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Briefing 110: Wednesday 13th April, 2022.

Dear friends,

I once heard someone say that it wasn't the bits of the Bible that they didn't understand that bothered them, but the bits they did! As we've reflected very briefly on some of the 10 Commandments, and thought about how they apply to our lives today, perhaps you've felt the same. Perhaps, if you are honest, you've felt like David did in Psalm 51. *I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.*

If you do feel like that. If you are aware of how far you fall short of God's perfect standards. If your sins are always before you, and that there's nothing you can do to remedy the situation, then you've come to the right conclusion! When faced with God's standards of holiness that's exactly how we are supposed to feel about the state of our lives. For only then are we drawn to the cross of Jesus to receive the medicine our souls require.

If we are religious and nice and kind, our pride can blind us to the true level of our soul-sickness, or at least stop us from acknowledging how serious it is. Yet we need not be afraid of the truth, for in Jesus' death on the cross we have the one cure our souls need. Through Jesus, God has made available a sure remedy for our sin and a healing balm for our wounds; all wrapped up in a love that is deeper and higher and wider and longer than we could ever imagine. In truth, we are far more sinful than we ever imagined. But in Jesus, we find we are more loved than we ever dreamed. If your sin has unsettled you, take it to the cross and leave it there. It's why Jesus came. It's why Easter is good news!

A passage to read: Ephesians 2: 1-10

2 questions: Have you recognised not just your sinful acts, but your sinful heart? Have you brought it to Jesus?

A song: [\(265\) It Was Finished Upon That Cross \(Official Lyric Video\) - CityAlight - YouTube](#)

Grace and peace,

Dave

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Early morning prayer: Tuesday 7-8am

Quiet Evening Prayer: Wednesday 7pm

(Our next Prayer Gathering is on **Wednesday 20th April** from 7:45pm in the upper Parish Room)

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.

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

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

Saturday 11am-3pm - Easter Fun Day- see below...



Can you help with our Easter Fun Day at St Nicholas Church this Saturday?

More volunteers still needed including cake bakers, supervising arts and crafts, running some very simple games.

Get in touch with Dave



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING: the St Nicholas APCM will be on Sunday 24th April, after the morning service. The electoral roll has now closed, but nominations for church wardens and 3 PCC members, open this week. If you are interested in serving in this way do have a chat with Dave and look out for the sign-up sheets in church.

PASSION FOR LIFE WEEK: 26th- 30th April at Letchworth Free Church. Flyers now available. 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.

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:

17th April: Matt 28:1-15- EASTER DAY 24th April: Matt 28: 16-20 1st May: Psalm 16:1-11

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.

ADMITTING BAPTISED CHILDREN TO COMMUNION BEFORE CONFIRMATION. At its last meeting, St Nicks PCC voted unanimously 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. Whether or not you have children, (but especially if you do!) 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:

Wednesday 11th May, 10:30am-3pm: Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship Conference with Paul Harcourt, *leader of the New Wine network of churches* - at St Nicholas. Paul will be speaking on '*Holding to the Truth and Love*'. £13 per head, including lunch. All welcome to come along.

This promises to be an outstandingly useful day. Bookings are now open through the [DEF website](#).

Flower Festival at St Nicholas Church: 16th – 19th June