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Good afternoon everyone - and especially if you've joined St James online during the lockdown. Time for a weekly update.

This Sunday, Sept 13, we shall have Communion together, at 10.30, both live and on the livestream, so if you're going to be at home, get some bread and wine ready.

**TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE** allows us to hold services in church that you can come to, as well as continuing to livestream if you'd rather stay at home. 10.30 is the live-streamed service, and 12.00 is a Prayer Book communion service (no broadcast). We shall have Promiseland alongside the 10.30, with Promiseland Plus as well, and separate opportunities for Under 5s (Promiseland Junior), and Younger and Older Youth (all at different times). If you have a child in any of those ages you should already know the information, but if you haven't heard, contact

- Under 5s [alice.whittaker@st-james.org.uk](mailto:alice.whittaker@st-james.org.uk)
- Promiseland and Promiseland Plus [ashley.nichols@st-james.org.uk](mailto:ashley.nichols@st-james.org.uk)
- Younger and older youth [david.cornes@st-james.org.uk](mailto:david.cornes@st-james.org.uk)

So the headline is this: book in for this week's services, and reserve your places. Just head to [st-james.org.uk/attend](http://st-james.org.uk/attend). You'll understand that we have to watch our numbers and keep records. We shall have some slots for people who turn up without booking, but we'd prefer to know if you're able to tell us. Have a great week, and whether it's online or in person, I look forward to seeing you on Sunday!



Chris



**GIFT DAY** Each year we have a big push at St James, to close the gap in our budget. Because of lockdown, we waited until things got a bit easier. But it will be on Sunday Sept 20.



You can watch a brief video about it [here](#)  
We will give you much more information on Sunday, but the headline is this: because of some savings during lockdown, and your regular generous giving, the gap in our budget is exactly where the PCC expected it to be, before we'd ever heard of COVID-19. It will be around £45,000, which is roughly in line with previous Gift Days: it's a big stretch in hard times, but I'm going to ask us all to look again at our regular giving, month by month, and together we can close that gap. Some of us can afford to do much more than that, of course, and we always have some major donations to Gift Day. If that's you this year, thank you in advance. Personally, I would love to lose the Gift Day as a way of meeting our regular budget needs, but the only way to do that is to raise the level of our regular giving.

That's just to stand still: we've frozen all staff appointments at the moment, including the music and tech role, because we do need to deal with the regular budget. But *if* we get a really great response on Gift Day, strongly exceeding our target, we can look at that question again, and the live-and-livestream services can begin to flourish even more, as we open up the kids and youth programmes.

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# LIVE *and* LIVESTREAM

**NOW WE ARE** having services in person, but also continuing to livestream, our resources are being pulled in new directions - and to make this all work, we'd love your help.

## **Livestream Equipment**

We're looking for a couple of DSLR cameras that have a HDMI output to enhance our Sunday livestream. If you or someone you know has one spare or one you could loan to us, please get in touch with Dave at [david.cornes@st-james.org.uk](mailto:david.cornes@st-james.org.uk)

## **Live hosts**

We need to recruit some new welcomers for Sunday, because a number of our volunteers are preferring to stay at home. But we still need to say hello, check people in, and show them to their seats. If you'd like to serve in this way, email [leona.akass@st-james.org.uk](mailto:leona.akass@st-james.org.uk)

# RAISE *the Roof*

**ROOF** The scaffolding is now complete and the plywood hoarding to provide a safe access up to the bookshop and security to the scaffolding is nearly finished, so we expect the access to reopen next week. Next on the programme is lighting installation up the plywood tunnel, the stone mason to visit to inspect the high level stone, measure up and take templates for the repairs, and the nave gutters to be removed for refurbishment. Huge thanks to the team getting this moving.

**On Oct 10** we shall have some fun, sponsoring slates, and getting the wider community involved in the project.

# ANNUAL *meeting*

Our church Annual Meeting, delayed because of lockdown, will be on Monday Oct 19th. This will be both live and live-streamed, and you'll be able to vote at home as well as in the building. We will have lots more information for you, but in the meantime, save the date.

# 2021 *diary*

**PLANS for 2021.** Do you have a diary, and do you dare to use it? We do! Next March 3-10 will see our rescheduled trip to Israel, and we have some spaces available. Do speak to Chris if you'd like to know more ([chris.green@st-james.org.uk](mailto:chris.green@st-james.org.uk)). And October 9-10 will see our Weekend Away, at the fabulous Staverton Estate.

# COMMUNITY *Cafe*

Community Cafe, Zoom **AND IN PERSON**

Community Cafe is still happening, on Zoom on Tuesdays 11am-12noon, and we are also meeting in the church garden on Thursdays 2-3pm. Get in touch with Hannah ([hannah.whitehead@st-james.org.uk](mailto:hannah.whitehead@st-james.org.uk)) for Zoom log-in details.

# BUMPS AND *babes*

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**IF YOU HAVE A BABY** and would like to meet others with babies then please do join us for Bumps and Babes! Pick up a coffee and meet us at 1.30 next to the Pavilion café in Highgate woods! You can contact Alice Whittaker (Children's Minister 0-5s) at [alice.whittaker@st-james.org.uk](mailto:alice.whittaker@st-james.org.uk) if you are interested in joining. If we have more than 6 people we will break into small groups.

## MUSIC

**SING** with our choir

If you've enjoyed listening to the 'virtual choir', we'd love you to join in when we go live! We'll help you to record yourself singing for our next choir item to be featured in a St James service online. Rehearsals are on Zoom every Monday at 7.30-8.00. However, if you're unable to join the rehearsals, you're still welcome to record yourself - you just need a device with headphones to listen to, and a device that records video. To be included, email [ashley.nichols@st-james.org.uk](mailto:ashley.nichols@st-james.org.uk)

## COMMUNITY

*Action*

We are continuing to encourage you to support the Selby Food Hub, and the number of people they are supporting still continues to rise and will increase as the recession bites.

If you are fortunate in that COVID-19 has not rocked you financially, then this is a great time to show compassion.

They will be collecting all weekend at: 7 Dukes Ave, 49 Victoria Road, 49 Osier Crescent, and 21 Woodland Rise.

Whatever you can spare will be deeply appreciated, but these are the things they run out of first: Sugar, Long life milk, Oil, Fish, Cereals, Cook in sauces, Soup, and Coffee.

They also distribute essential toiletries and household items: Washing up liquid, Wipes, Flash cleaner, J cloths, Toothpaste, Soap, Deodorant, Creams/body lotion, Toilet rolls, and Bath/shower gel.



St James Muswell Hill