

## **Report from Mr Ernie Read, Secretary of Debenham United Reformed Church**

Thank you for inviting me to give this report.

Normal Sunday worship continues each week at 10.45 a.m. Our Minister Reverend Mark Kenton has moved to a Church in Scotland, so we are without a minister at the present time and our pulpit is filled by Lay and other Ministers. Congregations are around 25 to 28 and we had five new members join this year which was very encouraging.

A Bible Study discussion group meets on Wednesday mornings in term time at 10.45 a.m. led by Reverend J Peck.

Thursdays mornings we have Open Church for tea, coffee and a chat.

Every other Thursday afternoon at 2.15p.m. there are Women's Fellowship meetings when 20 -24 ladies attend.

Quarterly we hold Songs of Praise in the evenings at 6.30p.m., followed by a Cold Buffet, these are well supported from within the village and around.

Please read Debenham Monthly Magazine for any changes.

On Remembrance Sunday there was a very full church with a large number of children, two of whom read the lessons.

Being a listed building we had a Quinquennial Survey during the year, another big expense. This brought up a number of matters, mainly damp in two areas, brickwork needing attention and two windows replacing. The damp is being worked on, new down pipe and soak away, new windows have been fitted and some brickwork done, mainly the back gate area, also continual regular maintenance is required. Thanks to the generosity of members, friends and faithful giving, we are managing to meet the costs.

With new up-to-date toilets, and the old kitchen knocked into one, we now have a very nice kitchen for buffet and tea work.

Next stage: one day a kitchen in the school room to enable us to cook full meals, at the moment we are just able to do light Harvest and Christmas lunches for 40. The School Room also needs a lot of renovation.

Though an older congregation, we enjoy fellowship together and all are made welcome with friendly and caring atmosphere.

Songs of Praise dates:

May 17<sup>th</sup> 6.30p.m. Salvation Army

July 11<sup>th</sup>: 6.30p.m. Way to Life Choir.