

Dear Friends,

This April our new mission partner Open Doors shared the story of a lady in Ethiopia who has been through many trials because she is a Christian. It was very disturbing to read of how some people in her village even destroyed her house. Open Doors partnered with her local church and they bought land and built her and her children a new home. Such a testimony encourages us to pray for the work of Christians supporting each other in places where they can face severe hostility and opposition because of their faith. It is also a great encouragement to us in our own parish to keep looking out for each other, and, where we can, to help provide that practical, emotional or spiritual support that can make such a huge difference to someone else. Many at St James' and St Peter's have been putting tremendous effort into keeping connected with others during lockdown and now that we have more opportunities to meet outdoors in warmer weather let's ask God to show us how we can continue to be a blessing to each other in the coming weeks. Jesus said to those who first followed Him: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14)

What's On?

Private Prayer: St. James' Church is open for Prayer twice a week. This is on Tuesdays from 2 - 4 pm and on Saturdays from 11 am - 1 pm. Social distancing and face coverings must continue until further notice.

Christian Aid Week: This takes place between 10th & 16th May. Christian Aid UK uses our donations to help families overcome poverty and injustice in 29 countries around the world. This year one of the priorities is the climate emergency. Envelopes are available at both St. James' and St. Peter's Churches when they are open. Please return envelopes by 23rd May at the latest and remember to 'Gift Aid' where possible. If you have difficulty accessing envelopes, please contact the church wardens for advice.

Thy Kingdom Come: 'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global interdenominational prayer movement launched by the Church of England six years ago. This year between Ascension Day and Pentecost (13-23 May) thousands of Christians throughout the world will be praying, specifically for family and friends to come to faith in Jesus. In doing so, we remember the first disciples praying in the upper room as they waited for the Holy Spirit to come to empower them for the mission of sharing the good news of Jesus. We would love to support everyone in praying together between 13-23 May, so look out for news coming soon of special prayer times at St James', a virtual 'upper room' for continuous prayer, and ideas for praying in different and creative ways on your own, with your children, or with friends and family. "They (the eleven apostles) went up to the upper room...devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." (Acts 1.13-14)

Ascension Day: There will be a service of Holy Communion at 7.30 pm in St. James' Church on Ascension Day, Thursday, 13th May. (No need to book for this service, but please keep to social distancing regulations.)

Coffee morning: Our first coffee morning after lockdown will be held on the first Thursday of the month, 6th May 10-11 a.m. We will have to follow all Covid rules so we will be outside in the churchyard. (We can meet as groups of 6 or 2 households.) Because it's in the churchyard please bring your own chair (church room chairs tend to sink into the ground so it could be a lot further to get up than when you sat down) and wear suitable clothing. We can only serve coffee this month, so, if you fancy a biscuit, please bring your own. We really look forward to seeing you.

Midweek Communions are restarting. Hurrah! Midweek communion will be held at St James' on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of the month at 12 noon, and the first one is going to be on the 19th May. We are going to trial St Peter's with them too, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, the first one being on the 12th May. This is a short service of around 30 minutes, with no music, but you do not need to book for it, so please just turn up.

Gift Day: On Pentecost Sunday this year (23rd May) we are going to celebrate the Holy Spirit coming down to earth by holding a gift day at St James'. With the restrictions having been in place tightly over the last few months, we have lost significant income through plate donations, and through a lack of baptisms and weddings, and of course fundraising has come to a halt. The church is therefore running at a deficit, and we need to ask the church to help us through this next year. Please spend the next few weeks praying about this, and how you can support us. Details of how to give will be available nearer the time.

Good News!

We are having a GOOD NEWS section in each e-news. We have lived with bad news for such a long time, let's have some good news for a change. The Coronavirus figures are looking really positive for us, so time to start smiling again. I'll start with something that cheered me up: [Scientists Create World's First Truly Biodegradable Single-use Plastic That 'Eats Itself' in Just 2 Weeks](#) brilliant or what!

And so many ladies and gentlemen have already had their hairdresser's appointments, now that is a weight off your mind and truly is good news.

A Bristol police officer has stated an appeal for outgrown children's rugby or football boots so that children who can't afford football or rugby boots can take part, many for the first time in these sports. The local drop off point is **Preston School Academy Address:** Monks Dale, Yeovil BA21 3JD
Drop-off times: Monday – Friday between 9am-5pm. Now that's really good news.

But we'd like YOUR good news, if you have any, no matter what it is please share it. Send all your good news to Graham Hardacre gshardacre@btinternet.com or ring me on 07855054065. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Ruth and the staff team

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<http://www.stjamesyeovil.org.uk/>

<http://www.stpeters-yeovil.org.uk/>

St James and St Peters on YouTube

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