

Dear Friends,

Hello again! Things seem much more unsettled all of a sudden, but we hold on to a God who is the same yesterday, today and forever, and who is with us always, to the end of the age.

What's on this week:

* - Tuesday 11.45am Virtual Assembly* on the Preston Plucknett Youtube Channel <https://tinyurl.com/wgkrpq> <<https://tinyurl.com/wgkrpq>***>

- Weds 12 noon *Parish Prayer* meeting on Zoom, a chance to pray together for 30 minutes for our churches and our parish, just click on this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5697164315?pwd=d3NzK01mM2htbTd0cWpiK21wWHpxQT09>

Meeting ID: 569 716 4315 Password: 836009

* - Sunday Worship 10.30am* on the Youtube channel. Some of you will be aware we have had one or two issues with the live comments during the service – please see the attachment for a bit of guidance on how to use the comments feature, including how to turn it off (!). The attachment is both in Word and pdf form.

What to Watch

- We're posting a series on *'Bitesized Prayer'* on the Youtube channel, each one covering a simple prayer practice to use at home or in everyday life, in a 3-4 minute video. Some recent research showed that 1/3 of UK adults have prayed since the lockdown and believe it makes a difference, so many of your friends and family may be open to praying at this time. A new video is going up each day this week, please share these around.

- A new video on *Anxiety* from Annie Nixon at Counselling 4 Yeovil <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFrYewCxpKk&feature=youtu.be>

*News and views:

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- Caroline Turner has recovered well from her surgery, praise God. Please keep in your prayers several other church members who have had accidents recently, for safety and a speedy recovery.

- Please pray for the family of Min Watt, a longstanding member of St. James, whose funeral is today (Tuesday).

* - Thy Kingdom Come*, the 10 day season of prayer from Ascension to Pentecost, begins on Thursday 21st May. We will have regular times of prayer throughout, both online and offline, and various ideas and resources for prayer in homes, and around the parish. The focus is on new people coming to faith in Christ, which has been a prayer focus this year at St. James'. We'll be encouraging everyone to sign up for an hour of prayer during the 10 days. More details later this week, but in the meantime do join the dedicated parish Facebook group for Thy Kingdom Come (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/871550123255996/>).

* - Church Buildings*. Following the latest announcements, we are now allowed /very/ limited access to our church buildings. It is still not possible to open them even for private prayer, and this, as well as opening for funerals or weddings with a restricted number of guests, is still some way off. More details here: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/2020/05/clergy-return-to-church-buildings>. Some news bulletins referred yesterday to 'churches open from July'. This is a) only if several conditions are met and b) will not be open as before – it may only be for private prayer and not for gatherings.

We would love to get back to meeting face to face, but I doubt that will be possible for months. In the meantime, instead of having 2 places of worship in the parish, we now have dozens – every single home of a church member. That's how the early church started – and thrived. Jesus is not on lockdown, and he is still very much at work in and through us.

Meanwhile, here is (perhaps?) the original version of the new government slogan: "Stay alert, control yourselves, resist the devil" (1 Peter 5:8)

Yours in Christ

David and Ruth

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