



The monthly newsletter from the churches of  
St Nicholas Stevenage + St Mary's Graveley



[www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](http://www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

[www.saintmarysgraveley.org.uk](http://www.saintmarysgraveley.org.uk)

Dear friends,

September, 2022

### Home Groups

As we re-launch the Home Groups at St Nicholas, it has led me to reflect on the time I became a Christian and the question asked of me was, "Do you want to join a Home Group?" It seemed a good idea at the time, so I joined and I've been part of a small group structure for the majority of my Christian life, although they may have been called by other names, but they were basically a group of Christians meeting in a home, to look at the bible and how it impacted on our lives.

However, I think it's always good to look from the other side, so the question may be, "Do I really need to be part of a Home Group?"

In Christian life, we are born to be in a community and small groups allow people to have closer and more intimate relationships with each other. The main function of our Home Group structure at St Nicholas is bible study, this enables us to build deeper relationships with one another, along with accountability to one another and practical support as well as being able to pray for each other's needs.

To sum it up, I think in essence, small groups should attempt to imitate what Jesus did with his disciples and what the early church did together, which can be seen in Acts 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers." (KJV)

So, God wants us to be in fellowship with others who know and love him and want to follow him. On 17<sup>th</sup> September, there is a benefice breakfast at St Nicholas at 8.30am where we will look at Home

Groups, what are your hopes, desires, and fears? Why not come along?

In the meantime, there is a list at the back of church for those who wish to be – or are currently - in a Home Group, it would be helpful if you could put your name on that list.

Would you prayerfully consider joining a Home Group within St Nicholas or St Mary's?

### Interregnum Update

As Churchwardens, first and foremost, we would like to thank everyone for the help and encouragement that we have received.

Over the last couple of months, the PCCs of both St Nicholas and St Mary's have been meeting and we set up groups to produce a Parish Profile which will give those who apply to be Rector of the Benefice a "flavour" of the parishes and the lives of both churches. There have been 22 people meeting in groups and numerous others who have been inputting information and ideas into the Parish Profile which has enabled the following timetable of events, which have been agreed with the Diocese.

- The Parish Profile has been agreed in principle at a joint PCC meeting and it is in the final editing and proof-reading stage. There is a joint PCC meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September when the Parish Profile will be adopted by both PCC's.
- Following the joint PCC meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting with the Diocese, this is called a pre-vacancy meeting, and the Diocese will explain the process, particularly the interview process.
- The PCCs have agreed to advertise the post in the Church Times as well as within the Diocese and other websites such as the Church Society.
- The proposed dates of the process are - Application closing date to be 26<sup>th</sup> October, short-listing on 7<sup>th</sup> November and interviewing on 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- The interview panel will be: Bishop of St Albans, the Rural Dean, the Archdeacon of Hertford, Mike Wilton, Karen Walker, Eunice Sirkett, and Andrea Kelly.

Should there be a successful candidate, we could have a new Rector before Easter.

Please speak to the Churchwardens if you would like more information on the process.

**Mike Wilton, Church Warden, St Nicholas Church**

## Special Events this September

**ST NICHOLAS FLOWER GROUP:** The flower group will be restarting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Several new people will be starting this month and if you are interested this is always a good time to come and see what we do. Come along on the 8<sup>th</sup> to either session: 10am-12.30pm (arriving at 9.30am), or 7-9pm (arriving at 6.30pm).

### CHURCH BREAKFAST:



### DAVE'S INDUCTION:

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm - at Saint Paul's Church, Devon Square, Newton Abbott. All are welcome.

### RACHAEL AND BERNIE MULUUTA:

The latest news from our Crosslinks partners in Kampala, Uganda, can be found here:

<https://www.crosslinks.org/people-and-places/africa/rachael-muluuta/august-2022/>

There is a copy of their newsletter on the lobby noticeboard in church.

### CHANGES TO THE PATTERN OF SUNDAY

**WORSHIP:** Both churches will have services of Holy Communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, and Services of the Word on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays will be joint Services of the Word - starting at 10:30am, with the venue moving between the 2 churches.



This month our **prayer gatherings** are as follows:

Tuesdays 7am-8am on zoom: 13<sup>th</sup> + 27<sup>th</sup>

Wednesdays 7:45pm-9pm in St Nicks: 7<sup>th</sup> + 21<sup>st</sup>

*St Nicholas will also be open for **visitors and private prayer** on Tuesdays from 2-4pm, Wednesdays from 12noon-2pm and Thursdays from 10am-12 noon*



4<sup>th</sup> Hebrews 10: 19-39

11<sup>th</sup> Hebrews 11: 1-40

18<sup>th</sup> Hebrews 12: 1-13

25<sup>th</sup> Psalm 107: 1-43

### Preachers for September:

4<sup>th</sup> - Graham Squires

11<sup>th</sup> - Rev David Miller

18<sup>th</sup> - Mark Aldham

25<sup>th</sup> - Rev Ray Porter – Harvest Festival

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**St Nicholas Church Walking Group** – The next walk is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September from the White Lion, Walkern, at 10.00 am. A circular Walk northward along Beane Valley to Cromer Windmill and back to pub for lunch. The walk is approx 5 miles. Appropriate clothing and foot wear needed as always. Please let Karen Cattell know if you are joining them and if you are stopping for lunch.

## KEY CONTACT DETAILS

St Nicholas Church, Rectory Lane, Stevenage, SG1 4DA  
St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Graveley, SG4 7LY

### CHURCH WARDENS:

St Nicks Mike Wilton – 07946 140909

St Nicks Karen Walker – 07427 576870

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St Mary's Eunice Sirkett – 07709 248625

Enquiries for weddings, funerals and baptisms –  
07733 995779 or [admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)