

Dear Friends,

It's July! And it's raining, which is one way to keep people from heading to the beach in large numbers. We hope you are keeping well, in good health and in good spirits, and close to the Lord.

**\*Re-opening for Public Worship\***

Guidance for churches to re-open for worship came out yesterday evening, and it will take some time to process it. There are restrictions on singing, music, communion and after-service fellowship, along with social distancing and other precautions. In practice this probably means that a safe maximum number at each church will be around 12-15 people, and we will have to make services shorter and simpler.

/We are not proposing to re-start public worship immediately./ The PCC will be looking at this at a special meeting on Saturday morning. There will be a survey sent out by email and paper next week to gauge how many people actually want to worship in our church buildings at present, which will enable us to plan things. Some services may be streamed from the church buildings over the coming weeks, but we are going to take our time to come up with a sensible plan for resuming public worship. In any case, St Peters will be out of action for the whole of July (see below!). \*So please do not turn up at either building this Sunday morning! \*

**\*Gift Days\***

It was great to see so many folk who turned up in person to support \*St Peters Gift Day\* on Sunday. A staggering £11,250 (and rising) has been raised, which is just amazing and for which we praise God. This will enable all the planned works to be done, mostly in July, and perhaps some other improvements too.

\*St James Gift Day \*on 26th July is an opportunity to celebrate 600 years of St James Church. A special leaflet for the Day will come out soon, and we'd love everyone to be part of it. We want to ask every member of St James to.....

- \* Answer on a \*Postcard \*'what St James means to me' and 'my prayer for the future of St James church'
- \* Take a \*Picture \*of 'what I did in lockdown' (new hobby? hairstyle? or did you just sleep a lot?) and send it in to David, we'll create a slideshow out of all of these.
- \* Send in a \*Prayer, poem, hymn, picture or Christian quote \*that has

inspired and blessed you, with (if possible) a sentence or two saying what it means to you. We want to create a special booklet out of all of these, to give out to every member of the church.

\* Come in \*Person \*on St James Day, we are hoping to have a socially distanced gathering in the churchyard, along with a chance to bring gifts, postcards etc. to the church, and it would just be lovely to see people!

We'd also like to encourage people to make a financial gift to St. James, as an expression of our worship, and also in response to the severe challenges we presently face due to the lockdown. There will be more details of this in the leaflet.

However we want the gift day to be about much more than financial gifts. 600 years is a momentous achievement, and we have so much to celebrate. The most important offering we can give the Lord is ourselves and our worship and thanksgiving, to 'give ourselves first to the Lord' (2 Corinthians 8:6) and to praise him for the wonderful church we belong to, and all that He has done through it.

"May the Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in every way." (2 Thes 3:16)

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/wgkrpcq>