

ST JAMES' METHODIST & UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WOOLTON L25 7RJ

Web address: <http://stjameswoolton.org>

MINISTER: Revd. Peter Hughes peter.hughes@methodist.org.uk
0151 364 0134

Peter's day off is Friday - messages and emails left on Fridays will not be received by him until Saturday.

NEWSLETTER 14th March – 2021



O God, rich in mercy, you so loved the world that, when we were dead in our sins, you sent your only Son for our deliverance. Lifted up from the earth, he is light and life; exalted upon the cross, he is truth and salvation. Raise us up with Christ that we may walk as children of light. We ask this through Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God, for ever and for ever. Amen.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to those who struck him and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Happy Mothering Sunday to all of you.

Many of you know that my Mum has recently moved to somewhere she will have the support and help she needs at this stage of her life. At 86 he still knows best (so she tells me). My sister reminded me that whereas now we are doing a lot for her, she did so much for us, as we were growing up and, in the years, since. Today we give thanks for our mothers, those who are still with us and those who are now with Jesus, enjoying a well-earned rest. I pray that any sadness felt today will be soothed by the knowledge that we belong to the loving family of God who nurtures and supports us all on our journey.

God Bless, Peter

Birthdays.

For those who are celebrating a birthday this week, wishing you a wonderful time ahead.

Sending you smiles for every moment of your special day... Have a wonderful time and a very happy birthday!

Happy 40th Birthday to Emma Skyner. We hope your day is as special as you are. Lots of love from All your Family. 🎂🎉🎊🎁🎈🎊🎉🎂

Everyone at St. James' wishes you a happy birthday and enjoy your day.

UPCOMING PREACHERS

Mothering Sunday March 14th Revd. Peter Hughes (Zoom) & John Lansley (Telephone)

Passion Sunday March 21st Steve Elliott (Zoom) & Chris Bolton (Telephone)

Palm Sunday March 28th Circuit (Zoom) & Liz Hudson (Telephone)

Good Friday 2nd April Revd Peter Hughes (Zoom)

Easter Sunday March 28th Liz Hudson (Zoom) & Revd Peter Hughes (Telephone)

The Lent Cross
Sunday 14th March – Lent 4
The Purple Cloth and the Crown of Thorns



After his arrest and trial Jesus was forced to wear a purple robe and a crown of thorns. The soldiers mocked him for saying that he was King of the Jews. Jesus did not respond or show anger towards his mockers.

At some moment in our lives most of us will have experienced the mockery of others. This can leave us feeling degraded and humiliated.

In these experiences God reminds us that we have true dignity as human beings made in his image.

“Such love, weeps for the shame I know, O Jesus, such love.”



Mothering Sunday

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

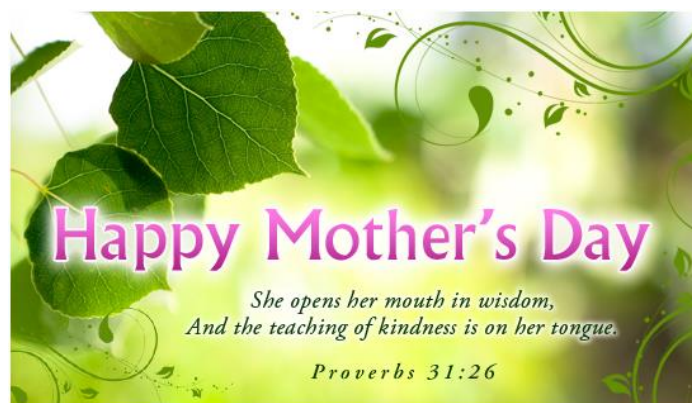
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth:
strengthen us each day, that in joy and sorrow we may know your presence; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.



Picture from our Church Railings.

I have chosen today's picture because at first glance it looked to me like there was a snake slithering from the foot of the cross – snakes are mentioned in the two Bible readings for today (Numbers 21: 4 - 9 and John 3: 1 - 17). However, the words that go with the picture talk about the "difficult path" of life so it is probably a path rather than a snake! Whichever it is, we know that Jesus leads us from darkness to light as he journeys with us through life. I pray that we will all know the love and light of Jesus with us in the week ahead.

Peter.



Lord God,
Through life's difficult path,
be with us on our journey
and lead us from darkness
to the light of Christ.
Amen

SUNDAY SERVICES

From St. James Church:- Invitation to Telephone Worship

Sunday 14th March: 2.30pm (And now every Sunday until the end of March)

This Sunday our preacher will be Rev John Lansley.

To join us for a short (15-20 minutes) Act of Worship :

Between 2.20pm and 2.30pm on Sunday:

From your normal “landline” telephone: **Dial: 0333-006-7775**

On being asked, enter the following number, or “Pin”: **08 39 09 01**

You will be able to chat with everyone else who joins until the service starts.

This Sunday’s Act of Worship, or short service, will comprise:

Order of Worship:

- Welcome and notices:
- Opening prayer (Host)
- Bible reading (Pat Fagan: Luke 1: 26-38)
- Lord’s Prayer (Host)
- Talk or “mini-sermon” (Rev John Lansley)
- Prayers (Liz Hudson)
- Grace and dismissal. (Host)

COST: - The above number costs the same to dial as ordinary UK numbers – if you have “free minutes” from your telephone supplier then there will be no cost.

If there is a lot of “noise” during your session you can mute everyone’s telephones by pressing #5 – but please unmute – by again pressing #5 – at the end of your contribution.

ALSO – Morning Worship at St. James is now being held as a “Zoom” service.

Joining from 10.45 for an 11am start – Preacher: Revd Peter Hughes

Either click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5913455610?pwd=R3RFV1RWU2NpKzJ1cTM1VFJ2STk4UT09>

Meeting ID: 591 345 5610

Passcode: 6WbLRw

We hope to see you there.

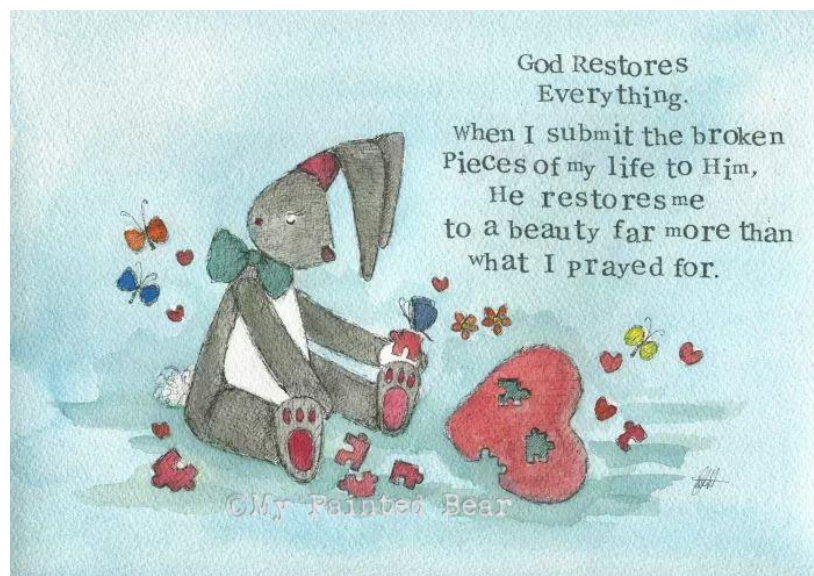
PLEASE NOTE: Where a preacher provides a copy of the words of their sermon, we will include this (after it has been preached) with our Church Notices and other Worship Material. – We do not want to waste a good sermon! even if it arrives a few days after it was preached.

God Bless

Graham Martin

Communications officer (and local preacher) St. James Church

[Call me on 0151-222-5832 or 07712-525239 if you have any questions]



HELPING HANDS NEEDED!

Who is a little bored, sitting at home, twiddling thumbs? Would you be interested in some easy, outside- in- the- fresh -air, garden tidying and maintenance?

We really do need some help with the ongoing weekly maintaining of our church garden and hall grounds. An hour (or two!) a week and if there were enough pairs of hands it could be a monthly rota?

Now, we do have a gardening firm who come in fortnightly to cut the grass. However, there is weeding, general tidying to be done and small, odd jobs within the lovely, calming garden areas. Margaret Dee has spent many hours making the gardens to the sides of church welcoming and colourful, and Roy takes great care of Jimmy (and he can be quite a handful, Jimmy, not Roy,) but that is only two pairs of hands!

The grounds to the side of the hall also need constant attention to keep them clear of weeds, leaves and the occasional sweet papers and chip wrapper, to keep them safe for children to play in and keep the area clean and looking cared for and spruce. None of these jobs are arduous and if done on a regular basis take very little time up. We can even offer a cup of tea or coffee once the regulations are lifted and there are always passers-by to have a chat with over the garden wall. Now the smiles are within our masks but that adds to the fun!!

Please will you think about giving of your time? Please contact me, Wendy Doig on 07867795179 or email wdoig45@gmail.com if you think you can help us. Many thanks.



PRAYERS NEEDED

God heals and you too can heal. God heals broken bodies, broken minds, broken hearts and broken lives.

His presence alone has immense healing powers. You cannot be close to him without experiencing some degree of healing.

So, you may be wondering why you haven't received his healing?

You have not received it because you haven't asked for it.

You receive God's healing energy that flows naturally, whether you are seeking it or not.

But there is much more energy that is powerful and available to those who ask.

The first step to receiving this type of healing is to live closely to God.

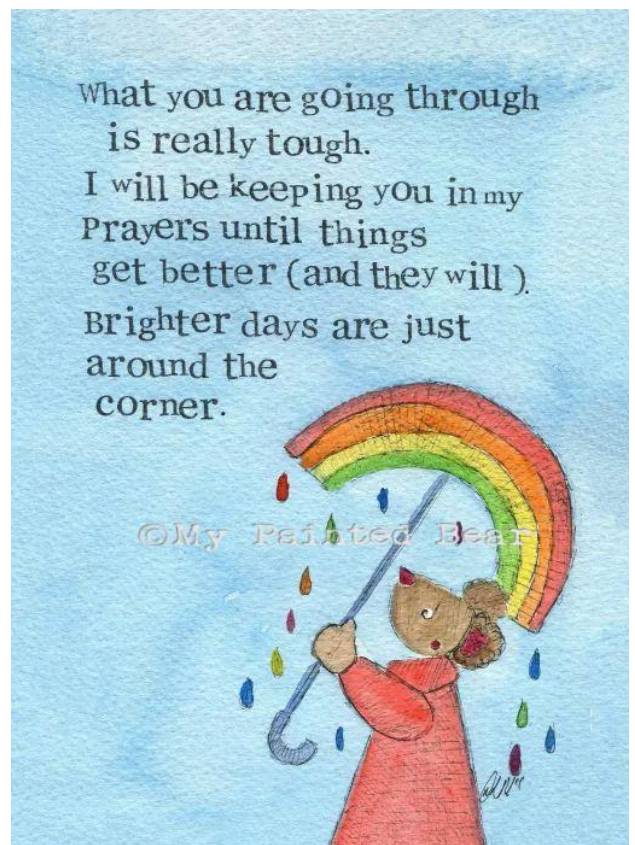
The benefits of doing so are endless.

As you grow more intimately with God, he reveals his will to you more directly.

When the time is right, God encourages you to ask for this healing of brokenness in you or in someone else.

The healing may be instantaneous or it may be a process. That is up to God.

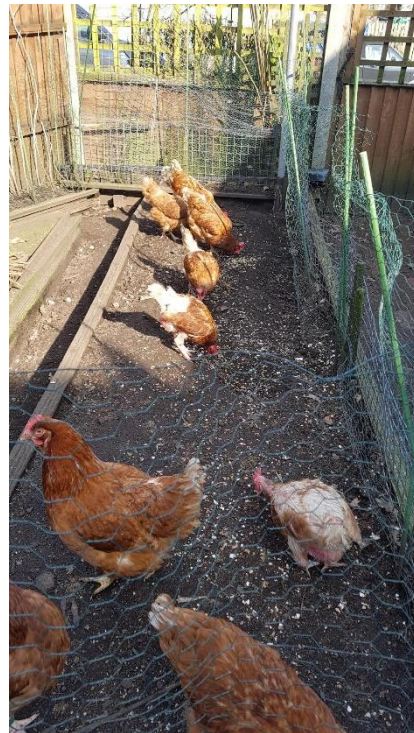
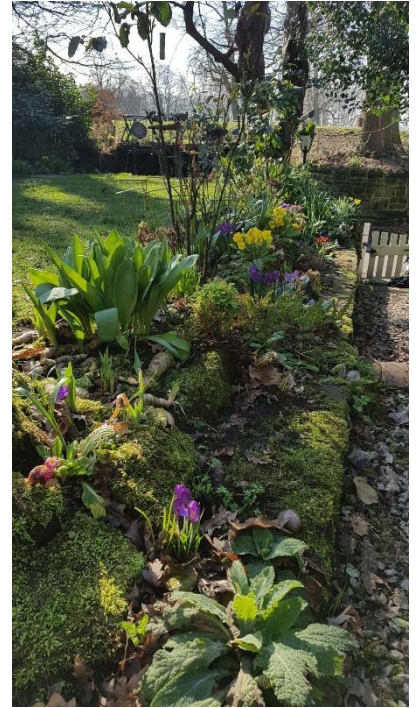
Your part is to trust God's will fully and to thank him, for the restoration has begun.



We also pray for all those in need currently, especially those who are dealing with COVID-19.

SPRINGWATCH with St. James'

There are signs that Spring is most certainly here! My "girls" are enjoying the drier weather out scratching about. Sadly, I have lost a couple from old age but still have 9 to keep me busy. The bulbs are all flowering in the garden and the birds are joy to see in and out of the garden onto the feeders. We are very lucky and get quite a variety visiting us including a woodpecker who we see regularly on the nut feeder. We spied catkins and blackthorn blossom on our walk yesterday. Yes, Spring is most definitely breaking through! Pam Bellis.



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

U	T	T	E	R	E	D		M	O	C	K
N		H		O		A		O		A	
W	A	Y		M	I	N	I	S	T	R	Y
A		A		A		I		A		E	
S	A	T	A	N		E	V	I	L		B
H		I		S		L		C	A	V	E
E	Z	R	A		I		F		W		S
D		A	C	T	S		L	I	G	H	T
	A		C		A		A		I		O
E	N	D	U	R	I	N	G		V	O	W
	N		S		A		O		E		E
H	A	T	E		H	U	N	D	R	E	D

Across: 1 Uttered, 5 Mock, 7 Way, 8 Ministry, 9 Satan, 10 Evil, 13 Cave, 14 Ezra, 18 Acts, 19 Light, 21 Enduring, 22 Vow, 23 Hate, 24 Hundred.

Down: 1 Unwashed, 2 Thyatira, 3 Romans, 4 Daniel, 5 Mosaic, 6 Care, 11 Lawgiver, 12 Bestowed, 15 Accuse, 16 Isaiah, 17 Flagon, 20 Anna.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com

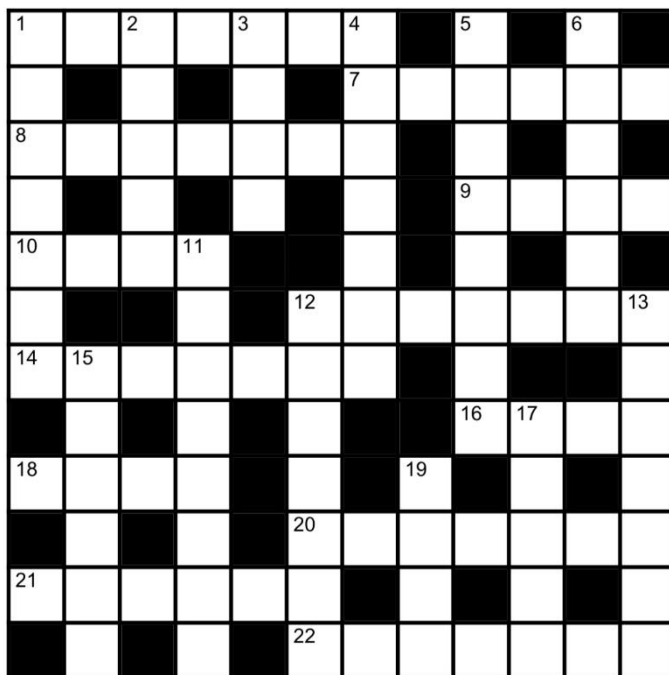
THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Resurrected by Peter (7)
- 7 Paid for (6)
- 8 Criminals (7)
- 9 Burden (4)
- 10 Back of the foot (4)
- 12 Giving 10% (7)
- 14 Brief stay (7)
- 16 It's sown (4)
- 18 Gift bearers (4)
- 20 Oath (7)
- 21 Sheep's coat (6)
- 22 Dealers (7)

Down

- 1 Lights (7)
- 2 Scripture (5)
- 3 Life and knowledge, for example (4)
- 4 Desist (7)
- 5 Fell out of a window (8)
- 6 Rocked (6)
- 11 City where it's neither hot nor cold (8)
- 12 Instrument (7)
- 13 Diana, maybe (7)
- 15 One with a vision (6)
- 17 Cast out (5)
- 19 Tiny quantity (4)



by Philologus

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NEWSLETTER NOTICES NEXT WEEK



If you would like to share anything with your Church family in this newsletter including any birthdays, celebrations, or anyone to include in our prayers, please let me know.

Please send any messages to Jayne McLaren at

[**jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk**](mailto:jayniemac@hotmail.co.uk)