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**Briefing 107: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2022.**

Dear friends,

Through various means and methods, people through history have managed to tame a variety of animals, including many that are wild and ferocious! Yet James writes in James 3:8 that *“No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”*

Perhaps that description shocks you, after all, most of us speak kindly... at least most of the time. But hasn't it been your experience that harsh and painful words can sometimes come out just as easily as words of comfort and love? One moment you are praising God, the next you've said something to upset someone. One moment all is calm, the next your tongue has set your little part of the world on fire.

Perhaps that's why 4 out of the 10 Commandments (numbers 3, 4, 8 and 9) link back to what we say. And of course what we say flows out of the what is already there in our hearts. This week, why not keep a close watch on your tongue, and bring your failings to God in prayer, seeking his forgiveness and help in how and what you say.

**A passage to read:** James 3:1-18

**2 questions to reflect on:** How Godly are your words? How might you need to learn greater wisdom and gentleness?

**A song:** [\(224\) Beneath the Cross of Jesus - YouTube](#) or [\(224\) "Beneath the Cross" \(Keith and Kristyn Getty\) - YouTube](#)

Grace and peace,

*Dave*

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

**PASSION FOR LIFE MISSION-**

The last of our 3 WARM UP EVENTS in Stevenage is on 1<sup>st</sup> April at St Nicholas Church.

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 **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**.

We're also hosting a special lunchtime event with **David Moss** at 12:30pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Come and hear his story of how a Jewish footballer came to know Jesus. Light lunch provided. Book in with Dave or Karen.

**COME AND PRAY WITH US: *Quiet Evening Prayer:*** Continues tonight and for the 7 Wednesdays of Lent.

Our next Prayer Gathering is on **TONIGHT 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:

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

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

10<sup>th</sup> April: Matt 26: 17-30



**UKRAINE.** We are still taking donations to the Ukraine Appeal run by 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](https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk) ([samaritans-purse.org.uk](https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)) If you missed the collection in church, you can also give via this link.

This week we delivered the first car load of food, clothes and blankets to a local **BARNABAS FUND** collection centre. But if you still have **TINNED FOOD** (that can be opened without a can opener), cup-a-soup packets and energy bars; **BLANKETS**; or **GOOD QUALITY WINTER CLOTHES**, particularly coats – please do bring them along to church.

As we wait to see if our three volunteer households receive Ukrainian refugees, we are putting together our support teams of those who might be able to offer practical help to host or guests. If you might be able to offer, for example:

- Cooked meals delivered to the host families or help with washing and ironing.
- Hosting refugee families for a meal in your own home.
- Helping with transport or taking them out for visits or showing them around the town.

Depending on the level of support, safeguarding checks and some training may be required, so please do get in touch with me or Martin Bailey, St Nicholas safeguarding officer, on [martin.bailey2663@gmail.com](mailto:martin.bailey2663@gmail.com) to find out more.

### **OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK...**

Wonderfully, it looks as if we have a volunteer to lead the catering team for St Nicholas... but she needs people who will be willing to prepare and serve refreshments for special events. Could this be you?



I'm also looking for volunteers to help with the Easter Fun Day at St Nicholas on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April from 11am-3pm. We need people to:

- Help in the kitchen (see Judy)
- Organise and run the BBQ
- Organise and run the teddy bear zip wire (see Mike)
- Help with some crafts/games (bonnet making- egg painting, hook-a-duck etc)
- Hard-boil eggs ready to be painted!
- Assist with the Easter egg hunt

**SIGN UP SHEET IN CHURCH!**

**CHURCH WALKING GROUP:** The next walk will be on Friday 1st April meeting at 10.00 am at the Lytton Arms Old Knebworth. We will do a circular walk of approx 5.5 miles and back to pub for lunch. You'll need suitable clothing and footwear for walking in fields. Please email Karen if you'll be joining the walk and if you would like to enjoy lunch. Her email address is: [kazcatt1@outlook.com](mailto:kazcatt1@outlook.com)

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS:** St Mary's APCM will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April after the morning service. St Nicholas APCM will be on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April, after the morning service. If you are not yet on the electoral role of your church, please do collect a form soon. Nominations for vacancies on St Mary's PCC are now open, and nominations for St Nicholas will open soon. If you are interested do have a chat with Dave and look out for the displays in church.

### **Other Dates for your Diary:**

Maundy Thursday Meal from 6pm followed by Maundy Thursday Service from 7:30pm at St Nicholas

Good Friday Church Walk of Witness: Start at the Old Town Bowling Green at 10am

Good Friday – An Hour at the Cross – Meditations and hymns for Good Friday. 2-3pm at St Mary's Graveley

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 9:30am-3pm: Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship Conference with Paul Harcourt, *leader of the New Wine network of churches*- at St Nicholas. All welcome to come along.