



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,

December 2023

At the recent PCCs annual away day, I spoke briefly from Matthew 28 on our commission to 'make disciples'. That task of making disciples was Jesus' closing command to the apostles in the gospel and remains the central purpose of the church to this day, to the glory of God.

Making disciples here in C21st Hertfordshire has its own challenges and opportunities but the task is a shared one and the Holy Spirit empowers us collectively, as the body of Christ in our parishes, to accomplish the work.

Discipleship begins with the good news going out to people and a response of faith. We certainly pray that there will be plenty of that happening over Christmas.

But a disciple – a learner – is more than just a convert. They are people trained to listen to Jesus and to follow him closely. Each one of us who know Jesus is called to this and indeed called to bring others with us in walking with the Lord. So here's an option for a new year resolution: who will you disciple in 2024?

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.



3 rd December	Matthew 21: 1-13	(MW)
10 th December	Luke 21: 25-32	(HC)
17 th December	Matthew 11: 2-10	(MW)
24 th December	John 1: 19-28	(HC)
31 st December	Matthew 1: 18-25	(MW)

NB. 31st December will be a Joint Benefice Service of the Word at St Nicholas at 10.30am followed by a benefice bring & share lunch

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 \(saintnicholaschurch.org.uk\)](http://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

Advent Study Groups - If you are not already in a home group and would like to join in with the study for Advent, please speak to Edward. We will be working through a book by Matt Searles - *Comfort and Joy*.

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

Carol Singing at St Nicholas Shops – Saturday 2nd December at 1pm

Christmas Brass Band Concert at St Nicholas Church – Saturday 2nd December at 7.30pm. Proceeds to be split between the WGC Band and Bridge Builders Christian Trust. Tickets £7.50 on the door, children free.

St Nicholas Church Walking Group – The next walk is on Friday 8th December starting at 10 am from The Cricketers Pub, Damask Green Road, Weston, SG4 7DA. Approx 5-mile walk. Please let Karen Cattell know if you are walking and wish to stop for lunch.



Carols by Candlelight – Sun 10th Dec at 6pm at St Nicholas & 17th Dec at St Mary's at 6.30pm

MoMentum Men's Breakfast - Saturday 9th December 8.30am at the Standing Order.

Christingle Services – Sun 10th Dec at 11.30am at St Mary's, & 17th & 24th Dec at St Nicholas at 3pm

Christmas Eve –
9.30am at St Nicholas (HC)
11.30am at St Mary's (Carols around the Crib)
3pm at St Nicholas (Christingle)
11.30pm at St Nicholas (Midnight Communion)

Christmas Day Family Communion – Mon 25th Dec at 9.30am at St Nicholas & 11.30am at St Mary's

N.B. No 11.30am service at St Mary's on the 17th or 31st Dec

KEY CONTACTS

RECTOR: Revd Edward Keene, St Nicholas House, 2A North Road, Stevenage, SG1 4AT Tel: 01438 879049
Day off: Mondays
rector@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

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 and Christmas Services

ST NICHOLAS

Sun 3rd Dec:
9.30am Service of the Word

Sun 10th Dec:
9.30am Holy Communion &
6pm Carols by Candlelight

Sun 17th Dec:
9.30am Service of the Word &
3pm Christingle Service

Sun 24th Dec:
9.30am Holy Communion &
3pm Christingle Service &
11.30pm Midnight Communion

Mon 25th Dec:
9.30am Family Communion

Sun 31st Dec:
10.30am Joint Benefice Service of the Word



ST MARY'S

Sun 3rd Dec:
11.30am Advent Carols and Communion

Sun 10th Dec:
11.30am Christingle Service

Sun 17th Dec:
(no 11.30am service)
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Sun 24th Dec:
11.30am Carols around the Crib

Mon 25th Dec:
11.30am Celebration Communion

Sun 31st Dec: (no 11.30am service)