

Dear Friends,

The Archbishops have written an open letter to the nation today, as we pass the awful milestone of 100,000 deaths from covid, they say:

/"100,000 isn't just an abstract figure. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us. We also believe that each of these people was known to God and cherished by God. We write to you then in consolation, but also in encouragement, and ultimately in the hope of Jesus Christ. The God who comes to us in Jesus knew grief and suffering himself. On the cross, Jesus shares the weight of our sadness.//We therefore encourage everyone who is feeling scared, or lost or isolated to cast their fears on God. //"

They write of the loneliness, grief, anxiety and isolation that many feel, and conclude on a note of hope: /"Most of all, we have hope because God raised Jesus from the dead. This is the Christian hope that we will be celebrating at Easter. We live in the hope that we will share in his resurrection. Death doesn't have the last word. In God's kingdom, every tear will be wiped away."/

You can read the full letter here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/20210126%20Letter%20to%20the%20nation.pdf>

Hampers for Hospitals: we'd like to bless the staff in West Abbey care home, who have been on the frontline of care during the covid crisis. To take 'clap for carers' a bit further, we'd like to give the 115 staff at West Abbey a 'thankyou' hamper, with tea & coffee, biscuits, and thankyou cards. So what we need is donations of

- * Biscuits (pre-wrapped would be ideal, e.g. penguin, club)
- * Tea & Coffee
- * A card with a message of thanks, appreciation or encouragement.

We'll quarantine all donations for a week before taking them to West Abbey, so that its safe to hand over. If you'd like to contribute, please bring donations to the doorstep of 3 Poplar Drive this week, or to St James church between 2 and 2.30pm this Sunday.

Lent Course: Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 17th February. We'll have an online service in some form on that evening, and a Wednesday evening Lent course over Zoom starting the following week, in place of the usual cell groups. More details nearer the time. Please also let the parish office know if you would like a *Lent Box* to make financial donations to support our Mission Partners. We'll home deliver these in the first half of February to those who request them.

St James Online Tea Room, online Zoom gathering for anyone who is around, 2.30-3pm every Monday at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84164192567> password Cuppa. For details of St Peters Monday coffee morning, please contact Frances or Caroline at St Peters.

Pictures Please!: We're doing a new Newsletter to home deliver to folk who can't get online, to keep the church family in touch with one another. If you have any pictures of the Christmas Trail, the outdoor carol singing, or of anything else suitable, please pass them on to the church office this week.

*Favourite Bible Verse: *Also for the newsletter, if a few people could reply to this email with your favourite bible verse, and what it means to you, I'm sure that will be a real blessing to people. As we're learning together about 'The Very Good Book' it's such a blessing to hear how God has used it to touch our lives.

There'll be an online *Parish Prayer *gathering next Thursday evening, 7.30-8.15pm, the link will be in next weeks e-news. We're hearing of answered prayers regularly - today there was news of a new CAP client who gave their life to Christ on their first phone call to CAP!

As always, please get in touch if there is anything you need, particularly if you are self-isolating and need shopping or prescriptions, or just if you want a chat, just drop us a line or pick up the phone.

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
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