

Free for All



THE MAGAZINE OF THE VENTA GROUP

APRIL 2024

DEMENTIA CAFE TOYS & GAMES SESSION

.....

See more photos inside - page 6



THURSDAY CLUB AGM

.....

*See more photos
inside - page 7*

YEARS 5-11
embers
youth club

Thursdays
7.30 - 9 pm
Stoke Holy Cross
Church Hall

18th April
Nerf Battle @ the Church
25th April
Club Night + TRACKS

2nd May
Generation Game (with parents)
9th May
Club Night + Prayer Battle
16th May
Team Challenges @ The Park
23rd May
Club Night + Karaoke

For more details contact:
Gary Watson on gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk



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Hello everyone!

Our wonderful deliverers are often very prompt in getting round, so it is quite likely that you are reading this not long after Easter, hopefully with that weekend still very much in mind.

Back in March we were talking about the Easter story in our school assembly, and I was very encouraged to hear that even in this age of endless streaming services and online games and everything else our young people enjoy, there is still room for the Mr Men and Little Misses. For some reason I got thinking about what the Easter story would sound like if I filled it with names of Mr Men and Little Misses. The

first time I miscounted, but in the end I got 27 in there, I think. How many can you find?

The night Jesus died, he had dinner with his friends. The greedy ones were probably very happy. Jesus's friends were in a bit of a muddle. He seemed to be saying that he was going to die, and not be with them any more, which sounded like nonsense. Of course that wasn't going to happen.

But as Jesus spoke more about it, everything got more and more quiet. People tried to be brave, and strong, and they said they would not be forgetful about who Jesus was, and what he had done for them, but even Jesus's best friend was quite quick to say he didn't know who he was.

The next day, God's perfect son Jesus died on the cross. He did it to sort out everything that had gone wrong. All the things in life that are messy, all the mischief we get into, all the things that are naughty or mean, all the times we are stubborn and try to do our own thing. Everything that makes us worry about what God might think about us.

Two days later, in the garden where they had buried Jesus, there was sunshine. Some of Jesus's helpful friends went to the place where they had buried him, to make sure everything was neat and tidy. But something funny had happened: the stone had rolled away and Jesus's body wasn't there. Were they too late? Was it some sort of magic trick?

But then the impossible happened. They saw an angel, who told them that Jesus was alive! They were so cheerful.

"Hurry" they said. "Let's rush and tell the others."

Did you find them all? There are lots of places online you can find a list of all the Mr Men and Little Misses if you would like to check your answers. But maybe a more important question than these is the one which I asked the children at the end. When you hear the Easter story, which Mr Man or Little Miss are you? Are you Nonsense or Wrong – it just doesn't make sense to you? Or do you go Quiet or start to Worry as you think about what it all means? Or maybe you are just Happy or Cheerful because you realise what Jesus has done for you? I'd love to hear from you about how you respond to the Easter story.

Rob

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CHURCHWARDENS

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Arminghall

Rob (492305) or Lyn (493422)

Caistor St Edmund

Jani (493572) & Lia (494137)

ST GEORGE'S HALL BOOKINGS:

Rob Baker (492305)

STOKE CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS:

Karen (07761 076954)

email: karenp1963@hotmail.co.uk

STOKE HOLY CROSS PAVILION BOOKINGS:

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IN A FUTURE MAGAZINE

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what we can do!*

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FROM THE REGISTERS

We continue to pray for all those who have
lost loved ones recently, or are remembering
someone particularly at this time of year.

FUNERAL

PAUL CULLUM

13th March

at Stoke Holy Cross

INTERMENTS OF ASHES

SOPHIE HALE

5th March

at Caistor St Edmund

ANDREW RUTHERFORD

&

BARBARA WELLS

11th March

at Arminghall

JOHN WOODS

25th March

at Stoke Holy Cross

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send by email to

Henry and Eostre Caswell to

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By 10th of this month please.



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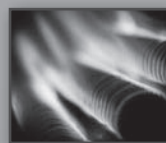
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Caring for Creation

A couple of weeks ago on a bright spring morning Stuart and I decided to explore some more of the local area, having only moved here in the summer we still have much to discover. We walked from our house down some country roads and across some fields before stopping at a local coffee shop and walking home again. The fields, woodlands, ponds, spring flowers and trees (some in blossom) all looked beautiful in the sunlight and the many birds were swooping around enjoying the warmer weather of that day. This reminded me of just how wonderful all of creation is.

But I wonder how often we really appreciate all that God has created and just take it all for granted. During the pandemic restrictions many more people explored their local area because going for a walk was one of the few things which we were allowed to do and appreciation for creation was probably at an all-time high. However, is that still the case now that life has pretty much returned to how it was before?

In the bible Genesis 1:31 says, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." But unfortunately, over time our beautiful world has been mistreated causing many different problems throughout. One issue is plastic pollution, something which I had not really considered much until my daughter travelled to Borneo a few years ago with Camps International. While she was there, she was involved with a beach clean on one of the small islands just off the main island. Over a period of a couple of hours, the group she was in had collected 1408 pieces of plastic and polystyrene which had been washed up on the shore including many bottles. When they investigated some of the plastic waste further, they discovered that it had come from countries all around the world including the UK which is about 7184 miles away. Not only is this plastic littering our exotic beaches, but it is causing much suffering to our ocean wildlife and sea birds.

This is not only a problem in far away countries but is also an issue in our local communities too as rubbish can often be seen littering our countryside. Much of that is plastic and it is causing great suffering to some of our local wildlife including hedgehogs, voles and many birds.

When God created the world, he gave humans particular responsibilities which were: to care for the world, to be good stewards and to show God's love to all. Today we are all aware of the changes which we can make in our daily lives which will have a positive impact and help care for our world. Reducing our plastic waste is something we can all actively be involved with which will have a positive impact on our countryside and wildlife here in Norfolk and across the world. Doing our bit will help the world be a better place for us and for the next generation hopefully resulting in a greater appreciation for all of creation across the world again.

The New Community Hall For Stoke Holy Cross

Another month and things are really progressing with the Stoke Holy Cross Community Hall. You may have seen foundations being dug and the beam and block floor of the building being hoisted into place by a crane. (Unfortunately, the pre-school were not allowed to be in attendance during this procedure as a safety precaution.) More earth has been moved and by the first week in April, scaffolding will be in place to enable the brickwork to be continued and the Hall to take shape.

The new building will have solar panels built into the roof and also air conditioning in the hall and the lobby, including the café area. It has also been agreed that there will be a small number of swift boxes built into the front of the building. There is a colony of swifts on Long Lane that have been seen on the Jubilee Meadow in the summer when they migrate here from Africa. The Jubilee Meadow Makers are keen to encourage as many as swifts as possible to nest here to boost their declining numbers. (They do not create any mess on the ground!)

The new hall when it opens in the summer will be a wonderful new community facility, located centrally amidst the playing fields, the play areas, the allotments, and the Jubilee Meadow. The aim is that it will be available to all and we would encourage anyone thinking about hiring the hall for classes or interest groups, to contact us. There are many potential uses, but maybe a foreign language speaking group, a knit and natter session, yoga, Pilates, a book or Bridge Club, or events for the younger or older age groups, are all possibilities. Do remember it will be a great place to meet for all sorts of occasions and activities. Please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, Dan Wickham on 01603 339139, for more details.

The new hall will also need to be furnished and equipped with many items from tables and chairs to pots and pans. If you have any ideas for sponsorship, donations or fund raising, please contact Stewart Hull, who has already found a number of grants to help equip the hall, on stewarthull@hotmail.com so he can coordinate the ideas.

St George's Hall Dementia Support Cafe



In February we had two excellent sessions. A Show & Tell where members talked about some of their objects which hold special memories for them or heirlooms. Another very interesting session reminiscing with Angela about toys and games, very entertaining. There are some lovely photos taken by Malcolm of the Toys and games time with Angela.

We warmly welcome people living with dementia and their carers to our regular Café sessions in St George's hall, Upper Stoke Holy Cross on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (except bank holidays) at 10am to 12 midday. There are fun activities also entertainment to enjoy along with good conversation, helpful support and information we also have two subsidised outings a year.

There are no joining fees, just a small charge for refreshments and no referral is necessary. We are pleased to welcome anyone wishing to become a volunteer, a very rewarding thing to do, and a place to meet new friends.

Dates for April 2024

8th April with Squee Gees music from 50/60s

22nd April Cafe session & AGM

For information call, 01508 493661, 01508 494742, or 01508 495580

www.st-george's-dementia-support-group.uk



Stoke Holy Cross Thursday Club

We are a friendly local group of over 55's meeting at St. Georges Hall Upper Stoke Holy Cross the first Thursday in the month with a Games Afternoon and Bingo alternate weeks.

The photos were taken at our AGM Club meeting.
Buffet lunch shown with members and the sweet choice.
Tulips on coloured napkins.

Club day 4th April at 1.30pm (Raffle prize please)

Due to the difficulty in moving the heavy bowls mat in and out of the hall we have decided to run a **Games Afternoon** instead and you are welcome to join us. These will commence at 1.00pm with a fee of £1.00 which includes refreshments.

The only session in **April will be 18th** and bring along your games

Bingo will be held on the following dates: 11th and 25th April (Eyes down at 1.30pm) Raffle prizes please

A further date for your diary SATURDAY 20th APRIL JUMBLE SALE AT 1.00PM



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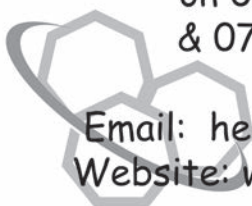


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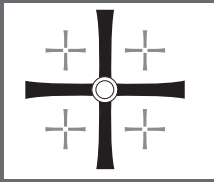


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Tuesday to Saturday mornings from 9th April

9am Mon-Fri
10am Sat

Zoom—contact us to join

Prayer meeting
with Bible reading

Midweek gatherings in April

3rd April

Arminghall church open for refreshments from 2pm,
finishing with **Evening Prayer** at about 3.30

4th April

10am at the Church Hall

Holy Communion

Followed by **Coffee and Chat** at 10.30

18th April

10.30am at the Church Hall

Coffee and Chat

23rd April

5pm Evening Prayer followed by APCM at Arminghall

6pm Bell-ringing with drinks and snacks for St George's Day

Sunday mornings at 9.30am

7th April

Caistor St Edmund

Praise & Worship

21st April

Caistor St Edmund

Holy Communion

Sunday mornings at Stoke Holy Cross at 10.30am

7th & 21st April

Morning Worship with children's group

14th April

Morning Worship including Church Family Meeting (APCM)

28th April

Morning Worship with Holy Communion & children's group

Sunday afternoons and evenings in April

14th & 28th April

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21st April

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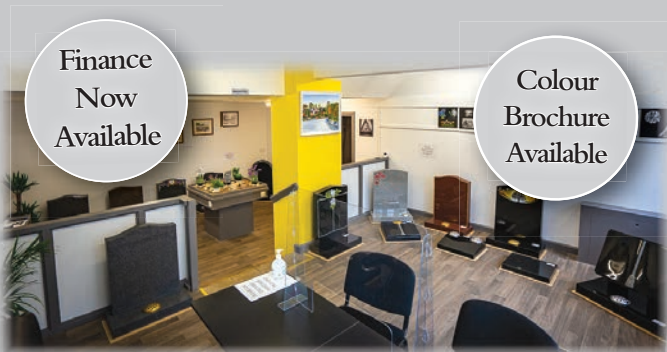
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