

Dear Church Family,

As we gather on this **Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**, we continue our journey through **Ordinary Time** under the warmth of late summer. This week, our Gospel reading brings us to a pivotal turning point in the New Testament: Jesus foretelling His death and resurrection, followed by His call to true discipleship in Matthew 16:21–end.

"From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life... Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'" — Matthew 16:21, 24

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 also hold Father Matthew and his son, Christian, close in our thoughts and healing prayers. 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 30th (Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity)

- **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 31st:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, All Saints
- **Tuesday September 1st:** 12:00-2:00 pm Lunchtime Prayers, All Saints
- **Tuesday September 1st:** 3:00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise and Pop-up Cafe, Holy Cross
- **Wednesday September 2nd:** 10:00 am Holy Communion, St Nicholas
- **Thursday September 3rd:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, St Nicholas
- **Thursday September 3rd:** 3:00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise, St Michael and All Angels

- **Friday September 4th:** 12:00–2:00 pm Open Church and Holy Communion (12:30 pm), 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 contact 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

- **Friday, September 4th 7:00 pm St Nicholas: Be:Loved.** Please register with Reverend Steven if you wish to attend.
- **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.

Elstree Mozart Players

The Elstree Mozart Players invite you to join us for our Autumn Concert 2026 at Allum Hall, Elstree, on Sunday 27th September at 7.30 pm.

We have an exciting and varied programme planned, featuring a world premiere, distinguished soloists and some much-loved orchestral favourites.

This concert is presented in association with The Rotary Club of the Studios & Elstree and Borehamwood, raising funds for The Tuesday Dementia Club of Elstree & Borehamwood.

The Programme

Verdi – The Force of Destiny Overture

Guest Conductor: Roland Marshall

Philip White – Natale a Venezia - World Premiere

Hamilton Harty – Concerto for Violin - Soloist: Dame Geraldine Andrews

Peter Wilson – Iris and Lavender Waltz

Leroy Anderson – The Typewriter - Soloist: Kim Sargeant

Sullivan – Irish Symphony

From the drama and energy of Verdi to the charm of Leroy Anderson, and from Harty's virtuosic violin concerto to a brand-new work receiving its world premiere, this promises to be a memorable evening of live orchestral music.

Venue: Allum Hall, Elstree, Hertfordshire, WD6 3PJ

Tickets: £15 in advance, £20 on the night | £15 concessions on sale from 1st September 2026.

Book online: [TicketSource: Elstree Mozart Players](#)

Email: elstreemozartplayers@outlook.com

Tel: Pat Strack: 07790 305428

Come and enjoy a spectacular autumn evening of orchestral music; we look forward to welcoming you.

A Moment of Reflection

In Matthew 16:21–end, Jesus shifts His ministry toward Jerusalem and reveals the reality of the cross. When Peter tries to recoil from this uncomfortable truth, Jesus reminds the disciples that following Him isn't about personal comfort or worldly expectations, but about self-denial, surrender, and finding life through losing it for His sake.

Taking up our cross daily isn't about carrying unavoidable suffering, but about actively choosing to place God's will above our own desires, trusting that the path of sacrificial love ultimately leads to eternal life and glory.

- **Taking Up the Cross:** What comfort or self-reliance might God be calling you to surrender this week so that you can follow Him more closely?

- **True Value:** Jesus asks, *"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"* How can you refocus your daily choices on eternal priorities rather than temporary noise?

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." — Ecclesiastes 3:1

As August draws to a close, this beloved verse offers a peaceful framing for the parish as summer ends and autumn begins.

As we turn the page into a new month, we give thanks for the warmth, rest, and community shared throughout the summer. We step into the upcoming season of parish life with renewed strength, open hearts, and trust in God's perfect timing for our community.

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