St James' Church

'A Wholehearted Church'

Encountering God
Gathering Community
Growing Disciples
Living the Gospel

St Peter's Westfield

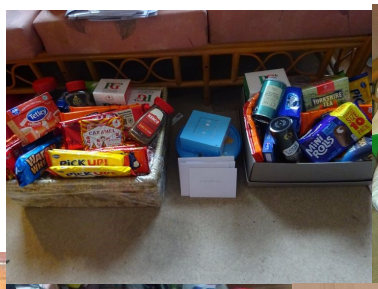
PRESTON PLUCKNETT NEWS

St James' and St Peter's Parish Newsletter

Easter 2021

We hope you enjoy reading this, please let us know if you'd like copies to give to friends, family and neighbours.

HAMPERS FOR HOSPITALS AND TREATS FOR TEACHERS!



As a thank you and to bless keyworkers in the current lockdown, both churches donated goodies to make up treat hampers for carers and teachers at West Abbey Care Home, Summerlands Hospital, (Holly Court), Abbey Pharmacy, Preston Primary School, Kingfisher Primary School, Oaklands Primary School and Westfield Academy. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Parish News

Re-opening for Easter!

Both churches will be re-opening for worship on Easter Sunday, here are the plans for Holy Week and beyond:

Monday 29th March **St James open for personal prayer, 11am – 12 noon**

Tues 30th March **St James open for personal prayer, 11am – 12 noon**

Weds 31st March **St James open for personal prayer, 3-4pm (primary school visit during the day)**

Thursday 1st April **St James open for personal prayer, 11am – 12 noon**

Maundy Thursday act of service: a community litter pick from both churches, meeting 11am at St James, 2pm at St. Peters, 4.30pm at St James.

Good Friday **Family event in the morning at St James (limited numbers)**

3pm Good Friday vigil, St Peters

Holy Saturday **Easter Fire service 8pm, St James**

Easter Sunday **9am Easter Communion, St Peters**

10.30am Easter Communion, St James

12 noon Easter celebration, St James churchyard*

We hope for the 12 noon service on Easter day that we'll be allowed to sing outside, so we'll have some time singing, followed by an informal communion celebration.

From Easter Sunday onwards, services with a 'live' congregation will resume at both churches at the normal times on Sunday. These will have to have limited numbers, so we will do them by invitation – if you'd like to be included in this then please let Maureen Harris (476379) know for St. James, Caroline Turner (474038) for St. Peters.

The Vanishing Vicar

David will be going on sabbatical from 12th April for 3 months. This is something offered to CofE clergy every 10 years or so, and is an important time for refreshment, renewal, and time to recharge the batteries. David will be doing some more exploration of the '7 sacred spaces' and new forms of church, along with some cycling, a retreat, and a much needed garden makeover. Please pray for David, Becky, Lily and Chris that this is a refreshing time for them all. Please also pray for Ruth and the rest of the leadership team as they work out what they can get away with whilst David isn't watching.

News from Steve Miles

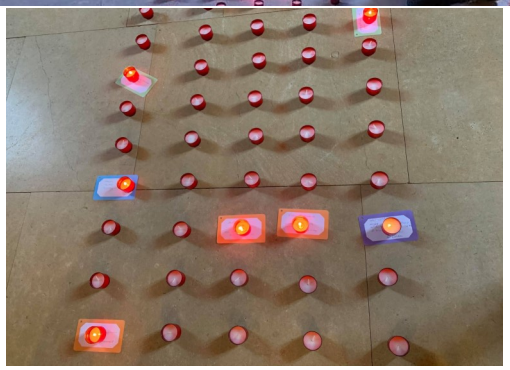
As many of you will remember, Steve was our youth worker for several years, before leaving in 2019 to begin ordination training. Steve is returning to Somerset to start as a Curate – he'll be in the parish of Chilcompton and Stratton-on-the-Fosse, between Wells and Radstock. Please pray for Steve and his wife Jen (yes, he's gone and got married!) as they get ready to move there in June.

You may have already heard the sad news of the death of 2 wonderful members of St James' church family, Alan Read and Chris Rusling.

Alan was a devoted member of St James, serving as verger and chorister, and was there come rain or shine to help, to welcome people, and to keep the clergy in line! He is a man of deep faith and will be sadly missed.

Chris and Erica Rusling have been part of our church for many years, and Chris brought a deep love for Jesus to his time as churchwarden, in preaching and leading worship, and leading a cell group. So many of us have been touched by his ministry. May they both rest in peace and rise in glory.

To commemorate the one-year anniversary of the start of the first lockdown, on Tuesday 23rd March, a National Day of Reflection was held to mark a full year since the first lockdown. There were 365 candles in church, for people 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. Name cards could be left too, and at the end of the day all the candles were lit and the names read out.



Westfield Developments

If you live in the Westfield area, you'll have noticed some changes next door to the Co-op. The land has been derelict for generations, and we're helping bring it back into use. One side is being redeveloped into a small 'Pocket Park' by Westfield Community Association, which is what's taking shape now. The other half will become an extra car park for the Community Centre – that's now going through planning permission, please pray for a smooth ride through that, and for successful grant applications to finance it.

St Peter's (online) Coffee Morning

If you would like to join, please contact Frances...

Also starting at St Peters Community Centre is a new **'Community Pantry'.** This will take unsold food from local supermarkets, and share it out to local households in food poverty. We'll need a team of volunteers to help with this – collecting the food, sorting it out, and distributing from the centre and door to door. If you'd like to help, please contact the Parish Office.

Prayer and Reflection

We recently finished a Lent Course called 'Seasons of Hope', looking at the seasons of the year, and the seasons of our spiritual lives. During the course, Sandra Pickard shared this poem:

Beech Trees in November

The gorgeous gowns
Of dancing days
Now lie in tatters
At their feet.

The harsher,
Harder
Days to come
Need only sturdy bones
That will bear all
And yet survive.

And when the worst is past
And winter death is over
Life surges still
And breaks from bare and broken boughs
To give new clothes
In which to dance again.

Sandra Pickard

From discussion after the Lent course; verses about God's protection:

But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you. **Psalm 5:11**

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me,
for in you I take refuge.
I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings
until the disaster has passed. **Psalm 57:11**

1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
3 Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
4 He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
5 You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.
7 A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
8 You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.
9 If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
10 no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
12 they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
13 You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
14 "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
15 He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honour him.
16 With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation." **Psalm 91**

Graham's "On This Day"…

1st April Fool's day of course, also in 1662 saw the founding of the Royal Society of London. And aren't we glad of the scientists who are its members they've been a real shot in the arm.

2nd Good Friday of course also walk to work day, great if you work from home.

3rd in 1721 Robert Walpole became the first Prime minister of Great Britain. It's also world party day. (Not this year it isn't.) !

4th Easter Sunday of course also in 1964 The Beatles fill the first five places in the US singles chart with "Please, Please Me", "I Want to Hold Your Hand", "She Loves You", "Twist and Shout" and "Can't Buy Me Love". (I bet they sang Yea, Yea, yea all the way to the bank)

5th Easter Monday It's also read a roadmap day, which will be great especially if it's out of lockdown

6th in 1199 Richard the lion heart passes away from an infection. It's also Sorry Charley day who knew!

7th in 1739 Dick Turpin was hanged in York. Anybody else wondered what happened to Black Bess. It's also World health day, something we all wish for the world.

8th in 1838 Brunel's new steamship Great Western left Bristol today on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic to Boston.

9th Happy birthday to Isambard Kingdom Brunel Born this day in 1806

10th in 1633 Bananas, never seen before in England, went on sale in a London shop. It's also sibling's day, so happy birthday brothers and sisters everywhere.

11th its Submarine day It's also Cheese fondue day, not conning you honest!!

12th in 1606 The Union Flag becomes the official flag of Britain. (Well done Jack) it's also grilled cheese day. Great week if you like cheese.

13th it's be Kind to Lawyers Day and also Scrabble day. Ever read a solicitors letter? Now I understand why its Scrabble day.

14th in 1983 the first cordless telephone went on sale in Britain, it's also look up to the sky day, please be careful if there's birds flying around.

15th in 1755 Dr Samuel Johnson published his Dictionary; he had taken nine years to compile it. Thank goodness for Google.

16th in 1746 Bonnie prince Charlie was defeated by the duke of Cumberland and we've been singing ever since, ready, Speed bonnie boat …..

17th in 1969 the age at which a person is eligible to vote in Britain was lowered from 21 to 18 so ruining that song about the key of the door.

18th its Columnist Day, I guess many will write a few lines about that

19th in America its national garlic day, phew!!

20th in 1912 Bram Stoker, author of Count Dracula died, or did he???

21st in 1509 Henry VIII becomes King of England it's also national tea day.

Graham's "On This Day"…

22nd in 1838 the first steamship to cross the Atlantic, the British ship *Sirius*, arrived at New York; it made the crossing in 18 days. It's also Jelly bean day. Chew on that!

23rd its St Georges Day. Also in 1616 saw the death of William Shakespeare, and Lovers day. Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? (Not if it's raining)

24th in 1858 at the second attempt the great bell at Big Ben is finally ready to hang. And it's seen 6 monarchs and 41 prime ministers since.

25th in 1915 allied forces landed at Gallipoli.

26th Ok don't get yourself in a twist its Pretzel Day

27th in 1828 The Zoological Society of London opened a zoological gardens in Regent's Park. Lady visitors were politely requested to refrain from poking the beasts through the bars of the cages.

28th in1770 English naval explorer James Cook arrived in Botany Bay, Australia, the first European to do so. I wonder if he was met with a chorus of "G 'day mate".

29th in 1884 Oxford University agreed to admit female students to examinations. It's also zipper day, I bet there were no flies on those ladies in Oxford.

30th in 1945 in his hideaway bunker in Berlin, Adolf Hitler shoots himself.

Enough said, see you next Month.

0800 804 8044

DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Submissions to the newsletter welcome! News, prayers, photos, jokes, birthdays and anniversaries or anything else you would like to see in the next edition of the Preston Plucknett News.

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EMERGENCY BIBLE NUMBERS

Upset?	John 14
Weak?	Psalm 18:1-29
Lonely?	Psalm 23
Sinned?	Psalm 51
Worried?	Matthew 8:19-31
Anxious?	Phil 4:4-9
Unhappy?	Col. 3:12-17
In Danger?	Psalm 91
Depressed?	Psalm 27
Lack of Faith?	Exodus 14
Others Unkind?	John 15
Need Courage?	Joshua 1
Need Direction?	Psalm 73:21-26
Seeking Peace?	Matthew 11:25-30