



# 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,

July 2024

“No one is perfect.” That is a saying almost everyone will agree with. The average person generally doesn't call it 'sin', but they are at least vaguely aware of the reality that they do have faults.

So what do we make of Psalm 15 saying:

*[Q] O LORD... Who shall dwell on your holy hill?*

*[A] He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart*

Blamelessly! Wow. Only the 'blameless' will dwell on God's holy hill (i.e. with him in heaven). “That counts me out”, most of us would say, when we are being honest.

Thankfully, there is one person who it does not count out – Jesus Christ. Good news for him.

Even more thankfully, another Psalm promises “Blessed are all who take refuge in him” (Psalm 2:12). Good news for all of us! We might not be blameless, but so long as we trust in Jesus we can enjoy all the benefits of his blamelessness ourselves. Praise the Lord!

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 July	Psalm 15	(MW)
14 July	Psalm 16	(HC)
21 July	Psalm 17	(MW)
28 July	Psalm 18	(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 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.*

**Outreach** – Thursdays 3pm-4pm for hot drinks and Fridays AM or PM for door-to-door. Speak to or email Edward for details.

**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

**Women's Faith and Fellowship Lunch** – unfortunately postponed this month – but keep an eye out for the new date to be confirmed.

**St Nicholas Walking Group** – 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.

**Archdeacon's visit** – The archdeacon of Hertford, Ven. Janet Mackensie will be visiting the benefice next week as part of her usual visits to the parishes in the Hertford Archdeaconry. She will be at Sunday services on 14 Jul and midweek activities on 18 Jul.



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

**Breakfast and working party** – all are welcome to a breakfast and garden working party in the vicarage from 9am on the morning of Thurs 18 July. We hope to prepare the space for the benefice garden party on 20 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). Bring & share dishes very welcome.



### **St Mary's Church, Graveley 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Afternoon**

**BH Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
2 - 5 pm  
at**

**Graveley Hall Farm,  
St Mary's Church, & the Maze  
at Crow End, Graveley  
(or Graveley Village Hall in the case of rain)**

**Tea, Homemade cakes, Tombola & Raffle.  
Tractor rides to Graveley Fruit Farm &  
Bouncy Jumping Pillow  
Donations for Tombola & Cakes gratefully  
received. Call Gill on 07990584678**

**St Albans Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship (DEF)** – individual members of the benefice churches are encouraged to consider joining our local diocesan evangelical fellowship. You can do so via their website here: [www.stalbandsdef.org.uk](http://www.stalbandsdef.org.uk)

**Bible By the Beach 2025** – Please save 2-5 May 2025 for a fun parish outing to Bible by the Beach in Brighton! More details to follow.

## KEY CONTACTS

**RECTOR:** Revd Edward Keene, St Nicholas House, 2A North Road, Stevenage, SG1 4AT Tel: 01438 879049  
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**CHURCH WARDENS:**  
St Nicks: Karen Walker – 07427 576870  
St Nicks: Paul Schimmel – 07743 786414  
[churchwardens@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

St Mary's: Eunice Sirkett (until end July)  
Contact Form – [St Mary's Church, Graveley](http://StMarysgraveley.org.uk)  
[stmarysgraveley.org.uk](http://StMarysgraveley.org.uk)

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