

✉️ Dear Church Family,

As we gather on this **Tenth 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 powerful and encouraging stories in the Gospels: **Jesus walking on the water** and calling Peter out into the storm.

After sending the crowds away, Jesus went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. Late at night, as the disciples' boat was buffeted by waves in a strong headwind, Jesus came toward them walking on the lake. Seeing their fear, He immediately spoke words of peace and courage. Spurred by faith, Peter stepped out of the boat onto the water—and though his focus shifted to the wind and he began to sink, Jesus' hand was immediately there to catch him:

"But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' ... 'Come,' he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him."

— **Matthew 14:27, 29–31**

💖 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.

🏛️ Our Sunday Services: August 9th: Tenth 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: *Holy Communion*
- **9:30 am** St Michael: *Service of the Word*
- **11:15 am** All Saints: *Holy Communion*

Weekday Eucharist, Prayers & Open Church

- **Monday August 10th:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, *All Saints*
- **Tuesday August 11th:** 3:00 pm Holy Communion with Songs of Praise and Pop-up Cafe, *Holy Cross*
- **Wednesday August 12th:** 10:00 am Holy Communion, *St Nicholas*
- **Thursday August 13th:** 9:30 am Morning Prayer, *St Nicholas*
- **Thursday August 13th:** 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 August 14th:** *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, August 15th (7:00 for 7:30 pm):** Candlelit "Ploughmanesque" Founder's Supper
- **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

- **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.

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 get in touch with Reverend Louise or Reverend Steven as soon as possible.

♥ A Moment of Reflection

In **Matthew 14:22–33**, we find the disciples caught in a storm in the dark of night. Jesus comes to them across the turbulent water and invites Peter to step out of the boat and walk toward Him. Peter takes those bold first steps, but when he focuses on the fierce wind around him, fear takes hold, and he begins to sink. Yet, the moment Peter cries out, "*Lord, save me!*", Jesus immediately reaches out His hand and catches him.

This Gospel reminds us that faith is not the absence of storms or fear, but keeping our eyes fixed on Christ through them. Even when our faith falters or the waves of life feel overwhelming, Jesus never leaves us to sink; His hand is always outstretched, ready to rescue and strengthen us.

- **Stepping Out in Faith:** Is there an area in your life where God might be asking you to step "out of the boat"—perhaps into a new responsibility, a difficult conversation, or a deeper step of trust?
- **Focusing Through the Storm:** When life's heavy winds and distractions threaten to overwhelm you, what helps you turn your eyes back to Jesus and call out to Him in trust?

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

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." — Matthew 5:14, 16

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