



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,

May 2024

During the Easter season we have begun many of our Sunday services with the Easter Anthems; three Bible verses which have been specially used in church at this time of the year for over 1,400 years. The first of the anthems, from 1 Corinthians, reads:

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us: so let us celebrate the feast, not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Under the *old* covenant the Jews celebrated God's rescue of them by sacrificing a lamb and baking unleavened bread. Under the *new* covenant we also have a lamb and an unleavened bread, but after a spiritual rather than an immediate sense.

Our paschal lamb is the Lord Jesus and the reminder of His great once-for-all sacrifice should prompt us, the anthem indicates, to remove the 'leaven' of evil from our lives.

Christ loved us so much as to offer up His life for us. May we offer up ours to Him in thanks.

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.



5 May	John 16: 23 – 33	(MW)
12 May	John 15:26 – 16:4	(HC)
19 May	John 14: 15 – 31	(MW)
26 May	John 3: 1-15	(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 \(saintnicholaschurch.org.uk\)](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.

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP

Men's Breakfast – Saturday 11 May at Stuart Marshall's home. Speak to the Rector for more details.



Newcomer's Welcome Meals – Sunday 12 May at 3pm or Tuesday 14 May at 7pm. If you're new to either church and would like to come along, please speak to Edward or Hannah.

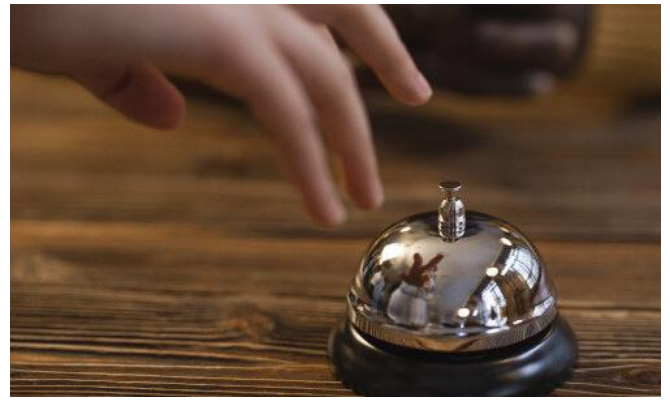


St Nicholas Walking Group – The next walk is on Friday 17 May. Meet at 10am at The Red Lion, School Lane, Preston, SG4 7UD. Approx 5-mile walk. Please let Karen Cattell know if you are walking and wish to stop afterwards for lunch.



Annual Parochial Church Meetings – Sunday 26 May at 10.45am at St Nicholas and 12.45pm at St Mary's, following the morning services.

Anyone who is on the Church Electoral Roll may vote at the meetings, but even if you are not on the Electoral Roll, you are warmly encouraged to stay and listen. If you are not already on the Electoral Roll and would like to be, please complete an application form from the back of church and hand it to the Rector, church wardens or electoral roll officer (Elaine Forster for St Nicholas).



Oak Church are running an outreach to Barnwell School on Thurs 30 – Fri 31 May. Please let the Rector know if you are able to assist.

On Sunday 2 June, there will be a **Baptism** in the morning service at St Nicholas.



Vicarage Summer Garden Party – Saturday 20 July from 2 – 5pm. Please let Edward or Hannah know if you plan to come and if you can assist in any way (2A North Road).



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

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