

/Yet saints their watch are keeping; //
//Their cry goes up: "How long?"//
//And soon the night of weeping //
//Shall be the morn of song./

There are times when God answers prayers very quickly, and times when it feels like he is incredibly slow. Either way, he is still God, and we are still his people. This Sunday's reading, from Matthew 25, gives the staggering revelation that when we help a fellow Christian in need, we are helping Jesus. The reading doesn't promise that, as Christians, we will never be in need. It doesn't say that. But it does show us that Jesus, the glorious king of all creation, is with us in suffering, and that in all our small acts of kindness, encouragement and support to one another, we are actually ministering to Him. What a mystery, and what a privilege!

Here's this week's news and nuggets

1. A great idea for Christmas outreach this year is our '*Christmas Trail*', where we're looking for people to host and/or create depictions of 9 parts of the Christmas story, for people to explore around the parish. Please have a look at the attachment for details, and please contact Caryl Plewes (crplewes@gmail.com) by *Friday* if you'd like to be involved or find out more.

2. We're waiting to see what we're allowed to do over Christmas, but already in the diary is a *Christmas Concert* by a local professional pianist, 4.30pm Sunday 13th Dec. If we're allowed an audience for this, we'll allocate tickets on a first come first served basis, but will also live stream it. This will be a St James church fundraiser. Details of other services and events to come...

3. As you'll be aware both churches have had a big dent in our income in 2020. A small group at St James is going to meet over Zoom to *share ideas about fundraising* during covid restrictions - what kind of events, sponsored things, etc. we could do. Mike Cox is bringing this together, so if you'd like to be involved please contact him on mike_cox40@hotmail.com, either to join the group or to offer your ideas!

4. If you've been using the *7 Sacred Habits* materials, I'd be interested to hear any feedback you have (positive and negative!). If anyone is interested in a short gathering to ask the question 'now what?' then please let me know. I've been pleasantly surprised by how many people have used it and got something from it, and it would be good to see how we can develop these ideas.

There is now a complete set of accompanying videos, 1 for each of the 7 habits, as well as a concluding thought on the idea of a 'Rule of Life' posted earlier this week. They're all here if you're interested
<https://tinyurl.com/7sacredhabits>

5. We're producing a new *'worship at **home**' prayer booklet* for Advent and Christmas. If you know anyone who would appreciate one, please do let us know. These go out to all the people who we're not in touch with on email or online, to keep us in touch with the whole church community. It should be available on the website ready for the start of Advent (29th Dec)

6. *Call to prayer* - a reminder that the Church is encouraging us to pray daily at 6pm throughout this lockdown - if you are within earshot of St James building you may hear the bell being rung as reminder!

7. *This Sundays service* will be a Communion, so please have bread and wine/fruit juice ready at home if you want to share in that online.

It'll be streamed live in the usual place <https://tinyurl.com/StJPY2020> at 10.30am.

Ruth is now on leave until 27th November, so please pray for a refreshing break for her. Please also pray for our town - you may have heard of the covid outbreak at Yeovil District Hospital, there are also cases at 2 nursing homes we have connections with (The Knoll and Cookson Court). Please pray for protection for the vulnerable and elderly, and for all who work in the care sector.

Thankyou for all your prayers and your messages of encouragement. If the Holy Spirit puts it on your heart to ring or text someone, please do so

- you may be Gods helping hand at just the right moment.

yours in Christ

David

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

St James and St Peters on

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