

All our Christmas services in one place, you say?

Well here they are then!

Sunday 11th December

10.30am Stoke Holy Cross Carol Service.

6.30pm Arminghall Carol Service

Tuesday 13th December

7.30pm Traditional Carol Service at Stoke

Sunday 18th December

4pm Caistor Carol Service,

6pm Carols around the tree at Stoke Church Hall

Christmas Eve

4pm Crib service at Stoke

11.30pm Midnight Service at Arminghall

Christmas Day

9am Family Communion at Caistor

10.30am Family Communion at Stoke

### Free For All advertising

We are planning to make some exciting changes to the format of the Free For All magazine in 2017, so we are not taking any further advertisements at the moment. We will soon be in touch with all our existing advertisers to let them know more about the ideas that we have for the years to come!

**Spruce Landscapes, Fencing, Patios, hedge & tree work 07719407351 494038**

**Architectural services, Call Mark Woods for Advice and free quote 498805**

**PC Assist. quality computer repair service [www.pcassistonline.co.uk](http://www.pcassistonline.co.uk) 471459**

**The Anchorage Fitness Centre [www.anchorage-pool.com](http://www.anchorage-pool.com) 07986 325282**

**The Anchorage Pool and Tennis Court [www.anchorage-pool.com](http://www.anchorage-pool.com) 494032**

**R.B.Copping Funeral Services, Poringland 01508 494434**

**Handy Man Ian, Property Maintenance & Gardening 07936197178/ 491619**

**T.J.L. Car repairs, At your service 493843**

**Simon Wells, Patios, Fencing, Hedge Trimming, Tree Lopping 495528**

**Justin Cogman Landscaping, fencing, patios etc. 07957858660 / 491155**

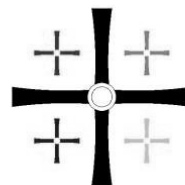
**Aline Turner ACA tax returns/accounts/bookkeeping 550403/ 07785 528069**

**Tutor available for GCSE Sciences. Linda Dennis 01508 491857**

**TIME FOR YOU Domestic cleaning [norwich@timeforyou.co.uk](mailto:norwich@timeforyou.co.uk) 495520**

**Tutor Maths & Sciences to GCSE 3Rs - [fayre@me.com](mailto:fayre@me.com) 07939 242262**

**Peter Moore Architectural Drawings, free advice and quotation 494288**



# Free For All

The Magazine of the Venta Group  
Arminghall, Caistor St Edmund, Stoke Holy Cross with Dunston  
December 2016/January 2017

SON  
OF GOD:  
LOVE'S  
PURE  
LIGHT

Do you know what you are getting for Christmas?

One of us in our family thinks he knows what he is getting, which is everything that he thinks of. Father Christmas will bring me one of those. He'll bring me one of those, too. And one of them. Maybe two. It's led to some interesting conversations in the toyshop. (Perhaps not entirely coincidentally, he quite likes the toyshop.)

It is very sweet, really—my only concern is that it might lead to a little disappointment somewhere down the line, when Father Christmas doesn't quite deliver the goods. It can be tricky not getting what you are expecting.

The interesting thing about this disappointment, of course, is that it is rooted in the things which *don't* happen. The presents that *don't* come. The bible uses a neat little phrase to describe this experience, and its effect on us: 'Hope deferred makes the heart sick.' I think it is fair to say that the writer was not thinking about how no-one brought along yet another toy camper van, but about the longing we all have at some level for a better life, a better future, a better world, that sometimes feels fruitless. Some of you will be experiencing this very strongly as I read.

Do you know what you are getting for Christmas?

My little friend in the toyshop doesn't. There is something waiting for him which is better than he can imagine, better than everything he has even asked for. And I would like to suggest to you, that we don't always realise what we are getting for Christmas—that we don't notice, as a more modern version of the bible puts it, 'who has moved into the neighbourhood.'

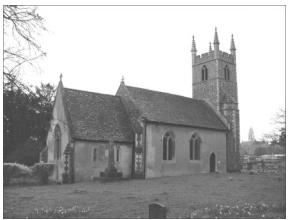
Many of us who follow Jesus found something that was not what we were expecting. I don't know what I thought I would find when I decided to make the first step in following him, but what I have found is indescribably good, and a source of constant, eternal *hope*. He is better than anything any of us can ever want.

Do you know what you are getting for Christmas?

With love this Christmas and New Year from Rob



## Stoke Holy Cross with Dunston



# Church is.....



# ....a place for everyone

Sunday 4 Everyone

10.30am in the Church Hall

4th Sundays from January

**Churchwardens**

**Arminghall**

Pat (492622) & Annie (495580)

**Stoke Holy Cross & Dunston**

Viv (493438) & Peter (471529)

**Caistor St Edmund**

Jani (493572) & Graham (493430)

## cafe church

Sunday 4th December and  
8th January  
10.30am  
Stoke Church Hall  
Breakfast, chat, songs, craft,  
prayer, thought for the day...



Café Church  
Christmas Specials  
10.30am at the  
Church Hall

4th December:  
Christmas Craft  
Extravaganza  
8th January: Christingle  
See you there!



### St George's Hall Dementia Support Café

Providing a comfortable, caring and supportive social setting for people suffering from dementia and their carers...

The only Cafe in December will be our Christmas party on December 12th. Roger Eno will be playing for us and we shall serve a light lunch at 12noon.

January Cafes are 9th and 23rd.

further details - 01508 493661 / 01508 492938 or why not simply drop in to one of our meetings? (New volunteers also always welcome!)



A big thank you to everyone from Year 2 at Stoke Holy Cross School, who came and visited the church building recently, and asked so many good questions about what we do and what we believe.

감사합니다 Natick  
Danke Ευχαριστιες Dalu  
Thank You Köszönöm  
Grazie Tack  
Спасибо Dank  
谢谢 Merci  
ありがとう

### Free For All February 2017

Please send articles for the February magazine to Angela Bell by 20th January, email [admin@venta-group.org](mailto:admin@venta-group.org)

**St George's Hall bookings:** Joyce Williams 492143  
**Stoke Church Hall bookings:** Viv Carrington 493438  
**Stoke Holy Cross pavilion bookings:** Barbara Cattermole  
(Parish clerk) 530739

### Services for December and January

#### 4th December—2nd Sunday of Advent

9am Traditional Holy Communion  
10.30am Café Church

Caistor St Edmund  
Stoke Church Hall

#### 11th December—3rd Sunday of Advent

10.30am Family Carol Service  
6.30pm Reflective (Taize) Service  
6.30pm Carol Service

Stoke Holy Cross  
Caistor St Edmund  
Arminghall

#### 13th December

7.30pm Traditional Candlelit Carol Service

Stoke Holy Cross

#### 18th December—4th Sunday of Advent

4.00pm Carol Service  
6.00pm Carols around the Christmas tree

Caistor St Edmund  
Stoke Church Hall

#### 24th December—Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service  
11.30pm Carols, Readings and Communion

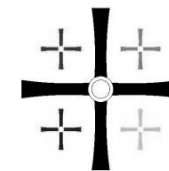
Stoke Holy Cross  
Arminghall

#### 25th December—Christmas Day

9am Christmas morning service  
10.30am Christmas morning service

Caistor St Edmund  
Stoke Holy Cross

*January services continued on page 4*



Our brand new **Venta Group website** is now live—all the events in all the churches and more in one place!

Can you help us? To add colour and life to the website we need as many pictures as possible of church events and services. If you have anything from recent activities that might prove helpful, please email them to Angela at [admin@venta-group.org](mailto:admin@venta-group.org). Thank you very much!

### 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](mailto:rob@venta-group.org) 01508 492305

**Church Administrator** Angela Bell [admin@venta-group.org](mailto:admin@venta-group.org) 491619  
(please ring Angela during office hours rather than evenings or weekends)  
[www.venta-group.org](http://www.venta-group.org) [@venta-group](https://twitter.com/venta-group)

**1st January—1st Sunday of Christmas**

10.30am Group Service of Holy Communion

Arminghall

**8th January—Epiphany**

9am Traditional Holy Communion

Arminghall

9.30am Praise and Worship

Caistor St Edmund

10.30am Café Church

Stoke Church Hall

**15th January—2nd Sunday of Epiphany**10.30am Group service of Holy Communion  
*with the Bishop of Norwich*

Stoke Holy Cross

6.30pm The Gathering

Stoke Holy Cross

**22nd January—3rd Sunday of Epiphany**

9am Traditional Holy Communion

Caistor St Edmund

10.30am Sunday 4 Everyone

Stoke Church Hall

4pm Evening Service

Arminghall

**29th January—4th Sunday of Epiphany**

10.30am Group Service of Holy Communion

Caistor St Edmund

**From the registers:-****Funerals:**

Douglas (Bryan) Wakefield, Stoke Holy Cross, 7/11/16

Audrey Posford, Caistor St Edmund, 8/11/16

Philip Moulton, Stoke Holy Cross, 1/11/16

We continue to pray for the families of all those who have been bereaved recently, or at this time of year in the past. We are always happy to include any details of people in the villages whose funerals have taken place, even if they didn't happen in church or involve a member of our ministry team.

The Venta Group would like to thank everybody involved in getting the Free For All out including those who deliver them around the villages on a monthly basis. We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.



If you have arrived in the villages recently, we do hope you are settling in and looking forward to Christmas. All of us in the churches would love to make contact with you if we haven't already—please do get in touch if you would like someone to visit, whether just to make a connection with the villages, find out about the churches, or pray ask God's blessing on your house as you arrive.

# Charity Christmas

## Coffee morning

## Stoke Church Hall



Craft  
Gifts

Hand made  
Christmas Cards

### Saturday 3rd December

### 10:00—12:00

Home made  
Jam & Cakes



Bric a Brac



### In aid of Okunguru Church and Community in Uganda



**Arminghall** The Christmas Carol Service is on  
Sunday 11th December at 6.30pm.

Come & join us & listen to the handbell ringers. Mulled wine & nibbles will be available after the service.

A meal for Christmas is being held in Arminghall village hall on Saturday 17th December, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Booking is required for catering purposes. Tickets £8 each, children under 12 free, from Annie 495580 or Pat 492622



**Christmas Eve Crib Service**  
**Stoke Holy Cross Church @ 4pm**

**Children are invited to come dressed as a  
Shepherd, Angel, King or one of the stable  
animals, and to take part in the Nativity Tableau**



**Carols around the tree in Stoke Holy Cross**  
Sunday 18th December

Come and join us for Carol Singing around the  
Christmas tree from 6pm . Loads of familiar carols with  
lots of refreshments afterwards, a great family occasion!

### Sparklers

Sparklers welcomes all babies, toddlers and  
pre-schoolers with their parents & carers.

Tuesdays 10-11.30 until 13th December

Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall



Sparklers Stoke Holy Cross

**LOTS OF CHRISTMAS FUN  
BETWEEN NOW AND  
13TH DECEMBER!**

## Thursday Club at St George's Hall

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st December, 2016.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their support  
this year with the club which has enabled us to keep it running.

Bingo - Dates for December 2016 - 7th (this will be our Christmas bingo)

We will start again in January 2017 on the 18th

Carpet Bowls -December 14th 2016

We will start again on 25th January 2017

## 2017 Community Questionnaire

With our next magazine you will be receiving a questionnaire which  
members of our church leadership have produced to find out if there are  
any ways that our churches can better serve the community in these  
villages. We would love to receive as many back as possible, so if you could  
look out for it in February and please spend a few minutes filling it in we  
would be really grateful.

## Calling all primary school aged children!

We have plans to start a monthly after school club next year, with lots of craft, games,  
food, and a little bit about God each time too. If this sounds like the sort of thing you  
would like to join in with, get someone to let Rob know: [rob@venta-group.org](mailto:rob@venta-group.org)

## Stoke Holy Cross Tuesday Group

December 13th, 7.30pm  
Carol Service at Stoke Holy  
Cross Church with  
refreshments afterwards

Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall



Monday 9.00-1.00

Wednesday 1.15-4.15

**Bixley PC Meeting at 7pm**  
**Arminghall Village Hall**  
**Wednesday 2nd December**

**Caistor St Edmund Parish Council**  
**Meeting 11th January at Framingham**  
**Earl High School**

**Stoke Holy Cross**  
**Matinee Group**

**8th December**  
**Christmas Lunch**



**Poringland Community Cinema  
at Poringland Community Centre  
GOLDEN YEARS (12A) Friday 9th DECEMBER**

Fate, the pensions crisis and a steadfast refusal to accept the injustice of old age contrived to force the law abiding couple into a life of crime.

Stars: Bernard Hill, Simon Callow Phil Davis, Una Stubbs

Tickets £5—Includes cup of tea or coffee before the show

Doors open 6.45pm film starts at 7.30pm—Tickets on sale at Budgens or on the door

**Buena Vista Social Club—At Poringland Community Centre**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER—CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

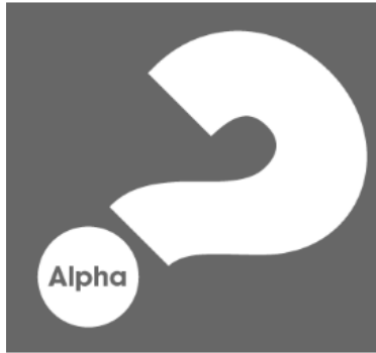
NORWICH COMMUNITY CHOIR

Members Free -Non-members TICKETS £5

From Poringland Library—Or on the door

For more information phone Maureen on 01508 494358

Or Carol on 01508492630 Doors open 7pm starts 7.45pm



The Alpha course, a chance to find out more about the Christian faith, will be running again in the villages on Monday evenings from 16th January 2017 in Stoke Church Hall. There will be food, a short video, and time to ask any question you like—on the topic or off the top of your head! If you'd like to come along, we'd love to have you—just **call Rob on 492305**, or **email [alpha@venta-group.org](mailto:alpha@venta-group.org)**. There is more information on the Alpha section of our website, **[www.venta-group.org](http://www.venta-group.org)**.

**Pre-School Christmas Fair**

10th December 10-12

Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall

Mulled Wine, Refreshments, Raffle, Tombola, Crafts, Cake Stall, Santa's Grotto, Children's Fancy Dress Competition & lots more!



**Caistor St Edmund**

The result of the House to House collection for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal was £313.47, with a further £321.74 from collection boxes at Stoke Holy Cross Butchers, Stoke Holy Cross Stores, Shotesham Globe P H, The Wildebeest Restaurant and Richard Nash Cars. Together with the offering at the Remembrance Service and money for the Wreath there was a total of **£893.27**. Thank you to everyone who supported this and thank you to those who did the collecting. Graham Ford, Local Organiser.



The Carol Service is on Sunday 18th December **at 4pm** before the service, from about 3pm, we will be serving hot drinks and mince pies, so please come and join us and then stay for the service. As in previous years if you can bring a gift please, for the young boys, aged about 8-11, who are at the Elizabeth Children's Home in Beccles that would be greatly appreciated. We hope some of the boys and staff will be with us at the service. The Christmas Day Service is Family Holy Communion at **9am** with traditional hymns and carols.

We would like to say thank you to all who have helped with the daily unlocking and locking of the church throughout the year. One only has to look at the visitors book to see how much it is appreciated by people who come not only from the UK but many other countries, and often mention the peacefulness they experience. We look forward to your support again in 2017.