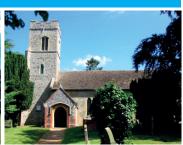
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THE MAGAZINE OF THE VENTA GROUP

JULY 2022



Mon 25th to Weds 27th July, 10am-3pm at Stoke Holy Cross Primary School

Games - Crafts - Challenges - Prizes - Sports - Drama

All primary school-aged children are welcome to come and join in with three days of fun! If you're high school age, you can get involved as a young leader too.

Contact us (rob@venta-group.org) to book your place, or look out for the online form coming soon from school. Trailblazers is free of charge, but donations towards running costs are welcome!



Venta Group of Churches: Stoke Holy Cross, Caistor and Arminghall







SEE PAGE 6 ARTICLE INSIDE ABOUT OUR AMAZING QUEEN



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f you were out and about in our churchyards over the last month or so and you thought you saw me on my knees, the chances are that I wasn't either diligently praying or experiencing profound desperation – although those things do often coincide in my experience. It was probably that I'd seen something interesting on the ground and wanted to have a closer look.

It's been very exciting this year especially to watch some bee orchids coming up in the churchyards. I took the picture you can see here the day before I sat down to write this. I find it extraordinary that here is a plant that has managed to make itself look like a bee so that a bee will come along and do what (birds and) bees do and carry off some pollen to the next one. It's an amazing thing. I've seen on Facebook, by the way, that some of you have got these lovely plants coming up in your front lawns as

well, which is quite an advert for No Mow May, isn't it?

Whenever I see a properly spectacular flower like this, I'm reminded of Jesus's word to his listeners on the mountain: "Consider how the wild flowers grow," he says. When I read these words I like to imagine that Jesus is looking around at the beauty around him. "Consider

how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these." It's true, isn't it? No matter how smartly turned out we are, none of us is going to look as amazing as a perfect wild flower. No ironing, no shoe polish, no makeup – just immaculately clothed by the Creator.

Jesus's reason for mentioning this, by the way, is not to get people so interested in the flowers around them that they stop listening to anything that he's got to say. His point is really that if God cares enough about a single flower to dress it that exquisitely, how much more will he provide for us, the crown of all that he has created?

There are so many reasons to worry at the moment. The war in Ukraine is still profoundly troubling, and here at home the cost of almost everything

is going up and up and up. I've spoken to some people who are concerned that the autumn might bring an increase in Covid numbers again, and yesterday on the news the talk was of the possibility of a summer of strikes.

But don't worry, Jesus says. Not because we stick our heads in the sand like an ostrich. Nor running round shouting "Don't panic" like a sort of 21st century Corporal Jones. (Cultural references bang up to date there.) Instead, gently but firmly, "Don't worry", because we can be certain that Jesus is alive, that his kingdom is coming, and one day everything will be made new.



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

CURATE

Lyn Marsh, 8 Mill Green, Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8PB Lyn@venta-group.org 01508 493422

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

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



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Stoke Holy Cross & Dunston Viv (493438) & Andy (07777 675193)

> Arminghall Annie (495580)

Caistor St Edmund Jani (493572) & Lia (494137)

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FROM THE REGISTERS

INTERMENT OF ASHES

SIMON SPANTON

28th May at STOKE HOLY CROSS

BAPTISM

RUBY JUNE LEECH 19th June at STOKE HOLY CROSS

We continue to pray for all those who have lost loved ones recently, or are remembering someone particularly at this time of year.

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 Henry and Eostre Caswell to ventafree4all@outlook.com By 10th of this month please.

The 10th of the month will be the deadline for all copy for the next magazine for the time being.



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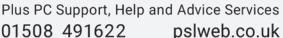
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Attractive?

o you're not reading an advert for someone seeking a new relationship. I've just been wondering what makes us, humans, attractive. It came about because I was recently checking some minutes of a meeting that I attended and that had been circulated to all the attendees (including myself, LM) and I was a bit surprised when I read this:

LM posts that October contains a lot of new reps... How could LM be made more attractive to student reps? Could reps send ideas before September away day.

I've never considered myself attractive or unattractive but it did make me wonder what students see in me, what they are attracted to. Do they see me as an efficient administrator? Do they see me as someone they can turn to? Who offers them good advice? Do they see me for my position – and are attracted or repelled accordingly? Or do they see me for who I am? Someone who wants the best for them. Who cares about the people she lives and works with. Who is compassionate. Who is trying to be more attractive for who she is rather than just by what she does.

It says in the bible: He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. (Isaiah 53:2) This verse is foretelling about Jesus. How Jesus would appear unattractive in his appearance. Certainly a man dying on a cross is not an attractive thing to see. But Jesus asked his disciples first, Who do you say I am? And Peter replied You are the Messiah (Luke 9:20). The crowds of people were attracted to him for what he did, the miracles he performed, the healings they saw and heard about which were pretty amazing and if we had been alive 2,000 years ago might have attracted us to him but he asks us to think about who he is. Not just his title, saviour, redeemer, Messiah but what he shows us. In his life he displays inner qualities in abundance to those around him, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Am I displaying them? They are attractive qualities in anyone and can grow as we open ourselves more and more to God. I believe. By getting to know him as revealed in the bible. If you would struggle to do that on your own, because it's a bit daunting when you pick up a bible to know where to start, come and join us one Sunday morning or on Thursday 7 July in the Church Hall at 10 when we are starting our new monthly gathering followed by coffee.





Embers Youth Club

Hi all! Embers Youth Club will be taking a break during August but, before then, we still have some cool stuff lined up! July's activities are shaping up as follow: July 7th - Club

Night, July 14th - End of Term Party, July 21st - Drama Practice for those involved in the Holiday Club.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the parents for allowing your Young People to attend and dropping off/picking up etc. Also, thanks to our Young People for making Embers the fun place it is. It really wouldn't happen without you.

Have a really great Summer! Every Blessing \dots

Gary Watson

Caistor Cream Teas



Cream Teas will be served at

Caistor St Edmund Thurch

Sundays
July 24th and 31st 2022
&
August 7th and 14th 2022
2pm – 5pm

With plants, garden produce and cake stall

STOKE HOLY CROSS THURSDAY CLUB

Stoke Holy Cross Thursday Club for the over 55's meets at St. Georges Hall Upper Stoke Holy Cross the first Thursday each month

Thursday 7th July 2022 at 1.30pm Bingo Thursday 14th and 28th July eyes down at 1.30pm (Please bring a raffle prize)

Bowls Wednesday 6th and Thursday 21st - 1.30pm - £2.00

Our July outing is to

Gt. Yarmouth and Lathams on Wednesday 20th July 2022

If you would like to join us on this trip, and support our Club, you would be very welcome. £10.00. Details will be provided by ringing Carol on 01508 492132 or Liz on 01508 493245

ADVANCE NOTICE

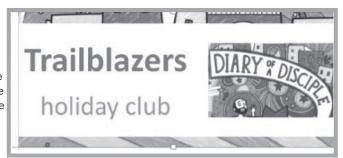
JUMBLE SALE in St. Georges Hall on
Saturday 20th August 2022

1.00 - 3.00pm.

All proceeds going to the Ukraine

Trailblazers

Trailblazers is open to all children at primary school this summer term 2022, and will feature lots of games, crafts, sports, quizzes and much more, with zany presenters, lively music, Bible stories and drama. We would also love to have any older children who would like to join in as young leaders: please complete a form for them as we need to register everyone under 18, and we will see from their date of birth that they are participating as a leader. We are sorry that we cannot include any children who are not yet at primary school, but we look forward to seeing them soon! To register please see the link in the website or contact Rob direct see page 3 for contact details.



Seventy Years of Faith and Service

The following are extracts taken from the booklet 'Our Faithful Queen', published by hopetogether.org.uk

A Personal Journey of Faith

Elizabeth II was not born to be Queen. Her father, the Duke of York, was the second son of King George V, so the young Elizabeth had little expectation of becoming the Sovereign.

She began 1936 as a 9-year-old who loved horses and dogs and was being prepared for life as a country gentlewoman. But by the end of the year she was next in line to the throne. Her uncle, Edward VIII, had abdicated and immediately her father had become King George VI. Even then, she might have expected to be middle-aged before becoming Queen, but her father was just 56 when he died. By her 27th birthday, the stage was set for this young wife and mother of two to be crowned. Her formal titles were 'Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith'.

Grace is the unearned favour of God. She did not take the 'Grace of God' for granted.

Called by God

The first words Archbishop Fisher gave the Queen to consider in the Devotions were a prayer from the Bible: 'Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long...' Then he added these words for her to say as she prepared herself for the Coronation:

The whole of life is a journey to God. In its course are many lesser journeys taken for many different purposes. Sometimes the Bible records special journeys undertaken for special purposes in answer to a call from God. Such will be my journey to Westminster. It will be undertaken in obedience to a call from God. I have not chosen this office for myself: he has appointed me to it, and I go to be consecrated to it by him. My prayer must echo that of the Virgin Mary, and that of our Lord himself: 'Be it unto me according to thy will'; 'Not what I will, but what thou will'. And because he leads I may follow in complete trust.

By accepting her role, the Queen sacrificed her personal preferences and private life to adopt a life of duty and service in obedience to God's call, trusting him to lead her.



Dedicated to Serve

She knew it was not a role she could undertake alone. On her 21st birthday, Princess Elizabeth asked for her people's support and God's help:

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of dour great imperial family to which we all belong. But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.

In her first Christmas broadcast as Queen in 1952, she re-emphasised her dedication: At my Coronation next June, I shall dedicate myself anew to your service. I shall do so in the presence of a great congregation, drawn from every part of the Commonwealth and Empire, while millions outside Westminster Abbey will hear the promises and the prayers being offered up within its walls, and see much of the ancient ceremony in which kings and queens before me have taken part through century upon century.

And she asked for prayer:

Fray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve him and you, all the days of my life.

It is a prayer God has answered.



Jubilee Crown of flowers at Caistor St Edmund Church

hank you so much to the mystery flower arranger who left this beautiful crown of flowers at Caistor St Edmund Church. It was a lovely surprise to find it there one day! It has been much appreciated by the people attending the jubilee celebration service as well as the many visitors to the church.



Caistor St Edmund Platinum Jubilee Street Party

he residents of Caistor St Edmund came together in Southwood Drive to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There were around 70 people there, all sharing lunch together and having a great time catching up with friends old and new. The music was really wonderful, the sausages were cooked to perfection and the quiz was good fun. Lots of people brought cakes to share - yummy! Nobody seemed to mind that it was a little on the chilly side. We finished in style with the national anthem.

It was a fantastic way to celebrate this special day together.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make it happen - members of the Parish Council, residents and members of Caistor St Edmund Church. Great teamwork!



Brickle Road Upper Stoke also had a wonderful celebration together.



St George's Hall Dementia Support Cafe

n the second and fourth Monday of each month except bank holidays this is a great place to relax for people living with dementia and their carers. Come and join us for fun activities and refreshments. There is always room for people living with dementia and their partners or carers whether on our subsidised outings or at our regular Café sessions from 10am to 12 noon in St. George's Hall at Upper Stoke Holy Cross. Referral not necessary. Our dates for July are 11th and 25th.

For more information ring 01508493661, 01508494742 or 01508495580 Our website is st.george's-dementia-support-group.uk

Our Jubilee Celebration at Stoke church hall. We had a great time and extend our grateful thanks to all the volunteers from our group and people in the community who helped and supported us with the teas, cakes tombola and plants in the church hall on Saturday as we celebrated together the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was a good opportunity too for more people to become aware of our group and what we get up to.



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July 2022

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9am Tues-Fri zoom.us/j/385426921 Prayer meeting
10am Sat Zoom Meeting ID: 385-426-921 with Bible reading

Sunday 3rd July

3.30-5pm Stoke Church Hall All Invited family session

Sunday 10th July

7.30pm Zoom meeting ID: 820 0665 9178 Listening to God

Passcode: 724825

Sunday mornings at Caistor St Edmund

9.30am3rd JulyPraise and Worship9.30am17th JulyHoly Communion

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

Sunday mornings from 3rd to 24th July at Stoke Holy Cross

10.30am Morning Worship with children's group (Holy Communion on 10th & 24th July)

Watch out for updates about ways to gather on Sunday 31st July in place of our usual service

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

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Biblical words to describe Jesus

MAJESTY	DELIVERER
EMMANUEL	PROPHET
LORD	REFUGE
FATHER	ALMIGHTY
SALVATION	SHEPHERD
JESUS	MESSIAH
EVERLASTING	FORTRESS
KING	GOD
SAVIOUR	STRENGTH







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