

Parish Newsletter 26th July 2026: Eighth Sunday after Trinity Edition

 Dear Church Family,

As we welcome the **Eighth Sunday after Trinity**, we find ourselves fully embraced by the warmth of summer and the steady rhythm of **Ordinary Time**. This week, our Gospel reading invites us into a series of vivid pictures painted by Jesus—from tiny mustard seeds and leaven working through dough to treasure hidden in a field, a pearl of great price, and a net cast into the sea. Jesus reminds us of the quiet, transformative power of God's Kingdom growing in unexpected places and the extraordinary value of finding our true life in Him:

"He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'"

— **Matthew 13:31–32**

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:

July 26th, Eighth 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:** Holy Communion
- **9.30 am St Michael:** Holy Communion
- **11.15 am All Saints:** Holy Communion



Weekday Eucharist, Prayers & Open Church

- **Monday 27th July:** 9.30 am Morning Prayer, All Saints
- **Wednesday 29th July:** 10.00 am Holy Communion, St Nicholas
- **Thursday 30th July:** 9.30 am Morning Prayer, St Nicholas
- **Thursday 30th July:** 3.00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise, St Michael and All Angels (After Welcome Cafe 12.00-2.30 pm)

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:

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



Dates for Your Diaries

Our next two Parish Services are

- **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 16th–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?** – 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?** – 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?** – 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 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 reading from **Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52**, Jesus gives us several short, memorable pictures of what God's Kingdom is like. He speaks of the mustard seed—tiny and seemingly insignificant, yet growing into a vast tree that shelters the birds of the air. He speaks of leaven working quietly through dough, of treasure discovered in a field, and of a priceless pearl that inspires someone to sell everything they have just to possess it.

These parables remind us that God's work often begins quietly, in modest ways, yet carries immense value and life-transforming power. In a world that often values size, speed, and immediate outcomes, Christ invites us to value the small act of kindness, the quiet prayer, and the hidden seed of faith, trusting that God brings about an abundant harvest in His time.

- **Small Seeds, Big Growth:** What is one small, quiet habit or act of love you can plant this week that might allow God's grace to blossom in someone else's life?
- **Priceless Treasure:** When you reflect on the presence of God in your life, what "hidden treasure" or pearl of great price fills your heart with deep joy and gratitude today?

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

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour
as yourself.'"*

— Matthew 22:37–39

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