

St James' Church



'A Wholehearted Church'



St Peter's



Westfield

PRESTON PLUCKNETT NEWS

St James' and St Peter's Parish Newsletter

December 2021

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

CHRISTMAS 2021

Saturday 11th December 10.30 Messy Church Christmas at St Peter's Community Centre



9am-9pm, Prayer vigil in St James with gatherings for prayer at 10am, 12 noon, 4pm and 8pm. Praying for our Christmas outreach, our Mission Partners, our community and our world, with themed prayer stations. Drop it at any time.

Sunday 12th-Friday 17th Dec 10-12 & 2-4 Nativity Set Festival at St Peter's



Friday 17th Dec 4pm Christingle at Palmers Garden Centre

6.30 pm Reflective Christmas because sometimes it's not easy to be jolly (St James')

Sunday 19th Dec 4pm Carols By Torchlight outdoor carol singing in St James' Churchyard. Bring a torch and/or smartphone and wrap up warm!



6.30pm Carols by Candlelight at St James' also broadcast live on

Christmas Eve 3pm Nativity Service at St James' Great fun for all ages.



11pm. Christmas Night Communion at St James' with live webcast on

11 pm Christmas Night Communion at St Peter's



Christmas Day 10.30am Family Communion at St James' also live on

10.30am Coffee/Carols/Pop up Nativity at St Peter's

All welcome! Please wear a face covering to all indoor events, and take a Lateral Flow Test before coming if you can.



At the heart of Christmas



Worship Pattern

Sunday 9am **St Peter's main service** (Communion 4th Sunday of the month)
10.30am **St James' main service** (Communion 2nd Sunday, All Age Service 3rd Sunday)
4 pm **Songs of Praise** (3rd Sunday) St James'
6.30 pm **'Arise' praise service** (4th Sunday) St James'

Wednesday 12 noon 'said' **Communion**, 1st, 3rd & 5th Weds in St James, 2nd and 4th St Peters. Short service (30m) with no singing.

Prayer and Church Opening

St James' Church building is open 10am – 4pm Mon-Sat for private prayer.

Intercessory Prayer Group – every Tuesday 16:00 to 16:30 in St James'.

Meditative Prayer 4th Wed of every month 14:15to 14:45 in St James'.

Informal Prayer & Ministry: A group of people from St James will be gathering to meet in the church every Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm to pray for whatever the Lord has laid on their hearts.

Please feel free to come along and join in, or to sit and pray in silence, or if you would like prayer for yourself, or



START course

God, Jesus and
the journey of life
in 6 sessions

begins Monday 3rd January, 7.30
p.m. in St James' Church Room

Contact David for details 422286



Children, Families and Youth

Junior Church at St. James (ages 3-11) (on the 1st, 4th and 5th Sundays) The 3rd Sunday of every month will be a child-friendly All-Age service, with children included throughout.

LIFT youth group for 11 and over, Sunday 6.30-8pm in St James' Church room

Messy Church at St Peters on the 2nd Saturday of every month.

St Peter's Guides has been going for many years, new groups for Rainbows and Brownies also in St Peters Community Centre.

St James' Scout Group (with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) meets weekly in Abbey Community Centre.



Social Events

St James' Coffee Morning 10-11am on the first Thursday of every month

St Peter's Community Coffee 10am-12noon every Monday in the Community Centre



On 6th November an Open Morning was held to celebrate the second birthday of the new St Peter's Community Centre.

The groups who use the centre had displays showing what's on offer and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

News from St Peter's

A Men's Film Night has been taking place at St. Peter's Church on Thursdays at 7 pm. (Doors open at 6.45.)



2nd December: 'Pulp Fiction' (Redemption)

9th December: 'Return of the King' (Herosim)

The format of the evening: Watch the film on the big screen and talk about the main issue, using Cinemania material from 'Christian Vision for Men'. Drinks and popcorn provided. No charge.



St Peters will also be delivering knitted doves around the estate - over 500 have been made in the course of the year - with a message of peace and hope for Westfield residents.

Nativity Set Festival
In the church

12 - 17 December



Opening times:
10am - 12noon
&
2pm - 4pm
(closing at 12noon on Friday 17)

All welcome - do come in and have a look around
Refreshments & children's activities



St Peter's decorated for Remembrance Sunday





In November, we held a special Remembrance Day service in church and at the Preston Plucknett War Memorial, together with Yeovil Family Church and St James' Scout Group. The church was beautifully decorated to commemorate this.



A Prayer for Remembrance
Ever-living God,
We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Remembrance 2021





News from St James'

In September, Brian Lane took part in a charity hike in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. He walked 13 miles in around 5 hours and raised an incredible £430 for the charity. Well done Brian!



In October, we commemorated Baby Loss Awareness week by lighting up the church in blue and red.



A plea from the bell ringers: Does anyone reading this newsletter wish to learn to ring?

We have a dedicated band of Sunday service ringers but are very keen to train some additional volunteers to assist. the preferred age range is 8-88 and you have to be able to raise both hands over your head, and climb the spiral staircase to the tower.

As you are probably aware we practice on a Wednesday evening from 730pm until 9-00pm and try to always ring for the Sunday morning service as well as any special events.

We would initially arrange personalised training for you to teach you the basics of Bell control.

The bells are easy to ring so no great strength is required and there is great physical and mental health benefits from regular exercise.

You will also be warmly welcomed by a friendly and supportive band.

Contact Lawrence on lawrence@lbts.co.uk 07860830761 or Dave Hammonds on davehammonds@live.co.uk

Note if under 18 you must seek parental agreement or better still have them learn as well!



- Sandra Pickard has published a book of poems 'That's Life', which we're selling in aid of St James church funds. If you'd like to buy copies for yourself or as gifts for a friend or neighbour, then please contact the church office. Here's a taster:

Sabbath

Speak peace to my heart
in the stillness of this day;
that passions and pride
might find their inflated egos
shrink to ordered size.

Speak stillness to my mind
in the peace of this day;
that my soul might settle
like the sea after storm.

Then,
I will taste again eternity
in measured moments
- and be made whole.



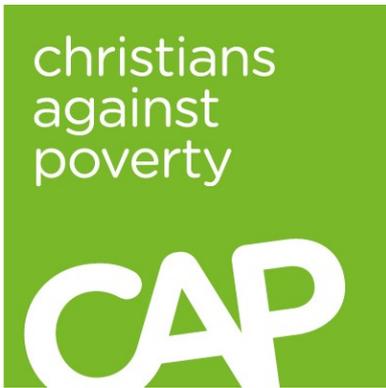
St James' Christmas Fair took place on 20th November and was a great success, raising £1024.24. A very big thank you to the team who organised it and everyone who helped with running a stall, providing refreshments, and making people feel welcome. It was really well supported and great to see lots of people, both familiar faces and new ones.



MISSION PARTNERS

On Sunday 31st October, we were joined by two of our Mission Partners—Steve Hart from Christians Against Poverty and Matt Callaghan from the Lord's Larder who came to talk to us all about the valuable work they do in the local community.

We presented them both with cheques for £1000, which will be our gift to all our Mission Partners this year, we hope to have visits soon from our other Mission Partners - Counselling 4 Yeovil and Open Doors.



Steve spoke of the need for more volunteers to act as befrienders. Since Covid, they have gone from 20 befrienders to 9 in the local area and explained how valuable they are to the work of CAP.

He gave us the CAP helpline number to pass on to anyone we come into contact with who are struggling with debt 0800 328 0006.

About us

Poverty just loves to destroy lives. It breaks families apart, isolates people from friends and family, shatters confidence and drives many to think that suicide is the only way out.

UK poverty is real, with millions locked in its miserable grip. We're not prepared to sit back and let it wreak havoc across our nation.

In a just and compassionate society, no one should be trapped in their home, afraid to open the door or answer the phone. No one should wake up wondering where they'll find the money to feed their children or heat their home. No one should have to be alone, especially when times are tough.

That's why CAP is on a mission. To restore hope for those who are lost and hurting. In partnership with incredible local churches across the UK, we're bringing life-changing freedom and good news to people in desperate need.

Always through the Church. Always hope.



The Lord's Larder Food Bank is a local 'bank' of non-perishable in life ambient food operated by volunteers from churches in and around Yeovil.

It began in a small way in 1991 when a representative of Yeovil Citizens' Advice Bureau spoke about the need for emergency food to members of one of the churches in Yeovil. It is now supplied by over 60 local churches, 45 schools and several community groups.

Last year in 2020, over 144,000 items of food were given out via 70 different agencies to help 8,200 local people, (4,670 adults and 3,530 children.)

Lord's Larder donations can be left at both churches and a list can be found on their website of what is needed most at any time. At the moment, they are also putting together special Christmas food parcels to bless families.

Christmas Food Items for Christmas parcels

Christmas pudding

Chocolate Yule Log

Mince Pies

Tins/packets of custard

Chocolate finger biscuits

Coffee & drinking chocolate

Tinned ham, salmon, fruit

Trifle mixes

Peanuts/Nuts

Christmas cake & cake bars

Sweets, chocolate

Chocolate coins

Christmas cards



A Tribute to Barry

In October, came the very sad news that Barry Julier, churchwarden at St James', had died. Barry was a wonderful, humble, hardworking and generous man. Hundreds of local families have the wooden crosses which he carved by hand to give away to newly-baptised children in our churches.

When I think of Barry, the words that come to mind are; Grace, Gentle, Proud Father, Husband, SBS veteran, and a man whose faith was at his core. He was an amazing Christian, and an inspiration to me, and many others. He and I had many happy talks about cycling, God, and his inspirational life. I shall miss his encouragements, his smile, his reassurances, and his gracious presence which was constant. But I also know he is at peace now, with his loved ones, and his amazing God. Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory dear friend.

Revd Ruth Chapman



I have had the privilege of spending many hours, chatting and fellowshiping with Barry during the last twelve months of his life. We covered all sorts of subjects but he loved talking about his faith, his family and his many service experiences. He was always very brave but sometimes he would open up about how he was really feeling so, at one point, I gently asked him how he envisaged the end?

He said two things. Firstly, that as a Christian, he believed what the Bible said that at the point of death Jesus would come for him and take him to heaven; and secondly that he hoped he would just go to sleep and not wake up. It appears the Lord graciously granted Barry his wishes.

My words now! I believe Barry went to sleep in this world, woke up dead and there was Jesus ready to take him to heaven, out of his pain and suffering. He will now be rejoicing with his wife Elizabeth whom he missed and loved dearly!

Barry was a man of great faith, a true warrior for Jesus. Because of his faith he showed us how to live in life, and in death, he showed us how to die gracefully, with dignity and with eternal hope!

God bless you, mate (Barry). Thank you for being such a wonderful example to us all and such a good friend; we are going to miss you! Amen.

Doug Beard

A Tribute to Barry



For 2020, the rather 'weathered' cross by the main door of St James' was replaced with this beautiful new design, with a special inscription on the side, created by the very talented Barry.

He also used his talents to make these wonderful baptism holding crosses which have blessed so many children baptised at St James'.



Barry has been one of those St James' constants for so many years - always one of the first to offer help and support to others. I will remember him as a brave, caring and prayerful man - a talented artist and a skilled craftsman, with a daft (in a good way) sense of humour.



Barry was so encouraging of me, sharing a common concern for the military family. I loved his down-to-earth' and occasionally, I think, prophetic theological reflection and we enjoyed his singing and mouth organ playing in our music room when practicing for Sundays.

Barry despite being a man with a large physical presence was a man of immense gentleness and humility. A man with a heart of compassion and love for all those around him. A truly gentle giant. A man of great faith and an example to us all.

Graham's "On This Day"...



December

1st. Lady Nancy Astor became the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons. Also famous for witty one liners with Churchill. It's also eat a red apple day.



2nd. Its English breakfast day. It's also national fritters day. Bacon, egg and fritters sounds ok!



3rd. In 1967 Christian Barnard performed the first heart transplant. It's also make a gift day. Bit early I think. Shopping should be only be done week before Christmas.

4th. In 1791 the observer now the oldest Sunday paper in the world was first published, wonder if you had so many magazines with it? It's also Santa's list day, hope you've made yours.

5th in 1933 Prohibition ending in the U.S I'll drink to that. Happy birthday George Armstrong Custer born this day in 1839. Many peoples favourite its pigs in blankets day!!!



6th Its bartender appreciation day, It's also put on your own shoes day which you might find difficult if you've celebrated the end of provision and bartender day, best of lick hic.

7th in 1941 Pearl Harbour was attacked killing nearly 2500 people. It's also letter writing day.

8th 1980 John Lennon was assassinated in New York. Can't believe it was 41 years ago!

9th Oh no its Christmas card writing day, cheer up though it's also national pastry day!!



10th Its lost and found day! Honest. It's also Nobel Prize day.

11th 1901 Marconi sent the first transatlantic radio signal from Cornwall to St. Johns, Newfoundland



Radio came in handy as on this day in 1936 King Edward VIII abdicated to marry Wallace Simpson.

12th Its international children's day which is handy as it's also gingerbread house day as well.

13th Happy birthday to American clergyman Phillips Brooks born today in 1835, who I hear you ask. He wrote the lyrics for a very popular Christmas carol *O little town of Bethlehem*

14th it's roast chestnuts day. Go on I know you want to sing it, ready" *chestnuts roasting*"



15th Happy birthday to Alexandre Eiffel born today in 1832 he built a metal structure but I can't think of the name of it. It's also lemon cupcake day Lovely.

16th In 1653 Thomas Cromwell was declared Lord Protector of England. It's also chocolate covered anything day.

17th In 1538 Pope Paul excommunicated King Henry VIII after he declared himself supreme head of the Church of England. It's also ugly sweater day, well I like it.



Graham's "On This Day"...



18th Happy birthday to Steven Spielberg, he of Jaws fame ET etc. etc. etc.

19th It's look for an evergreen day, must be something to do with Christmas. It's also happy birthday to – Eamonn Andrews, 1922 he of "This is your life" fame.

20th Its go carolling day, it's also sangria day. That should warm you up after carolling.

21st today is winter solstice or shortest day, but if you don't like the dark it's also national flashlight day, crossword puzzle, day kiwi fruit day. And best of all its International Dalek Remembrance Day !

22nd. In 2014 we said goodbye to Joe Cocker, who sang it" with a little help from his friends"



It's also date nut bread day, who knew?

23rd Happy birthday to John Sullivan creator and writer of fools and horses born today in 1946. A plonker he was not.

24th in 1914 the Christmas truce begins. There was only one. When the Kaiser found out about it he threatened to shoot any German who took part again. Nice chap. It's also national eggnog day.

25th Our Lords birthday.

26th... Boxing or St Stephens's day. And national candy cane day.



27th Charles Darwin sets sail aboard HMS Beagle. In 1994 Fanny Craddock passed away. Remember Johnny. Brought new meaning to the expression cooking with wine.



28th Its card playing day, snap I hear you cry. Happy 88th birthday to Roy Hattersley ex MP.

29th In 1170 Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury was murdered by 4 knights. It's also pepper pot day. Reminds me of that song by Johnny Kidd and the pirates "sneezing all over"

30th In 1865 Rudyard Kipling was born he of Jungle book fame and he did make exceedingly good cake, or was that another Mr Kipling. He wrote "If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two impostors just the same" from the poem "If" which is over written over the players entrance to centre court at Wimbledon.

31st Its New Year's Eve Happy new year to you all.





Start

God, Jesus and
the journey of life
in 6 sessions

Where & When: the Church Room at St James, Preston Road. 6 weeks starting Monday 3rd January, 7.30 p.m.

Cost Absolutely nothing, the course is free.

Any questions contact:

David Keen 422286
revdmkeen@btinternet.com



Got questions about life and the Christian faith?

If you're looking for answers, then maybe it's time to make a Start. Normally run in groups of about 6 to 10 people, each session involves video clips, exercises, group discussion and time for reflection. Each session lasts about an hour and is free to attend.

- * What's life all about and where are we going?
- * Does God exist and what is he like?
- * Why is the world in such a mess?
- * Who was Jesus and is he relevant
- * What does Jesus' death on the cross mean for me today?
- * How far can I go forward with God in my life?

Start will help you discover more about God, Jesus and the journey of life.



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.

Parish Office: office@stjamesandstpeters.org.uk

01935 414097

The Parish Office is open on Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.15-2.45

Revd David Keen 01935 422286

Revd Ruth Chapman 01935 579602

Websites: www.stjamesyeovil.org.uk & www.stpeters-yeovil.org.uk

Search for "St James and St Peters" on YouTube and St. James Church Yeovil & St Peter's Church (Westfield, Yeovil) on Facebook.



**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