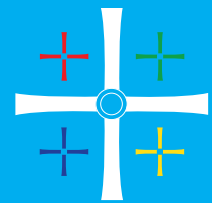


# Free for All



THE MAGAZINE OF THE VENTA GROUP

MAY 2021



## Open Gardens in Stoke Holy Cross



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**26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June 12pm - 5pm**

Tickets on the day from Stoke Church Hall. Limited parking at St Georges Hall for Upper Stoke Gardens, Pavilion and Church car park for Lower Stoke Gardens.

Everyone is welcome. If you would like to open your garden with us or would like any further information please contact Anna Lipp - 07896943173 [anna@lipp.org.uk](mailto:anna@lipp.org.uk)

**We're looking forward to seeing you there!**

## VENTA GROUP GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER DAY SERVICES

On a cold and windy Good Friday there was a short service in the churchyard at Caistor St. Edmund. It was the first time since the start of the lockdown in January that we have been able to gather in person, and it was great to see many people take part. Before the service teams of us carried a wooden cross from the church at Stoke Holy Cross to Caistor St Edmund to remember the day on which our Lord gave his life for each of us. Then on a wonderful bright and sunny Easter Sunday morning we gathered in the church yard at Stoke Holy Cross to celebrate Jesus' miraculous resurrection. And, as we were outside, were at last able to sing our praises. Many people brought chairs to enjoy sitting in the sun. The churchyard at Stoke enjoys amazing views over the farmland around and we could also look out over flowers on many of the graves. It was a wonderful picture of hope and new beginnings. If you ever want to find a place to sit in a beautiful peaceful setting please do feel free to enjoy our churchyards.



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Like many of you, I stopped for a while on 17th April and watched the footage from Windsor of the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral.

I know, like me, lots of you are still praying for the Queen and all her family. Like all these national occasions there was a huge amount of ceremony, and many people involved, but in the end, as for so many families through the pandemic, it was just 30 people spread through the space. Most striking of all, for me at least, was the walk through the castle grounds, with Prince Philip's coffin followed by his children and grandsons, walking mostly in pairs. Two, by two, by two they came, brought there by the death of someone they loved.

After Easter we often read the famous story of the Emmaus Road. It's a story of grief experienced as a pair, but with an extraordinary ending. Two of Jesus's disciples are walking; one called Cleopas,

and another who goes unnamed. Like lots of us who gather with a friend, in a time of bereavement, as they walk, they talk. As they meet Jesus, not recognising who he is, their faces are downcast. And they say something amazing to him: we had hoped. Jesus has died, and we had hoped...

A year ago, when I last really thought about this story, maybe it was with the idea that we'd be locked down for a month or two and then it would all blow over. Maybe that's what we were hoping. We had hoped. And now a year on, I know lots of people feel a lot more hopeful with the vaccine rollout, but still there is that question of whether somewhere in our hearts, hope is something that belonged to the past. Like the disciples, we want to say "Look, haven't you heard what's been happening? Where have you been? Are you the only person in the world who doesn't know about Covid, and lockdown? We had hoped.

For the disciples, hopelessness is connected with not seeing the risen Jesus. The women have seen him, but the disciples have gone looking and they haven't seen him, yet. I don't know about you, but quite a lot of people I talk to want to see Jesus. That's all my job is, really: helping them to see Jesus.

And when the two disciples do see him, it changes everything. They had been heading away from Jerusalem, and the sadness they connected with it, but on meeting Jesus they rush back, full of hope and purpose. It's an extraordinary turnaround, but it's the sort of thing that happens when people see Jesus. The news that he is alive always brings a turnaround of the most amazing kind.

In our churches this summer we want to find new hope and purpose after a difficult year, and we are going to do that by looking at Jesus – by seeing him. Why don't you join us, whether online, or in person from Sunday 23rd? We'd love to see you as we see Jesus together.

*Rob*

### VICAR OF THE VENTA GROUP

Stoke Holy Cross with Dunston, Arminghall and Caistor St Edmund  
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Carolyn Buchholz admin@venta-group.org **01508 492305**

Search Facebook and Youtube for "Venta group of churches"

[www.venta-group.org](http://www.venta-group.org)

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### IN A FUTURE MAGAZINE

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## FROM THE REGISTERS

### FUNERALS

6th April

**MICHAEL PAUL**

Stoke Holy Cross

### WEDDINGS

2nd April

**ELLIOT STUBBS**

&

**HEIDI LEECH**

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.

### NEXT EDITION

Items for the next month's magazine  
please send by email to Henry and Eostre  
Caswell by email to

[ventafree4all@outlook.com](mailto: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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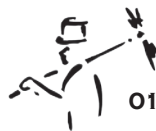


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# Roy Harrold

## a Norfolk gentleman farmer

Well known Stoke Holy Cross farmer, Roy Harrold died at the age of 91 on 16th February 2020. He was "a true son of Norfolk". His funeral was held at St Peter Mancroft church, Norwich in March 2020 with a church full of people, just a few days before the country went into the first lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Roy's father, John Fredrick Harrold bought Salamanca Farm in the 1920's. Shortly afterwards, J F Harrold's wife died leaving him with their three children, Jack, Frank and Audrey. He married Selina Mealham. Their son, Roy was born in Stoke Holy Cross in the summer of 1928, he was the fourth of four children of JF Harrold who died two years later. They were people of a generation of the First and Second World Wars who through their experience, were instilled with resilience and stoicism. From the 1920's, Roy's mother brought up Roy and his three step-siblings. She took on the farm. His brother was secretary of what was then called the Stoke Holy Cross junior football club, which is still thriving.

Roy left school at 14 years old to work with his mother running the farm. His mother was now a widow with four children to bring up. The farmhouse included a dairy, Roy helped with a milk round on his bicycle in the village in the pre-war years. Roy attended Bracondale School. His two step-brothers subsequently farmed in South Norfolk and his step sister was married.

Roy made a contribution to Norfolk community life in many ways.

Roy's career was in farming. He was a founder member of the Stoke Holy Cross Young Farmer's Club. He chaired the Norfolk Federation of Young Farmer Clubs in 1956. He was a Royal Norfolk Show cattle steward for 37 years before retiring.

Roy met Barbara Andrews at St Peter Mancroft church in Norwich, at the social evenings arranged by the church. Barbara was a lecturer at Burlingham horticultural college. They were married and farmed with dairy cows and arable crops. All the cattle were named after the maternal line, retaining the initial and Roy knew all the names. Their two children were born. The family ran the farmhouse as a Bed and Breakfast Guesthouse welcoming visitors for 40 years. Roy loved visiting gardens, listening to opera, ballet and church organ music and classical music. He was well versed in horticulture, an interest he shared with his wife, Barbara. He was interested in local history and archaeology.



Roy retired from dairy and arable farming at 63 years old. Roy served on the Press Council as a lay member.

Then for several years, Roy supported Barbara as she gave flower arranging demonstrations to clubs across East Anglia and beyond, using plant material, including flowers from the garden.

Roy also supported Barbara in her role as chairman of the Stoke Holy Cross Tuesday group. It is a ladies group founded in Stoke which now includes men in its membership. Local tributes to Roy include: 'A long life, so well lived; a passing of part of the 'old Stoke' of my childhood'; 'a delightful man and so energetic and active, he will be much missed' and 'we have lost a real gentleman'. Roy's funeral was at St Peter Mancroft Church on 10th March 2020. He is buried in the graveyard at Stoke Holy Cross church.

The photos show Roy and Barbara in the garden at Salamanca, Roy, Barbara and son Harry at Harry's graduation and the photo of the cows crossing the road at Stoke Holy Cross has Roy on the right with, on the left of the herd, Neale Peasgood who now runs the farm shop.



## A BIT OF LIGHT RELIEF

Why did the bacteria cross the microscope?

To get to the other slide

Did you hear about the ATM that got addicted to money?

It suffered from withdrawal

Why did the bee go to the doctor's?

Because he had hives

Two men walked into a bar;  
the third ducked

What do you call a group of apes who start a company?

Monkey business

5/4 of people admit they are very bad at doing fractions

What do you call a number that can't keep still?

A Roamin numeral

## CAISTOR ST EDMUND LITTER PICK



Please come along and join in with the Caistor litter pick to tidy up our roadsides. We have a good time doing this together with lots of time to chat and enjoy being outside with a gang.

Our annual litter pick will take place on **Wednesday May 19th** and it would be great if you can offer help. Bags, litter grabbing tools and luminous waistcoats are provided.

If you can spare some time on that day, even half an hour will help, please contact

**Jeanette Utting** on  
07963 448753

# Our much loved Duke

Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, spent a great deal of time in Norfolk and some of you might have had the honour of meeting him in person. He will be sadly missed as a much-respected member of the Royal Family. There have been many amazing tributes to him in the media and we hope that you have been able to spend time reflecting on his life of service and on the many anecdotes about his life which we have heard from so many friends and acquaintances.



*The photos, courtesy of the EDP, show the Duke very involved the Royal Norfolk Show*



Our thoughts, prayers and condolences from the Venta Group of Churches reach out to Her Majesty, the Queen, and all the other members of the Royal Family as they mourn the loss of a much-loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be sadly missed by so many people.





# Line of Duty

## A Curate's Egg piece from Lyn.

One of the most popular tv programmes in recent years and by the time you read this nearing the end of series 6 is Line of Duty. Before you stop reading because you haven't watched it, you don't need to know much about the programme. It follows the investigations of a UK police department, AC-12 (Anti-corruption) who seek out corrupt police officers or as Hastings says "bent coppers". In every series though, there are some police officers who in the line of duty, seeking to do their job, fulfil the law, lose their lives.

Last month saw much media coverage about The Duke of Edinburgh's life following his death. Much focussed if you like, on his line of duty, to the Queen, the country, the commonwealth, to the military, to young people, to the environment. Whilst he didn't lose his life in the line of duty, the royal family have lost someone who supported them, in good and challenging times in their lives. That's got me thinking, where does my support come from and where do I give support, where is my line of duty?

I have a frontline in fact we all have frontlines – those places and people where we meet regularly (even during a pandemic they exist, they just might look differently). I spend more than 22 hours a week engaging with staff and students at UEA. I meet people in our communities, through serving as a governor or the church. These are all places where I spend most of my time but there's also my family. Where's your frontline? My line of duty is all these places but having identified my line of duty, what am I supposed to do with it, how am I supposed to live on it?

The police officers in AC-12 in Line of Duty, seek to uphold the law, do their job, lose their lives. In following Jesus, it is no different. Just as those police officers give of themselves, so am I called to give of myself, but not to a cause to a person. As the words of an old hymn say O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end. Jesus calls us to follow him wholeheartedly. He called his disciples to leave their homes and families, their possessions, and to deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him. He tells his disciples, to love God first, and out of that comes love for our neighbours. He called and continues to call his followers to demonstrate, love; love that is patient, kind, not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Doesn't insist on it's own way, isn't irritable or resentful, doesn't rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. Wow. Wouldn't our world be different if we all lived that way like Jesus did? If on our frontlines we followed God's line of duty, his line of love.

I pray:

IN ALL I DO AND ALL I SAY, let Your love abound through me  
On every path that my life takes  
Let Your light shine out of me

In things that are seen and things that are hidden  
I'll seek to delight Your heart O God

For nothing is mine that You have not given

I'll honour You Lord with my whole life

This is my worship, this is my worship

Living for Your glory O God

In all of my dealings let me be pleasing

It is Jesus Christ who I serve

With every gift Your mercy brings

I will work towards Your cause

To share good news with every heart

Is Your charge to those You've called

Your love is so vast

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And all that is good is sourced in You

Now as I draw near You call me to share in

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### VIVIAN'S GARDEN NURSERY IS OPEN AGAIN



First of all thank you to all those who have already bought plants as the proceeds all go towards looking after our lovely old church.

Plants for sale at Beech Cottage on Norwich Road Stoke have already included Geraniums, Verbena bonariensis, Euphorbias, Acanthus spinosa. Stachys, Kniphofia (yellow), Bay trees.

Do visit and call in to ask Viv what else she may have, and later after the frosts there should be Lupins, Penstemons, Delphiniums and Nicotianas, plus, plus, plus.

And PLANT POTS ARE NEEDED if you have any 5 inches upwards. I am running very short.



# Children and families in our churches

**W**e're really excited that following lots of different activities for children and families online over the last year, we are beginning to meet in person in a few different ways again!

On alternate Sunday afternoons we are having a family session at the church, with activities and stories and music and a lot more: best of all, we just get to be together again. It's called LightHouse Live, which is the same name we have used for all our family sessions throughout the lockdown. The best way for us to run these in a Covid secure way at the moment is for us to put each family group at a separate table. In May these sessions are on **2nd, 16th and 30th**.

At the same time we are getting started again with in-person sessions for our amazing Sparklers toddler group, meeting on Tuesdays at 10am during school term. We are so excited that this is happening again. Covid regulations only allow 15 adults (and any number of pre-school children) at the moment, so again we have to ask people to book and we're doing that weekly at the moment.



Once the summer comes, we are really hopeful of being able to offer our Wonder Zone holiday club for all children at Stoke school. Lots of the Covid restrictions should be lifted in June, in plenty of time for our planned dates of **26th-28th July**.

**A**t the same time we are doing lots of thinking and planning about our family events, because we don't just want to go back to doing what we were doing before the pandemic when it might be best for families for us to do some different things. So we'd love you to get in touch with us to let us know what you think might best help families to connect with what we are doing, both on Sundays and through the week.

So if you'd like to let us know what you think, or let us know you are interested in Sparklers or our Sunday sessions, just email [cathryn baker@gmail.com](mailto:cathryn baker@gmail.com) and let her know.



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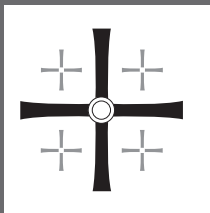
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# MAY

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10am Sat      Zoom Meeting ID: 385-426-921      with Bible reading  
(not meeting on Thursdays 13th or 20th May)

## Sunday mornings at 10.30am

2nd, 9th, 16th      Online only      Morning Worship  
Sunday 23rd      In person and online      Stoke Churchyard  
Sunday 30th      In person and online      Stoke Church

This service is streamed online every week. You are welcome to join us on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/706580961> or use the Zoom number 706-580-961 in the app. If you do not have internet you can join the service by phone—please get in touch for help. Everything will also be available live or later on our YouTube channel “Venta group of churches”. This service includes communion every other week.

## Special Thursday services this month

13th May 9.30am      (Ascension Day)      Service in Dunston churchyard  
20th May 9.30am      Holy Communion at Caistor

## LightHouse family sessions

\*4pm in person on Sunday 2nd, 16th, 30th May—  
email [cathrynbaker@googlemail.com](mailto:cathrynbaker@googlemail.com) to book in\*  
9.30am on Sunday 9th and 23rd May on our YouTube channel, or catch up later

We are hoping for lots more gatherings in person in June, but please keep checking our website, Facebook and so on for details. It's a little tricky to be certain at the moment as you know!  
Caistor church is normally open from 10-4 on Wednesdays and Sundays.  
Please get in touch if we can help you in any way.



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C	S	T	E	I	V	S	E	N	E	W	E	S	E
E	O	N	R	O	M	G	E	K	T	E	N	H	P
E	H	I	M	N	O	N	G	N	I	L	A	E	H

## GIFTS IN THE BIBLE WORDSEARCH

KNOWLEDGE	...	GIVING
HOSPITALITY	...	ADMINISTRATION
MIRACLES	...	INTERPRETATION
HELPS	...	TEACHING
PROPHECY	...	MERCY
ENCOURAGING	...	PERSEVERANCE
HEALING	...	HOPE
PATIENCE	...	WISDOM
FAITH	...	LOVE

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