

Dear Church Family,

As we welcome the Seventh Sunday after Trinity, we find ourselves fully embraced by the warmth of summer and the steady rhythm of **Ordinary Time**. This week, our readings invite us to look at the soil of our hearts, reminding us that God is an extraordinarily generous sower, scattering His Word abundantly across our lives. Jesus shares with us the profound truth that when we truly hear, understand, and nurture His message, it takes deep root and flourishes:

"He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.'" — Matthew 13:24-25

Our Prayers

We continue to hold Reverend Steven Young in our steadfast prayers, asking for continued strength, comfort, and steady progress in his health and recovery. Our thoughts, hearts, and prayers also remain with Father Matthew and his son, Christian. May God guide and protect Reverend Steven and his family as he leads our Parish, and may his ministry continue to flourish for years to come.

We also offer a prayer of deep gratitude and blessing for Reverend Louise. Lord, thank You for her dedicated service, her compassionate heart, and the warmth she brings to our community. We pray for her continued good health, strength, and well-being. Grant her refreshing rest, time with her family, abundant energy, and a deep sense of peace in her daily life. May she always feel uplifted and supported by the same love she so generously shares with all of us.

Amen.

In Memoriam

We lift to you our beloved organist, John Winter, who passed away peacefully on Sunday, 21st June. We give you profound thanks for the gift of his life, his dedication, and the beautiful music he shared that so often lifted our hearts and brought us closer to You. As he joins the heavenly choir, grant him eternal rest and let light perpetual shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through your mercy, rest in peace. Comfort his family, friends, and our entire community as we mourn his loss. Wrap them in

your peace that passes all understanding. Our love and prayers with Gloria, Ben, Michael, Nick and Tim.

Gloria has shared the funeral details for her late husband, John. You can view the service information via the link below:

<https://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/funeral-notice/21-06-2026-john-harold-winter/>

Gracious and loving God, we come before you with heavy hearts as we mourn the passing of your servant, Reverend Cate Irvine. We thank you for her life, her faith, and the dedicated ministry she shared so generously with her community. Thank you for the ways she shepherded your people, spoke your truth, and offered comfort to those in need. Her earthly journey has ended, but the seeds of love, kindness, and faith she planted will continue to grow in the hearts of all who knew her. Receive Reverend Cate into your arms of mercy. Grant her eternal rest, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." — Psalm 34:18



Our Sunday Service

July 19th, Seventh Sunday after Trinity. We look forward to welcoming you to worship together across the parish this Sunday for our unified service:

- **10.00 am:** Parish Service at St Nicholas, followed by A Special APCM for the accounts 2025, which were not given at the APCM in May. And PCC for Trustees.



Weekday Eucharist, Prayers & Open Church

- **Monday 20th July:** 9.30 am Morning Prayer, All Saints
- **Wednesday 22nd July:** 10.00 am Holy Communion, St Nicholas
- **Thursday 23rd July:** 9.30 am Morning Prayer, St Nicholas
- **Thursday 23rd July:** 3.00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise, St Michael and All Angels
- **Friday 24th July:** 12.30 pm Holy Communion and Open Church (from 12.00), All Saints

Can you spare an hour? We are always looking for volunteers to keep our beautiful churches open to the public during the week. If you can help, please get in touch with Reverend Steven for details, or reply to this email with "Volunteer" in the Subject line.

Books For Liberia

Councillor Alpha Bird Collins and Reverend Louise Collins are asking for help. We run a Liberian-registered charitable project called 'Action Love Liberia'. We've been going 18 years (we launched on our wedding day in 2008!) and mainly support educational development in Montserrado County, Liberia where we have a home. Over the years we have brought 100,000s of educational books and other materials to Liberia. As we speak, a 40 foot container of donated books and laptops is being shipped from County Durham to Monrovia. This work is supported by both the Government of Liberia and the Liberian Embassy in London. We are happy to provide testimonials.

We have just secured use of a lock-up garage here in Borehamwood from Hertsmere Council and are now actively collecting donated educational books and laptops from across the local community. Both are urgently needed to further education in Liberian Schools, especially Maths, English and Geography but all disciplines are welcomed. Teachers and students are being held back through lack of materials that we take for granted.

If you have any educational books or laptops you no longer need, we would be very happy to hear from you. We can collect or arrange a delivery time for you at our lock-up. If you might be able to help us sort and box the books, we will be grateful too.

Thank you as ever for your support. All best wishes,

- **Ambassador Councillor Alpha B. Collins** 07880 521971 - (WhatsApp)
Alphabird2002@yahoo.com
- **Reverend Louise R. Collins** 07759 283337 - (WhatsApp)
Louise.collins59@hotmail.com

Dates for your diaries

Our next three Parish Services are:

- **Sunday, July 19th 10.00 am** at St Nicholas
- **Sunday, August 23rd 10.00 am** at Holy Cross

- **Sunday, September 13th 10.00 am** at Holy Cross as we celebrate our Patronal Festival! We are delighted that the service will be led by the Right Revd Jane Mainwaring, Bishop of Hertford. This special Parish Service will be a double celebration, as we also welcome and formally install our Team Vicar, Reverend Louise Collins. Come and share in this joyful milestone for our church community as we look forward to the next chapter of our journey together. All are welcome!

Weekend of 16-18th October 2026. Are you passionate about seeing our parish flourish and grow? The Diocese of St Albans is hosting the Autumn 2026 LyCiG Residential Conference, and we would love to take a group from our church community.

- **When:** 16th–18th October 2026 (From 5.00 PM Friday to 2.00 PM Sunday)
- **Where:** High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon (EN11 8SG)
- **What to Expect:** A mix of inspiring seminars, practical exercises, dedicated team time, and reflection focused entirely on spiritual and numerical church growth. We are looking to bring a group of 3 to 8 people so we can best share and implement the ideas back home.

If you are interested in attending or want to learn more, please get in touch ASAP with Reverend Louise or Reverend Steven to chat about joining our parish team!

Enabling Ministry: A Message from the Diocese of St Albans

The deadline is fast approaching for the next intake of the Enabling Ministry Course. Is there someone in your context who could be:

- a Mission Enabler? – they might be involved in projects and activities to reach new people, contributing to MAPs or LYCiG implementation, evangelism, enabling others to share faith, missional activities with different groups e.g. care homes / young people / mission outreach events...
- a Discipleship Enabler? – they might be involved in helping people to grow in their faith, leading (or helping to lead) Bible studies and/or home groups, assisting in preparation for baptism and/or confirmation, teaching on discipleship courses, teaching the faith in care homes / schools / young people's groups...
- a Pastoral Enabler? – they might be involved in pastoral visiting, chaplaincy, prayer ministry, healing ministry, bereavement support, working with vulnerable groups, providing pastoral care in care homes or young people's groups...

More details, course dates and application forms here: [Enabling Ministry Course - The Diocese of St Albans](#) – or for any queries, email me.

Booking deadline: 10 August 2026.

Best wishes, Ruth

Ruth Dennigan

Discipleship and Vocations Officer and Enabling Ministry Lead, St Albans Diocese

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A Moment of Reflection

In this week's Gospel from Matthew chapter 13, Jesus speaks in the well-loved Parable of the Weeds among the Wheat. He reminds us that the Kingdom grows in a complex world where good and difficult things coexist. Sometimes we are quick to judge or want to pull up what we see as imperfect, but Christ calls us to patient trust, letting God do the sorting in His timing while we focus on growing deep roots of faith.

In a world that can often feel exhausting, frantic, fractured or divided, we are called to be communities of radical peace and patient grace here in Elstree and Borehamwood. True Christian discipleship recognises that we must intentionally tend the soil of our daily lives so that God's Word can deeply transform us and yield an abundant harvest of love and service.

- **Nurturing the Soil:** What is one "weed" or worldly anxiety you need to clear out of your heart this week to make more room for God's Word to grow?
- **Bearing Fruit:** How can our church community act as a nurturing environment to help a neighbour or friend whose faith might currently feel choked or rocky?

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest upon you and those you love this week and always.

With every blessing,

Alana

On behalf of The Parish of Elstree and Borehamwood