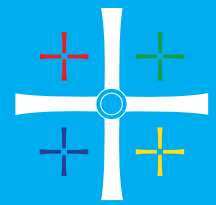


Free for All



THE MAGAZINE OF THE VENTA GROUP

AUGUST 2023

**A GREAT WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION AS OUR
NEW CURATE KIRSTY LONG IS ORDAINED AT
THE CATHEDRAL AND JOINS US AT
OUR BARBECUE AND BAPTISMS OF
GRACE AND JONATHAN AT THE VICARAGE.**



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The hall is open from 8am to 10.45am
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fruit and vegetables. You can enter
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children's classes too. The doors reopen
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Come and see what is grown locally
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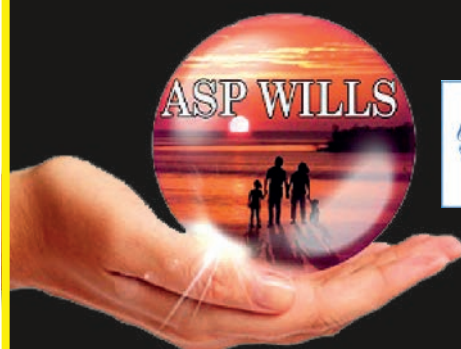
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Regular readers (hello again, nice to see you both) will remember that last month I shared a little bit about Peter and his best friend Jesus. We've been reading through one of Peter's letters in the bible for the last month or so.

This period has coincided with one of my occasional catch-ups with one of my oldest friends. Predictably, and confusingly, his name is also Peter, but in this case he has taught me a lot more than I have taught him: for Peter and Jesus, it was very much the other way round.

Pete has lived in Kenya for a long time, so we were comparing life in very different places, the way our kids have grown up in completely contrasting places, how it's easier running in England than Kenya because he lives at 5,000 feet, all that stuff. But in our conversation we always come back to what it has been like trying to follow Jesus for the 25 years we have known each other.

Over the years we have sat and eaten and talked and prayed in lots of different places. For a year or so we met for breakfast at 7am, but we were younger then, so this time we had a pie and a pint in a pub in London.

I was telling him about how we were reading the Peter letters, and something really interesting I had noticed. Years before in their relationship, probably more than the 25 years I have known my friend Pete, but also over breakfast, Jesus had sat with his Peter and asked him to love people. He wanted Peter to say he would love them the same way as Jesus – with whatever it took – but Peter could only manage to say he would love them like a brother. Not bad, and gracious as ever, Jesus doesn't keep pressing him on it. Maybe things will turn around, he thinks.

And they do. Because all these years later, when Peter writes his letter, he calls on the church to "love each other deeply, from the heart." The word used for love here is like the one Jesus was trying to get Peter to use all those years ago. It's the "give up everything" kind of love. The love of the best of parents, and partners and friends. The greater love of Jesus, who laid down his life for us.

I'm sure there are things Pete and I would say we have learned over 25 years, and other places where we seem very resistant to growing and changing. We don't seem to have learned how to take selfies, for example. But we'd definitely both want to know better and better how to love other people deeply, from the heart, following the example of that other Peter, who finally came to understand what it meant that Jesus had given up everything for him.

Rob

VICAR OF THE VENTA GROUP

Stoke Holy Cross with Dunston, Arminghall and Caistor St Edmund.

Rob Baker, The Vicarage, Mill Road, Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8PA rob@venta-group.org 01508 492305

ASSISTANT MINISTER

Lyn Marsh, 8 Mill Green, Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8PB - Lyn@venta-group.org 01508 493422

CURATE


Kirsty Long, 1 Ponsonby Way, Poringland, NR14 7FJ

kirstylong204@gmail.com 07878 047289, 01508 830368

For all administrative enquiries please contact admin@venta-group.org

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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.

BAPTISMS

JONATHAN AND GRACE BAKER

2nd July

at the Vicarage

BURIAL OF ASHES

PETER WIGGINS

19th July

at Arminghall

BURIAL

JOY CROMPTON

26th July

at Stoke Holy Cross

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*Hello, I am Kirsty and I was
ordained deacon at Norwich
Cathedral on 2nd July.*

Over the next 3-4 years I will be serving my curacy within both the Poringland and Venta Group benefices where I hope to continue to learn and grow in the role which God has called me to. I have just completed three years on a part-time course with the Eastern Region Ministry. I have particularly enjoyed the pastoral care, spirituality and mission and evangelism modules that I have studied.

As part of my college course, I spent three months on placement with the Norwich Foodbank. This work was very rewarding even though some of the situations I saw during this time were totally heartbreaking and a real eye-opener for me. This placement really confirmed to me just how much God's love can be demonstrated within the local community and has really encouraged me to be more actively involved with such projects.

I am married to Stuart and have 4 children (James, Michael, Rebekah and Hannah.) Three of them are grown up and Hannah who is 16 will hopefully be starting Sir Issac Newton Sixth form in September to study Maths, Chemistry and Physics at A level. Before moving to Poringland we lived in Blofield and I worked as a teaching assistant in a local primary school on all year groups. When I have time to relax, I enjoy spending time with my family, going to the theatre and cinema, eating out and completing jigsaw puzzles.

Before I started my training for ordained ministry, I was an Authorised Worship Assistant for 6 years at the Yare Valley Churches parish (Brundall, Braydeston & Postwick) where I had attended since I moved to the area in 1996. During my time there I have been involved with numerous ministries including planning and leading services, youth and children's work, worship in residential homes, PCC member, Christian Aid representative, Persecuted Christians prayer/support group and nurturing a home group to name but a few.

For many years I was also actively involved with the work of the Vidiyal Trust which supports slum children and elders in Southern India. I worked as the charity's administrator for a few years and travelled out to India with the Reverend Pat Atkinson for a couple of weeks in 2011 where I helped with some of the projects. This was an amazing and humbling experience and I would love to go again in the future for a longer period of time.

I am really looking forward to serving my curacy between two benefices as I continue to follow God's call on my life. I am passionate about sharing the love of Christ and encouraging others to grow in their faith. I am especially looking forward to meeting members in all communities in which I will be serving and being involved with different aspects of mission the churches are involved with.



Please do
remember to
come along to
Cream Teas at
Caistor Church.



Dates are on the front cover.

STOKE HOLY CROSS THURSDAY CLUB

Stoke Holy Cross Thursday Club
for the over 55's meets at
St. Georges Hall
the first Thursday each month
Thursday 3rd August 2023 at 1pm.

Wednesday 9th August
Meal at Highways

Bingo on Thursday 10th and 24th
eyes down at 1.30pm
(Raffle prize please)

Bowls Thursday 17th and 31st
at 1.30pm £2.00

Attached are a few photos
from our club meal at
the George Hotel Norwich.



A Great Day In The Venta Group of Churches

We had such a good day on Sunday 2nd July, with lots to celebrate. In the morning our new curate Kirsty was ordained at the cathedral. That means that Kirsty will be working with us and the Poringland churches for the next few years as a trainee minister, getting experience of the different things that happen in the two groups, and finding new opportunities for advancing God's kingdom in our community here. Kirsty has written an introduction which you will find elsewhere in this issue.

Then we had a special time together in the afternoon in the Vicarage garden, when Jonathan and Grace were baptised and lots of you joined to support them and have a lovely BBQ afterwards. And here are some more photos from the afternoon.



St George's Dementia Support Group



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.

Our meetings for August are 14th & 28th August.

For information call, 01508 493661, 01508 494742, or 01508 495580 and our Website is www.st.george'sdementia-support-group.uk

And here are some photos from our outing to Gorleston – a great day out. We enjoyed fish & chip lunch at the Pier Hotel and time on the lovely beach with lots of room!



Coffee and chat

1030-1130

Church Hall, Stoke Holy Cross

On the following Thursdays

17 August

7 September 21 September

5 October 19 October

2 November 16 November



Are you wanting to meet others?

Why not come and join us and chat over a drink?

On the first Thursday of the month there is a short traditional communion service at 10



Thank You For Saving Me

Thank you for saving me, what can I say?

You are my everything, I will sing Your praise

You shed Your blood for me, what can I say?

You took my sin and shame, a sinner called by name

Great is the Lord

Great is the Lord

For we know Your truth has set us free

You've set Your hope in me.

Mercy and grace be mine, forgiven is my sin

Jesus, my only hope, the Saviour of the world

'Great is the Lord' we cry,

God let your kingdom come

Your word has let me see,

thank you for saving me

*Words to a very special song written
by Martin Smith*

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H	G	O	D	N	M	A	T	H	S	S	I	O	G
A	I	R	G	I	E	R	D	D	J	A	G	L	K
U	U	O	E	G	H	T	U	R	T	R	K	R	W
O	E	E	R	A	E	R	I	A	A	N	N	S	A
Y	E	O	O	D	T	M	R	C	B	T	A	A	N
H	S	D	R	T	O	A	E	S	L	C	H	V	O
E	R	O	D	D	V	H	A	O	O	L	T	I	J
K	W	D	G	G	S	V	D	M	O	E	L	O	C
D	I	N	G	E	I	G	U	E	D	P	L	U	R
I	I	E	S	N	E	J	E	S	U	S	O	R	A
K	H	H	G	G	E	K	N	N	M	E	R	C	Y
S	S	G	U	I	L	T	E	A	O	E	D	E	S
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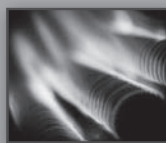
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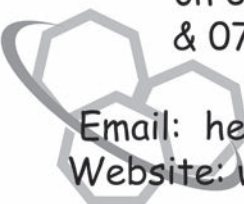
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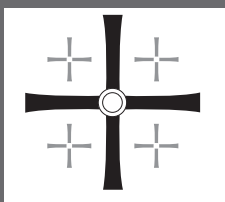
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Tuesday and Thursday mornings in August

9am

Zoom—contact us to join

**Prayer meeting
with Bible reading**

Saturday 19th August

10am

Dunston Churchyard

Morning Prayer

Sunday mornings at 9.30am

6th August

Caistor St Edmund

Praise & Worship

Morning Worship for all ages at 10.30am

6th August

Stoke Holy Cross

13th August

Stoke Holy Cross

(includes communion)

20th August

Caistor St Edmund

(includes communion)

27th August

Stoke Holy Cross

(includes communion)

*Caistor church building is open about 10-4 daily,
and Arminghall most Saturdays – space to reflect, and to pray*

Coffee and Chat

10.30 - 11.30
Church Hall,
Stoke Holy Cross

Thursday 17th August

Thursday 7th September

Thursday 21st September



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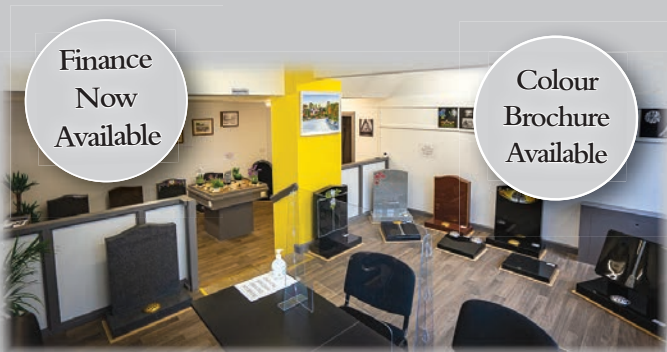
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