

Parish Newsletter: 2nd August 2026 Ninth Sunday after Trinity Edition

Dear Church Family,

As we gather on this Ninth Sunday after Trinity, we continue our journey through **Ordinary Time** under the warmth of late summer. This week, our Gospel reading brings us to one of the most beloved stories in the Gospels: the feeding of the five thousand.

When Jesus withdrew to a quiet place, the crowds followed Him. Driven by deep compassion, He healed their sick and fed the vast multitude with just five loaves and two fish—leaving twelve baskets full of fragments left over. It is a powerful reminder that when we bring our modest offerings to Christ, His grace and provision are more than enough for all:

"Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over."

— **Matthew 14:19–20**

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 give thanks for the life and faithful service of your servant, **Eugenie Robinson**. For all the quiet devotion, care, and reverence she brought to St Michael and All Angels as a faithful verger, we offer our deepest gratitude. Welcome her now into the peace of your eternal sanctuary. Surround her loved ones and her church community with your comfort, hope, and light during this time of loss.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

— **Psalm 34:18**



Our Sunday Services

August 2nd: Ninth Sunday after Trinity

We look forward to welcoming you to worship at one of our churches across the parish this Sunday:

- **9.15 am St Nicholas:** Service of the Word
- **9.30 am Holy Cross:** Service of the Word
- **9.30 am St Michael:** Holy Communion
- **11.15 am All Saints:** Holy Communion



Weekday Eucharist, Prayers & Open Church

- **Monday 3rd August:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, All Saints
- **Tuesday 4th August:** 12:00- 2:00 pm Lunchtime Prayers, All Saints
- **Tuesday 4th August:** 3:00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise and Pop-up Cafe, Holy Cross.
- **Wednesday 5th August:** 10:00 am Holy Communion, St Nicholas
- **Thursday 6th August:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, St Nicholas
- **Thursday 6th August:** 3:00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise, St Michael and All Angels (Following the Welcome Cafe, 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm)
- **Friday 7th August: No Holy Communion or Open Church at 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.



Preserve 800 Years of Local History: Join the St Nicholas Preservation Society

For over eight centuries, **St Nicholas Church** has stood at the very centre of Elstree village life. Founded before 1188, this historic sanctuary houses remarkable treasures, including medieval stonework, William Morris stained glass, and connections to figures like Charles Dickens, Scouting pioneer Sir Percy Everett, and six Commonwealth war casualties. To ensure this landmark survives for future generations, we are inviting everyone to join the newly formed **Preservation Society of St Nicholas Elstree**.

- **Open to Everyone:** Membership is open to all faiths and none. You do not need to attend church or have a religious affiliation—anyone interested in local history, architecture, conservation, or civic pride is welcome. Membership is Free.

Upcoming Events at St Nicholas Church

- **Saturday 15th August (7:00 for 7:30 PM):** Candlelit "Ploughmanesque" Founder's Supper
- **Saturday 7th November (7:00 for 7:30 PM):** "What the Dickens?" Supper (*Dickensian character costume encouraged*)

Contact & Registration:

To register your interest, become a founding member, or sign up for an event, contact **Reverend Steven Young** (Rector of Elstree and Borehamwood):

- **Email:** rector.eabw@gmail.com
- **Phone:** 07481 323040



Dates for Your Diaries

Parish Services

- **Sunday, August 23rd (10:00 am at Holy Cross),** followed by sandwiches and cake after the Service.
- **Sunday, September 13th (10:00 am at Holy Cross): Patronal Festival & Installation!** 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 formally install our Team Vicar, **Reverend Louise Collins**. All are welcome to share in this joyful milestone! Followed by a "Bring-and-Share" Buffet Lunch in the church and grounds. Please see the sign-up sheets available in church and indicate if you can bring something, as you are able.

Weekend of 16th–18th October 2026: LyCiG Residential Conference

Are you passionate about seeing our parish flourish and grow? The Diocese of St Albans is hosting the Autumn 2026 LyCiG (*Leading your Church into Growth*) 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:** Inspiring seminars, practical exercises, team time, and reflection focused on spiritual and numerical church growth. We aim to bring a group of 3 to 8 people.

If you are interested in attending or want to learn more, please contact **Reverend Louise** or **Reverend Steven** as soon as possible.

Enabling Ministry: Message from the Diocese of St Albans

The booking deadline is fast approaching (**10th August 2026**) for the next intake of the Enabling Ministry Course. Is God calling you or someone you know to be a **Mission Enabler, Discipleship Enabler, or Pastoral Enabler?**

- **Details & Booking:** Visit the Diocese of St Albans website under *Enabling Ministry Course*.
- **Contact:** Ruth Dennigan (Discipleship and Vocations Officer) at ruth.dennigan@stalbandsdiocese.org / 07311 310541.

A Moment of Reflection

In Matthew 14:13–21, Jesus faces a moment of deep personal grief and fatigue, yet when He sees the crowds, He is moved with compassion. Facing a logistical impossibility—feeding thousands with five loaves and two fish—He does not turn the people away. Instead, He gives thanks for what is present, blesses it, and offers it back to God.

This gospel reminds us that God does not require us to have overwhelming resources before He can work through us. He simply asks us to place whatever small tokens of time, love, or energy we have into His hands. In Christ's hands, our small offerings become a feast of generosity that satisfies many.

- **Abundance in Scarcity:** What small "loaf or fish" (a modest talent, a bit of free time, or a small gesture) do you feel hesitant to offer God because it seems too small? How might He multiply it if you entrust it to Him?
- **Compassion in Daily Life:** Where is Christ inviting you to show patient, unexpected compassion to someone in your neighbourhood or family this week?

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

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'"

— **Matthew 18:21–22**

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