Dear all

I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year,

I am praying for you all as I know you pray for me; that Our heavenly Father would bless us in Jesus' name and in the power of his Spirit.

It is with sadness, however, that I write to inform you of the PCC decision made last night, to suspend physical services in the building at St James .

Here is the form of words I am sending to Bishop Toby:

*'Bolton, St James PCC chooses to suspend Sunday public worship for the time-being due to the current national lockdown. We realise that public worship is exempt from the directive to 'stay at home' but feel given the current high infection and transmission rates of the virus it is safer to close. We will continue to have a weekly act of worship on our website (plus other regular online worship activities), and seek to support the congregation and parish in whatever way we can.'*

We had a thorough discussion and many of us were very torn as to what was best but wanted to ensure people's safety as best we could.We will review this decision at the end of January but expect to be closed for some weeks.

We will continue to have a Sunday service available via our website every Sunday. This will always include a Bible talk, some songs, prayers and a blessing, even if it may be shorter than we have provided in recent times (please bear with us as new people step up to put this together under the guidance of Chris who has done a wonderful job so far).

Our regular Wednesday Night Prayer begins again **tonight** at 7.30pm on Zoom (led by Sally).

Morning Prayer starts back on Monday 11th & then Friday 15th at 8.45am on facebook.

Our regular look at & discussion of the week's Bible passage starts again on Monday 11th on Zoom at 7.30pm.

I appreciate there are people who are not online and we will continue to deliver a paper copy of the weekly sermon. Please inform me if anyone you know would benefit from receiving this.(A copy is also put on our website).

Please let me or your Pastoral team member know if there is any way we can support you or someone else...& please do keep in touch with & encourage each other in the days ahead.

God is good, keep calling on Him.

Hold on to this verse at the start of this New Year.

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

***PS please pass on this message for those not on email. (we will also do this but better to get it twice than not at all!).***

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