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Briefing 112: Wednesday 27th April, 2022.

Dear friends,

Do you ever close your eyes and imagine what it would have been like to see Jesus in the flesh, to hear him preach, to witness his miracles, and to walk and talk and eat with him? It would have been incredible, wouldn't it! But perhaps more amazing still would have been to see his resurrection appearances, to see his nailed-pierced hands, his wounded side, and to know, without any shadow of a doubt, that Jesus, the crucified, dead and buried one, really had risen physically from the dead!

Go back in time and see those things with our own eyes, we can look at the Scriptures and read the first-hand accounts of those who were there. So over these next few weeks, we are going to look briefly at a number of those resurrection appearances in the hope that, as we do so, our own faith will be strengthened and our hearts will be set on fire with this good news, so that we find it impossible to keep it to ourselves.

Let's start on that 1st day of the week, with the women who went to the tomb, thinking they were going to anoint a dead body. What a shock they had! The stone had been rolled away. The guards had been literally scared stiff by the angel. The tomb was empty, the grave clothes neatly folded up inside. And then they saw Jesus! Running to him, they fell at his feet and worshipped him! And quite right too! The one who had demonstrated divine power and authority to teach, heal, deliver, calm storms and forgive sins, had shown, through his own resurrection, that he had also conquered death and the grave! Jesus was their strong deliverer, their beautiful saviour, their mighty king. It was absolutely right that they worshipped him.

Can you imagine their excitement as they ran off to tell the disciples? Only for the disciples to doubt their account? How vindicated the women would have felt when Jesus appeared in the upper room and they were shown to be telling the truth?

Perhaps you've had people staring at you in disbelief, or perhaps even laughing in your face, when you've spoken to them about the resurrection of Jesus. If so, do not despair! The first witnesses of the resurrection experienced exactly that same thing. And just as they were shown to be telling the truth, so one day, all of us who declare the physical resurrection of Jesus will also be fully and finally vindicated. So put away your doubts. Stand firm in the truth. You may not have seen him with your own eyes – but Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. And one day, all the sceptics, all the doubters, everyone, will know the truth of that glorious fact.

Grace and peace,

Dave

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

PASSION FOR LIFE WEEK is still on! 25th- 30th April at 7.45pm at Letchworth Free Church. Who will you be inviting? Perhaps the night with interviews with **Bill McCurrie**, an ex UVF Terrorist (Thursday), **Yvonne Edwards**, a former drug addict with a powerful testimony (Saturday) and **Jeremy Marshall**, a businessman with terminal cancer (Friday) - with talks each night from **Roger Carswell**.

Times to Pray...

Wednesdays at 7pm-7:30pm Quiet Evening Prayer: All welcome

St Nicholas Benefice Prayer Gathering at St Nicholas: Wednesday 4th May 7:45-9pm

Early Morning Prayer Zoom. 7am-8am Tuesday 10th May. Contact Mike Wilton for a link

*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*

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:

1st May: Psalm 16:1-11 8th May: Psalm 18:1-50 15th May: Psalm 25: 1-22 22nd May: Psalm 27: 1-14

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!

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:

NEW ALL AGE SERVICE starting at St Nicholas at 9:30am on Sunday 15th May. We'll start together, break into groups (some for a main talk, others for discussions or some art and craft work) then come back together

DIOCESAN EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE - Wednesday 11th May, 9:30am-3pm: with Paul Harcourt, *leader of the New Wine network of churches*- at St Nicholas. The theme for the conference is **HOLDING TO TRUTH AND LOVE** and all are welcome to come along. Tickets which cost £13 per head (unless you are helping with the catering – see Amanda for that!) can be booked here... [2022 Annual Conference with Paul Harcourt – St Albans Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship \(stalbandsdef.org.uk\)](https://stalbandsdef.org.uk)

FLOWER FESTIVAL at St Nicholas Church: 16th – 19th June

WESTON CONCERTS is presenting a concert by Ben Goldscheider (horn) and Richard Uttley (piano) on Saturday 14 May 2022 at 7.30pm at St Nicholas Church. Tickets £18 (£5 for age 25 and under).

For tickets go to trybooking.co.uk/BOHH or for more information and a link, see website westonmusicsociety.org.uk/

These two internationally acclaimed musicians will play a programme by Beethoven and Schumann as well as commissioned pieces of the 2020s.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST on Saturday 14th May at 8.30am at the Standing Order – see Karen for details