

Dear Friends,

'I baptise you with water, but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit'. Marks gospel (Sundays reading) opens with a 'Breaking News' fanfare of a new remedy for the human sickness. John the Baptist calls people to a 2 stage process, baptism and repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and baptism in the Holy Spirit, administered by Jesus. Only the twin dose carries the full effect. You can see where I'm going with this.... The approval of the Pfizer vaccine is great news, but the coming of Jesus is even better. The Pfizer vaccine will protect you from 1 virus and prolong your life, Jesus sets us free from sin and death and grants us eternal life and adoption as God's children. Everybody needs to have the vaccine. And even more, everybody needs to have Jesus.

This weeks other news.....

*Christmas Services and Events - *please see separate email earlier today, which has full details of all Christmas services and how to book seats.

A weekly *Advent Reflection* is going up on the Youtube channel, here's the first, on Mary:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9NQrZqBSKM>

Sunday congregations will resume in both church buildings from this Sunday, and the 10.30am service will continue to be live streamed as usual. If you'd like to attend worship in person, please let Maureen Harris (St James) or Caroline Turner (St Peters) know.

This Sunday (6th), Christians across Yeovil are invited to *pray outside for 5 minutes* at 3pm. You could do this on your doorstep, or walk up and down your street. The focus will be praying for the community where we live, for God's blessing on it, and for the people around us.

Next Sunday (13th) the *Christmas Trail* goes 'live' around the parish, with 9 stations representing different scenes from the Christmas story. There will be one based around St James and Abbey Manor, and one based around Westfield. Details next week of where to find it and how to follow it!

The *Yeovil Churches* have got together to record a *Carol service,* which will be broadcast live at 4pm on Sunday 20th December from this website: <https://www.yeovil.church/>. Look out for some of our musicians!
The service will also be available to watch after the live broadcast if you miss it.
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*A challenge from the Youth Group! *Ruth Glendinning writes: "At Lift, we looked at the season of giving and how this year more than ever it is important we give and not just receive. We discussed about reverse calanders where you put an item of food in bags each day to give to the food bank. We also discussed homeless boxes where you fill a box with certain items for those who have nothing else. Instead of these due to issues with self isolating I will be setting the youth with daily challenges to complete. We would love the church to join us someway, either with the boxes or the daily challenges." If you want details of the daily challenges, please contact Ruth G
ruthglendinning22@gmail.com

Covid Support Group. We are trialling a drop-in Covid support group at St James church building on Thursday 10th and 17th December 10.30-11.30am. This is for people who are finding isolation

and lack of social contact difficult during lockdown, and would appreciate getting out and seeing someone. It will be a drop in, with the opportunity to chat outside in the churchyard if that's preferred, and will be very informal, whilst following social distancing and mask wearing good practice.

Carol Singing: is allowed! There is some community carol singing in the neighbourhood, organised by some local musicians, with connections to the Salvation Army band. You'll find them by the Westfield Co-op at 6.30pm on Sat 12th and 19th, and by the Abbey Manor shops at 8pm on the same days. We're having our own 'carols by torchlight' service in St James churchyard on the 21st at 4.30pm

Local Christian drama company *Oddments Theatre Company* are showcasing a new Christmas production, you can see the trailer here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oi26bvPKHWs>

We praise God for the discovery and availability of the vaccine, and continue to pray for those who are struggling in mind, body and spirit.

Please pray especially for Mark Felstead from St James, who has had a covid diagnosis and is self isolating. Please could you also pray for healing for Barry Julier, St James church warden, who has recently had a diagnosis for lung cancer and starts treatment in a few days time. His wife is also very ill, so please pray for God's peace, strength and healing for both of them. Thankyou.

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/
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS_rhjBAJTixz3kIXLMN_Xw/>