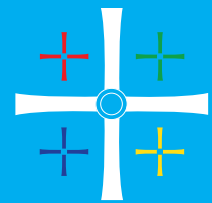


Free for All



THE MAGAZINE OF THE VENTA GROUP

SEPTEMBER 2026

**STOKE HOLY CROSS
VILLAGE
Fete**

📍 **STOKE HOLY CROSS PLAYING FIELD**

**SATURDAY
5TH SEPTEMBER** 12-4PM

WHAT'S ON

- STALLS
- GAMES
- FOOD TRUCKS
- BAR & REFRESHMENTS
- DOG SHOW AT 13:00
REGISTRATION AT 12:00
- BOUNCY CASTLE

ALL WELCOME!

**Stoke Holy Cross
Flower and Produce
Autumn Show**

Sunday 20th September 2026
Entries to Community Hall between
8.30 am and 10.45 am Sunday 20th Sept
25p per entry

Doors open for show at 2.00pm
Tea and Cake Available

See inside for more information
and how to enter for a prize



**We currently have spaces
for a September 2026
start in our Reception,
Year 1 and Year 2 classes.**

'Learning Together'

To arrange a meeting with the Head Teacher, Miss Chaney, and have a tour of the school please email the school office at office@stokeholycross.norfolk.sch.uk or call on 01508 493132.

For places in Reception class in September 2027 please keep an eye out for details of our open mornings which will be taking place later this year.

Visit our website and Facebook page for a flavour of what life is like for children at Stoke Holy Cross Primary School.

Starting September 6th

New style All Invited

Café Church

Join us at 10.30 in the Hall

And do remember

Re-starting in September

Sparklers

For Toddlers, Mums & Dads

10 - 11 Tuesday mornings

Embers Youth Club

For years 5 to 11

Thursdays 7.30 - 9pm

We'd love to see you there

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What is an Interregnum?

Hello, I'm Jani Wymer,
Churchwarden at Caistor St
Edmund Church.

Although I have lived in Stoke for many years, I was born in Caistor and have had a lifelong association with Caistor Church, I was christened there, married there and I daresay I will be buried there!

So, the building, along with the spiritual side is part of my being and now that Rev Rob Baker has moved to another post and we are in an Interregnum, it is even more so.

Let me explain.....

First of all, someone asked me the other day what does 'Interregnum' mean. It comes from the Latin, Inter- between and Regnum- leader, and it's the term given to the period between one Vicar leaving and the next one being appointed. In the Church of England there is generally a sizeable gap of time between Vicars – it is meant to be a time for reflection and a time to look forward. But many churchwardens don't relish having to go through an Interregnum because much of the responsibility of running the church falls to them and that means lots of challenges such as arranging services and finding other clergy to lead them along with looking after our ancient historical buildings. So far things have gone smoothly and we are pleased to say that Rev Lyn Marsh, part-time Assistant Priest will be returning to us this month after a period away from the Venta Group when she has been helping other parishes in Norfolk.

We have also already met with the Bishop Ian and we are now busy preparing a Parish Profile which will be used in the recruitment process to find a new vicar. We are hoping it will not be too long before our next full time vicar is in place. In the meantime, we are grateful for the help of visiting clergy who have helped us out so far, including Rev Rosie Bunn, who was our Vicar over 15 years ago.

Viv Carrington, Churchwarden of Stoke-with-Dunston and I would like to thank everyone from the church family who have stepped forward to take on extra responsibilities to help things run smoothly. We really do appreciate all they are doing.

If you have any queries, do contact me on 07557 774520

Jani

CHURCHWARDENS

Stoke Holy Cross & Dunston
Viv (493438)

Caistor St Edmund
Jani (07557 774520)

ST GEORGE'S HALL BOOKINGS:

Barbara Cutts 07739 663350
stgeorghall@venta-group.org

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 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

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For all enquiries please contact:

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Search Facebook and Youtube for
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Stoke Holy Cross Flower and Produce Show.

Sunday 20th September.

All are welcome to the show on Sunday 20th at the Community Hall from 2pm.

But we are also looking for your entries. Do you have any flowers, fruit, vegetables or house plants in your garden or home you would be willing to enter for the show? Home cooked cakes and bread, as well as homemade drinks and jams are also welcome. There are children's classes too. (My tallest sunflower is still growing.)

Len Finch (01508 492253) is the person to call for a schedule of all the classes. Take a look and decide what you would like to make, a posy, a cake, scones.... So many things to choose from. Then come to the Community Hall between 8.30 and 10.45 to enter. (Still only 25p per entry.)

The Hall is then closed for judging until 2pm when all are invited to see what people have made or grown. Refreshments will be available. Do come and enjoy the produce.

St George's Hall Dementia Support Group



We warmly welcome people with dementia and their carers to our regular café sessions in St. Georges 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 no referral is required. We also welcome anyone interested in becoming a volunteer. Please note that because numbers are increasing and the capacity in the hall and car park we may be shortly have to implement a waiting list.

We hope everyone has enjoyed the lovely summer this year although it has been a bit overwhelming at times and trust it didn't cause any extra health issues. Autumn is approaching with interesting things coming up. Our outing which was scheduled for September has been moved to October.

14th September will now be just a Café session

28th September will be seated exercises with Mavin

For further information call, 01508 494742, 01508 495580 or 01508 493661
Website is www.st.georges-dementia-support-group.uk

**POST
OFFICE**

We are pleased to confirm that Stoke Holy Cross church has arranged for the Post Office to be open in the Church Hall from 9:45 to 10:45 every Thursday starting in August

STOKE HOLY CROSS THURSDAY CLUB

Blinked and missed it with another month passing us by. Hopefully, at least the weather should be cooler although the days are shorter. We sincerely hope that you didn't lose to many plants in your gardens during the extreme temperatures and hose pipe ban. We British do love our gardens and with that in mind why don't you visit us to chat and explore what you are planting etc in your own garden. Winter is quickly creeping up on us with the shorter days and longer nights and there is not a great deal on television to keep us amused. The answer is simple join us every Thursday afternoon for convivial company, conversations, games and of course a nice cuppa and biscuits. We guarantee that we will do our best to keep you amused. We are a very friendly crowd and the welcoming mat is laid out as soon as you step through the door.

Thursday 1st October -
Club afternoon 1.30pm start

Thursday 8th and 22nd October -
Bingo eyes down 1.15pm

Thursday 15th and 29th October -
Games afternoon 1.30pm start

We are situated at St. George's Hall,
Long Lane, Upper Stoke. (Free Parking)

PORINGLAND COMMUNITY CINEMA



AT PORINGLAND COMMUNITY
CENTRE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY 11th September

FRIDAY 9th October

FRIDAY 13th November

Friday 11th December

Sparklers

Sparklers runs on Tuesday mornings in the Church Hall during term time for 0 – 4 year olds and their parent, grandparent or childminder.

Originally known as Mums and Toddlers we have been in existence for over forty years and are looking forward to the future. For the last 13 years Cathryn (Baker) has been the mainstay of the group and we shall miss her. I'm confident however that we shall continue to thrive and welcome new and existing members of the group.

Those of you who have attended Sparklers may well have come across me in the past, often behind the kitchen counter serving drinks. Following the Baker family's move to another parish I have taken over from Cathryn and together with the other volunteers I am looking forward to the new term starting on 8th September. Sadly I don't share Cathryn's singing ability so I will certainly be delegating leading the singing.

We open at 10am and run until 11am. Initially time for the children to play with the toys and puzzles, do a craft activity or generally have fun and the adults to socialise. We serve coffee and tea and usually have a good selection of biscuits and / or cakes. At about 10.45 we regroup in a circle, listen to a story and sing songs. No charge is made but donations towards the running costs are accepted. New members welcome.

Barbara (Cutts) barbara.ventagroup@gmail.com 07739 663350

Planet Before Profit!

On Saturday 1st August the ReThink Foundation held a trial food pantry at St George's Hall in Upper Stoke. They are a charitable organisation that collects end of day surpluses from supermarkets and food outlets and redistribute it to save it going to landfill.



Encouraged by the take up two further dates were added, the 15th and 29th August. At the time of writing the two later dates have not yet happened. If these are successful hopefully further dates will be included.

The food on the 1st August included baked goods, bread, fresh fruit and vegetables, Greggs sandwiches plus a wonderful mermaid birthday cake! A donation of £2 is required for your selection of fresh food.

Keep an eye on Facebook and around the village for further updates.

As you may have noticed the Community Pantry outside the Church Hall is falling apart and so will soon be removed. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) are exploring some different options and are delighted to welcome the ReThink Food Pantry.

Arminghall Village Harvest Service

Whether you are new or have lived in Arminghall for many years, it would be great to see you on Sunday 27 September, at 4pm at a service of thanksgiving for the harvest. The village is in the middle of agricultural land and also has gardens and allotments. Whilst the harvest has been severely affected by the weather this year, we still have much to be thankful for so please come along and if you are able, bring along a suitable item to go to a local food bank to help others. If you wish to help prepare/decorate the church for the service please come along from 10.30 on Saturday 26th September. I look forward to seeing you there.

Rev Lyn Marsh

Macmillan Coffee morning

With some help from my friends, I am once again organizing a Macmillan Coffee morning in our village and I would like to invite you to contribute to the work of Macmillan. As no doubt you are aware through personal experience, cancer is still touching families and friends. Please come along on Friday 25th September from 10.30 in the Church Hall at the bottom of Long Lane. We are expecting the choir from Stoke Holy Cross Primary School will be joining us like last year. If you are unable to join us but am able to contribute, please consider giving through our online fund raising page: <https://cm26.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/cm26030432>

Thank you.

Rev Lyn Marsh revlynmarsh@gmail.com

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE



at Caistor St Edmund Church
on Sunday 20th September 2026 at 4pm

We are personally inviting people who have lost people close to them during the past five years, but everyone is very welcome. As part of the service you will be invited to light a candle to thank God for your loved one.

If you know of someone who might find such a service helpful, please do encourage them to come along.

Tea and cake will be served afterwards.

Coffee and chat

Coffee, chat and company on Thursdays
10.30-11.30am at Stoke Church Hall

3rd & 17th September

1st & 15th October



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



Caistor Cream Teas 2026



Sunday Sept 6th will be your
last chance to enjoy a Cream Tea at
Caistor St Edmund Church for this year
Serving 2pm – 5pm

With plants, garden produce
and cake 'bring & buy' stall

Followed by a Songs of Praise service at
5pm Come and enjoy a Cream Tea and
stay to sing some favourite hymns

YEARS 5-11


youth club

Thursdays 7.30 - 9 pm
Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall

SEPTEMBER

10th: Club Night

17th: Theme Night - Change is Strange

24th: Quiz and Chips

OCTOBER

1st: Club Night

8th: Karaoke Challenge

15th: BYO Board Game

16th: ENCOUNTER in Norwich

22nd: Theme Night - Spooky Season

For more details contact:

Gary Watson on gwatson@norwichyfc.co.uk



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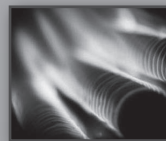
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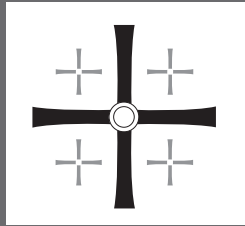
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SEPTEMBER 2026

WORSHIP, PRAYER AND COMMUNITY IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

Worship at Arminghall

27th September

Village Harvest Service at 4pm

Worship at Caistor St Edmund

6th September

Songs of Praise at 5pm following Cream Teas afternoon 2-5pm

20th September

Group Holy Communion Service at 10.30am

20th September

Service of Hope and Remembrance at 4pm

Morning Worship at Stoke Holy Cross at 10.30am

6th September

Cafe Church (in the Church Hall)

13th September

Informal Morning Worship with Communion

27th September

Traditional Communion Service

Evening Worship at Stoke at 6.30pm

20th September

Praise, Prayer and Prophecy

Midweek Gatherings in September all in Stoke Church Hall

Wed 2nd September

7pm Monthly Prayer Meeting

Thu 3rd September

10am Holy Communion followed by Coffee and Chat at 10.30am

Thu 10th September

10am Celtic Morning Prayer

Thu 17th September

10.30am Coffee and Chat

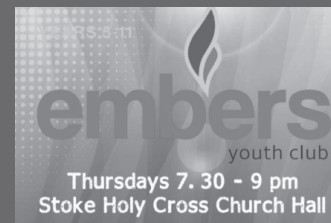
*Caistor and Arminghall church buildings are open about 10-4 daily -
space to reflect, and to pray*



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

Sparklers

Toys, crafts, songs and new friends for 0-4's and
their parents, grandparents and carers.
Every Tuesday morning from 10-11am at Stoke
Church Hall, Find out more at www.venta-group.org



Thursdays 7.30 - 9 pm
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