



THE MAGAZINE OF THE VENTA GROUP

SEPTEMBER 2021



SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

A FEW PHOTOS FROM OUR RECENT HOLIDAY CLUB

- see inside for more details.



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Stationary

can't remember when I was first told the way to remember how to spell stationary or stationery, probably when I started working as a typist at Norwich Union fresh out of City college. I can't quite believe it but as part of our induction we (there were 3 or 4 of us who started at the same time) had weekly spelling tests with our manager. She gave us a list of 300 words we had to learn. Anyway, when you're writing about envelopes or paper it's stationery, when you're writing about standing still, it's stationary. As the schools/colleges/universities re-open I like to see the stationery they have in the shops - in the widest possible sense. Journals, planners, A4 or A5 writing or refill pads, pens, pencils all excite me and maybe others reading this too. Being stationary, doesn't have the same excitement but I need both in my life.

At times we need to be stationary. We need to catch our breath and rest, wait a while to restore our souls. Like the Psalmist says, He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. Being still is good for you – yes even those activists amongst us. It helps our well-being or keeping well. Being stationary doesn't mean you have to sit doing nothing. How many of us take the opportunity when we're stationary in traffic to listen, really listen to some music or the talking on the radio or a podcast. That reminds that the bible tells us to meditate on the words of the bible, to not clear our minds but to chew over words from scripture. Savour them. Really take them on board. For there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. As we enter a new season of the year, autumn, we as a church, are entering a new season.

This month we are excited to start (or maybe re-start is more appropriate for those of you with



long memories of village life), youth ministry in the villages. Come along to the playing field on the afternoon of Sunday 12 September to find out more.

Also this month we will be joining in the Big Church Read (https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/) and reading Bouncing Forwards by Patrick Regan. If you'd like to join us, get in touch with me. In our Sunday morning gatherings we have some visiting speakers who are going to help us look at the life of Joshua from the bible. Joshua was a man whose life didn't stand still but like many of us, learnt that in order to bounce forwards, he had to listen and spend time with God. The Hebrew translation of the name Joshua is Jesus, and Jesus ministered to those who he met in the same way as Joshua lived his life, having first spent time with God. Before we could launch the youth ministry or decide what book to read in our groups, we similarly asked God and listened for his voice. Do you want to learn to do the same? Come and join us for there's lots to be excited about

this month – new stationery, being stationary but also Bouncing Forwards.

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

ADMINISTRATOR

Carolin Buchholz admin@venta-group.org 01508 492305 | 07879 197741

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)

ST GEORGE'S HALL BOOKINGS:

Joyce Williams 492143

STOKE CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS:

Viv Carrington 493438

STOKE HOLY CROSS PAVILION BOOKINGS:

Anita Rose (Parish clerk) 491709

We would love to feature your village organisation

IN A FUTURE MAGAZINE

just get in touch and we will see what we can do! Email: ventafree4all@outlook.com

FROM THE REGISTERS WEDDINGS

LOUIS JOHN BLACKBURN

and **CLAIRE MARIE DENNIS** 21st August at Stoke Holy Cross

LAUREN DAWN READ

and **ROSS OLIVER MITCHELL** 28th August at Stoke Holy Cross

MARTIN GRAHAM WALKER

and HEATHER ENID WELLS 31st August at Stoke Holy Cross

THANKSGIVING

for the gift of a child for **THEODORE ASHER BARRATT**

and WILLIAM MARK BARRATT 15th August

NEXT EDITION

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



Caistor St Edmund Church



We are delighted to be able to tell you that is again open every day now. With COVID restrictions in recent months the Caistor Church building was only open twice a week but we are pleased to say is has now returned to be open every day from 10am until 5pm.

Many visitors pop in when walking round the Roman Town and in just this week (at end of July) there have been several comments left by different people in the Visitors book - Amazing ! Beautiful. Silence is golden. Beautiful ambiance. Thank you for the chance to be here. Thank you for opening your doors, lovely peaceful church. Very welcoming, thank you. A simple, elegant and peaceful space.

These visitors were from Essex, Sheffield,

Hampshire, Leeds, Wimbledon, Canada and U.S.A. It is great to know that our church is appreciated by people from far and wide!

Thank you to the band of volunteers who take a turn to unlock and lock each day.

And don't miss our last Cream Teas this summer on sturday Sontamber 4th 2021 2pm 5pr

Saturday September 4th 2021 2pm – 5pm. With plants, garden produce and cake stall



Help to save Norfolk's wonderful old churches Take part in the Bike Ride & Walk, Saturday 11th September 2021



Bike, walk, ride or drive around the beautiful Norfolk countryside, stopping off at as many churches and chapels as you can along the way. Be sponsored for your visits or simply make a donation to the Norfolk Churches Trust. Your monies can be shared with a nominated church or chapel or go directly to the Trust. Whatever you choose to do you will know that your money is helping to preserve these ancient and important buildings for future generations to enjoy.

The joy of the Bike Ride is that it fits around you. You can start from your doorstep or go to an area you have never explored before. Take to the road on your own or meet up with friends or family.

The Bishop of Norwich says "I am delighted to support the Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride and would encourage you to show your support by taking a ride or drive around our beautiful county. Our churches are sacred and special places – treasure troves of memory for generations of people. They belong to all the community and this is a great opportunity to play your part in their repair and preservation for future generations."

How to register this year. There is online registration again this year via the website https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride/ If you would prefer, you can probably still register with the paperwork available through your parish church and you may be able to collect a leaflet from our Assistant Priest, Lyn - details on page 3



ST MARY'S CHURCH ARMINGHALL



We are delighted to tell you that St Mary's will be open for a

Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 26th September at 16.00pm

It will be rather special as it will be the first service held indoors since lockdown! We extend our greetings and invitation to everyone in Arminghall especially, and indeed to all, as we are at last able to open our doors again.

Please do come along and enjoy the service with us.

ST GEORGE'S HALL DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

We are delighted to be able to be open again as we seek to provide a place to relax for those with dementia and for their carers. Come along and join



us for some fun activities together. Plus there are always coffee and biscuits at a very modest sum. Our wonderful group of volunteers enable many carers to enjoy a welcome break. Games and crafts are always available and regularly have speakers plus occasional outings.

We meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Mondays - 10 to 12 noon at St George's Hall.

Our dates for **September** are **13th** when we are going on a coach trip to Gorleston and on **27th** we shall be entertained in the hall with 1950s 60s and 70s music by the Squee Gees Duo.

For more information ring 01508 493661, 01508 8495580 or 01508 849238 or look us up on our new website st.georges-dementia-support-group.org

Stoke Holy Cross Holiday Club

We had a really great time for 3 days at the end of July with 25 or so primary school age children. We were able to use the school hall with grateful thanks to the Head Teacher.

We played an assortment of games and enjoyed many different activities as we all learned a bit more about the wonderful world God created for us all to enjoy.

There are lots of pictures on the front cover. Do you recognise anyone? And here are a couple more including one of Rob having just received plate of cream in his face for I can't remember quite what. They also show the stage, set up with a rocket cabin and a screen on which we learned about science and some of our greatest scientists.





Back to school

hat does that phrase mean to you? I suspect the answers to this will vary widely across the age-groups depending on your personal experiences.

For me as a child, that was the phrase that signalled the end of holiday freedoms and an extremely challenging trip (for all concerned) 'up the city', to buy school shoes, uniforms and winter coats that we would 'grow into'! (No online shopping or well-known factory shoe shop to save the day then). Don't get me wrong, I was one of those kids who liked school, and uniform shopping aside, looked forward to going back, I just didn't want to be reminded about the going back during the 6 weeks off.

As parents we sometimes have mixed feelings about the children going back to school. Spending more time together going out, doing fun things, or just relaxing and not having the chaos of the school run, the 'has everyone got clean uniforms?' or the 'what do you want in your lunchbox?' dilemmas are all a blessing. But for some the holidays can be a difficult time for many reasons, and going back to school can feel like a relief.

On a purely practical level we know that most of us don't have the training and skills to teach our children on a daily basis, and they probably wouldn't listen to us if we did. 'That's not how we do it at school' (flashbacks of home-schooling in lock-down...inner scream).

Be comforted in the knowledge that even the teachers I see in term time had the same experiences with their own kids!

By the way, did you know that Jesus was an awesome teacher? Never mind classes of 30, he often taught open-air lessons to thousands of people in one go, and even turned foodbank provider by feeding them all afterwards. The Bible says: 'When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching.' (Matthew 7:28) But even he needed to take a break and get away by himself for a little bit of peace and quiet and have some time to reflect and talk to God. The Bible says: 'After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.' (Matthew 14:23)

So, as a parent, don't feel guilty if part of you is looking forward to the children going back to school so you can have some time to yourself again without being constantly in demand, if it was good enough for Jesus, it's good enough for you too. If you find it tricky to get some alone time and 10 minutes is all you can manage, take a look at an app called Lectio 365. It has daily 10 minute podcasts that you can download and listen to offline, perfect for use in the car or walking the dog, or just sit quietly with a cuppa before you get busy. You can do your own little bit of learning about the awesome things

that Jesus taught about and start your day on a peaceful note. **Tracey**



As we promised last month here are the other comments from year 6 children as you all prepared to take the step up to High School. We wish you all the very best at you various new schools.

I am excited for high schools I can make lots more friends and I can have a bigger friend group. I am also excited to meet new people and have a larger variety of lessons.

I have been looking forward to moving up to Framingham Earl High School since our transition day because there's a new topic I would like to try. I will also miss primary

school because I will miss every single teacher that has ever taught me. I'm really going to miss primary school, but I am hopefully going to enjoy high school just as much.

I'm really looking forward to high school because it will be an exciting new beginning. Although, I am a bit apprehensive because I have to leave all my friends from primary school. During this school year I have really enjoyed PE because it is my favourite subject.

I will miss Stoke and my friends. I'm also excited about moving to high school. I will also miss the teachers at Stoke and the dog Moss.

I feel excited to leave my primary school because I had my transition day yesterday, but I also feel upset because I am leaving a lot of teachers and friends behind. But I met new friends and teachers yesterday.

I am really looking forward to high school because there will be more lessons and opportunities to meet new people. It will be a new start but I'm still disappointed to be leaving the teachers and friends.

I am excited to move to high school and meet new people. I enjoyed the time at primary school and I will miss having a small building and not having to move around too much but I am excited to have different teachers.

I feel I am ready for high school. But, it will be sad to leave my other friends!

I'm excited to go to Framingham Earl High School because I can make new friends and meet new people. At Fram it's 4 times the size of Stoke so it will take time to know the whole place. Going to different classrooms for each lesson will be a struggle but that's not like primary!

I am really looking forward to high school, as there is a bigger school and I will have an opportunity to meet new people. Although I am sad to leave primary school behind I am just as much excited to move on. I have made a lot of memories at Stoke Holy Cross that I won't forget and hopefully I will make many more at high school. I will miss this school very much. I'm excited to go to Fram because there is a lot of new people to make friends with. I'm also excited for science because we get to do experiments.

I am really looking forward to high school. I feel like when you move to high school, you have more independence. It is not like primary school where there are 200 people and in Fram there is that in a year so it will be a good experience.

I've really enjoyed my time at Stoke Holy Cross Primary School because of all the friends I have made. I am excited about going to Fram because I am excited to make new friends.

I am not look forward to high school as there is not as much fun stuff. I will miss my friends that are going to different schools. I will miss all the memories I had here at Stoke.

I feel quite sad that we are leaving our friends but it will be worth it since you have better food and have more fun lessons. Also you'll meet other people to make up for your old friends.

I have had an amazing time at Stoke Holy Cross Primary School so I am quite nervous for high school. But, I'm also excited to make new friends and sad to leave some friends behind.

I am really excited about going to high school as I will make more friends and there are more lessons to do like food tech. I'm also a bit sad as some friends are going to different schools.

I'm very happy with my experiences at Stoke but I am moving on to Harleston High. The friends I made at Stoke were really nice but now I'm moving onto making more friends in Harleston.

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 (First meet after Covid restrictions) THURSDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 1.30pm

Carpet Bowls for **SEPTEMBER** will be on **THURSDAY 9th & 23rd** cost for this £2 - 1.30pm start

Bingo for SEPTEMBER will be on THURSDAY 16th & 30th -1.30pm eyes down

Why not come along and meet new friends?

Join the Thursday Club. Give Carol a call on 01508 492132 to find out more.

A FEW HOWLERS FROM CHRIS

Six- Thirty is the best time on a clock. Hands Down.

What's the difference between the people in Dubai and Abu Dhabi?

The people in Dubai don't like the Flintstones but the people in Abu Dhabi do.

A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.

I have a step ladder at home. I never knew my real ladder.

I tried to change my computer password to Beefstew1 but it wasn't Stroganoff.

I was once asked what is your greatest wish?. I said if I could change the colour of one of the seven dwarfs I would dye Happy.



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP, PRAYER AND COMMUNITY IN DUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

Stoke Holy Cross Services

Every Sunday | 10:30am | in person 12th September | 4pm | Fun at the Park Celebration

You are welcome to join us in person for Sunday worship. We celebrate communion every other week and have family friendly services in September instead of separate Lighthouse family sessions.

Arminghall Services

26th September | 4pm | Harvest Service if you would like to donate something to Norwich Foodbank, please bring non-perishable items.

Caistor Services

5th September | 9:30am | Praise and Worship 19th September | 9am | Holy Communion Caistor Church is open every day 10am - 5pm

Morning Prayer on Zoom

Tuesday - Friday I 9am & Saturday I 10am Start your day by praying together with others for our lives, community and nation. Zoom Meeting - ID: 385 426 921

We are looking forward to gather with you! Please get in touch if we can help you in any way.

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For more information, please phone 01508 500993

Do come along and join us!

The WEA is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 1112775) and in Scotland (no. SC039239)

Amazing Grace Wordsearch

С	В	G	G	Ρ	S	0	U	Ν	D	D	S	U	Ζ
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Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I'm found Was blind but now I see.

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come,

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures, He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease, I shall possess, within the veil, A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, The sun forbear to shine, But God, who called me here below, Will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's prise Than when we first begun.

John Newton; published 1779

John Newton slave trader

John Newton (1725-1801) was a militant atheist, bully and blasphemer. He was a wild and angry young man. He was press-ganged into the Navy at the age of eighteen where he broke the rules so recklessly that he was publicly flagged for desertion. He was hated by his crew mates and himself became a slave trader.

At the age of twenty-three, Newton's ship encountered a severe storm off the coast of Donegal and almost sank. He called out to God as the ship filled with water and on that day, March 10th 1748, God rescued him. He began a new life. He started to pray and read the bible. Eventually he joined William Wilberforce in the campaign to abolish the slave trade and became a leading light in the campaign.

Newton is best known as the author of the hymn "*Amazing Grace".*

PRECIOUS	SEE	YEARS			
SUN	PEACE	GRACE			
JOY	SHIELD	DANGERS			
GOD	THOUSAND	BLIND			
TOILS	PRAISE	WORD			
WRETCH	SAVED	SNARES			
HOME	AMAZING	SWEET			
PORTION	SOUND	TEN			



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