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**Briefing 105: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.**

Dear friends,

In previous generations, the 10 Commandments were recited as part of Anglican services; these days we tend to use the summary of the Law Jesus gave instead. Many churches still have them written on wall tablets to remind the people of God's commands. They may be ancient, but they are worth meditating on and learning off by heart, because as well as being God's commands, they are also the way to live the good and blessed life.

They start with the commands to have no other gods before the LORD and not to make idols of anything created. The blessed life starts here, because the good life must have God in his rightful place. If we crack this, then we will find that the other 8 commands are loved and obeyed more easily. But how often we fall at these first 2 hurdles! And how much do we need a grander and more accurate vision of God so we can see the folly of worshipping not-gods instead.

**A passage to read:** Deuteronomy 5:1-21

**2 questions to reflect on:** Today our idols are rarely little statues, but people, objects and pleasures which we run to for help or solace when life is tough. What are yours? How do the 10 Commandments help you see God's greatness and power, and his mercy for the Israelites, and for you too?

**A song:** [\(21\) CityAlight - Only A Holy God - YouTube](#)

Grace and peace,

*Dave*

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

**LENT 2022.** We're not having a special Lent course this year, but here are 2 ways to make the most of Lent:

- 1: Quiet Evening Prayer:** Continues tonight and for the 7 Wednesdays of Lent. Why not come along?
- 2: Read and Pray:** A range of books is still available, all priced at £2 each. Why not take one and find someone to read it with, making time each week- in person, on the phone or Zoom - to chat and pray through what you've read?

**PASSION FOR LIFE MISSION- 3 WARM UP EVENTS in Stevenage** Who will you be inviting along? Hard copy fliers are available now. Book your tickets at [www.life22stev.org](http://www.life22stev.org) (you can add your own name + email for the tickets you order!)

**Tickets for the Comedy Night will also be on sale on Sunday!**

The image shows three promotional posters for church events. Each poster has the slogan 'Find life that lasts. It's closer than you think.' and the 'Life' logo in the top right corner.

- Quiz and Pudding Night:** A fun trivia quiz with a pudding buffet. There will be a short Christian message during the evening. Sat 12th Mar 7:45 - 9:45pm. **FREE**. Book your place at: [life22stev.org](http://life22stev.org). Longmeadow Evangelical Church.
- The Roots of Jazz:** Live music and a talk exploring the intertwining stories of the roots of jazz and Christianity. Fri 18th Mar 7:45 - 9:45pm. Tickets £8pp. [life22stev.org](http://life22stev.org). Grace Community Church.
- Comedy Night with Andy Kind:** Stand-up comedy from award winning comedian, Andy Kind. Fri 1st April 7:45 - 9:15pm. Tickets £5pp. [life22stev.org](http://life22stev.org). St. Nicholas Church.

The aim of these events is to gently introduce people to the Christian faith, have some fun and promote the main Passion for Life events which will take place in Letchworth in the week of 25<sup>th</sup> April. These will include interviews with **David Moss**, who became a Christian from a Jewish background, **Bill McCurrie**, an ex UVF Terrorist, **Yvonne Edwards**, a former drug addict with a powerful testimony and **Jeremy Marshall**, a businessman with terminal cancer- with talks from **Roger Carswell**.

**PRAYER GATHERINGS:** Our next Prayer Gathering is on **TONIGHT** from 7:45pm in the upper Parish Room. This will be in-person only at St Nicholas Church and we will spend some time praying for the situation in Ukraine. Our next 7-8am early morning zoom prayer will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Why not put those dates in your diary now and commit to coming along? The church will also be open for **visitors and private prayer** on Tuesdays from 2-4pm, Wednesdays from 12noon-2pm and Thursdays from 10am-12 noon.

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

13<sup>th</sup> March: Matt 25: 1-13

20<sup>th</sup> March: Matt 25:14-30

27<sup>th</sup> March: Matt 25: 31-46



**UKRAINE.** We have all been shocked and appalled by the news from Ukraine over the past few days, and I'm sure that the people and leaders have been in your prayers. We want to stand with our brothers and sisters in the Ukrainian Church and help those in need, so for this Sunday we'll invite donations which will be sent via Samaritans Purse (the organisers of Operation Christmas Child). They already have people on the ground, with more people and resources to come. See link: <https://sampur.se/3C22Ls5> To give, please place your donation in an envelope marked Ukraine and place it in the offering. At St Nicholas, you can also give via the tap and give panel. Simply click on the option that says 'Ukraine' and enter the amount. Thank you.

**The BARNABAS FUND – one of St Nicholas mission partners, is also running an appeal, this time for these 3 items:**

- a. tinned food (that can be opened without a can opener), cup-a-soup packets and energy bars;
- b. blankets;
- c. good quality winter clothes, particularly coats.

We'll be collecting these items for the next 3 Sundays- (and when St Nicholas is open for quiet prayer during the week) or until we have a large enough load, at which point we'll be looking for volunteers to drive them to Southill Baptist Church, just up the A1 past Biggleswade.

**RESTARTING OUR MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WORK.** You are all invited to a special joint breakfast at St Nicholas Church on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March from 8:30am.** We'll enjoy a good breakfast together (cereals, bacon butties, toast, drinks) and then gather as men and women to discuss restarting our 2 groups. Contact Mike on 07946 140909 to book.

**OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK: WE NEED A CATERING LEAD + TEAM...**

Can you **lead** or be **part of a team** that feeds our stomachs as we feed on God's word and enjoy time together...?

- ✓ Regular events like restarted Snack and Chat
- ✓ Special events like Maundy Thursday meal, Easter Fun Day, Fellowship Lunches, day conferences etc...

**YES? Speak to Dave or one of the wardens asap.**