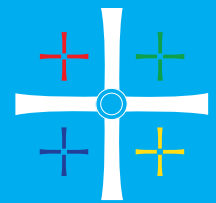


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THE MAGAZINE OF THE VENTA GROUP

NOVEMBER 2025



Saturday 15th November

7pm

Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall

£5 per person

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

All proceeds to Tearfund

To book a team of 4-6 people contact Kirsty
KirstyLong204@gmail.com or 07878047289

Years 5-11

embers
youth club

Thursdays
7.30 - 9 pm
Stoke Holy Cross
Church Hall

NOVEMBER

6th: Theme Night: Bonfire!
13th: Traitors
20th: QUAZAR Norwich
27th: Club Night plus Tom

DECEMBER

4th: BYO Games Night
11th: The Perfect Gift
18th: Christmas Party
25th: CHRISTMAS DAY!


For more details contact:
Gary Watson on
gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk

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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.

INTERMENTS OF ASHES

ROSAMUND WOODS
29th September at Stoke

DAPHNE RANSON
13th October at Dunston

NANCY HOWE
25th October at Stoke

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your village organisation

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just get in touch and we will see
what we can do!
Email: ventafree4all@outlook.com

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send by email to Rob to
admin@venta-group.org
By 10th of this month please.



Even when you have been somewhere for a long time, and times of year like November, and Remembrance, come round again and again, there is always something new. This year we have a brand new Guide group in Stoke Holy Cross, and I'll be visiting them at the beginning of the month to talk with them about Remembrance before some of them come and join us at Caistor St Edmund for our service on 9th November. For me it raises the question of how we can continue to remember, and to talk about remembering, as the generations go past, and those who go back as far as the Second World War are fewer and fewer.

If we are given half a chance, free from the distractions and safety net of every possible piece of information in a phone at our fingertips, people are pretty good at remembering. Cultures have found all sorts of ways of doing it, and there are lots of different examples in the bible.

One of my favourite ones is tucked away in the Old Testament. The Israelites are trying to establish themselves under the leadership of Samuel, and after one of their various victories, he plants a stone in the ground. He calls it the "Stone of help" (the source of the name Ebenezer) because God had helped them get to that point.

Today we still use stones to remember, of course, from individual graves, to war memorials, to the pebbles the Brownies will be painting poppies on. But while our stones tend to remember particular people, Samuel's looks to God himself. He recognises that most of all it is God who has helped them, and so can we; one of the hymns we most often use on Remembrance Sunday describes God as our help in ages past.

Not just the past, though, which brings us back to where we started: the hymn goes on to talk about him being our hope for years to come, as well. If we say we follow Jesus, we are putting ourselves in a place between his first coming, in ages past, and his return, which is our future hope. He may have done extraordinary things up until now, worthy of many memorial stones, or their modern equivalent, but he will go on doing them until our brand new Guides and Brownies are the grownups encouraging a new generation to remember. And one day, when he does return, he will be what the hymn finally promises us: an eternal home.

Rob

VICAR OF THE VENTA GROUP

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

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Sundays from 3.30 - 5pm

9th November at the Church Hall

23rd November at the Vicarage

Christmas special at the Church Hall on 7th December!

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 and chat, or stay and eat together



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

Christmas Craft Fair
 Saturday 29th November 10am-3pm
 Stoke Holy Cross Community Hall

Tombola ★ Hot & Cold Refreshments ★ 20 Stalls/Tables

Proceeds to Colney Cancer Centre

If interested in a table (£10)
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 call Jill Hopper on 01508 494359

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STOKE HOLY CROSS THURSDAY CLUB

Christmas is nearly here and so is 2026, where has the time gone?

Are you planning your Christmas present list for your family and friends?

Perhaps even deciding on your 2026 resolutions. As one of your resolutions do something for yourselves, make a decision and join our very friendly club, you definitely will not regret it. It will be something to look forward to on those dark, wet and cold days ahead as the welcome you receive will be extremely warm and inviting.

Our last club day of the year will be Thursday 4th December commencing at 1.00pm. We then have a break through January, all good things need a rest, and commence the new year with our first meeting on the first Thursday in February.

Full details will be in the January issue.

The Stoke Holy Cross Thursday Club would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and an exceptionally fantastic 2026.

STOKE HOLY CROSS FUEL ALLOTMENT TRUST

The trustees of the charity invite anyone living in the Parish of Stoke Holy Cross who is suffering in "need, hardship, or distress" to apply to the charity for a fuel grant or other assistance.

Application forms are available in 'Lower Stoke' from either the Post Office, Stoke Church Hall (opening hours Thursday 09.30-11.30) or from Upper Stoke with Julian Foster, 20 Chandler Road, Upper Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8RG (07855-025027/ jafoster22@btinternet.com)

Grants will normally be made in the 2nd week of December unless needed more urgently.

Please note:
Applications must be received by Saturday 29th November 2025

We are also looking for a new trustee for the charity with empathy for people in need in our local area, preferably living in Lower Stoke. Commitment time is < 6 hours per year

Save the Date for Christmas



7th December 3.30-5pm Christmas themed All Invited at the hall

14th December 10:30am Stoke Carol Service with the Primary School

14th December 6:30pm Arminghall Carol Service

18th December 10:30am Christmas Carols and Coffee and Chat

20th December Evening Carols at the Community Hall, Stoke

21st December 10:30am Communion Service at Stoke

21st December 4pm Caistor Carols

Christmas Eve 3pm Crib Service

Christmas Eve 5pm Carols at Dunston

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Service at Caistor

Christmas Day 10.30am Service at Stoke

Sunday 28th December Group Service at 10.30am at Caistor

Girlguiding Comes To Stoke Holy Cross Community Hall

TUESDAYS IN TERM TIME

Rainbows: (4 to 7 years)	4.35 to 5.40
Brownies: (7 to 10 years)	5.45 to 6.55
Guides (10 to 14) & Rangers (14 to 18)	5.45 to 7.15

We are delighted to announce we have opened and put Stoke Holy Cross on the GirlGuiding map. We hope to play an active part in the lives of local girls.

"Through fun, friendship, challenge and adventure we empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in their community." GG mission statement

To register for a place google "register for girl guides". Choose 1st High Ash and the section you want.

For more information email BumbleBee1stHA@gmail.com

BumbleBee Dragonfly Raven Butterfly Otter Ladybird Goose and Robin



Girlguiding
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Meeting in SHX Community Hall
Serving the villages of
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Swainsthorpe The Saxlinghams
and Trowse

Songs of the Season
*A Festive Evening with
the Singing Group
"Acappella"*
on Wednesday December 10th 2025
at 7pm
at Caistor St Edmund Church

Tickets: £10
to include parking fee,
mulled wine and mince pies

Please text or call Jani on 07557 774520 to order tickets

All proceeds to the Big C and Caistor Church funds

Coffee and chat

Want to meet others?
Come and join us and chat
over a drink on Thursday mornings
10.30-11.30am at Stoke Church Hall
2nd & 16th October
6th & 20th November
4th December (watch out for a Christmas special too!)



Short communion service at 10am right before Coffee & Chat
on 2nd October, 6th November, 4th December



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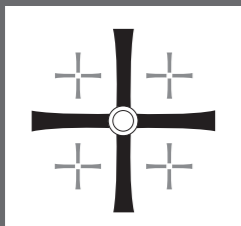
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Morning Worship at Caistor St Edmund

2 nd November, 9.30am	Praise and Worship
9 th November, 10.45am	Group Remembrance Service
16 th November, 9.30am	Holy Communion

Morning Worship with children's group at Stoke Holy Cross, 10.30am

2 nd , 16 th November	Informal Morning Worship
23 rd November	More formal Morning Worship with communion
30 th November	Joint communion service with Poringland churches

Sunday afternoons in November

9 th November	All Invited at the Church Hall from 3.30-5pm
23 rd November	All Invited at the Vicarage from 3.30-5pm

Midweek gatherings in November

5 th November	7.30pm at the Church Hall	Time to pray together
6 th November	10am at the Hall	Communion
	followed at 10.30am by	Coffee and Chat
20 th November	10.30am at the Hall	Coffee and Chat

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

Join us for
Communion and
Coffee and Chat
on Thursday
mornings — see
above for all the
times and dates

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