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January 2020

Update

St Peter's and St James' Monthly Newsletter

2020 - Raise a Hallelujah

Well what a year 2019 was! I'm sure you all remember our Bible verse for last year from Philippians 1:27 "Stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel", and we have certainly done a lot of striving this last year. Here are just a few of the new initiatives that happened in 2019:-

March:	Honesty Over Silence event at St Peter's
May:	Church Weekend Away at Cefn Lea
June:	Prayer Spaces Week at St James School
June/July:	Appointed an architect for St James
September:	A Church BBQ, hosting the Diocesan launch of Eco Church, and a weekend celebrating 150 years of St James Church
October:	A new toddler group and restarting a Light Party at St James, and the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to our Messy Church
December:	An evening of Carols and Comedy at St Peter's

I hope seeing these things written down brings back some good memories of 2019, and if you missed them gives an incentive not to miss out in 2020. For me personally, I also became the Mayor's Chaplain for the first time and I was voted onto Bishop's Council, which are the trustees of the Diocese of Hereford helping to shape our future direction.

So after a busy 2019 what will 2020 hold? Well this is my third year as your vicar and I don't know if you have ever noticed but three is an important number in the Bible and often things happen in the third year. Look at this passage from Isaiah for example:-

'This will be the sign for you, Hezekiah: "This year you will eat what grows by itself, and the second year what springs from that. But in the third year sow and reap, plant vineyards and eat their fruit. Once more a remnant of the kingdom of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above. For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.' (Isaiah 37:30-32)

Much has happened over the last two years and Claire and I both believe that this third year, now is the time to start to rebuild St Peter's and St James for the glory of God. Our Bible verse for 2020 reflects this belief and it is taken from Ezra chapter 5 verse 11: –

We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth and we are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago

In 2019 we spent time looking at our vision of Showing Jesus is Lord in our worship, witness, prayer and care, and we will be sending out postcards for everyone as a reminder of what this means. But as we seek to rebuild this year, there are two important things I want us all to bear in mind:

To encourage us all too fully commit to this rebuilding project with our time, with our money and with our prayers.

To recognise this may not look like it has in the past and sacrifices may need to be made.

Of course there will be many challenges along the way, as individuals in our lives and as a church, but we go into 2020 in this third year with confidence of all that Christ has done for us in the past and eager anticipation of all that Christ is going to do amongst us in the future.

So this year let us Raise a Hallelujah, singing louder and louder with our voices and with our lives, that God's praise be heard and that up from the ashes hope may arise.

Happy New Year Everyone,
Rev'd Andy Morgan

Diary Dates this Month

Messy Church St James'
Monday 13th 3.15pm

Lunch for the Elderly St Peter's
Tuesday 7th 12 noon

Prayer Focus - Praying for Unity
Tuesday 21st 7.30pm St Peters'

Deaf Drop in 10am at St Peter's
Tuesdays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
Thursdays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Wednesday Worship 10.30am
Weds. 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Newstead Home Communion
Wednesday 15th 2.30pm

Men's Breakfast Ascaris
Thursday 2nd 8am

Prayer Hub 11am @ St Peter's
Thursdays 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Community Coffee St James'
Saturday 4th 10am

Renew-Create St James'
Saturday 18th 10am

Access Youth Group Sunday evenings

February 2020 Update

Items for the February 2020 issue of Update to ***maggie4spsj@gmail.com*** *by* ***Friday 17th January*** *(to allow time for editing and printing)*

Alpha 2020 vision

"Alpha Taster Session"
7-9pm on Jan 8th at St James Church

Services in January

5th		**Epiphany**	
St James' Church	**8.45am**	Holy Communion	
St Peter's Church	**10.00am**	The Way In Café Service	
St James' Church	**11.00am**	Informal Communion - **Sunday Club**	
12th		**The Baptism of Christ**	
St James' Church	**8.45am**	Holy Communion	
St Peter's Church	**10.00am**	Morning Worship	
St James' Church	**11.00am**	Morning Worship - **Children's Church**	
19th		**2nd Sunday of Epiphany**	
St James' Church	**8.45am**	Holy Communion	
St Peter's Church	**10.00am**	Holy Communion	
St James' Church	**11.00am**	Informal Worship - **Children's Church**	
26th		**3rd Sunday of Epiphany**	
St James' Church	**8.45am**	Holy Communion	
St Peter's Church	**10.00am**	Morning Worship	
St James' Church	**11.00am**	Informal Worship - **Children's Church**	

Contacts and more information

Our Vicar: **Revd. Andy Morgan** Tel: 01432 273 676
Email: vicar@spsj.org.uk

Our Curate: **Revd. Elliot Swattridge** Tel: 07957 724 965
Email: curate@spsj.org.uk

Please note that Revd's Andy & Elliot's day off is Friday

Parish Office: St Peter's Church, St Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2DL
Tel: 01432 275 373 Email: office@spsj.org.uk
Usual opening times Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-12noon

Website: www.spsj.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ St Peters and St James Hereford

A Dads and Lads Breakfast @ St Peter's Church

8.30 - 10am 18th January 2020
Join us and hear Kristian Diamond talk about his life as a Professional Footballer and enjoy a Continental Breakfast
If you would like to join us please contact Geoff Loynes abergfl@yahoo.com/07494270484
Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements

Parish publications

Please be aware that, like the weekly news sheet, Update is published on the parish website.
Please only submit your name and contact details in articles for inclusion if you are happy for them to appear there.

St Peter's and St James' Parish

Showing
Jesus is Lord
in our
Worship, Witness, Prayer & Care

Alpha

We're running an Alpha course - introducing what it means to follow Jesus - in January, beginning with a 'taster session' on 8th Jan at St James church, and we would love you to invite friends along who are interested in finding out more! This could be the means of God completely transforming someone's life, and friendly invitations are the best way of welcoming people. It's completely free, and includes a home-cooked meal, watching a video together and discussing it.
Who could you invite? *(A6 invitation cards are available at the back of the churches)*

Alpha 'Prayer Cloud'

We're also looking for a group of people with a heart for prayer who can commit to praying before and during Alpha - because we are well aware that, if God does not work amongst us, all our efforts are utterly in vain. If you have a heart for this, a bit like the Prayer Chain, we shall send you through updates with prayer topics to pray at home or wherever you are. Please chat to or contact Elliot if you'd like to be part of this - curate@spsj.org.uk

Alpha begins with a taster session on January 8th at St James church!
Who could you invite?