

Dear Friends,

It's been encouraging in the last few weeks to see ways that we're emerging from hibernation, and finding new ways to do things. St Peters Community Coffee has restarted on Mondays, with a few weeks outdoors before the proper autumn weather turned up. Several people are getting together in 2s and 3s, in person or over Zoom, to follow the '7 Sacred Habits' booklet. Cell groups are meeting in person using our church buildings. Face to face youth work has restarted at both churches, a small mums and babies support group has resumed at St James', and the new 'St James at 3' service has started really well.

It's now crystal clear that we're not in a temporary blip. In the superb biblical drama 'The Chosen' there's a scene where Jacob digs a new well (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lk4yq1f6DY>, 11m15s in), and that image has really stuck with me. It's like some of the old wells are capped off and out of use, and we have to dig new ones. The water is still there - God is still there - but we need to find new ways to meet, to worship, to pray, to be the church, and at times it feels like hard digging. But we appreciate the water all the more when we find it.

This weeks news:

1. *Harvest*: Thankyou to everyone who brought harvest gifts to St James on Sunday, there was a good bootful to take to the Lords Larder. St Peters Harvest collection is this Sunday, either bring gifts to the service, or between 2.30 and 3pm in the afternoon. Non perishables only please!
2. *St Peters AGM* is 2pm on Sunday afternoon, and will be held online due to covid restrictions. There'll be a separate email to St Peters members with all the details. St James' AGM is at 3pm on Sunday 18th, more details next week.
3. The *new Worship at Home booklet* is out, and will be delivered to homes this week where people don't have Youtube or internet access. You can download it from http://www.stjamesyeovil.org.uk/?page_id=1945, and we've posted it on both church Facebook pages.
4. *Morning Prayer* has restarted at St. Peters, every Tuesday morning 8.30-9am using a simple Celtic (i.e. Celtic Christian, not football chants) form of prayer.
5. *New on the Youtube channel*: we're grouping videos into 'Playlists' (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS_rhjBAJTiXz3kIXLMN_Xw/playlists), which include Sunday Services, Virtual Assemblies and a new series on the 7 Sacred Habits, which will be added to each week over the next month. A new Virtual Assembly goes up every Tuesday morning.
6. The *7 Sacred Habits book**let* can still be downloaded from <http://www.stjamesyeovil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/7SS-Bible-reading-plan.pdf>, and if you require a paper copy, please let David or the church office know.
7. *St James at 3,* our new weekly Sunday afternoon service for children and their families, has had an excellent start. Please spread the word about this, and if you have pre- or primary school aged children or grandchildren, please come along.

Joanna our fantastic administrator has produced a new parish newsletter, which is for people who can't get online or get to the building, but who are still part of our church family and it's an important way to help them stay in touch. If you know anyone who would appreciate a copy, please let Joanna or the clergy know. If you're able to take it round in person, that will be fantastic, so many people are isolated and cut off and a friendly face at the door might be, literally, a Godsend for them.

This Sunday's live streamed service at 10.30am will be a Communion service, so if you'd like to take part from home then please do have some bread and wine/fruit juice to hand.

"Jesus said 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me' " (John 14:1)

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/