



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



www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk
www.saintmarysgraveley.org.uk

Dear friends,

November 2022

One of the most beautiful blessings we have in this world is the evolving seasons and as we enter autumn, we witness the exciting display of colour in the leaves and foliage around us. Autumn provides us with an opportunity to slow down after a very hot and unusual summer but for the church, it is an exciting time as we start thinking about our activities for Christmas and how we can share the wonderful saving news of our Lord Jesus Christ. The long dark evenings also offer us an opportunity to turn in and reflect on what we hope for as Bible-believing Christians and as a church during this period of interregnum.

For months, we have been praying for the process of appointing a new rector and we are now very excited to have received applications and are looking forward to interviewing on 30th November. This draws my mind to when Samuel was sent to Jesse to appoint a King for Israel. Jesse had seven sons and from the descriptions provided in the book of 2 Samuel, we read that they were strong, strapping men who from appearance, were fit to be Kings. Six of Jesse's sons were paraded before Samuel with the hope that one of them would be chosen to be King! As they appeared, Samuel thought, "Surely, the Lord appointed stands here before the Lord". How convincing that might be! But the Lord rejects all of them. I can only but imaging Samuel's surprise and disappointment. Jesse paraded 6 of his sons but none of them passed the test until David was brought in from tending his sheep to meet Samuel. Shall we say, David was not dressed to be anointed as King! He was tending his sheep, but the Bible

says, he was glowing with health, had a fine appearance and handsome. The Lord instructs Samuel to anoint David as King not because he was handsome, because we read in 2 Samuel 7 that the Lord does not look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart! David was a good shepherd who fought for his sheep. True godly leadership stems from the heart and may this be our focus as we pray for a new rector.

Please pray for the Bishop, Archdeacon, the Parish representatives and the Rural Dean when the shortlisting process is held on the 7th November and interviews on the 30th November. As we read applications and interview the candidates, we pray for the Lord to give us Samuel's listening ear, discernment, and obedience to tune into the voice of the Lord. Please pray for the candidates and their families in their preparation to meet us.

Continue to pray for the upcoming events and planning for Christmas.

May the Lord bless and keep you.

In Christ,

Eunice Sirkett, Church Warden St Mary's Church

Special Events this November

Women's Breakfast - Sat 12th Nov at 8.30am in the Parish Room at St Nicholas. Everyone welcome, to enjoy each others company and grow in faith in Jesus together. Sign-up sheet at the back of St Nick's or if you'd like to know more please speak to Karen, Evelyn, Jeannette or Sue.

Guitar Workshop - Martin Bailey will be running a guitar workshop on Saturdays 12th, 19th and 26th Nov and 3rd Dec from 9.30 - 10.30am. Come along to St Nicholas, (bring a guitar) and learn how to play some basic chords. Speak to Martin for more details.

Weston Music Concert - Sat 19th Nov at 7.30pm at St Nicholas. **The Maggini Quartet** – one of the finest British string quartets - twice nominated for Grammy Awards. See their website for more details: [Weston Music Society](http://www.westonmusic.org.uk)

Tickets are available now through: [Weston Concerts present The Maggini Quartet Tickets, St Nicholas Church, Stevenage | TryBooking United Kingdom](http://www.westonmusic.org.uk) Standard tickets will be £20. Young people (25 and under) £5.

Tickets will also be available to buy on the door.

Newcomers Afternoon Tea - Sun 20th Nov at 3pm, for anyone who has been coming to the church for less than a year. Sign-up sheet at the

back of St Nick's or speak to Karen for more details.

St Nicholas Church Walking Group – The next walk is on Thurs 24th Nov from The Red Lion Preston, at 10.00 am. The walk is approx 5 miles. Suitable footwear and clothing for this time of year as it may rain and the fields will definitely be wet and muddy. Please let Karen Cattell know if you are walking and if you want to book for lunch.



Also, the processing centre in Cambridge needs volunteers to check the shoeboxes before they are packed for shipment overseas.

Please bring your filled boxes into church between 14th – 20th November

Contact **Stuart Marshall** for further details

S Club are desperately in need of new leaders - from November, S Club will only be able to run once a fortnight unless some new leaders come forward. Please speak to Mike, Karen, John Knight or Mark Parker if you could help in this way. Training will be given, and DBS checks completed.

Sunday Morning Refreshments Rota - One or two more volunteers are needed to fill the coffee rota after church on Sundays at St Nicholas - please speak to Robin, or one of the churchwardens if you can help

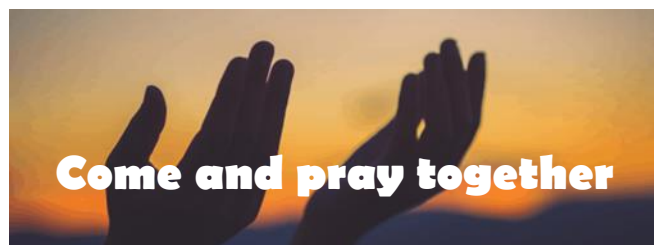
CHANGES TO THE PATTERN OF SUNDAY WORSHIP: Both churches will have services of Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, and Services of the Word on 1st and 3rd Sundays. 5th Sundays will be joint Services of the Word - starting at 10:30am, with the venue moving between the 2 churches.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Four Winds Saxophone Quartet – Fri 2nd Dec at 7.30pm at St Nicholas.

Tickets £15 on the door (or £12 in advance from: [Four Winds Saxophone Quartet at St Nicholas' Church event tickets from TicketSource](#))

Children under 18 and students in full-time education: £10 (£7 in advance)



This month our **Prayer Meetings and Services of Evening Prayer** are as follows:

Wednesdays 2nd & 16th

7pm-8pm Benefice Prayer Meeting at St Nicks

Wednesdays 9th & 23rd

7am-8am Early morning prayer on Zoom

7pm-7.30pm Evening Prayer at St Nicks

Wednesday 30th

7pm Prayer and Praise at St Nicks

*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*



6th Genesis 16: 1-16 13th Genesis 17:1-18:15

20th Genesis 18:16-19:29 27th Luke 1: 1-25

Preachers for November:

6th Philip Walker 13th Rev Andy Thomas

20th Jon Woodrow 27th Rev Ray Porter

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

churchwardens@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

St Mary's Eunice Sirkett – 07709 248625

Enquiries for weddings, funerals and baptisms – 07733 995779 or admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk