

Dear Friends,

"The one who delights in the law of the Lord...is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season". (Psalm 1) I don't know about you but I'm feeling 'pruned' at the moment. Much has been cut back, new growth feels like an effort, and having the energy to deal with each day feels like enough to cope with, let alone growing new fruit, branches etc. God created the world with seasons, and we have seasons too. Lockdown feels like winter, but spring is coming. With the terrible toll of 100,000 lost to covid, the world feels like good Friday, but Sunday's coming. How to be ready for spring when it comes?

To let our roots go deep into God's word, His promises, His truth, his assurance of victory over death and eternal life in Christ.

/This weeks happenings:/

Thursday 4th Parish Prayer Gathering 7.30-8.15 on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6261684940>, a chance to pray for our churches, our community, our town and our nation.

*Sunday 7th 10.30am *Webcast Communion live from St Peters! Please have bread and wine/juice ready, for our first live streamed service from St Peters for 10 months, complete with new sound system.

*Mon 8th *St James Virtual Tea Room 2.30-3pm, drop in any time for a chat, venue is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84164192567> the password is Cuppa

Further ahead *Weds 17th Feb is Ash Wednesday*. There'll be an act of worship on Zoom at 7.30pm, complete with DIY 'ashing', and we'll follow that with a Wednesday evening Lent Course for the whole parish each week up to Easter. We're also producing a new home prayer resource for Lent, watch this space.

The Archbishops have encouraged us to make February a month of prayer for our nation, more details here <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

Blessing People

* Thankyou to all who donated to *Hampers for Hospitals*, for the 115 staff at West Abbey. We've had about 75 items donated - boxes of teabags, multipacks galore - which is fantastic. We'll be presenting this to West Abbey on Thursday morning.

* *Treats for Teachers:* If you'd like to bless our church school, we would love to give them a similar hamper of tea/coffee/hot choc plus biscuits (multipacks of individually wrapped ones, e.g. club, kitkat, penguin, are covid-safer than packets of loose biscuits). Please drop off any donations at 3 Poplar Drive, or at St Peters Church this Saturday between 11-11.30am. Please include if you can a note to say 'thankyou' or to offer a word of encouragement, these can really mean a lot to people.

* *Lent Boxes:* these give people a chance to set aside money in Lent, which all goes to support our amazing Mission Partners (Lords Larder, Counselling for Yeovil, Christians Against Poverty, Street Pastors). St Peters members please let Caroline know if you'd like

one and we'll drop it round. St James members watch out for service on Feb 21st (1st Sunday of Lent) for how to make your own!

Finance update: someone asked me a few days ago how we were doing financially, so here's the latest. In January St Peters was £15.50 in the red, and St James had a deficit of £700. St James is relying on the Gift Day income from last year to tide us over the coming months, which we expect will continue to be challenging. A very big thankyou to everyone who supports the church through their gifts of money, time, prayer, care, skills and encouragement.

Finally a prayer from the Archbishops

Gracious God,
as we remember before you the thousands
who have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your
strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen

yours in Christ

David and Ruth

--

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

Youtube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS_rhjBAJTixz3kIXLMN_Xw/

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