

Dear Friends,

It's lovely to see the sun again, and great news from the government today that we are allowed to open our church buildings for public worship, as well as for private prayer. We hope you are keeping well, and are able to stay in touch with others in the church family whilst we wait for the time we can meet up properly.

1. \*Re-opening our churches:\* the government has announced that public worship can recommence in churches from July 4th. There is no detailed guidance yet on how we are to do this, and what precautions, distancing etc. will be required. It is likely that this guidance will mean greatly reduced numbers within the church buildings, so Youtube will remain our main gathering point for some time yet. When we've seen and processed the guidance, we will look to re-establish public worship in our buildings, but it will not be a 'return to normal', and may have to be substantially different from what we were used to. We will keep you posted!

From today St James is open for private prayer from 2-4pm on Tuesdays and 10-12 on Saturday mornings.

2. \*St Peters Gift Day\* is this Sunday, hopefully everyone at St. Peters has had delivery of a leaflet about the proposed works in the church, and our fundraising target. Please contact me (David) or Caroline Turner if you've not had the leaflet. St James will be having a Gift Day on St James day, 26th July, to give thanks for the ministry and mission of our church over the last 600 years.

3. We have updated the '\*Worship at Home' booklet\* which was sent out just before Easter. The new version contains the Sunday services we'll be using for the next few months, Sunday readings, and formats for morning and night prayer throughout the week. We're delivering these to home who don't have email or internet access, which is about 50 across the parish. The new version is attached to this email, and will be put on both church Facebook pages tomorrow, as well as on the church websites.

4. \*Sundays service\* is still available here: <https://youtu.be/R80nWqwN8w4>, sermon here: <https://youtu.be/6vWmjlfhm-U> and Tuesdays Virtual Assembly is here: <https://youtu.be/06LZZZkqHH4>. Danny, one of the St James members, was in Yeovil Hospital over the weekend, and managed to get the service live streamed into the ward, where it was watched by a congregation of 20 staff and patients!

We've made a lot more \*videos\* over the last few months! Some have been

on a themed series - e.g. Bitesized Prayer - which some people have appreciated. If there's something you'd like us to make a video on, whether it's a question, a topic, a devotional practice, an issue in current affairs, then please do let us know. One blessing of Youtube is that it doesn't restrict all the teaching input to a Sunday sermon, which gives us a lot more scope. So if there's something you'd find helpful, please do let us know.

5. \*Community Centre/St James Church Room\*: the government announcement makes it possible for us to open both of these. But again, we await the detailed guidance. A small working group will look at the Community Centre and work out what can be done and when - it's doubtful that all groups will just be able to restart where they left off. Likewise at St James we will have to look carefully at what can be done in the church room, and we are trying to keep groups posted as we do so. Please pray for wisdom!!

Please can you keep David, Ruth and all the church leadership in your prayers as we navigate these uncharted waters.

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know him better." (Ephesians 1:17)

yours in Christ

David and Ruth

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<http://www.stjamesyeovil.org.uk/>

<http://www.stpeters-yeovil.org.uk/>

Preston Plucknett Parish on Youtube:<https://tinyurl.com/wgkrcpq>