

Dear Friends,

/"you are the body of Christ, and every one of you is part of it" (1 Cor 12:27). A book that's really blessed me over the last year is 'Choose Life' by Simon Guillebaud, which has inspiring and challenging readings for each day of the year. A recent one told of a teenager in the USA who'd had chemotherapy for cancer, and was worried how he'd be treated back at school. As he got home from the hospital, he found the house filled with dozens of school friends who'd all shaved their heads to match his! The panic buying of fuel is a reminder that our sinful human instinct is to think of ourselves first, and ignore the consequences for others. Belonging to Christ turns that on its head - our life is bound up with one another, we rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. It's a joy to see that in lots of little ways within our churches, just in the last few days - someone sitting on their own invited to join a table of people at after service coffee, a discussion about how to help families with children feel more part of the church, someone using the church Facebook group to request prayer and getting lots of kind responses, and the generous harvest collection for the local food bank. We are the body of Christ, we need one another (though we don't always realise it!) as we keep Christ at the head./

Firstly a very big welcome to those who are new to this 'e-news', which goes out every week or two. It's great to have you as part of the church family, we hope you find these helpful, and if anything doesn't quite make sense, please ask!

Thankyou to everyone who brought donations for our *Harvest services* on Sunday, these will all be a huge help to the Lords Larder. In 2020 they gave out 144,000 items of food to over 8000 people. Just for comparison, in 2013 (7 years before), they gave out 42,000 items to help 3,100 people. We're looking forward to having Matt from the Lords Larder, along with our other local Mission Partners, to speak at both churches on 31st October. Thankyou also to those who helped with St James Coffee Plus on Saturday morning, and to everyone who supported it.

New Things

- *Abbey Toddlers *restarts on 6th October, 9.30-11am. This is a key outreach to families in the parish, and has been much missed in lockdown. Please pray for it, and if you'd like to help in the kitchen or by coming along with a smile, please let us know!
- *Beetle Drive,* a new social games group at St Peters 1.30pm on a Friday afternoon. We've seen quite a few people join St Peters congregation through first making friends at social events, so please pray that this helps to make new connections.
- St Peters *B**anner Group *starts up next Monday, 4th Oct in St Peters at 7pm, contact Margaret or Frances at St. Peters if you're interested in this. The first project is making something special for Christmas.

Events etc

- St James will be illuminated for *Baby Loss Awareness Week* 9th-15th October, with a vigil 7-8pm on Friday 15th as part of a national 'wave of light', with the opportunity to light candles in memory of those missing members of our family.
- Steve Miles our former youth worker is now *Rev Steve Miles* after his ordination as Deacon on Saturday, please pray for him, his wife Jen (yes, Steve's now married!) and their parish of Chilcompton and Stratton on the Fosse.

- The next *St James Coffee Morning* is next Thursday, 7th Oct, 10-11am. St Peters coffee mornings every Monday at 10 continue to thrive, and if you can help with this then please let the church wardens know. It's a really important bit of outreach to the community, providing a friendly and welcoming place for a lot of folk who need company and encouragement, it's amazing how much God can through with a well made cuppa.

- There is a regular time of *prayer on Tuesday evenings*, 7.30-8.30 in St James for anyone who'd value particular prayer ministry, or has specific prayer requests. When there are things we're finding hard to carry on our own it's so good to know that others carry them with us in prayer. If you'd value prayer, either turn up or contact John Hanson johnjune123@sky.com.

All of our *cell groups* are now meeting in person, and if you would value being part of a midweek group (we have daytime and evening groups) to explore the bible, pray, socialise and grow together in faith, please do have a word with myself or Ruth.

We're pleased to say that the *finances of both churches* are in decent shape. Both St James and St Peters are in the black for the year to date, St James with the help of the summer Gift Day. Thank you so much to all of you who give regularly to the church. We do have a plea: /if you normally give cash or by envelope, please consider switching to standing orders/. Our bank are now charging for us to bank the cash, and last week a churchwarden had to travel to a branch in Street to pay this in.

Please do get in touch with us if you need prayer, a chat, or practical help, I know us vicars sometimes give the impression that we're busy, (and sometimes we are!), but we always have time for people.

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/>