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Briefing 85: Wednesday 13th October, 2021.

Dear Friends,

PCC UPDATE: brief notes on what happened at the last St Nicholas PCC meeting on 28th September are below. If you would like to know more, please have a chat with any of the elected members or churchwardens.

As well as receiving and discussing various reports, we spent some time reviewing our Mission Action Plan. The latest version for 2021-2023 can be seen here:

[Microsoft Word - Mission Action Plan 2021-2023 \(saintnicholaschurch.org.uk\)](https://saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

We also spent considerable time discussing the following questions:

- Do the 5G's that set the framework for our MAP still fit?
- Is there a simple mission statement that describes us better?
- What are the goals that we'd like to see achieved in 2, 5 and 10 years?
- What factors limit our ability to see these through or to imagine greater things?
- What changes do we need to see to make progress towards these goals?

We also announced some upcoming events in the benefice:

- St Nicholas Day – St Nicholas ward councillors are funding and organising a Community Day on Sat 4th Dec, 1.30 – 4.30pm at the St Nicholas community centre and shops.
- Christmas Journey – at St Nicholas from 6th–10th Dec. Judy Brown will be co-ordinating this year, alongside All Saints. Lots of volunteers will be needed from both churches.

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

**Come +
Pray!**

TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER GATHERING: 7:00AM-8:00AM– ask Dave for a Zoom link.

FRIDAY NIGHT at St Nicks Church from 7pm-9pm.

Come + join us and pray with us for our churches, parishes and God's world.

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

Tuesday 12th from 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 13th from 12noon-2pm, + Thursday 14th from 10am - 12noon.
Tuesday 19th from 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 20th from 12noon-2pm, + Thursday 21st from 10am - 12noon.

LITTLE LAMBS: Our toddler group for preschool children and their parents, grandparents etc! Fridays in term time from 9 - 10:30am in the Parish Room. Do come and bring your friends!

ST NICHOLAS SUNDAY KID'S WORK: S Club (Y2-Y5), S Club Minis (Nursery- Y1) and S Club Max (Y6-Y9) will be running this coming Sunday (17th).

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED: Starting **TOMORROW** (14th Oct) at 7:45pm. Ideal for those wanting to refresh themselves on the basic truths of the Christian faith, and for those wanting to explore the identity and mission of Jesus for the first time, CExp is a 7-week course which takes participants through Mark's Gospel answering questions about who Jesus is, why did he come, and what does it mean to follow him. **It's free, there's no singing or prayers**, and there's no need to say anything if you just want to listen. But it's a great opportunity to ask questions too! Karen and Philip Walker will be running the course - why not chat with them and go along yourself, or take a friend with you. For more details see the Christianity Explored website: [Christianity Explored](#)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Last year our churches sent almost 100 boxes and St Nicholas was the collection point for hundreds more. This year we're doing it again! Details of how to fill a box yourself or fill one on line can be found here: [Operation Christmas Child \(samaritans-purse.org.uk\)](#) But we need volunteers to help with receiving boxes at St Nicks from 15th-21st November from 10am-4pm each day and with wider collections the week after. Can you help? Contact Stuart Marshall on enquiries@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

SEEKING ALLAH - FINDING JESUS: Wonderful testimony and a great way to learn more about Islam and how to share the good news of Jesus with Muslims. You can buy it here: [Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus \(Paperback\) - Nabeel Qureshi and Lee Strobel - 10ofThose.com](#)

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN WALES: I mentioned last week the sad changes that have happened in the Church in Wales. The Evangelical Fellowship in the Church in Wales issued a statement this week. You can read it here. Please do pray for them. [GB Meeting 6th Sept – Full Response – Evangelical Fellowship of the Church in Wales \(efcw.org.uk\)](#)

EVENTS IN THE COMING DAYS

WALKING GROUP - the next walk is on Thursday 21st October, walking on Pegsdon Hills. Meet at The Raven pub at Hexton at 10.30 am. Please let Karen Cattell know (on enquiries@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk) if you wish to stop for lunch in the pub so that she can book places and use the car park. Robust footwear will definitely be required and appropriate waterproof walking clothing as the weather is changing. And bring a drink.

ST NICHOLAS DOOR-TO-DOOR TEAM: The team will be going out 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.

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

17th October: 2 Timothy 2: 1-13 24th October: 2 Timothy 2:4–3:9 31st October: 2 Timothy 3:10–4:22