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**Briefing 106: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.**

Dear friends,

When Jesus summarises the whole law of God, he says that it means loving God with ALL our heart, soul, mind and strength... and loving our neighbours as ourselves. That's simple to say, but so hard to do!

In loving God, we battle with idols and distractions (see last week) whilst in loving our neighbour we battle with envy, pride, resentment and plain old selfishness. What's more, many of those sinful emotions and attitudes can also spill over and infect our love for God. We resent it when he blesses others. We get impatient when God doesn't answer our prayers our way, in our timing. We doubt his love for us. And so our love for God can easily grow cold.

As always, Jesus shows us what true love of God and neighbour looks like, and although the cross gives us the best picture of the height, depth, length and breadth of that love, the best definition of that kind of love is 1 Corinthians 13.

**A passage to read:** 1 Corinthians 13

**3 questions to reflect on:** How firm and strong is your love for God? How might you raise its temperature? How does your love for your neighbours (*neighbours in the Biblical sense!*) compare to the love Paul describes in this passage?

**A song:** [\(34\) The Everlasting Love of God \(Lyric Video\) - Matt Boswell & Matt Papa - YouTube](#)

Grace and peace,

*Dave*

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

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



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**.

## COME AND PRAY WITH US

**Quiet Evening Prayer:** Continues tonight and for the 7 Wednesdays of Lent. Why not come along?

Our next Prayer Gathering is on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** from 7:45pm in the upper Parish Room where our focus will be on the persecuted church. This will be in-person only at St Nicholas Church. Our next 7-8am early morning zoom prayer will be on Tuesday 29<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:

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

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

3<sup>rd</sup> April: Matt 26: 1-16



**UKRAINE.** Thank you to everyone who donated to the Ukraine Appeal. £750 is being sent to Samaritans Purse (the organisers of Operation Christmas Child). They have already set up a mobile hospital- details can be found here: [Samaritan's Purse Emergency Field Hospital Receives First Patients \(samaritans-purse.org.uk\)](https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk) If you missed the collection in church, you can also give via this link.

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

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

We'll be collecting these items for the next 2 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.

Thank you too to the 3 households that have offered to house Ukrainian refugees. I'm waiting to hear news from the Diocese of how this might work, but if refugees do come and live amongst us, we will all need to help and support them and those they are living with.

### OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK...

Sadly, no one came and spoke to me or emailed me after the newsletter last week or my appeal in St Nicholas on Sunday for a catering coordinator. But there is still time!! In the mean time we have an urgent need for the following:

- 2 people to organise and serve the interval refreshments at the Comedy Night on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2 people to coordinate out shared food at our Maundy Thursday meal and oversee the clearing up.
- 2 people to organise refreshments for the Easter Fun Day at St Nicholas on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 3pm and at least 2 others to set up and run a BBQ outside.

If you could serve in these ways, please do get in touch with me or one of the church wardens at St Nicholas.

**Prayer pointers for the week: Please consider including the following people and events in your prayers this week**

**Monday:** Following Dave's sermon on Sunday – do you have oil in your lamp, are you ready for Jesus' return?

**Tuesday:** Pray for the people of Ukraine, for the refugees, seeking a safe haven in these troubled times.

**Wednesday:** Pray for those attending evening prayer tonight at St Nicholas and those who will be praying at home.

**Thursday:** Praying from the St Nicholas list – Mark and Jeannette Parker, from the St Mary's list – Alan + Penny Lines

**Friday:** Pray for the Jazz evening at Grace Church tonight, as part of the Passion for Life outreach, pray for hearts to be touched by the Gospel message.

**Saturday:** Pray for all those who may be lonely, or who live alone at this time.

**Sunday:** Pray for the morning services today at both churches that God will give speak to us the truth of His Word.