

Dear Friends,

There is a lot of weariness around at the moment, every move towards 'normal' (children back to school) is matched by a movement away (the 'rule of 6'). The novelty of working from home is wearing off, and many of us are tired. But 'those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength' (Isaiah 40:31)

Tomorrows 10.30am streamed service will include Communion, so please have bread and wine ready at home if you want to share in that.

/Here's a few dates and events coming up over the next few weeks/

* Sunday 20th Sept, first of the new *All-Age services* in the morning, and *'Car Park Praise' at 3pm*, an experimental drive-in service in the car park by St James'. There'll be a few familiar hymns and we'll socially distance by staying in our cars. If it works well we may repeat it!

* Sunday 27th Sept 3pm *St James at 3*, the new families event, please contact Ruth if you have children/grandchildren and want to book in. We have been praying for more families, children and young people to join our church, so please pray for this and spread the word.

* Sunday 4th October - the main morning service will have a harvest theme, and there'll be a *harvest collection *at St James at 4pm - please bring your gifts for the Lords Larder to the church. (The collection point is still open, so if you are at St James for prayer, cell group or Sunday worship please do use it).

* *AGMs *- St Peters will be 2pm on Sunday 11th, St James will be at 3pm on Sunday 18th. Both will be done virtually over Zoom/Youtube due to the new gathering rules. St Peters will be electing 3 members to the PCC for the first time, and both meetings will be electing church wardens and Deanery reps, as well as approving the accounts for 2019 (remember then?)

Due in large part to covid the PCC took the decision this week to discontinue the monthly service at Abbey Community Centre. We will review this again when restrictions end, but in the meantime it's right that we put our resources and energy into other things. Over recent years this has been less effective in drawing new people into St James, and it turns out that Yeovil Vineyard (who can no longer meet in Westfield school) will be using the venue now for their Sunday services. We wish them well and pray for God's blessing on them.

As I send this out, Ruth will be part way through her *cycle ride* around all 28 churches in Yeovil Deanery. Half the sponsorship money goes to St James, the other half to Somerset Churches Trust <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?pageId=1197713>

Our *cell groups *are all restarting for the new term (some never stopped!), and finding new and creative ways to stay in touch. If, like many, you are feeling the isolation of lockdown and would value being part of a small group, please let myself or Ruth know. Cell groups meet for prayer, support, worship and bible study, one member this week described their group as a 'lifeline'.

If you want to try out a small group, and/or have questions about Christian faith you'd like to explore, Ruth will be hosting a *short discipleship course* from the start of October which may be right up your street, do get in touch for more details revruth@mail.com

The 'Rule of 6'

As you'll know, the new gathering laws come into place on Monday. We're assured that they will not affect public worship, so our socially distanced Sunday services will continue. We are waiting for detailed guidance from the CofE, which won't be ready until sometime this next week. In the meantime, cell groups, prayer meetings etc. which are using church premises are encouraged to continue as before, but where there is interaction (e.g. praying or discussing together) to split down into groups of 6 or fewer. This is in line with what is permitted in 'Covid secure premises' (which includes our churches and community centre).

Once we have more detailed guidance we will let you know.

yours in Christ

David and Ruth

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

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

St James and St Peters on

Youtube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS_rhjBAJTixz3kIXLMN_Xw/