



# THE HERALD

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



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

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

Dear friends,

June 2023

The changes of the seasons, with their charming characteristics, remains one of the amazing creations of our God. Be it the darkness and coolness of autumn and winter which allows a time for rest and restoration; or the spring and summer which allows for rebirth and growth. Whichever way we look at it, there is a season for everything under the sun and this ebb and flow of life is what change is. King Solomon in Ecclesiastes 3 writes that there is a time and a season for everything under the heaven and God makes everything beautiful in its time. We are about to experience a change in our churches and benefice as we welcome Reverend Edward Keene as Rector. Edward is married to Hannah and after a period of interregnum, we are looking forward to this wonderful change and a new season which the Lord has made beautiful in His time.

Change as we know it can be a period of testing but also a time for growth and renewal. Change theorists purport that the process of change can be unsettling physically and emotionally because the familiar may be altered. Sometimes, this effect has been likened to grief reactions such as denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. It can be argued that these emotions are helpful to

enable us to navigate the change process, but not always.

The book of Exodus chronicles the Israelites journey from Egypt to the promised land. This change was one which was needed and was due, but it was not easy and we are fully aware of the time of testing which Moses and the Israelites endured. Their faith was severely tested when they saw Pharaoh and his best army pursuing them; their walk through the Red Sea; their thirst and hunger in the wilderness, their obedience/disobedience to the law and so much more until they reached the promised land under the leadership of Joshua. The bible explains how the people of Israel experienced all the emotions of the afore-mentioned change reactions; however, the testing was necessary to refine and develop them into what God wanted them to be and the merciful presence of God was with them at every stage of the journey.

My friends, this is what makes the difference to us who are bible-believing Christians. As we negotiate and embrace our new season of change, may we not depart from the Word of God which provides the answers to whatever the question or the emotion might be. The omnipotent and omniscient, omnipresent God know our needs before we ask Him.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, Edward will be installed as Rector and many of us will be there to witness this occasion. Please pray for both Edward and Hannah as they start their ministry and new life in Stevenage. Please pray for Bishop Alan, Archdeacon Janet, our Rural Dean Andy Thomas, the church wardens and all those involved in the service.

Please pray for yourselves, asking the God of peace to prepare your heart and mind for this period of change. And remember that the prayers of the righteous availeth much!

God bless you

**Eunice Sirkett - Church Warden, St Mary's**

## EVENTS THIS JUNE

**Licensing of Revd Edward Keene as the new Rector of the Benefice of St Nicholas and Graveley - Monday 19th June at 7.30pm at St Nicholas Church.** Please RSVP to the churchwardens if you would like to attend.

### **Pastoral Care Training:**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 3.15pm - 6.30pm (session 1)  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am - 1pm (session 2)  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 9.15am - 1pm (session 3)  
All held at St Nicholas Church - open to anyone who would like to know about pastoral care or is thinking about joining the pastoral team. Sign-up sheet in church, or speak to Karen.

**Stevenage Day: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June from 12 – 5.30pm on St George V Playing Field.** Lots of free fun activities, and a main performance area and the twin stages of [Rock in the Park](#). With a wide variety of specialist food vendors, and over 200 stalls dedicated to charities, voluntary organisations and local businesses.

On Tues 13<sup>th</sup> & Sat 17<sup>th</sup> June, **Bridge Builders** will be holding two tabletop sales at St Paul's Church, Roebuck. The resources on the tables will include fabrics, office stationery, books, games, props and much more which could be suitable for Sunday school activities, youth activities, sermon props, church admin, or just for personal purchase.

**St Nicholas Church Walking Group** – The next walk is on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**. More details to come in the weekly email.

### **Results of the St Nicholas Church APCM 2023:**

The following were elected:  
Churchwardens: Mike Wilton and Karen Walker  
Deputy Warden: Steve Bamford  
Deanery Synod Reps: Cathy Bibby and Stuart Marshall  
PCC: Anthony Taylor, Paul Schimmel and Mark Parker

**Flower arranging** - please see Chris Chambers for more details – full training given. Thurs 10am-12pm, & 6.30pm-9pm at St Nicholas. More info and meeting dates are on the notice board in the parish room.

**PATTERN OF SUNDAY WORSHIP:** Unless otherwise stated, 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.



Every Wednesday, there will be an Act of Prayer at St Nicholas Church – either a Benefice Prayer Meeting at 7.30pm, or a service of Evening Prayer at 7pm – check the church calendar for details:

[Calendar – St Nicholas Church \(saintnicholaschurch.org.uk\)](#).

Every other Wednesday, on the same week as Home Groups, there will be an Early Morning Prayer meeting on Zoom.

*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> June Luke 8: 16-25 11<sup>th</sup> June Luke 8: 26-39  
18<sup>th</sup> June Luke 8: 40-56 25<sup>th</sup> June tbc

### **Preachers for June:**

4<sup>th</sup> June: Graham Squires (MC)

11<sup>th</sup> June: Revd David Miller (HC)

18<sup>th</sup> June: Philip Walker (MW)

25<sup>th</sup> June: Revd Edward Keene (HC)

## **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](mailto:churchwardens@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

St Mary's Eunice Sirkett – 07709 248625

General enquiries and for weddings, funerals and baptisms – 07733 995779

[admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Bridge Builders**  
Christian Trust

# TABLE TOP SALE

STATIONERY, FABRICS, BOOKS, GAMES & MORE ~ REFRESHMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE

**TUESDAY 13TH JUNE**  
10AM - 2PM

**FREE ENTRY**

**SATURDAY 17TH JUNE**  
9AM - 12PM

**St Paul's Methodist Church,**  
Turpins Rise, Stevenage, SG2 8QR

## Equipped to Engage with Stories

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 5-6.30pm**

Be equipped to unpack several big themes found in all the stories in popular culture, and to show how each of them echoes the Bible and points to Jesus.



**Speaker:** Tony Watkins

Fellow for Public Engagement at Tyndale House, Cambridge. He interfaces biblical insight with the stories and media of our day.

**Hosted by Grace Community Church (SG2 9XJ)**

In partnership with Longmeadow and St Nicholas Churches