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Briefing 79: Wednesday 1st September, 2021.

Dear Friends,

Today is the 1st day of meteorological autumn – I have to say, it does feel like it. Many of our summer flowers have died; the trees have started to shed their leaves; and the mornings are much cooler (something I know all too well having camped out with my grandchildren in the vicarage garden for 2 nights over the bank holiday weekend!) Many children will return to school this week, and many church activities that had paused for the summer restart again.

Details of St Nicks restarting its **SUNDAY KID’S WORK** are on the opposite page, but **LITTLE LAMBS** also restarts this coming Friday. Both are still in need of extra helpers, but we have a real need for people able and willing to teach our children on Sunday mornings. Is God calling you to get involved with this work? If so, please do not delay!

Our **HOME GROUPS** have had a bit of a reboot as well, and in many of the groups there is room for at least a few more members. Meeting fortnightly, our home groups provide a place of friendship, fellowship and feeding on God’s Word as it is read and discussed together. For a healthy Christian life, weekly gatherings in church are vital; personal daily Bible reading and prayer is essential; but meeting together with other Christians for prayer, Bible study and fellowship is also a key part in growing in our faith. So if you’re not yet in a home group, please do consider joining one. Details are below... for contact details, please see the church family list- or get in touch with me!

<i>Monday afternoon</i>	<i>2-3:30pm</i>	<i>On line</i>	<i>contact Philip Walker</i>
<i>Monday evening</i>	<i>8pm-10pm</i>	<i>In person</i>	<i>contact John Knight</i>
<i>Wednesday evening</i>	<i>7:45-9:30pm</i>	<i>On line</i>	<i>contact Philip and Karen Walker</i>
<i>Thursday evening</i>	<i>8pm-9:30pm</i>	<i>In person</i>	<i>contact John and Elaine Forster</i>
<i>Thursday evening</i>	<i>7:45-9:30pm</i>	<i>On line</i>	<i>contact Graham Squires</i>

The Graveley Home Group (Monday evenings at 7:30pm) hopes to restart in October. See Eunice Sirkett for details.

Two other pieces of church family news... Our **HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS** will be on Sunday 26th September- a day when Graveley will also have a baptism! There will be an opportunity to donate food for local charities or financially, towards the needs of Christians abroad. More details will follow.

I’m also delighted to announce that we will be hosting a **PLACEMENT STUDENT FROM OAK HILL COLLEGE** this year. Mark Aldham is a 2nd Year Ordinand in training, and will be worshipping with us with his wife and 3 children. Do look out for them and make them welcome. And do invite them to stay for Sunday lunch! It’s quite a trek from North London to Stevenage each Sunday morning, so do make them feel at home. As part of his placement experience, Mark will be leading some services and preaching from time to time.

This coming Sunday we will continue our studies in 1 Timothy, and spend our time focusing on the role of women within the local church. Up until very recently women could not be bishops in the Church of England, and have only been allowed to be priests (vicars, rectors etc) since 1994. These changes invoked strong emotions, and the issue still provokes a strong reaction. My aim on Sunday is not, of course, to stoke division, but to try and get to grips with what the Bible actually teaches. It isn’t a 1st order, salvation issue, fundamental to the Christian faith. But everything the Bible teaches us is important, and if we are to disagree on this issue, which we may, we need to make sure that our position is one that can be justified through the Scriptures, and not simply through our own feelings, opinions, or based on the values of our culture. As God’s church, we need to be shaped and directed by God’s Word first of all, and I hope that Sunday will help to make God’s Word clearer to us.

Do pray for me in my preparation, and may God bless you all this week.

Dave

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 with us for our churches, parishes and God's world, that God's Holy Spirit may move in us that we might know more of God's love and power in our lives, and see people brought to Jesus.

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

Tuesday 31st from 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 1st September 12noon-2pm, + Thursday 2nd 10am – 12 noon.

Tuesday 7th from 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 8th from 12noon-2pm, + Thursday 9th from 10am – 12 noon.

GRAVELEY CHURCH OPEN DAY: A huge thank you to everyone who helped on Monday afternoon. The teas and cakes were marvellous, the church flowers looked fabulous and the maze was a joy! In all **over £1800** was raised for church funds, and lots of children took away gospels through doing the treasure hunt.

ST NICHOLAS SUNDAY KID'S WORK: We are restarting our Sunday kid's work this week so please do pray for our leaders and helpers as they teach and encourage our children and young people in their faith. The groups, teachers and locations are as follows: These groups will normally be running on alternate Sundays **until we find more teachers**

S-Club Minis	from Nursery to Y1	Helen Southall and Sarah Metcalfe	Lower Parish Room
S- Club	from Y2-Y5	Mark + Jeannette Parker, Richard Newberry-White	Upper Parish Room
S-Club Max	from Y6-Y9	John Knight and Paul Schimmel	The Bell Tower

5 EVENTS IN THE COMING DAYS...

Saturday 4th September: 11am-2pm Graveley Village Hall Coffee morning – to celebrate the post-covid reopening of Graveley Village Hall, and to help people reconnect with friends, Graveley residents, friends and all connected with the village are invited to drop in for free refreshments and conversation. Do pop in!

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.

**Men's + Women's
Breakfast
In church.
8:30am-9:45am.
To book contact
Mike or Karen at
churchwardens@
saintnicholaschurch.org.uk**

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...

ST NICHOLAS WALKING GROUP: The next walk will be on Thursday 16th September, meeting at church at 9:45am then driving to near Church Farm Ardeley. There is a pub and a café on site for refreshments afterwards. No need to book, just come along!

VIDEO UPDATE FROM JIMMY AND KATIA ROCKS- St Nicholas Mission Partners in Brazil – can be watched here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzGopsm_UDI

ST NICHOLAS DOOR-TO-DOOR TEAM: The team will be going out on Thursday morning from 10:30am 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: I'm still searching for someone to offer a single, double-vaxed lady, who lives in Great Ashby, an occasional lift to church. Do speak to Dave if you are able to help.

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

5th Sept: 1 Timothy 2v8- 3v7

12th Sept: 1 Timothy 3v14-4v15

19th Sept: 1 Timothy 5v1-6v2