

Dear Friends,

We hope this finds you well and in good spirits. Things have gone a bit quiet for August - as they always do - but we're looking forward to a number of new things for the Autumn, as we continue to open up and adapt to the covid restrictions.

Children, Youth and Families at St James

* We have been praying through the year for more children and younger people to join St James church family, and we're delighted that some have joined our online worship. From 27th September, we're launching a new weekly service aimed specifically at children and families.

'St James @3' will run at 3pm each Sunday in St James, and provides a chance for our families and children to meet together and worship God in a way they can relate to. More details soon on these e-newsletters, but do contact Ruth Chapman if you'd like to find out more.

* Please pray for the youth groups at St James and St Peters, both restarting in the next few weeks, and for creative ways to support and minister in our local schools: Preston Primary, and Preston and Westfield Academies.

Prayer gatherings

Prayer is the heartbeat of our church life, in our worship, our cell groups, and throughout the week. Alongside our personal life of prayer, there are several opportunities to pray during the week

* Tues 2-4pm St James building open for personal prayer

* Tues 4pm St James intercessory prayer group

* Weds 12 noon Zoom prayers, hosted by Mark Felstead

* Sat 11am-1pm St James open for personal prayer

We're also looking at restarting a monthly prayer gathering, for us to pray for God's work in and through our churches, at a time accessible to working people. Watch this space...

***Sunday Worship at St Peters ***

A simple 9am Sunday service will resume at St Peters during September.

The 10.30am service at St James will continue to be our live streamed service for the whole parish, and St Peters folks will continue to play a part in it, so that it's shared across both churches.

If you'd like to join a Sunday congregation in the church building, please let Caroline Turner (St Peters, carolineturner28@gmail.com) or Maureen Harris (St James, maureenharris23@talktalk.net) know. To keep numbers to a safe level, we are working on an invitation system at the moment, and it helps to know who would like to be invited!

Exploring and Growing in Faith

* The Emmaus course is a discipleship course, and looks at faith at a deeper level. If you want to look at faith and ask those questions you have always wanted to ask, this is the course for you. The

Emmaus course will run for 6 weeks from Tuesday 6th at 7:30pm in the church room at St James. Please contact Ruth Chapman (revruth@mail.com) if you're interested in this.

* In a time of great challenge and change, it's all the more important that we stay deeply rooted in the Bible, and that the church equips Christians to deal with the questions and life issues that we face from day to day. If there are questions you would love us to address more deeply in the church's teaching, or areas of theology, the bible and Christian thinking which you would like to explore in more depth, please let David or Ruth know.

Ride & Stride: As you may have seen in the Western Gazette, Ruth will be cycling to all 28 churches in Yeovil Deanery as part of Somerset 'Ride and Stride' on Saturday 12th September. It's a 58 mile ride, and all sponsorship is split 50:50 between St James' and the Somerset Churches Trust, who give grants to churches across the county. You can sponsor Ruth here <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?pageId=1197713>

Please pray for Mark McKnight and Coelette Parkes, starting ordination training, and for Caryl Plewes and John Hanson, continuing their training as Readers. Please do also pray for all the students and staff who are resuming school in the next few days, for safety, for peace, and for God's protection.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him." (Romans 15:13)

yours in Christ

David and Ruth

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

St James and St Peters on

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