

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

MINISTER: Revd. Peter Hughes peter.hughes@methodist.org.uk
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Peter's day off is Friday - messages and emails left on Fridays will not be received by him until Saturday.

NEWSLETTER – 4th December 2022

This Week's Collect

God of all holiness, your promises stand unshaken through all generations and you lift up all who are burdened and brought low: renew our hope in you, as we wait for the coming in glory of Jesus Christ, our Judge and our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**



Second Sunday of Advent

God of all time and space, who are we, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, even your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Minister's Message -

Dear Friends,

In this second week of Advent we are being encouraged to focus on the theme of "there is room for difference". That is good, because we are all different! Sometimes at Christmas when our families gather and spend more time than usual together, we may become more aware of our differences as well as the things that are similar about us. Coping with different peoples' diets and tastes can be a challenge! In our local communities and around the world our differences can be a strength as well as a challenge. The variety of different cultures, communities and ethnic groups can be a rich source of blessing to all, if we are open to each other. We sometimes forget that although the Christmas stories are familiar to us, they come from a very different time and culture to our own. John the Baptist arrived on that scene as someone who was very different to the majority, in the clothes he wore, the lifestyle he lived and the words that he spoke. Those who were ready to hear the message of this very different person were also able to be ready for Jesus and his message. Are we ready to welcome people who are different from us and to be open to hearing the message of Jesus through them?

God Bless Peter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 2022	
Saturday 3rd	7 p.m. Christmas Sing-along (now sold out)
Sunday 4th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship – Matthew Dyer
Monday 5th	2.30 p.m. Bible Fellowship
	7.30 p.m. Steward Elders meeting
Thursday 8th	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Saturday 10th	10 a.m. – 12 noon Coffee morning (Carol singing in village)
Sunday 11th	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship - All Age Worship & Gift service – Liz Hudson NB no coffee after this service due to set up for:
	4 p.m. Carol Service - Revd Peter Hughes Followed by tea, coffee, and mince pies
Monday 12th	7.30 p.m. Steward Elders
Wednesday 14th	1.30 - 2.30 p.m. Prayer Hour
	7.30 p.m. House Group
Thursday 15th	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Sunday 18th	10.30 a.m. Morning Communion & Christingle
Thursday 22nd	9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Coffee morning
Saturday 24th	11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion led by Revd. Peter Hughes
Sunday 25th	10.00 a.m. Christmas Day - Revd. Peter Hughes - All Age Worship * (no tea and coffee)
JANUARY 2023	
Sunday 1st	11 a.m. - All Age Café-Style Worship to welcome in the New Year with songs, prayers, and hot snacks.

Sunday Morning Tea and Coffee following worship:

We are pleased to offer this opportunity to chat together over a cuppa following worship on the Sunday mornings following All Age Worship and Holy Communion at morning services. This means there will be usually two Sundays in each month when we can meet and catch up on, renew friendships and welcome visitors.

But please see above for variations over the Christmas and New Year period.

Quiet Prayer Times are held on the **2nd Wednesday of every month, between 1.30 and 2.30 pm.** (See December date above). Come and offer your personal and global concerns quietly to God. Light a candle or leave a prayer on the message board while you are here or leave a prayer request in advance in the prayer book in the porch or in the 'Say One for Me' box by the main notice board. We will pray for you.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

For the attention of any Stewards Elders or Pastoral Visitors who have NOT undertaken Safeguarding Training in the last 3 years.

Two Foundation Module Training Sessions have been arranged in the New Year as follows:

- 6.45pm for 7pm start - 9.15pm Thursday 19th January at Princes Park Church
- 6.45pm for 7pm start - 9.15pm Thursday 9th February at venue tba

Please complete booking form at the back of the Church or contact to Margaret Dee by Sunday 11 December if you are able to attend.

Church Flowers

Here at St. James', we're extremely lucky to have Jonquil who excels herself week in, week out by producing wonderful flower displays. She is extremely talented.

If you would like to donate money for flowers on a particular Sunday - perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a happy event - please speak to **Jonquil Dickson** who can add you to the calendar for the months ahead.

Also, if you would simply like to donate for flowers so that we can make sure all Sundays are covered, please speak to Jonquil. At present, we have many dates available.

We know have a box at the back of church for any donations or small change. All donations are gratefully received. We will then deliver those flowers to people after the Service.

If you know someone who you feel would be blessed by receiving flowers from Church, please speak to **Jonquil** or a steward.

We will also need some more volunteers to take flowers out to people.

WORSHIPPING BY PHONE

This Sunday our preacher will be Liz Hudson

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:

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.

The Host for this service is Pam Bellis

Order of Worship:

- **Welcome and notices**
- **Opening prayer**
- **Bible reading:**
- **Lord's Prayer**
- **Talk or "mini sermon"**
- **Prayers**
- **Grace and dismissal.**

Jayne McLaren



BIRTHDAYS

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

Happy, happy birthday,
That's my birthday wish for you,
I hope your day brings you joy,
Whatever you plan to do.
Live each moment to the fullest,
Every single moment is dear,
This is the time to remember,
You only get one birthday a year.



Benevolent Fund Collection

The collection for the Royal British Legion at the communion service last Sunday raised £175, plus gift aid.
Many thanks to those who contributed.



Christmas Wishes Tree

We just wanted to give you plenty of notice that we will once again be having a Christmas Wish Tree in Church where you can share a Christmas Wish and hang it on the tree instead of writing individual cards for church friends.

If you wish you will also be able to donate to charity in lieu of buying cards. The charity we are supporting this year is "Steps to Work" which runs at Strawberry Field. Many thanks.

PRAYERS NEEDED

Dear Lord, it is my will to surrender to you everything that I am and everything that I'm striving to be.

I open the deepest recesses of my heart and invite Your Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me. I offer you my life, heart, mind, body, soul, and spirit.

I surrender to you my past, present, and future problems.

I ask You to take hold over every aspect of my life. I surrender to You all my hurt, pain, worry, doubt, fear, and anxiety, and I ask You to wash me clean.

I release everything into Your compassionate care.

Please speak to me clearly, Lord. Open my ears to hear Your voice.

Open my heart to commune with You more deeply.

I want to feel Your loving embrace.

Open the doors that need to be opened and close the doors that need to be closed.

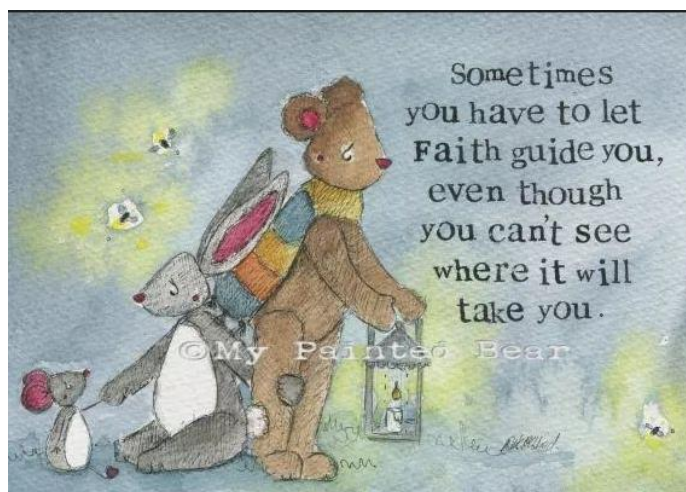
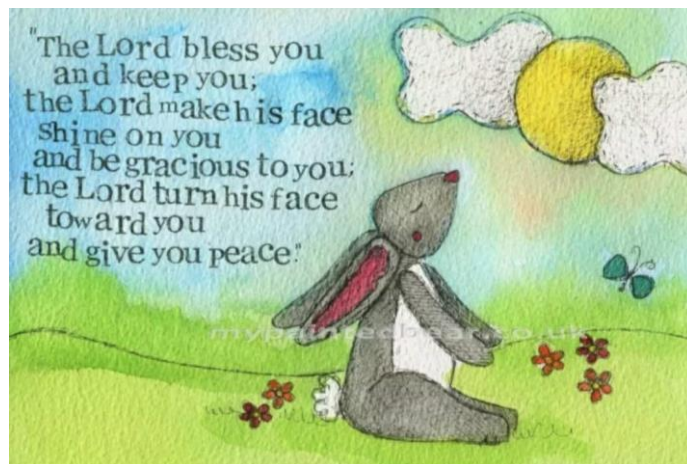
Please set my feet upon the straight and narrow road that leads to everlasting life.

Amen

We also pray for Billy Lamb, Arthur Evans, Joan Greenall, Rogers Phillips, Ken Kitchen, Emma Skyner, Hilary Hopkin, Bob Rowland, Heather Hughes and Dave and Madge Tilly.

Advance Information

It seems that the Worship at Home Sheets which go out with this newsletter every week may be discontinued from the end of 2022. The content and style of the newsletter will also be reviewed at that time and may change quite noticeably. However, we will make sure that everyone who currently receives a paper copy of the news notes will continue to do so, for as long as they wish.



**ST JAMES CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE – SUNDAY DECEMBER 11TH 2022
AT 10.30 A.M.**

The family-based charities we traditionally support at this time of year (Centre 56, the Women's Refuge and the Action For Children Day Centre,) have respectfully asked if we would again consider replacing gifts of toys with

- Monetary donations that can be converted into gift vouchers for the families to buy the most appropriate treats for their children
- Christmas food treats – puddings, chocolates, biscuits etc that can be put into gift hampers for each family, and
- toiletries for teenagers and adults.

Christmas food treats will also be distributed amongst the 700 families across the city of Liverpool who are currently being supported by the Whitechapel Centre.

We hope that gifts of these kinds can be received *no later than* the Gift Service of Blessing on December 11th, to ensure they can be distributed in time. If you cannot be in church that morning your gift will also be gratefully received before that date by

- bringing toiletries and Christmas Food items to church any Sunday and handing them to a Steward Elder.
- dropping food items in the porch at Roy and Lynne's house,
- contacting Wendy or Liz to have them picked up from you direct,
- placing financial gifts either in the gift boxes available at church on December 4th and 11th, or
- making a cash donation through the bank (referencing your payment 'Gift Service') OR direct to our Treasurer, Steve Elliott via the Church Hall letter box or 84 Woolacombe Rd, (again marking any cheques 'Gift Service' on the back).

Anything you are able to share at this special season will be greatly appreciated as all our charities have expressed deep concern at the levels of hardship and anxiety, they are encountering in the run up to Christmas 2022. Thank you so much for your help and support to spread love and caring in the name of Jesus.

Carol singing – come and join us – don't forget your Christmas attire!

Saturday 10th December

We'll gather in Woolton Village at **10.30 a.m.** to sing with the other churches at the Farmers Market until about **11.00 a.m.**, then back to church for refreshments at the Coffee Morning.

Tuesday 20th December

- 4.00 – 4.45 p.m.** Tesco
- 5.00 – 5.45 p.m.** Sainsburys
- 5.50 – 6.35 p.m.** Refreshments/chippy at St James'
- 6.45 p.m.** Marie Curie (please bring a mask)

If you'd like to help decorate the church, come, and join us from **2.00 p.m.** on **Monday 28th November.**

Speak to **Roy or Lynne Barker** for more details.

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

WORLD AIDS DAY

ROCK THE RIBBON

1 DECEMBER 2022

What is World AIDS Day?

World AIDS Day takes place on 1st December each year. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day.

Why is World AIDS Day Important?

Over 105,000 people are living with HIV in the UK. Globally, there are an estimated 38 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS related illnesses, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.

Today, scientific advances have been made in HIV treatment, there are laws to protect people living with HIV and we understand so much more about the condition. Despite this, each year in the UK over 4,139 people are diagnosed with HIV, people do not know the facts about how to protect themselves and others, and stigma and discrimination remain a reality for many people living with the condition.

World AIDS Day is important because it reminds the public and government that HIV has not gone away – there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice, and improve education.

What can I do on World AIDS Day?

Buy a red ribbon

World AIDS Day is an opportunity to show solidarity with the millions of people living with HIV worldwide. Most people do this by wearing an HIV awareness red ribbon on the day. You can order a red ribbon from our [online shop](#), pick one up at selected branches of [MAC Cosmetics](#) in the UK, or add to a donation when shopping at [MAC online](#).

When buying a [VIVA GLAM lipstick](#) at MAC, 100% of the selling price (less VAT) also goes to organisations and programs focused on the fight against HIV/AIDS, supporting women and girls and the LGBTQIA+ community.

But what about after World AIDS Day?

World AIDS Day may be once a year, but you can still support people living with HIV all year round. Sign up to National AIDS Trust's [mailing list](#) to stay up to date with new developments in HIV and learn how you can get involved as an activist or as a volunteer.

You can also support our work by [donating](#) to National AIDS Trust. We rely on your support to continue championing the rights of people living with HIV.

