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Briefing 78: Tuesday 24th August, 2021.

My Favourite Verses by Jane Luff

'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.' Matthew 11: 28-29

This is the passage I like, whether reading it in the Bible; as part of the Comfortable Words in the Communion Service; or when listening to Handel's Messiah. It has always given me a deep, great comfort, and a passage I think about particularly in difficult times.

My Favourite Verses by Bernie Matthews

'The Lord's my Shepherd, I shall not want...' Psalm 23v1

Psalm 23 has been my rock and my anchor for my whole life. As a boy I would go with my grandad and mum to Hinxworth Chapel, my niece played the organ and one of my favourite hymns was "The Lord's my Shepherd," sung to the tune Crimond. Through the ups and downs of my life this psalm, either sung or spoken, has been my talisman, telling me that Jesus is in me, guiding and helping me with the Holy Spirit and that there will be a home for me eternally.

Why not take the time to read the whole Psalm, it's very short, and let these words talk to you as they have to me over the years.

My Favourite Verses by Tsung-yin Lewis

Galatians 2:20: '.....the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.'

Romans 8:32: 'he who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things.'

When I was 9 years old, my dad became a Christian, and he took the whole family to attend church. At 11, I was baptised and was able to take part in the communion. A central act of every Sunday's worship in my church then was the evening meeting around the Lord's table, at which everyone was free to express spontaneous adoration and thanksgiving to God through prayers and hymn-singing before we all partook of the bread and wine. After my baptism I regularly attended this meeting, although I did not pray aloud in public.

When I was about 12 or 13, one evening in one of these meetings, the Lord showed me his love, the love that sent him to die on the cross for me. Tears ran down as the Holy Spirit poured out his love in my heart. At the time, I did not know this verse in Galatians, but I surely experienced the love of God's Son.

As a foreigner working in this country, I often felt insecure in my job. The Lord repeatedly assured me of the Father's love and his abundant provision as expressed in this verse from Romans. The gracious Father has indeed amply supplied all our needs and more.

As I reflected how the Lord has loved me since my childhood, this hymn came to my mind:

'O dearly, dearly has He loved, and we must love Him too. And trust in His redeeming blood, and try His works to do.'

IMPORTANT STUFF – DON'T JUST GLANCE- TAKE IT ALL IN!

Come + Pray!

TUESDAY EARLY MORNING PRAYER MEETING: 7am-8am – ask Dave for a link.

FRIDAY NIGHT at St Nicks from 8pm-10pm.

Come + join us and pray for God's Holy Spirit to move in us and across this town that we might know more of God's love and power in our lives, and see many more people brought to Jesus.

Private Prayer in St Nicholas church THIS WEEK and NEXT WEEK.

Tuesday 24th from 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 25th 12noon-2pm and Thursday 26th 10am – 12 noon.
Tuesday 31st from 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 1st September 12noon-2pm and Thursday 2nd 10am – 12 noon.

LEADERS AND HELPERS FOR OUR SUNDAY KID'S WORK AND FRIDAY LITTLE LAMBS: Over a number of months now we've been appealing for helpers and teachers for our Sunday work, and for volunteers to work alongside Jeanette in our restarted toddler group. Whilst it's been encouraging to have had 1 or 2 volunteers to help in these groups, we are still very short of people willing to serve and teach our children on Sundays, or work with Jeanette on Friday morning. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE can I ask you to consider serving in this way, particularly if you have gifts or experience of working with children. This is not an 'every-week' commitment, perhaps once a month on average. But this is a vital part of our ministry. So, if the LORD is calling you, please do get in touch with me asap. Thank you.

We also need people to serve refreshments at St Nicks. Contact Robin Bailey or one of the wardens to volunteer!

4 EVENTS IN THE COMING DAYS... NB: The OPEN DAY IS AT ST MARY'S GRAVELEY

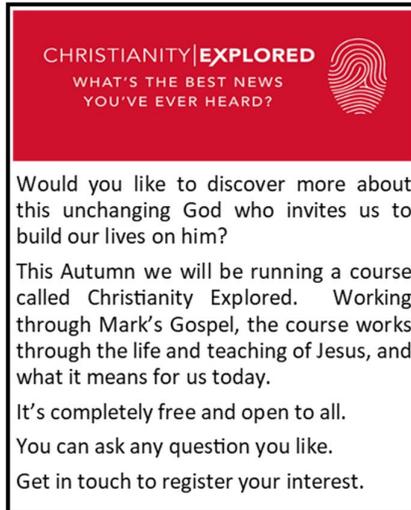
TALKING ABOUT JESUS WITH Muslims and Jehovah Witnesses: If you've ever wondered what to say, or even how to begin... come along to St Nicholas on Tuesday night at 7pm and find out. Free - no need to book.



Family Church
OPEN DAY

August Bank Holiday Funday
On Monday 30th August from 2pm-5pm, the church will be open for visitors, fun and refreshments!
Tea + cakes in the Flint Barn next door.
Treasure hunt around church + grounds
The maze at Crow End will be open.

No need to book – just come along.
All proceeds to church funds.



CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED
WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

Would you like to discover more about this unchanging God who invites us to build our lives on him?
This Autumn we will be running a course called Christianity Explored. Working through Mark's Gospel, the course works through the life and teaching of Jesus, and what it means for us today.
It's completely free and open to all.
You can ask any question you like.
Get in touch to register your interest.



Vicarage Garden Working Party
Saturday 11th September, 10am-1pm.

Bring your tools, expertise and energy and help Dave + Judy tidy the Vicarage Garden for the autumn.

- Beds to be dug and weeded
- Bushes, shrubs to be cut back
- Fences to be painted

Bacon rolls, tea, coffee and cake will be provided to all the workers! Do let us know if you are coming...

CHANGES WITH HOLY COMMUNION: Both churches now are again sharing both bread and wine together. Bread will continue to be served individually as wafers, but rather than all sharing the same cup, wine will be offered in smaller shared cups. Sharing a cup is an Anglican tradition and a sign of our unity in Christ. If you come with family, please share a cup with them, and if you come to church on your own, please try to find someone with whom you feel confident to share a cup together. Don't worry if you can't find someone, there will be enough.

ST NICHOLAS DOOR-TO-DOOR TEAM: The team will be going out on Wednesday afternoon this week. Please do pray for them. If you'd like to join the team on their visits- please contact Karen Walker or Steve Bamford.

GIVING A LIFT TO CHURCH: Jo, who was part of St Nicks church family some time ago, has now returned to Stevenage and would like to attend church again. However, she now lives in Great Ashby and has no car. Could you offer her a lift from time to time? Let Dave know and he'll put you in touch with her to work out the details.

READINGS FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS: The readings for the next 3 weeks are as follows:

29th August: 1 Timothy 2: 1-15

5th September: 1 Timothy 3: 1-13

12th September: 1 Timothy 3v14-4v15