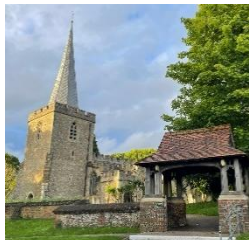




# THE HERALD

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,

August 2025

Few of us have ever known serious thirst. Clean drinking water is thankfully available to us easily. But in the summer, we do often see the ground thirsting, gardens and fields turning slowly brown in dry spells.

Such seasonal dryness was well known to the Bible authors, so familiar with the near east. Rain when it came was for them a profound blessing, bringing refreshment and life. One psalm takes this much-needed precipitation as a picture of the messiah himself:

*May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!*

(Psalm 78:6)

Ground dried by the summer soaks up rainwater gladly. Likewise, souls that know the need of a saviour gratefully receive Him and desire more of Him. As He dwells among us by His Holy Spirit, we are refreshed, revived, and made fruitful to His glory.

As we enjoy the summer rain in our gardens so let us also pause to thank the Lord for the abundant life-giving rain that is Jesus.

Revd Edward Keene

Rector, Stevenage (St Nicholas)  
and Graveley with Chesfield (St Mary)

## SUNDAY WORSHIP



3 August	John 3: 22-36	(SotW)
10 August	John 4: 1-30	(HC)
17 August	John 4: 31-54	(SotW)
24 August	Psalms 25	(HC)
31 August	Psalms 26	(SotW)

## USUAL MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES



- Monday 2pm – **Home Group** (Poplars/Shephall)
- Monday 8pm – **Home Group** (near St Nicholas)
- Tuesday 2pm-4pm St Nicholas (usually) open for visits and quiet prayer
- Wednesday 12noon-2pm – St Nicholas (usually) open for visits and quiet prayer
- Wednesday 7pm – **Evening Prayer**  
(Prayer and Praise on the Wednesday following the first Sunday of the month)
- Wednesday 8pm – **Home Group** (near Oval)
- Thursday 10am-11am – St Nicholas open during church maintenance team operations
- Thursday 2:15pm – **Weekly Prayer Meeting**
- Thursday 3pm-4pm – drinks & biscuits drop-in
- Thursday 8pm – **Home Group** (St Nics estate)
- Thursday 8pm – **Home Group** (Chells Manor)
- Friday AM/PM – door-to-door outreach

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

**Flower arranging** – Please see Chris Chambers for more details – full training given. Occasional Thursdays 10am-12pm, & 6.30pm-9pm at St Nicholas. More details on the church noticeboard.

**Bellringing practise** – Various times

Other midweek activities, including courses, special services and events are as announced.

*Please speak to the Rector for more details  
of any of the above*

## EVENTS COMING UP



Please contact Martin Bailey for booking on to the summer holiday club.

**Church Walking Group** – Friday 29 August at 10am details to follow on our webpage: [Next Group Walk – St Nicholas Church](#) for latest updates. Please let Edward or Karen Cattell know if you are walking.



### St Mary's Church Open Afternoon (Supported by Graveley Village Hall)

on

**Bank Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

**2 - 5 pm**

held at

**Graveley Hall Farm (next to the church) SG4 7LY**  
(or Graveley Village Hall in the case of rain)

Church, Maze and Graveley Hall Farm garden open



Tea, coffee, homemade cakes and scones

Tombola, Raffle, Games, Face-painting &

Tractor rides to Graveley Fruit Farm & Bouncy Jumping Pillow.

Car parking available.

**God's Grace  
through Peter**

**Saturday 6 September**

**Annual Church  
Away Day**

at Oak Hill College, Chase Side, London N14 4PS  
Main speaker – Rev'd David Banting

**10am to 5pm (lunch included)**

**SIGN UP TODAY:  
Email David S**

**FREE  
(donations  
welcome)**

**Annual Benefice Away Day** – please speak to or email David to sign-up or for more details. Over 80 of us are signed up already. Don't miss out! Those who have signed up should have received an email with dietary needs, travel, and donation details.

## FURTHER AHEAD



Weddings coming up in the churches:

- 23 Aug: Robert Fisher & Matha Warner-Smith
- Sat 27 Sept: David Taylor & Alys Kent
- Fri 3 Oct: Tony Baccas & Jo Quinlivan
- Sat 4 Oct: Robert Coverdale & Liz Bond
- Thus 23 Oct: Jon Maggs & Chermaine Fraser

**Cream Tea**

In support of Bridge Builders

Come and join us for homemade scones, cakes and drinks at

**St Peter's Church**  
The Willows, Broadwater, Stevenage SG2 8AN

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
**from 2pm**

Suggested donation £5

**Bridge Builders Afternoon Tea** at St Peter's Broadwater. Please book via the BB website.

Focus session:  
**How to pray for others**

3pm - 4pm Sunday 5 October  
St Nicholas Parish Room

Do you struggle to know how to pray for other people? Would you like confidence to do so? Then come along to this focus session and grow in exercising the gift of prayer.

## KEY CONTACTS

**RECTOR:** Revd Edward Keene, St Nicholas House, 2A North Road, Stevenage, SG1 4AT

Day off: Mondays [rector@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

**ASSISTANT MINISTER:** David Sydenham  
[assistant@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](mailto:assistant@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

### CHURCH WARDENS:

St Nicholas: Karen Walker – 07427 576870

St Nicholas: Paul Schimmel – 07743 786414

[churchwardens@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

St Mary's: Two vacancies for churchwardens

[Contact Form – St Mary's Church, Graveley](#)  
[stmarysgraveley.org.uk](mailto:stmarysgraveley.org.uk)

General enquiries – 07733 995779

[admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)