

Dear Friends,

As I write the sky is blue, the sun is shining, and several plants are already flowering in our front garden. I think one is a daffodil, but gardens were never my strong suit. In a few weeks we'll celebrate the new life of the resurrection. When Paul is on trial in the book of Acts, this is how he sums up the case against him on every occasion: "my hope in the resurrection of the dead". This one hope changes everything.

Without it, Jesus is just another dead spiritual teacher, what awaits us after death is either nothing or utterly unknowable, and the sin, suffering and brutality of the daily news is all there is. But with it: Christ is risen! And we who plant our roots into Him will rise to new life too and can live this life in hope that the world belongs to God.

His redeeming, resurrection work is the real news, and the ultimate goal of history. Our destiny is a heavenly city where it's safe to walk the streets because there is no night, and no sin (see Revelation 22). Our work in this life is to see God's good kingdom grow, to share the hope that is in us.

*Community Pantry: * this is a new project at St Peters Community Centre, collecting unsold food from local supermarkets and using it to address food poverty in Westfield. We need a team of volunteers to make this work - to collect from supermarkets, sort things at the Centre, and to distribute to local households. If you're interested in helping, there's a Zoom meeting at 12 noon on Tues 30th March for 30mins.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87507802011> Meeting ID: 875 0780 2011

Passcode: Pantry. If you can't manage Zoom, please contact David directly and we'll contact you another way.

St. James Church will be open for the *National Day of Reflection next Tuesday, 23rd March*, marking a full year since the first lockdown.

There will be 365 candles in church, for anyone to light a candle for a loved one, or for a funeral of a friend or colleague which we were unable to attend in lockdown. You can leave a name card too, and at the end of the day all the candles will be lit and the names read out. The church will be open 11-12.30, 2.30-4 and 5-7.30pm (see attachment).

Please let people know about this, there is a lot of unresolved grief around and it may be helpful for folks.

For Holy Week, St James will be open for *private prayer *11am-12 noon on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and 3-4pm Wednesday. There'll be a 3pm *Good Friday *reflection at St Peters, an 8pm *'Service of Light*'

service in St James churchyard on the Saturday, and morning services at both churches on Easter Sunday, plus a 12-noon gathering in St James churchyard. If you'd like to be on the invitation lists for coming to church, please let Caroline Turner (St Peters) or Maureen Harris (St.

James) know. For the outdoor services, just turn up, suitably dressed!

*For Maundy Thursday, our service will be a **community litter pick, *one from each church. Details about timings and practicalities next week.

*Chris Rusling's funeral *is on Thursday at 12.30pm, there will be a live stream of the service from 12.20pm at the following website - <https://www.funeralstreamingservice.co.uk/christopher-hugh-rusling>. The link should work when the password Cirrus is used. If that does not work, then go to www.funeralstreamingservice.co.uk and link on to the "View Stream" tab. Click on Christopher Hugh-Rusling and use the password Cirrus. Please keep Erica, their children Roly and Matthew, and all the family in your prayers.

*Alan Reads funeral *is on Tuesday 23rd March at 3.20pm in Yeovil Crematorium, due to restrictions it will be invitation only. St James will be open at that time if you would like to come there to pray and remember Alan. Please remember Alan's wife Pauline, along with Hilary, Steve and Titian, in your prayers.

*The parish AGM * is a week on Sunday, 2pm, remember to get your nominations for churchwardens, PCC members (St James' only) and mission partners to the church office by Weds next week.

The 4th session of the *Seasons of Hope Lent course *is tomorrow evening, 8pm, on Summer: Hope of Glory, do come along

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6261684940>

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

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

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