

Dear Friends,

"I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and not denied my name". Those words were written to a small church in Turkey 2000 years ago (Revelation 3:8) but many of us can relate to them. Lockdown has become a long haul, and we can see it taking its toll on people around us, and on ourselves. I've found myself just sitting, overwhelmed, on several occasions recently. But as the song says 'Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer'. So we do, because God is able to make all grace come to us in abundance, so that we have all that we need to live as he has called us (2 Cor 9:8 - paraphrase!)

A few bits of news

- If you followed the *announcements today,* the good news is that there is nothing (so far) that will affect what happens with Sunday or cell group meetings. Our last wedding of the year is on Saturday, which just gets in before the deadline for reduced guests.

- *A new booklet '7 Sacred Habits*', is available to everyone in church. It is a simple 7 week daily bible reading plan, focused on 7 habits of Christian life, and follows on from the '7 sacred spaces' we looked at a few months ago. The booklet is designed to be used with others - you do the studies day by day but then review it with others on a regular basis. you can find the booklet here <http://www.stjamesyeovil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/7SS-Bible-reading-plan.pdf>. If you're not in a cell group, and would like to link up with someone else to follow the 7 weeks, please let me know and I'll do my best to pair people up. There's an introductory video here: <https://youtu.be/pzIKM9i0994>

- *Harvest Collections*: the current requirements at the Lords Larder food bank are here: <https://www.ycstyeovil.org.uk/harvest-information/>.

St James harvest collection will be on Sunday October 3rd -either bring things to the 10.30am or St James at 3 service, or come between 4 and 4.30pm to the church room. St. Peters are collecting on 10th October, again bring your gift to the service or to the church building between 2.30 and 3pm.

- *St James at 3* starts this Sunday (3pm!), an exciting new service for children and their families which will run weekly. Please pray for this, and please spread the word among families you know who may be interested. Image may contain: text that says 'ST JAMES@ A BRAND NEW SERVICE AT 3PM FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES EVERY WEEK IN TERM TIME CAPART FROM ON THE 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH) THERE WILL BE MUSIC, GAMES AND FUN ACTIVITIES THAT WILL HELP US LEARN ABOUT GOD TOGETHER IF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO COME PLEASE EMAIL REVRUTH@MAIL.COM TO GET MORE INFORMATION WE'RE COVID SAFE'

- If you missed it, *Sundays service* is still online at <https://youtu.be/DHLyPWV7wYU>

- A new *monthly prayer meeting for St James* is starting on Thurs 1st October, 7.30-8.30pm in the church. The monthly prayers for Westfield is now being co-ordinated by Kristi Baker (sbkmbaker5@gmail.com) please let her know if you'd like to be kept in touch with this.

- Both churches have a Hardship Fund, which can be used to help people who are in real financial need. If you're aware of someone who might need this, there's a very simple referral process, please ask if you'd like more details.

We realise that, with covid restrictions, it's easy to become isolated, or to lose contact with people, even within the church family. If that sounds like you, please reply to this email - you don't even need to write anything, just hit reply and send - and we'll follow that up. Or just give someone a call - there was a flurry of ringing round in the early days of lockdown which has tailed off a bit, so please do keep on looking out for one another, especially folk you haven't heard from for a while, one phone call might be just what they need today.

yours in Christ

David

(Ruth is on a well-earned holiday until 3rd October)