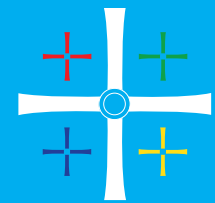


Free for All



THE MAGAZINE OF THE VENTA GROUP

JUNE 2025

"A special week at Stoke Primary School"

From 7th-9th May the church provided (we think for the 5th time!) a Prayer Space at Stoke School for all the children to come and visit. This was particularly welcome for Year 6 children looking ahead to their SATs next week, and we left some of the resources up for them to come back to during their exams.

Below you can see some pictures of the children enjoying the space, and a brilliant report from their newsletter. On Thursday there was also a visit from Graham, the Bishop of Norwich, who was looking at different projects in the area that day. While he was visiting he stopped to chat to the Green Team and bless their new trees!



Words from the children

In the prayer space, they had a variety of different activities for you to try and for you to take a break from your work.

The activities were really fun and calming and they helped you relax if you were stressed.

We also found that they had plenty of colour and exercises available for you to invest in and don't worry because it provided plenty of pens and pencils for you to colour in your drawing with.

There was a time for you to sit in and unwind. There was also a finger tracer that you could trace with your finger inside of the tent.

The people that set up the prayer space were really kind and helped you when you were there. There was a tear jar if you wanted to put a bluestone inside if you were sad. There was also a sand pit (also called the "wipe away") if you wanted to say sorry to anyone or anything.

There were bubble tubes you could look at so you could stay calm

ARMINGHALL, CAISTOR ST EDMUND, STOKE HOLY CROSS with DUNSTON

R.B. COPPING FUNERAL SERVICE

Independent Family Funerals Directors Since 1935

*For Personal Attention
with Dignity and Respect*

Private Chapels of Rest

*Memorials & floral tributes
supplied*

*Pre-paid funeral plans
available*



www.coppingfunerals.co.uk

125 The Street, Poringland, Norwich NR14 7RP

01508 494434

56 Langley Road, Chedgrave, nr Loddon NR14 6HE

01508 521159



• **ALL ASPECTS OF ROOFING
COVERED**

• **FREE QUOTATIONS**

★★★★★ 5 Star Reviews

"Jamie is well experienced in the roofing business, and his customer friendly and helpful attitude also gives confidence in his work. He'll certainly be my only call for any future repairs needed."

"Once again, J H Roofing Solutions did a great job, despite being hampered by the bad weather we've had recently. They visited the house in advance in order to make sure we were watertight and then completed the work as soon as the weather was dry enough."

I said in my previous review that I would have no hesitation in using J H Roofing again and that remains the case. Jamie and Charlie are professional and pleasant to deal with and do a great job."

**J H ROOFING
SOLUTIONS**

✉ jamie@jhroofingsolutions.com

☎ **07415 781971 • 01603 453762**



I was recently reading about the last in the Mission Impossible film series, which has just been released in the various different ways these things happen now. It reminds me for the first time in ages of queuing for a film at the cinema in Felixstowe one school holiday, only to hear that they had run out of tickets and we had to come back tomorrow. That problem doesn't really occur in the age of multiplexes and streaming services, but I did get a café trip as compensation from my very apologetic dad.

Amongst the various things impossible things connected to the films are the following:

1. It is impossible that Tom Cruise still looks like that, when he was already an actual adult when I was born, and I am told I already look quite a bit older than the picture above.

2. The internet tells me that the first film came out in 1996, when I was still at school, nearly 30 years ago, which seems an impossibly long time ago.

3. My children are all apparently old enough to watch most of them now, because the youngest is nearly 12, which is impossible because of course they are all so tiny.

We know these things aren't impossible. They are all only, in some way, resisting the passage of time. But there is a lot more than that which is not impossible. It turns out, you see, that the missions aren't impossible either. Whether it is hanging from the ceiling of an impregnable CIA strongroom, or crawling along the top of a TGV in the Channel Tunnel, Tom finds a way to do it.

The story of Jesus (where we always end up) is different. It's not a story of discovering that things weren't as hard as they seem, but one where the truly impossible was made possible. It's one where the most certain and final of things, death itself, was made no longer the end, but the beginning. If you happen to be reading this on Sunday 8th June, the Day of Pentecost, that's the day we remember, among other things, that Jesus's friend Peter said that it was impossible for death to keep hold of Jesus: all of the old certainties had been turned upside-down. Paul, another famous follower of Jesus, often used the simple phrase "But now" to describe the way that the Resurrection of Jesus changes everything. We might have thought that death was the end, but now, through Jesus, eternal life is offered to us.

I might want to deny the reality of aging (I'll let Tom Cruise speak for himself) but in truth it has been a long time since I stood in that first cinema queue. But I take huge comfort from the fact that even though life after death was impossible, Jesus has found a way.

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

Search Facebook and Youtube for "Venta group of churches"

www.venta-group.org

 [@venta_group](https://twitter.com/venta_group)

CHURCHWARDENS

Stoke Holy Cross & Dunston

Viv (493438) & Andy

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 COMMUNITY HALL BOOKINGS:

email: shc.communityhall@gmail.com

<https://www.shc-communityhall.com>

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

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.

FUNERALS

BARBARA THOMAS

2nd May at Stoke Holy Cross

ANDREW RAY

3rd May at Caistor St Edmund

PETER SAVILL

22nd May at Stoke Holy Cross

We are always happy to record the names of
anyone from the villages whose funeral has
been held recently, even if it wasn't taken by
a member of our ministry team.

FOR ALL COPY PLEASE

send by email to Rob to
ventafree4all@outlook.com
By 10th of this month please.

Give Your Wellbeing a Boost!

Are you always looking out for other people?

Do you sometimes feel stressed and overwhelmed?

Take some time out for yourself, and
give your wellbeing a much needed
boost!

Adult Learning have a wide range of
courses to calm, destress and relax,
all whilst having fun and making new
friends! From arts and crafts to health
and fitness.

Check out the full range:



SCAN ME



**www.norfolk.gov.uk/adultlearning
0344 800 8020 (option 5)**

Lofty mountain grandeur

After Easter Stuart and I travelled to Switzerland on the train for a holiday. Whilst we were there, we saw some amazing scenery including snow covered top mountains, waterfalls, valleys full of yellow flowers and glaciers. The beauty of God's creation just shouted out everywhere we went.

One day we went on the well-known tourist trip aboard the Bernina Express which crosses the Alps from Chur in Switzerland to Tirano in Italy in a four-hour epic journey. Due to the popularity of this trip Stuart and I were not able to sit together, and my seat was with a family of 3 from Brazil. This family were on a holiday of a lifetime travelling across Europe and had a daughter who was 9 years old who had never seen snow. The journey soon went from being at the bottom of the mountains in a built-up area to being in the countryside surrounded by meadows. We gradually creep higher and higher until the landscape around turned from green to being covered in thick snow.

At this point the young girl I was sitting with jumped from her seat and stared in awe at the spectacular scene in front of her along with the rest of the carriage. She just couldn't get over how beautiful it all was and repeatedly kept saying wow this is so beautiful. Her excitement increased even more when the train stopped, and she was able to spend 10 minutes playing in the snow. It was so wonderful to see the pure joy she got from looking at God's wonderful creation and being in it.

This experience made me think about if we really appreciate all of God's creation in the same way as this girl did. She was totally awestruck by it. Switzerland is not the only place where the beauty of God's creation is evident, but its everywhere, including all the places where we live. But how often do we take the time to just go out and be in creation itself and stand in awe of what we see.

During my trip when I was immersed in God's creation these words from the well-known hymn, 'O Lord my God' often sprung to mind.

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the works thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

Today I encourage you to take time to step outside and take in all that you see before praising God for all that he has made for us to enjoy.

With love

Kirsty

Open Gardens in Stoke Holy Cross



Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th June
12 noon to 5pm

Programmes and refreshments in the Church Hall
(Family activities available from 2-4pm on Sunday)

Limited parking at St Georges Hall for Upper Stoke Gardens,
Community Hall and Church car park for
Lower Stoke Gardens.

Stoke Holy Cross allotments and Jubilee Meadow also open

Please collect a programme from the Church Hall before visiting any gardens
Donations welcome to wards Stoke Holy Cross Church Building Fund
and St Martin's Housing Trust

For further information please contact: Anna Lipp (07896 943175, anna@lipp.org.uk)

STOKE HOLY CROSS THURSDAY CLUB

Summer is definitely on its way and time to get out of the winter doldrums and expand your horizons.

Come and join us at the Stoke Holy Cross Thursday Club for the over 55's where you will meet like minded people who love chatting, having a cup of tea and of course biscuits while putting the world to rights.

Plus, if you like, playing cards/scrabble/dominoes etc. whatever takes your fancy. If you had come along last month (May) you could have joined us for a lovely delicious lunch at the George Hotel.

We meet the first Thursday of the month with bingo and games on the other Thursdays. Starting at 1/1.30pm.

Club day starts our month on 5th June with bingo on 12th and 26th and a games afternoon on the 19th.

Please do not be shy or worried about how you will be received, everybody will welcome you with open arms.

Come along we really would love to meet you.

If you require and further information please give our treasurer a call on 01508 494544.

Vintage Church

3rd Thursday of the month at 10:30

Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall.

All Welcome



Here are some recent pictures from
Vintage Church.

Why not come and join us next time
on Thursday 19th June?





*All Invited in 2025:
everyone's welcome*

Sundays from 3.30-5pm

8th & 22nd June, 13th July all at
Stoke Church Hall and a special event
on 10th August!

Activities, crafts and games for all ages
Space to reflect and time to chat

Community Pantry: help yourself
or contribute

Pop in for cakes, drinks, or stay
and eat together



Venta Group of Churches: Stoke Holy Cross,
Caistor and Arminghall | rob@venta-group.org

YEARS 5-11

embers
youth club

Thursdays 7.30 - 9 pm
Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall

5th: Theme Night: Kingdom Come

12th: Quiz and Chips

19th: Water Games @ The Park

26th: Club Night & TRACKS

3rd: Wide Game @ Dunston

10th: Theme Night: Fame

17th: Sports and Picnic @ The Park

For more details contact:

Gary Watson on gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk



Norwich
YOUTH
FOR CHRIST

@@stoke.embers

Venta Group
of Churches

Sparklers

Toys, crafts, songs and new friends for
0-4s and their parents, grandparents and
carers.

Every Tuesday morning in school term
from 10-11am at Stoke Church Hall

Find out more at www.venta-group.org



'Sparklers Stoke Holy Cross'

cathrynbaker@gmail.com

or call 01508 492305

Stoke Holy Cross
Community Cafe

OPEN



The Community Cafe is open for tea, coffee, cold drinks and
refreshments on Saturday 31st May and Saturday 5th July from
2pm to 4pm at Stoke Holy Cross Community Hall on Long Lane

Come along, bring friends and family, come rain or sunshine!

We look forward to meeting you.

Card and cash accepted.

Redwings Horse Sanctuary

for a great family day out!

Free Entry.
Parking &
Dog
Friendly!

Visit our
Cafe & Gift
Shop



redwings.org.uk/visit



Enjoy some family fun meeting friendly rescued horses and donkeys at Redwings Aylsham and Redwings Caldecott, Norfolk all whilst supporting the UK's largest horse welfare charity.



Surlingham Timeshare Swimming Pool

NR14 7AL

Are you interested in having an indoor heated swimming pool exclusively for yourself, family and friends?

If so please contact

Tim Mack (01508) 538206

info@surlinghamtimesharepool.co.uk

or go to

www.surlinghamtimesharepool.co.uk

3, 6 or 12 monthly bookings for weekly slots available, "also one offs"

Open seven days a week 6.30am-10.00pm

We are 6 miles SE of Norwich between Surlingham and Rockland St. Mary

COOPER HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Double Glazing Repairs
Replacement Sealed Units
Window Hinges, Handles
Door locks • Cat flaps

www.cooperhome.com

01508 480551 07982 711499



PC or Mac Running Slow?
Bailiwick IT Ltd. Got A Virus? Wi-Fi help?

For a friendly, professional
& prompt IT service,
please call Joe Richards on 01953 718421
& 07928 326008

Email: help@bailiwickit.com
Website: www.bailiwickit.com



S & C Window Repairs

Free estimates, no call out charge
Local independent business

Repairs to double glazed windows, doors and conservatories
Steamed up windows, broken handles, hinges, gasket,
plus cat flaps, door panels and more...

📞 **01603 520136 | 0800 1601932**

✉ sandcwindows@gmail.com

🌐 www.sandcwindows.co.uk

CROSSWAYS of ELLINGHAM

99 Yarmouth Road,
Ellingham, NR35 2PH
Opening Times:
Mon - Fri: 8:30 - 5pm
Sat: 9 - 5pm



**Equestrian • Pet Food • Livestock
Fishing • Shooting • Clothing**



DELIVERY SERVICE

*Need something
but can't get into shop?*

We have a very reliable
delivery service which has been
running for over 20 years.

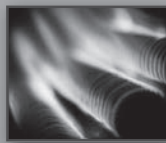
*No matter how big or
small in the whole store
we're happy to help...*

| 01508 518400 | www.crosswaysofellingham.co.uk |



TOWNSEND LTD

OIL • GAS • HEATING SERVICES



- Boiler Replacement
- System Upgrade & Maintenance
 - Power Flushing
- Oil Tank Replacement
- OFTEC & Gas Safe Registered
- All at competitive prices

Call today for more information
and a free estimate

Matthew Townsend: 07771 732397

Office: 01508 550838

www.jandmtownsendltd.co.uk



Louise Cartwright
(M.Ost),
Professional
Osteopath

Registered with The General Osteopathic Council,
15 Years Experience

**For the treatment of Neck,
Back and Joint pain, Sports injuries
and Rehabilitation.**

Rookery Park Golf Club,
Carlton Colville, NR33 8HJ, 07876255168

Please book online at
www.amyholmesosteopath.co.uk
www.greenviewtherapysuite.co.uk

Also available Tuesdays at Saxon Wellbeing,
Beccles, 01502 717417
appointments@saxonwellbeing.co.uk

- ✓ uPVC Windows & Doors
- ✓ Composite Doors
- ✓ Conservatories
- ✓ Solid Warm Roofs
- ✓ Porches
- ✓ Fascia's & Guttering
- ✓ Carports & Canopies

uPVC Home Improvements



up to
40% OFF



Fully Guaranteed

SSGE

Established 1983

FENSA
Registered Company

REHAU

LEKA



Free Quotations

Contact Us



01603 484574



ssge.co.uk

WAVENEY

STOVES, FIREPLACES
& RANGE COOKERS

Range Cookers; Oil, Electric, Gas & Woodfired.
Multifuel, Woodburning & Electric Stoves,
Electric Fires, Fireplace Surrounds

01508 518863

Opening Hours: Tues - Sat 9.30 - 4.30

123a Old Yarmouth Road, Ellingham, NR35 2PG

www.waveneystoves.co.uk



www.mrchimney4u.co.uk

GUILD OF MASTER CHIMNEY SWEEPS MEMBER

I OFFER A PROFESSIONAL, CLEAN AND FRIENDLY
SERVICE/ADVICE

WOOD BURNERS • MULTI-FUEL STOVES • OPEN FIRES
INSET STOVES • INGLENOOK FIRES • AGA/RAYBURN
GAS/OIL • BIOMASS • CERTIFICATES ISSUED



info@mrchimney4u.co.uk

01508 493219 OR 07835 757528



PC ASSIST @ HOME
QUALITY COMPUTER REPAIR SERVICE
www.pcassistonline.co.uk **01508 471459**



01603 555625

www.hubcaresupport.co.uk

Your Care

Your Choice

Your Hub

From
£20ph

Support Includes:

- Companionship • Personal Care • Transport • Meal Preparation
- Domestic Tasks • Assistance with shopping • Respite Care • Live-in Care



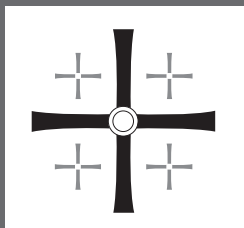
CLEANLIVING

Specialising in delighted clients

**Carpet, Rug, Upholstery &
Leather Cleaning**

01603 552062 | enquiries@cleanlivingnorfolk.co.uk
www.cleanlivingnorfolk.co.uk

Norfolk
Trusted Trader
Trading Standards Approved



JUNE 2025

WORSHIP, PRAYER AND COMMUNITY IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

Look at our separate posters and flyers about gathering to pray from 29th May—8th June, and Open Gardens on 7th and 8th June

Sunday mornings at Caistor St Edmund

1st June, 9.30am

Praise & Worship

15th June, 9.30am

Holy Communion

Morning Worship at Stoke Holy Cross at 10.30am

1st, 15th, 29th June

Morning Worship with children's group

8th, 22nd June

Morning Worship with communion and children's group

Sunday afternoons in June

8th, 22nd June

All invited at the Church Hall from 3.30-5pm—

Food, fun and faith for all ages

Midweek gatherings in June

4th June

7.30pm at the Church Hall

Time to pray together

5th June

10am at the Hall

Communion

followed at 10.30am by

Coffee and Chat

19th June

10.30am at the Hall

Vintage Church

26th June

10.30am at the Hall

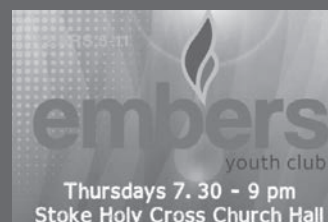
Coffee and Chat

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



Sparklers

Craft, fun, singing and friendship for 0-4s and their parents, grandparents and carers.
Email cathrynbaker@gmail.com or find us on Facebook



Every week in school term—just drop in and join us

Sign up for email updates here

For all your DIY and gardening tasks

J's Maintenance Services

- ◆ Painting internally / externally
- ◆ Gutter clearing and repairs
- ◆ Fence repairs
- ◆ Roof repairs
- ◆ Door repairs
- ◆ Garden tidy

FULLY
INSURED

07746 375349

51najacques@gmail.com

Howsham
Memorials
East



No.1 for high quality and affordability
*Local independent memorial specialist to
Beccles & surrounding areas...*

11 Hungate, Beccles, NR34 9TT
01502 219300
howshameast@gmail.com

FUNERAL SAFE ★ Trustpilot
Funeral Safe customers consistently rate the service as 'excellent' on Trustpilot

www.howshammemorials.co.uk

Stoke Holy Cross Ofsted: 254295 Charity: 1033659



High quality local
childcare for
2 1/2 to 4 year olds

PLACES AVAILABLE

For this current school year and next

Contact us:
email: manager@shxpreschool.co.uk
tel: 07305 617153
www: shxpreschool.co.uk



The Pavilion, Long Lane, Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8LY

idea with PosterMyWall.com

HEARING CARE CENTRE

**For quality of life,
get quality hearing advice**



We also
provide a unique
ENT nurse led wax
removal service
**WAS £80
NOW £60**

Visit our expert team for professional advice
on how we can improve your hearing

Book your **free** hearing assessment today by calling **01473 230 330**
We have clinics throughout Suffolk & Norfolk
hearingcarecentre.co.uk

FREE tiles from our tile range
with every full installation

COOPERS

Bathroom and Wetrooms Ltd

- En-suites
- Shower Rooms
- Bathrooms to Suit Your Needs
- Level Access Walk in Shower Rooms
- Crown Kitchens
- Supply Only or Full Installation
- Tiling, Plastering, Electrics, Plumbing
- Small Building Work
- All Work Guaranteed
- Grant Work Undertaken
- Less Abled Wet Room

01603 400134

Open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am - 2.30pm
Tuesday by appointment | Saturday 10am - 2pm
Sunday & Thursday Closed

Crown
Kitchen
On Display

Wet Room
Display in
Our Showroom

Independent
Family
Business



Visit our Showroom 1 Taverham Nursery Centre,
Fir Covert Road, Taverham, Norwich NR8 6HT
www.coopersbathroomsandwetrooms.co.uk



norwichsunblinds

**Buy 2
Get 1 Free**

On Our Handmade Blinds

Terms and conditions apply

01508 828010

www.norwichsunblinds.co.uk