



# 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,

August 2023

At the end of July we enjoyed a fifth-Sunday joint benefice service. Joseph from Compassion UK, one of our mission partners, kindly came and preached on the mystery of Christ, from Ephesians chapter 3;

*'This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.'* – Ephesians 3:6

What good news! We gentiles are included in God's people thanks to Jesus. As Romans puts it, we have been grafted into God's olive tree.

That 'ingrafting' of gentiles might have shocked Jews at the time, who had become accustomed to think they alone were to enter God's kingdom. The surprise and delight of inclusion should not be lost on us by over-familiarity. We do not have a right to be in God's household – but by grace we are saved!

May that unmerited kindness of God toward us be our principal meditation this summer, whether at home, at work...or on the beach!

Best wishes,

Revd Edward Keene

Rector, St Nicholas Stevenage and St Mary  
Graveley

## SPECIAL EVENTS COMING UP

**St Nics Summer Fun Day** – There will be light refreshments and children's activities in and around the churchyard **2pm-5pm on Saturday 26 August** (BH weekend).

It is likely to be a slightly smaller scale version of the Easter Fun Day. Please contact the Rector or Wardens if you can assist in any way. Flyers will be at church for distribution to the parish on Sunday 13 August.

**St Nicholas Church Walking Group** – The next walk is on **Friday 1 September**. More details to come in the weekly email. Likely to be at Whitwell this time.

**Herts Police Choir Concert** – at St Martin's Church, Knebworth – in aid of Bridge Builders. **Monday 11 September** at 7.30pm. It should be a great evening; the choir make no charge for their singing so every valuable penny will count towards Bridge Builders' school projects.

## HERTS POLICE CHOIR

will be in concert at

**ST MARTIN'S CHURCH  
KNEBWORTH SG3 6ER**

**Monday**

**11<sup>th</sup> September**

**7.30pm**

**Tickets cost £8.00** (in advance)

or **£10 on the door**

(Tea/Coffee/Biscuits included)

Reserve your ticket by emailing

[knebworthparishchurch@gmail.com](mailto:knebworthparishchurch@gmail.com)

All money raised will go to support the work of



## Theological Study Opportunities

There are several organisations offering theological study (including part-time, flexible, and online) which may be of interest to those in the benefice, to further equip us for the Lord's service. Three in particular are highlighted below - Oak Hill College (where Rev Ray Porter teaches), Kings School of Theology (which Jacky Swanson is registered with), and the Proclamation Trust (which Philip Walker has done in the past).

[Oak Hill College, Enfield](#) - Flexible Learning modules are a great chance to be built up in your faith, equipped for ministry, or to dip a toe in theological education whatever your situation, whether you're at home, working, involved in church or community work, in the UK or beyond. From £475 per module.

- Biblical studies
- Church history
- English Puritanism
- Introduction to Christian Ethics
- Introduction to the World Church
- Pauline Theology
- Place & Season, Others & Self
- Scripture for Theology and Ministry
- Spiritual Formation in the Reformed Tradition
- Word Ministry
- Worldview, Anthropology and Culture

[Kings School of Theology](#) (KST) - Offers flexible part-time short courses in theology aimed at those who want to deepen their Christian faith. The courses are delivered by experienced practitioners and theologians eager to support all students to succeed, whatever age, educational background and church experience. Several interesting courses are due to begin in September 2023 and January 2024:

- [Exploring the Bible: lenses to help you see Scripture more clearly](#)
- [New Testament Greek 1](#)
- ['Practical Revelation': an exploration of how the book of Revelation can inform our discipleship today](#)
- [The Book of Ruth](#)

Why not take a look at what's on offer and learn something new to help grow your faith?

[Proclamation Trust Cornhill Course](#) - A one-day per week training course in Central London. Their training will benefit anyone with a word ministry in the local church and all you need is a firm commitment to the trustworthiness and sufficiency of scripture, and a willingness to learn and serve. Foundation year 1 and Foundation year 2 will be run in-person from their offices in Elephant & Castle. They encourage all prospective students to visit them for a day to see for themselves what Cornhill entails. The deadline for 2023-24 applications has passed, however they may still have a limited number of spaces available. Applications for the 2024-25 academic year will open in November 2023.

Contact [cornhill.admissions@proctrust.org.uk](mailto:cornhill.admissions@proctrust.org.uk) for further information.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Unless otherwise stated, both churches will have services of Holy Communion (HC) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, and Services of the Word (MW) 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 two churches.



|                         |                      |      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> August  | Ephesians 3: 14-21   | (MW) |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> August | Ephesians 4: 1-16    | (HC) |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> August | Ephesians 4:17 - 5:2 | (MW) |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> August | Ephesians 5: 3-14    | (HC) |

## MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES



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](http://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 2.30-4.30pm*

**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.

## KEY CONTACTS

**RECTOR:** Revd Edward Keene, 2A North Road, Stevenage, SG1 4AT Tel: 01438 356610

Day off: Saturday

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

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)