

Dear Church Family,

As we gather on this **Eleventh 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 remarkable encounters in the New Testament: Jesus meeting the Canaanite woman, whose humble and persistent faith opens the door to healing and blessing.

Leaving the region, Jesus withdrew to the area of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to Him, crying out for her daughter who was suffering terribly from demon possession. Though initially met with silence and testing, her relentless faith and humility shone through, moving Jesus to grant her heart's cry:

"She came and knelt before him. 'Lord, help me!' she said. He replied, 'It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.' 'Yes, it is, Lord,' she said, 'even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus said to her, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed at that moment." — Matthew 15:25–28

Our Prayers

We hold Reverend Steven Young in our steadfast prayers, asking God for continued strength, comfort, and steady progress in his health and recovery. We hold Father Matthew and his son, Christian, close in our thoughts and healing prayers as well. 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 for Reverend Louise. Lord, thank You for her dedicated service, compassionate heart, and the warmth she brings to our community. Grant her good health, strength, refreshing rest with her family, and a deep sense of peace in her daily life. May she always feel uplifted by the same love she so generously shares with us all.

Amen.

Our Sunday Services: August 16th: Eleventh 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: Holy Communion

- **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 August 17th:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, All Saints
- **Tuesday August 18th:** 3:00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise and Pop-up Cafe, Holy Cross
- **Wednesday August 19th:** 10:00 am Holy Communion, St Nicholas
- **Thursday August 20th:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, St Nicholas
- **Thursday August 20th:** Sorry, no Holy Communion at St Michael and All Angels
- **Friday August 21st:** 12.00 -2.00 pm Open Church and Holy Communion (12.30) 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, November 7th (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

- **Next 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 let us know if you can bring something.

Diocese of St Albans Vacancies

- PA to the Archdeacon of Hertford – Part Time (based in Hertingfordbury)
- Giving Communications Assistant – Part Time (would suit uni/college leaver)
- Property and Trust Adviser – Full Time

Further details on our website at the links below:

<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/vacancies/pa-to-the-archdeacon-of-hertford-2026/>

<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/vacancies/giving-communications-assistant/>

<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/vacancies/property-and-trusts-adviser/>



A Moment of Reflection

In Matthew 15:21–28, we meet a woman who refused to let barriers, boundaries, or quiet responses stand between her and Jesus. Though an outsider, her desperate love for her suffering daughter drove her to persist with profound humility and fierce hope. Recognising that even the smallest portion of God's mercy is more than enough, she threw herself entirely at Jesus' feet.

This Gospel reminds us that God's love breaks past human barriers and reaches anyone who calls out in sincere trust. True faith isn't about having all the right answers, but coming to Jesus with an open heart, holding onto His goodness even when life feels challenging or distant.

- **Persistent Prayer:** Is there a burden or concern you have been carrying for a long time? How might God be inviting you to bring it to Him again in persistent, trustful prayer?

- **Crumbs of Grace:** When you feel inadequate or spiritually weary, how does it comfort you to remember that even the smallest drop of God's grace and love is enough to transform your situation?

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

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." — **Jeremiah 29:11***

Do you know anyone who would like to be added to our email list? Please email alana.pccsec@gmail.com with their email address. All addresses are held securely and never publicly shared.