



St James Muswell Hill

*Fools show their annoyance at once,
but the prudent overlook an insult.* Proverbs 12:16

Hit reply. Copy all. Like/dislike.

It's so tempting, isn't it? So easy. So quick. So satisfying. And the little buttons on the screen encourage it.

But, oh, how it gets us unto trouble. Somebody says something, perhaps about you, and you respond, react - and then a fraction of a second later that part of your brain kicks in which points out that real life doesn't have a rewind function. And what you've just said is going to get you into a lot of hot water for a long time.

How much better, but how much harder, to pause. To think. To wait. Perhaps to say nothing all. Just to absorb all that stuff coming your way, and move on.

If that feels silly, or weak, or unimpressive to you, then take a moment to consider this - it's how God treats us, all day long. Does he react every time you disobey him? Does he hit you with a heavenly 'thumbs down'? Make the queue at the bus stop especially long to teach you a lesson?

Of course not. God is 'prudent' - 'wise', in other words. And in his infinite wisdom, all our stupidity and sin is covered by the wisdom of the cross. A cross that looks weak and unimpressive, but reveals the wisdom at the core of the gospel.

So, learn to pause. Not to create the even cleverer, even more devastating reply, but to refuse to do that. To simply overlook an insult, like God has overlooked all of ours.

Have a great week, and whether it's online or in person, I look forward to seeing you on Sunday,
Chris

GARDENING THIS SATURDAY

We would love to have your help in the church garden this Saturday, 15 Jan, from 10.00am.

Please bring your own gloves, secateurs, pruning saws, loppers etc if you have them.

Warm sausage rolls will be provided together with hot drinks!

FLOWER ARRANGING

You will see that every Sunday there are flowers behind the communion table. We would love more people to enable this to happen. You just need to be able to arrange some flowers in a vase.

Please get in touch if you are interested and would like to know more
Vivroberts28@gmail.com.

URGENT - HELP NEEDED WITH PAINTING A FLAT

One of our partially sighted church family needs help with re-decorating his new council flat and possibly moving furniture too.

Can you please spare a few hours **this Saturday, 15 Jan**, to paint a flat and move some furniture from an upstairs flat to downstairs in the same block?

Please get in touch with Mark for more info – mark.murthen@st-james.org.uk

THIS SUNDAY

The reading this Sunday will be 1 Corinthians 15: 12-19.

NEW MUSIC FROM ONE OF OUR MUSIC VOLUNTEERS

One of our regular musicians, Patrick Haines, is releasing an EP of original music on 28 Jan, with an early taster going up this Sunday. Go

to www.ploughthesands.com or follow

at www.instagram.com/ploughthesands to hear more!

LEAVING GIFT FOR LEONA

If you would like to show your appreciation for all Leona has done, much of which is behind the scenes, then please use online banking, with 'Initial and Surname/LEONA for reference.

If you need help or wish to give cash or a cheque, please email anand.achuthan@st-james.org.uk. Your kindness and generosity are much appreciated.

OUR MISSION PARTNER – TEARFUND

Here is a report from Tearfund about their work in Afghanistan:

The main challenge that people are facing is hunger. There are heart-breaking reports of parents selling their children because they cannot afford to feed them. This is partly due to bank closures and currency shortages across the country. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has banned the use of foreign currency within the country, which is likely to make the problem even worse.

The severe drought – the worst in more than a decade – means that hoped-for harvests have failed. Many families were relying on these to see them through the coming winter.

Some of our local partners have been able to restart their programmes. This work has included reaching hundreds of people with emergency food provisions, as well as sharing accurate information about coronavirus to help slow the spread.

However, there are uncertainties around the new government structure, and so some of the projects remain on hold. It is unclear when these will be able to resume.

Please keep praying for Afghanistan in this time of uncertainty.

GREEN TIP

This week have a think about food shopping. There are a number of different ways to shop in a more environmentally friendly way such as buying food that has come the least distance to you, buying food that hasn't

taken too much water to produce, buying food that doesn't emit large amounts of CO₂ in its production (e.g., beef or lamb), buying food that doesn't come in large amounts of packaging.

But DONT' PANIC and give up! Weighing up exactly what is the best food to buy can be quite a complicated business so why not make one change in your shopping and, when that's part of your 'norm', move on to another change.



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