

Dear Friends,

It was lovely to see many members of both churches on Sunday at St James Gift Day and birthday celebrations, and to be able to worship with a 'live' as well as an online congregation. It was a very special day, and lovely to have a special message from our Bishop as part of the service. If you missed Sundays service it's still available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEnITn2TF9U>

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEnITn2TF9U&feature=youtu.be>>. Many thanks to all involved, especially the people who are learning how to use the live streaming software so that we can continue to provide this weekly. The service also included a slideshow of pictures of St James through the years, which you'll find at the start of the video.

I'm also delighted to announce that we hit the target for St James Gift Day! We were aiming for £15,000, and the current total is £15,064, with probably some more Gift Aid still to come. Several people also took the opportunity to set up new standing orders to St James. We are so grateful to everyone, and it is very humbling to see how much people are willing to invest in our church, so that we can continue to worship, pray, minister and reach out in the name of Jesus.

Several members of the St James sent in pictures of '*what I did in lockdown*' - you can see them here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bl6mS3x3VJ4>. (If you are on the video, it does not appear publicly on Youtube, just to people who have the link to the video, to maintain privacy.)

We also asked '*what St James means to me*', and here are 3 of the responses:

- * "A special place, set apart for the praise and worship of God; a special people, united in love and service; a special purpose, to know Jesus and to make Him known."
- * "I had an invitation to join a church service some years ago and I was made to feel so welcome that I wanted to stay. Since then I have served countless cups of tea and coffee, made some wonderful friends, shared a lot of problems, got confirmed to become part of the church, shared weekends away, put my foot into things lots of times, but it still feels like family."
- * "St James Church has been pivotal to my life...some of my dearest friendships have been among the fellowship here. Most importantly, it was here that I came to know Jesus. Although I had been brought up in a Christian family, it was not until I joined St James that I came to know Him as my friend and Saviour."

In other news:

- a new Centre Manager has been appointed at *St Peters Community Centre*, to start in September, we'll announce the name and do a proper 'hello and welcome' once various bits of paperwork have been sorted out. The Centre, and the St James Church Room, are starting to re-open to user groups, with additional precautions for coronavirus to keep everyone safe.

- If you've not yet caught up with Ruth's *daily prayer podcast*, you can find it here: <https://anchor.fm/pjs/> - many of us have been blessed by these during lockdown.

I mentioned on Sunday the*5 prayers for St James *that we started the year with, and how coronavirus has made them all much more difficult. But that's the point of praying for things, it's seeking God for the things that only He can do. So here are our 5 'Only God' prayers again for 2020, please do pray them with me:

Ø20 new or re-committed Christians in 2020

Ø20 people commissioned into new leadership roles (e.g. in cell groups, pastoral ministry, toddler, children and youth work, community chaplaincy)

Ø20:20 At least 20 under-20s part of the Sunday worshipping community every week.

Ø50:50 – 50% of St James' members under 50 by the year end, through growing among children, youth and younger adults.

Ø£20,000 surplus on the year to invest in mission

/"to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations" (Ephesians 3:20-21)"/

yours in Christ

David and Ruth

PS apologies to members of St Peters that this e-news has been mostly about St James!

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

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

Preston Plucknett Parish on Youtube:https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS_rhJBAJTiXz3kIXLMN_Xw/