Free for All + +









THE MAGAZINE OF THE VENTA GROUP

JUNE 2022















see inside for more







Stoke Holy Cross Open Gardens

June 18th and 19th from 12 - 5

Tickets and maps from the church hall from 12 noon in aid of our church buildings and the dementia cafe.

Do come and have a leisurely wander round a variety of 17 different garden to brighten our lives to inspire, compare and encourage.

Stoke and Dunston churches will be open with live music and displays at Stoke.

Refreshments will be available at the church hall.

If anyone could help us at all by perhaps making cakes or helping a bit on the day please, please do get in touch with lyn@venta-group.org or anna@lipp.org.uk



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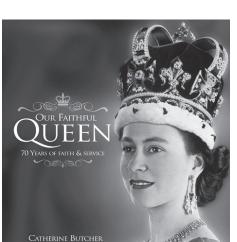
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here are quite of lot of famous last words out there. You never know quite whether they are true or not, especially when they are as funny as Oscar Wilde's: "Either this wallpaper goes or I do." But what about famous first words?

It's a year of Jubilee, and so I have been reflecting on some of the things the Queen said at the very beginning of her reign, 70 years ago. Here are some words from her Christmas message in 1952, looking forward to her coronation the year after: 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. Pray 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 mv life.

These words are drawn from a lovely book about the Queen and her faith that we have bought some copies of, and hope to share with village residents in different ways in the weeks to come. When you read about the

Queen dedicating herself to service, both to God and to her people, you recognise that she has fulfilled that commitment throughout her long reign, and that she goes on doing it. God has heard her prayer and kept her faithful to that pledge from 70 years ago. Amongst Jesus's first words as he began his ministry was a clear and beautiful statement

of why had come: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour...'

There are some big and beautiful themes here, but one of them, the idea of freedom and the year of God's favour, also connects with Jubilee. In the Old Testament God's people counted years in sevens, like the days of the week, and at the end of every seventh lot of sevens (49 years if you are keeping up with me!) there was a year of Jubilee. The fiftieth year was a holy year, a year of freedom. A year of reset as everyone was to return their own land and their own family. A year for the liberation of slaves and the cancelling of debts. So Jesus picks up on a huge idea, and identifies himself as the place true freedom comes from. And as we watch Jesus through the gospels, and we hear the stories of Christians today, we notice freedom coming. We notice sins forgiven and sickness healed and death defeated and stigma erased and so much more. We notice that Jesus lives up to those early words, and embodies that freedom which he promised. Just as the Queen has kept her word beautifully for 70 years, Jesus has kept his promise of freedom, and he will keep it into eternity. And it's there for all of us today.

It's a year of Jubilee!

VICAR OF THE VENTA GROUP

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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) & Andy (07485 151051)

> Arminghall Annie (495580)

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

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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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Prayer Space at Stoke Holy Cross Primary School

t the beginning of May, Stoke church hosted a "prayer space" in the primary school, giving every child the opportunity to spend a quiet half an hour away from their classrooms, having a go at lots of creative activities. You will see several photos on the front cover and here are a few more.

As children arrived, they noticed the fairy lights and tent full of comfy beanbags, glitter lamps and bubble tubes. Lots of them said that the space helped them to relax and feel calm, and each activity gave them a way to express their emotions or build their self-esteem. Children could choose to try talking to God through the activities, or just to take the chance to wonder and reflect.

Our "prayer tree" gradually filled up with paper leaves covered with children's hopes and prayers, and the "friendship flower" grew bigger and bigger as children wrote the names of their friends onto petals. Children could think about letting go of their worries by untying knots in a rope or dropping a pebble into a bowl. One child said, "The rocks really worked for me. I had a worried feeling that I don't like, but when I dropped the rock the feeling went away".



Another activity was using mirrors to draw their self-portraits, choosing words to describe themselves and thinking about how each one of them is unique and special. We had some really interesting chats about the words they picked, and lots of them were keen to choose positive words to describe their friends, too. One child said that her picture showed who she was on the inside, and not just on the outside.



One area of the prayer space helped children think about things going on in the world, like the war in Ukraine. They used "scratch art" paper, scraping away the black layer to show the light, bright rainbow colours underneath as a sign of hope, and by the end of the week the wall was covered in colourful pictures.

It was a fantastic week for all of us who helped in the prayer space, and we were so encouraged to see children getting so much from it and asking when they can do this again. If you have a child at the school, why not ask them what they thought?



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 the dementia and for 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 10 am to 12 noon in St George's Hall at Upper Stoke Holy Cross. Referral not necessary.

On May 9th we had a lovely time singing along with the Squee Gees Musical Duo great entertainment. 23rd May was a Jubilee themed café. Our dates for June are 13th for our AGM plus normal café. 27th June will be a coach trip to Beales roses. Hoping for good weather that

For more information ring 01508 494742, 01508 493661 or 01508 495580. Our website is st.george's-dementia-support-group.org

DATES FOR CAISTOR **CREAM TEAS 2022**



We are planning to serve Cream Teas at

Caistor St Edmund Church

Sundays July 24th and 31st 2022

August 7th and 14th 2022 2pm - 5pm

With plants, garden produce and cake stall

We would love to have lots of plants to sell on our stall – if you would like to help please start preparing now by taking cuttings etc

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 2nd June - 1.30pm

Bingo Thursday 9th and 23rd eyes down 1.30pm

Bowls Thursday 16th and 30th -1.30pm £2.00

Our next outing will be to Sheringham/ Taverham Garden Centre on Wednesday 15th June

If you would like to join us on this trip, and support our Club, you would be very welcome.

Ring Carol on 01508 492132 or Liz on 01508 493245

From the Curate's Egg - June

he month referred to as Flaming June but are we just being British and talking/hoping for nice weather. We hope June 2022 will provide lots of gorgeous weather for the Jubilee and Open Garden events and you may want that for other celebrations you have planned but before you get concerned that I'm turning into a weather forecaster or this column is just concerned about the weather, Flaming June actually refers to a painting. A painting of a person so let us take a moment to think about people and flames.

Five years ago on 14 June a terrible fire broke out in the Grenfell Tower. Lives and homes were destroyed. Many still bear the scars today and will do for the rest of their lives. Others are still fighting for justice and answers to their questions of why. We need to learn from this terrible tragedy. Learn new ways of how to build, new ways of how to respond in an emergency, and new ways of how to legislate. But we must not forget the people. The people who died and the people who are still alive.

50 days after Easter no doubt Jesus' disciples were still asking questions of why. Why did Jesus die? Why did he come back to life? Why did he leave them? And questions of how. How did it get to this point? Being in one place, on the day of Pentecost, they hear the sound of a violent wind and then they see what appears to be tongues of fire resting on each of them. They then begin to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. If you don't know the story, you may be struggling to understand

what is happening at this point. I believe the Holy Spirit was enabling them to live in a new way and tongues are a good place to start

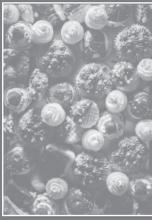
With our tongues we can be destructive. With our tongues we can be so encouraging. Our tongues have power. In my early days as a Christian, I bought a vinyl and came across a song that stuck with me. It was by Adrian Snell and entitled The tongue is fire. It says:

The tongue is a fire, the tongue is a flame
The tongue is a curse, the tongue is a game
The tongue is a knife, it leaves you to bleed
The tongue is a fire, the tongue is your deeds.
Watch where it burns.

Maybe in flaming June we, as a community, can start as the church will start the month off on Sunday 5 June, celebrating Pentecost and committing ourselves to talk like God want us to: lovingly, joyfully, peacefully, patiently, kindly, goodly, faithfully, gently and with self control. Whilst praying to God for justice for those affected by Grenfell.

Community Platinum Jubilee street party Sunday 5th June, 1-4pm in Southwood Drive









Everyone welcome! Hot dogs and tables provided. Bring your own picnic and drinks, chairs to sit on. Why not bake some cake for everyone to try? Fancy dress for all ages optional, as is our very relaxed Jubilee quiz—but there may be prizes for both!

cseandbpc.wixsite.com/cseandbpc 01508 494635 | www.venta-group.org 01508 492305

Images by Speedy McVroom from Pixabay; Brooke Lark, Phil Hearing, Valario Davis on Unsplash

A Prayer for Refugees across the world

God of compassion,

Whose own son experienced life as a refugee, we remember those fleeing from danger, hungry and afraid, with nowhere to call home. God, give them warm, security, food and peace,

God of hope,

We thank you for those who are working to bring relief and comfort to those displaced, showing them glimpses of grace in the darkness of despair. God give them strength to continue their work.

God of Justice,

Guide the nations and the leaders of the world towards peace. Stir hearts to be generous and compassionate. God, help us to play our part in bringing about the changes we want to see.

Amen

Supporting Ukraine

A few weeks ago, many people generously donated clothing, food, medical essentials and many other items for transporting to Ukraine by kindly bringing everything to Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall, which church members organised as a one-off collection point. Almost £100 was also donated.

There is still an urgent need for more of these items for Ukraine. Further information of what is required can be found on the norfolksupportingukraine.org website. There is also now a drop off point at the Atrium of the Forum in Norwich.

The website below also gives further ways in which further help is needed. For example, are you able to offer a room for a Ukrainian refugee or perhaps you are able to help sort items at a local warehouse? Please do look at the website if you would like to help as this provides more information of what is needed. **norfolksupportingukraine.org**







We're really pleased to invite you to join us to worship at Dunston once again this Spring. The Ascension Day service at least will certainly be in the churchyard, so please bring a chair if possible, and be prepared for all weathers!

26th May Ascension Day service at 10am

31st May at 5pm praying especially for Dunston as

part of Thy Kingdom Come week

19th June Evening Prayer at 5pm

<u>Save the date!</u> We'll be having more services at Dunston at 10am on 9th. 11th and 13th August.

vvvv.venta-group.org | Facebook/YouTube "Venta Group of Churches" | lyn@venta-group.org | 01508 493422

We're praying for your street!



Every week in our churches we give time to praying for specific areas in the villages here. We also often walk around them so you might see us about near you on those weeks. Please say hello and let us know if you have anything you want us to pray for—or you could email admin@venta-group.org.

This month we are praying for:

- Week 1 Caistor Lane from High Ash Farm/ Valley Farm Lane towards Poringland, including Southwood Drive and St Edmund's Close.
- Week 2 Upper Stoke: Poringland Rd, Brickle Rd as far as Abbots Farm, Brickle Loke.

Week 3 Upper Stoke: Chandler Rd/Boudicca Way, Carol Close, Birkbeck Close & Pine Loke.

Week 4 All the residents of Arminghall.

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June 2022

WORSHIP, PRAYER AND COMMUNITY IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

Thursday 2nd June

Morning Prayer at Arminghall

Tuesday-Saturday mornings (except 2nd June)

9am Tues-Frizoom.us/j/385426921Prayer meeting10am SatZoom Meeting ID: 385-426-921with Bible reading

Sunday 5th June

9.30am Caistor St Edmund church Group service for Pentecost

Also at Caistor this month

9.30am Sunday 19th June Holy Communion
And don't forget that Caistor church building is open about 10-4 most days - space to reflect, and to pray

Sunday mornings at Stoke Holy Cross 10.30am

Sundays from 12th June at Stoke Holy Cross 10.30am Morning Worship with children's group (with Holy Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays)

Morning Worship with children's group (Holy Communion on 12th & 26th Jun)

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Every week in school term



Sign up for email updates here Don't forget to join in with all the brilliant Jubilee events happening across the villages.

Saturday 4th June from 10am-10pm in Stoke.

Sunday 5th June from 1-4pm in Caistor St Edmund

Sunday 5th June from 5pm in Arminghall

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

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