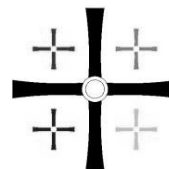


Stoke Holy Cross Tuesday Group was founded over fifty years ago, with the 'Young Mums' of the village in mind. Most were housewives with young children, and it made a pleasant change to visit the Village Hall for an evening meeting, with a speaker, and a chance to meet friends, while husbands were left at home to look after the children. Wow! It sounds like a different world, doesn't it! Of course, the world is much changed now, and our membership with it. We have become a group of mainly retired people – and YES, male and female! – but we still meet our friends and enjoy social occasions together. Over the years, our Village has also changed greatly, and we would love to enrol new members, perhaps some of you who have recently come to live in Stoke. Our annual subscription is £15, and we welcome visitors to talks for just £2, which includes teas, coffees and light refreshments. We elect an 'Annual Charity' and give the proceeds from two group suppers and two lunches each year in support of this. For 2017 we have chosen 'Nelson's Journey', which helps young people and children who have gone through the devastating experience of losing a loved one. We continue to meet at the Village Hall on the third Tuesday of the month, if a speaker is involved, and the dates will be given in 'Free for All', together with details of other events. We would be very pleased to welcome you, and further details can be obtained from Margaret Nudds (493814) or Kate Smith (558182). In the meantime, we have a Carol Service, of traditional format, in the church of St. Remigius, Dunston, on Tuesday 13th December at 7.30, followed by coffee and mince pies at Stoke Village Hall.

TO ADVERTISE BELOW PLEASE CONTACT ANGELA BELL
admin@venta-group.org

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Free For All

The Magazine of the Venta Group
 Arminghall, Caistor St Edmund, Stoke Holy Cross with Dunston
 November 2016

Venta Group Remembrance Service

13th November 10.45am at Caistor St Edmund



Advent Service of Light on 27th November at 4pm
Arminghall Church

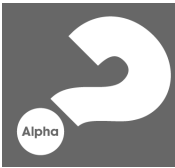
When I was growing up in—well let's say an adjoining county—I used to go to the village church. I say I went, because for me then church was the building and the service, not so much the people or the faith stuff. I managed to keep thinking about it that way for a long time, even through being confirmed, which was quite an achievement on my part, given that the vicar talked about God a lot, and I went to services at school and all that business.



The reason I am telling you all this is that when I was at university there came a point where I began to think very differently about things, and a big part of that was going on an Alpha Course. What I learnt (among other things) is that following Jesus is not something we only do in church, or because we go to church, but that being part of the church is what we do because we follow Jesus. More than that, following Jesus affects all of our lives, and everything that we will do not just now, but forever—because Jesus' amazing promise of life for us who follow him is forever, not just for now.

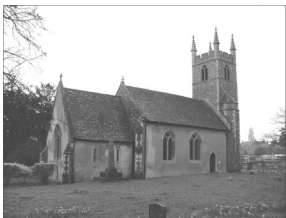
Some of you might say it is not surprising that I had to leave Suffolk to discover the meaning of life, but I don't think that the wonderful opportunity of getting to know Jesus belongs to any particular place or time –it's for anyone, anywhere. And that is why following on from this Christmas, we are excited to be running an Alpha course again in the villages here. We plan at the moment to be meeting on Monday evenings from mid-January up to just before Easter. If you have a lovely new 2017 calendar with a bit less on it at the moment, why don't you put the first few in now, and let us know you want to come. You can ring me, look at the website www.venta-group.org, or email alpha@venta-group.org.

Alpha 2017
Mondays from 16th January, 7.30pm meal for 8pm start in the Church Hall. Anyone and any question completely welcome



Churchwardens	Stoke Holy Cross & Dunston
	Viv (493438) & Peter (471529)
Arminghall	Caistor St Edmund
Pat (492622) & Annie (495580)	Jani (493572) & Graham (493430)

Stoke Holy Cross with Dunston



Church is.....

Language you
can understand

contemporary
music

New ways
to pray

A place for questions

Child
Friendly

Good coffee!

....a place for everyone

Sunday 4 Everyone
10.30am in the Church Hall
4th Sunday every month

cafe church

Sunday 6th November

10.30am

Stoke Church Hall

Breakfast, chat, songs, craft,
prayer, thought for the
day...

Sparklers

**Sparklers welcomes all babies,
toddlers and pre-schoolers
with their parents & carers.**

Tuesdays 10-11.30

Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall



Sparklers Stoke Holy Cross

St George's Hall Dementia Support Café

Providing a comfortable, caring and supportive social setting for people suffering from dementia and their carers, the St George's Dementia Support Group:

- offers friendship, emotional support, refreshments and a variety of enjoyable activities to inform, stimulate and entertain, plus occasional subsidised group excursions
- incorporates an optional Carer's Meeting to provide invaluable sharing of ideas, practical support and advice
- meets on 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (not Bank Holidays) - 10am to 12pm midday at St George's Hall, Long Lane, Upper Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8ND (on-site parking)
- is run by a team of dedicated volunteers and supported entirely by donations, grants and fund-raising activities

further details - 01508 493661 / 01508 492938 or why not simply drop in to one of our meetings? (New volunteers also always welcome!)



Free For All December/January 2016

Please send articles for the December/January magazine to Angela Bell by the 20th November, email admin@venta-group.org

St George's Hall bookings:

Joyce Williams 492143

Stoke Church Hall bookings:

Viv Carrington 493438

Stoke Holy Cross pavilion bookings:

Barbara Cattermole
(Parish clerk) 530739

Services for November

6th November—3rd Sunday before Advent

9am Traditional Holy Communion
10.30am Café Church

Caistor St Edmund
Stoke Church Hall

13th November—2nd Sunday before Advent

9am Traditional Holy Communion
10.45am Venta Group Remembrance Service

Arminghall
Caistor St Edmund

20th November—Christ the King

9.30am Family Service
11am Traditional Holy Communion
6.30pm The Gathering

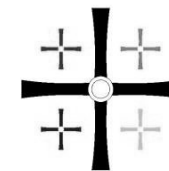
Caistor St Edmund
Stoke Holy Cross
Stoke Holy Cross

27th November—1st Sunday of Advent

9am Traditional Holy Communion
10.30am Sunday 4 Everyone
4pm Advent service of Light

Caistor St Edmund
Stoke Church Hall
Arminghall

We always do our best to stop and say hello to new people moving into the villages where possible, and are happy to come and visit if you would like us to pray God's blessing over your new home, for example. Please be in touch with Rob or the churchwardens (contacts below/opposite) if you would like us to come and see you..



Our brand new **Venta Group website** is now live—all the events in all the churches and more in one place!

Can you help us? To add colour and life to the website we need as many pictures as possible of church events and services. If you have anything from recent activities that might prove helpful, please email them to Angela at admin@venta-group.org. Thank you very much!

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

Church Administrator Angela Bell admin@venta-group.org 491619

(please ring Angela during office hours rather than evenings or weekends)

www.venta-group.org

[@venta-group](https://twitter.com/venta-group)



Caistor St Edmund

The House to House collection for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal will take place between the 28th October and 12th November.



Arminghall

Christmas Coffee Morning,
Saturday 12th November 10am to 12 noon in the village hall. Donations for raffle prizes and other festive items will be very welcome.

Advent Service of Light

4pm on Sunday 27th November. Light refreshment will be served.

Carol Service

Sunday 11th December at 6.30pm. We shall be entertained by "Wensum Valley Bell Ringers", they will play carols and light festive music. Mulled wine and nibbles will be served after the service.

We are serving a Christmas meal in the village hall on Saturday 17th December at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £8.00 each will be available from Annie or Pat. In advance please for catering purposes. Bring your own drinks.

Poringland Community Cinema, at Poringland Community Centre **MONEY MONSTER (15), Friday 11th NOVEMBER**

High stakes thriller, as a financial TV host and the producer are put in an extreme situation when an irate investor forcefully takes over the studio.

Stars: Julia Roberts, George Clooney

Tickets £5

Includes cup of tea or coffee before the show

Doors open 6.45pm film starts at 7.30pm

Tickets on sale at Budgens or on the door

Thursday Club at St George's Hall

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd November, 2016. 1.30 for 2pm. Please come along and join us for an enjoyable afternoon of tea and chat. You will be made very welcome.

Bingo - Dates for November will be the 9th and 23rd - eyes down 1.45pm

Carpet Bowls - Dates for November will be the 2nd, 16th and 30th - we commence at 1.30pm - cost for this is £2

We are holding our November Fayre on Saturday 12th November, 2016. 1pm - 3pm

Please come along and get your bargains for Christmas - Delicious cakes and preserves, nearly new stall, books, bric-a-brac, tombola, grand draw etc and of course a cup of tea.

Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall



Monday 9.00-1.00

Wednesday 1.15-4.15

**Stoke Holy Cross Tuesday
Group, Stoke Church hall
November 15th—Matthew
Williams
How Solid is the Ground under
Norwich**

**Bixley PC Meeting at 7pm
Arminghall Village Hall
Wednesday 2nd December**

**Stoke Holy Cross
Matinee Group**

Christmas is coming!

Look out around the villages for our Christmas posters, and the cards through your letterbox from the beginning of December

11th December Stoke carols 10.30am,
Arminghall carols 6.30pm

13th December Dunston carols 7.30pm

18th December Caistor carols 4pm,
Carols around the tree at the Church Hall

**Caistor St Edmund Parish Council
meeting 16th November at Framingham
Earl High School**

**Thursday November 10th
Photo Quiz**