



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,

June 2024

Knowing Jesus Christ transforms us. By nature, we are self-focussed, with our own needs and desires and those of our own immediate family uppermost. Jesus, by contrast, laid aside everything, including his own life, for the well-being of others, even those who hated Him.

As part of our renewed, transformed life in Christ, Romans 12:13 exhorts us 'seek to show hospitality'. The original Greek word which our English Bibles render as 'hospitality' is '*philoxenian*'. A more literal translation of this phrase would be '*show love to strangers*'.

Showing love to strangers might take many forms, from giving a hearing to those we disagree with, to giving friendly advice or help without thought of compensation, to visiting or calling someone who is lonely. Nonetheless, the Bible translators are consistent in giving a particular focus in their renderings to the love shown by hosting others.

We will all be in different situations and abilities to 'show hospitality', but may I encourage us to seek to use June to consider how we are going about fulfilling this particular aspect of Christian living.

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.



2 June	Psalm 10	(MW)
9 June	Psalm 11	(HC)
16 June	Psalm 12	(MW)
23 June	Psalm 13	(HC)
30 June	Psalm 14	(MW)

NB. 30th June 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, 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 usually 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.

Results of Elections at the Annual Parochial Church Meetings – on Sunday 26 May, Karen Walker was re-elected as Church Warden for St Nicholas. There will be a special meeting of parishioners on Sun 23 June at 11am in the vestry to fill the casual vacancy for the other warden.

There are vacancies for both churchwarden posts in Graveley.

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP

Women's Faith and Fellowship Breakfast – Saturday 8 June 8.30 – 10am in the Parish Room at St Nicholas. Evelyn Wilton will give her testimony.

St Nicholas Walking Group – there is no planned walk in June, but the next walk will be on Friday 12 July from Kevin and Linda's farm. Meet at 10am at Fairhaven Farm, Slip Lane, Rabley Heath, Welwyn, AL6 9UN. Approx 5-mile walk, followed by a picnic on the farm. Please bring your picnic and drinks to have after the walk. Also wear appropriate clothing/footwear and carry water, suncream etc. Please let Karen Cattell know if you are coming along.



Afternoon Tea and Trains
Saturday 22nd June at 3pm
at Stuart and Christine's home
Contact Stuart via
admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

Hospitality Month – throughout June, there is the opportunity to invite or receive hospitality, maybe a coffee & cake, or lunch, or an evening meal, with someone from the congregation – fill out one of the green hospitality cards in church to invite someone to share with you - concludes on Sunday 30th June with a....



Bring and Share Church Lunch

in the Parish Room at St Nicholas,
 after the

10.30am Joint Benefice Service on

Sunday 30th June

Bring something ready to eat and share

Love Stevenage Events:

		<h3>Summer Fetes</h3>
<p>St. Mary's Summer Fete St. Mary's Churchyard - Sat 6th July 11.00am - 2.00pm Free entry, small charge for side shows <i>St Mary's Church Shephall</i></p>		
<p>Summer Fayre The Oval - Sat 6 July 11am to 2pm - Free entry and free parking (outside weather permitting, otherwise in the church and the community centre) <i>All Saints Church jointly with the community association</i></p>		
		<h3>Community Action</h3>
<p>Litter Picking St Nicholas Park - Sat 6 July from 2pm - Everyone welcome <i>Great Ashby Community Church</i> Avenue refresh The Avenue, from St Nicks Church down to Old Town (especially the pedestrian bridge over Martins Way) Sat 6 July 3pm - 5pm. Open to anyone, grab a sponge, and help out. Refreshments marquee for all <i>St Nicholas Church</i> Litter picking Sat 6 July 10am - Outside St Hugh and St John Church We'll provide all that is needed <i>St Hugh and St John Church</i></p>		
		<h3>Free Events</h3>
<p>Community Cream Tea - free event Sat 6 July 3pm - 4pm - Longmeadow Church Please book your place: Tinyurl.com/LongmeadowCreamTea <i>Longmeadow Evangelical Church</i></p> <p>Family fun afternoon - free event Sat 6 July 2pm - 4pm - St Peter's Hall & Church, Broadwater Crescent SG2 8AN Bouncy castle, hook a duck, crafts, refreshments, face painting <i>St Peter's Church</i></p> <p>Costa coffee Youth event Fri 5 July - See website for more info: www.oakchurchstevenage.org <i>Oak Church</i></p> <p>Coffee morning Sat 6 July 10am - 12 midday - United Reformed Church - Everyone welcome <i>United Reformed Church</i></p>		
		

Baptism of Ryan – The next baptism due at St Nicholas will be that of Bright and Cynthia's newborn son Ryan, on Sunday 14 July.

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
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