

Dear Friends,

I imagine we have all felt vulnerable over the last 2 years. I remember in March 2020 wondering, every time I coughed, whether it was just a cough or the start of a covid infection. Henri Nouwen writes in his book 'The Wounded Healer' about 'making our own wounds available as a source of healing'. We're tempted to think we must have it together to help other people, and only people who are properly holy, or with churchy titles and roles, are 'ministers'. But there is actually greater fellowship in weakness than in strength, and sometimes opening up about our vulnerability gives other people hope - that they are not alone in their own suffering, that we are human just like them. Jesus embraced vulnerability - mortal human life, washing feet, a rigged trial, humiliation and death. And through this God has worked our salvation, and shows His love in the greatest way. Being like Jesus may mean being vulnerable, and allowing God to shine his light through the cracks and spaces in us.

We are following the theme of '*Calling*' in our regular cell groups, and the Diocese is running a themed teaching week on this from Sunday.

There will be a daily video, a podcast, material to read and a place to post thoughts and ideas, with special gatherings at the end of it. All the details are here:

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/faith/everyday-faith/god-calls-everyone-everywhere/god-calls-everyone-everywhere.php>

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Safeguarding is a vital part of our church life, as we are in contact with many children, young people and vulnerable adults through our work in the parish. Mike Cox has held the post of parish Safeguarding Officer for several years, and is stepping down at April's AGM. Very many thanks to Mike for his hard work and dedication in this role. That means we will have a vacancy! If you feel this is something you could help with, please speak to Mike, or to David or Ruth. The main responsibilities are processing safeguarding checks, making sure we are all up to date with training, and keeping our policies and practices up to date. We are also grateful to Sue McFadden, who helps with the safeguarding admin at St. Peters.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in *Yeovil Methodist church*, especially those at Preston Road, who are having to make some painful and difficult decisions about their future, as having 3 Methodist churches in Yeovil is no longer sustainable.

St James is hosting a '*Coffee Plus*' coffee morning on Saturday 19th Feb 10am-12noon, with prize draw, cakes, and a 'new to you' stall - so if you have unwanted/duplicate Christmas gifts that need a new home, donations are welcome!

There are 5 areas for *prayer* for St. James in 2022, prayer cards for these are available in church. Whichever church you are part of, please pray for God's guidance as we come out of lockdown, and the grace and power of His Spirit to flow through us. There are meetings for intercessory prayer at 2.15pm every Tuesday in St James, and 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings, including the opportunity to receive personal prayer ministry. We will be resuming *prayer ministry* at St James after morning services in the side chapel, for those who would value this. At St Peters, since we don't have a private side chapel, it's probably best just to approach someone you trust/one of the clergy (hopefully you trust us too!) and ask for prayer.

Next week's *Wednesday lunchtime communion* will be 12 noon at St Peters (9th Feb). The St Peters Community Centre is now staffed and open every morning Mon-Thurs, so you're welcome to drop in and make use of the Centre heating if that saves you on the bills at home.

Finally, please pray for our Diocese - covid has hit Diocesan finances hard, as it relies heavily on contributions from the parishes. Some difficult decisions need to be taken about how to balance the books over the next 5 years, and there is a special meeting later today to discuss this in more depth. Please pray for wisdom, faith and courage, and the Holy Spirit's guidance.

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/<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS_rhJBAJTixz3kiXLMN_Xw/>