



Rev Dave Brown
Rector of St Nicholas Stevenage & St Mary Graveley
2a North Road, Stevenage. Herts. SG1 4AT
Tel: 01438 213587
Email: revdmbrown@gmail.com



Briefing 109: Wednesday 6th April, 2022.

Dear friends,

The Bible contains many promises that make a link between obedience and blessing. For God's Old Testament people, those promises were rooted in the land God gave them, just take a look at Deuteronomy 28 for example!

For Christians today living under the NEW covenant, this isn't so straightforward, not least because we are exiles from our true home in the eternal Kingdom of God. Yet Deuteronomy 6v16 is still in the Bible, and it still has force today. It's the commandment to honour our father and mother... with the promise of blessing for obedience.

How might that work? Perhaps because such behaviour helps to create a stable home. Perhaps by allowing us to learn wisdom from our parents. Perhaps because our parents stand in God's place, and obeying them helps us learn to obey God and keep his commands.

What honouring our parents looks like changes as we grow up. As children we are called to obey our parents (see Ephesians 6:1-2). But as adults, and perhaps parents in our own right, we are still called to honour them. That includes respecting them, loving them, listening to them, serving them and perhaps providing for them as they long provided for us. So many people today have lost respect for their elders- as Christians, that respect should start at home. How are we doing on this regard? Are there things we have done and said of which we need to repent?

A passage to read: Deuteronomy 6:16, Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:18-21

2 questions: Do you honour your parents? As a parent, do you make it easy for your children to honour you?

A song: [\(250\) Behold the Lamb \(The Communion Hymn\) Lyric Video - Kristyn Getty - YouTube](#)

Grace and peace,

Dave

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

PASSION FOR LIFE WEEK: 26th- 30th April at Letchworth Free Church. Flyers now available in church. Who will you be inviting? Perhaps the night with 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**. Remember we're also hosting a special lunchtime event with **David Moss at 12:30pm on Tuesday 26th April**. Come and hear his story of how a Jewish footballer came to know Jesus over a light lunch. Book in with Dave/ Karen.

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

Our next 7-8am early morning zoom prayer will be on Tuesday 13th April. Our next Prayer Gathering is on **WEDNESDAY NIGHT** from 7:45pm in the upper Parish Room. This will be in-person only at St Nicholas Church. 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.

SAFEGUARDING: As part of our commitment to safeguarding, those serving in various roles in the church (eg with children, on our pastoral team or PCCs) need to complete certain training courses, most of which are now on line. If you are informed by one of the safeguarding team that you need to complete such a course, **please do so as soon as practicable!** We shouldn't need regular reminders to do the right thing. Thank you!

UKRAINE. We're still collecting **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. These will be sent via the Barnabas Fund.

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

10th April: Matt 26: 17-30

17th April: Matt 28:1-15- EASTER DAY

24th April: Matt 28: 16-20

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CHURCH HEATING AT ST NICHOLAS: Use with care.

Please **do not adjust the underfloor heating controls and thermostat.** They have been set-up to ensure that building is at the recommended temperature of 18C. Warm enough that a hat, scarf and gloves are not required, but not so warm that it is un-comfortable in a jumper or coat.

By its nature, the underfloor heating takes several hours to respond to changes to the control settings, it cannot be adjusted for immediate effect. If it is turned up no benefit will be felt, but it will get hot several hours later and if the floor gets too hot it may damage the stone.

Heating is and will always be a difficult topic. The church is a medieval building with single glazed windows and very little insulation. The tower has by design, open vented windows to allow the bells to be heard. Although the heating is effective, it is adversely affected by cold North Easterly winds, so **if it is a cold windy day, there may be some fluctuation in temperature** so you might want to wear an extra thick jumper to church.

The fan heaters in the tower and the radiators in the parish rooms are intended for immediate effect, controlled by the users. The radiator control valves should be set to "3" and the fans to 18C, please **remember to turn the radiators down to *(STAR) and switch the fans off after use.**

Our heating is provided by burning natural gas in the boiler, which produces carbon dioxide. The recommended temperature of 18C is a compromise between warmth, cost and carbon dioxide pollution of the environment. The church is treated as a commercial organisation and not protected by the government energy price cap. **Extravagant use of the heating could be very expensive and will cause global warming.**

Should you have any questions please see the Wardens or Anthony Taylor

OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK...



Can you help with our Easter Fun Day at St Nicholas on Saturday 16th April from 11am-3pm. We need people to:

- Help in the kitchen or make some cakes (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 SHEETS IN CHURCH!

CHURCH WALKING GROUP: Thursday 21st April. Meet 10.00 am at the Lytton Arms Old Knebworth for 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 on admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk if you'll be joining the walk and if you would like to enjoy lunch.

GRAVELEY APCM: St Mary's held it's Graveley APCM last Sunday and Eunice Sirkett was elected as Church Warden. Do pray for her as she continues in this role. Do pray also for Hilary Thompson as she stepped down after serving as Church Warden for almost 40 years. We will be thanking Hilary at a special lunch on Sunday 24th April.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING: for St Nicholas our APCM will be on Sunday 24th April, after the morning service. If you are not yet on the electoral roll of your church, please do collect a form soon. Nominations for vacancies at St Nicholas will open soon. If you are interested do have a chat with Dave and look out for the displays in church.

NOTES FROM ST NICHOLAS PCC: St Nicholas PCC met last week, and as well as approving various reports and documents for the APCM, we had discussion on our collective response to the LLF consultation, and a wide-ranging discussion on admitting baptised but unconfirmed children of church families to communion.

Regarding LLF, the PCC unanimously approved this response: *We recognise the deep and profound pastoral issues involved in the Living in Love and Faith process, and the fundamental need to love our fellow human beings. This PCC firmly wishes the Church of England General Synod to reaffirm its commitment to the authority of the Bible, and to*

historically orthodox doctrine and practice within the Church of England in relation to the areas of identity, gender, and sexual activity, and to clearly reject all attempts to revise Church of England doctrine and practice in these areas'

The PCC also unanimously voted to seek feedback from the church family on the idea of admitting baptised children of committed church families to communion prior to their confirmation. This would only be with full parental support and after a short preparation course. If approved we would apply to the Bishop of St Albans for permission to adopt this practise from September 2022. We'd like to hear your views on this, particularly on the following 2 questions:

1: Would you support such a move? (we'd love to know your reasons either way)

2: We envisage that this would apply to children in school year 2 and up (roughly 6-7). Is this age about right?

Please email your responses to Alison by 15th May on admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk so they can be discussed by the PCC at our next meeting. Thank you

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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

Good Friday Walk of Witness: Start at the Old Town Bowling Green at 10am. *(If you can help hand out fliers and song sheets etc in town, or happy to act as a first-aider, please email admin@stevenagechurches.org.uk)*

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

Wednesday 11th 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.