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Briefing 113: Wednesday 4th May, 2022.

Dear friends,

The 2nd resurrection appearance happened a short distance away from Jerusalem, on the road to Emmaus. Two of Jesus' disciples were walking to the village some 7 miles from Jerusalem and, just like we would have done, they were talking about the events of the previous few days.

What a rollercoaster it had been! From the rapturous welcome into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the Last Supper, Jesus' arrested in the garden of Gethsemane, to his trial, crucifixion, death and burial. And then, just as they were beginning to come to terms with their grief, some women had told them of the angel and of Jesus, risen from the dead! No wonder their faces were downcast! They were in shock, confused, bewildered, and no doubt emotionally exhausted from the events of the previous week.

And then Jesus draws alongside them on the road. They don't recognise him, at least not at that point, but as they walked along the road together, Jesus showed them how foolish they had been, and how slow of heart they were to believe all the prophets had spoken! *As beginning with Moses and the prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in the Scriptures concerning himself.* (Luke 24:27)

Luke goes on to say that they finally recognised Jesus when he came inside their house to eat with them, and he broke the bread to bless it. But they should have recognised the truth long before that, because it had been there, in the Scriptures, all the time!

All the events of Jesus' life, from his birth in Bethlehem, through his powerful ministry, to his death on a cross and his mighty resurrection, are all there in the Old Testament Scriptures, for those who have eyes to see. Yet so often we are as uninformed as those 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Friends, if we are to grow in confidence in the resurrection of Jesus, we need to know the Old Testament better! Across the pages of those 39 books, the truth of Jesus is declared in patterns, parables, metaphors and in clear and unambiguous truth. Let's not be uninformed. Let's recommit ourselves to reading and inwardly digesting all the Scriptures, including the Old Testament, for Jesus is revealed on every page!

Grace and peace,

Dave

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

Times to Pray...

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

Next 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:

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, 10:30am-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 can be [booked here...](#) [2022 Annual Conference with Paul Harcourt – St Albans Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship \(stalbandsdef.org.uk\)](#)

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