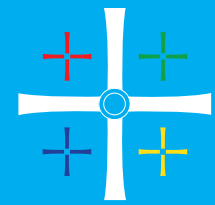


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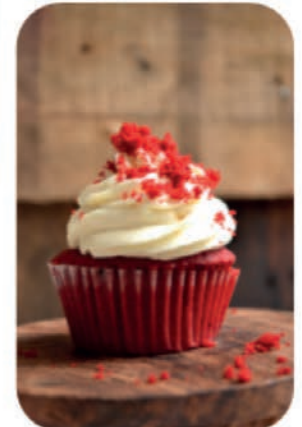
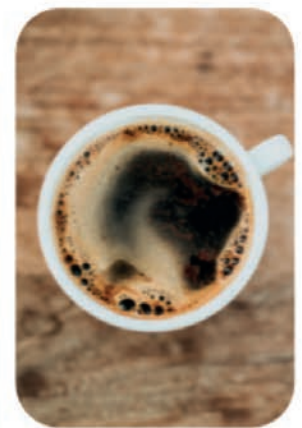


THE MAGAZINE OF THE VENTA GROUP

APRIL 2026

Easter 2026

in the Venta group of churches



Sunday 29th March

10.30am: Palm Sunday service for all ages at Stoke

Wednesday 1st April

8.30am Morning Prayer at the Vicarage

7pm Easter prayer meeting on Zoom - contact us for a link

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

10am Communion at the Church Hall (followed by Coffee & Chat)

Good Friday 3rd April

10am service at Arminghall

Easter Saturday 4th April

12-3pm Easter Fun at the Community Hall

Easter Sunday 5th April

6.30am Sunrise Service at Caistor (with breakfast afterwards)

9am Holy Communion at Dunston

10.30am Easter Celebration for all ages at Stoke

More information inside!

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The other day we took delivery of a consignment of palm crosses to give out at our service on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter. The idea of them is that they connect what happened on that day, when Jesus came into Jerusalem and the crowds celebrated him as king, laying down palm branches on the road in front of him, with what happened just a few days later, as some of the same crowd called for Jesus's crucifixion, and watched on as he died on the Cross.

Cathryn was in when the courier arrived with the box of crosses, and he handed over the incredibly light package with a slightly bewildered look on his face. "What have you ordered?" he asked her. "A box of air?" An intriguing exchange followed as she explained what they were, and why we needed them.

At the risk of saying something really obvious, the Cross was actually incredibly heavy; it had to be to support the weight of a grown man. Three of the gospels describe how, when Jesus was unable to carry it the 600 metres or so from his prison cell to the site of the crucifixion, having already been beaten by the Roman guards, another man called Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry it for him. Even though Jesus would only have carried the crossbeam, and not the vertical post as well, it would have probably weighed up to 40kg, much more than he could manage in his exhausted state.

The emotional and spiritual weight of the Cross was heavier still. People who read the gospel stories of the crucifixion (and you might like to this Easter) often notice that there is surprisingly little description of how physically horrible the crucifixion was. This is surprising, because it was infamously painful – so much so that we get our word "excruciating" from it. No, what we mostly read about is the emotional and spiritual suffering that Jesus endures, including most famously his anguished cry of abandonment as he feels that even God the Father has left him on his own: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

It is utterly extraordinary that Jesus would willingly go through that for you and me, but it is only the beginning of Easter weekend. Those words of Jesus on the Cross are from the beginning of a song in the Bible which we call Psalm 22, which probably goes back as far as King David, 1000 years before Jesus, but seems to point towards him in a remarkable way. Wonderfully, the end of the Psalm sounds very different from the beginning:

future generations will be told about the Lord.

They will proclaim his righteousness,

declaring to a people yet unborn:

He has done it!

Jesus has done it. His Resurrection on Easter Sunday proves that he has defeated evil and sin and death and everything that could separate us from God and from eternity. Because of that, even 2000 years later future generations are telling the story, including to drivers on the doorstep.


Jesus has done it! Happy Easter, everyone!

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

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

Search Facebook and Youtube for "Venta group of churches"
www.venta-group.org  @venta_group

CHURCHWARDENS

Stoke Holy Cross & Dunston
Viv (493438)

Arminghall
Rob (492305)

Caistor St Edmund
Jani (07557 774520)

ST GEORGE'S HALL BOOKINGS:

Rob Baker (492305)

STOKE CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS:

Karen (07761 076954)
email: karenp1963@hotmail.co.uk

STOKE HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY HALL BOOKINGS:

email: shc.communityhall@gmail.com
https://www.shc-communityhall.com

Would you welcome a visit from one of our church team?

We will do our best to come and say hello to new people moving into the village where possible. We would be very happy to come and visit you.

Maybe you would like us to pray God's blessing over your new home, for example. Please do get in touch with Rob, or the churchwardens if you would welcome a visit. Also members of the church are always pleased to come and bring communion to you if you would like to get in touch.

We would love to feature your village organisation

IN A FUTURE MAGAZINE

just get in touch and we will see what we can do!

Email: ventafree4all@outlook.com

FOR ALL COPY PLEASE

send by email to Rob to
admin@venta-group.org

By 10th of this month please.



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St. George's Dementia Group



Our café on 9th March was enjoyed by our members who were joined by 3 lovely owls. These had been rescued consisting of a little owl, tawny owl and a barn owl. Anyone who wished to could hold them with appropriate proper protection, giving people a chance to take photos.



Tonya from "Hoot with Me" with Nigel & Sue Howes of Taverham Lions Club



Arthur the Tawny Owl



Little Owl

We warmly welcome people with dementia and their carers to our regular café sessions in St George's Hall, Upper Stoke, Holy Cross, held 10 am to 12 midday on the second and fourth Monday mornings of each month (except bank holidays). There are always fun activities and entertainment to enjoy along with good conversation, helpful support and information plus refreshments. We also run occasional subsidised outings. There are no joining fees, just a small charge for refreshments, and no referral is required. We also welcome anyone interested in becoming a volunteer.

APRIL DATES ARE

13th April Cafe session and Reminiscence with Angela, always interesting

27th April Cafe session with Julie Dawn, Entertainer.

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

Visit our website: www.st.georges-dementia-support-group.uk

Café at Stoke Holy Cross Community Hall

1st Saturday every month
12pm 'til 4pm
Everyone welcome



If you would like to volunteer, please come and talk to us at the café.

Stoke Holy Cross Community Café



STOKE HOLY CROSS THURSDAY CLUB

Spring and summer are definitely on their way. The daffodils are all in bloom, the trees and flowers are in bud and the days are longer and everybody is feeling more energetic. Hopefully the grey, cold and wet days are behind us and we can look forward to turning the heating off and putting our winter clothes away.

Now is the time to start emulating Mother Nature by blossoming so put away those winter blues and venture out to join us for enjoyable times. Come and have a chat and a laugh with our very sociable members.

Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with the obligatory biscuits whilst either just chatting to catch up on all the news or have a game of cards (or any other game you prefer).

We are a very friendly group of people and would very much like to welcome you. Please do not be nervous about walking through the door to meet a room full of strangers because within a few minutes they won't be strangers. We meet at St. George's Hall, Long Road, Upper Stoke at 1.00/1.30pm.

Please put the following dates for April in your diaries.

Thursday April 2nd - Club Day

Thursday April 9th - Bingo

Thursday April 16th - Games afternoon

Thursday April 23rd - Bingo

Thursday April 30th - Games afternoon

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Sunday 17th May Open 12 - 5pm
BESTHORPE HALL
Attleborough, NR17 2LJ
Adults £6: Children Free. Dogs on leads welcome.

Sunday 31st May Open 12 - 5pm
HOE HALL
Hoe, Dereham, NR20 4BD
Adults £6: Children Free. Guide dogs only.

Saturday 6th June Open 12 - 5pm
ELSING HALL
Elsing, Dereham, NR20 4DX
Adults £8: Children free. Guide dogs only.

Sunday 12th July Open 1pm - 4.30pm
THE BISHOP'S HOUSE
Bishopgate, Norwich, NR3 1SB
Adults £5: Accompanied under 16s & wheelchair users free.
Assistance dogs only.

Sunday 6th September Open 12 - 5pm
SEVERALS GRANGE
Wood Norton, NR20 5BL
Adults £6: Children free. Dogs on leads welcome.



John Tradescant



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Registered charity no. 1077265/1 C-Norfolk-and-Waveney@sja.org.uk
For more information on gardens contact Georgina.holloway@sja.org.uk

St George's Day Bellingringing and Refreshments

Thursday 23rd April, 6-7pm at the Church

Please join us as we once again enjoy the chance to catch up with some good company. We'd love to see you there!

You're also welcome to come early to pray with us at 5pm, and join in our annual church meeting from 5.15-6pm.



Coffee and chat

Coffee, chat and company on Thursdays
 10.30-11.30am at Stoke Church Hall
 2nd & 16th April | 7th & 21st May
 (at the Vicarage on 7th May)
 4th & 18th June | 2nd & 16th July
 6th & 20th August



Short communion service at 10am
 right before Coffee & Chat
 on the first Thursday of the month
 (dates in white above)

www.venta-group.org | Facebook/YouTube "Venta Group of Churches" | admin@venta-group.org | 01508 492305



All invited to Easter Fun at the Park!

Easter Saturday 4th April, 12-3pm (ish!)



Join us for Easter crafts and egg hunt
 Lovely food and drink available
 from the Community Café!

www.venta-group.org | Facebook/YouTube "Venta Group of Churches"
 | rob@venta-group.org | 01508 492305



Sparklers



Sparklers meets every Tuesday morning in school term, with normally up to 20 children aged 0-4 and their parents, grandparents and carers joining us at the Church Hall for toys and games, craft, snacks, stories and singing. Sometimes we do things a bit differently, and just before Easter we had everyone in the Vicarage garden so that we could hunt for Easter eggs together. (We should say it was slightly less cold than it looks on the photos!)

We will be starting again on Tuesday 14th April at 10am, so if you are reading this and aged 0-4, and have a grown-up who you look after on Tuesday mornings who gets a bit restless and lonely just sitting in the house, we would love to see you.



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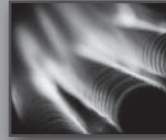
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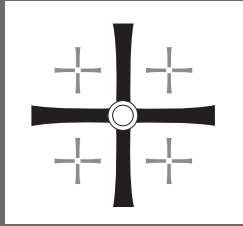
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APRIL 2026

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*Please see our separate Easter posters
for everything up to 5th April*

Morning Worship at Caistor St Edmund at 9.30am

19th April **Holy Communion**

Morning Worship at Stoke Holy Cross at 10.30am

12th April **Morning Worship with Holy Communion**

19th April **Morning Worship with Church Family Meeting**

26th April **More traditional communion service**

Sunday afternoons in April

26th April **All invited at the Church Hall from 3.30 - 5pm—
Food, fun and faith for all ages**

Midweek gatherings from 6th April

15th, 22nd, 29th April at 8.30am **Morning Prayer at the Vicarage**

16th April 10.30am at the Church Hall **Coffee and Chat**

23rd April 6pm onwards at Arminghall **St George's Day celebration
(Annual meeting at 5pm)**

*Caistor church building is open about 10-4 daily
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and Coffee and Chat
on Thursday
mornings —
see above
for all the
times
and dates

Sparklers

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