



THE HERALD

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



www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

www.stmarysgraveley.org.uk

Dear friends,

September 2023

It is so good to know God 'who is love' (1 John 4:8) and to be gathered into a people whose foundation is love (however imperfectly expressed it may be at present).

We were reminded as we began chapter 5 of Ephesians in our Sunday services recently to '*live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God*' (Eph 5:2).

Jesus' love for us meant more than just warm feelings and good thoughts – it meant costly sacrifice. He 'gave himself up for us' as a sacrifice on the cross to pay the penalty for sin that we rightly deserved. What amazing love!

As we meditate on Jesus' incredible selfless love for us, we are empowered to show that same quality of love ourselves, toward those whom God has set around us in our lives.

While new school years begin in our parishes, may we all pause to consider where the Lord is calling us to either continue serving others or to begin doing so, according to our abilities.

With love & best wishes

Revd Edward Keene

Rector, Stevenage (St Nicholas) and Graveley
with Chivesfield (St Mary)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Unless otherwise stated, both churches have services of Holy Communion (HC) on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and Services of the Word (MW) on 1st and 3rd Sundays. 5th Sundays are joint Services of the Word - starting at 10:30am with the venue alternating between the two churches.



3 rd September	Ephesians 5: 15-2	(MW)
10 th September	Ephesians 5:21-6:4	(HC)
17 th September	Ephesians 6: 5-9	(MW)
24 th September	Ephesians 6: 10-24	(HC)

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES



There are benefice **home groups** currently meeting on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings and Wednesday afternoons. Please ask Edward if you wish to join one.

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

Every other Wednesday, on the same week as home groups, there will be an **early morning prayer** meeting on Zoom. Ask Edward for details.

*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.

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP

- **St Nicholas Church Walking Group** – The next walk is on Friday 1 September starting at 10 am from the The Bull, 34 High Street, Whitwell, SG4 8AG. As always, wear suitable clothing and footwear for time of year and bring a drink/water. Please let Karen Cattell know if walking and if you wish to stop for lunch.

- **Children's Tea Party** – Saturday 2nd September from 3 - 5pm at the Vicarage (2A North Road), for all children and parents, and anyone involved with S-Club and youth work. Please let Edward or Hannah know if you can come.

- **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
11th 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
All money raised will go to support the work of


- **Growing Good Course** – The Stevenage Deanery will run the Church Urban Fund's *Growing Good* course over six Saturday mornings (10am to 12 noon) in the Autumn.

- 9 Sept at All Saints Church, Pin Green
- 16 Sept at All Saints Church, Pin Green
- 23 Sept at All Saints Church, Pin Green
- 30 Sept at St Hugh & St John's, Chells
- 7 Oct at St Hugh & St John's, Chells
- 14 Oct at St Hugh & St John's, Chells

If anyone from the benefice would like to attend, please let Edward know to get signed up.

- **MoMENTum Men's Breakfast** - Saturday 23rd September 8.30 - 10am in the Parish Room at St Nicholas. Dr Bernard Palmer from LGC will be the guest speaker.

- **'Living Out' event in St Albans** - Saturday 30th September from 9am - 1pm. Speak to Edward for more details.



'Living Out' St Albans Event
9am to 1pm Saturday 30 Sept: £10

- Bible teaching about marriage, identity and sexuality
- How the Bible can speak into our culture's view of sexuality with a 'better story'
- To help churches to be loving communities for all people, whether married, single, divorced, same-sex attracted, or otherwise



- **SAVE THE DATE of the Benefice Weekend Away** – Fri 22 to Sun 24 March 2024 at Sizewell Hall, by the beach in Suffolk. More details TBC.



KEY CONTACTS

RECTOR: Revd Edward Keene, St Nicholas House, 2A North Road, Stevenage, SG1 4AT Tel: 01438 879049
Day off: Saturday
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
St Mary's Eunice Sirkett – 07709 248625

General enquiries and for weddings, funerals and baptisms – 07733 995779
admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk