

Dear Friends,

Over this last month, Sunday by Sunday and in our cell groups, many of us have been digging deeply into the New Testament letter of James. One of the many striking verses in James chapter 5 is verse 9 which says, 'Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so you may not be judged'. As the latest decisions about public policy and church guidance concerning Covid-19 can seem complex and often controversial, emotions can run high and the temptation to judge our decision-makers or those we disagree with is all but irresistible! James points to a different approach for the disciples of Jesus: patience, trust in God and powerful and effective prayer. Why? Because, James reminds us, 'the coming of the Lord is at hand.' This is still in many ways a challenging season for us all. As followers of the Lord Jesus let's be sure that he is our main focus and prepare for Jesus' return by keeping steadfast and by caring for each other as those whom the Lord loves.

What's On?

Welcome to further freedoms within our 2 beautiful churches. On Monday, some restrictions were relaxed, which I know a lot of people are very excited about. Within our churches, we want to make sure as more people return to church, they can feel comfortable and safe to worship God. Therefore, we are asking you to use your discretion with wearing face coverings and maintaining social distance. At the peace, please respect and be aware of those around you - if someone is not motioning towards you for a handshake, or hug, please don't launch yourself on them. **The good news is that we can now sing again - Hurrah! And we will also not be requiring you to book a place at church - so please just turn up.** Please be cautious and aware that not everyone will be as comfortable with the relaxation of the restrictions as you may be. However, you will see some restrictions dropping gradually over the next few weeks, and let's enjoy it.

A member of our church has a large Oak Furnitureland **table with 6 chairs** free to a good home. If you are interested, please contact Ruth or Joanna in the office for details.

Coffee Morning at St James' on Thursday 5th August. Join us for coffee and chat!

Good News

Two wonderful bits of news, we don't have to book to go to church and we're allowed to SING!

Brilliant or what, hope I can remember how to do it.

Tesco's (there are other supermarkets) have since the start of lockdowns been displaying inspirational signs in their shops. The signs were placed around the stores in different places. One of the signs which read "together we can do this" to unite customers in the fight against Covid was placed next to a urinal which as you can imagine brought much merriment and comments. The only one I can safely put here was "nah I can do this on my own"!

Two boys having both been diagnosed with rare heart conditions wanted to raise money for Great Ormond Street hospital decide to run 100km - both brothers aged 12 and 8 smashed their target and actually ran 135km and raised a whopping £5171 pounds. Made me tired just typing this. Well done to them both!

Last word to Tommy Cooper

A man walked into the doctor's. He said, 'I've hurt my arm in several places.' The doctor said, 'Well don't go there anymore.'"

Yours in Christ,

Ruth and the staff team

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St James and St Peters on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS_rhjBAJTixz3kIXLMN_Xw/<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS_rhjBAJTixz3kIXLMN_Xw/>