

Dear Friends,

/"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all/" (2 Corinthians 4:16-17). I'm constantly astounded at how the apostle Paul keeps things in perspective. He keeps his eyes fixed on Jesus through shipwrecks, beatings, jailings, rejection, legal trials and turmoil in the church. As we go into another lockdown, its yet another shift in what we can and can't do, yet another change of plans around family, work, friends and our daily routines. But we do not lose heart, Jesus has overcome death, our risen Lord is with us through everything.

Sunday worship: in line with the new rules, Sunday worship will move back to a single live streamed service at 10.30am. This means that both St Peters 9am and St James at 3 services will stop for the next 4 weeks, and we will all meet online at <https://tinyurl.com/StJPY2020>.

Remembrance Sunday: *this will be a 10.30am streamed service from St. James, including an act of Remembrance around 11am, and will be laying wreaths at the Preston Rd war memorial after this. Our original plan was to invite people, including our local scout group and members of the armed forces, to the churchyard for an outdoor service, so it's a great shame this cannot go ahead. We will be publicising this service to the community through social media, so we are hoping to have a number of online 'guests' for the service. Please do direct people to our Youtube channel if they would find it valuable to take part.

Church Buildings: St. Peters building will be closed for the 4 weeks of lockdown, though the community centre will still be used by local midwives. St James' will be open for personal prayer 2-4pm on Tuesday and 11am - 1pm on Saturdays throughout the lockdown. However all other meetings - prayer groups, cell groups, community coffee etc. - will have to stop or move back to a virtual format.

Call to Prayer: The Archbishops issued a letter to all clergy and leaders in the Church of England yesterday. In it they say this:

- > Bearing in mind our primary vocation as the Church of Jesus Christ to
- > pray and to serve we call upon the Church of England to make this
- > month of lockdown a month of prayer. More than anything else, whatever
- > the nation thinks, we know that we are in the faithful hands of the
- > risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and
- > whose steadfast love endures for ever.

With this in mind, we'd like to encourage you all to join in an online time of prayer on Thursday, the first day of the lockdown. We'll be meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6261684940> - just paste the link into a web browser and you'll be taken to the meeting. It will run from 7.30-8.15 and will include worship, prayer for our church, town and nation, and the mission of the church across the world. Please do join us if you can. You can read the full text of the Archbishops' letter

here:

<https://davidkeen.blogspot.com/2020/11/archbishops-lockdown-letter.html>

Streaming Issues: there have been one or two glitches with the live stream in recent weeks. We're working on it! If the stream stops for any reason, you can do one of two things a) reload the web page you are watching from, or b) go back to the St James and St Peters Youtube channel page and

find the video that's marked 'live'. If you're catching up with last Sunday's service, there are 2 videos on the channel which capture about half of it each!

Prayers: please pray for the family of Jean Jackson, a longstanding member of St Peters who sadly died a few days ago. Please also pray for those for whom the new lockdown is especially difficult - those concerned about their jobs, those unable to see family, or deprived by the lockdown of crucial sources of support.

And finally... I was due to go and see the comedian Milton Jones at the Octagon this weekend. So here's one of his jokes: /I'm very English really. I even ordered a book on the internet, 'how to have absolutely nothing to do with your neighbours'. Unfortunately I was out when it was delivered./

yours in Christ

David and Ruth

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Rev David Keen
3 Poplar Drive
Yeovil BA21 3UL
01935 422286

<http://www.stjamesyeovil.org.uk/>

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

St James and St Peters on

Youtubehttps://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS_rhjBAJTixz3kIXLMN_Xw/

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