



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,

March 2024

*I am not ashamed of the gospel,
because it is the power of God*

With these words the book of Romans begins. We might feel ashamed of various things in life, from the trivial (a bad hair day) to the profound (a broken relationship). But one thing of which we should never be ashamed is the good news ('gospel' in Anglo-Saxon, 'evangelion' in the original Greek). This good news about Jesus is 'the power of God' to reconcile anyone with their creator.

Who wouldn't want to know God himself and to be safe in his arms in the face of death and judgement? The good news of Jesus is the powerful key and guide to this relationship.

As those unashamed of the good news, the gospel, the evangelion, we are 'good news people', or 'evangelicals'. As we saw in our recent Romans series, appreciation of the good news of rescue necessitates awareness of the bad news of danger. Both are equally true, but not equally welcomed. As such, being 'evangelical' is not always plain sailing. Let's continue to pray for the gospel, and the Lord who gave it, to be known in our parishes.

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.



3 March	Romans 6: 15-23	(MW)
10 March	Romans 7	(HC)
17 March	Romans 8: 1-17	(MW)
<u>Palm Sunday</u> 24 March	Luke 19.28-40	(HC)

NB. The service on the 24th will be a Joint Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's at 10.30am led by Revd Ray Porter

Easter Sunday 31 March John 20: 1-10 (HC)

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES



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

Every Wednesday at 7pm, there will be an **act of prayer** at St Nicholas Church – either a benefice prayer meeting, or a service of evening prayer – check the church calendar for details:

[Calendar – St Nicholas Church \(saintnicholaschurch.org.uk\)](http://saintnicholaschurch.org.uk).

Every other Thursday, on the same week as home groups, there will be an **afternoon prayer meeting** 2pm – 2.45pm at St Nicholas.

*St Nicholas will also be open for **visitors and private prayer** on Tuesdays from 2-4pm, Wednesdays from 12noon-2pm and Thursdays from 10am-12pm & 2.30-4.30pm.*

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

EVENTS IN EASTER WEEK

Celebrate Easter at St Nicholas and St Mary's

Palm Sunday Service

24th March – 10.30am joint service at
St Mary's Graveley.

Maunder Thursday Service

28th March—3pm at St Nicholas Church.

Good Friday Meditations

29th March - 3pm at St Mary's Graveley.

Easter Saturday Family Fun Day

30th March - 1-4pm at St Nicholas Church.
See overleaf for details

Easter Sunday Family Communion Services

31st March - 9.30am at St Nicholas and
11.30am at St Mary's Graveley.

For more details see:

www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk
www.stmarysgraveley.org.uk

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP

Men's Breakfast – Saturday 9 March at 9am at the Vicarage, followed by **garden working party** at 10am – men and women welcome!

Weston Music Society Concert at St Nicholas – Saturday 16 March at 7.30pm - Alastair Penman (saxophone) and Jonathan Pease (Piano). For tickets see: [Weston Concerts present Alastair Penman and Jonathan Pease Tickets, St Nicholas Church, Stevenage | TryBooking United Kingdom](#)

Church Weekend Away 22-24 March – Last chance to book; please email Edward ASAP if you wish to come but have not yet booked. Day visitors just on the Saturday also welcome.

Graveley Village Hall Week – Saturday 23 March from 2-5pm at Graveley Village Hall – activities and stalls to show various groups running in the village, free tea and cakes.

St Nicholas Parish Consultation on the frequency of Communion across the benefice - please see the link below to the article:

[The Country Parson or the Parish Communion movement? \(laudablepractice.blogspot.com\)](http://laudablepractice.blogspot.com)

St Nicholas Walking Group – The next walk is on Friday 5 April. Meet at 10am at The Raven, Village Street, Hexton SG5 3JB for a walk on Pegsdon Hills. Approx 5-mile walk. Please let Karen Cattell know if you are walking and wish to stop afterwards for lunch.

Christian Institute Regional Presentation – Thursday 25 April at St Nicholas. An evening bringing us up to date on key public issues for our awareness and prayer. More details to follow.

KEY CONTACTS

RECTOR: Revd Edward Keene, St Nicholas House, 2A North Road, Stevenage, SG1 4AT Tel: 01438 879049
Day off: Mondays

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CHURCH WARDENS:

St Nicks Mike Wilton – 07946 140909

St Nicks Karen Walker – 07427 576870

churchwardens@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

St Mary's Eunice Sirkett

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

admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH
EASTER
SATURDAY
FUN DAY
SATURDAY 30th March
1pm-4pm
TEDDY BEAR ZIP WIRE
EASTER EGG HUNT
FLOWER GROUP STALLS
TEA + CAKES
For more details see
www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

Reminder! - Joint benefice service on **Palm Sunday** 24 March – as many of us will be away at Sizewell Hall on Palm Sunday, there will just be a single service in the benefice at 10:30am at St Mary's Graveley, led by Revd Ray Porter.