



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,

November 2023

It is a season of remembrance. We recently held a memorial vigil in St Nicholas for families who have lost loved ones in the past few years and we will shortly mark Remembrance Sunday in both parishes.

In some sense every day is a day of *remembrance* for Christians, as so much of our faith is about remembering all that God has done for us in Christ.

'I would *remind* you, brothers and sisters, of the gospel', Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15, 'that Christ died for our sins...that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day'.

As we remember these past events, our confidence in the future is settled, because a *risen* Jesus means a *returning* Jesus.

That confidence gives us hope in the present, knowing that death is not the end either for ourselves or those who have already died. Instead, as we remember, we do so with Christian optimism that 'death has been swallowed up in victory' (1 Cor 15:55).

With love & best wishes

Revd Edward Keene

Rector, Stevenage (St Nicholas)
and Graveley with Chesfield (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.



5 th November	Psalm 6	(MW)
12 th November	Psalm 7	(HC)
19 th November	Psalm 8	(MW)
26 th November	Psalm 9	(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 8am **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 10th November starting at 10 am from The Lytton Arms, Park Lane, Old Knebworth, SG3 6QB. Approx 5-mile walk. As always, wear suitable clothing and footwear for time of year and bring a drink/water. Please let Karen Cattell know if you are walking and wish to stop for lunch.

Equipping the Saints Series – Christian Witness at Work with the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity – Sunday 12th November at 6.30 – 8pm at St Nicholas Church.

Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child – can you spare some time to be at St Nicholas for people in Stevenage to drop-off their filled shoeboxes? Mon 13th – Fri 17th Nov 2 – 4pm, and Sat 18th Nov 11am – 1pm. Please contact Stuart Marshall if you can help. Also, please bring your gift-filled shoeboxes to St Nicholas by Sunday 20th November.

Women's Faith and Fellowship – Friday 1st December at St Nicholas Church – 7pm. Soft pot making and gospel talk. £5 on the door.

Christmas Brass Band Concert at St Nicholas Church – Saturday 2nd December at 7.30pm. All proceeds to be split between the WGC Band and

Bridge Builders Christian Trust. Tickets £7.50 on the door, children free.

Latest details for the Benefice Weekend Away – Fri 22nd to Sun 24th March 2024 at Sizewell Hall, by the beach in Suffolk. Guest speaker – Revd Dr Lee Gatiss. Book your place with Edward on rector@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

Adults: £140 (£130 if booking pre-15 Nov)

18-25s: £120 (£110 if booking pre-15 Nov)

Adult non-resident: £100

Adult day visitor: £70

Under18s/children: Free

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 (on sabbatical)

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

admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

Advent & Christmas at St Nicholas Church

- Sat 2 Dec: St Nic's Day (1pm) & Brass Band (7:30pm)
- Sat 9 Dec : Stevenage Singers (4pm)
- **Sun 10 Dec:** Carols by Candlelight (6pm)
- **Sun 17 Dec:** 1st Christingle service (3pm)
- **Sun 24 Dec** (Christmas Eve): 2nd Christingle service (3pm)
 - & Midnight Communion (11:30pm)
- Mon 25 Dec (Christmas Day): Family service (9:30am)
- **Sun 31 Dec** (7th Day of C'mas): Benefice service @St Nic's (10:30am)

