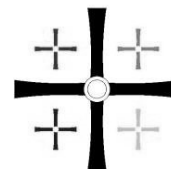


Free For All advertising

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 471459
The Anchorage Fitness Centre www.anchorage-pool.com 07986 325282
The Anchorage Pool and Tennis Court 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 495520
Tutor Maths & Sciences to GCSE 3Rs - fayre@me.com 07939 242262
Peter Moore Architectural Drawings, free advice and quotation 494288

**Join the
adventure**



Free For All

The Magazine of the Venta Group
 Arminghall, Caistor St Edmund, Stoke Holy Cross with Dunston
 February 2017

group
Litter picking

School assemblies

Baptisms,
weddings
& funerals

Community
dinners

Churchyards

Dementia Cafe

Praying for
the villages

Open churches

Home visiting and
communion

Christmas, Easter & other
celebrations

Community building project

Light

Children's activities party

School governors

Partner church in Uganda

The churches and their members are already do lots of things all around our community, but we would love to hear from you about ways we can get more involved in the life of the villages. Next month we will be including a questionnaire with the Free for All to collect your ideas—there will be more details then, but we hope this gets you thinking in the meantime.

It has been an interesting few months, hasn't it? It started with Brexit last June, when Britain voted to leave the European Union: our government now has the challenge of taking a country (which voted pretty much 50-50) in a new direction with lots of uncertainty. In the meantime, the people of the United States have elected and inaugurated Donald Trump as their 45th President, again dividing the country between those who voted for him, and for Hillary Clinton. In all of this (and especially with the US election result) there has been more and more fear and concern expressed by all sorts of people. I have heard Christians saying, 'Only God can save us from this situation now,' amongst other things.



As I have been thinking about this over the last few days, a thought has occurred to me. I have begun to wonder whether the truth is that all of a sudden circumstances have got so bad that only God can save us, or if in fact things have been like that the whole time, and that it is only now that the news has become worrying enough that we are starting to realise it.

Jesus came into a community which was suffering under Roman oppression, and he told the people he met that he had come 'to seek and to save the lost.' Throughout his ministry, Jesus demonstrated and explained what this meant, most of all in his death on the cross. He did it because he thought it was the only thing that could save people from the situation they were in. His resurrection two days later proves something else—that this rescue was not just for the people who were there at the time, but for everyone, always and everywhere.

The Bible doesn't have a lot of easy answers about who you should vote for, or why, or what to do about the decisions that governments and presidents make, but it does tell us that in the best or worst of worlds, or circumstances, only God can save us who are lost.

With love from Rob

From the registers:-

Funerals:

Margaret Colley, Wednesday 14th December, Earlham Crematorium

Lorna Newby, Friday 6th January, Stoke Holy Cross Church

Edith Pulford, Monday 16th January, St Faith's Crematorium

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.

Churchwardens

Arminghall

Pat (492622) & Annie (495580)

Stoke Holy Cross & Dunston

Viv (493438) & Peter (471529)

Caistor St Edmund

Jani (493572) & Graham (493430)

Free For All March 2017

Please send articles for the March magazine to Angela Bell by the 19th February, email 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

Thursday Club at St George's Hall

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our members.

Our meeting in February will be held on Thursday 2nd of February. Please come along and join us for a friendly afternoon of tea, chat and cards. We are always looking for new members. Start your year by joining us at the Thursday Club. We pay subscriptions twice a year in March and September. Once you become a member this entitles you after six months to free outings and meals out when we have them. Up until this point we ask for half the cost of coach fares which we charge to people outside of the club. I am sure if you contact any of our members they will all say how much they enjoy themselves. If you require any information about joining us then please contact our chairperson Susie Curson on 01508 493990 who will be more than pleased to discuss this with you.

Bingo, our dates for February are the 1st and 15th - eyes down at 1.45pm
Carpet Bowls, our dates for February are the 8th and 22nd - we commence at 1.30pm, cost for this is £2

Poringland Community Cinema

BRIDGET JONES'S BABY (15)

Friday 10th February at Poringland Community Centre

Tickets £5 Includes 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, Friday 3rd March, at Poringland Community Centre

Quiz and Supper Night,

Up to 6 people per team, Tickets £8 per person. Doors open 6.45pm quiz starts at 7.30pm, To book your place by 20th February contact Maureen on 01508 494358 or Carol on 01508492630

**Stoke Holy Cross
Matinee Group**

**Thursday February 9th at 2pm
Travels—Joy Shreeve**



Caistor St Edmund

The concert "The Spirit of Christmas" held on 10th December raised £530.00. This has been equally divided between the BIG C and Caistor Church funds. Thank you to all who supported this event.

Both of the Christmas services were well supported and as agreed by the PCC the offertories taken at both services will be given to two charities. The charities chosen this year were BREAK and *Children In War* -Save the Children Christmas Appeal. With a further contribution from church funds, we have been able to send a donation of £475 to each charity.

TAIZE SERVICE CHANGE.

During 2017 there will NOT be a regular bi-monthly Taize service at Caistor.

There will probably be two or three Taize services during the year, which will be held in the evenings on the first Sunday of the month. Dates and times will be published in advance in the Free For All, notice sheet and Website

This means that the Praise and Worship Service will now be every month, on the second Sunday, at the same time of 9.30am. (This may occasionally vary, so do check the Free For All or website to make sure.)



Arminghall

A big thank you to all who helped in my absence. I seem to have missed everything that happened over the Christmas period. Hopefully we can get back to

normal now !! *Pat Howlett*

Arminghall will be hosting the Ash Wednesday service on 1st March, and 2 of the group Lent breakfasts in March and April. More information on page 5, on the website, and in the March magazine.



Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall

Monday 9.00-1.00

Wednesday 1.15-4.15

Services for February

5th February—4th Sunday before Lent

9am Traditional Holy Communion
10.30am Informal Holy Communion

Caistor St Edmund
Stoke Holy Cross

12th February—3rd Sunday before Lent

9am Traditional Holy Communion
9.30am Praise & Worship
10.30am Café Church

Arminghall
Caistor St Edmund
Stoke Church Hall

19th February—2nd Sunday before Lent

9.30am Family Service
11am Traditional Holy Communion
6.30pm The Gathering

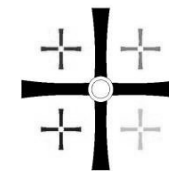
Caistor St Edmund
Stoke Holy Cross
Stoke Holy Cross

26th February—Sunday next before Lent

9am Traditional Holy Communion
10.30am Sunday 4 Everyone
4pm Evening Service

Caistor St Edmund
Stoke Church Hall
Arminghall

We always do our best to stop and say hello to new people moving into the villages where possible, and are happy to come and visit if you would like us to pray God's blessing over your new home, for example. Please be in touch with Rob or the churchwardens if you would like us to come and see you..



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.

Vicar of The Venta Group

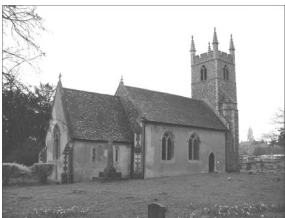
Stoke Holy Cross with Dunston, Arminghall and Caistor St Edmund
Rob Baker, The Vicarage, Mill Road, Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8PA
rob@venta-group.org 01508 492305

Church Administrator Angela Bell admin@venta-group.org 01508 491619
(please ring Angela during office hours rather than evenings or weekends)

www.venta-group.org

@venta-group

Stoke Holy Cross
with Dunston



Church is.....

Language you
can understand



....a place for everyone

Sunday 4 Everyone
10.30am in the Church Hall
4th Sunday every month



Sunday 12th February
10.30am
Stoke Church Hall
Breakfast, chat, songs, craft,
prayer, thought for the
day...

Sparklers
Sparklers welcomes all babies,
toddlers and pre-schoolers
with their parents & carers.
Tuesdays 10-11.30
Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall




Sparklers Stoke Holy Cross

St George's Hall Dementia Support Café
Providing a comfortable, caring and supportive social setting for people suffering from dementia and their carers, the St George's Dementia Support Group:

- offers friendship, emotional support, refreshments and a variety of enjoyable activities to inform, stimulate and entertain, plus occasional subsidised group excursions
- incorporates an optional Carer's Meeting to provide invaluable sharing of ideas, practical support and advice
- meets on 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (not Bank Holidays) - 10am to 12pm midday at St George's Hall, Long Lane, Upper Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8ND (on-site parking)
- is run by a team of dedicated volunteers and supported entirely by donations, grants and fund-raising activities

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



Venta Group Lent events 2017



This year we will be having a series of breakfasts around the villages where we can spend more time together creating community and deepening discipleship through food, and some listening, talking, and prayer. We would love people from across the group to join us at each of these. You can sign up on a Sunday, or email lent@venta-group.org. 8.30-10am every week.

Saturday 4th March, Arminghall Village Hall	Saturday 25th March, Stoke Church Hall
Saturday 11th March, Caistor St Edmund	Saturday 1st April, Stoke Church Hall
Saturday 18th March, Caistor St Edmund	Saturday 8th April, Arminghall Village Hall