



# 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,

April 2024

Christ is Risen! Yet to the average Briton, Easter means chocolate eggs and school holidays. Do these things have much to do with the reason for the season?

We can give thanks that the two central feasts of the Christian faith, Christmas and Easter, are culturally recognised with holidays and the exchange of gifts. Nonetheless this should not make us complacently neglect exposing why these celebrations occur.

The gift of eggs to mark Easter was a natural choice for people who had stored this product uneaten during the Lent fast. It was however the resonance with resurrection which cemented eggs as the gift of choice and secured their transition to the age of chocolate.

Jesus is the 'firstborn from the dead' (Colossians 1) and the promise of life from a tomb is perhaps dimly reflected in the promise of life from the humble form of an egg. May the hope of life with God fill our hearts and minds this Easter season.

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 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.



7 April	John 20: 19-23	(MW)
14 April	John 10: 11-16	(HC)
21 April	John 16: 16-22	(MW)
28 April	John 16: 5-15	(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](http://www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)  
([saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](http://www.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.

A big 'thank you' to all who helped with the flowers for Easter – stunning displays in both St Nicholas and St Mary's

## OTHER EVENTS COMING UP

**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.

**Weston Music Society Concert at St Nicholas** – Friday 19 April at 7.30pm –. For tickets see: [Weston Concerts present students from The Purcell School Tickets, St Nicholas Church, Stevenage | TryBooking United Kingdom](#)



**WESTON CONCERTS**

**Students from the Purcell School**  
**Friday 19 April 7.30pm**  
**St Nicholas Church**  
**Stevenage**

Shostakovich String Quartet  
Turina - La oración del torero  
Mendelssohn, String Octet

Tickets  
£20 or FREE to anyone in full time education  
available from  
<http://www.trybooking.com/uk/CZLZ>

or here 

**Women's Faith and Fellowship Breakfast** – Saturday 20 April at 8.30am in the Parish Room at St Nicholas.

**Christian Institute Regional Presentation** – 7pm to 8:30pm Thursday 25 April at St Nicholas. An evening bringing us up to date on key public issues for our awareness and prayer.

**St Nicholas Parish Consultation** on the frequency of Communion across the benefice - please see the link below to the article and pass any comments/feedback to Edward:  
[The Country Parson or the Parish Communion movement? \(laudablepractice.blogspot.com\)](http://laudablepractice.blogspot.com)

## SNAPS FROM HOLY WEEK



Figure 1 The church weekend away by the sea at Sizewell Hall



Figure 2 Good Friday walk of witness in New Town



Figure 3 Easter Saturday families fun day

## KEY CONTACTS

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### CHURCH WARDENS:

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St Mary's Eunice Sirkett

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