

Dear Friends,

/"Come away with me to a quiet place and get some rest"/ says Jesus (Mark 6:31). Some of us would love to be in a noisy place at the moment, we miss the company and the fun of simply being with people. Others are desperate for a rest - from home-schooling, from fear and worry, from restrictions and mask wearing and waiting for a man in London with anarchic hair to tell us what we can do. Our bodies can be at rest, but our spirits can be in turmoil. Rest is the gift Jesus wants to give.

Satan wants us to live in fear, conflict, anxiety, dread, guilt and anger - there is no rest for the soul in these things. If he can fill our hearts with enough noise and clamour, we are too agitated to pray or sink into God's arms and God's presence. May we choose to go with Jesus today, to let him take us to a place where we find rest for our souls, where our lives harmonise with His.

*The 'Seasons of Hope' Lent Course *continues on Wednesday at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6261684940>, the Zoom room will open from 7.45pm and we'll make a prompt start at 8pm, finishing at 9pm. This week's theme is Winter: Hope of Rest. Thank you for all the positive feedback from last week's session.

Church Re-opening. The PCC has agreed that we'll re-open in time for Easter, here is our 'roadmap' as it currently stands.

- * * Prayer*: St James will open for the '*National Day of Reflection*' on 23rd March, the first anniversary of the first lockdown. You can find out more about the day here <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/get-involved/day-of-reflection>. We'll have 365 candles in the church, for folk to light (or have lit for them) for all those loved ones we have lost over the last year, or funerals of friends, family and colleagues we were unable to attend due to the restrictions. More details in the next week or two.
- * St James will also open for personal prayer during the weekdays of Holy Week, for about an hour a day.
- * * Worship*: We hope to have a Good Friday vigil at 3pm that people can attend in person, as well as taking part via a live stream. On Easter Day we aim to have services a 9am in St Peters, 10.30am (streamed) in St James, and 12 noon in St James churchyard. At present we're not allowed to sing outside, but we hope that will change by 4th April!

*Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM for short!) *. We will have a combined APCM this year (the church's AGM) at 2pm on Palm Sunday over Zoom, possibly streamed to Youtube as well. As well as reviewing the year together, this is a great chance to get involved in the life of the church. To vote at the APCM you need to be on the 'Electoral Roll' - the church one, not the government one. Please contact Margaret Hamilton margaret-hamilton@outlook.com from St Peters or Chris Harris chrisharris23@talktalk.net from St James if you want to sign up. At the APCM we will be voting for:

- * *Churchwardens *at each church, these are voted in on an annual basis, and they do lots of great work on our behalf.
- * *PCC members *for St James - 5 of the St James seats on the Parochial Church Council come up for re-election this year. If you would be interested in serving this way (a 3-year term), please do talk to members of the PCC or to the clergy. The PCC does a vital

job in overseeing the legal, financial, staffing and strategic life of the church, and those elected will also serve on the new St James committee, which gives particular focus to the ministry and mission of St James church. St Peters reps were elected last year, in case you were wondering!

* *Mission Partners*^{*}: each year 2.5% of our general income, plus Lent and Christmas collections, goes to our 4 Mission Partners, as well as a church Hardship Fund. This year 2 of them come up for review, Counselling 4 Yeovil and Street Pastors. We will be voting in the meeting for 2 Christian charities to support for the next 4 years, to support them financially, prayerfully and relationally. If you want to propose a potential mission partner, please send the name to the Parish Office by Sunday 21st March. For anyone not able to attend online, we'll give a chance to vote in person after the meeting.

* If there is a vote for churchwardens or PCC members this will be done by email.

Some very sad news which we announced on Sunday. Chris Rusling, a member of St James for many years with his wife Erica, died very suddenly last Thursday. He was a wonderful, godly man, full of kindness and love for Jesus, just today I heard from someone who said "as a newcomer to St. James', he went out of his way to make me feel welcome.... when he led the intercessions, it was as if he really had a hotline to God and we the congregation had the privilege to be part of that". Please pray for Erica and for their sons and grandchildren. We don't have any details of the funeral as yet. Please could you also pray for Alan Read from St James, who quite poorly and having treatment this week for low iron levels.

We can't remember if we've said this before, but David will be on sabbatical from 12th April (planned ages ago, but nicely timed with the opening of pub beer gardens) to mid-July. Please do pray for us in the practical preparations for this, we are thankful that there is such a strong and dedicated team at both churches.

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/

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