01728 861004.

The **Pet Service** takes place on **Sunday 21st September** at 2.30pm in the church followed by light refreshments in the schoolroom. All pets and their owners will be very welcome. Please do join us even if you don't have a pet. Please note: *no Evening Prayer on that Sunday*.

The **Harvest Festival** takes place on **Sunday 28th September** at 11am combined with Holy Communion. We are asking again this year, please, for donations of tins and packets etc which will be given to a local food bank. Thank you.

Please note, the Sunday Evening Prayer service in October should be the last one before the dark nights of winter. The service should resume again in the spring. More details in the Winter magazine.

Sandra and Livvy are hoping to do their door to door collections for the Poppy Appeal

Debenham and Helmingham Benefice Church Services October 2025

Friday 3rd	6.30pm	Kenton	Harvest Festival
Sunday 5th October	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	family@church Harvest
Sunday 12th October	8.00am	Kenton	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Winston	Morning Prayer
Sunday 19th October	11.00am	Helmingham	Harvest Festival
		Framsden	Morning Prayer
	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th October		Framsden	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	Pettaugh	Holy Communion
		Kenton	Morning Prayer
	6.30pm	Winston	Evening Prayer
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Winston	Holy Communion
		Pettaugh	Morning Prayer

in November. The Remembrance Sunday service starts at 10.55 at the War Memorial. We are planning the **Early Bird Christmas Market** for **Saturday 15th November**, 11am-3pm in the Church and Schoolroom. Please contact Kate, 01728 861004 or email cmcbranch@btinternet.com for more details or to book your tables), £15 each or two for £25. Refreshments will be available. Free parking and entry. *Sandra*

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Art Collective are returning to Winston Schoolroom with local artists' work (framed, unframed, cards etc) for sale over the weekend **22nd/23rd November** 10am till 4pm! Join us to browse and enjoy tea and cake!

If you can't wait until then they are exhibiting at HOLTON LODGE BARN, Halesworth IP19 8PN from October 29th to November 4th.

Welcome all!

HELMINGHAM

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored **Ride and Stride 2025** will be held on **Saturday 13th September**. Anybody wishing to take part, please contact Dr Peter Haas on 07747 046858.

Helmingham Primary School & Nursery

WOW what a busy Summer term we had at Helmingham Primary School and Nursery. We opened our Nursery up to welcome 2 year old children for morning sessions 8.30-11.30 and it has been amazing to see them engage with the other children and explore our beautiful grounds. Jointly we have had our Sports Day with lots of challenges and racing on the track – again the support of the children for each other shone out.

Other events marking our calendar have been the Pentecost Service in Church which ended sharing a huge Birthday Cake with candles! Thank you very much to Emma the school cook – it was delicious. The practising for the school play Oliver with a Twist paid off as each and every pupil taking part delivered their lines and sang their hearts out. Staff helped behind the scenes and were so proud of them all.

Foxes Class (KS2 plus Year 2's) visited Flatford Mill and took their artist equipment to draw/paint in the style of John Constable. An real life opportunity to sit in the environment the Artist did as he painted his masterpieces.

Hedgehogs (Nursery/Reception & KS1) climbed aboard the mini-bus for a field trip to Felixstowe to explore surroundings different from their village life. Starting at the Port of Felixstowe they witnessed a huge container ship being guided in by much smaller pilot boats. After skimming some stones and enjoying an ice cream we were back on the bus to travel along the prom to the Spa where we found shade for our lunch. Then on the beach finding stones, seaweed, creating patterns and paddling as our feet sunk into the sand. All the children were a real credit to the school – this we were told by a group of residents who were delighted to engage with the children.

Term ended with our traditional Pre-school Graduation with cap and gown. So heart warming to see our little people having confidence to shake the Head Teachers hand and receive their Certificate. Well Done.

A whole school afternoon took place when we celebrated our Year 6 pupils move up to High School in September. Starting with a human Guess Who game and then into a Scavenger Hunt to find clues relating to their names to fill a grid followed by Quidditch in teams on the big field (our version!) and finally the Hokey Cokey (by special request!). A fun afternoon for them to remember as they make new friends in a new school.



Rev. Susan joins us on Tuesday afternoon 30th September as we celebrate our Harvest Festival in St. Marys Church, Framsdon. The children will be singing, reading and donating harvest gifts for other families in need. Do please feel free to join us on this afternoon and support your local school children - we start at 2.30 pm finishing at 3.15



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pm.

Pupils at Helmingham are able to access Lego Club after school on a Friday as well as can be picked up at 3pm to be taken to Henley to access after school clubs in Archery/ Sports & Games/ Multi-sports/ Digital/Hama Beads and Sewing.

Before and After School Care is available at Helmingham – Breakfast Club 8am and After School Care 3.15 – 5.00. All bookable on Arbor.

If you would like to come and visit us – see our Outdoor Classroom and Forest Schools in operation then please give us a call, we would love to show you around. 01473 890267 or email us on office.helmingham@gfpschools.org. You can also view our school through spectacular drone photos available on our web site www.helmingham.suffolk.sch-uk

DEBENHAM

Zac Musical

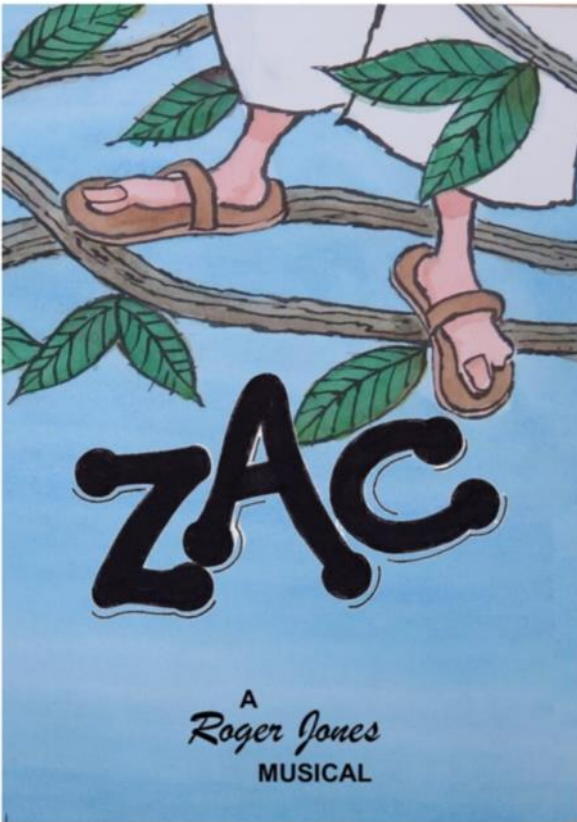
Saturday 20th September (time to be confirmed) at Debenham United Reformed Church, Chancery Lane. Come along to the musical *Zac* by Roger Jones which tells the story of Zacchaeus the taxman who wanted to meet Jesus and hear more of the message that he brought to the world and how it changed his life. Performed by the Combined Churches Choir, whose members come from Stowmarket, Needham Market and also Debenham! Entry is free, with a collection going to the URC Building Fund.

Parish Pantry

Every Wednesday morning, 10am to 11am in the church. Collect a bag of groceries for £3.50.

Parish Café

Every Wednesday, 10am to 11.30am in Dove Cottage. Hot drinks, cake and chat, for a donation only.



Family@church

A family friendly service for the young and not so young. On the first Sunday of each month, 9.30am breakfast, 10am service.

Debenham and Helmingham Benefice Church Services November 2025

Sunday 2nd November	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	family@church
	7.00pm	Debenham	All Souls'
Sunday 9th November	8.00am	Kenton	HC + Remembrance
	9.30am	Pettaugh	Service of Remembrance
	10.45am	Debenham	Service of Remembrance
	10.55am	Winston	Service of Remembrance
		Helmingham Framsden	Service of Remembrance HC + Remembrance
Sunday 16th November	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham Framsden	Holy Communion Morning Prayer
	11.00am	Pettaugh	Holy Communion
		Kenton	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23rd November	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Winston	Holy Communion
		Pettaugh	Morning Prayer
Sunday 30th November	10.00am	Aspall	Benefice Communion

The Corner Café

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Debenham United Reformed Church

Drop-in Coffee Morning, Tuesdays any time between 8.30am and 11am. During term-time only. Children welcome! Reopening September.

Sunday Services at 10.45am.

Cakes and Choruses on the last Sunday of the month at 3pm.

Friends and Neighbours 2pm-4pm monthly on Thursdays.

For services see www.urcstowmarketandvillages.com

Saturday 11th October **Annual Gift Day**, 10am till 2pm. See poster on page 12.

Waveney Foodbank

A collection box for Waveney Foodbank is in the church porch. Debenham Co-op also has a box for collections (Stowmarket Foodbank).

Meet up Mondays

10am-2pm in Dove Cottage. Lots of activities including jigsaw puzzle exchange, refreshments, games, crafts and books. Dogs welcome.

Debenham Library

Saturday 13 September at 2pm: **Storytelling with Bards Aloud**, a storytelling event with Gerry Donlan. Tea and Cakes will be available, and certificates for the Reading Quest will be given out to children. This is a free event sponsored by the Friends of Debenham Library.

Greetings Cards are for sale in the library at £2.50 each, in aid of Debenham Library. Stock up while they last!

Books, DVDs, WiFi, Computers, Printing/photocopying/scanning, A4 Laminating, CDs, audiobooks, downloadable music/audiobooks/eBooks, free reservations, drinks for sale. The room is available for hire outside opening hours.

Tuesday 0930 am – 1300 pm Wednesday 1500 – 1930 pm

Saturday 0900 am – 1300 pm Sunday 1200 – 1600 pm

Tel: 01728 861940 Email: debenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/libraries/debenham-library

Facebook: @DebenhamLibraryandFriends

Suffolk Libraries: Mobile Library Routes (every 4 weeks)

Aspall Church, Thursdays 1145-1210

Framsden Village Hall, Thursdays 1400-1415

Pettaugh, Old Bull, Fridays 1535-1555

See www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/mobile-libraries for more information.

Debenham Shed

Our new facility for welding, angle grinding and other hot work has started construction and we are already using donated welding equipment; steelwork will start in October. Thanks for Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Debenham Antiques and Clarke and Simpson for generation donations towards this project. Soon we'll be able to train others in these useful skills.

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 sourcing 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.

Debenham Shed is at 2 Fields Farm, Low Road (IP14 6BJ). We are open on Monday mornings 9am-12pm, Fridays 10am-5pm and normally the second Saturday morning of each month. Membership by the year, half-year or PAYG. Chairman: Rob Davies

07952 556152 Treasurer: Tony Hutt 07906 614328. Visit our website at www.debenhamshed.org.uk (sign up to newsletters on the Contact page) Email info@debenhamshed.org.uk. Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DebenhamShed. Registered Charity 1212367.

Debenham Green Team

On the first Saturday of each month, outside The Lion from 9am-11am, we collect Tetrapak cartons, plastic flower pots and contact lens packaging, as well as the items below. We have containers for pens, dental products and corks, at the back of the church. Also old candles for recycling. River sampling takes place monthly.

Join the mailing list at debenhamgreenteam@gmail.com or look at the website www.debenhamfuture.com. See the events coming up at www.facebook.com/DebenhamGreenTeam.

Debenham History Society

See <https://thedebehamarchive.net> for the current series of programmes, as well as an extensive archive of information, photographs, publications, etc and to join their mailing list. Publications archived now included Debenham Parish Magazine, a Debenham Village Guide of 2002 and this magazine.

Editor's notes

The Copy deadline for the next *Together* magazine (December to February) is **25 October**, and is normally published about two or three weeks later. Quarterly, A5 format. 700 copies are printed and collated on Rizograph stencil copier, distributed free by members of Winston church. Send copy to the editor by email, email attachment (Word or Publisher formats preferably); Adobe PDF format may be suitable. Photographs do not reproduce well but graphics are usually OK. If you can't do any of these send the copy in the post.

Editor: Tony Hutt, Email: tony@tonyhutt.co.uk Tel (01728) 860173. 19 Priory Lane, Debenham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 6QD.

Advertising payments to Kate Branch, The Red House, Winston, Stowmarket IP14 6LG Tel (01728) 861004 Email: cmcbranch@btinternet.com (payable to Winston PCC). 1/8 page for £20 p.a. (4 issues); ¼ page for £40 p.a.; ½ page for £80 p.a. Send advertising enquiries and advertising copy to Tony Hutt.

This magazine is published online at www.achurchnearyou.com/debenham and earlier copies are available at www.issuu.com/tonyhutt and <http://thedebehamarchive.uk>.

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Useful links

Debenham website and PC

www.debenham.onesuffolk.net

Framsden PC

www.framsden.onesuffolk.net

Framsden village

www.framsden.org.uk

Winston website and PC

www.winston.onesuffolk.net/parish-council

Pettaugh website and PC

www.pettaugh.suffolk.cloud

Framsden Baptist Church

www.framsdenbaptistchurch.org

Forge Church (Debenham)

www.forgechurch.com

Debenham United Reformed Church

www.urcstowmarketandvillages.com



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Winston School Room

is available to hire: see back page for
details.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE

Rector Revd. Susan Taylor 07990 959593 revsusantaylor@icloud.com

(Please note, my usual day off is a Friday and every third Saturday of the month.)

Chaplain Debenham High School and Associate Priest

Rev Keith Rengert 07990 959593 revdkeith@gmail.com

Ministry Team

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

Mr Mark Trevitt 01473 890568 mail@wheelertrevitt.co.uk

Note: Ministry Team phone number: **07990 959593**.

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/debenham

Facebook: @debenhamandhelmingham Instagram: debenham_helmingham_benefice

Churchwardens

Debenham, St Mary Magdalene

Mrs Sheila Blackwell 01728 861815 sheila.blackwell@icloud.com

Mrs Betty Connors 01728 860513 bettyconnors@outlook.com

Helmingham, St Mary

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Pettaugh, St Catherine

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

Winston, St Andrew

Mr Brian Branch 01728 861004 cmcbranch@btinternet.com

Winston Schoolroom

To hire, contact Kate Branch on 861004, The Red House, Winston IP14 6LG or email cmcbranch@btinternet.com.

Dove Cottage

Contact: Ray Watts, 70 High Street, Debenham IP14 6QP Tel 01728 860255