

Welcome to this week's e-news.

I've been enjoying chestnuts this week, having discovered some small chestnut trees in the local park which are producing in abundance. The poem 'God's grandeur', by my favourite poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, speaks of the toll human life takes on the planet, then declares 'and for all this, nature is never spent' because the life-giving Spirit of God still hovers over the chaos of life. When we see the stunning colours and the fruitfulness of autumn, it's a vivid reminder of God's goodness, and his unceasing love towards us despite everything.

* Many thanks for all the *harvest donations* at both churches, I think we took over 30 bags of produce to the Lords Larder, which is feeding more people than ever due to lockdown. Another mission partner, Christians Against Poverty (as we heard on Sunday) is looking for our help to let people know about the help they offer.

If you'd like to get out in the autumn sunshine and deliver a few leaflets for them, please let Mark Felstead know (mfelstead13@icloud.com)

* *Sundays service*, including an excellent sermon by Mike Nixon, is still available at <https://youtu.be/905EQlwTwBQ>. There is also a series of videos to accompany the '*7 Sacred Habits*' booklet, the latest is here <https://youtu.be/O4ck4gRi0yY> on the theme of Community.

* *St Peters 'Virtual AGM*' was on Sunday: please pray for the new committee, including several members serving for the first time.

We're very grateful to Coelette Parkes, Ian Croxford, Steve Baker, Kevin Parkes and Maggie Scott, who have served on the committee over the last year, and in Coelette's case as churchwarden too.

* *St James AGM* will also be virtual, at 3pm on Sunday. It will be held over Zoom, and also live streamed to the parish YouTube channel. Joining instructions are on the attached agenda, if you want to come along, we expect it to last 30-40 minutes. The parish Report and Accounts are available on St James website from Thursday. If you would like a printed copy, please contact the church office. If there are any questions of detail on the finances, please email our Treasurer Rob Kirton directly pamandrobk@btinternet.com, as it will be impractical to deal with these during the meeting. With the church financial year ending 9 1/2 months ago, and covid restrictions, the AGM will not be our usual chance to celebrate the life of the church and to review the year just gone, so we are aiming for 'business-like'.

* There is a *vigil for Baby Loss Awareness Week* from 6-7.15pm on Thursday evening (tomorrow), in St James. If you would like to come, please bring a candle of your own, and we will light it (alcohol gel and naked flames don't mix!). There will not be a formal vigil, just a chance for people to stay and pray/reflect for a few minutes during the evening.

There will be a vigil service for All Saints on Saturday 31st October, offering a chance for anyone to come to the church to remember a loved one in an atmosphere of prayer.

* There are some paper copies of the *latest parish newsletter* in both churches, if you know someone who doesn't have access to email/web/social media and would appreciate keeping in touch with us.

* I (David) will be on leave from this Sunday until 1st November, so if you need to speak to one of the clergy please contact Rev. Ruth.

There are several members of both churches currently in hospital, or receiving treatment for various conditions. Others are struggling with anxiety and stress and general lockdown fatigue. So please keep one another in your prayers, if you get a 'nudge' to ring or text someone, or bless someone else in some way, please act on it.

Finally if you need something to put a smile on your face, try <https://cartoonchurch.com/>, Dave Walker is the regular cartoonist for the Church Times, and he's great.

/"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.// //He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.// //He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.// //Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;// //but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.// //They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."/ (Isaiah 40:28-31)

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/