

Dear Friends,

How are you? For most of us there's a long answer and a short answer to that question! For many of us, a lot of our normal sources of support and fun (friends, family gatherings, groups, gathered worship, cell groups, prayer groups) have either stopped or are massively restricted.

That is bound to take its toll, however tough we are, and whether we are happy with our own company or love being in a crowd. We need to prioritise the things that sustain us - as Hebrews says 'do not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing'. Please do take some time at the start of the new 'term' to think about how to re-engage with other people, and how to make sure you have at least one source of refreshment each week. We may be entering a season as a church (and society) of recreating how we do things, 'digging new wells' to find God's living water.

A few bits of news to share

1. *Sundays service* is available on Youtube for those who missed it.

Also on our Youtube channel

(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS_rhjBAJTixz3klXLMN_Xw) are the first

2 of a *new series of reflections* on 'Into the Unknown'. There's a lot of talk of a 'New Normal', but lets be honest, we haven't got a clue what the future looks like. Neither, it turns out, had many of the characters in the Bible, so they may turn out, under God, to be a great guide into an uncertain future.

2. If you want to *sponsor Ruth for her cycle ride* around all 28 churches in the Deanery, there is a sponsor form in church or you can do so online here

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RuthChapman9>. Half the money goes to St James, and half to Somerset Churches Trust

3. As reported on Sunday, the 3rd Sunday morning of each month will be an *all-age service* under a new leadership team, and on every other Sunday from 27th Sept there's a new 'St James @3' afternoon service for families with children. Do contact Ruth if you want to know more, and do invite families along who you think might be interested.

4. *Both our churches have now resumed morning worship*, if you would like to attend please let us know, telepathy is not a gift of the Holy Spirit!

5. Most of the headline TV at the moment seems to be a celebration of the grisly or the weird. For something much more uplifting, *do try 'The Chosen' on Youtube*.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBXOFnNTULFaAnj24PAeblg>. It's a creative retelling of the calling of the early disciples, very well done, and avoiding the corniness that sometimes afflicts Christian TV, and the mangling of Jesus message that afflicts other modern recreations of the gospels.

Finally, we were presented today with a *colourful new banner for St James, created by the 'Star Quilters'* , some pictures will go up on the St James Facebook page later today, and we'll put it up in the church soon so you'll all be able to see it! Unfortunately the pictures will crash this email if we try to send them as attachments.

/"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed the water I give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14)/